

# Locations of (Dis)embodied Labour in Theatre and Performance

## November 30, 2023

### Organisers:

Prodosh Bhattacharya, Varvara Sklez, Yangzi Zhou (University of Warwick)

**9.15-9.45 Registration** Wolfson Research Exchange

**9.45-10.00 Welcome and Introduction**

**10.00-11.00**

**Keynote Lecture** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 2

Chair: Yangzi Zhou

Nicholas Ridout (Queen Mary University of London)

Performance after Automation

**11.00-11.15 Coffee Break** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 1

**11.15-13.00**

**Panel 1A. Beyond Embodied Labour** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 2

Chair: Silvija Jestrovic

Romain Chenet (University of Warwick)

Problematising Bodily Performances of Labour as Capital

Tom Six (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London)

'I see what my role is. It is to be an African': Theatre Work as Racialized Labour

Brahma Prakash (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) [online]

Cultural Labour and the Questions of Embodiment in Performance

Sharmistha Saha (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai)

Kanika Khurana (University of Mumbai)

Ritualistic Performances and Disembodied Caste-Labour during the Covid-19 Pandemic

**Panel 1B. Labouring through the Irreconcilable** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 3

Chair: Jaswinder Blackwell-Pal

Priyanka Basu (King's College London)

'The Return of the Slaves': Performance, Labour, and Commemoration in the Elmina Dungeon of Cape Coast

Debanjali Biswas (Showtown History Centre, Blackpool)

Dear Departed: Dance in the Realms of Thanatopolitical and Sublime

Tiffany Murphy (University of Sussex)

Disclosure, Visibility, Believability: Emotional Labour and Responsibility in #MeToo Performance

**13.00-14.00 Lunch** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 1

#### 14.00-15.20

**Panel 2A. Global Perspectives on Gendered Labour** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 3  
Chair: Priyanka Basu

Stooti Baruah (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) [online]  
Women in Godly Roles: The Evolution of Gender Dynamics in the Bhaona Tradition

Yingjun Wei (Trinity College Dublin)  
Under a Woven Vagina: Scenic Design and the Erasure of Migrating/Labouring Bodies of Chinese Female Textile Workers in *Dao Yin* (2021)

**Panel 2B. Agency of Labouring Bodies** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 2  
Chair: Debanjali Biswas

Aastha Gandhi (Independent Scholar) [online]  
Labouring Body and Protection Laws: Child Performers in Indian Circuses

Shravasti Ingle (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)  
Dancing in the Shadows: The Struggle for Artistic Agency

Shruti Ghosh (Independent researcher and artist, Kolkata)  
Drohita: Where is (my) Labouring/Dancing Body?

**15.20-15.40 Coffee Break** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 1

#### 15.40-17.00

**Panel 3A. Theatre Works** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 3  
Chair: Varvara Sklez

Martin Young (Birkbeck, University of London)  
Backstage Workers as Metaphor

Jaswinder Blackwell-Pal (Queen Mary University of London)  
Dear England and Neoliberal Performance Management

Nina Worthington (Canterbury Christ Church University)  
Directors, Disability, and (Dis)embodied Labour in Theatre

**Panel 3B. Facets of Aesthetic Labour** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 2  
Chair: Prodosh Bhattacharya

Sara Reimers (University of Bristol) [online]  
Making an Appearance: Aesthetic Labour, Stereotyping, and Freelance Performance Work

Clio Unger (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London)  
Producing Knowledge: Contemporary Dance, Cognitive Labour, and the Problem of Virtuosity

Sarah Weston (University of Manchester)  
The Labouring Body in Community Choruses: Exploring the Value of Non-Professional Participation in Professional Productions

**17.10-17.30 Closing remarks** Wolfson Research Exchange, seminar room 1