Dance Research Matters – Making dance research legible

10th September 2024; 10am-4.30pm BST

This event is hybrid.

Venue: St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry

Link to register: https://forms.office.com/e/KZVPVCENVD

For venue and travel information, please visit: https://www.stmarysguildhall.co.uk/visit-attraction-in-coventry-2/

In May 2021, communities and networks of dance researchers, educators, artists, and practitioners came together at the Dance Research Matters event which was hosted by the Centre for Dance Research, Coventry University, in partnership with the AHRC. The campaign has grown into a strategic programme to develop and support dance research networks, encourage collaboration, identify the research and investment needs for dance, and to provide targeted and impactful investment in this area. An advisory group of dance researchers from across the UK was created to support the programmes purpose, development and delivery.

Continuing the momentum created by the campaign that led to the AHRC launching the Dance Research Matters Networks programme, the DRM Networks programme is holding an event in celebration of the networks and connections created through dance research in the UK.

With the theme of 'Making dance research legible in the Creative Industries and beyond', the event aims to facilitate knowledge exchange beyond the Networks and dance sector/dance research sector and make the dance research ecosystem more legible in relation to the Creative Industries. It also creates a space and platform that shares the journeys of the Networks thus far.

Further, the event aims to disseminate learning about the impact of dance research in a way that is accessible to the public, catalysing the spontaneous unearthing of undiscovered network potentials and niches, and identify offshoot research areas arising from groups with a connection to or informed by the Dance Research Matters Networks.

Tentative Schedule

Time	Activity
0930-1000	Arrival and registration (Dame Ellen Terry Suite)
1000-1015	Welcome and context setting (Dame Ellen Terry Suite)
1015-1045	Provocation and Q&A by Linden Dance Company (Sara Macqueen and Christopher Radford) (The Guildhall)
1045-1115	Keynote by Professor Kate Elswit + Q&A
1115-1130	Tea/coffee break
1130-1330	Updates and offshoot groups from each of the Networks (25 mins each)
1330-1410	Lunchbreak
1410-1430	MMEL overview + Q and A + Launch of offshoot networks fund Presenter: Dr Vipavinee Artpradid
1430-1515	Panel discussion: 'How do HE dance education and dance research provide vital skills for the Creative Industries?' Panel members: Professor Angela Pickard, Professor Michela Vecchi, Dr Kate Marsh Moderated by Professor Sarah Whatley and Vipavinee Artpradid
1515-1525	Tea/Coffee break
1525-1615	Session imagining new funding approaches that offer up cooperative and collective modes of researching lead by Professor Vicky Hunter
1615-1620	Closing remarks

Provocation: UNBOXED by Linden Dance Company

UNBOXED is a physically explosive Contemporary and Afro fusion dance duet exploring the different lived experiences of a mixed race male and white female, drawing on the judgements and bias they have experienced. The work was created in close collaboration with chartered psychologist Helen Frewin of Totem Consulting to explore how to address systematic unconscious bias in our current society. The duet presents the emotional struggle that individuals feel when they are misunderstood or misrepresented and the impact this has on relationships.

Biography

Linden Dance Company was formed by Christopher Radford and Sara Macqueen in 2020, after over 10 years of artistic collaboration and successful individual performance careers. Based in Birmingham, Chris and Sara draw on their different backgrounds and cultural identities to bring a diverse voice and perspective to the productions they create and the spaces they occupy, rooted in positivity, individuality and empowerment. Linden Dance creates exciting, physically explosive professional works that have toured nationally alongside a strong community strand, including Linden Youth, a weekly training programme for young people ages 10 - 21 years. Co-Director Sara Macqueen was awarded the Health and Wellbeing in Dance One Dance UK award in 2024 in recognition of Linden Dance's strong commitment to providing safe and inclusive spaces for all who engage with the company.

UNBOXED Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iA2X2WdVDxM
Website: www.lindendc.com

About the AHRC Dance Research Matters Networks

Running from October 2023 to March 2025, the AHRC Dance Research Matters Networks that were successful in their bids for the AHRC Dance Research Matters Network funding have been established and all have started their work on their projects. The Networks will be mapped and evaluated for impact and reach beyond the sector.

The five Networks and their leads and co-leads are (in alphabetical order):

- **Critical Dance Pedagogy through Discourse and Practice (Critical Dance Pedagogy Network)**
  [Professor Angela Pickard (Canterbury Christ Church University), Dr Kathryn Stamp (Centre for Dance Research [C-DaRE], Coventry University)]
- **Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network**
  [Dr Tia-Monique Uzor (The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London)]
- **Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)**
  [Professor Chris Bannerman (London Contemporary Dance School), Dr Efrosini Protopapa (London Contemporary Dance School), Professor Vida Midgelow (University of the Arts), Dr Sarah Hopfinger (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), Dr Rachel Krische (Leeds Beckett University), Dr Funmi Adewole, (De Montfort University), Dr Stefanie Sachsenmaier (Middlesex University)]
- **South Asian Dance Equity (SADE): The Arts that British South Asian Dance Ignores**
  [Dr Prarthana Purkayastha (Royal Holloway, University of London), Professor Royona Mitra (Brunel University London), Dr Anusha Kedhar (University of California, Riverside)]
- **The Dancing Otherwise Network: Exploring Pluriversal Practices**
  [Professor Victoria Hunter (Bath Spa University), Dr Daniela Perazzo (Kingston University), Michelle Elliott (Bath Spa Universit7)

Keynote speaker

Kate Elswit is a scholar–artist whose research on performing bodies combines dance history, performance theory, cultural studies, medical humanities, experimental practice, and technology. For the past decade, she has been collaborating with Harmony Bench to bring dance and the experimental digital humanities into conversation, including through the AHRC-funded projects *Visceral Histories, Visual Arguments: Dance-Based Approaches to Data* (2022-25) and *Dunham's Data: Katherine Dunham and Digital Methods for Dance Historical Inquiry* (2018-22), which won the ATHE-ASTR Award for Excellence in Digital Theatre and Performance Scholarship. They are also currently working on dance history data visualizations commissioned by the Whitney Museum of American Art for the upcoming exhibition *Edges of Ailey* (opening September 2024). Her print publications include the award-winning books *Watching Weimar Dance* (2014) and *Theatre & Dance* (2018). She received her PhD from the University of Cambridge, and is now Professor of Performance and Technology and Head of Digital Research at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, where she is Co-Director of the Centre for Performance, Technology, and Equity.

Panel speakers

Professor Angela Pickard (First Professor of Dance Education)

Professor Angela Pickard is a dancer, teacher, artist and academic. She is the first Professor of Dance Education in the UK and Director of the Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health, at Canterbury Christ Church University. Angela is Principal Investigator for the AHRC Dance Educator's Network: Critical Dance Pedagogy through Discourse and Practice.

Angela wrote the first BA Hons Dance Education degree that began under her leadership in 2009. This has provided a workforce of around 300 teachers and community practitioners who are sharing their passion for dance with others, across the UK. She is a PhD supervisor for practice-based, practice-led, by portfolio, publication and the traditional thesis. Angela has held several leadership roles across Canterbury Christ Church University.

Angela's dance evaluation and research brings together sociological, psychological, and pedagogical aspects, and various industry partners and organisations. Although she conducts mixed method studies, her specialism is particularly in qualitative and creative/Mosaic methods and analyses. She is widely published. Recent work has been in 'Schooling the Dancer' 'Widening Participation' and 'Sense of Belonging', with adolescents, in projects with The Royal Ballet School, Northern Ballet, Dance Centres of Advanced Training, and Matthew Bourne's New Adventures Cygnet School. She has also been researching responses to dance with babies and young children under 5 years old and the development of artistic practice with this age group with South East Dance's Little Big Dance project. In addition, she is researching with professional contemporary dancers to understand challenges and barriers to continuing a career in dance in pregnancy, returning to work post-partum and as a parent/carer, with Parents and Carers in Performing Arts, Dance Mama and the International Parents in Dance Network.

Angela is Editor in Chief of the international journal Research in Dance Education, and a member of the Research Committee and a Dance to Health champion with the International Association of Dance, Medicine and Science. She also has visiting Professorships in Switzerland and Malaysia.

Professor Michela Vecchi (Professor of Economics)

Michela Vecchi is Professor of Economics at Kingston University. Her main areas of research are skills, productivity and technological change and her work in these areas has been published in several international journals. Next to her interest in Economics, Michela also devotes time to her other passion: dance. She regularly takes classical ballet classes, and she is part of Counterpoint contemporary dance company, a dance company for dancers aged 55+. In recent years, Michela has joined her love of dance with her economic expertise and has studied the relationship between dance, wellbeing and performance in the workplace. The first paper in this innovative research project, "Shall we dance? Dance, wellbeing and productivity during Covid-19" was published in the Journal of International Marketing in 2022. A summary of a new study was published in The Conversation early this year. Future work will involve a workplace intervention focusing on women in the menopause transition, with the objective of understanding how dance can improve their wellbeing

and their working life. Michela holds a visiting fellow position at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR), she is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) and the Royal Economic Society (RES).

Assistant Professor Kate Marsh (Dance, Disability, and Leadership)

Kate Marsh is a disabled/crip artist researcher and Assistant Professor at the Centre for Dance Research (C-DaRE) at Coventry University. Kate's practice–research is focused on nurturing spaces for disabled and crip artists to develop and realise their ideas and practice. She is interested in re-imaging leadership in the arts in a way that truly makes access for everyone. Her PhD (2016) focused on leadership in the context of dance and disability and drew strongly on the voices of artists to interrogate questions around notions of leadership, perceptions, and the body. Explore Kate's research projects and outputs here.

Session Lead

Professor Vicky Hunter (Professor in Site Dance)

[N.B. Vicky's photograph and personal statement are sourced from https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/our-people/vicky-hunter/]

Vicky Hunter is a Practitioner-Researcher and Professor in Site Dance and formerly head of the MA Choreography and Professional Practices programme at the University of Chichester. She joined Bath Spa in October 2023 and leads the AHRC 'Dancing Otherwise: Exploring Pluriversal Practices' **network** and is a member of the **Ecotones** research project led by **Professor Amanda Bayley**.

Her research is transdisciplinary and includes site dance practice and theory, embodied research methods and post human feminism, eco-somatic awareness, environmental choreography, practice-research methods, dance and new materialisms.

Vicky convenes the 'Creative Practice and Embodied Knowledge' research group with **Michelle Elliott** at Bath Spa and the cross-institutional 'Environment and Experience' research group. She has previously led the BA Dance programme at the University of Leeds; taught on the MA Choreography programme at LIPA; contributed to the delivery of the MA Choreography programme at Fonty's Academy in Tilburg, Holland; and the BA Dance and Culture programme at the University of Surrey.

Her writing on site dance has been published in *Literary Geographies, New Theatre Quarterly, Performance Research, Choreographic Practices* and *Contemporary Theatre Review*. Her edited volume *Moving Sites: Investigating Site-Specific Dance Performance* was published by Routledge in 2015, and she is co-author of *(Re)Positioning Site-Dance* (Intellect, 2019) with Melanie Kloetzel (Canada) and Karen Barbour (Aotearoa New Zealand).

Vicky's monograph *Site, Dance and Body: Movement, Materials and Corporeal Engagement* explores human-environment synergies through material intra-actions and was published by Palgrave in 2021. Her practice-based research includes *Dance Site and Body* (Barcelona, 2018) and *A Holding Space* (Kingley Vale Nature Reserve, West Sussex, 2021).