INVITATION / ANNOUNCEMENT!!

Professor Yvette Hutchison

Organised by the Gender and Diversity Office, African Multiple Cluster of Excellence



Biography

Yvette Hutchison is Professor of African Theatre and current Director of Theatre & Performance Studies in the School of Creative Arts, Performance and Visual Cultures at the University of Warwick, UK. Her research focuses on Anglophone African theatre, history and narratives of memory. She is also interested in how intercultural performance practices can challenge ongoing postcolonial issues. From 2015-17 she had AHRC funding to develop mobile app technology to create a virtual network of African women creative practitioners and other interested parties, which has become the African Womens' Playwright Network aimed at connecting African womxn writers with one another, the creative industries and researchers. Her latest UKRI-funded project (2023-2025) traced the relationship between disability dance and citizenship with specific dance companies and choreographers in East and South Africa.

Intersectionality and Critical Diversity Literacy (ICDL) Lecture

26.11.2026 **16:00–18:00** **S 145/146 FZA**

"I am me – refusing naming while engaging collaborative 'worlding' as an innovative, resistant research strategy"

Welcome Prof. Dr. Ute Fendler, Respondent Nihal Chahdi Ouazzani, Moderation Pepetual Mforbe Chiangong

This talk begins by considering what impacts programmes or projects engaged with diversity, equality and inclusion, particularly by analysing the role and impact of naming and categorising subjects. It will exemplify the complexities involved in these basic processes by considering notions of vulnerability in relation to gender and disability. Research involving vulnerable subjects is viewed as risky and involves complex ethical processes that aim to manage risk and ensure control. But I ask whether there are ways to recalibrate encounters with diverse and/ or vulnerable subjects in more equitable ways, beyond the researcher-subject binary? It will share how my intersectional approach with the African Women Playwright Network (AWPN) and African Dance Disability Network (ADDN) that involved embodied modes of encountering research collaborators that provided more equitable modes of research and that offered possibilities of worlding. Using this term, I expand beyond Heideggerian (1962) ontology via postcolonial studies (Spivak, 1988) and feminist new materialism (Haraway, 1988) to suggest discursive, dialogic research that works with subjects (in my case artists) to reveal how power, knowledge and materiality have shaped and thus can reshape lived worlds and embodied experiences. This dialogic engagement with diverse others in equitable modes needs to operate beyond accessing and analysing data to include an aesthetic and political practice that can generate speculative and hybrid landscapes and ways of being. In the Global South, decolonial 'worlding' resists Eurocentric epistemologies by foregrounding alternative ontologies, artistic practices and cosmologies that rethink ways of being and knowing beyond colonial legacies (see for example Santos, 2014) in ways that disrupt fixed notions of identity, power and place.

In Conversation with Prof. Yvette Hutchison

27.11.2026 **10:00–12:00** **S 145/146 FZA**

Focus on African Women Playwright Network (AWPN) and African Dance and Disability Network (ADDN). **Flash Presenter – Valerie Gruber**

Interaction with Junior Fellows and Guest Doctoral Researchers at UBT on Research Methodology

27.11.2026 **13:00–15:00** **H 27, GW II**

Research methodologies and finding your own voice in your research

In this session, we will explore various research methods - quantitative and qualitative (both archival and action research) and consider how we choose and use them appropriately - how you gather data and process it for writing and/ or practice. We will also think about how we differentiate between theory and methodology, and how to find and develop our own voices in our research.