Abstract:

This is a summarised report on research which has used performance and transmodal forms of communication to evolve the way we approach representation and access. The research designs a strategy of inclusive leadership which:

- Acknowledges and (re)presents non-verbal experiences, and
- Establishes meeting ‘places’ for communication that cannot be fully realised (Accessed) in language.

HEI Supervisor:

Darren Carr, Northern School of Contemporary Dance darren.carr@nscd.ac.uk

Word Count:

(1102)
Research Context:

It is written that the Russian painter; Wassily Kandinsky considered his ‘point and line to plane’ theory as his contribution to the analysis of pictorial elements. His theory analyses relationships between point, line and plane, from a psychological perspective and as such is an exploration of form, direction, space and existence. I adopted Kandinsky's concept as a framework for my own research. At first it was a criteria for data analysis and then a system for thinking about open-ended practice as applied to varying modes of practice.

The seat of this project can be seen as a queering of leadership through a transmodal approach to art production. The chosen modes of activity were based in academic, artistic and therapeutic practices and a distinguishing feature which suggested that these modes could be mutually inclusive was their concern with the ‘the individual [as] a site in which sources of activation and information about the body become woven together’ (Wetherell, , 2012). Each modality addressed and worked with knowledge that is not immediately representational and this was a formative and integral connection for the whole project. There is a thinking behind the research that practice maintains currency because it doesn't stop, whereas knowledge stored by representations is crystallised and subject to becoming outdated.

To resolve this thinking the four key outputs (below) were established using acts of translation or Ekphrasis. It occurred to us that the way to achieve transmodality was translation, a non-representational line which exists between points, and thus creates planes where anything can connect. The research outputs were then oriented towards minimising representation by perpetuating acts of translation and (re)presenting knowledge in new contexts. In this way we could disrupt archival practices, evolve (re)presentation and observe the transmission of ideas between bodies.

Research Outputs.

- **Maps of practice** in the form of sketches, recordings, interview transcription, photo galleries, journal entries, voice notes and time-lapsed images, performance footage.
- **No Plan Plan** - an evolving and open-ended methodology for facilitating process-oriented practice with a focus on preparatory and interventive practice.
- **Off-Centred website** - a multidimensional archive feature maps of practice, artist experiences and creative processes, intended for use as an access tool.
- **Non-linear Research Report** - prepared as an unfinished document which connects with live materials including the reader’s lived experience.

Maps of practice

As a symbolic representation of selected characteristics of a physical place, maps are usually drawn out on flat surfaces. On the basis that a map is a tool to support orientation, this research has queered the map-making process towards the (re)presentation of selected characteristics of both physical and non-physical places, meaning that we have been documenting experiences, ideas and plans.
As one participant explains “It meant a lot about discovery for me, looking at multimedia ways of research and using different materials to express the subject of queerness and how by creating images from drawing and sculpting it started an interesting and supportive conversation between all of us in the workshop.” (Jacob Phillips, 2022. Email to Phil Sanger Dec 12th).

The mult medic nature of the process has generated time-based maps, moving maps, improvised maps, drawn maps, performed maps, matrix maps and so on, in order to orient the user in the research. Whilst the maps do have a tangible output they are disseminated mostly as a practice rather than a document. They have been a key feature in supporting research participants in accessing the process and have been disseminated through the workshops that have been undertaken so far (see dissemination matrix below).

![Project participant Jacob Phillips wearing a map.](image)

### No Plan Plan

At this stage the No Plan Plan is a research project in waiting. Benefits such as “Experiencing Queer identities in a space of our deciding and making [and facilitating] complete and absolute freedom to play and create based on what we needed as a group that day.” (Pegg, R. 2022 Email to Phil Sanger December 13th), is essential to supporting access and evolving (re)presentation in leadership. We are particularly interested in exploring this concept in the context of play. For example, the work can be analysed further in a framework where a continuum bridging Ludus to Paidia (rules to freedoms) intersects with a one which bridges collaboration to independence, as shown on the following page. (Pethick, P. 2021)
Off-Centre - Website

Translation in and of itself is non-representational but can be effectively acknowledged and (re)presented in the symbology of a map. The prototype website Off-Centred is a map of MAPs (measures, artefacts and prototypes) which have at some point in the process either engaged with or produced points of contact, lines of continuation and planes where anything can connect.

The website includes several MAPs which are placed throughout this report alongside further documentation of the research findings and includes examples of disrupting archival practices, evolving (re)presentation and tracking transmission of ideas between bodies. The website was a late addition to the project, it is a prototype and as such is a work-in-progress. It is envisioned that the website multipurpose MAP which simultaneously reveals the artistic process, the artist journey in the process, what to expect when visiting the live performance. What we anticipate is that this multi-dimensional archive will be an access tool, a place from which to lead audiences through their experience of the culture of dance, art and performance.

Click logo to enter website or find link in appendices.
Non-linear Research Report

This research started out with a question: ‘Is authentic leadership a privilege?’ and we worked on an assumption that the answer to the question was Yes! This assumption determined a research project that was heavily invested in access through the act of translation, or Ekphrasis. As discussed in the main report, there is a thinking behind the research which states that practice doesn’t stop but representation does, and that once a practice is codified in representation it is likely to become outdated. What the report has tried to achieve is a non-representational approach to writing through a non-linear structure and by holding the reader accountable in the contextualisation of the findings. The tendrils of the report reach out into live materials including the reader’s own lived experience and invite further translation of the ideas as they are assimilated into lived experience.

The Places from which we Lead has been a challengingly thorough process of understanding access inclusion within leadership which has resulted in a personal and professional mission to improve access by:

“Translating in real time,
  mapping the full context of each moment,
  always needing to do more,
  being prepared to adapt.”
## Dissemination Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dissemination to date</th>
<th>Dissemination Opportunities / Plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 test performances:</td>
<td>Tour of performances (10 performance at 5 venues)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Kirkstall Abby Leeds - 30 audience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Temple Newsam House - 45 Audience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Royal Armouries - 20 Audience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 open rehearsals: Chapel Allerton Park &amp; Leeds City Centre - approx 200 audience</td>
<td>Leeds Rural Tour with Leeds inspired funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 professional workshops (we are ramped) - 15 participants</td>
<td>Creative project with NSCD students with 3 performances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 HE workshops</td>
<td>Publication on NSCD research pages and social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 professional workshops with Karma Dance - 7 participants</td>
<td>Publication on We Are Ramped research pages and social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSCD conference workshop - 5 participants.</td>
<td>Publication on Clore research pages and social media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>