

# J. Rebecca Weber, MFA, MA, RSME, PHD CANDIDATE

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Dance Studies and Critical Theory
- Somatic Practices and Dance Science
- Cognitive Psychology: Memory, Embodiment, and Creativity
- Digital Technologies and Long-distance Choreographic Practice
- Dance Pedagogy

## EDUCATION

### Centre for Dance Research, Coventry University

Coventry, England

- **PhD Dance** (anticipated 2018)
  - Awarded Leverhulme Trust studentship, 2015

### Temple University

Philadelphia, PA (USA)

- **MFA Dance** (2013)
  - Awarded TA position, Fall 2011
- **Teaching in Higher Education Certification**, 2013

### University of Central Lancashire

Preston, England

- **MA with Distinction, Dance and Somatic Well-Being: Connections to the Living Body** (2009)

### Agnes Scott College

Decatur, GA (USA)

Magna Cum Laude (2007)

- **BA, Psychology**
- **BA, English Literature**
- **Minor, Dance**

## PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### **Associate Lecturer: Coventry University (UK)**

Independently instructing undergraduate dance history and first-year technique; Lecturing on Cultural and Historical Contexts module.

Mar 2015 - Present

### **Visiting Lecturer: Trinity Laban Conservatoire (UK)**

Independently instructing MFA and MSC Students a module in Embodied and Applied Practice, with a focus on somatic practices.

Mar 2015 - Present

### **Lecturer (Maternity Cover) & Associate Lecturer: University of East London Dance (UK)**

Instructing undergraduate third-year dissertations, personal tutorship, assisting with academic review, departmental duties, and auditions, and instructing 'Crossing Borders-Hybrid Forms', a course on analysis, critical theory, and cultural frameworks.

Sept 2015 - Present

### **Visiting Research Fellow: Western Sydney University MARCS Institute**

Presenting and working on research in cognitive science of creativity in dance at Institute for Brain, Behaviour, and Development.

Oct 2016 - Nov 2016

### **Associate Tutor & BA Dissertation Advisor: Bird College of Music and Dance (UK)**

Independently advising undergraduate dissertations; also providing grading and feedback support for courses across the BA (Hons) Dance program, including: Independent Projects, Independent Professional Development (i.e. placements), Independent Professional Study, History of Performing Arts, and Dance Analysis & Appreciation.

Sept 2016 - Present

### **Adjunct Professor: Temple University Dance Department (PA)**

Independently designing and leading the graduate (MFA, MA, EdM) and undergraduate (BFA) course Dance Science and Somatics and undergraduate dance First-Year Seminar module, and independently instructing general-education students in courses on Dance Appreciation & World Cultures, and Dance & Diversity.

Sept 2013 - Jan 2015

### **Adjunct Professor: Richard Stockton University Dance Department (NJ)**

Independently instructing undergraduate general-education students in 'Intro to Dance,' an analysis and appreciation course.

Jan 2014 - Jan 2015

### **Summer Practicum Facilitator: Drexel University (PA)**

Co-instructing incoming undergraduates in a summer intensive: introducing research methods/analysis and personal tutoring.

May 2014 - Aug 2014

### **Teaching Assistant: Temple University Dance Department (PA)**

Independently instructing undergraduates in Dance Science, Somatics, Dance Appreciation & World Cultures, and Dance in Film.

Sept 2011 - May 2013

### **Associate Lecturer: University of Central Lancashire Dance Department (UK)**

Instructed 3<sup>rd</sup> year Contemporary Technique; and guest lectured 2<sup>nd</sup> year technique. Previously: assistant associate lecturer, teaching collaboratively and independently on 2<sup>nd</sup> year Dance and Physical Performance and Dance in Education modules.

Sept 2008 - Oct 2009

### **Guest Lecturer: Warrington Collegiate College, Warrington England (UK)**

Independently instructed first-year students in contemporary dance technique and Somatics courses, over a month-long period.

Oct 2008 - Nov 2008

### **Post-Graduate Assistant for Pedagogical Practice and Research Assistant to Course Director**

**MA Dance & Somatic Well-Being: University of Central Lancashire, Preston England (UK)**

Assisted with MA modules in USA (NYC course) and UK (Preston course); researched and edited for published articles for director.

Oct 2008 - Oct 2009

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

### **EDITED VOLUMES:**

- Williamson, A., Batson, G., Whatley, S., and **Weber, R.** (Eds.) (2014) *Dance, Somatics and Spiritualities: Contemporary Sacred Narratives*. Intellect Publishing: England.

### **REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES:**

- **Weber, R.**, Mizanty, M., and Allen, L. (2017) 'Project Trans(m)it: Creating Dance Collaboratively via Technology - A Best Practices Overview,' *Research in Dance Education*. This publication won the 2017 Linda Rolfe Award.
- **Weber, R.** (2015) 'Anna Halprin's *Parades and Changes*: A Harbinger of Ritual Transformations,' *Dance, Movement, and Spiritualities* (1:3) pp. 439-449.
- **Weber, R.** (2009) 'Integrating Open-Framework Somatic Practices into Contemporary Dance Technique Training,' *Journal of Dance & Somatic Practices* (1:2) pp. 237-254.

### **BOOK CHAPTERS:**

- **Weber, R.** (2018, in press) 'Making Meaning through Dance: Creative Cognition in Somatic Movement Dance Education,' in *Dance and the Quality of Life*, Eds. Bond, K.; Gardner, S. Dordrecht: Springer.
- **Weber, R.** (2018, in press) 'Creative Cognition and Dance,' in currently untitled Centre for Dance Research Edited Volume, Eds. Ellis, S.; Blades, H.; Waelde, C. C-DaRE, Coventry.
- **Weber, R.** (2016) 'Interacting Cognitive Subsystems and Dance: Choreographic Creativity,' in *Multimodal Perspectives in Performing Arts: Routledge Studies in Multimodality*, Eds. Grazia Sindoni, M.; Janina Wildfeuer, J.; O'Halloran, K. Routledge, London. pp. 106-126.
- Eddy, M., Williamson, A. and **Weber, R.** (2014) 'Reflections on the Spiritual Dimensions of Somatic Movement Dance Education,' in *Dance, Somatics, and Spiritualities: Contemporary Sacred Narratives*, Ed. Williamson, A., Batson, G., Whatley, S., and Weber, R. Intellect Publishing: England. pp. 159-194.

### **SELECTED OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS:**

- **Weber, R.** (2018, in press) 'Review: *When I Open My Eyes: Dance, Health, Imagination*,' in *The Journal of Dance and Somatic Practices*.

### **PLANNED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS:**

- Clements, L. and **Weber, R.** 'Making Space for Creativity in Dance Science', (under review with *International Journal of Art, Culture, and Design Technologies*).
- **Weber, R.** 'Evidencing Expertise in Somatics-based Contemporary Dance Choreography.' (in draft stage, for submission to *Dance and Somatic Practices* in February 2018)
- **Weber, R.** and Reed, S. 'Pedagogical Perspectives on Developing Creativity in Dance Students.' (in draft stage, planned submission to *Journal of Dance Education*, Spring/Summer 2018)
- **Weber, R.** 'Mindfulness and Cognition in Somatic Practices.' (in draft stage, planned submission to *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, Winter 2018/19)

## **INVITED TALKS**

- 'Creativity in Somatics-based Contemporary Choreographic Practices,' Invited presentation at the Dance Science Networking and Careers event - Trinity Laban Conservatoire (London, England). 16 June 2017.
- 'Divergent Thinking in Dance: Choreographic Creativity,' Invited talk presented at Macquarie University (Sydney, NSW, Australia). 11 November 2016.
- 'Divergent Thinking in Dance: Choreographic Creativity,' Invited talk presented at MARCS Institute, Western Sydney University (Sydney, NSW, Australia). 7 November 2016.
- 'Divergent Thinking in Dance: Choreographic Creativity,' Invited talk presented at Motion.Lab, Deakin University (Melbourne, VIC, Australia). 2 November 2016.

- ‘Choreographic Creativity and the ICS Theory,’ Invited talk presented at the Brain, Belief, and Behaviour working group convening - Coventry University Psychology Department (Coventry, England). 20 May 2015.
- ‘Creativity and Mental Imagery in Choreography,’ Invited presentation at the Dance Science Networking and Careers event - Trinity Laban Conservatoire (London, England). 11 June 2015.

### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- **Weber, R.** (2017) ‘Project Trans(m)it: Techniques for Long-Distance Collaboration through Technology,” paper presented at the CORD+SDHS: Transmissions and Traces: Rendering Dance Conference, (Columbus, OH), 19-22 October 2017.
- **Weber, R.** (2017) ‘The Relationship Between Cognitive Psychological Models of Creativity and Somatics-based Choreographic Practices,’ paper presented at International Association of Dance Medicine and Science Conference 2017 - Houston, TX, USA. 14 Oct, 2017.
- Redding, E, **Weber, R.** and Clements, L. (2017) ‘In the Dancer’s Mind: A Three-year Research Study into Creativity and Mental Imagery,’ paper presented at International Association of Dance Medicine and Science Conference 2017 - Houston, TX, USA. 14 Oct, 2017.
- **Weber, R.** and Reed, S. (2017) ‘Pedagogical Perspectives on Developing Creativity in Dance Students,’ paper presented at Dance Fields 2017 - Roehampton University, London, England. 19-22 April, 2017.
- **Weber, R.** (2017) ‘Somatic Memory as Embodied Archive,’ interactive paper presented as part of ‘Unsymposium’ collaborative contribution to Dance Fields 2017 - Roehampton University, London, England. 19-22 April, 2017.
- **Weber, R.** and Reed, S. (2017) ‘Pedagogical Perspectives on Developing Creativity in Dance Students,’ paper presented at Labanarium Launch - University of Surrey, London, England. 6 Jan 2017.
- **Weber, R.** and Reed, S. (2016) ‘Pedagogical Perspectives on Developing Creativity in Dance Students,’ paper presented at Cognition Institute Conference - Plymouth University, Plymouth, England. 7 July 2016.
- **Weber, R.** (2016), ‘Creativity, Choreography, and Somatics: Creative Cognition in Somatics-Based Contemporary Dance’ poster presented at Performing Arts Postgraduate Research Symposium, Coventry University, Coventry, England. 19 April 2016.
- **Weber, R.** and Clements, L. (2015) ‘The Importance of Novelty: A Movement Exploration,’ interactive paper presented at The Culture Capital Exchange presents Culture, Creativity and the Academy – Exploring the New Normal – National conference - Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London, England. 14 July 2015.
- **Weber, R.** (2015) ‘Somatic Memory as Choreographic and Performance Practice in Dance,’ Paper presented at Memory ^ Sentiment ^ Body ^ Space ^ Object Symposium - Centre for Dance Research, Coventry University, Coventry, England. 15 May 2015.
- **Weber, R.** (2015), ‘In the Dancer’s Mind: Creativity, Somatics, and Mental Image,’ poster presented at Performing Arts Postgraduate Research Symposium - Coventry University, Coventry, England. 11 Mar 2015.
- **Weber, R.** (2013) ‘Somatic Memory, Audience Engagement, and the Potential for New Ways of Viewing Dance,’ Peer-reviewed paper presented at World Dance Alliance: Americas Conference - Vancouver, BC, Canada. 29 July - 4 Aug 2013.
- **Weber, R.** (2012) ‘Parades and Transformations: Ritual and the Nude Subject in Anna Halprin's *Parades and Changes*,’ paper presented at Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference: Dance and Dance Culture - Boston, MA, USA. 11-14 April 2012.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, CONFERENCE ORGANISATION**

<b>Presenter and Curator: Transmit International Film Festival</b>	2016 - Present
International film festival, presenting artists’ works globally in annual film festivals (USA, UK, online screenings)	
<b>Presenter and Curator: Screendance Meeting</b> (Roehampton University)	2017
<b>Presenter/Workshop Leader: ESRC Science Festival</b> (Plymouth University)	2017
Presenting interactive workshops on ‘In the Dancer’s Mind’ research project	
<b>Organiser: Un-Symposium Conference Contribution</b> (Roehampton University)	2017
Presenting postgraduate research from Coventry University, De Montfort Univeristy, and Roehampton University as part of the Dance Fields Conference	

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS (DATA COLLECTED):

- Redding, E., Clements, L., Reed, S., **Weber, R.**, Whatley, S. & May, J. 'In the Dancer's Mind' Project findings: Statistical Analysis of quantitative data on training in metacognitive awareness of imagery's impact on improvement in creativity (planned article)
- May, J., Redding, E., Whatley, S., Reed, S., **Weber, R.**, Clements, L., & Lucznik, K. Assessment of the Cognitive Abilities Battery: Statistical analysis of 'In the Dancer's Mind' Project findings - a longitudinal measure for assessing increases in creativity aptitude (planned article)
- Redding, E., Baker, C., Clements, L., Gough, A., Lefebvre Sell, N., Reed, S., Whatley, S., **Weber, R.**, May, J. 'Collaborative research in dance science and creative practice.' - A qualitative analysis of teachers' and students' perspectives on the 'In the Dancer's Mind' metacognitive training in choreographic education contexts. (planned article)
- **Weber, R.** 'Interacting Cognitive Subsystems as an Embodied Cognitive Model for Dance.' (planned article)
- **Weber, R.**, Mizanty, M., Allen, L. and Lanzetti, A. 'Project Trans(m)it Phase 3: Envisioning and Experimenting with an Online "Toolkit" for Dance Transmission.' - Evaluating online 'toolkit' for digital collaboration in choreographic practice. (planned article)
- **Weber, R.**, Mizanty, M., Allen, L. and Lanzetti, A. *Project Trans(m)it Phase 3* (evening-length/installation choreographic work, planned for Autumn 2018)

## OTHER APPOINTMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### MOVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS:

- Director: Somanaut Dance** **May 2010 - Present**  
Somatics-based choreography, movement and dance education, improvisation, and performance practice.
- Co-Director: Project Trans(m)it** **Sept 2014 - Present**  
International research and performance project on long-distance technological collaboration, and host of Trans(m)it Film Festival.
- Independent Dancer/Performer and Rehearsal Director** **Nov 2009 - Present**  
Freelance rehearsal directing for INVISIBLE RIVER (2010-2015) and performing for independent choreographers, including Tiffany Mills, Stone Depot Dance, DaDa Dance, Colleen Hooper, The Naked Stark, Venus Dance Co., MizantyMoves, among others.
- Artist in Residence: Mascher Space Co-operative** **April-Sept 2010; Feb 2014-Jan 2015**  
Philadelphia home for artist-run experimental and new dance classes, workshops, and performances.
- Dance Instructor - Professional Technique, Somatics, and Improvisation: The Iron Factory** **Sept 2012 - Jan 2015**
- Dance Instructor and Teaching Artist: Various** **Nov 2009 - Jan 2015**  
Working as a dance educator in community and recreational contexts, for: Settlement Music School, Dancing Classrooms Philadelphia, Angler Movement Arts Center, Pulse Dance Studio, Philly Kids Gym, Norris Square Neighbourhood Project, etc.
- Dance Teaching Assistant: John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School** **Sept 2002 - May 2003**  
Taught Ballet III-IV classes, as well as Beginner Tap/Jazz classes. Choreographed annual showcases for Ballet IV classes.

### SELECTED EDITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS:

- Associate Editor: *Dance Movement and Spiritualities*** (Peer-reviewed Journal) **June 2011 - Present**
- Editorial Assistant: *International Journal of Screendance*** (Peer-reviewed Journal) **Mar 2015 - Oct 2016**
- Reviewer: *Journal of Emerging Dance Scholarship*** (Peer-reviewed Journal) **July 2013 - Present**
- Editorial Board Member, Writer, and Editor: ThINKingDANCE.net** **June 2013 - Present**  
Communications Director and Social Media Manager, June 2013 - Mar 2017
- Editorial Intern, Journals Department: American Psychological Association** **May 2005/6 - Aug 2005/6**

## GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONOURS

Researcher Grant	Bates Dance Festival 2016
Rebecca Skelton Scholarship	Chichester University, 2016
Centre for Global Engagement Grant	Coventry University, 2015; 2016; 2017
Chancellor's Fund Grant	Coventry University, 2015
Research Administrator/PhD Candidate, In the Dancer's Mind Project	Leverhulme Trust 2015
No Idea is Too Ridiculous Grant - ThINKingDANCE Rep	Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, 2013
Dean's Grant and Rose Vernick Fund Grant	Boyer College, Temple University, 2013
International MA Scholarship	University of Central Lancashire, 2008/9
Louise McKinney Award for Excellence in Literary Essay	Agnes Scott College, 2005
Psi Chi, Psychology Honour Society (Board member)	Agnes Scott College, 2005 - 2007
Dean's List	Agnes Scott College, 2003 - 2007
Francis Winship Walters Scholarship	Agnes Scott College, 2003 - 2007
Georgia HOPE Scholarship; and GTE Grant	Agnes Scott College, 2003 - 2007

## SELECTED CHOREOGRAPHIC WORK

- ***Project Trans(m)it, Phase Two (2016)***
  - Philadelphia, PA (The Iron Factory)
  - Coventry, UK (Centre for Dance Research)
- ***Waterbody (full-length) (2015)***
  - Philadelphia, PA (Project Trans(m)it: Phase One)
- ***Waterbody (duet excerpt) (2015)***
  - Brooklyn, NYC, NY (Women In Motion);
  - Philadelphia, PA (Koresh Artist Showcase)
  - Philadelphia, PA (Plunging the Stream)
  - Philadelphia, PA (InHale Performance Series at CHIMAC)
- ***Segment (with Quirkworks Dance) (2013)***
  - Brooklyn, NYC, NY (A.I.R. Series)
  - Philadelphia, PA (HATCH Series)
- ***Corporecord (2013)***
  - Vancouver, BC (World Dance Alliance- Americas Conference)
  - Philadelphia, PA (Hold Me To This, Temple University)
- ***Observer Effect (2012)***
  - Manhattan, NYC, NY (Dance Across the Board Conference)
- ***Real-Time Bodies (2012)***
  - Philadelphia, PA (ENDINGS, Temple University)
- ***Indelible [I closed the book and I changed my life] (2012)***
  - Philadelphia, PA (ENDINGS, Temple University)
- ***Corvidae (2011)***
  - Brooklyn, NYC (Movement Research)
  - Philadelphia, PA (That's what She Danced)
- ***Familiar Capers (2011)***
  - Philadelphia, PA (ENDINGS, Temple University)
- ***Catastrophe Theory (excerpts III and IV) (2011)***
  - Philadelphia, PA (INHale Performance Series)
- ***Catastrophe Theory Series (2010)***
  - Wilmington, DE (Wilmington Fringe)
  - Philadelphia, PA (Fresh Juice)
- ***Appaloosa (with MizantyMoves) (2010)***
  - Philadelphia, PA (ETC Series)
- ***Observer Effect (2010)***
  - Philadelphia, PA (ENDINGS, Temple University)