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[Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies](#) e-journal new issue:
The Cyber-Rock Mixtape: A virtual hip hop dance listening cypher
LINK: <https://journals.publishing.umich.edu/conversations/>

The Dance Studies Association (DSA) announces the newest issue of its e-journal *Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies (Conversations)*, the first issue to be published on a new open-access e-platform with Michigan Publishing Services. This 2021 issue, delayed due to pandemic-era interruptions, is titled *The Cyber-Rock Mixtape: A virtual hip hop dance listening cypher*. It is published as a series of conversations - both as embedded video recording and accompanying transcript - between hip hop practitioners and scholars. Guest editors MiRi “seoulsonyk” Park and grace shinhae jun (bios below) curated the issue and offer essential framing and context in a short “Intro” and “Outro/Shout-out.”

This issue was supported by a grant from Allied Media Projects’ Critical Minded, supporting publications that bring together and nurture critics of color and provide platforms to amplify the work of critics of color.

Park and jun write,

“This issue of *Conversations* centers hip hop dance practitioners’ knowledge and analyses of race, ethnicity, history, appropriation, ownership, commercialization, gender, and sexuality in ways that typically remain verbally unaddressed in the dance cypher. While much has been written about hip hop in regards to the elements of graffiti, DJing, MCing, and the culture in general, as dance studies scholars, we are most dedicated to expanding the field of hip hop dance studies, specifically. This issue also centers the form of a dialogue as informed by academic oral history methodologies that emphasize deep listening and co-authorship.”

“The notion of the cypher and cyphering runs throughout all elements of hip hop culture. Party-goers naturally form circles to spit rhymes, exchange dance throwdowns, or trade black books. The cypher therefore is both the physical and metaphoric place that we bear witness, and to which we contribute our own expression in an ongoing exchange of energy. In this case, we co-editors thought about what we’d want this cypher to look, sound, and feel like. As a result, this issue of *Conversations* is set up as a mixtape where we invited scholars to listen to conversations between hip hop dance practitioners to discuss a particular theme or topic.”

The *Conversations* guest editor model plays a significant role in decreasing gatekeeping to knowledge production in the field of dance studies and provides year-long mentorship for the guest editors by the *Conversations* Editor and members of the Editorial Board. *Conversations* is a venue in which scholars,

artists, and educators of dance and related disciplines can respond quickly to current events and pressing issues in a range of formats, including some not typically welcomed in academic journals. The focus on emerging themes in the field has led to important and widely cited issues on *Latin@ Dance* (2014), *Talking Black Dance Inside Out/Outside In* (2016), *The Popular as Political* (2018), and *Decolonizing Dance Discourses* (2020) - which engages #BlackLivesMatter and #DalitLivesMatter. *Cyber-Rock Mixtape* (2021) is an essential addition to this canon, both with its focus on hip hop practitioners as knowledge producers and as an intervention in research and publication methodologies for dance studies. The 2022 issue, to be published January 2023, is titled "Dancing in the Aftermath of Anti-Asian Violence," guest edited by SanSan Kwan and Yutian Wong.

In addition to an "Intro" and "Outro/Shout-outs," *The Cyber-Rock Mixtape* includes:

- "Breakin' and Rockin' in Williamsburg, Brooklyn" - Breakeasy & Mighty Mike
Scholar: Serouj "Midus" Aprahamian
- "B-girls Worldwide" - big tara & Stacey Stash
Scholar: Imani Kai Johnson
- "Hip Hop Dance and Youth Social Justice Movements" - BuddhaCFM & WaAaKSun
Scholar: Jesse Mills
- "Transmission: 4D Teaching & Learning Hip Hop Dance" - Ms. Vee & Buddha Stretch
Scholar: Joseph Schloss
- "Street Dance Activism & Black Liberation" - Shamell Bell & d. Sabela Grimes
Scholar: Nadine George-Graves

As a multi-media publication, *Cyber-Rock Mixtape* is a particularly accessible and useful teaching tool. Each video and its accompanying transcript stands alone as an easily assigned viewing/reading to engender vibrant class discussion. Furthermore and as a continued act of investment in these histories and people, please reach out to DSA for information on inviting any one of these hip hop practitioners to give a lecture, master class, and/or lecture/demonstration. *Cyber-Rock Mixtape* tells a living history, and we encourage dance studies educators to engage with its respondents directly, as an act of political, financial, and cultural investment.

Dance Studies Association

The Dance Studies Association (DSA) is a member-driven US-based international organization of dance scholars, educators, and artists. The organization aims to strengthen the visibility and increase the reach of dance as a critical field of knowledge production, encompassing political, creative, and embodied practices at the intersection of arts, humanities, and social sciences. Formed in 2017 as the merged entity of the Congress on Research in Dance (CORD, founded 1969) and the Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS, founded 1978), DSA is both grounded in and extends the work of those two organizations.

Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies is an annual publication of DSA, dedicated to current themes and debates in the field of dance studies. In 2021 DSA began the work of moving *Conversations* to a fully open-access e-platform with Michigan Publishing Services. The e-platform

allows editors and authors to think more broadly about the medium of dance scholarship itself – democratizing access in multiplicity. All past issues of *Conversations* (2008-present) are available on the website as PDFs: <https://journals.publishing.umich.edu/conversations/>

[Rachel Carrico](#) serves as Editor of *Conversations*. [Rosemary Candelario](#) serves as the Vice President of Publications and Research for the Dance Studies Association. [Lizzie Leopold](#) serves as the Executive Director of the Dance Studies Association. For more information on DSA please visit the website: www.dancestudiesassociation.org

Cyber-Rock Mixtape Guest Editor Bios:

grace shinhae jun is a mother, wife, artist, scholar, organizer, and mover who creates and educates on the traditional and unceded territory of the Kumeyaay Nation. A child of a South Korean immigrant, a North Korean refugee, and Hip Hop culture, she values a movement practice that is infused with historical and contextual education and focuses on community, compassion, and empowerment to encourage rhythm and expression. grace is a choreographer who directs bkSOUL, an award-winning performance company that merges movement, poetry, and live music. She is a founding core member of Asian Solidarity Collective and collaborator with Street Dance Activism. grace received an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College and a PhD through the joint doctoral program at UCSD/UCI. Her scholarship on Asian Americans and hip hop dance is forthcoming in the *Oxford Handbook of Hip Hop Dance Studies*. grace teaches at UCSD, San Diego City College, and with transcenDANCE Youth Arts Project.

MiRi “seoulsonyk” Park is a b-girl, choreographer, performer, producer, scholar, activist, teacher, and mother based in Southern California. She reps New York City where she spent her formative adult years and learned the art of b-girling and other underground dance forms. MiRi was the Associate Choreographer of the 20th Anniversary tour of RENT, and a lecturer in the newly-formed CSUCI Dance Studies program where she teaches dance history and hip hop dance. She is currently a doctoral student at UCLA WAC/D focusing on Asian American corporealities in hip hop dance. MiRi is a recipient of the UCR Christena Lindborg Schlundt Lecture Series in Dance Studies and the CSU Faculty Innovation and Leadership Award. Her writing will appear in the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Hip Hop Dance Studies*. She is a co-editor of a special issue about dance and protest for IASPM, and a producer/dramaturg/dancer for *This One Then*, a screendance directed by Charlotte Griffin. MA American Studies, Columbia. BFA Dance & BA Journalism, UMass Amherst. Crews: Breaking in Style (BIS), Tru Essencia Cru (TEC), Fox Force Five (FF5).

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For further information, please reach out directly to DSA Executive Director Lizzie Leopold: lleopold@dancestudiesassociation.org

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