



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

WWW.WATCHINGDANCE.ORG

KINESTHETIC EMPATHY: CONCEPTS AND CONTEXTS

CALL FOR PAPERS

An international conference hosted by the
'Watching Dance: Kinesthetic Empathy' project.

22–23 April 2010, Manchester, UK

Watching Dance is a multidisciplinary project, funded by a grant from the AHRC from 2008–2011, involving collaboration across four universities; the University of Manchester, the University of Glasgow, Imperial College London and York St John University. The project uses audience research and neuroscience as complementary methods to explore how spectators respond to and empathise with dance movements.

Papers | Panels | Posters | Screenings | Workshops

Keynotes to include:

Alain Berthoz (neurophysiology of movement/perception)

Rachel Davies (artist/filmmaker) | Susan Foster (choreographer, dancer, writer)

Christian Keysers (neuroimaging/social brain) | Chris Nash (photographer) | Alex Reuben (filmmaker)

THEME

CONCEPTS/CONTEXTS OF KINESTHETIC EMPATHY

Neuroscience | Philosophy | Dance | Music | Screen Dance | Physical Therapies | Psychology | Sport | Art | Photography | Gaming | Advertising | Dance Science | Anthropology | Virtual Environments | Theatre

This peer-reviewed conference will bring together international researchers and practitioners in fields including neuroscience, dance, film, music, and contemporary embodied practices to explore the nature and role of kinesthetic empathy. It will aim to open up dialogues between different practices and theoretical approaches. It will celebrate the growing interest in kinesthesia, empathy and kinesthetic empathy as pivotal concepts across different disciplines and media, reflecting current concern with 'affect' as an object of enquiry, interrogation of notions of presence, embodiment and the senses, re-examination of phenomenology, and widespread interest in neuroscientific investigation (notably in the 'mirror neuron' system).

The Conference Programme Committee invites proposals for individual papers and posters on kinesthetic empathy, as well as for start-of-day movement workshops. We warmly welcome contributions from researchers, scholars, dancers, choreographers, film makers and other practitioners, physical therapists, and all who are interested in practices/theories of kinesthetic empathy. Please join us to discuss and debate cross-disciplinary perspectives on new developments in this exciting field.

Proposals are invited for papers, posters and movement workshops.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE	
Marie-Hélène Grosbras	University of Glasgow
Corinne Jola	University of Glasgow
Anna Kuppuswamy	Imperial College London
Frank Pollick	University of Glasgow
Matthew Reason	York St John University
Dee Reynolds	University of Manchester

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

All proposals must be received by **31 October 2009**

For complete submission guidelines and forms see the conference website www.watchingdance.org/conference.php

Individual papers

These should not exceed 15 minutes for presentation. (Each panel will include 4 papers and there will be 30 minutes for questions, comments, and responses.)

Please submit a 500 word abstract of the paper including its argument and a statement of method plus a brief bibliography. Please also indicate whether you would be willing to present a poster instead of a paper.

Posters

Participants are invited to submit a poster abstract not exceeding 300 words. Poster dimensions are A0 as standard. The abstract should include a brief, descriptive title, followed by the authors' names (presenting author's name should be underlined) and their affiliations. The abstract should be one paragraph and single-spaced. The first part of the abstract should describe the goals, significance and background for the study; the second section should summarize the methods used; the final section should report the results and their significance. Sponsors of the work can be acknowledged at the end of the abstract. Please do not include any figures, tables or references in the abstract. Please also indicate whether you would be willing to present a paper instead of a poster.

Movement workshops

These will run for 60 minutes on Day 1 and 45 minutes on Day 2.

Please submit a 500 word abstract describing the activities and format of the session. Also, clearly state the requirements for space, time, audio-visual equipment, and/or appropriate attire for participants.

For all proposals

A submission form must accompany all proposals. (See website for downloadable submission form at www.watchingdance.org/conference.php.) Please do not include the name of the author(s) within the text of the abstract.

Proposals sent via email are preferred. If submitting by email, please download the submission form from the conference website and send your proposal as a Word/PDF document to watchingdance.conference@gmail.com. Please include your last name and **Kinesthetic Empathy 2010** in the subject heading of the email. The text should be attached and pasted in the body of the email to ensure access. Faxes will not be accepted. If submitting by regular mail, please send six copies of your proposal and submission form to:

Katherine Popperwell
The Watching Dance Project
School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures
The University of Manchester
M13 6PL

SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

All proposals will be blind reviewed by the programme committee with the following criteria in mind:

- relationship to the conference theme
- interdisciplinary implications

Receipt of all submissions will be confirmed electronically and notification of acceptance will be in January 2010.

Queries about proposals may be addressed by email to Dee Reynolds at Dee.Reynolds@manchester.ac.uk.

Please note that even if your proposal is not accepted for the conference, you may be invited to contribute to one of the following publications:

- A refereed collection of edited essays on Kinesthetic Empathy
- A Special Issue of *Dance Research* on 'Neuroscience and Dance'
- A Special Issue of *Forum for Modern Language Studies* on 'Evaluating Dance: Discursive Parameters'
http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/formod/special_issues.html

About Manchester

Manchester is a thriving cultural hub with a worldwide reputation for arts, culture, music and, of course, sport. The University itself is an internationally recognised institution with a reputation for pioneering research and plays a vital role in the cultural life of the city. With many venues located on campus, including the Whitworth Art Gallery and Contact Theatre, there's plenty of opportunity for taking in the best that the Manchester has to offer.

The city has never been more exciting, with the 10-year civic make-over now complete and a host of new attractions and cultural investments to keep visitors busy. Venues including the Lowry in Salford, Manchester Art Gallery, Urbis, the Bridgewater Hall, the Imperial War Museum North and the City of Manchester Stadium, not to mention the vibrant café culture and world class shopping, all go together to make the city one of the most stimulating places to visit in the UK.

Manchester City Centre is surprisingly compact given its startling diversity, and there is plenty of accommodation available that puts you within walking distance of all the main attractions.

Please visit the following websites for more information on the city:

The University of Manchester

www.manchester.ac.uk/visitors

Visit Manchester

www.visitmanchester.com

Manchester Online

www.manchesteronline.co.uk

The conference has been specially programmed to link up with the **Moves International Festival of Movement on Screen**. For more information visit www.movementscreen.org.uk

Contact information

General queries about the Conference should be addressed to the project administrator Katie Popperwell at watchingdance@manchester.ac.uk.

Or for general information about the conference please visit the website at www.watchingdance.org/conference.php