

M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA)

PROJECT TITLE				
South Asian Dance as a Lens to Investigate Urgent Contemporary Narratives				
LEAD INSTITUTION				
Name of HEI institution	Coventry University			
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION				
Name of organisation	Akademi			
Website	https://www.akademi.co.uk/			
<p>Project: This research project investigates the impact of South Asian dance on complex contemporary narratives, such as the decolonial agenda and the urgent climate crisis. Akademi are the partnering organisation who work with South Asian dance and have a focus on pressing environmental challenges.</p> <p>This is a unique position to explore how complex contemporary narratives, such as the urgent climate crisis, are and can be negotiated through the language of South Asian dance forms. Akademi's work successfully interrogates the climate crisis and its detrimental effect on the global south. This project is seeking to build on Akademi's portfolio or explore other contemporary challenges proposed by the candidate. The climate crisis is and will continue to catastrophically affect the countries of the global south, where UK South Asian dance practitioners have ancestral connections and still practice and perform. South Asian dance forms, notably Kathak and Bharatanatyam, tell stories through gesture, rhythm, and facial expression in contrast to more abstract forms of Western dance such as contemporary dance.</p> <p>Process: The candidate will have the opportunity to witness and analyse ongoing practice at Akademi. The PhD project will develop and realise original and rigorous arts research in partnership with C-DaRE. The methodology will foreground Practice Research (PR) and uses important adjuncts such as archival analysis and qualitative methods (e.g. interviews, focus groups, workshops). This methodology also allows for decolonial methods to be explored, such as talking/listening circles or ways of council.</p> <p>Place: This timely project uniquely combines academic scholarship and professional practice in the cultural sector. It will enable cross-fertilisation of practice and scholarship of a cultural organisation and an academic institution with a view to sharing this new knowledge as parts of the cultural ecosystem. The project will benefit interdisciplinary and cross-institutional working. Studio space will be available at C-DaRE for practice-based explorations through cross-site working which will benefit the project. Therefore, Coventry will be the home and host of this project and the candidate needs to be able to live close by or have easy access to Coventry. In addition, and during times of rehearsals, of developing practice, and delivery of workshops, the student will work with Akademi in London under the supervision of the Akademi supervisor, Suba Subramaniam. The Coventry supervisors are Karen Wood and Rosemary Lee. C-DaRE has an excellent PGR community and research culture that the</p>				

candidate will be part of. This practice research project will add to and enrich the existing practice research and archival expertise at C-DaRE.

Person: The candidate will have knowledge of South Asian dance and have a practice. They will have excellent written and presentation skills. Most importantly, they will have a curiosity and willingness to develop their practice through exploring new creative methods alongside academic sources. The candidate will develop public engagement skills as their research will have national and international impact with a variety of audiences.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE. Please email the lead university supervisor if you want to find out more about this CDA project.

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Karen Wood
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Lead HEI Supervisor Email:	<i>Karen.wood@coventry.ac.uk</i>
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