

Cinthia Duran Larrea

(+1) 951 539 3461

cdura033@ucr.edu

Education:

University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA, USA
PhD Program in Critical Dance Studies
Dean's Distinguished Fellowship

June 2027

**Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) CHOREOMUNDUS -
International Master in Dance Knowledge, Practice and Heritage**

MA earned July 2021

University of Clermont Auvergne (Coordinator), France;
Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway;
University of Szeged, Hungary; University of Roehampton, UK.
ECEA Scholarship holder (Fall 2019-Spring 2021).

**Decolonial Summer School: The Communal, The Museum
and the End of the Contemporary**, Middelburg, Netherlands

June-July 2020

Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, USA
Bachelor of Arts Summa Cum Laude with Honors in International Affairs,
Latin American Studies and Dance Double-Minor.
UWC DAVIS Scholarship (Fall 2015 - Spring 2019) Patricia Grumman
Cleg'51 International Study Scholarship (Fall 2018-Spring 2019);
Overall GPA: 3.91

BA earned May 2019

SIT Abroad: Indigenous Peoples and Globalization, Cusco, Peru

August -December 2017

United World College of the Adriatic, Duino-Aurisina, Trieste, Italy
IB- International Baccalaureate. Ministry of Foreign Affairs Scholarship
(Summer 2013 – Spring 2015)

IB earned May 2015

Research Experience

PhD Research in Progress, Los Angeles, California

May 2022 – present

- Focus on Latin Social Dances as technologies for community building, political intervention and social justice activism.
- Application of qualitative research methods including ethnography, autoethnography, and archival research.
- Work in progress presented at the Annual Dance Studies Association Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina in August 2024 and Critical Dance Experiments conference at UCR in March 2026.

MA Ethnographic Fieldwork, Vienna, Austria

May 2020 – August 2020

- Conducted research on decolonial performance activism articulated by migrant Latin American artists from Chile, Mexico and Nicaragua currently based in Vienna.

- Documented and analyzed the embodied strategies and discursive devices applied in order to advocate for a decolonial agenda. This includes addressing environmental racism and forced migration in Latin America, as well as challenging structural racism in Europe.
- Focused on the artists' positionality, identity, cultural memory and to the way those factors inform the specific aesthetic, discursive, and embodied strategies they apply.

Internship at Pachaysana, Quito and Lago Agrio, Ecuador

June - August 2019

- Participated in an action-research project on Epistemological Diversity & Inclusion in Academia which consisted in a month-long residency in two Amazonian communities with workshops and dialogues about the topic.
- Conducted literature review and connected it with on-site explorations for later publication of project outcomes.
- Actively participated in the development of the final project: a performance and workshop to be presented at Universities in the Capital city of Quito, Ecuador in order to start dialogue on epistemic diversity in higher education and curriculum change.

International Affairs Capstone Project, Saratoga Springs, NY, USA. September 2018 – June 2020

- Entitled "*Re-storying the Stage: Contemporary Ritual Dance as Decolonial Praxis*".
- Explored contemporary ritual performance dance as a space for the articulation and enactment of decolonial resistance.
- Carried out ethnographic fieldwork and engaged in discourse analysis of two dance communities: The Danzantes de Tijeras or Scissors Dancers in Peru and DANCING EARTH: Indigenous Contemporary Creations in the United States.
- Presented the paper at the 2020 Global Studies Conference at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada (On-line version).

**SIT Independent Study Project on Andean Ritual Dance,
Lima and Cusco, Peru.**

October 2017-December 2017

- Carried out ethnographic fieldwork on "The Scissors Dance", analyzing it as a tool for cultural regeneration among migrant and displaced communities and as a political platform to resist racist discourses, policies and institutional practices.
- Through interviews, participant observation, discourse and document analysis could identify 3 critically articulated strategies applied by the Scissors Dancers' community: the commodification of ritual dances; petitioning for Institutional recognition as Cultural Heritage; and the development of macro-organizational structures such as National Dancers Associations.
- Paper available at the SIT Online repository https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/isp_collection/2734/.

Relevant Teaching and Curriculum Development Experience

**Dance Cultures and Contexts Writing Course Teaching Assistant,
University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA**

January 2024- Present

- Responsible for weekly discussion sections, grading, and lecturing once in the quarter.
- Responsible for offering writing strategies and analytical frameworks to produce cultural analysis of dance films, since the course is a collaboration between the Dance and the University Writing programs.

**Introduction to Dance (DNCE 5) Teaching Assistant
University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA**

March 2022- Present

- Course instructor obligations include syllabus design, course instruction as well as grading, assessment and support of students' development.
- Developed a 4 unit course titled "Movement Technologies: Improvisation, Somatic Experience and Social Dance", which delves into these movement practices as tools for human development, community building and social change. This course blends theory and practice exposing students to dance studies frameworks and developmental psychology theory as well as movement practices where they can experience the application of the prior.

Guest Artists and Lecturer at Scripps College,

March 2026

- Invited by Dance Faculty Suchi Branfman to teach a lecture-workshop on the historical, cultural and political context of Salsa as well as Rueda de Casino for dance department students.

Guest Lecturer at University of Texas El Paso,

May 2025, March 2026

- Invited by Dance Faculty Member Paola Lopez to give an interactive, conversation-based lecture on my PhD research: latinx social dances as movement technologies for social change and social justice.

Guest Teacher in UCR Dance Department Core Course: Latin Social Dances

April- May 2025

- Taught a 6-class series of Rueda De Casino and Salsa shines classes with a focus on social dance as a movement technology for community- building and resource-sharing.

Guest Lecturer at CalPoly Pomona

July 2022

- Facilitated an introductory Salsa class consisting of a brief lecture on the genealogy of this dance form, its current manifestations and its significance for the practitioner communities, followed by a practical, embodied immersion. This session as offered as part of the *Dance in Contemporary Culture* class.

Guest Lecturer at Sociology Class "Knowledge and Power"

Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

November 2020

- Developed an interactive session composed on embodied activities and a lecture on epistemological diversity in relation to understanding embodied knowledge.

Participant/ Leader, Empoderando a Latinoamerica

San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

January 2017-January 2018

- Participated in fully funded 4-week course on civic engagement, peace and conflict, human rights and social justice activism in Latin America organized by Mexican NGO Empoderando Juventudes.
- Facilitated community workshops for all leaders and participants of the course (40 young people from 14 different countries of the region) reflecting on the role of dance as a tool for community empowerment and social change.
- For the 2018 edition of the course, as a member of the planning team and selection committee, developed workshop content, contributed in the fundraising campaign and carried out interviews with applicants.

Community Engagement and Performance Activism Experience:

Gluck Fellows Program of the Arts

March 2022- Present

University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA

- As a gluck fellow, I develop and facilitate family-friendly, free public programming offered to diverse communities in the Inland Empire, aimed at cultivating spaces for belonging, joy and community building through the facilitation of latin social dances.
- Programming includes: Rueda de Casino workshops at UCR and Latin Dance socials at the Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts and the Cheech Marin Center For Chicano Art and Culture of the Riverside Art Museum in Downtown Riverside, with live music, live performances, free workshops and social dancing.

Cast member for CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theatre's piece

JoyUS JustUS, San Diego, CA

November 2024

Cast member for CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theatre's piece

AZUCAR, Los Angeles, San Diego, CA

August 2023- April 2024

Participant at CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theatre's summer Intensive *Futuro*,

Los Angeles, CA

August 2022, August 2024

- Participated in the 10 - day intensive which engages with Contra Tiempo's Arts as Social Action Methodology and culminates with a public community sharing that is co-generated between facilitators and participants.
- Movement training includes salsa, house, afro-cuban and hip-hop led by Contra-Tiempo artists and a roster of collaborators and accomplished guest artists from the field.

Internship at Beatrice Allegranti Dance Company, London, UK

May- August 2021

- Created a short dance and poetry piece in response to Beatrice Alleganti's latest production at the intersection of social justice, dance movement psychotherapy and choreography: *I've Lost you Only to Find out that I've Gone Missing*. Aimed at re-framing the lives of individuals with early onset dementia and their caretakers.

Cast member in Ecuadorian Choreographer Anna Jácome's Piece

Crónicas del Llanto (Chronicles of Sorrow), Quito, Ecuador

June-August 2018

- Performance activism piece performed at three venues: Casa de las Tres Manueles, an Equity and Justice Center that provides legal services and psychological support to victims of domestic violence; La Casa Catapulta, a cultural and performing arts center that serves as a space for popular education projects and community service activities; and the performing arts venue Sala Mariana de Jesus at the cultural center Casa de La Cultura Ecuatoriana (CCE).
- The piece was both, an homage to victims lost to feminicides and a danced-protest performed publicly to demand justice and safety.

Deepbodygl!tter Dance Workshop, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

November 2015

- In collaboration with Guest Artist Hana Van der Kolk, developed and hosted a workshop open to the local community to reflect on the topic of identity and the notion of community.
- Facilitated dance improvisation, active listening and collaborative art-making activities aimed to encourage participants to explore new ways of interacting.
- Developed and performed with the workshop participants a contemporary ritual dance at The Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College.

Curatorial Experience

Tarde de Salsa at UCR ARTS Riverside, California

April 2024- May 2026

- Curated this family-friendly free event at the Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts (UCR ARTS). Throughout the years I have collaborated with various artistic collectives in Riverside to bring this free programming to the Riverside community featuring latin social dance as a tool for social cohesion, social wellness and cultural regeneration. The event features musical and dance performances, dance workshops and open social dancing with live music.

Pop-Up Salsa Social at UCR Arts, Riverside, California

May 2025

- Curated and co-hosted a Salsa Social in Collaboration with the Riverside Salsa Collective (RSC). Designed the program featuring open community dance workshops, Arts and Crafts community tables facilitated by the Latinx RioJunto art collective, and social dancing hosted by DJ Flores and the RSC. Additionally, curator responsibilities included direct communication and negotiation with all artists involved as well as the UCR Arts administration and technical team.

Tardes de Baile @The Cheech, Riverside, California

May- August 2024

- Co-curated, co-hosted and co-facilitated a series of family-friendly, free latin social dance workshops and socials at the Cheech Marin Center For Chicano Art and Culture of the Riverside Art Museum in Downtown Riverside. In collaboration with two more Gluck fellows developed programming that included Rueda de Casino, Salsa Musicality, Salsa History and Salsa Partnerwork workshops as well as open social dancing. Additionally, we were responsible for creating the flyer and advertising the event on different platforms.

Creator and Coordinator at *IN OUR OWN BODIES*

Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

October 2018 - April 2019

- Performance Activism Festival with two aims: highlighting the cultural heritage and artistic production of marginalized communities in higher education institutions, and opening a space for recognition of dance and performance as a medium for social justice activism, cultural revitalization and community empowerment. The artists featured in the Festival were Urban Bush Women, Dancing Earth Indigenous Contemporary Creations and New York- based Ecuadorian performance activist Salomé Egas.
- General coordinator tasks included: fundraising, overseeing the distribution of budget, coordinating all logistic details of performance and workshops, making executive choices on the festival's schedule, guest artists, discourse and public image, curatorial statement, and forming a student executive team in order to carry out the various tasks required to organize and produce the festival.

Affiliations to Professional Organizations and Research Networks

Member at the “Yes And...” Higher Education Network

January 2023 - Present

- An International network of educators developed by the East Side Institute (ESI) in collaboration with its affiliated members, collaborators, faculty and students. Members include faculty at large and prestigious institutions such as NYU, Rutgers University, and Oxford University. <https://eastsideinstitute.org/yes-and-higher-education-network/>.
- Meets twice a month in the modalities of a study group and a laboratory to delve into methodologies stemming from student-centered pedagogies, horizontal leadership models, as well

as play and improvisation as developmental tools following the theoretical and practical legacy of developmental Psychologist Lev Vygotsky.

Fellow at The East Side Institute (ESI), New York, USA

October 2019- Present

- Fellow at the International Class (IC) at the East Side Institute, an International Center for the Study of Social Therapeutics and Performance Activism.
- Connected with ESI by attending the International Conference on Performance Activism PPLG (Play, Perform, Learn, Grow) in Thessaloniki, Greece the fall of 2019.
- Joined the ESI network by taking the course *What is Social Therapeutics* facilitated by Carrie Lobman and Melissa Meyer.

Member at CHOREOMUNDUS Alumni Association

August 2019- Present

- International network of dancers, dance artist-scholars, dance activists, and experts in dance as Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Current CHOREOMUNDUS Master student serving as Student Representative.

Advisor at With Care and Curiosity: A WHO Resource on Arts Practice and the Ethics of Care

January 2023 - December 2023

- A collaboration between the World Health Organization (WHO) and arts practitioners/educators (spearheaded by two NYU Faculty members) aimed at developing resources to support arts practitioners within communities where care is identified as a concern. An additional aim of the project is supporting artists in caring for their own health and wellbeing.
- Advisor responsibilities include revising and providing ongoing feedback on the resources produced by the project team and facilitating connections with arts practitioners and informants in the research phase of the project.

Arts for LA Protégé mentorship program, Los Angeles

January – November 2023

- Participated as a mentee in the 7-month program developed by Los Angeles-based NGO Arts for LA, aimed at providing participants with personalized professional development opportunities aimed at building innovative ways of approaching leadership growth within the arts communities through one-on-one mentorship.

Languages:

Bilingual in English and Spanish, Fluent in Italian.