



MUSHTARI AFROZ
Dancer, Choreographer and Artist-
Researcher in Public Spaces

1201, Abbey Road, Pickering, Ontario, L1X 1W1
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EDUCATION

Hons. Bachelor of Science in Physics & Statistics Trinity College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
(2007)

MA Performing Public Space Fontys Academy of the Arts, Tilburg, Netherlands
(2023)

MA Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies York University, Toronto, Canada
(Current)

COMPUTER SKILLS

- **Operating Systems:** Windows and Scientific LINUX
- **Programming/Database:** C++, Python, SQL.
- **Statistical/Mathematics Applications:** SAS Base and Advanced, SAS Statistics, R, SPSS, MINITAB.
- **Microsoft Office:** MS Word, Excel, MS PowerPoint.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATION/PRESENTATION

In Progress

Afroz, M. ChoreoSensing Public Spaces in Toronto's Residential Neighbourhood.

A booklet of Sensory Engagement Scores intended for self-publication in 2023. This was the outcome of a 12-month artistic research project conducted as part of Performing Public Space program at Fontys Academy of the Arts, Netherlands. Supervisors: Dr. Danae Theodoridou, Dr. David Limaverde

Research Project Title: ChoreoSensing Toronto's Residential Neighbourhood Public Space – Creating a Sensorily Meaningful Dialogue between Residents and the Socio-physical Dimensions of Their Neighbourhood Public Spaces.

The research was conducted through four different practices – sensory walking/moving in public spaces, choreographic practice for score creation, participatory practice and tactical urbanism.

Published/Presented Work

Afroz, M. and P. Savard. September 2007. Measurement of the calibration factors of a new b quark identification algorithm. Canadian Undergraduate Physics Journal. 6(1): 15-19.

Afroz, M. May 2007. b -tagging in Hadron Colliders. Undergraduate Research Thesis, Department of Physics, University of Toronto; Supervisor: Professor Pierre Savard; Project Year 2006-2007

Afroz, M. May 2006. Study of the Effect of Detector Resolution on W Mass Measurement. Undergraduate Research Thesis, Department of Physics, University of Toronto; Supervisor: Professor William Trischuk; Project Year 2005-2006

Afroz, M. October 2005. Post-production Performance Test of Silicon Tracker Outer Barrel of the CMS Detector at CERN. Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference (CUPC) Presentation



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DANCE/ART EDUCATION

Performance, Law, Architecture/Urban Space/Public Spaces

Masterclass – Bodies in Urban Spaces

Intersection among architecture, urban spaces, bodies and choreography. Organized by: Instavel – Centro Choreographico, Portugal Instructor: Willi Dorner, Vienna, Austria

‘Mellemrur’ workshop as part of Performing Public Space Program, Netherlands

Performative intervention in public spaces
Instructor: Choreographer Kitt Johnson

‘Working With/In the Gap’ workshop as part of Performing Public Space Program, Netherlands

Architectural Intervention in public spaces
Instructor: Renske Maria van Dam

‘Art & Activism’ workshop as part of Performing Public Space Program, Netherlands

Performative intervention techniques for activism
Instructor: Teresa Borasino from ‘Fossil Free Culture

‘Performance, Law and Public Space’ workshop as part of Performing Public Space Program, Netherlands

Learn how to work with law when working in public spaces as artists
Instructor: Eva Fotiadi

‘How much public space is our space’ workshop as part of Performing Public Space Program, Netherlands

Unsanctioned performance creation techniques in public spaces
Instructor: Choreographer Anja Reinhardt

‘Stone Dead’ workshop as part of Performing Public Space Program, Netherlands

Performative approaches to death and deep time
Instructor: Choreographer Kinga Szemessy

‘Observing Space through Sound’ workshop as part of Performing Public Space Program, Netherlands

Techniques of soundwalking and meaning making
Instructor: Sound artists - Strijbos & Van Rijswijk

‘Performance in the New Public Sphere’ workshop as part of Performing Public Space Program, Netherlands

Philosophical debate around performance in the digital space
Instructor: Guilel Treiber

Dance History and Critical Theory in Philosophy

Academic Course in Kathak History and Technique
(6 Credit online course, 2020)

University Grants Commission, Delhi, India

Instructor: Dr. Amita Dutt, Udayshankar Professor of Dance at Rabindrabharati University, India

Philosophy, Art and Critical Theory
(Ongoing since 2020)

A series of 8-week long courses by Bombay Institute of Critical Analysis and Research (BICAR), India
Instructor: Rohit Goel (Director of BICAR)

Dance Technique Education in Bangladesh

Bengali Folk Dance
(Since 1986)

As part of school’s extracurricular activities and at different local cultural institutions in Bangladesh



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Ongoing Dance Technique Training

Kathak Training
(Since 2000)

Under the guidance of various teachers from India and Canada. Also participated in workshops in UK, India, Canada and Bangladesh.

Yorchha
(2020-2022)

Indian Contemporary Dance Classes by Ananya Dance Theatre, Minnesota USA
Instructor: Ananya Chatterjee, Professor of Dance, University of Minnesota, USA

Capoeira
(2016-2022)

Capoeira Bamba, Toronto, Canada; Instructor: Marcos Martins

Contemporary Dance, Devised/Physical Theatre,
Corporeal Mime
(2015-2020)

With many contemporary dance instructors from Toronto; with Arthaus Berlin (Devised/Physical Theatre); With Giuseppe Condello (Corporeal Mime)

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

Holland Government Scholarship – The funding, offered to 2 international students every year, supported my tuition expenses for artistic research (MA) program at Fontys Academy of the Arts, Netherlands.

Creative in Residence, Ontario Culture Days Festival – Created over 18 months, the 2-day choreographic public space intervention in the City of Pickering engaged residents with the spatial, social and political dimensions of the city's public spaces.

Toronto Winter Island Residency at Artscape Gibraltar Point – A month-long artist residency in March 2022 to develop a community engaged project.

Canada Council for the Art Research and Creation Grant – A \$11,000 Research and Creation Grant has been awarded for 2020-2021 season for the development of Phase 1 & 2 of a new project titled 'SOM'.

Ontario Arts Council Art Responsive Grant – A \$4,000 Grant has been awarded for 2021-2022 for preparing for a 'Phygital = Physical + Digital' future.

Canada Council for the Art Digital Strategy Grant for Asian Canadian Artists – Worked with Dr. Kay Li (York U) and Dr. Lien Chao (York U) as the strategic Lead for Asian Heritage Foundation Ontario Inc.'s Digital Strategy grant proposal preparation and later as the project manager. The proposal won \$50K grant.

Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant – To assist in the travel expenses to UK to attend Kathak workshop in July 2014 organized by Milapfest Indian Arts Development Trust in Liverpool, UK.

Milapfest Tuition Grant, UK – Tuition and accommodation grants to attend Kathak workshop in July 2014 at Liverpool, UK

Open Space Program by National Ballet of Canada – A week-long residency in March 2022 at Walter Carsen Centre of National Ballet of Canada for the development of a new project titled 'SOM'.

Space Residency by Anandam Dance Theatre, Toronto – A 10-hour space residency offered in 2020 for the development of new work.

Peer Learning Network by Dancemakers Toronto – Funded by RBC Emerging Artists Project 7-month long residency program (January – July 2020) was offered for emerging choreographers at Dancemakers Toronto.

Svaha Creation Lab Residency by Nova Dance Toronto – Funded by NAC (National Arts Centre, Canada) Nova Dance Toronto invited female dancers trained in Indian classical dance to take part and contribute artistic elements to their multilayered week-long creation process of its upcoming epic production 'Svaha'.



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ACADEMIC AND CORPORATE WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, Fermi National Accelerator Lab, Batavia, Illinois, USA, July-September 2005

Responsibilities

- Assist in the post-production performance test of the silicon barrel of the CMS detector- one of the 3 devices designed for detecting Higgs Boson at CERN's Large Hadron Collider. ROOT- a customized C++ based programming algorithm was used for testing the performance. Supervisor: Dr. Pushpalata Bhat- distinguished scientist at Fermi National Accelerator Lab

Statistician & Data Scientist Roles in R & D and Marketing Analytics Department of Various Major Canadian Retailers, Toronto September 2007 – December 2017

Responsibilities

- In various short-term project based contract roles at retailers such as GM Canada, ESSO Canada, Shoppers Drug Mart, Danier, Home Depot, The Princess Auto I was tasked with experimental A/B test design for marketing campaigns, KPIs development for success/failure measure, statistical modeling and forecasting to support and lead the research effort for strategic decision making process in the marketing departments. I worked extensively with transactional data, survey data, web analytics data and campaign response data using SAS, SQL and Python.

CHOREOGRAPHIC AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CREATION IN URBAN/PUBLIC SPACES

Title: Choreo-xperience Pickering Public Spaces; Ontario Culture Days Festival, 2022-2023

- As a creative in residence I collaborated with 5 dancers to create a 2-day intervention in the city of Pickering's public spaces.
Day 1: Dancer Take Over: This was an unsanctioned intervention by dance on streets, sidewalks etc to imagine the other possibilities of these 'functional' spaces.
Day 2: Artist Talk and Interactive Performance: A participatory dance performance to engage the residents, the audience to make them aware of the role public spaces play in their spatial, social, cultural and political existence.
- [More information can be found here](#)

Title: Drifting Dialogues; Artscape Gibraltar Point Artist-in-Residence, Toronto Island May 2022

- A month-long research project in March that critically engaged with the corporeal experience of the built-environment on Toronto Island.
- The non-academic artistic research was conducted through interviews, choreographic and audio-visual practices.
- The research resulted in a 50-min documentary film and 3 short dance films which were presented publicly as video installations at Winter Island Exhibition at Artscape Gibraltar Point in May 2022.

PERFORMANCES IN UNCONVENTIONAL SPACES

Aga Khan Museum, Pop-Up Performance Series, Toronto: 15 interactive performances each 30 minutes long at the museum lobby and courtyard in August 2016, November 2017 and November 2018.

Aga Khan Museum, Open Studio Series, Toronto: 2 Work-in-progress rehearsals held at 4 Open Studio sessions at the Mongolian Hut - Museum's Outdoor Winter Installation March and April 2018

Gerrard Ashdale Public Library, Toronto: 1 hour performance followed by Q & A at the Attic of the library in celebration of Ontario Culture Days, September 2018

Art in the Atrium of Toronto West General Hospital, Toronto: 1 hour performance at the hospital's lobby supported by Al & Malka Green Art Foundation, July 2018

Narwhal Art Gallery, Toronto: 12-minute performance of the dance-theatre production 'Resist/Co-Exist' at one of the exhibition rooms as part of Emerging Young Artist's Exhibition Opening, March 2018

Toronto City Hall: 24-minute performance of the dance-theatre production 'Sunset in Fall' with live music at the city hall's rotunda as part of Asian Heritage Month Festival Celebration, April 2019



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ARTIST BLOG WRITING EXPERINCE

ChoreoSensing Public Spaces, Ontario Culture Days Festival, 2023

- An artistic blog reflecting my current artistic practice in public spaces.
<https://onculturedays.ca/mushtari-afroz-feature/>

We will Remember This – a Nova Dance Publication, Toronto, June 2023

- An artistic reflection on my experience at Nova Dance’s ‘Svaha’ production creation lab.

Aeris Korper Hamilton, February 2020

- An artist blog written for its ‘Relationship and Connection’ series. <http://aeriskorper.com/curiosities>

Dance Matters Toronto, February 2019

- An artist blog written for its ‘Rebel Yells’ series. <http://dancematters.ca/artist-blog/mushtari-afroz/>

ARTIST INTERVIEW EXPERINCE

Project 40 Collective Toronto, July 2018

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxqcDDekgvU&feature=youtu.be>