

the choreography of consent
experiments in dance and law

Call for Papers - Choreographies of Consent - Online Symposium

An AHRC Choreography of Consent Research Network event: **13 February 2026 (online)**

Dance often asks that we work closely with others. Experiences of proximity and cooperation can be arrived at through processes of attunement and shared understanding, but may also involve assumption, persuasion, or even coercion. In recent years, practices of care often embedded within dance have taken form around consent, which is now seen as a useful tool for navigating its relational practices. This online symposium asks: How does consent operate and find form in dance practices and to what effects?

Since September 2024, the AHRC Network *The Choreography of consent: experiments in dance/law research* has brought together artists, practitioners and scholars develop innovative dance and law research methods that explore the movement of consent. This symposium addresses how dance practice and dance-based research can enrich understandings of consent within legal frameworks; and in turn, how contemporary legal interpretation might contribute to embodied and dance-embedded understandings of consent.

For this symposium, we are interested in how consent is used within a wide range of dance contexts. We welcome contributions that critically engage with consent and that have resonance in dance, law, or both. Themes may include (but are not limited to):

- Crip Time and consent in dance;
- How does gender, race, class and colonial legacies affect experiences of consent;
- Global South majority perspectives on consent in dance;
- How does dance navigate the relation between dance and capacity;
- The presence of legal processes within dance spaces, including affirmative, implicit or inferred consent;
- How can consent be instrumentalised in dance;
- Overlaps and connections between consent in dance and in other embodied practices such as ethnography or anthropology;
- How consent gets differentiated in distinct dance practices such as improvisation, screendance and other dance forms;
- Posthumanist perspectives on consent;

- Tensions within the processes of obtaining, documenting and experiencing consent;
- Tracing the embodied forms of consent and its choreographies in dance spaces;
- Performative and ritualistic dimensions of consent;
- Consent as a moment in time, and how far back and forward in time can consent operate
- Ways of withdrawing consent: how do we support or respond to changes of heart within practice?

We encourage submissions from researchers, dance artists and practitioners, especially early career researchers, artists and practitioners as well as those from under-represented backgrounds. We are pleased to receive practice-based provocations and performative interventions as well as papers and critical reflections.

Dates and submission
Format: Abstracts of 200-250 words via email submission to a.macdonald@csm.arts.ac.uk or m.a.jacob@leeds.ac.uk
Deadline: Friday 5 December 2025
Notification of Acceptance: Friday 12 December 2025
Date of the symposium: Friday 13 February 2026
Presentation Formats: Papers, scores, performance, and other formats are welcome.
For inquiries please contact: Anna Macdonald a.macdonald@csm.arts.ac.uk or Marie-Andrée Jacob m.a.jacob@leeds.ac.uk

