

Participant Information Statement – SDM

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**Information Statement for the Research Project:**

**Dancing as Time and Place: Exploring Embodiment through Sensual Dance**

**Meditation**

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You are invited to participate in the research project identified above which is being conducted by Jessica Lemire, a PhD Candidate from the School of Environmental and Life Sciences at the University of Newcastle, Australia. The research is part of Jessica Lemire's PhD studies at the University of Newcastle, supervised by Sarah Wright, Paul Hodge and Michelle Duffy from the School of Environmental and Life Sciences

**Why is the research being done?**

We as humans are a part of a web of fluid and evolving relationships with everything around us. Jessica's research is an exploration of our relationships (human and beyond human) that are experienced during Sensual Dance Meditation. This is explored through attuning to our embodied sensations, expressions and emotions. The purpose of this research is to explore the idea that ancestral knowledge and memory are held within the body and can be expressed via movement. Dance is a way to honour and listen to the ancestors and it asserts a powerful cultural memory. This research adds to understandings specifically around dance as a form of Black spirituality and resistance.

### **Who can participate in the research?**

We are seeking people above the age of 18 who wish to participate in Ev'Yan Whitney's Sensual Dance Meditation and share their experiences in a focus group interview with up to 15 other participants. This two-hour workshop is referred to as a Research SDM.

There are two types of Research SDM:

1. General: can be attended by anyone who meets the above requirements. 2. Black and Brown folks: is open on an opt-in basis for Black and Brown identifying folks who meet the above requirements. The purpose of this group is to create a judgement free, safe cultural space for Black and Brown folks. The availability of this SDM is based on the amount of interest. If there are not enough participants who express an interest in this group, those who do will be invited to join the general Research SDM. You will be notified which SDM you are attending via email when receiving the Zoom link.

**This Research SDM on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 is a general SDM**

### **What would you be asked to do?**

You will be invited to participate in a Research SDM. The 'Research SDM' is a two-hour workshop that is predominantly made up of a Sensual Dance Meditation practice and Focus Group Interview. The content breakdown is as follows:

- 5 minute – Introduction
- 10 minute – Verbal explanation of Participant Information Statement [this document] and Consent Form.  
Question time.
- **45 minute – Sensual Dance Meditation**
- 5 minute – Break
- **50 minute – Focus Group Interview**
- 5 minute – Summary and close

The Sensual Dance Meditation:

Ev'Yan is the founder and creator of this Sensual Dance Meditation practice and will be facilitating it. The practice was designed to explore your sensual body, its emotions and inner wisdom. Sensual dance meditation is an invitation to slow down and move freely without judgement.

### Focus Group interview:

The Focus Group interview is a 50-minute conversation facilitated by Jessica and a co researcher. The focus group will offer you a supportive and nurturing space to collectively discuss your experiences of Sensual Dance Meditation. Ev'Yan will not be present for this conversation.

### To participate in Research SDM you will be asked to:

1. Read the Participant Information Statement (this document)
2. Email [Jessica.Lemire@uon.edu.au](mailto:Jessica.Lemire@uon.edu.au) before **10 March 2023**.

Use 'Research SDM' and your name as the subject line.

In your email, please answer the following questions\*:

- Are you over 18?

Participation is limited to people above the age of 18

- Have you read the Participant Information Statement (PIS)?

We ask that all participants read the PIS

- Do you identify as Black/Brown?

If so, would you prefer to take part in a Research SDM specifically for Black and Brown folks?

- Do you wish to take part in the research?

- Do you consent to the Focus Group being recorded?

If you wish to participate in the Research SDM, you must respond yes. ○

Do you consent to the Sensual Dance Meditation being recorded? If you wish to participate in the Research SDM, you must respond yes. If you do not wish to have your image or audio recorded, we ask that you do not turn your

camera or audio on. You will be reminded at the beginning of the SDM to turn your video and audio off if you do not wish to have the SDM recorded.

Leaving your video on may mean that your dancing is recorded and may be used in the research outputs.

- If you are not able to attend or selected to attend this Research SDM would you like to be considered for future ones?
- Have you attended an SDM with Ev'Yan or Research SDM with Ev'Yan and Jessica before?
- Do you have any questions?

If you have questions, please include them here. Jessica will respond to your questions via email.

**\*To be considered for the SDM you must respond to all questions.**

**3. Read the Consent Form.**

If you do not have questions and wish to participate in the Research SDM please complete and attach the Consent Form in your email to Jessica. You must complete and return the Consent Form to participate in the research SDM.

4. The Research SDM is open to a maximum of 15 participants. If in the case that there is over 15 people who wish to attend, you may not be selected to participate in this particular SDM. If there is a high volume of people who wish to participate, Jessica and Ev'Yan will consider creating an additional Research SDM. You will be notified via email if this is to take place. If an additional SDM is not possible immediately, there will be Research SDMs that take place in the future.

5. If you are selected to attend, Jessica will email you to notify you of your acceptance which will include the Zoom link and Focus Group discussion prompts. 6. After the Research SDM, Jessica will transcribe the Focus Group interview. The transcript will be emailed to you.

7. You have the option to read over the transcription and add/change/remove anything you have said. If you choose to do so, please email back to Jessica with changes highlighted. You will have two weeks to do so unless you request more time. You can request more time by sending Jessica an email.

8. The finalised and updated transcript will be sent to participants.

### **What choice do you have?**

Participation in this research is entirely your choice. Whether or not you decide to

participate, your decision will not disadvantage you. If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw from the project at any time without giving a reason. You have the option of withdrawing your data (what you have said in the Focus Group) until the finalising of the transcript.

### **How much time will it take?**

You will be invited to attend one two-hour Research SDM.

### **What are the risks and benefits of participating?**

The benefits of the research are:

- The Focus Group will offer you a supportive and nurturing space to think through your experiences of Sensual Dance Meditation. These conversations and knowledge sharing have the potential to enhance and deepen your experience of the SDM.
- This research aims to strengthen the dialogue between Ev'Yan and the participants of the Sensual Dance Meditation. Ev'Yan will also gain a better understanding of the impacts and meaning of their SDM practice through the experience(s) of the participants. Your feedback could potentially inform Ev'Yan's practice as well as benefiting other aspects of their work.
- Focus Group interview conversations have the potential to assist in developing understandings of dance and sensuality in academic scholarship.

The risks of the research are:

- While we are not explicitly asking for sensitive personal information and it is not our intention to raise this, we acknowledge that dance is a powerful experience. To try and ensure a safe and supportive experience, we:
  - Open the conversation with a safe space agreement that we ask you to abide by. This includes communicating in a way that is respectful of others, using inclusive language and not discussing anything that may be

uncomfortable for others.

- Ask that you only share what you are comfortable sharing.
- Ev'Yan will include some self-care practices. Jessica will include a [list of support services](#) for USA, Australian, global and online contexts in the closing of the focus group. This includes services and resources to access free support.

### **How will your privacy be protected?**

#### Email Correspondence:

Please ensure that the email address you provide is secure and only accessible by you. Jessica will encrypt the emails that she sends with the transcript or any data that comes out of the research to ensure your protection.

#### Consent:

The Research SDM is only open to participants who would like to be a part of Jessica Lemire's PhD research. If you do not consent to being a part of it, we kindly ask that you do not register to participate in the SDM.

Only participants who have signed the Consent Form will be permitted to attend the Research SDM. Before the Research SDM begins you will also be given time to alter your Zoom presentation (display name, photo icon, turn your video off/on, communicate via audio or the chat box function, etc). At the beginning of the Research SDM, Jessica will verbally explain the Consent Form and Participant Information Statement [this document]. If you do not consent to being a part of this research, we kindly ask that you leave the Zoom call. Further details are located in the Consent Script.

#### Confidentiality and anonymity:

You will be asked to maintain the confidentiality of the group discussion and not divulge the specific content to outside parties. As mentioned above, however, we ask that participants only share what they are comfortable with sharing.

You can withdraw your participation, change/alter what you have said, or choose a pseudonym (to be anonymous) until the transcript is finalised. You will not be identified in the transcript. We will use the initials that you provided e.g. JL, for Jessica Lemire. Initials will be used for both real names and pseudonyms. You will not be identified in any written output.

#### Storage and archiving:

Recording and transcription will be retained securely for a minimum period of 5 years from completion of the research and managed/stored in accordance with the University's Research Data and Materials Management Guideline (see <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=72>) or any successor Guideline, and applicable University of Newcastle policy provisions (as amended from time to time). Access to any identifiable data will be restricted to members of the research team unless written consent is given by participants or disclosure is required by law in order for us to comply with our regulatory obligations. Non-identifiable data may also be shared with other parties to encourage scientific scrutiny, and to contribute to further research and public knowledge.

#### Zoom:

Zoom's privacy policy is listed [here](#).

### **How will the information collected be used?**

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##### Recorded SDM:

For all of those who used their video and audio, snippets of the recorded footage may be used to support the information in the thesis or other outputs (see 'outputs' below).

##### The Focus Group:

What you say in the Focus Group will be transcribed. You will be given the option to

change/alter/remove what you have said for up to two weeks after the transcript has been emailed to you. The finalised copy of the transcript will then be emailed to you. The finalised transcript will be used to support the information in the thesis or other outputs.

#### Recording and Transcription process:

##### Focus Group:

1. Beginning the Focus Group, Jessica will make time for you to change your Zoom presentation. Including turning your video and audio off for participants who do not wish for their image or voice to be portrayed in the research. Jessica will then verbally explain the Consent Form and Participant Information Statement [this document].
2. Jessica will then notify you that the recording will commence and we will begin the SDM.
3. Upon completion of the SDM and after a 5 minute break Jessica will conduct the Focus Group interview.
4. Research SDM will finish.
5. Jessica will transcribe the Focus Group. You will receive a copy via email. 6. You will not be identified in the transcript. Transcript will show the initials of the real name or pseudonym provided.
7. You will be given two weeks to modify transcript (add/change/remove anything you have said) and email back to Jessica. You must highlight any changes that you have made. More time can be given upon request. If you do not respond within that time frame, we will assume you are happy with what you said. 8. Jessica will update the master copy of transcript with amendments. 9. Jessica will send amended transcript to focus group participants. This is the final transcript.

#### Outputs:

Participants who opt to use their video and audio during SDM may not be completely anonymous as your image/video may render you identifiable in outputs. Participants will not be identified in any written output from the Focus Group. The information that you share during the interview will either directly or indirectly (quoted or paraphrased) be drawn on.



Data will be presented in academic journals, in a thesis to be submitted for Jessica Lemire's PhD and in conferences. Data may be used further (as opportunities arise), if agreed upon by you. You will have access to any of the academic outputs that your data contributes to (i.e. Jessica will also share an electronic copy of her thesis and any publications which resulted from the data you participated in). Lastly, upon completion of thesis Jessica will compile a short summary report (maximum 3 pages) for you which shares the findings of the research. You will not have to request any of the above outputs. They will be emailed to you as they are produced.

### **What do you need to do to participate?**

Please read this Information Statement and be sure you understand its contents before you consent to participate. If there is anything you do not understand, or if you have questions, please include them in your email to Jessica. If you do not have questions and would like to participate in the Research SDM please:

1. Answer the list of questions outlined above (under the heading 'to participate in Research SDM you will be asked to' section)
2. Complete the attached Consent Form
3. Email both to Jessica.

### **Further information**

If you would like further information, please contact Jessica Lemire at [Jessica.Lemire@uon.edu.au](mailto:Jessica.Lemire@uon.edu.au).

Thank you for considering this invitation.

Jessica Lemire

PhD Candidate, University of Newcastle



Professor Sarah Wright

Primary Project Supervisor, University of Newcastle

**Complaints about this research**

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-2021-0281.

Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Human Research Ethics Officer, Research & Innovation Services, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia, telephone (02) 4921 6333, email [HumanEthics@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:HumanEthics@newcastle.edu.au).