



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

# DISORIENTING RACE: RE(LATIONALLY) CHOREOGRAPHING RESISTANCE

Join the conversation  
about building **collaborative  
resistance to institutionalised  
racism and social inequality**

Wednesday 29 May 2019  
Rose Bowl, City Campus,  
Leeds Beckett University

*Disorienting Race brings together publicly engaged interdisciplinary practitioners to explore the ways in which intersecting hierarchies of race are **disrupted and reinforced** through everyday practices.*

This includes how we look, talk, think and act through our biographies and identities, our institutions, in our common places at the local shop, in the school and in our governing spaces.

Taking its starting point as the reality of the global colonial present, where the construct of race frames interactions, ideas and feelings, the event brings together different voices to think about how these complexly positioned perspectives can unite to intervene in our common life for anti-racist, anti-colonial futures.

The event format is mixed, including discussion, a film screening, a performance and a Q & A. The format models a way of publicly considering how the recognition of the everyday human violence of living in a white supremacist world can work with a reparative urge to work together for social justice.

This challenging, discomfiting, but loving urge is exemplified in the works of public scholar activist/practitioners like James Baldwin, WEB Du Bois, Audre Lorde, Bel Hooks, Stuart Hall, Vron Ware and Gail Lewis, all of whom provide inspiration for the evening's conversations.

Being held in Leeds, the event provides an important vantage point to encourage regional, national and global debates on race. Disorienting race forms part of a broader ongoing conversation between a number of the event contributors and the White Spaces Network and follows on from the London based Social Performance Network curation Performing Race 2018.

It marks the 10th anniversary of the establishments of the White Spaces Network and its recent move to Leeds Beckett's Carnegie School of Education.

**Organiser:**  
Dr Shona Hunter

**Moderator:**  
Anj Handa

**Contributors:**  
Khadijah Ibrahiim  
Let's Go Yorkshire  
Tribe Arts  
Dr Jo Shah  
Dr Shona Hunter

Dr Shona Hunter is a Reader and Programme Director for Research Degrees in the Carnegie School of Education at Leeds Beckett University. Shona is also Deputy Director of the Centre for Race Education and Decoloniality and the founder of the White Spaces Network.

Shona's work is interdisciplinary and intersectional in its approach. She has been writing, teaching and researching the social, cultural and emotional politics of the state for nearly twenty years; holding academic posts at the universities of Birmingham, Lancaster and most recently Leeds, along with visiting positions at the Universities of Sydney Australia, Mannheim Germany, Cape Town, Rhodes and currently, Johannesburg South Africa.

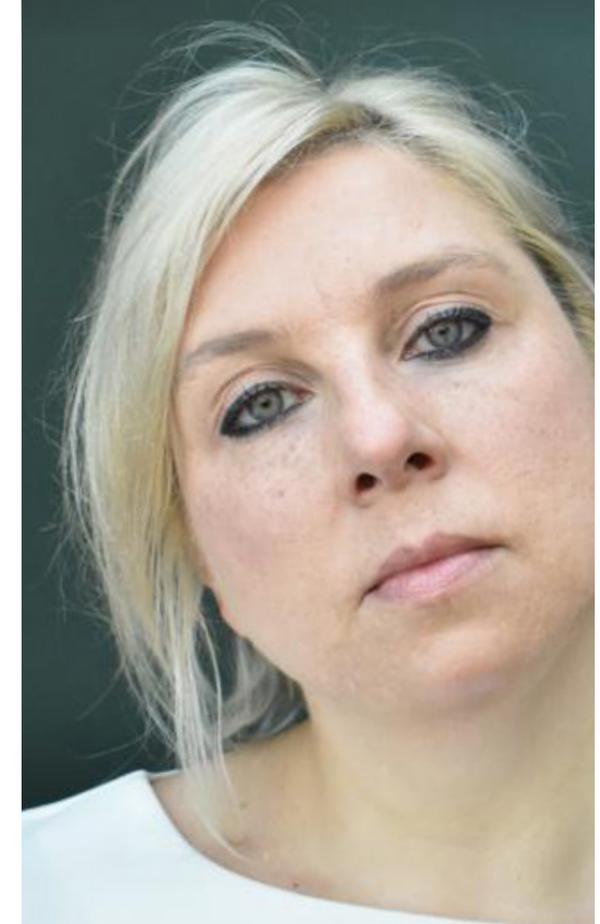
Shona's scholarly interests are framed through an engagement with feminist, anti-racist, decolonial, critique.

They include all aspects of welfare politics and governance, state practices, identities and the broader material-cultural-affective politics through which 'the' state(s) is enacted nationally and globally as a global colonial formation.

Shona's White Spaces work, now in its tenth year, moves across academic and public locations, bringing together academics, activists and practitioners from 17 disciplines across 23 countries who have an interest in thinking critically about what it means to be white in global coloniality.

## A CONVERSATION ABOUT POWER & ITS INTERSECTIONS

with Dr Shona Hunter  
& Dr Jo Shah



Dr Shona Hunter  
Organiser & Contributor



**ANJ HANDA - MODERATOR**

Anj Handa is the founder of Inspiring Women Changemakers, a dynamic woman-led movement for positive social change.

Anj is named as one of Grant Thornton's 100 Faces of a Vibrant Economy in 2018, described by i-news as 'a bloody brilliant woman' and winner of the AFSA 2017 Positive Action Award, Anj has 20 years' experience in the field of social impact and inclusion.

Her global changemaking work has been featured in Refugee Tales by Comma Press, Eradicating FGM in the UK by Hillary Burrage and Generation Share by Benita Matofska & Sophie Sheinwald.

More about Anj and her work is available at [inspiringwomenchangemakers.co.uk](http://inspiringwomenchangemakers.co.uk)



**KHADIJAH IBRAHIIM - ANOTHER CROSSING**

Khadijah Ibrahiim is of Jamaican parentage, born in the city of Leeds and graduated in MA Theatre Studies from University of Leeds. Khadijah is the Artistic Director of Leeds Young Authors and the Producer of Leeds Youth poetry slam festival.

Peepal Tree press published Khadijah's poetry collection Rootz Runnin in 2008 that same year she toured the USA with the Fwords Creative Freedom Writers. As a delegate for the Art Council England (Yorkshire) she attended Calabash international literature festival in Jamaica.

Recently, she became one of the first international writers to attend the El Gouna Writers Residency in Egypt, 2010. Khadijah was a member of the advisory group that organised some of the events, which marked the visit of Dr Nelson Mandela to the City of Leeds.

Hailed as one of Yorkshire's 'most prolific' poets by BBC Radio, she continues to make various stage appearances across Britain, USA, the Caribbean and Africa.

Peepal Tree Press also published the collection Another Crossing in 2014 which forms the basis of Khadijah's contribution to this evening.

Dr Jo Shah is Programme Leader for Learning and Skills at Royal Central School for Speech and Drama. Jo had been a member of central's academic faculty since 2013. As well as her Programme Lead role she lectures in screen studies on the MA Acting for Screen.

Author of 'Informal Learning in a Digital Landscape' in 2017 and decolonising the creative arts curriculum in White Spaces in 2018, Jo's work is interdisciplinary and aligns with the visual arts, sociology, policy and education fields.

Jo's doctoral research draws on person centred methodologies that incorporate visual anthropology and narrative approaches to interrogate and reconceptualise societal positioning(s) of the individual and self-identity formation.

Jo is currently working on a number of projects including a drive towards decolonisation of the creative arts curriculum and the establishment of the social performance network (SPN). SPN works collaboratively with academic and practitioner communities from within the arts, humanities and social science disciplines to extend research and open up conversations that interrogate, explore and reconceptualise socialisation, and its impact on the way we live and self-identity.

Her contribution this evening is part of this work.

## A CONVERSATION ABOUT POWER & ITS INTERSECTIONS

with Dr Jo Shah & Dr Shona Hunter



**Dr Jo Shah**  
Contributor



**LET'S GO YORKSHIRE**  
A NEW LIFE IN HUDDERSFIELD – MEMORIES OF PARTITION AND MIGRATION

Let's Go Yorkshire is a community arts organisation set up in 2011 to develop innovative projects reflecting contemporary British culture.

In 2017, Let's Go Yorkshire developed a heritage project named The White Line exploring stories of the 1947 Partition of India and how it dramatically shaped the lives of South Asian migrants who eventually settled in Huddersfield.

It marks a significant event in history focusing on how their experiences and narratives of partition led directly to a second momentous migration to the UK.

As part of the project, a documentary was produced entitled A new life in Huddersfield- memories of partition and migration.

The individuals taking part in the documentary speak of their first impressions of Huddersfield, finding employment, which for many was in the textile industry, changes in the Indian Sikh and Muslim communities, and race relations.

Archive footage, photographs and other documents are used to illustrate the past alongside contemporary footage of Huddersfield, its South Asian community, and commentary on the importance of sharing this history with future generations.



**TRIBE ARTS**  
ON BEING DERIDED & DESIRED: A REFLECTION OF RACISM

Tribe Arts are a philosophically inspired, radical-political theatre company based in Leeds. They amplify the stories and voices of the current British Black and Asian generation and believe theatre needs to be rejuvenated into the 21st century.

Tribe Arts aim to cultivate an environment for a renaissance in theatre-making and produce unexpected performance theatre that reaches towards transcendental experiences.

Tribe Arts shows include:

- **Tribe Talks** - an innovative format of participatory theatre, where a panel of esteemed speakers motivate the audience to talk, chat, discuss, debate and fathom the topics of discussion - think the BBC's Question Time, but interspersed with live performance, music and film. They are currently using this format to explore the epic story of the Black and Asian people, from the first migration out of Africa 100,000 years ago to present day Britain.
- **Darokhand** - an epic fantasy tale of love, war, deceit and evil, the play takes inspiration from six of Shakespeare's most famous works and combines them together to create an original new storyline, set in a Gothic-Mughal world called Darokhand.
- **Nikah** - the intimate story of a boy from Bradford, exploring forced marriage from the male, Pakistani perspective.
- **Jerk Chicken Samosa** - set in the 90s, JCS is a dark black comedy about two restaurants on the same street - one a Black-owned fish & chip shop, the other an Indian restaurant - and how they compete for business, but through this competition realise they are a lot more alike than they first thought; this play explores the origins of internal prejudices and discrimination's within the Black and Asian communities, and charts the rise of hip hop/ragga and British bhangra



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