



## Dance Research Matters Networks September 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to your September 2024 Dance Research Matters Network Newsletter

### Cross-Network News

#### Dance Research Matters mid-point event

The DRM mid-point event 'Making dance research legible' took place on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry.

The event began with a performance provocation titled UNBOXED by Sara Macqueen and Christopher Radford of [Linden Dance Company](#). This was followed by a presentation from keynote speaker Professor Kate Elswit who discussed her work at the intersection of dance historical research and technology. Elswit shared insights to the research project 'Dunham's Data: Katherine Dunham and Digital Methods for Dance Historical Inquiry', conducted in collaboration with Harmony Bench, and Elswit's current research project 'Visceral Histories, Visual Arguments: Dance Based Approaches to Data'. Elswit's presentation explored how data-driven approaches that are tailored to dance might provide innovative ways of understanding and using digital tools to make dance research and the study of embodied knowledge legible.

Following Elswit's keynote, each of the programme's five networks provided an overview of their research journeys thus far. These presentations provided the opportunity to discuss current challenges, innovations, interests and needs within dance research. A panel discussion with Dr Kate Marsh, Professor Angela Pickard, Professor Michela Vecchi and chaired by Professor Sarah Whatley situated the Network's research within the wider dance sector and its contemporary socio-political environment. The panel discussion reflected on the development of dance research, its current position and imagined possible futures for the sector. The panel discussion raised questions about dance's position within the Creative Industries, the use of terminology, how dance is valued within the Creative Industries and dance's relation to other sectors when working in collaborative or interdisciplinary ways. The event concluded with a workshop by Dancing Otherwise Network lead Professor Vicky Hunter. Hunter's workshop invited participants to consider their research communities, how new communities and collaborations might be created, what collaborations are important and how these relationships might be supported through a reimagined funding system.

Photos from the event can be found on the [Dance Research Matters blog](#). Photography by Neil Hepworth.

## Dance Research Matters visual timeline

The Dance Research Matters mapping project has produced a visual timeline of all the DRM events up to the midpoint event. This timeline can be downloaded from our website here:

[https://danceresearchmatters.coventry.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Dance-Research-Matters-Networks-Programme-Network-eventsactivities-November-23-to-September-24\\_Final.pdf](https://danceresearchmatters.coventry.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Dance-Research-Matters-Networks-Programme-Network-eventsactivities-November-23-to-September-24_Final.pdf)

## Network Updates

### Critical Dance Pedagogy Network

The Critical Dance Pedagogy Network has a book contract with Routledge. 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 Dr Kathryn Stamp (Co-I).

The Critical Dance Pedagogy Network held an online meeting with artists from the Network's artist lab. During the meeting artists reported on the development of their practices and projects thus far. Updates from the artists included: one teaching artist securing a full-time role working in HE; one artist starting a PGCE in September; and one gaining funding from the Arts Council.

### Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 'Imaginal Cells: The Colour of Transformation' by Bryony Ella was premiered at the Royal Geographical Society's Annual Conference 2024. Bryony Ella is Digital Black Dance Ecologies first Commissioned Artist for the network's first seed commission in collaboration with Antoine Marc, MilkIt Studio and our partner, the Royal Geographical Society. More details about Bryony Ella and her practice can be found here:

<https://www.digitalblkdance.org/artists/>

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

The FE:PDN has a Facebook page dedicated to the Network's Early Career Group. To stay up to date with the group's events and activities you can join the page here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ecgfepdn/>.

## Upcoming Events

(events arranged chronologically)

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

**19 September 2024, 12-5.30pm:** '[Crip Ecologies of Producing Dance](#)' in partnership with The Work Room and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

This event invites disabled and non-disabled artists, producers, researchers, and anyone interested exploring alternative models of producing dance to join either in person or on-line.

- What kinds of ecologies of producing dance exist, and are emerging, when disability and crip are the focus?
- How do crip ecologies influence practice and approaches to making and producing dance?
- What crip models of producing are currently being practiced?
- What might future ecologies of crip producing look / sound / feel like?

With crip, different ways of knowing, experiencing, and doing, are embraced. The emphasis is on the normality of different bodyminds doing things differently. Crip relates to the affirmative model of disability and has emerged from

disability arts and disability pride. An activist term and politicised identity, crip embraces an individual's impairment as a crucial aspect of their identity and place within disability or crip culture.

If ecology is about relations and systems, with crip ecology we are interested in what kinds of relations and systems support producing crip and disability dance. Are there particular kinds of relations between those involved in producing dance that emerge in the context of crip? What are crip dance practices, artistic forms, rehearsal structures, ways of touring, performer-audience relations etc? And how do crip approaches influence and relate more widely to current ecosystems of producing dance?

'Crip Ecologies of Producing Dance' will be a relaxed, creative and accessible event with artists presentations, discussions and reflections. The event will be hosted by Dr Sarah Hopfinger (RCS) and Anita Clark (The Work Room) with guest contributions from:

Dr Aby Watson  
Laura Fisher  
Salma Faraji

The event is open to anyone interested in contributing to these conversations around crip dance producing.

Register to attend: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BO0sCXRxTsFeSOk-Kc6m\\_ReukatYsDLVdmXsvFvQY/viewform?edit\\_requested=true#settings](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BO0sCXRxTsFeSOk-Kc6m_ReukatYsDLVdmXsvFvQY/viewform?edit_requested=true#settings)

### 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, 9.30am-5.00pm:** 'Pedagogy(ies) and practices' at St Cecilia's Concert Room & Museum, University of Edinburgh (and online).

Register to attend:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=2rlgA90iq02MIW5kS6FPE26yqC3dJa1LobXhSm74dp1URDFMSTM0MkZNWkNXQ0dVTEs3TkxYSzI2Ui4u>

This hybrid event seeks to foster networking, collaboration, knowledge exchange, and exploration of some transformative practices in Critical Dance Pedagogy. The symposium will include a day of discussions and workshops around addressing social assumptions, structural power relations, and inequities within dance and dance education.

Schedule:

Time	Activity
0930-1000	Registration
1000-1015	Welcome with Scottish Step and vocal artist <a href="#">Evie Waddell</a> performing with BSL in partnership with Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland
1015-1020	Welcome: Dr Wendy Timmons, University of Edinburgh.
1020-1030	Critical Dance Pedagogy and summary of Symposium 1: Professor Angela Pickard (PI), Canterbury Christ Church University.
1030-1035	Summary of Symposium 2: Dr Kathryn Stamp (Co-I), C-Dare, Coventry University.
1035-1045	AHRC Dance Research Matters: Helen Weedon, Arts and Humanities Research Council.
1045-1130	Session 1 – Interactive presentations  Reflective Practice: Dr Gaby Allard
1130-1200	Break and refreshments
1200-1300	Session 2 – Panel discussion: 'Pathways to dance in Scotland, student-centered practices'

	Panelists: Kenny Burke (Artistic Director, The Dance School of Scotland, Knightswood Secondary School), Kerry Livingstone (Head of Dance, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), Scottish Ballet TBC, Dance Base, Emma Smith (Health & Wellbeing Development and Widening Participation officer, DanceBase)
1300-1400	Lunch and networking
1400-1445	Session 3 – Keynote: Dr Rosemary Martin, Nord University, Norway.
1445-1530	Session 4 – Introduction to knowledge Café: ‘Using Learning Typologies to Reimagine Space and Learning in the Dance Studio’ with Professor Do Coyle
1530-1615	Refreshments and networking together, engage in themed groups and discussions around Pedagogies and Practices
1615-1645	Plenary, reflections, action plan and evaluation
1645-1700	Film screening of ‘United Nations?’ Directed by Jonzi D and <i>Wendy Timmons</i> , performed by Pomegranates 2024 dance artists, Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland

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

### [Dancing Otherwise Network: Exploring Pluriversal Practices](#)

**6 November 2024, 4.45–7.30pm:** ‘Enacting the Dance Pluriverse: Strategies for Organising Otherwise’. Online webinar. Details and booking link coming soon.

**15 November 2024, 2.30-4pm:** ‘Dancing Otherwise at the Being Human Festival’, Bath Science and Literary Institute, Queens Square, Bath. Free event. Details and booking link coming soon.

**12 February 2025, 12-7.30pm:** ‘Moving Otherwise: Making Change’ at Kingston University. Free and open to the public. Details and booking link coming soon.

### [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)

<https://rescen.net/FEPDN/>

FE:PDN Early Career Group's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ecgfepdn/>

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/>