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MOVEMENT MATTERS: GLOBAL BODY IN CONFLICT

Lida Winfield

Brys Peralta-Grant, Hannah Ennis,
and Leigha Francis



Sponsored by the Middlebury College Dance Department and
the Katherine Wasserman Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, & DISPOSITIONS OF CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

From Middlebury's CT
website

Contextual
Knowledge

Critical
Self-
Awareness

Dialogue

Intercultural
Competence

Mediation

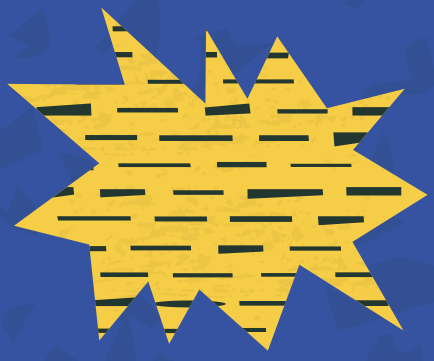
Restorative
Practices

CREATIVITY

CURIOSITY

RISK-TAKING

RELATIONAL FOCUS



**“When we speak of the ills of the world...
we are talking about things that happen to bodies.”
-Sonya Renee Taylor.**



Our skin, gender, sex, race, sexuality, culture and lived experience is never separate from the way we physically move through the world.

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1

How does embodiment and creativity impact our engagement with an issue or complex topic?

2

Can embodiment and creativity be tools for facilitating understanding across difference?

3

Can the practice of embodiment and creativity generate increased empathy?



OBJECTIVES

1. Use embodiment to help unpack difficult topics and conversations
2. Understand how presence and physicality can be used to help create empathy and connection



EACH ARTIST RESIDENCY CONSISTED OF:

Free master class.

Lunch with interested students, faculty
and staff.

Artist talk or lecture-demonstration
of their work.

Interview with CT research interns.

Multiple Classes taught in departments
across the college.

Participating Departments:

Dance; Film and Media; Music;
English; Political Science;
Education Studies;
Environmental Studies;
Gender, Sexuality, and
Feminist Studies; and Luso-
Hispanic Studies.

As well as multiple
Engaged Listening cohorts of
faculty and staff.



ISHMAEL HOUSTON JONES

Global Body in Conflict 2023
Conflict Transformation Research Grant

Ishmael Houston-Jones is a choreographer, author, performer, teacher, and curator.



INSPIRIT DANCE COMPANY

Global Body in Conflict 2023
Conflict Transformation Research Grant

INSPIRIT, a dance company, was founded in 2000 by Christal Brown. INSPIRIT's vision includes providing a forum for collaboration among emerging artists and choreographers, promoting public appreciation of contemporary dance works, developing the technical abilities and overall talent of young and unrecognized artist of all genres, races, and genders, among others.



MAKINI JUMATATU M. POE

Global Body in Conflict 2023
Conflict Transformation Research Grant

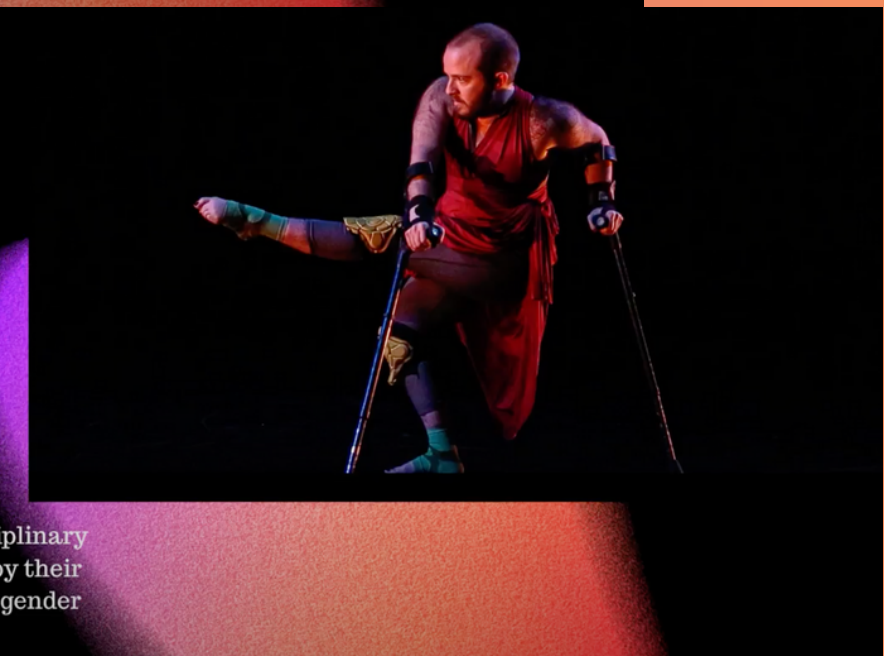
Choreographer and performer, Makini (jumatatu m. poe) strives to engage in and encourage dialogue and community with Black queer folk to prioritize care, interdependence, and delight.



TOBY MACNUTT

Global Body in Conflict 2023
Conflict Transformation Research Grant

Toby is a queer, nonbinary-trans, disabled multidisciplinary artist, author, and teacher whose work is informed by their experience with fluctuating/multi-model disability, gender fluidity, and queer identity.



TATIANA DESARDOUIN

Global Body in Conflict 2023
Conflict Transformation Research Grant

Choreographer, director, dancer, lecturer of Passion Fruit Dance Company, Tatiana Desardouin's artistic practice centers on hip-hop and house dance. "The foundation of my art is my deep commitment to recognizing and preserving all of Black culture's contributions to dance and society," says Desardouin.



SYDNE L. MOSLEY & JESSICA LEE

SLM DANCES

Global Body in Conflict 2023
Conflict Transformation Research Grant

Sydney L. Mosley Dances (SLMDances) is a New York City-based dance-theater collective that works in communities to organize for gender and racial justice through experiential dance performance. The movement vocabulary fluidly integrates modern dance techniques and movement of the African Diaspora, while dancers frequently use their voice with spoken text and audible breath.



Makini (jumatatu m. poe)

Global Body in Conflict Research

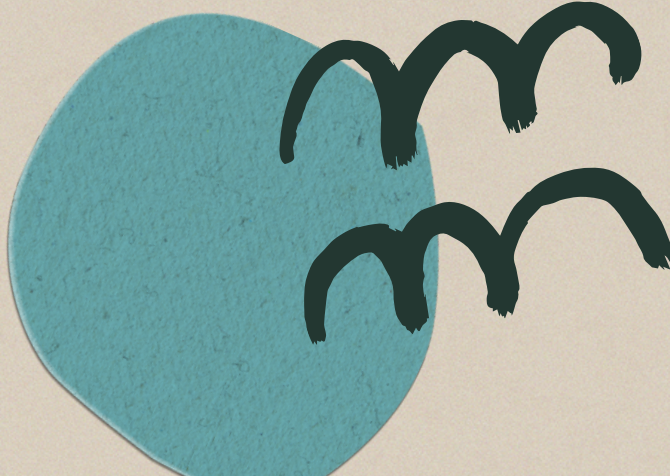
Middlebury College Dance Department

Toby MacNutt

Global Body in Conflict Research

Middlebury College Dance Department






508 VOLUNTARY, ANONYMOUS RESPONSES
OVER THE COURSE OF 6 ARTIST RESIDENCIES

$\frac{1}{3}$ OF PARTICIPANTS NEVER PARTICIPATED IN
ANY DANCE EVENTS OR COURSES ON CAMPUS

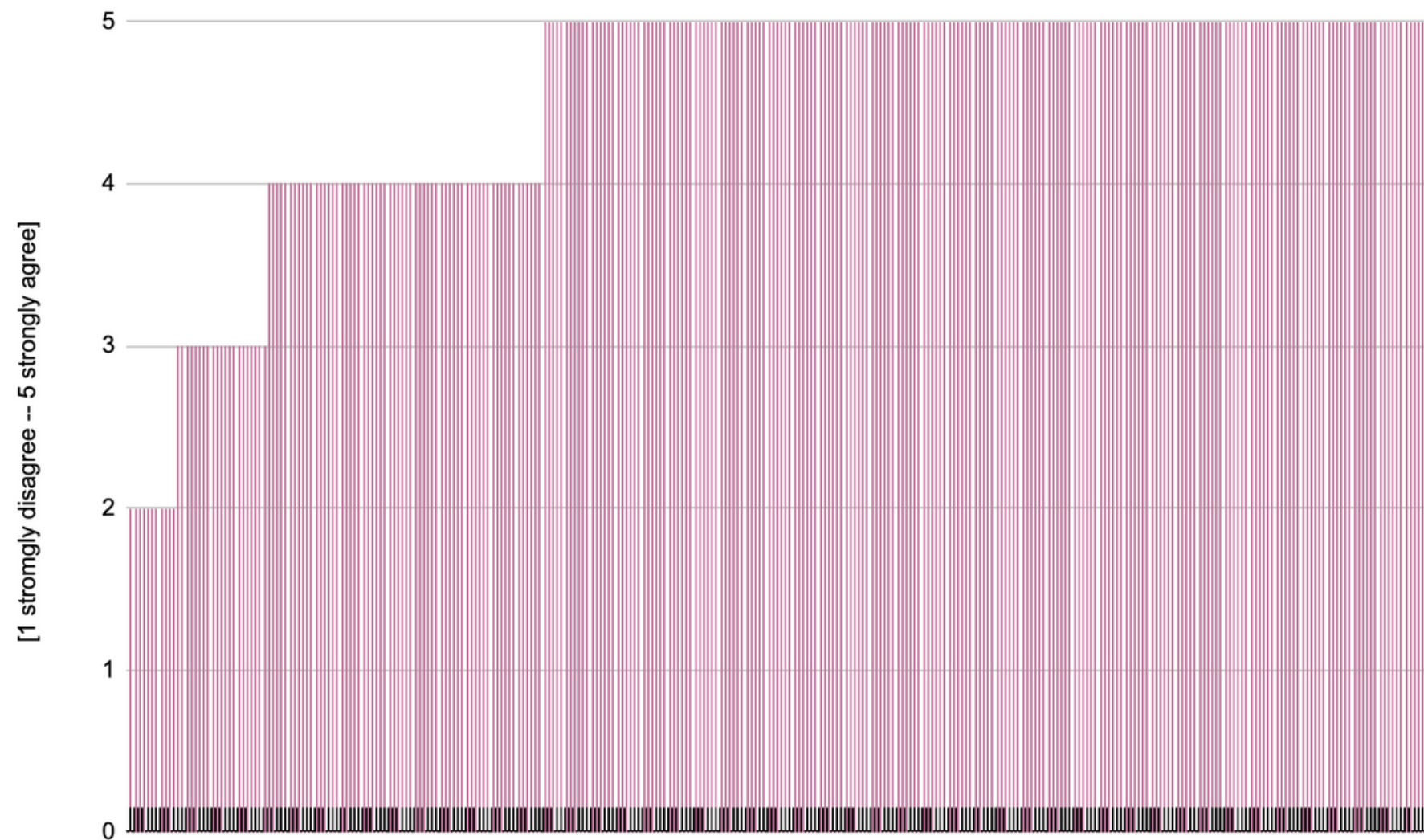


“The workshop took
me out of the Midd
bubble, I had the
possibility to be myself
in collaboration with
others”



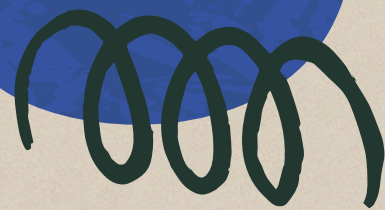
DEEPENING EMPATHY

89% of participants responded "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" when asked if the workshop helped with increased empathy or connection to other participants.



Nearly 200 hand-written responses mentioned connection to other participants and embodied interactions leading to increase empathy, awareness, and presence.

How does embodiment and creativity impact our engagement with an issue or complex topic?



“I learned that I am more capable than I thought”

“...navigating discomfort without words and how to express complex issues non verbally”