

Dancing and thinking with intellectual disability: entangled relations and ethical tensions

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This paper presentation is based on my artistic-pedagogic, doctoral research at Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki. I will share some of the questions, materials, and early findings of my research. I investigate ethical questions in and around artistic, pedagogic, and therapeutic work that involves differently abled adults. The topic originally sprung from my work as a dance pedagogue at Rinnekoti Foundation social care organisation. During the first stage of my research I have reflected on this work through experimental forms of ethnographic writing, interviewing, and documentation. Through this reflection I aim to make visible the complexity of my encounters with the differently abled participants; the relational, affective quality of the work, exposed through my intersubjective position as an interdisciplinary practitioner, and as a 'nomadic subject' (see Braidotti 1994, 2006, 2011). The theoretical-methodological framework of my research includes critical disability studies, feminist theory, contemporary ethnography, critical pedagogy, poststructuralism, and posthumanism.

Bio:

Liisa Jaakonaho is a Doctoral Candidate at Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts, Helsinki. She is an interdisciplinary practitioner of dance pedagogy, dance movement therapy, socially engaged art, and performance. Her qualifications include an MA from Goldsmiths, University of London; a PGCert from The University of Glamorgan; a BA from Turku Arts Academy; and a pedagogical qualification from Theatre Academy Helsinki. In the past 15 years Jaakonaho has worked in different roles across the fields of arts, mental health, social care, and education. Currently she is also involved in the multidisciplinary research project ArtsEqual.