

## **DSSE Series #1 Session One June 13, 2021**

**Hannah Andersen, Susan Haines, Megan Brunsvold Mercedes, Jennifer Morley**

### **Sharing Perspectives: Reexamining Representation and Equity in Dance Science and Somatic Education**

This session, fueled by the need to broaden representation and equity in dance science and somatic education, examines content and pedagogy in university dance curricula. As a community exchange, facilitators share recent curriculum revisions and pedagogical shifts as a means to support reflective processes and discourses within the larger community of Dance Science and Somatic educators. The facilitators' dialogic processes are guided by the following: Examine the history, origin, and content of dance science and somatics courses; Reexamine curricular objectives, teaching methods, and forms of assessment; Dismantle white body supremacy and integrate anti-racist pedagogies to support student learning from an inclusive decentralized perspective; Broaden the representation of bodies and lived experiences inclusive to all gender identities; Seek evolution by engaging in content review, and gathering resources. Participants will hear facilitators perspectives, engage in dialogues with one another, and participate in a critical evolution in the dance field.

#### **Bios:**

**Hannah Andersen** (MFA, NCPT, FMT), Lecturer of Dance, Wayne State University, works at the intersection of dance science, wellness, somatics, arts education, pedagogy, and technique. She teaches in the BS/BFA Dance Programs, MA Theatre and Dance Teaching Artistry, and manages the Pilates Mentorship Program. Andersen has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Dance and Somatic Practices, and Journal of Dance Education where she received the 2017 "Doug Risner Prize for Emerging Dance Researchers." She has presented at IADMS, NDEO, and DSSE where she currently serves in the Organizing Group, is a SE Michigan Affiliate with Bridge Dance Project, and lead collaborator for the Wayne State University Dancer Wellness Screening Initiative between the Eugene Applebaum Doctor of Physical Therapy program and Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance. Hannah served on teaching faculty at Whatcom Community College, University of Oregon, and Western Washington University, and outside of academia has worked extensively with Bellingham Repertory Dance (WA), and Hannah Andersen Dance.

**Susan Haines** (MFA, NCPT, NKT, IASTM) is a Dance Kinesiologist based in Bellingham, WA bridging the latest research in fascia, biomechanics, and neuroscience into dance training. Susan is a Level III NeuroKinetic Therapy practitioner; a sophisticated treatment modality that addresses the causes of dysfunctional movement in the motor control center. This work led her to create Dance Conditioning Technique, a unique training system that focuses on foundational strength through fascial dynamics. She has an MFA from UNCG-Greensboro where she studied with leaders in the field of Somatics: Dr. Jill Green and B.J. Sullivan. She is the Director of Dance at Western Washington University, serves on the editorial board for JODE and her research has been recognized by conferences and workshops including NDEO, DSSE, DSA and PCA/ACA.

**Megan Brunsvold Mercedes** (MFA) is an Assistant Professor in the Theatre & Dance Department at University of California, Sacramento where she teaches throughout the curriculum. Her research lies at the intersection of Dance Science, Aesthetics, and Pedagogy and has been recognized by the International Association of Dance Medicine and Science, World Dance Alliance, the Nordic Society of Aesthetics, the Symposium on Philosophy and Dance, and the Dance Science, Pedagogy, and Performance Conference. She is a contributing author to The Bloomsbury Handbook of Dance and Philosophy. Her creative work spans concert dance, theater, and opera and has been presented throughout the United States. Prior to joining the faculty at Sacramento State, Megan taught at Southern Utah University and the University of Washington. She is a certified Pilates instructor and a graduate from Institute for Integrated Nutrition. Originally from North Dakota, she received her BFA from the University of Utah and her MFA from the University of Washington.

**Jennifer Morley** (MFA, NCPT) is an Associate Teaching Professor in the Drexel dance program, and the director of the Drexel Pilates studio and 450-hour Pilates teacher training program. Jennifer developed and continues to oversee the somatics minor, which focuses on embodied inquiry as a means of experiencing both a sensorial and dispositional shifts in perception of soma, self, and community. Her scholarship is highly focused on both existing and emerging embodied practices and the cultures and value systems from which they emerge. Jennifer's community engagement initiatives include her mindfulness and yoga classes at the Kirkbride behavioral health care facility, through which she studies trauma-informed care. She holds certifications in classical Pilates, Pilates and functional movement, the Franklin method, dynamic embodiment, and dynamic flow yoga. She has shared her work through the National Dance Education Organization, the American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the Somatic Dance and Performance Festival, and the International Somatic Education and Therapy Association.