

Dance Educator's Critical Dance Pedagogy Network Update

By **Angela Pickard and Kathryn Stamp**

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded the Critical Dance Pedagogy network. The network began in October 2024 and aims to raise awareness of socially embedded assumptions and dominant structural power relations that produce unjust educational and socio-cultural outcomes. Through bringing together and connecting academics, dance educators, researchers, artists, students and industry stakeholders in the UK, with international peers in Nordic countries and the US as guest speakers, we have facilitated some strong collaboration and actions for change.

This network is led by Professor Angela Pickard as PI (Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health, at Canterbury Christ Church University) and Dr Kathryn Stamp as Co-I (C-DaRE at Coventry University) with a core team of partners: Darren Carr, (Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Leeds), Dr Wendy Timmons (University of Edinburgh), Professor Aoife McGrath (Queen's University, Belfast) and Andrew Hurst (One Dance UK). The network is supported by Dr Precious Sango (project manager) and Ellie Brown (administrator), both from the Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health, at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The steering group are also instrumental in the development of the network: AWA Dance, Dance Mama, Dance HE, One Dance UK, Parable Dance, PiPA, People Dancing, and South East Dance.

Activities of the network so far

We began the series of network events with an Artist Lab, where we brought together 15 teaching artists from across the UK, who are now involved in actioning a change in their practice. This will impact their student/dancer experiences through greater equity, diversity, inclusion, and student-centered practice, in their studio teaching environments.

Next, we ran a series of symposium events across the UK and Northern Ireland:

1. Intersectionality, intertextualities, Identities and Inequalities at Canterbury Christ Church University;
2. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Coventry University;
3. Pedagogies and Practices at University of Edinburgh;
4. Leadership and Futures at Queen's University, Belfast.

So far, over 300 people have engaged with the network as part of the artist lab or a symposium event.

Our next steps are to grow the network so do join and share any questions or queries here: www.criticaldancepedagogy.org

We have an online event for training dance teachers on 27th February.

We have an online event for PhD students with an interest in dance pedagogy on 28th February.

We will have Artist Lab 2 on 27th, 28th and 29th March at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

Do contact Ellie.brown@canterbury.ac.uk if you are interested in any of the upcoming events.

We will be creating another podcast about Critical Dance Pedagogy as a reflection on the themes and findings of the network so far.

We will be creating a glossary of terms, a film, resources on the website, an infographic and an edited book with Routledge.

Resources:

Podcast: Angela Pickard and Kathryn Stamp made a podcast with Gemma Harman.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/ahrc-dance-research-matters-network-series-episode-1/id1700542517?i=1000647660158>

Critical Dance Pedagogy outline as an Educational Resource Sheet by Professor Angela Pickard for One Dance UK members.

<https://www.onedanceuk.org/resources/critical-dance-pedagogy>

Do contact: Angela.pickard@canterbury.ac.uk for more information on Critical Dance Pedagogy and the network.