



School: Drama and Performing Arts

Researcher: Prof. Dr. Thomas Kampe

Project Title: Performance/ Exile/ Heritage

UOA 33: Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies

300-Word Statement

'Performance / Exile / Heritage' undertaken by Dr. Kampe with Pascal Theatre Company (PTC) responds to reluctant histories of persecution and exile through visual and performative means. It examines historical entanglements at a time when western colonial histories are put into question, and seeks new affective/embodied and choreo-visual modes of remembrance and re-discovery. The project builds on prior research undertaken with PTC, and on symposia coordinated by Kampe at Bath Spa University and Coburg University (2016/2018).

The output ONE LOST STONE (research & direction T. Kampe), part of PTC's project *'England's Lost Jews'* (2019/2020), was initially designed as an immersive choreographic and embodied guided tour around the Jewish Novo Cemetery in London, inspired by Sephardi legacies in England. The pandemic circumstances led to re-designing ONE LOST STONE as an interactive digital multi-media resource – containing writings, podcasts, videos and visual/sound collages designed by Kampe, created collaboratively with historians, oral-history researchers and interdisciplinary artists. It explores the use of choreo-visual and screen-dance strategies in response to reluctant histories of marginalized UK Jewish communities. The project reveals Sephardi immigration to England as vital part in the building of the British Empire and its colonial heritage. How can we respond to this complex history through artistic means today? The project offers interpretations of hidden histories at a moment when authorised British histories are being scrutinised.

ONE LOST STONE is contextualised through scholarly presentations in the UK, Taiwan and Germany, journal articles, workshops and documentary video works. These include the article 'Whispering Secrets' (2015) on somatic-informed heritage-arts practices as acts of reconciliation and transformation, and the project 'Punti di Fuga' (2015) with members of refugee communities. The two symposia *Beyond Forgetting: persecution/exile/memory* (2018) explored the intersection between Performance, Critical-Design and Memorial Culture, probing trans-disciplinary working-modes in response to contemporary & historical persecution and exile.