PERFORMANCE EPISTIMOLOGIES OF THE GLOBAL MAJORITY SUMMER SCHOOL

24-28 July 2023

ROYAL CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA

Apply by 8th June 2023

SUMMARY

The Performance Epistemologies of The Global Majority Summer School is a five-day intensive held at the Royal Central School of Drama, University of London.

Each day, postgraduate and doctoral students will engage closely with key ideas from Global Majority performance epistemologies in sessions led by prominent international scholars and artists whose work attends to the politics, practices, and pleasures of how Black, Global Majority and Indigenous knowledge shape performance thinking and making.

Summer school sessions include seminar workshops, keynote speakers, mentoring sessions with our summer school mentors, excursions to performances and exhibitions in London, and social community-building opportunities.

PROGRAMME DETAIL

Performance Epistemologies of the Global Majority Summer School focuses on the numerous and alternative ways of knowing that emerge from Black, Global Majority and Indigenous cultures. In this moment of political and social reckoning against colonial and white supremacist ideology that has led to the suppression of any paradigm that is deemed "other," we as global majority scholars, artists, and activists in the West grapple with our praxis to centre knowing that functions outside of the Eurocentric canon. The programme will bring together prominent international scholars from Dance, Theatre and Performance Studies whose work attends to the politics, practices, and pleasures of how Black, Global Majority and Indigenous epistemologies shape performance thinking and making with postgraduate and doctoral students.

Questions we will consider include:

- What does it mean to know through Black, Global Majority and Indigenous epistemologies grounded in land, water, spirit, flesh, touch and interdependence?
- What does enfleshed knowing feel and sound like?
- How are Black, Global Majority and Indigenous epistemologies of 'unknowing' an impetus for creative possibility?
- How do Black, Global Majority and Indigenous epistemologies affect what it means to create with and receive care?
- How does our understanding of the archive change through Black, Global Majority and Indigenous epistemologies?

The Performance Epistemologies of the Global Majority Summer School will explore a range of performance/practice-based and theoretical approaches to Black, Global Majority and Indigenous epistemologies. Texts, performances and visual art stemming from African American, Caribbean, African, Asian (Southern, Eastern and South Eastern), and Latin American cultures will be included. Students will have the opportunity to engage closely with prominent scholars and key ideas from Global Majority performance epistemologies. The programme aims to create a cross-institution interdisciplinary community of scholars in this area.

FACULTY

Dr Melissa Blanco Borelli

Organiser, Mentor and Seminar Leader (Northwestern University

Dr Melissa Blanco Borelli is a critical dance studies scholar, choreographer, and cultural critic. She is an Associate Professor of Theatre and the Director of the Dance Program. As an interdisciplinary scholar, her research interests are broad. They include Blackness in Latin America, critical dance studies, performative writing, popular dance on screen, Black performance theory, (Black) feminist (auto)ethnography, historiography, archives, and the digital humanities. She is currently working on a book tentatively titled Choreographies of Displacement in Contemporary Colombia which looks at the function of corporeality in Colombian dance, protest movements, theatre, photography, music, and film. She is the author of She is Cuba: A Genealogy of the Mulata Body which won the Dance Studies Association's De la Torre Bueno Prize® for best book in dance studies in 2016. She is also the editor of The Oxford Handbook of Dance and the Popular Screen (2014)

Dr Tia-Monique Uzor

Organiser and Seminar Leader (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama)

Tia-Monique is a lecturer in Contemporary Caribbean and African Diasporic Performance at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. As an artist-scholar, she critically engages Africanist dance as a vehicle for creating and interrogating African and African Diasporic worlds through interdisciplinary approaches and embodied research. Tia-Monique has presented and taught her work internationally and has published in the fields of Dance, Geography and Black feminism. Most recently, she has directed and choreographed The Noise My Leaves Make – a short dance film that explores Black British women in the rural English environment.

FACULTY

Professor Thomas F. DeFrantz

Keynote and Mentor (Northwestern University)

Thomas F. DeFrantz directs SLIPPAGE: Performance|Culture|Technology. DeFrantz received the 2017 Outstanding Research in Dance award from the Dance Studies Association and contributed concept and voice-over for a permanent installation on Black Social Dance at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. DeFrantz has taught at the American Dance Festival, SNDO, ImPulsTanz, Ponderosa, and the New Waves Dance Institute, as well as at MIT, Stanford, Yale, NYU, Hampshire College, Duke, the University of the Arts, Northwestern University and the University of Nice. DeFrantz believes in our shared capacity to do better, and to engage our creative spirit for a collective good that is anti-racist, proto-feminist, and queer affirming.

Dr María Estrada Fuentes

Mentor and Seminar Leader (Royal Holloway)

María Estrada-Fuentes is a Latin American Performance Cultures Lecturer at Royal Holloway, University of London. She is Contributing Editor for Theatre Research International (TRI). Her research interests include arts-based conflict transformation, complex victimhood, gendered and domestic violence in transitional contexts, politics and performance. Her publications include 'A Grammar of Care: Morality, Embodied Emotion and the Work of Reintegration and Reincorporation in Colombia' (with Alison Ribeiro de Menezes, forthcoming Performance Research 2023), 'Performative Reintegration: Applied Theatre for Conflict Transformation in Contemporary Colombia' (TRI, 2018) and 'Affective Labors: Love, care and Solidarity in the Social Reintegration of Female Ex-combatants in Colombia' (Lateral, 2016).

FACULTY

Professor Lynette Goddard

Seminar Leader (Royal Holloway)

Lynette Goddard is a Professor of Black Theatre and Performance. Their research and teaching are focused in the area of the politics of contemporary Black British theatre and performance, including work on new writing by Black playwrights and contemporary Black productions of canonical plays. They have published a number of articles on Black British playwriting, as well as two monographs, a short cultural history of Errol John's Moon on a Rainbow Shawl, and a co-edited anthology of essays, Modern and Contemporary Black British Drama (London: Palgrave, 2014). My monograph Staging Black Feminisms: Identity, Politics, Performance (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2007) explored British Black womxn's plays, poetry, and performance in relation to questions about feminist theatre practice.

Dr Clare Parfitt

Seminar Leader (University of Chichester)

Dr Clare Parfitt is an interdisciplinary dance scholar working between popular dance studies, memory studies and Atlantic studies. She is the Co-ordinator of the Pioneers and Places Heritage Project at IRIE! dance theatre, an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Dance Research (C-DaRE), Coventry University, a PhD Supervisor at University of Chichester, and Chair of PoP Moves, an international popular dance research network. Clare is also Co-Investigator of the research project 'Mapping Atlantic (Im)mobilities: Caribbean dance communities in London and their diasporic connections' and editor of Cultural Memory and Popular Dance: Dancing to Remember, Dancing to Forget (Palgrave, 2021).

FACULTY

Dr Jordan Ealey

Seminar Leader (Rochester Univerity)

Dr Jordan Ealey (they/she) is a scholar-artist based in the DC-area, but will always and forever be a Georgia peach. Currently, Jordan is a doctoral candidate in Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. Their dissertation project investigates the politics, forms, and aesthetics of black women-authored musicals from the nineteenth-century to the present. Rather than examining these musicals as a part of the musical theatre canon, they, instead, argue for them as a legitimate form of black feminist intellectual production.

Dr Vanessa Macaulay

Seminar Leader (Anglia Ruskin University)

Vanessa Macaulay is an artist scholar, researcher and Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Performance. Vanessa's research specialises in Black feminist performance practices in the UK and US from the 1980s to the current day. Her research uses both practice-based and written approaches to challenge the imbalances of intersectional identities, speaking to contemporary struggles and anxieties about the performing Black body.

FACULTY

Dr Sylvan Baker

Seminar Leader (Royal Central School of Speech and D

Dr Sylvan Baker, FRSA, is a Care Leaver, and Senior Lecturer, of Community Performance Applied Theatre, at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. He has been a practitioner and researcher in Applied Theatre for over 30 years. He is an Associate Artist of the award-winning, Performing Medicine Arts & Health project and former Associate Director at People's Palace Projects. His research explores innovative methods to stimulate co-creation and agency amongst marginalised communities. As Deputy-Principal Investigator of the MRC funded Regulating Emotions Strengthening Adolescent Resilience (Re-star) project, he supports Neuro-divergent young people in the co- creation of resources to combat depression; as Co-Founder/Investigator of the award-winning, AHRC funded, The Verbatim Formula, he is part of a team that uses performance with Care-Experienced young people to stimulate improvements to theirs and others care.

Jaivant Patel

Seminar Leader (Artistic Director of Jaivant Patel Dance)

Jaivant Patel is an unapologetic Gujarati queer dancemaker and one of the leading voices in amplifying LGBTQIA+ South Asian narratives, on the UK arts/cultural landscape. Jaivant's artistic journey seeks to authentically assimilate Kathak into a creative practice, complimenting his contemporary dance background. Jaivant's approach to Kathak integrates a curiosity in understanding the classical form's unique nuances rooted in diaspora heritage and relationship to his own British-Indian Identity. Jaivant leads the award-winning Jaivant Patel Company, creating bold work that reimagines pertinent global intercultural narratives and joyfully celebrates the intersectionality of modern lived experiences. Works include the award-nominated production YAATRA, dance film I Am Your Skin; and Waltzing The Blue Gods touring from 2023.

FACULTY

Professor Royona Mitra

Seminar Leader (Brunel University)

Royona Mitra is a Professor of Dance and Performance Cultures at Brunel University London. She is the author of Akram Khan: Dancing New Interculturalism which was awarded the 2017 de la Torre Bueno First Book Award by DSA. Her essay "Unmaking Contact: Choreographic Touch at the Intersections of Race, Caste, and Gender" was awarded the 2022 Gertrude Lippincott Prize for best article by DSA. She is co-editor of "Outing Archives / Archives Outing" a special issue of Contemporary Theatre Review with Melissa Blanco Borelli and Bryce Lease which was awarded the 2022 TaPRA Edited Collection Prize. She is currently working on a monograph Unmaking Contact: Choreographing South Asian Touch due for publication in 2024 with OUP.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The Performance Epistemologies of the Global Majority Summer School is open to Black and Global Majority postgraduate and doctoral students around the world whose work is interested in performance-making and thinking from trajectories of thought rooted in Global Majority cultures.

Preference will be given to students based on the following criteria:

- Black and Global Majority postgraduate students with a degree in a relevant discipline (Theatre, Dance, or Performance Studies) who are interested in Global Majority performance knowledge

- Black and Global Majority doctoral students in a relevant discipline (Theatre, Dance, or Performance Studies) whose research centres Global Majority performance knowledge.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

There is no tuition for the Performance Epistemologies of the Global Majority Summer School.

Students will be responsible for their own travel costs and accommodation whilst attending the programme.

A £2000 bursary contribution for accommodation and travel is available to one international student.

An £800 bursary contribution for accommodation and travel is available to one UK student based outside of London.

Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be provided daily during the programme. All other meals are the responsibility of the student.

A farewell dinner will be provided for students and faculty on 25th July.

All excursion costs will be covered by the programme.

HOW TO APPLY

There is no tuition for the Performance Epistemologies of the Global Majority Summer School.

To apply please visit tinyurl.com/PEGM2023 and fill in the information as completely and accurately as possible. Applications for PEGM 2023 are due by 8th June 2023.

FAQS

Location

The summer school address is
Eton Ave
Belsize Park
London
NW3 3HY

This area is safe with many stores that sell food, electronics, and other supplies. The school is located less than a few hundred yards from the Hampstead Theatre and Swiss Cottage underground.

Bursaries

There are two bursaries available to attend the summer school:
International - £2000
UK based outside of London - £800
Please indicate on your application form whether you would like to be considered for bursary support.

Excursions

There will be two excursions during the summer school week. The first, to Isaac Julien's exhibition at the Tate Modern and the second to a New Earth Theatre performance.

Accommodation

The summer school does not provide accommodation and participants must make their own arrangements. The Swiss Cottage Hotel is the approved Central accommodation 5 minutes' walk away. Students are responsible for identifying and obtaining their own housing. A wide range of accommodation is available in London, but prices vary greatly depending on location.

Health Matters

Students are responsible for arranging their own healthcare and related matters. When you arrive in London students will provide with information on the location of nearby doctors, pharmacies, and hospitals in London.