

# Glossary. Performing Arts in Context – Dynamic Practices, Static Terms

Salzburg, May 5th – 8th

Conference Report

As a presence-follow up to the meeting in Cork (2019) the conference „Glossary. Performing Arts in Context – Dynamic Practices, Static Terms“ took place May 5th – 8th 2021 at Mozarteum Salzburg.

## Wednesday, 5th

A total of 16 delegates from a broad variety of countries had made it to the conference in Salzburg which were dedicated to working together in two conferences, following up the meeting in Cork in 2019. Topical frames were the work on an ongoing glossary and countryreports to learn about different situations as well as the founding of PUC PAC – Permanent University of Performing Arts in Context as an inter- and transnational network.

Given Covid questions such as How in times like these can we work in international networks and transnational cooperations? How can we learn from postcolonial theories and bring them directly into action? What asymmetries are we facing? Were contenwise and structually present in the conference.

Dr. Babafemi Folorunso's keynote „Arts and society – clarification of a few points“ via Zoom out of the lockdown in Edinburgh, reflected on keywords that might be deemed essential to any coming glossary in the field. Basing the talk on the notions of solidarity, Babafemi Folorunso touched on questions of stability, equality, citizenship, human potential and racial diversity, urgently connecting the conditions of making art with democratic conditions and measures as well as the concept and practice of citizenship and challenging racist status quo.

The keynote was followed by a lively discussion both in the physical and digital space.

With the project „Walking Terms“ (Andreas Bürgisser, Ulrike Hatzler, Judith Franke) a practical approach to decolonizing terms and forming an ongoing glossary was presented and then put to practice with „Second Edition of Walking Terms“ (hosted by Milena Meier and Georges Pfründner), with the participants joining first in zoom and then in pair-walks to talk about terms while walking together in different places.

The day was ended by discussions about possible digital spaces for an open-source, ongoing and ongrowing glossary with Christoph Lutz-Scheurle presenting POLIS (<https://polis.fh-dortmund.de/mobile/index.php>) as an example.

## Thursday, 6th

The second day was filled with Country Reports, given the focus on East Europe, as well as discussions about them in the digital and physical space.

The reports given were the following; the streams can be watched following: Hungary – Máté Gaspar (ex. SZFE, Budapest) & Anna Szepes (MA Applied Theatre, Mozarteum) // Poland – Dr. Stanislaw Godlewsky (Institute of Fine Arts, Warsaw) // Ukraine – Ielizaveta Oliinyk (PhD candidate at

Wissenschaft & Kunst) // Romania – Catalin Jugravu (MA Applied Theatre, Mozarteum) // Russia – Ada Mukhina (GITIS Moscow; Theatre institute St. Petersburg)

In the evening workshops on „country reports as a tool for the glossary initiative“ picked up on the tendencies, differences and similarities that were discussed regarding terms and conditions of the field of performing arts in context.

First ideas were generated for an online-based glossary, empathising terms and their fluidity rather than authorship and naming of individual people, a temporality and multilayeredness of voices over stable „truths“. The day was framed by the students of MA Applied Theatre giving insights into their work – both digitally and throughout the city of Salzburg.

### **Friday, 7th**

The second half of the conference was dedicated to the founding of PUCPAC, with life inputs and workshops, as well as regular zoom-feedback-loops between the delegates and colleagues back in the respective countries, starting with an input by Kata Csató's about the current situation of #freeszfe Budapest.

Regarding the idea of such a network to be founded, Mira Sack and Ulrike Hatzler presented ideas in, reasons for, and possible content for PUC PAC – Permanent University of Performing Arts in Context as an input for further discussion and further work by those present later on, mentioning

...aims (exchange on different levels, structure for international and transcultural activities, creating visibility, gaining political representation) and programmatic aspects (developing the network, academic focus, yearly conferences, ongoingness of work inbetween, digital aspects, dialogue as a method, openness and flexibility, low and decentralized hierarchies, ongoingness and reliable structures). These elaborations were added on by inputs on possible structures for networks generally and questioning the Society for Artistic Research (SAR) as a model for PUC (Dr. Eugen Banauch, Judith Franke), stressing the correlation of clear mission statement and multilayeredness.

After working groups discussing those topics further, the evening culminated in the joyful founding of **PAC – Association for performing arts in context**, where again old and new colleagues from the online and physical spaces got together, celebrated PAC with diverse performative inputs and joined in the passing of the (flower-)baton to HdK Zürich (Mira Sack, Andreas Bürgisser) for next year's conference!

The constitutional meeting of PAC was held on **Saturday** with the delegates present. The structure of PAC was further discussed as well as the coming conference in Zurich in autumn 2022.

Work between now and the meeting in Zurich will be continued by groups focusing on mission-statement, glossary, homepage / membership, organisational structures, student involvement, digital live connection, singing and dancing, multilingual practice.

Judith Franke, 20.05.2021

**The blog-post inspired by the thoughts on PAC by Ulrike and Mira written by Erika Piazzoli is available here**

**<https://erikapiazzoli.com/language-body-maps/>**