

PROFESSOR SUSAN LEIGH FOSTER



Susan Leigh Foster, choreographer and scholar, is Professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA. She is the author of *Reading Dancing: Bodies and Subjects in Contemporary American Dance*, (University of California Press, 1986); *Choreography and Narrative: Ballet's Staging of Story and Desire* (Indiana University Press, 1996); and *Dances that Describe Themselves: The Improvised Choreography of Richard Bull* (Wesleyan University Press, 2002). She is also the editor of three anthologies: *Choreographing History* (University of Indiana Press, 1995), *Corporealities* (Routledge, 1996), and *Worlding Dance* (Palgrave, 2009) and co-editor of the journal *Discourses in Dance*. She is currently completing a book entitled *Choreographing Empathy* to be published by Routledge in 2010.

Course taught on the 2009-10 MAIPR (with Sue-Ellen Case) at Warwick: Performance

The course looked broadly at themes and approaches in the field of artistic production known as Performance. Emerging in the 1960s, Performance has engaged artists variously trained in theater, dance, music, and the visual and digital arts in new experimentation with interdisciplinary creation.

In six sessions, the 2009-10 Warwick home MAIPR, Susan Leigh Foster and Sue-Ellen Case looked at six distinct themes that have been explored intensively by artists working in Performance. Looking closely at specific pieces, they endeavoured to understand how the choices made in their creation serve to construct a theory of space, time, and identity.

The sessions were divided into two parts: in the first half, the students and tutors discussed readings and examples that address each of the six themes; in the second half, they watched and discussed pieces made individually or collectively by the students.