

Nicole Cox, University of Illinois



**Brief Bio:**

Nicole Cox is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her current research project, “Embodied Understandings: Dance, Movement, and Discourse in India’s International Cultural Relations”, brings together ethnographic case studies of Indian dance and diplomacy in Fiji, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Nicole has also studied Kathak dance with Pallabi Chakravorty in Philadelphia, and with Kumudini Lakhia and Kadamb Center for Dance in Ahmedabad.

**Title:**

By Whose Definition? Diplomatic Navigations and Re-making (the) Indian Dance Abroad

**About the Presentation:**

Artists of (the) Indian dance (folk, classical, Bollywood, and otherwise defined) navigate the expectations and structures of Indian state policy and programs far beyond the geographical borders of India. My research with practitioners who engage with India’s international cultural programs in the United States, Fiji, and the United Kingdom reveals a myriad of ways in which artists continuously re-think the definition and boundaries of Indian dance while navigating state infrastructures. As artists teach, choreograph, and perform outside of India and within state programs, their attention to local contexts and communities opens space for us to re-evaluate dominant narratives about cultural policy, representation, value, and categories of ‘Indian dance’.