



Dance Research Matters Networks February 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to your February 2025 Dance Research Matters Network Newsletter

Cross-Network News

[Save the date: Dance Research Matters Festival](#)

10-11 July 2025: The Dance Research Matters Festival. More details to follow.

Network Updates

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

On the 12th February the Dancing Otherwise Network had its final event, 'Moving Otherwise: Making Change', at Kingston university. The event included contributions from Vicky Hunter, Michelle Elliott and Daniela Perazzo from the Dancing Otherwise Network as well as Rosalind Holgate Smith, Manuela Albrecht, Stefan Jovanović and Seke Chimutengwende. More documentation of and reflections on the event are to follow.

[Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network](#)

From the 31st January – 2nd February the Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network held a three-day intensive residency in collaboration with Birmingham Open Media. The residency provided 10 funded places to UK-based Black dance artists to explore the use of digital and immersive technologies in their practices. During the residency, artists were given technical advice with workshops on Mocap, VR, AR, XR and sound technologies. In addition, the residency offered the artists the opportunity to connect with others working in the field and learn more from established practitioners with experience working with digital and immersive technologies.

On the 4th February the Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network hosted its fourth session in the Early Career Mentorship Programme. This session was led by Professor Melissa Blanco Borelli and provided expert advice on how to navigate academic careers within and beyond the UK, with a particular focus on developing professional networks and fostering connections. Details of the next event in this programme are below.

Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

Blog posts on recent events by the Future Ecologies Network can be found on its [website](#).

Upcoming Events

(events arranged chronologically)

Critical Dance Pedagogy Network

27 February 2025, 4.30-6pm: an online introduction to Critical Dance Pedagogy (invite only)

This session will be run by the Critical Dance Pedagogy Network for initial teaching training students (PGCE/SKITT/Schools Direct) who are specialising in Dance.

28 February 2025, 9.30-11am: an online workshop on Critical Dance Pedagogy for PhD students and opportunity to present

Register your interest by 21 February: <https://forms.office.com/e/szeccRbuqf>

The Critical Dance Pedagogy Network invites PhD students for an online workshop on Critical Dance Pedagogy. The session will explore curiosities and questions about Critical Dance Pedagogy. Whether you're looking to deepen your understanding or refine your approach, this workshop will encourage you to challenge traditional norms.

As part of this interactive session there will be an opportunity for 8 PhD students to present a 5 minute sharing of their work in progress. If you would like to present, please indicate this on the form. Other interested PhD students are also welcome to join the session and listen. If you are interested in attending as an audience member please also complete the form to let the team know about your PhD study, and that you do not wish to present.

Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

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

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

26 March 2025, 3-5pm: 'South Asian Dance and Adivasi, Indigenous and Folk Cultures' (webinar). This online gathering and final SADE webinar will host a panel of artists and academics speaking on dance, indigenous knowledges and activism, and folk forms of worldmaking. Webinar speakers include: Muhammad Salman Khan, Arkotong Longkumer, Dilini Seneviratne and Biju Toppo. The event will be chaired by Priyanka Basu (chair).

Register to attend: https://ucr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YSO4Kr8fT8OxkawBk-FeJQ#/registration

27 March 2025: South Asian Dance Equity (SADE) Stakeholder Meeting (invitation only): Hosted by Nupur Arts, Leicester. This in-person gathering will bring together regional stakeholders to discuss indigeneity in British South Asian dance research and practice.

31 March-1 April 2025: South Asian Dance Equity (SADE): The Arts that British South Asian Dance Ignores Network final 2-day symposium followed by an evening of practice sharing. Venue: The Place, London. More details to follow.

Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

March 2025: 'Feast & Fellowship: Black Dance, Performance, and Tech ECR Gathering' with Dr Tia-Monique Uzor. Location: TBC. Booking details to follow. This event is part of the Network's Early Career Mentorship Programme for Black academics in dance, performance, and tech.

Opportunities

PhD studentship: Digital Black Practice at the Intersection of Racial Inequity and Ecological Justice

Deadline for expressions of interest: 28 February 2025

Further details: <https://www.cssd.ac.uk/research/pteq>

The Centre for Performance, Technology, and Equity (PTEQ) at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in collaboration with the Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network are accepting applications for a fully-funded PhD studentship.

Building from the AHRC-funded research network Digital Black Dance Ecologies, this fully-funded PhD project offers the opportunity to conduct original research at the intersections of digital Black performance practices, racial inequity, and ecological injustice. Proposals should articulate the potential for transformative insights into how digital technologies can challenge societal inequities and inspire meaningful engagement with urgent global issues, by exploring questions such as: How can specific technologies and techniques be employed to create immersive performance experiences with particular focus on issues of racial and ecological injustice? How might live data be utilised in performance to portray the ongoing impacts of climate-affected environments on Black communities for diverse audiences? In what ways can the development and design of immersive technologies for artistic purposes contest their colonial and extractive histories? We particularly welcome applications from artist-researchers who are already working in one or more of these areas, including through VR/AR/XR, real-time data in performance, and/or installation, and have a sense of the artistic, activist, and/or theoretical landscapes in which that practice takes place. This research may draw on critical frameworks including Digital Black Studies, African and Caribbean Diasporic Dance and/or Performance Studies, Environmental Humanities, and Decolonial Technological Praxis.

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/>