

# Dancing Together

## Workshop 2018

### October 25th–26th

#### Registration

Please email  
[selina.hauswirth@itw.unibe.ch](mailto:selina.hauswirth@itw.unibe.ch)  
by October 17th to register

More information  
about the project:  
[dancingtogether.ch](http://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.

# Dancing Together

## Workshop 2018

### 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*