

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS

**Research Conference Dance Therapy 2023:
Past - Present - Future. Current Research on Dance Therapy.**

The German Professional Organization For Dance Therapists (BTD) and the Society for Dance Research (gff) are hosting the **Research Conference Dance Therapy on May 13, 2023, 10:00 – 18:00** at Hamburg Medical School, Department of Art, Society and Health (disabled accessible).

Since our last Research Conference Dance Therapy in 2019 we have seen tremendous social change. This leads us to focus at the upcoming conference on the past, present and future of dance therapy. We are welcoming research contributions in a workshop format that deal with historical or interdisciplinary issues as well as future perspectives of dance therapy research. We also welcome contributions from other fields that are highly significant to dance therapy research.

Historical perspectives: here the focus is on reflecting on the roots of dance therapy in dance, psychotherapy or genuine dance therapy contexts. What are the roots of dance therapy in Germany? Many approaches to dance therapy perpetuate historically contingent premises of expressionist and modern dance. What are possible critical perspectives on this history/historiography? How can we make such perspectives profitable in order to further reflexive novel developments in dance therapy? This seems to call for constructive engagement with newer developments in dance and (psycho)therapy, which await being investigated for their potentials in this regard. After all, perspectives on historical and social contingencies of bodies and movements put dance as the therapeutic medium of dance therapy center stage.

Interdisciplinarity: another significant issue is to locate dance therapy within wider fields of ongoing scientific research. We invite contributions that analyze dance therapy in its interdisciplinary context and investigate constructive research questions and orientations from related academic disciplines. Which results from research in psychology and psychotherapy, dance and dance studies, different body and creative therapies, medicine, cultural studies and social sciences, philosophy etc. have the potential to move dance therapy towards innovative future developments. While many therapeutic fields operate autonomously from each other it is striking that there are simultaneously numerous points of convergence that could be made fruitful. How can we gain therapeutic synergies from such overlaps?

Future perspectives: finally, we want to focus on ideas and visions for future developments of dance therapy as a professional practice. Here we find it imperative to grapple pro-actively with how dance therapy and dance therapists are positioned in society, particularly with regards to issues of power, discrimination and diversity. Issues of ethics and politicization in therapy have been addressed repeatedly for some time. This offers great potential for the development of dance therapy. We suggest addressing how bodies, movement and dance are shaped on a historical, social and individual level. For dance therapists this is of particular relevance since our own positioning has significant impact on how we experience the world, how we move in it and how we relate to ourselves and others. This calls for a critical reflection of how we are situated in the world and how this consciously or unconsciously entails discrimination and privilege. Finally, this also leads to questioning the conviction of dance as per se being healing and innocent. We need to tackle the tension between dance as a means of healing, transformation and resistance on the one hand and as a means of othering and normalizing on the other.

With this **Research Conference Dance Therapy 2023** our emphasis is on posing questions rather than giving answers and we aim to make visible different research perspectives and approaches: those that have not as yet gained visibility as well as those already published. We are welcoming impulses, quests, self-/reflections, controversies, and research processes that relate to the issues outlined here and/or go beyond that.

We call for submissions of abstracts that describe the objectives of the workshop and how participation in it will be facilitated (3000 characters). Please include a short biography (800 characters). Kindly use the submission form available at [the website of gtf](#).

While German will be the main conference language, we are also welcoming submissions in English.

Deadline for submissions is november 30th 2022.

Please send your abstract to forschungstag-tanztherapie@posteo.de

As the team of organizers we are looking forward to your contributions!

Massumeh Rasch (integrative dance therapist DGT® cand. and theater and dance studies scholar)

Dr. Jochen Kleres (integrative dance therapist DGT® cand. and sociologist)

Dr. Petra Rostock (integrative dance therapist DGT® cand. and social scientist)