



## Dance Research Matters Networks July 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to your July 2024 Dance Research Matters Network Newsletter

### Cross-Network News

Dance Research Matters mid-point event

**10th September 2024, 10am-4pm (BST):** [‘Making dance research legible’](#) [hybrid event]

**Venue:** [St Mary’s Guildhall, Coventry](#)

To attend in-person or online, please register here: <https://forms.office.com/e/KZVPVCENVD>

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
0945-1015	Arrival and registration

1015-1025	Welcome and context setting
1030-1045	Provocation
1045-1115	Keynote + Q&A
1115-1130	Tea/coffee break
1130-1335	Updates and offshoot groups from each of the Networks (25 mins each – format up to each Network)
1335-1400	Lunchbreak
1400-1430	MMEL overview + Q and A Launch of offshoot networks fund
1430-1515	Panel discussion: ‘How do HE dance education and dance research provide vital skills for the Creative Industries?’
1515-1530	Tea/Coffee break
1530-1615	Session on legacy/follow-on funding lead by Vicky Hunter (imagining new funding models that offer up more cooperative and collective modes of researching)
1615-1625	Closing remarks

#### Thematic details:

In our December 2023 Dance Research Matters Networks discussion, the notion of making the dance research ecosystem more legible for humans and non-humans across disciplines, communities, and social institutions came up. Dance researchers may find comfort in the continued momentum of a movement of making the intangible more visible across multiple disciplines.

Within the context of networked ecosystems, the concept of ‘lines’ could be applied. In ‘The Life of Lines’, Tim Ingold writes, ‘To live, every being must put out a line, and in life, these lines tangle with one another.’ With lines being the simplest visual element that ‘can be used to define shapes and figures, but also to indicate motion, emotion, and other elements... Lines [also] mark the outside of the image...This simple device is so effective that it is hard to remember that there is no [image], only a few black marks on a white page.’ (Khan Academy)

The concept of throughlines – tunnels through which theories, concepts, and practices pass from research communities to communities of practice is significant in highlighting the relationship between research and professional practice. Similarly, the concept of connectivity/network thresholds – points at which connections spill out into other networks and communities can support the consideration of the importance of dance research beyond itself.

#### Objectives

1. Bring together the Dance Research Matters Networks, dance research community, users of research and wider groups and communities to exchange ideas, current projects, and points of entry into each other’s spaces in-person and virtually
2. Announce the reallocation of some of the Dance Research Matters Networks Mapping budget to support offshoot networks from the funded networks.
3. Create discursive spaces for dance communities and connected sectors to share and co-develop new ideas, approaches, and activities

4. Provide an update to the Networks, dance research community, dance sector, the AHRC, and the public on developments from the Networks and the mapping work
5. Highlight emergent and urgent issues in dance research for highlighting in public discourse
6. Disseminate information through knowledge exchange networks, including media, third sector, and policymakers

### 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-founder of the [Centre for Performance, Technology, and Equity](#).

**Panel speakers to be confirmed.**

## Network Updates

### Critical Dance Pedagogy Network

#### ‘Equality, diversity and inclusion’ symposium

On the 11<sup>th</sup> July the Critical Dance Pedagogy Network hosted the symposium ‘Equality, diversity and inclusion’ at Centre for Dance Research (C-DaRE), Coventry University and online.

The symposium explored themes of equality, diversity and inclusion related to Critical Dance Pedagogy thinking and practice. This participatory event comprised workshops, presentations and panel discussions from dance professionals, educators, scholars and artists exploring issues concerning dance pedagogy across the sector.

Contributors included Avatâra Ayuso, Michelle Ballentyne from the English National Ballet, Jess Lowe from One Dance UK, Yaël Owen-Mckenna from People Dancing, Kat Hawkins, Dr Kate Marsh, Jason Keenan-Smith, Jo Hodson-Prior and Professor Ali Duffy. Through the symposium the network raised awareness of social exclusions within dance education; explored how deconstructing power structures has the potential to initiate change; shared examples of inclusive and transformative pedagogical practices and fostered a greater understanding of equity, diversity and inclusion within dance education.

#### Resource sheet

Network lead Professor Angela Pickard has developed a resource sheet about the Critical Dance Pedagogy Network that is available from the [One Dance UK website](#).

#### Book proposal

The Critical Dance Pedagogy Network has submitted a book proposal to Routledge for review. The book is a theoretical and practical exploration of Critical Dance Pedagogy. It will include four sections and 16 chapters from national and international contributors from dance organisations, educators, artists and academia and will be edited by Professor Angela Pickard (PI) and Kathryn Stamp (Co-I).

## Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

### Artistic Development

Since the project began the Digital Black Dance Ecologies (DBDE) network has launched three commission applications, calling out to Black artists across the UK. The network is excited to be working with these collaborators and is looking forward to seeing the selected artists build their pieces. Keep up-to-date via [www.digitalblkdance.org/get-involved](http://www.digitalblkdance.org/get-involved) and look out for more commission applications coming out soon.

### Academic Development Workshops

The DBDE network has also been busy with its academic development workshops. Led by Dr Tia-Monique Uzor and Dr Hannah Thuraingham Robbins, the network invited students and prospective students interested in discovering more about how to navigate PhD pathways. Uzor and Thuraingham Robbins visited the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and the Northern School of Contemporary Dance. The DBDE network thanks all of the collaborators involved in making this happen. New opportunities for those who didn't make these sessions are in discussion. Keep an eye out on the [DBDE website](#) for updates.

### Exploratory Laboratories

The DBDE's two Laboratories are in an exciting stage of organisation. The network has upcoming collaborations with Barnard College and Birmingham Open Media, more details to follow.

## South Asian Dance Equity (SADE): The Arts that British South Asian Dance Ignores Network

On 24th June SADE organised a webinar on the theme of South Asian dance and Caste. The event was hosted by Sampad Arts, Birmingham, and included contributions from Shireen Azam, Hanne M. de Bruin-Rajagopal, Meena Dhanda, Manish Harijan and Gowthaman Ranganathan and was chaired by Dr Brahma Prakash. The webinar discussed how caste manifests in South Asia and its diasporas and the role of art (visual art, theatre, dance, and performance) in both perpetuating and resisting caste supremacy.

These discussions continued during SADE's in-person stakeholder meeting in Birmingham (hosted by Sampad) on 26th June. Artists, scholars and anti-caste advocacy groups from various caste locations discussed barriers to cultural participation faced by caste oppressed artists and the consequences of caste supremacy within the South Asian dance sector. The meeting ended with a discussion about ways of working towards material change in practice and research on South Asian dance.

## Upcoming Events

(events arranged chronologically)

### Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

**18 July 2024, 2-4pm:** 'The Producer and Society Forum' at Taipei Performing Arts Center and online.

An ArtsCross international event exploring the social impact of the work producers & managers do, including equity, diversity and inclusion. This forum has been produced by the Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network in collaboration with The Place, University of Taipei and Taipei performing arts centre.

The forum's keynote speaker is Yi-Wei Keng (Board Member, TPAC). The forum will also include a discussion between Eddie Nixon (Artistic Director, The Place, London), Sandy Hsiu-chih Lo (Independent Curator) and Daniel Yeung (Director, Hong Kong Dance Exchange). The discussion will be chaired by Chris Bannerman (Founding Director, ArtsCross) and Jih-Wen Yeh (Founding Director, Step Out Arts). The forum is hosted by Yunyu Wang (Taipei Director, ArtsCross).

To attend, [register here](#).

## Critical Dance Pedagogy Network

The Network has announced [four hybrid symposium events](#) which will be hosted across the UK and Northern Ireland.

**20 September 2024, 10-5pm:** 'Pedagogy(ies) and practices' at University of Edinburgh and online.

**10 January 2025:** 'Leadership and Futures' at Queen's University Belfast and online.

Dancing Otherwise Network: Exploring Pluriversal Practices (<https://dancingotherwise.com/>)

**October 2024:** Producing the Pluriverse: 'Power, Place, Promotion: Power and spatial dynamics in dance production'. Online.

**January 2025:** 'Moving Otherwise: Making Change' at Kingston University. Open to the public.

South Asian Dance Equity (SADE): The Arts that British South Asian Dance Ignores Network

**December 2024:** 'South Asian Dance and Ableism'. Coordinated by Balbir Singh Dance Company, Leeds

## Links to Networks' main pages

(in alphabetical order)

Critical Dance Pedagogy Network:

<https://www.criticaldancepedagogy.org/home>

Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

<https://www.digitalblkdance.org>

<https://twitter.com/DBDEproject>

<https://www.instagram.com/dbdeproject>

Dancing Otherwise Network

<https://dancingotherwise.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/dancingotherwise/>

Future Ecologies Network (FE:PDN)

(website under construction)

South Asian Dance Equity (SADE)

<https://www.akademi.co.uk/sade-project-launch/>

<https://www.sampad.org.uk/projects/south-asian-dance-equity-sade/>

<https://www.instagram.com/southasiandanceequity/>