Call for Papers
(Virtual) Ecologies in the Field of Dance

Annual conference of the Gesellschaft für Tanzforschung (gtf) 2023

October 27–29, 2023, Cologne

in cooperation with the Centre for Contemporary Dance (CCD), Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln and German Dance Archive Cologne (DTK), with the participation of the Department of Sociology of movement and sport, Philipps-Universität Marburg and École de Recherche Graphique, Brussels (L'erg)

New technologies and digital formats in dance practice and performance not only change the way we produce, teach, appropriate and receive dance, but also make transparent how we are interdependent in our diverse practices and production processes. In the aftermath of the pandemic and the increasing shift in using digital technologies, questions arise about how we (want to) work together, in what constellations and through which technologies. Virtual reality, hybrid formats and online tutorials in teaching, or dance trends on social media and apps such as TikTok call into question the understanding of dance and its learning settings as well as the (online) archiving of material. They shape discourses on participation, principles of artistic work and new aesthetics in the field of dance and performance. What possibilities of accessibility emerge and how can these be understood against the backdrop of socio-ecological structures and dependency systems? With a twofold focus on virtualities and ecologies in the field of dance, we would like to use the upcoming annual conference of the Society for Dance research (gtf) to both reflect on the impact of increasing media-centered formats and discuss dance in relation to (inter-)dependencies and collaborative knowledge production. Thinking through that lens, the conference itself should be understood as a space for encounters where our relationships and interdisciplinary practices will become transparent and palpable.

Both keywords of the conference, "virtual" as well as "ecologies", are deliberately envisioned as open terms, that call for an investigation and will be tackled during the conference through both scientific and artistic research formats. We are therefore looking for contributions that address the following topics — that can be interwoven or extended — across different formats:

- **Technologies and tools for learning and teaching:** How are new technologies being used in which contexts of dance learning settings? How do they change knowledge transmission and what impact do they have on accessibility? What are the challenges for dance education or teaching? What kind of collective dance forms can be explored with these tools and how?
- **Choreographies/dramaturgies and digital technologies**: What possibilities arise for imagining bodies in more-than-human relationships? What impact does the figure of ecology have on narratives and stories in (dance) performances? How do aesthetics of access shift?
- **Power and social hierarchies:** How are virtual dance practices permeated through what kind of (algorithmic) power relations and how to investigate them? What gender performances are presented and co-produced in virtual formats, and how? How to create spaces or "glitches" to

escape gender binaries through (non-)performing (Russell 2020)? Which colonial structures become visible or can be subverted/"hacked" through virtual practices?

- **Understanding of cooperation, collaboration and networking in the field of dance and related areas:** What forms of dependency, community-building processes, and forms of knowledge emerge in dance? How does dance articulate as "common" in digital cultures through shared movements online (Bench 2020)? How to imagine possibilities of interaction, ways of relating, through (virtual) ecosystems with decolonial approaches? Which strategies of virtual collaboration have been tested for a long time by mixed-abled groups, and what can be learnt from this use of technologies?
- **Archive and material:** How do new technologies change dance archiving practices? What are the perspectives on archiving and which networks are important here? How do artists contribute to these archives? Which methods, models, and settings can be identified in the field of digital archives? What kind of knowledge and aesthetics are being enhanced through it and what is left behind?
- **Socio-ecological transformation and climate crisis**: How to discuss dance practices from the perspective of regenerative practices? How do which formats refer to the ecological crisis? What kind of (new) dimensions of shared spaces or "spheres" (Elswit 2021) emerge? Against the backdrop of crisis-ridden times of climate change, pandemic and war, it is important to ask: How do we shape our eco-social coexistence (in the field of dance)? What possibilities and problems do digital cultures offer?

For this we are looking for an array of different formats: e.g. classical lectures (20 min.), lecture-performances (30 min.) or workshops and labs (45-120 min.). Alternative or collaborative formats are welcome to be proposed in terms of panels, workshops, etc. The event is planned to be hybrid — we are happy to support online or hybrid presentations as well as opportunities for experiential and testing spaces. We seek to support contributors with individual travel grants.

Proposals

The conference team welcomes a description of the proposal (max. 3000 characters including spaces) with a short biography (max. 500 characters including spaces) and indication of the presentation format by April 15, 2023 to: yvonne.hardt@hfmt-koeln.de and anna.chwialkowska@hfmt-koeln.de and marisa.berg@hfmt-koeln.de.

Literature

Bench, Harmony: Perpetual Motion. Dance, Digital Cultures, and the Common. Minneapolis/London 2020.
Bridle, James: Ways of Being. Beyond Human Intelligence. London 2022.
Cherian, Anita (ed.): tiltpauseshift. Dance Ecologies in India. New Delhi 2016.
Elswit, Kate: Reflections on bodies in lockdown: The coronasphere. In: Multimodality & Society, 1(1), 2021, S. 69–74.
Russell, Legacy: Glitch Feminism: A Manifesto. Brooklyn/London/Paris 2020.

Concept/Planning/Realization: Prof. Dr. Yvonne Hardt, Anna Chwialkowska, Marisa Berg

With participation of:

In cooperation with:

Philipps Universität Marburg

erg
école de recherche graphique
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