

CALL FOR PAPERS
Dance Under Construction Conference
April 13 – 14, 2012
University of California, Riverside

Deadline for submitting proposals: February 17, 2012

Re-imagining Archives in Motion

“The archive” may evoke a concrete collection of books, articles, and microfilm contained within a library or museum, yet digital media have allowed remote access to archives to become increasingly commonplace. At the same time, several legal systems have begun to recognize indigenous song and dance as legal evidence, highlighting what performers have known all along—that performance is also a way to archive and analyze the human experience. A near-mythic topic in dance research assigned with as much scholarly primacy as perplexity, “the archive” and theoretical notions thereof continue to complicate methods and modes of dance inquiry concerned with records of the past.

Charged with the task to shape the contours of dance studies documentation and discourse, this graduate student conference seeks to explore constantly changing notions of the archive. Through paper presentations, performances, workshops, and working groups, the conference will probe the relationship between source materials and uses of them, trouble the dichotomy between written and performed work, and re-imagine scholars’ and performers’ interactions with repositories of information.

We encourage participants to think about the many forms that an archive could take, whether digital, embodied, in memory, or in daily life, and to consider how each of these archival manifestations impact “the” archive. Can the archive be enacted or performed or must it be tangible and stable? How can the acts of performing and archiving interrelate? How are identity politics tied to archival creation and use? How do live performances change (or what remains) when they are documented and archived? How has digitization impacted the permanence of archives, and how are these new digital archives policed?

Proposals might address the following issues/questions:

- access to archives and issues of power
- issues of copyright and performance
- re-imagining “the” archive
- how archives can be used and enacted
- issues of permanence, ephemerality, and instability in archives
- nostalgia and the archive
- memory as a form of archive
- capturing the live performance
- bodily archives
- reconstructing dances from archival materials
- body politics of archives and archival work
- economic aspects to archival work—both access to and creation of archives
- regulating the digital archive
- issues of translation, whether cultural, linguistic, or otherwise

We invite broad and innovative interpretations of the conference theme through papers and performances. Work that utilizes and/or analyzes multiple mediums such as dance, film, text, and other performance genres is encouraged. Proposals for panels, working groups, workshops, and roundtable discussions are especially welcome. We would like this conference to be an opportunity for graduate students to come together, collaborate, form connections, and receive feedback on their work, regardless of the state of their research. It is understood that all of the research presented will be, in some sense, in progress. DUC aspires to foster a community and network of support for dancers and scholars, so please come excited to talk about your work and to engage with the work of others.

Guidelines for Submitting Proposals

To apply, submit an abstract (250-300 words) of your paper, performance, or project. Please include your full name, contact information, institutional affiliation, brief biography (approximately 100 words), and indicate all technological and space requirements. Specify in your application whether a performance space or classroom setting would best suit your work, and please plan not to exceed a time limit of 20 minutes for a presentation or performance or up to one hour for each working group or workshop. Applications should be submitted in .pdf format to dance_under_construction@yahoo.com by **February 17, 2012**. A confirmation email will be sent upon receiving your proposal.

Please title the subject line of your application e-mail as follows: **DUC Proposal – (Your Last Name) – (Your presentation type, e.g. “Paper Presentation” / “Performance” / “Workshop” / “Working Group”)**

An applicant may submit **ONLY ONE** proposal for **ONE** of the presentation categories described above.

There will be a registration fee of \$25 to present at or attend the conference.

Stay tuned for more information concerning registration, lodging and airfare, and other DUC-related activities happening at UC- Riverside that weekend.