



Dance Research Matters Networks November 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to your November 2024 Dance Research Matters Network Newsletter

Cross-Network News

Save the date: Dance Research Matters Festival

The Dance Research Matters Festival on the **10-11 July 2025**. More details to follow.

Save the date: Network final events

The DRM Networks' final events will be taking place in early 2025. Further details and booking links to follow (events listed chronologically).

10 January 2025, 9am-5pm: 'Leadership and Futures', Critical Dance Pedagogy final event. Venue: Queen's University Belfast and online

12-13 February 2025: Dancing Otherwise Network final event. Venue: TBC

19 March 2025: Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network final event. Venue: The Place, London

28 March 2025: Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network final event. Venue: TBC

31 March-1 April, 2025: South Asian Dance Equity (SADE): The Arts that British South Asian Dance Ignores Network final event. Venue: The Place, London.

Network Updates

Dancing Otherwise Network: Exploring Pluriversal Practices

On the 6th November the Dancing Otherwise Network hosted 'Enacting the Dance Pluriverse: Strategies for organising otherwise'. A Keynote presentation by Suzanne Alleyne provided an opportunity to explore the neurology of power through Alleyne's work as a cultural strategist and consultant. Other speakers in the online event included curator Giulia Casalini, Liz King (Dance Identity Festival, Austria) and Karl Jay Lewin (Dance North, Scotland). These speakers contributed to a panel discussion that further explored the different organisational strategies that might be used to enact a dance pluriverse. The event brought speakers and audiences into dialogue to reflect on the different

structures of governance, understandings of power and models for resourcing that could contribute to a more inclusive dance industry.

A full video of the event can be watched here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-crA_vWXCA

Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

On the 4th November the Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network launched its Early Career Mentorship Programme with a session by Professor Patricia Noxolo on 'Navigating Teaching, Mentorship, and Supervision in UK Higher Education as Black Faculty'.

The Early Career Mentorship Programme comprises four live sessions for Black academics in dance, performance, and tech, providing guidance on navigating academic systems and institutions. See below for details of forthcoming sessions.

Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

On 22nd October at the Beijing Dance Academy, Chris Bannerman presented the work of FE:PDN to the Beijing Performing Arts Association whose membership is drawn from producers and performing arts professionals in Beijing who are active across China. The FE:PDN focus attracted significant attention as there is growing interest in arts management in China but very little research into the role of producers.

On the 30th October the FE:PDN Early Career Group hosted an online event on the theme of producing dance and critical world building through a Butoh lens. As part of the event Elspeth Chan gave a presentation about her Butoh practice and her understanding of its potential to challenge ontological hierarchies and develop a decolonized embodiment as a means of critical world-building. The FE:PDN Early Career Group lead Dr 'Funmi Adewole facilitated a further discussion around the topic with group members.

The 11th November Arts Professional included the first of three articles designed to support the reach of the Sector Survey that FE:PDN will undertake in the coming months. It is also posted on the [FE:PDN website](#) and will be disseminated through other networks, hopefully including through our DRM contacts and colleagues!

Upcoming Events

(events arranged chronologically)

Dancing Otherwise Network: Exploring Pluriversal Practices

15 November 2024, 2.30-4pm: 'Dancing Otherwise at the Being Human Festival', Bath Science and Literary Institute, Queens Square, Bath.

Free to attend. Booking: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bathspalive/t-zzaagxz>

Come and explore the 'Pluriverse' - an idea that describes a world of many worlds - through film and movement. How can we be one and many at the same time?

Unlike a universe, a pluriverse helps us to think about the ways in which different ideas about the world can exist at the same time. The term was most famously used by the Zapatistas – a group of people from Mexico who formed a 'landmark' liberation movement in the 1990's. Their ideas of equality, collaboration and working together have inspired people across the globe.

Perhaps some of these ideas and ways of working might inspire you to think and 'be otherwise' in your own life and

work. No previous dance or movement experience required.

This event is part of Being Human Festival, the UK's national festival of the humanities, taking place 7–16 November 2024. Being Human is led by the School of Advanced Study, University of London, with generous support from Research England, in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy. For further information please see <https://www.beinghumanfestival.org/>

9 December 2024, 12pm: Funding Opportunity: Dancing Otherwise Offshoot Fund

The Dancing Otherwise Network team invites proposals from individuals or collectives who would like to explore a response to the network's ideas, themes or activities from their own dance research practice. As we have reached the mid-way point of the project, how have you engaged with the network's activities, what questions do you still have or what responses / ideas have been sparked for you through the network's activities and provocations? What would you like to explore further or share about the network, its themes of pluriversality, being, doing and relating 'otherwise' – how do some of these themes show up in your own work, or trouble it?

Full details and application form: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ivKdmTMDGuhyHB6aD-S1dreIpK5WvC-taCvR2JJknJI/edit?tab=t.0>

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.

Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

19 November 2024: November Newcastle Dance City will host the next network meeting which will be a closed working session to discuss the Sector Survey and network members' responses in the light of emerging policy and support developments and to finalise the detailed plans for the remaining months.

26 November 2024, 2-3.30pm: The Early Career Group Of the Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

Online: <https://lcds-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/97614172642?pwd=8u7Xr32tTwZ0ozHRiZ24O4RPJDFaNm.1>

This will be the last meeting of the year for the FE:PDN's Early Career Group.

This meeting is open to any academic or practitioners who self-identify as Early Career: this might be in all or any aspect of their work or who support people who identify as such. For this last meeting this year, after three months of great presentations from group members, we are returning to our discussion format which revolves around two breakout room sessions:

- First breakout session: What might a practice research approach to producing dance offer? What questions might we address from within and through this emerging discipline?
- Second breakout session: Open theme – The discussion topic will be proposed by the attendees.

Co-facilitators are Dr 'Funmi Adewole Elliott and Dr Stefanie Sachsenmaier.

Dr 'Funmi Adewole Elliott - (De Montfort University, Leicester) is the Early Career Group lead of Early Career group. She can be reached at oluwafunmilayo.adewole@dmu.ac.uk.

Dr Stefanie Sachsenmaier - (Middlesex University), along with Christopher Bannerman (London Contemporary Dance School) and Vida Midgelow (University of the Arts London), authored the application to the AHRC which is funding

The Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN). The FE:PDN, an 18-month project, will end in March 2025. <https://rescen.net/FEPDN/>

29 November 2024: The Sector Survey will be disseminated and early responses evaluated throughout December by the Network.

14 January 2025, 2.00-5.30pm: An event at University of the Arts London (UAL) with speakers Alison Green (UAL): art curation and social practice; Helen Brooks (UAL): producing sited theatre with community engagement; Freddie Opoku-Addaie (DU): dance producing and festivals; Steffi Sachsenmaier (Mdx) - context setting re-written discourses on dance producing; Prof. Nicole Haitzinger (with Sigrid Gareis) (Co-chair of the postgraduate program Curating the Performing Arts, University of Salzburg) and editors of 'on curating' special issue: Gareis, Sigrid; Haitzinger, Nicole; Pather, Jay (Eds.): Curating Dance: Decolonizing Dance – Issue 55. Zurich: [OnCurating.org](https://oncurating.org), 2023.

15 January 2025: A Roundtable event hosted by NCACE (National Centre for Academic and Cultural Exchange) that will focus on key themes emerging from the sector survey can be accessed via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). Numbers are limited as this is a workshop session focused on productive outcomes.

19 March 2025: Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network final event. Venue: The Place, London

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

26 November 2024, 3-5pm: 'South Asian Dance and Ableism'. Online.

Free to attend. Booking:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7L71kLEjxsltBn5DVCFTgm3CCqHVLAI8o9cUDh23RARtzBg/viewform>

The SADE Network has organised a webinar on 'South Asian Dance and Ableism'. Hosted by Balbir Singh Dance Company. Invited speakers include Ranjana Dave, Dr Shani Dhanda, Rey Dosaj, Maulikraj Shrimali and Dr Akhila Vimal C.

Ranjana Dave (she/her) is an independent artist and writer. Her practice, emerging from her movement training, and research and writing, unfolds at the intersection of text and movement. She likes to explore how people build relationships with other people, ideas, objects and ecologies - what makes us social beings. More at www.ranjanadave.com.

Dr Shani Dhanda sparks transformative change as a consultant, collaborating with businesses and brands to authentically embrace inclusion and accessibility. She is recognised as the UK's most influential disabled person and the BBC's 100 Women Laureate of 2020. Her expertise in disability inclusion has had a profound global impact, collectively reaching over 1.5 million employees worldwide.

Rey Dosaj has been in the arts for over 20 years and has worked for a wide range of organisations from large-scale venues to local mid-scale and small theatres. She was previously Head of Client Services at Inc Arts and prior to that worked as an Agent for Change with the Ramps on The Moon consortium which enabled theatres to break down barriers for people to access the arts safely.

Maulikraj Shrimali is a Dalit artist-activist and PhD student in Performance Studies at Northwestern University. He is founder of the anti-caste 'Whistle Blower Theater Group'. His research explores caste and race in/as performance, anti caste performance, social change, transformation, diaspora theater, and protest arts.

Dr Akhila Vimal C. is an independent scholar, dancer, and performance theorist whose research lies at the intersection of performance studies, ritual studies, ethnochoreology, dance pedagogy, and disability aesthetics. Her work critically examines India's intercultural performance traditions.

31 March-1 April, 2025: South Asian Dance Equity (SADE): The Arts that British South Asian Dance Ignores Network final event. Venue: The Place, London.

Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

The Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network has produced an Early Career Mentorship Programme comprised of four live sessions for Black academics in dance, performance, and tech, providing guidance on navigating academic systems and institutions.

10 December 2024, 5.30-7pm: 'Developing a Competitive Research Profile in the UK' with Professor Kate Elswit. Online.

Free to attend. Book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/developing-a-competitive-research-profile-in-the-uk-tickets-1072999042019?aff=oddtcreator>

This is the second session in the Early Career Mentorship Programme. This session aims to support Black career academics to build a strong and competitive research profile within the UK academia. Professor Elswit will explore strategies for securing research funding, highlight the differences between grant writing and academic writing, and offer guidance on forming productive collaborations with colleagues and arts and cultural organisations. Additionally, participants will gain valuable tips on developing and leading a successful research team. There will be an opportunity to ask questions to Professor Elswit during the workshop.

Kate Elswit is Professor of Performance and Technology and Head of Digital Research at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. She is also Co-Director of the [Centre for Performance, Technology, and Equity \(PTEQ\)](#), which was founded in 2024 with a £5.6 million grant from Research England. For the past decade, she has been collaborating with Harmony Bench to bring dance and experimental digital practice 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. As [Moving Data](#), their dance data commission from the Whitney Museum of American Art appears in the [Edges of Ailey](#) exhibition (through February 2025).

January 2025: 'Your First Book Proposal and the Publication Process' with Professor Melissa Blanco Borelli. Online. Booking details to follow.

February 2025: 'Building Networks and Portability: Navigating Career Moves within and Beyond the UK' with Professor Melissa Blanco Borelli. Online. Booking details to follow.

March 2025: 'Feast & Fellowship: Black Dance, Performance, and Tech ECR Gathering' with Dr Tia-Monique Uzor. Location: TBC. Booking details to follow.

Critical Dance Pedagogy Network

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

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

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/FE:PDN/>

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/>