

Krishna: The Mythological Hero

Seminar Panellists & Artist Biographies:



Dr Ann David

As Reader in Dance Studies at the University of Roehampton, London, Ann specialises in dance anthropology and South Asian classical and popular dance. In the role of Head of Department, she is responsible for over 300 young people involved in training in the dance world, including undergraduates, post-graduates and PhD students. In her research work on dance, movement and ritual using ethnography methodology, Ann has been a Research Fellow on a major international project funded by the Ford Foundation, USA and held a Research Fellowship at SOAS, London. Publications include co-editing and a chapter in a book on dance ethnography, *Dance Ethnography and Global Perspectives: Identity, Embodiment, and Culture* (Palgrave, 2013), as well as contributions to books on embodied ethnography, *Performance and Ethnography: Dance, Drama, Music* (Cambridge Scholars, 2013); ritual, *Summoning the Spirits: Possession and Invocation in Contemporary Religion* (I. B. Tauris, 2010); and dance, *Dance Matters: Performing India* (Routledge, 2010).

Ann regularly gives academic papers on dance, ritual, migration and the performance of identity at international conferences and have published widely in dance and other interdisciplinary journals.



Dr Mark James Hamilton

Dr. Mark James Hamilton is Senior Lecturer in World Stages at Regent's University London. He first trained in Drama and Theatre Arts at the University of Birmingham (BA & MPhil). He later trained with Bharatanatyam dancer Priya Srikumar and her guru Paramasiva Menon, with astanga vinyasa yoga teachers Jude Hynes and Peter Nilsson and their guru K. Pattabhi Jois, and with CVN kalaripayattu senior instructor Rajasekaran Nair and his gurukul Sathyanarayanan Nair. His doctorate was awarded by the University of Canterbury (NZ) and his thesis explored the interface of the martial arts and dance including the work of Samudra, a Kerala company who combine kalaripayattu, yoga and Bharatanatyam. Mark's on-going research explores the possibility of transcultural principles for performance training and the challenges of intercultural creative collaboration. His closest collaborators are Daniel P. Cunningham (with whom he explores the interface of Polish experimental theatre and queer live art) and Shane Shambhu (with whom he explores Bharatanatyam as a catalyst for creating contemporary British narrative theatre).



Dr Shalini Sinha

Dr Shalini Sinha is a Lecturer in Non-Western Philosophy, University of Reading. She received her PhD from the University of Sussex and has taught at the University of York and SOAS (University of London). Her research focuses on topics in Indian philosophy, primarily Hindu and Buddhist metaphysics and ethics, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of action.