

Dr. Sara Wookey

Researcher and transmitter of twentieth-century postmodern dance working with academic institutions, cultural organisations, government agencies and communities of practice on participatory and sustainable dance heritage.

www.sarawookey.com

ORCID: 0000-0003-0227-7663

<https://jowr.academia.edu/DrSaraWookey>

POST-DOCTORAL POSITIONS & RESEARCH ROLES

- 01/11/2025- **Post Doctoral Fellow** University of Antwerp *Research Centre for Visual Poetics* (Prof. dr. Timmy De Laet).
30/04/2026
01/09/2025- **Associate Researcher** University of Cambridge *Robinson College*. Independent Researcher.
01/05/2026 (hosted by Prof. dr. Alison Young).
01/02/2024- **Affiliate Researcher** University of Cambridge *Minderoo Centre for Technology and*
30/12/2026 *Democracy* as part of *Cambridge Research in the Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities* (Prof. dr. Gina Neff).
01/01/2024- **Practitioner Researcher** MUNCH Museum as part of the project “Collaborative 30/12/2024
Research & Participatory Practices in Museums” (Dr. Birgitte Catherine Aga). Inaugural position in the museum.
01/01/2024- **Associate Researcher** Bern University of the Arts. as part of the project, “Performance: 30/10/2024
Conservation, Materiality, Knowledge”. (Prof. dr. Hanna Hölling).
01/11/2021- **Associate Researcher** University of New South Wales as part of the project “Precarious 30/12/2023
Movement: Choreography & the Museum” (Prof. dr. Erin Brannigan).
31/01/2022- **Post Doctoral Fellow** Royal Holloway University of London as part of the project 31/05/2022
“Directing Change? Understanding How Participatory Programmes Reflect and Redirect Theatre Cultures”. (Prof. dr. Helen Nicholson and Prof. dr. Louise Ashley).
01/03/2021- **Associate Researcher** Goldsmith University as part of the project “Understanding how arts-
31/08/2021 based methods can support non-verbal communication” and “A Case for the Archive” with the performance company Clod Ensemble, UK (Prof. dr. Suzy Willson).
01/02/2017- **Associate Researcher** Tate Modern as part of the PhD research “Spatial Relations: Dance in
30/12/2018 the Changing Museum” Supported by Coventry University *Centre for Dance Research* (Prof. dr. Victoria Thoms).
01/01/2015- **Practitioner Researcher**. Tate Modern & Tate Britain as part of the project “Experience and
12/09/2015 Value of Live Art”. Funded by Arts & Humanities Research Council. (Dr. Emily Pringle)

CAREER BREAKS

- 31/08/2021- (5 months) No Post Doc positions or research roles due to bereavement leave.
31/01/2022

EDUCATION

- 01/01/2017- **Ph.D. - Arts & Humanities** *Centre for Dance Research* Coventry University.
26/05/2021 (Prof. dr. Victoria Thoms). PhD Thesis: “Spatial Relations: Dance in the Changing Museum”.
01/09/2008- **Master of Fine Arts - Dance, Cultural Studies & Urban Studies**. *Department of World Arts &*
30/06/2010 *Cultures/Dance* University of California, Los Angeles. (Prof. dr. Edward Soja, Prof. Dan Froot; Prof. Angelia Leung, Prof. Yvonne Rainer). MFA Thesis: “Walking Los Angeles: On Mobility and Place Making in a City of Surfaces”.

01/09/1990- **Bachelor of Fine Arts - Dance.** *Department of Dance.* The Ohio State University.
30/06/1992 BFA Thesis: “Gestures of the Senses: Roles of the Body in Theatrical Dance”.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS & OTHER OUTPUTS

- 2027 *Dance in the Museum: Relational Matters.* **Bloomsbury Publications.** Forthcoming monograph with academic publisher. Focusing on dance as a social relational practice within public cultural spaces including Tate Modern, van Abbemuseum and Raven Row. Making the case for dance’s potential to change the human imaginary of the museum through inclusive participatory projects that address concerns of diversity through attention to the embodied aspects of dance in the museum in a post-COVID, Me Too and Black Lives Matter context.
- 2026 “Interstitial Times: Anecdote as a Method of Contemporary Dance Transmission” *European Journal of Theatre and Performance* (published by **EASTAP and University of Groningen Press**). Special issue: *Mobilising Heritage. Dance, Theatre, and Performance in the Age of (In)Tangibility.*
- 2026 “Moving as knowledge-making at Louvre Lens Park: Play, Rest and Proximity” *Journal of Landscape Architecture.* **Taylor & Francis Group.** Eds: Tang, R., Wookey, S., Kipp, C., & Mosbach, C. <https://doi.org/10.1080/18626033.2025.2643088>.
- 2024 “Reclaiming Dance’s Interdisciplinary Knowledge and Intermediality in the Museum”. *Dance Chronicle.* **Taylor & Francis.**
- 2024 “Directing change? Reflections on Participatory Programmes and Inclusive Theatres Cultures”. Eds. Ashley, L., & Wookey, S. *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*, 1–19. **Taylor & Francis Group.** <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13569783.2024.2345717>.
- 2024 “Decentralising the Dance Artist and Other Modes of Moving/Being in the Museum” in *Precarious Movements: Choreography and the Museum: Exhibiting, Curating, Collecting and Conserving Dance.* **National Gallery of Victoria.**
- 2020 “Lines of Connection in a Time of Isolation and Social Distancing”. *Slow Spatial Research: Chronicles of Radical Affection.* Editor Carolyn Strauss. **Valiz Press.**
- 2017 “Sociality of an Unspectacular Dance” *Transmission in Dance: Contemporary Staging Practices.* **Palgrave** Ed. Lesley Main. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-64873-6>.
- 2016 “Encountering Dance, Live Art and Performance as a Space of Change” in the Special Edition *Tate Modern: Nought to sixteen, a history.* **Art Review.**
- 2015 “ActionScape” in *Interrupting the City: Artistic Constitutions of the Public Sphere.* Eds. Bax, S., Gielen, P., Leven, B. **Valiz Press.**
- 2015 *WHO CARES? Dance in the Gallery & Museum.* Eds. Davies, S. & Wookey, S. **Siobhan Davies Dance.**
- 2014 “Disappearing & Resurfacing Subjects: Concerns of (a) Dance Artist(s) in the Museum” in *The Ethics of Art* Eds. Cools, G., Gielen, P. **Valiz Press.**

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 Paper - “Interstitial Times: The Anecdote as a New Method of Dance Transmission” as part of the panel *What the Body Leaves Behind: Transmission, Heritage, and Archivization in Dance* at the International Conference *Emerging Networks of Care: Artists’ Estates and Legacies* at Maastricht Centre for Arts and Culture, Conservation and Heritage. Maastricht University, **the Netherlands.**
- 2025 Paper - “Shared Aliveness: Re-spacing Assemblies through Spatial Assemblages” co-presented with architect and collaborator Rennie Tang as part of *Performance+Design Working Group* for the *Performance Studies International Psi #29 Assemble!* Royal School of Speech and Drama, **United Kingdom.**
- 2024 Paper - “Dance is Hard to See” Paper. *Dance and the Museum* at the Conservation Department, University College London, **United Kingdom.**
Paper - “A Shared Aliveness: Proximity, Rest and Play”. *Subject/Object/Practice/Place: Connecting Creatively through the Performing Arts.* **University of Malta.**

- 2023 Paper - “Dance is Hard to See” as part of the panel “*Performance: Conservation, Materiality, Knowledge* (PCMK) organized by the Bern University of the Arts research group PCMK at the 36e congrès du Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art in Lyon, **France**.
- 2021 Paper - “Transmitting Trio A: An Unspectacular Dance as Spectacle in the Museum” for *ReVIEWING 12: Exploring the History and Legacy of Black Mountain College*. Black Mountain College, **United States**.
- 2017 Paper - *Transmitting Trio A* (1966) as part of *Transmissions and Traces: Rendering Dance* at the inaugural conference of the Dance Studies Association (having merged as an entity of the Congress on Research in Dance and the Society of Dance History Scholars in 2017). The Ohio State University, **United States**
- 2014 Presentation - “Transmitting Trio A” as part of the *Collecting the Performative* research group. Tate Modern, **United Kingdom**.

TEACHING, SUPERVISING & MENTORING

- 03/01/2024- **Arts Council England** (ACE) Mentoring artists.
01/09/2026
- 01/01/2023- **Anglia Ruskin University**. Lecturer.
30/12/2024
- 01/01/2022- **Southbank University London**. Lecturer.
30/12/2023
- 01/09/2015- **Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance**. Lecturer, Module Leader, and MA 01/12/2022 Supervisor.
- 01/10/2011- **University of California, Irvine**. Lecturer. Co-teaching *Trio A in 10 Easy Lessons* as an 30/12/2013 assistant to Prof. Yvonne Rainer.
- 01/10/2010- **University of California, Los Angeles**. Lecturer. Department of World Arts & Cultures.
30/04/2012

AWARDS & FUNDING RECEIVED

- 2026 **Arts Council England** project grant. *Continuum: Postmodern choreographies and new dance works*.
- 2023 **Arts Council England** professional development grant.
- 2022 **Northern Sustainable Futures** artist residency, Sweden.
- 2019 **Arts Council England** project grant.
- 2018 **Arts Council England** project grant.
- 2017 **British Council** curatorial residency grant to work in Greece.
- 2014 **UK Home Office** Tier 1 Global Talent (formerly ‘Exceptional Talent’) Visa issued by **Arts Council England** (1 of 5 endorsing government bodies) for a 5-year residency, leading to citizenship in the UK.

DANCE TRANSMISSION & DANCE HERITAGE PROJECTS

- 2026 Transmitter - “Trio A” (1966) by Yvonne Rainer for *Yvonne Rainer: Trio A* event at **Tate Modern** for the dance’s 60th anniversary. In collaboration with **Rose Choreographic School, Sadlers Wells East, UK**.
- 2026 Transmitter - “Trio A” (1966) by Yvonne Rainer for Rachel Meyer dance company at **Dance Base, US**.
- 2025 Transmitter - “Trio A” (1966) by Yvonne Rainer at **Neue Nationalgalerie Berlin, Germany**.
- 2024 Transmitter - “M-Walk – (Street Action Trio A)” (1970) by Yvonne Rainer for the **New Horizons Film Festival, Poland**.
- 2019 Transmitter - “Trio A” (1966) by Yvonne Rainer at **Palazzo Grassi, Italy**.
- 2016 Transmitter - “Diagonal (as part of Terrain)” (1963) by Yvonne Rainer at **Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance, UK**.
- 2014 Transmitter - “Transmitting Trio A” (2008) by Yvonne Rainer. **Art Gallery Ontario, Canada**.
- 2014 Transmitter - “Trio A” (1966) by Yvonne Rainer. **Art Gallery of Victoria, Australia**.

- 2012 Transmitter - "Trio A" (1966) by Yvonne Rainer. **Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln**. Participants performed the work live as part of Yvonne Rainer's major retrospective exhibition, *Space, Body, Language* (April–July 2012) at the **Museum Ludwig**, Germany.
- 2010 Transmitter - "Trio A" (1966) by Yvonne Rainer. **Artez University of the Arts**, the Netherlands.
- 2014 Dancer - "Trio A" (1966); "Diagonal (Part of Terrain)" (1963); "Chair Pillow" (1969); and "Talking Solo (Part of Terrain)" (1963) all by Yvonne Rainer. Performed as part of *Yvonne Rainer Dance Works*. **Raven Row**, UK.
- 2009 Fieldworker - "Dance of the 1930s and 40s". A dance heritage project focusing on the history of dance departments in the US. Final printed book held in the University of California, Los Angeles's main library collections. Part of Master of Fine Arts in Dance independent study programme.

CHOREOGRAPHY, DANCE & MUSEUM PROJECTS (ARTISTIC OUTPUTS)

- 2023 Choreographer - *Mobilizing Peripheries*. **Louvre Lens**, France.
- 2019 Choreographer - *reMake*. **Windermere Jetty museum**, UK.
- 2017- Choreographer - *Punt.Point* **van Abbemuseum**, the Netherlands. Acquired by the museum in 2017.
- 2015 Dancer - *Station to Station*. Siobhan Davies Dance. **Barbican**, UK.
- 2011 Choreographer - *Performing Navigations*. **Hammer Museum**, US.

CURATION

- 2023 Curator- *A New Role for Dance*. Series of interdisciplinary conversations between dancers and outside professionals encouraging cross-sector dialogue on the values of dance in other fields. **Wookey Works**, UK (funded by Arts Council England).
- 2017 Curator- Artist Residency and Learning Space. *Moving// Dialogues*. **Kinitras Studio**. Greece (Funded by the British Council).
- 2017 Curator- *Awareness Through Movement & Reading* (3-part series) and *Nature Wanders: Parks to Pavements*. Two public-engagement projects on themes of the embodied knowledge and public spaces such as the reading rooms and public parks. Hosted and funded by **Wellcome Collection**, UK.
- 2014 Curator- Performance and public talk. "Drift" with *Tate Collective*. **Tate St Ives**, UK (Funded by Tate). A collaboration with young curators as part of *Tate Collective*, co-designing a live performance and public talk event for Tate St Ives.

RECENT PRESS

Preview and reviews of the 2-day performance event at Tate Modern celebrating the 60th Anniversary year of Trio A (1966) by Yvonne Rainer in which Wookey led as the transmitter and participated in as a dancer.

- 2026 Crompton, S. **The Observer** "Yvonne Rainer, the casual radical," 18 July. Available at: <https://observer.co.uk/culture/dance/article/yvonne-rainer-the-casual-radical>.
- 2026 Eastman, B. **The Guardian** "Yvonne Rainer, Trio A review: watching this thrilling performance for free feels like an enormous privilege," 11 July. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2026/jul/11/yvonne-rainer-trio-a-review-watching-this-thrilling-performance-for-free-feels-like-an-enormous-privilege>
- 2026 Eastman, A. **Fjord Review** 11 July "Trio A at Sixty," 11 July. Available at: <https://fjordreview.com/blogs/all/trio-a-at-sixty>
- 2026 May, E. **Dance Magazine** "60 Years of Yvonne Rainer's Groundbreaking Solo *Trio A*," 9 July. Available at: <https://dancemagazine.com/yvonne-rainer-trio-a-tate/>

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION, MENTORSHIP & LEADERSHIP

2025-2026 **Arts Council England** Evaluator of cultural institutions capitol project grand application.
2023-2026 **Imagination Museum** Executive Committee Member.
2022-2026 **Move Dance Feel** Advisor for non-profit bringing dance to women affected by cancer.
2023-2024 **Queen Mary University** Consultant, *Museum of Colour*, digital museum of Global Majority dancers.
2023-2024 **Museum Development Northwest** Mentor on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) action plans.
2016-2021 **Equity UK Dance Committee** Lead Dance Committee Member.
2018-2019 **Lakeland Arts** Consultant on dance film in celebration of the museum's capitol project.
2019-2022 **Dancers' Career Development (DCD)** Trustee.
2017-2019 **Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD)** Trustee.
2016-2017 **New Museum** Advisor & Presenter *Performance Archiving Performance*.

PUBLIC TALKS & INTERVIEWS

2025 "Dance is Hard to See: Transmitting Trio A by Yvonne Rainer". **Neue Nationalgalerie** as part of *Berlin Arts Week*.
2024 "Dance is Hard to See: The Body, Language and Material in Acts of Transmission and Influence." Public talk. **Tanzhaus Zürich** as a part of the research festival and exhibition *Conserving Performance, Performing Conservation, organized by Performance: Conservation, Materiality, Knowledge* funded by the **Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)**.
2017 "Moving Through the City and Cultural Contexts". Keynote. *ELIA Teacher's Academy* (an international symposium for arts teachers. **Fontys School of Fine and Performing Arts**, the Netherlands.
2020 "Artist Talk: Sara Wookey". Webinar for **Art Science Museum Singapore**.
2023 "Rewilding potential for creating positive lasting legacies in practice". Podcast interview. *ResDance*.
2023 "What does it mean to have a body?". Podcast interview. *Informer: Conversations with artists, technologists, and thinkers*.
2017 "Interview with Rennie Tang and Sara Wookey". Podcast interview. *XX|LA: Architects Podcast*.
2017 "Interview with Sara Wookey". Podcast interview. Podcast interview. Podcast interview. Podcast interview. Podcast interview. Podcast interview. Podcast interview. Podcast interview. *Movers & Shapers*.
2015 "Dance Rebels". Invited presenter. **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)**.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & NETWORKS

Society for Dance Research Executive Committee Member (since 2026).
Independent Researchers in Dance and Performance (IRDP), Initiator & Co-Lead (since 2025).
Transmitting the Heritage, Reception and Archiving of Dance (THREAD), Initiator & Co-Lead (since 2025).
CoDa | Cultures of Dance, Invited Member (since 2025).

OTHER RELEVANT SKILLS, TRAINING & COMPETENCES

Relational Dynamics Coaching certificate (2023).
English, Fluent; **Dutch**, Basic.