

- 10.00 ARRIVAL + COFFEE**
- 10.15 Living Here, Living There: Bodies & Places in Digital Space**
- Introductions by participants followed by Q&A chaired by Julia Bell
- Steve Willey, Alice Yousef and Maya Abu Alhayyat (Palestine Writing Workshop)
  - Marina Warner, Mustapha Conteh and Ibrahim Turé (Giocherenda, Palermo)
  - Luke Williams + Iman Abdul Qadir (Akwaaba, London)
- 10.45 Walking in Palestine** (Chair: Steve Willey)
- Alice Yousef and Maya Abu Alhayyat (Palestine Writing Workshop) will discuss the crafting of creative writing exercises from the experience of walking in The West Bank, Palestine and set some practical tasks for the creation of new writing.
- 11.15 The Compass of Language**
- Abbas and the Compass project: His Writing and Walking Journey.
- 11.45 The Question of Ownership I: Making Your Way** (chair: Luke Williams)
- Iman Abdul Qadir and Akwaaba
- 12.15 The Question of Ownership 2: Creating in a Digital-Physical Space**
- A wander around the neighbourhood (or if weather is too wet, around the building) using digital media ...texts, photos towards shared maps and narratives .
- 13.00 LUNCH** (+ discussion of what has been found and shared during the walks)
- 14.00 Thinking is Moving** (Chair: Marina Warner)
- Cognitive Scientist Chris Frith & Filmmaker Alex Reuben explore 'choreo-geography', or physical narratives. They explore how the brain is primarily for action and interaction rather than perception. Featuring digital motion-capture dance film 'Line Dance' (3', Alex Reuben, ACE/Channel 4 TV, UK 2004).'
- 15.00 Movement Never Lies: Digitization, Alienation, Dance**
- Learning to break dance from your phone with Dana Mills.
- 15.30 The Fabric of Memory**
- Kate Daudy in conversation with Marina Warner.
- 16.15 Wearable, Wireless and Gestural** - Adam Stark and Steve Willey
- Introducing the mi.mu gloves for use in the creative writing workshop (workshop will use some of the writing produced from the walks undertaken earlier in the day)
- 16.45 TEA**
- 17.00 Storytelling with Giocherenda** - Ibrahim Turé and Mustapha Conteh
- La Ruota dei Desideri (The Wishing Wheel)
- 18.00 FINISH**

### Abstracts

#### Thinking is Moving

Cognitive scientist Chris Frith & filmmaker Alex Reuben discuss 'choreo-geography', or physical narratives. They explore how the brain is primarily for action and interaction rather than perception. Featuring digital, motion-capture dance film, 'Line Dance' (3, Alex Reuben, ACE/Channel 4 TV, UK 2004).'

#### The Fabric of Memory - Kate Daudy

The artist has inscribed and embroidered a standard issue UNHCR tent in which a family lived for several months with phrases and quotations she gathered in conversations with displaced people in many countries. Entitled, "Am I My Brother's Keeper?", this is an immersive multi-media art installation about home and identity. To research the work, Daudy travelled around the Middle East and Europe asking diplomats, refugees, psychologists, aid workers, doctors, peace-workers, volunteers, religious leaders and soldiers from nearly 60 countries for anything that could be learned for the future from this deep crisis, which now affects some 65 million people. It comprises a podcast made in collaboration with UK radio station Rinse FM, a short film made by US documentary maker Odessa Ra, which has been seen by some 3.5 million people, and a funding project in Syria with internally displaced women. The positive response to these interviews have generated further questions and an array of artworks, a film, a series of talks, processions and participatory performance pieces as the work travels around Europe and, from 2020, the United States, with the aim of raising an awareness of the human capacity to transcend circumstance and strive for a better future. The dignity and grace of the people she met touched Daudy all the more for the devastating nature of their circumstances. "Our life is what our thoughts make it," as Marcus Aurelius says.

Daudy funded this endeavour through the sale of her own work. She has now given the tent to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) as a gift. She is interested in illuminating power structures and using the visual arts as a means of bringing about discourse that might contribute toward social and political change. Although disruptive, her work is full of optimism. While our current world circumstances can seem so dire, the future remains in our hands. "Falling", as Hito Steyerl observes, "does not necessarily mean falling apart."

#### Movement Never Lies: Digitization, Alienation, Dance - Dana Mills

The penetration of mobile technology into the everyday life of twentieth-century women and men entails robust consequences for understanding alienation as well as possibilities of countering it through various modes of connectivity. This talk explores the ways dance can both benefit from mobile technology as well as the new limitations it is pressed against in a hyper-technologised world, unique to our present times, proceeding from a discussion of case studies as well as theoretical and analytical conclusions acting as guidelines for activists and dance practitioners seeking to utilize movement for bettering the world.

### Biographies

**Iman Abdul Qadir** is a volunteer/facilitator/participant of the storytelling group at Akwaaba, a volunteer-run social centre and safe space for migrants (regardless of status) to relax, interact, and learn from each other.

**Maya Abu al Hayyat** is a professional storyteller, trainer and Director of the Palestine Writing Workshop.

**Kate Daudy** is a visual artist based in London working in mixed media, including film, writing on monuments, landscapes, and works of her own making. Her work explores home and identity as well as how everything is connected.

**Chris Frith** is a psychologist and neuroscientist at UCL.

**Dana Mills** is an Oxford based writer and activist. She received her DPhil in politics from Mansfield College, Oxford. She has held fellowships in Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Center for Ballet and the Arts at New York University, among others. Her first book: *Dance and politics: Moving beyond Boundaries* was published by Manchester University Press in 2016. She is currently working on a biography and critical study of Rosa Luxemburg for Reaktion Press.

**Alex Reuben** is a film-maker and dancer, explores cognition, motion and imagination as expressed in fairy tales. His films include *Line Dance*, *Gingerella (RockaFela)* (2017)

**Adam Stark** is a music technologist, interested in technology for the composition and performance of music including digital musical instruments, audio analysis, machine learning and interactive systems. He is part of the team behind the *mi.mu gloves* – wearable, wireless, gestural musical instruments and controllers, and wrote his PhD thesis on interactive music performance systems at the Centre for Digital Music at Queen Mary University of London, completing in 2011.

**Marina Warner** is professor of English and Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, London. She is working with the project [www.storiesintransit.com](http://www.storiesintransit.com) and writing a memoir of her childhood in Egypt.

**Steve Willey** is Lecturer of Creative and Critical Writing at Birkbeck College, London. He has run creative writing workshops in the West Bank, Palestine and *Living In*, a poetry collection which documents this experience, is forthcoming from The Onslaught Press.

**Luke Williams** is Lecturer of Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, London. Recent work includes a creative collaboration with Akwaaba, a Sunday social centre for migrants based in Hackney.

**Alice Yousef** is a Palestinian writer, poet and translator. She also writes fiction and non-fiction. Alice facilitates creative writing training with the Palestine Writing Workshop and worked on literary translation with Tamer Institute for Community Education-Palestine. In 2014, her poems were shortlisted for the Jane Martin Poetry Prize, Griton College-Cambridge.