

Episode 5 – Improvisations in time/space, form/content

In this fifth episode of *Choreographing the City* at MIT, Dr Adesola Akinleye and Professor Gediminas Urbonas are joined by Tongan philosopher Hūfanga Dr 'Ōkusitino Māhina in the fifth of my *Choreographing the City* residency's morning conversation series; with comments and questions from Adriana Lear and Maui-TāVā-He-Ako Professor Tēvita O. Ka'ili.

'In the last conversation the notion of choreography is discussed almost as an instrument in a process beyond it. My relationship with or meaning for choreography is as a method that emerges from methodologies that involve (or even center) around a somatic empirical ontological understanding of being present in the world. To this end Dr Māhina shares understanding for how the human experience is part of the wider web of existence of which I see dance (or the bodily of the somatic) as a method (of many) for meaning making. Thus, choreography is a method for understanding the transaction of self with space/time that is Place. Dr Māhina offers modes for revealing this interconnection and inter separation grounded in Tonga philosophy particularly Tā/Vā-ism. My own methodological framework is grounded in a Lakota (and Yoruba) worldview, of which these indigenous philosophies share some similarities, particularly the sense of interwoven relationship of human with environment rather than human *over* environment. When we dance, we have an inkling of what it is to be a part of it all.' - Adesola

This podcast is the result of the Morning Conversation series held in the Fall 2020 *Choreographing the City* class, offered by the Art, Culture and Technology Program at MIT in partnership with Theatrum Mundi and Professor Richard Sennett. The course was taught by Professor Gediminas Urbonas, and the MIT Center for Art, Science, and Technology's visiting artist, choreographer Dr. Adesola Akinleye.

Dr. Akinleye's residency looks at emerging lexicons for movement in urban space that connect to ideas shared across dance-making and choreography to city-making and building community.

This series of eight episodes is hosted by Dr. Adesola Akinleye, Professor Gediminas Urbonas, and Chucho Ocampo Aguilar.

References and further reading:

Akinleye, A. (2015) *Her life in Movement: Reflections on embodiment as a methodology* chapter in Wellard, Ian (Ed.) *Researching Embodied Sport: Exploring movement cultures*, Routledge, pp.178-196 *Reference for further reading about dance as a method meaning making in world discussed in conversation*

Baker, A. J. (1986). *Australian realism: the systematic philosophy of John Anderson*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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Hegel, G. W. F., & Nisbet, H. B. (1975). *Lectures on the philosophy of world history, Vā introductio : Reason in history*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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Māhina, O. (2004). *Art as Tā-Vā 'Time-Space' transformation*. Auckland, New Zealand: Center for Pacific Studies, University of Auckland.

(2017) Tā-Vā (Time-Space) Theory* of reality (special issue) *Jonathan Napela*
Center for Hawaiian & Pacific Studies, Republic of Fiji: Pacific Theological College.

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*now theory is replaced by philosophy.

Ka'ili, T. O. (2017). *Marking Indigeneity: The Tongan Art of Sociospatial Relations: USA: The University of Arizona Press*

Reference for further reading about 'Separating limitations from possibilities'

Other info:

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Key words:

Time/space, tā-vā, Tongan philosophy, intersectionality, connection /disconnection