

Dancing Together

Workshop 2018

October 25th–26th

Registration

Please email
selina.hauswirth@itw.unibe.ch
by October 17th to register

More information
about the project:
dancingtogether.ch

Location

Institut für
Theaterwissenschaft
Mittelstr. 43
3012 Bern
Seminar Room 220

Participants

Allison Brown
freelance artist
Katja Cheraneva
freelance artist
Dr. Katarina Kleinschmidt
Universität Potsdam
Dr. Einav Katan-Schmid
Humboldt-Universität Berlin
Dr. Susanne Schmitt
Universität Freiburg
Anne Schuh
Freie Universität Berlin
Ilya Vidrin
Harvard and Coventry University
Dr. Claire Vionnet
Universität Bern
Riley Watts
freelance artist

Hosts

Liz Waterhouse
Graduate School of the Arts
Prof. Dr. Priska Gisler
Hochschule der Künste Bern
Prof. Dr. Christina Thurner
Universität Bern

Description

The workshop *Dancing Together* brings together young scholars who work at the interstice of philosophy, sociology and anthropology in their research of dance, with contemporary dancers who have served as informants to the SNSF research project *Dancing Together*. In the already interdisciplinary field of dance studies, several approaches currently coexist and complement each other. Challenges arise however, when studying sources of dancing: performances seem more accessible than rehearsals, video archives could improve in development, and issues of privacy and choreographic authority may need to be tackled in order for scholars to access their subject matter. While both phenomenology and anthropology aspire for a researcher to come “close” to his or her phenomena of study, how do these approaches converge and diverge—and adapt when applied in dance studies? How might we develop research that articulates the experiences (in togetherness) of dancers?

This workshop proposes to think togetherness along two avenues: first with regard to interdisciplinarity in dance studies and second with regard to the topic of the plurality of dancers moving in relation. While the plurality of dance has been understood and theorized with regard to culture, politics and history, processes of inter-subjectivity in dance remain difficult to describe. On the other hand, case studies of dancing offer rich accounts from which one can investigate models of the social. The focus of this workshop is to explore how studies of dance can incorporate the approaches from different disciplines, while maintaining a rigorous approach perceiving the nuances of practice. In the workshop we

would like to exchange with regard to how we research and / or experience togetherness, and more generally our methodological or theoretical divergences in our approach to studying dance. We will also use this platform to reflect upon how our discourse is situated within the international profile of dance studies, with regional institutional approaches towards practice / theory divisions and diverging English / German foundational literature. The intimate two-day meeting will involve lectures, lecture-performances, methodological investigations and daily morning warm-ups.

SNSF-Project

The challenge to articulate what has been unspoken, invisible and disregarded in dancing together brings together Prof. Dr. Christina Thurner, University of Bern, Prof. Dr. Priska Gisler, University of the Arts Bern, with dancer Elizabeth Waterhouse, a former member of The Forsythe Company (2004-2013) and current Doctoral student at the Graduate School of the Arts in Bern. The proposed research project takes as its subject the oeuvre of choreographer William Forsythe (b. 1949 in New York), arguably one of the most important and controversial choreographers in European contemporary dance. The focus is upon the activity of dancers in the example of William Forsythe’s choreography *Duo*, considered longitudinally from 1996-2016. This recognizes that Forsythe’s dancers are ideal and untapped subject matter for understanding the embodiment of corporeal coordination and processes of inter-subjectivity.

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Timetable

Thursday, October 25th 2018

09:45 – 10:45

Warm-up I
Bodywaker
Allison Brown

11:00 – 11:30

Welcome
Project and Guest Introductions
Prof. Dr. Priska Gisler
Prof. Dr. Christina Thurner
Liz Waterhouse

11:30 – 13:00

Lecture and Gaga Practice
*Dancing as Embodied
Hermeneutics and the
Case Study of Gaga*
Dr. Einav Katan-Schmid

Lunch

14:30 – 16:00

Lecture
*Dancing Together: William
Forsythe's "Duo" (1996-2016)*
Liz Waterhouse

16:30 – 18:30

Dancing Collectivities

Book Presentation
*Translating Dance into
Language*
Katja Cheraneva

Performance-Lecture
*The Dancing Body as
a Collective Living
Archive*
Dr. Claire Vionnet

Friday, October 26th 2018

09:45 – 10:45

Warm-up II
Moving Consciousness
Riley Watts

10:45 – 11:00

Preparatory Activity
*Researching Practice –
Ethnographic Fieldwork and
the Research of Dance*
Anne Schuh and
Dr. Katarina Kleinschmidt

11:15 – 12:30

Lecture-Demonstration
*Partnering Well: Normativity
in Dyadic Physical Interactions*
Ilya Vidrin

Lunch

14:00 – 16:30

Lecture and Activity
*Researching Practice –
Ethnographic Fieldwork and
the Research of Dance*
Anne Schuh and
Dr. Katarina Kleinschmidt

17:00 – 18:00

Closing Discussion