

Maria Kardash

mashkardash.com | Ukraine/Austria

PERSONAL PROFILE

Interdisciplinary artsit, dance scholar, cultural anthropologist working internationally at the intersection of Arts and Academia

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dance as Politics' Embodiment; Cultural Representation; Exoticism & Orientalism; Othering & Belonging

EDUCATION

MA Choreomundus – International Master in Dance Knowledge, Practice and Heritage Consortium of four universities: University of Roehampton (UK); University of Clermont Auvergne (France), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway), University of Szeged (Hungary).	Aug 2020 Sep 2018
MA Geopolitics and Political Geography Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine	Jun 2014 Sep 2012
BA Regional Studies and International Research Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine	Jun 2012 Sep 2008

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

After Violence: 30th Democracy & Diversity Graduate Summer Institute Summer School in Social Research organised by The New School (New York) in Wroclaw, Poland	Jul 2023
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RECENT WORK HISTORY

Cultural Manager Office Ukraine Graz Graz, Austria	Jan 2025 Oct 2024
• supported the Ukrainian art community in Graz (community management & mentoring) • produced texts for Office Ukraine newspaper, website, press releases and social media • organised and moderated public events	
Grant Applications Evaluator Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) Vienna, Austria	Sep 2024
• evaluated artists' applications for the Documenting Ukraine programme in IWM	
Artist Researcher in Residence Maly Berlin Trnava, Slovakia	Aug 2024 Jun 2024
• worked on an article on Eurocentric aesthetics in dance • engaged in local cultural activities as an expert (e.g. moderating a discussion on the theatre festival)	
Grant Applications Evaluator Per Forma, Kyiv Contemporary Music Days Ukraine (online)	Jul 2024 Jun 2024
• evaluated applications for the Performing Arts' grant programme in Ukraine	
Research Fellow Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) Vienna, Austria	Mar 2024 Feb 2024
• further developed a research project on stage representation of Soviet Subalterns • gave a talk on Soviet Subaltern on Stage in the frames of the IWM Fellows Colloquium	
Research Writer Decolonial Glossary UA Ukraine (online)	Apr 2024 Jan 2024
• produced an article on Eurocentrism in the Ukrainian context for the glossary project that aims to explain postcolonial terminology to the Ukrainian audience as well as the Ukrainian context to the international audience	

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Artist Lecturer in "Body, Identity, Society" program School of Disobedience Budapest, Hungary	Dec 2023
• developed and delivered a week-long series of lectures-discussions on <i>Self-Exoticism and Post-Soviet Femininity: Demystifying the 'Exotic' Body in Eastern Europe</i> in frames of a creative learning program	
Artist Researcher in Residence Narodnyj Dim - Dom Ukrainski Przemyśl, Poland	Oct 2023
• explored the topic of Home/House through conversations with local Ukrainian diaspora and migrants	
• co-created (as a dramaturg and performer) together with Marichka Chichkova (Lviv, Ukraine) the musical performance 'Dim, De...' (Home is where...) based on the collected materials	
Performer, Assistant in "Antigone's Pride – Performing Society" international project Astragali Teatro (IT), Grotowski Institut (PL) Wrocław, Poland	June 2023
• co-created open-air performance 'Cantica Antigona' in the frames of the Eco-Art Residence 'Theatre and Conflict' on the base of Brzezinka and Wrocław residencies of Grotowski Institut	
• provided translation assistance to Ukrainian participants at the international symposium <i>Saving Hope: Theatrical Activism in Spaces of Conflict</i> in frames of the residence	
Research Fellow Transregional Dialogues Programme by The New School New York, USA (online)	Dec 2022
• took part in semester-long collaborative online activities as an independent researcher in the international team of scholars both from Ukraine and the New School for Social Research in New York	Sep 2022
• developed a research project on Dance and Body Politics in USSR and its legacy in modern Ukraine	
Research Fellow The Open Society Archives Budapest, Hungary	July 2022
• investigated and analysed archive materials on the topic of Dance Politics and Body Politics in the USSR, with the final presentation of research results for the OSA fellows	June 2022
Performer, Project Coordinator Residence for Ukrainian Artists at Silesian Theatre (Teatr Śląski) Katowice, Poland	June 2022
• co-created a documentary theatre performance '5.00.UA' about the Ukrainian women's war and displacement experiences based on the artists' personal stories	Apr 2022
• co-developed the art concepts for the performance (scenography, monologues, sounds, poster idea)	
• coordinated the work process in the initial stages (hosting zoom meetings and brainstorming sessions, communication with stakeholders)	
• performed as part of the artists' team (in 2022-2024 shown in Katowice, Gliwice, Zabrze, Tychy, Krakow, Lublin, Opole, Poznań & Kassel, Germany)	

TEXTS & PUBLICATIONS

Performing the Army: Power Representation in Dance by Aleksandrov and Moiseev Ensembles (awaiting publication)	2024
Western Dance Canon and Modernity , for Maly Berlin cultural residence, Slovakia (awaiting publication)	2024
Interview for Maly Berlin cultural residence in Trnava, Slovakia	2024
Eurocentrism/Euromodernity (Європоцентризм/Євромодерність)- for Decolonial Glossary UA, UKR: https://decolonialglossary.com.ua/eurocentrism,-euromodernity-uk ENG: https://decolonialglossary.com.ua/eurocentrism,-euromodernity-en	2024
Dancing Behind the Curtain: Final Report for the Open Society Archives, Budapest	2022

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Scholarship for the Professional Integration Hub, 3-month internship programme for Ukrainian professionals in Austria organised by The European Centre for Freedom and Independence and supported by the Erste Foundation	Oct 2024
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Grant for Ukrainian artists in exile from Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport	May 2024
Travel Grant for attending Nordic Forum for Dance Research Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark for presenting the <i>Dancing Behind the Curtain: Dance Politics in the Eastern Bloc Countries</i> project	Jul 2022
Visegrad Scholarship at the Open Society Archives, Budapest, Hungary for research project <i>Dancing Behind the Curtain: Dance Politics in the Eastern Bloc Countries in the Early Cold War</i> .	Jun 2022
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) Scholarship funded by the European Commission's Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) to study the Choreomundus programme	Sep 2018 Aug 2020
Goethe-Institut Individual Travel Grant to Germany for Ukrainian Young Professionals engaged in Culture	Sep 2016

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Public Talk 'Body as a Tool: Politics of Soviet Dance' in Ziegel Art Atelier and Project Space, Graz	Dec 2024
Panel Talk 'Now We Get It': Ukrainian Perception of Belly Dance as Colonial Practice' at the Second Symposium on Middle Eastern, North African and Central Asian Dances, Music and Performing Arts (MENACA 2024)	Oct 2024
Panel Talk Dance and research in violent contexts: ethics, bonding and personal engagement for the Choreomundus Alumni Conference 2024, London	Jul 2024
Speaker at Embedded: The Military as a Patron of the Arts with a talk 'Performing the Army: Military Representation by Soviet Ensembles'	Jun 2024
Invited speaker at the Footsteps of Resilience panel talk on dance under totalitarianism and after, Bratislava	May 2024
Public Talk 'Soviet Subaltern on Stage', Fellows' Colloquium at the IWM, Vienna	Mar 2024
Invited lecturer at Cultural Transformations: Decolonisation online workshop by House of Europe & Goethe Institut Ukraine	Jun 2023
Moderator at Art in a Time of War: a series of Zoom conversations with Ukrainian educators, artists, cultural ambassadors supported by the University Riverside, California	Apr 2023
Transregional Dialogues Conference (online): presenting results of the Transregional Dialogues fellowship, panel talk <i>Resistance and Non-Conformity: Gaining Agency through the Body in Post-Soviet Ukraine</i>	Mar 2023
Online lecture for current Choreomundus students <i>War in Ukraine: corporeal experience</i>	Jan 2023
Panel talk on <i>Self-Exoticism and Post-Soviet Femininity</i> for Winter School at Tanzquartier Wien	Jan 2023
Panel talk <i>Self-Exoticism and Post-Soviet Femininity</i> for Moving Margins Symposium , Berlin, Germany	Nov 2022
Invited talk at NOMAD - performative community brunch as a travelling artist presenting her migration experiences, Budapest, Hungary.	Sep 2022
Presentation <i>Inclusion of Ukrainian traditional soup borscht in the Intangible Cultural Heritage list and popular reaction to it in the context of Ukrainian-Russian war</i> for Choreomundus Alumni Conference 2022	Aug 2022

CULTURAL EXCHANGES, VOLUNTEERING AND TRAINING COURSES

Erasmus Training Course 'Think in Youth - Train in Youth: organisation of Erasmus projects' Moclin, Spain	Aug 2023
Erasmus Training Course 'Perform': using comedy theatre methodology in youth work Zakopane, Poland	Apr 2023
'Train Theatre' Erasmus training course: theatrical pedagogy in non-formal learning Alpignano, Italy	Mar 2023

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Erasmus Training Course 'Ways to Peace': developing competencies in human rights education, conflict transformation and peace-building Les Houches, France	Nov 2021
Training Course for youth workers 'One 2 One - facilitating learning face to face' Budapest, Hungary	Oct 2021
Erasmus Training Course 'Intercultural Playback Theatre for Youth Workers' Sappada, Italy	Sep 2021
Youth Exchange project 'Immigration of Art' Eskisehir, Turkey - participated as a leader of the Ukrainian youth team and gained experience in working with refugees	Aug 2017
Cultural Dialogues – DANCEformation by GoetheInstitut Bremen, Germany - cultural exchange focused on the creation of the performance under the direction of Theater Bremen	Nov 2015

VOLUNTEERING AND PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

Co-organizer of Choreomundus Dance Film Festival (CDFF) , a biannual event happening alongside Choreomundus Alumni Conference and Dance Festival as a showcase platform for the Choreomundus master's programme's alumni's creative projects. So far there were two editions: Clermont-Ferrand, France (2022) , London (2024), next one planned in Trondheim, Norway (2026). Due to the small-scale nature of the event, I have undertaken many roles, mainly focusing on creating promotional materials and curating festival social media	2024 2022
European Solidarity Corps Project 'Theatre for Social Change', Katowice, Poland: as a volunteer in the 'Active Women Association' NGO supported the local theatrical community with events and promotion	Jun 2022 May 2021
Reflection Groups' Leader at Training Course for Youth Workers 'The Art of Development' Trakai, Lithuania provided organizational support to the project organizers: helping participants to reflect on their learning experience and collecting their feedback during daily reflection group sessions developed creative workshops on introduction to body awareness and self-development through movement for young people	Jan 2022
European Voluntary Service Project 'Think Dance' Turkey, Apr-Jun 2016: contributed to organisation, planning and promotion of the Bodrum International Dance Festival 2016 as a part of international volunteers' team	Apr-Jun 2016