

CONFLUENCES 11: Dancing Care, Community and Peace Education

LETTER OF WELCOME

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Confluences 11, the Centre for Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies at the University of Cape Town, and the beautiful city of Cape Town. This year's theme, *Dancing Care, Community and Peace Education*, is fitting given the onslaught of aggressive global policies emerging around the world. The need for academics, artists, arts educators, and their students to re-imagine and re-create a better world for themselves and generations to come appears critical in 2025.

It is my hope, over the next few days, that we can embody community, peace, and care as we interrogate the theme from multiple perspectives and through various modalities: performances, workshops, panel discussions, academic papers, and our social interactions. The ontological concepts of peace, care, and community are shaped by our worldview-our view of reality, human nature, purpose of life, core beliefs and attitudes, and our relationships with each other and the environment (seen and unseen). Affecting these constructs thus seems complex and daunting. However, the power and potential of the dancing body to heal, change, and educate mindsets, permeate boundaries, and make a difference in individual lives, communities, societies, and ultimately the world, have been lived by generations of ancestors and chronicled in contemporary research scholarship.

I, therefore, encourage all to actively participate in the sessions, engage with the presenters, their intellectual knowledge and lived experiences, and connect respectfully with each other. The confluence is an opportunity to learn, share, and build relationships that can reach beyond our geographical borders. I hope that this conference will be a springboard for new ideas, collaborations, and continued growth in our disciplines and our humanity.

The Confluence's team and the Centre for Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies (CTDPS) are excited to host this gathering of local and international scholars. Thank you to all the staff who have contributed to hosting this important gathering at CTDPS. On behalf of the dance section, I thank you for being here and extend a hearty and warm welcome to you all. Wamkelekile! Karibu! Welkom! Dumelang!

Kind regards,

Associate Professor Lisa Wilson

Head of Dance Section