



DANCING

FIVE YEARS
OF DANCING
IN PICTURES

FOREWORD



The project 'Protecting the Right to Culture of Persons with Disabilities and Enhancing Cultural Diversity through European Union Law: Exploring New Paths (DANCING)', funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the Consolidator Grant No. 864182, commenced on 1 September 2020, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. In spite of the uncertainty linked to that un-

precedented health emergency, DANCING traversed those gloomy years, advanced steadily, and is now very close to an end. It has achieved its ambitious goals and has hopefully contributed to the advancement of academic research and to effecting policy change. DANCING has identified and categorised barriers and facilitators to cultural participation experienced by people with disabilities across the European Union (EU). It has engaged in a normative exploration of how the EU has used and can use its competence to combat discrimination and its supporting competence on cultural matters, in synergy with its wide internal market powers, to ensure the accessibility of cultural activities, to promote disability identities, while achieving cultural diversity. It has bridged the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, trying to advance a new understanding of cultural diversity within the EU legal order. In doing so, DANCING has also contributed to the building of EU disability law as a stand-alone disciplinary field for academic enquiry.

In the past five years, as a Principal Investigator, I have steered the boat surrounded by a fantastic team and by wonderful collaborators. I am grateful to all of them for their contribution and assistance. In fact, this photobook is a way to showcase the work of a close team, of the many collaborators and colleagues who helped. It is a way to say a heartfelt thank you to all the many people who in different ways and capacities and at different junctures supported DANCING and me in difficult instances, but also in rewarding moments. Almost all of them appear in this book.

When I started, five years seemed a relatively long-time span. Yet, time has passed very quickly, almost in a blink of an eye. Thus, this photobook is also a way to remember the long DANCING journey. It is a way to highlight milestones and to mark small and big achievements.

This photobook would not have been possible without the many people who actually took pictures of us, agreed to feature in our pictures, and, most of all, without our accessibility designer Norbert Croonenberg, who has translated my vision into appealing design and graphic narratives. Last, but not least, I would like to dedicate this photobook to my father who has been my main supporter since the beginning of my academic career and throughout DANCING, most particularly in providing a vital listening ear during both challenging and joyous times.

Delia Ferri

Maynooth, June 2025



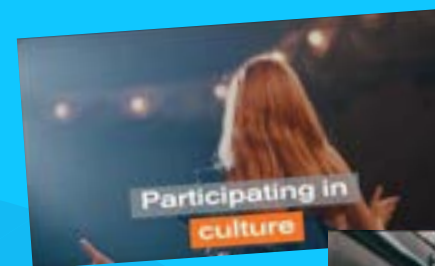
LAUNCH OF ERC
DANCING WEBSITE
16-3-21



THE LAUNCH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN INTRODUCTION WORKSHOP ON 'RESEARCHING DISABILITY AND DIVERSITY IN CULTURE' PRESENTING THE ERC DANCING PROJECT (DANCING) AND ITS OBJECTIVES AND WHICH COMMENCED IN SEPTEMBER 2020.



DANCING PROJECT
FEATURES IN 'ERC
STORY' SERIES
2-3-22



SEMINAR ON THE
DANCING PROJECT
18-3-22



PROF. DELIA FERRI WAS INVITED TO GIVE A SEMINAR AND DISCUSS HER DANCING PROJECT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PADUA, ITALY.



FIRST AND SECOND FOCUS
GROUP WITH PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES AT MAYNOOTH
UNIVERSITY
14 & 15-12-21



FILMING DAY ON
CAMPUS FOR DANCING
DOCUMENTARY
31-2-22

THE DANCING RESEARCH IS ACCOMPANIED BY A DOCUMENTARY WHICH CAPTURES THE ENTIRETY OF THE PROJECT.



WORKSHOP
'A CONVERSATION WITH
DR. ROSALEEN MCDONAGH'
22-3-22

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK ORGANISED BY MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY, DANCING CO-HOSTED THE EVENT WITH ACTIVIST AND AUTHOR ROSALEEN MCDONAGH.

OPEN UP MUSEUMS!



TRENTO - ROVERETO
26 & 27-5-22



IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HORIZON2020 PROJECTS RECREATING EUROPE AND INDICES, THE DANCING TEAM ORGANISED THE OPEN UP MUSEUMS! CONFERENCE WHICH FOCUSED ON THE DIVERSE DIMENSIONS OF ACCESSIBILITY OF MUSEUMS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.



ACCESSIBILITY DESIGNER NORBERT CROONENBERG AND PROF. DELIA FERRI COLLABORATE TO DISSEMINATE THE DANCING RESEARCH IN VARIOUS ACCESSIBLE FORMATS, SUCH AS INFOGRAPHICS CAPTURING THE ESSENCE AND PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT.

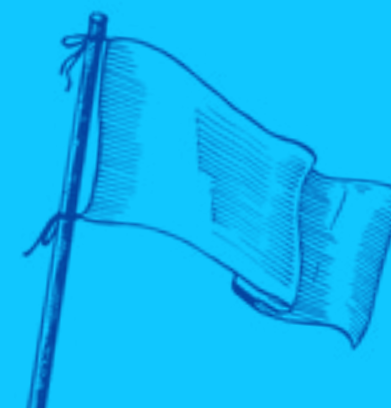


INCLUSIVE DANCE
COLLOQUIUM
23-8-22

THE COLLOQUIUM EXPLORED INCLUSIVE DANCE APPROACHES AS AN INNOVATIVE FORM OF PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH LINKING IT TO THE EMPIRICAL AND ARTS-BASED RESEARCH OF DANCING.



PROF. DELIA FERRI WITH COLLABORATORS JAMES KELLY, DIRECTOR OF THE DANCING DOCUMENTARY, AND SHO SHIBATA, FORMER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF INCLUSIVE STOPGAP DANCE COMPANY (STOPGAP).





THE DANCING TEAM HOSTED A WORKSHOP ON AUDIO DESCRIPTION TO BRING TOGETHER LEGAL PERSPECTIVES WITH PRACTICES IN THE ARTS AND CULTURAL SECTORS.



FILMING STOPGAP DANCERS
11-12-22



STOPGAP CHOREOGRAPHER LUCY BENNETT AND THEN-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SHO SHIBATA DEVELOPING 'LIVED FICTION' FOR DANCING DURING REHEARSAL IN IPSWICH, UK.



AUDIO DESCRIPTION
IN LIVE THEATRE
21-11-22



WORK-IN-PROGRESS
SHARING
24-2-23



'LIVED FICTION' CAST DURING THEIR RESIDENCY AT DANCE IRELAND IN DUBLIN. THEY PERFORMED AN INITIAL WORK-IN-PROGRESS SHARING OF THE PIECE WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY AN AUDIENCE SURVEY.

DANCING



FIRST PERFORMANCE OF 'LIVED FICTION' 6-4-23



PROF. DELIA FERRI AND DR. ANN LEAHY JOINED STOPGAP FOR A FIRST FULL PERFORMANCE AT IVY ARTS CENTRE IN GUILDFORD, UK.



THIS PERFORMANCE WAS FOLLOWED BY A FOCUS GROUP WITH INVITED AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO IDENTIFY AS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO GAUGE AND ASSESS QUALITY OF EMBEDDED ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES OF THE PIECE.

LAUNCH OF THE DANCING ACADEMIC CONVERSATIONS SERIES 12-6-23

DANCING Academic Conversation

with **Prof. Giuseppe Martinico**

Presenting the new edition of his book:
The Tangled Complexity of the EU Constitutional Process: The Frustrating Knot of Europe
 (2nd edn, Routledge 2023)

DATE: Monday, 12 June
 TIME: 11:00 – 14:00
 VENUE: Online (Zoom)

Please register by sending an e-mail to: mar.kroll@ucl.ac.uk

THE INAUGURAL DANCING ACADEMIC CONVERSATION WAS GIVEN BY PROF. GIUSEPPE MARTINICO CONNECTING WIDER EU INTEGRATION PROCESSES TO THE DANCING RESEARCH.

DANCING MID-TERM ACADEMIC CONFERENCE 4-9-23



TO MARK THE HALFWAY POINT OF THE PROJECT AND TO PRESENT INTERIM FINDINGS, THE DANCING TEAM HOSTED THE DANCING MID-TERM ACADEMIC CONFERENCE AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY.



AN ACCESSIBLE CONCERT WITH PERFORMERS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES CONCLUDED THE DANCING MID-TERM ACADEMIC CONFERENCE SHOWCASING GOOD PRACTICES.



ACCESSIBLE CONCERT 4-9-23





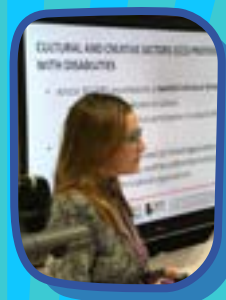
DANCING



IALT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 10-11-23



THE DANCING TEAM PRESENTED THEIR LATEST RESEARCH IN A DEDICATED PANEL AT THE CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE IRISH ASSOCIATION OF LAW TEACHERS AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY.

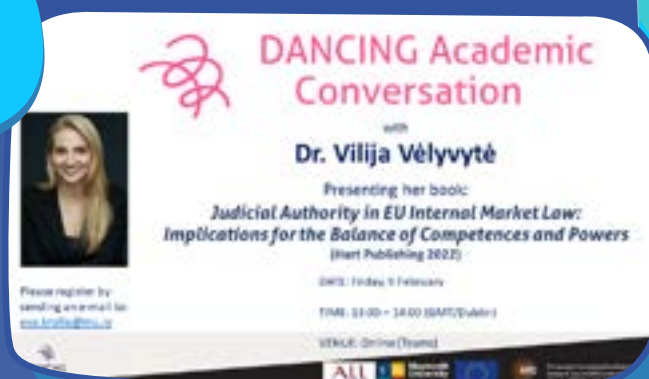


SECOND DANCING ACADEMIC CONVERSATION 7-12-23



WITH DR. EVANGELIA PSYCHOGIOPOULOU AND PROF. SARAH SCHOENMAEKERS WHO DISCUSSED HOW ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL POLICIES OF THE EU INTERACT.

THIRD DANCING ACADEMIC CONVERSATION 9-2-24

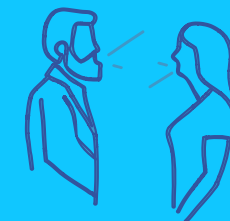


WITH VILIJA VĖLYVYTĖ WHO PRESENTED RESEARCH ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMPETENCES AND POWERS BETWEEN THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES.

FOURTH DANCING ACADEMIC CONVERSATION 22 - 3 - 24



WITH DR. GIULIA PRIORA WHO EXPOUNDED ON THE OBJECTIVES OF EU COPYRIGHT LAWS AND THEIR IMPACT ON AMONGST OTHERS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.



SLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 27 - 3 - 24



DR. ANN LEAHY AND PROF. DELIA FERRI PRESENTED A SOCIO-LEGAL ANALYSIS OF BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO CULTURAL PARTICIPATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AT THE CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IN PORTSMOUTH, UK.



WORLD PREMIERE OF
'LIVED FICTION'
11-4-24



LIR THEATRE IN DUBLIN,
IRELAND

A POST-SHOW Q&A WITH
THE FULL CAST OF 'LIVED
FICTION', CHOREOGRAPHER
LUCY BENNETT AND PROF.
DELIA FERRI FOLLOWED
THE PREMIERE DISCUSSING
THE UNIQUE RESEARCH
COLLABORATION AND THE
CREATIVE PROCESS BEHIND
THE PIECE.



DANCING ADVISORY
BOARD WORKSHOP
12-4-24



FOLLOWING THE PREMIERE OF
'LIVED FICTION', THE DANCING
TEAM HOSTED A WORKSHOP
WITH THEIR ADVISORY BOARD
DISCUSSING ACHIEVED MILESTONES
AND NEXT STEPS OF THE PROJECT.

FIFTH DANCING
ACADEMIC
CONVERSATION
20-6-24



WITH PROF. MARIOLINA ELIANTONIO, PROF. EMILIA KORKEA-AHO
AND PROF. ULRICA MÖRTZ WHO REFLECTED ON EU SOFT LAW AND
ITS VARIOUS FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING IN FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
AND CULTURAL POLICIES.

ICON-S ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
8 TO 10-7-24



DANCING MEMBERS PRESENTED AT VARIOUS PANELS THROUGHOUT THE THREE DAY CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LAW AND HOSTED BY IE UNIVERSITY IN MADRID, SPAIN.



UACES ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
3-9-24



THE DANCING TEAM DISCUSSED THEIR RESEARCH FURTHER IN A DEDICATED PANEL AT THE CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION FOR CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN STUDIES.



EPIP ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
12-9-24



Panel "Copyright and culture: access, heritage, diversity, education"
EPIP - Pisa, 12 September 2024

Taking Stock of the EU Marrakesh Directive: Advancing Disability Rights and Enhancing Cultural Diversity in One Go?

Delia Ferri
Professor of Law - Maynooth University



PROF. DELIA FERRI PRESENTED LATEST RESEARCH ON THE EU MARRAKESH DIRECTIVE AMONGST COPYRIGHT SPECIALISTS AT SCUOLA SUPERIORE SANT'ANNA, PISA, ITALY.



PROF. CORA TRUE-FROST GAVE A WORKSHOP ON ACCESSIBILITY OF AIR TRANSPORT LINKING IT TO THE MOBILITY OF ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PRODUCERS WITH DISABILITIES.

DANCING ACADEMIC
WORKSHOP
26-9-24





DANCING

GIORNATA DEL
CONTEMPORANEO
12-10-24



SEMINAR ON
ACCESSIBILITY AS
A TRANSFORMATIVE FORCE
IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

PROF. DELIA FERRI PARTICIPATED IN A JOINT EVENT BETWEEN ACADEMICS AND PRACTITIONERS ON INCLUSIVE CULTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. THE EVENT AND COLLABORATION WERE ALSO CAPTURED BY A DEDICATED VIDEO PRODUCED AS PART OF DOCUMENTING THE DANCING PROJECT.



SIXTH DANCING
ACADEMIC
CONVERSATION
5-12-24



WITH PROF. SACHA GARBEN WHO DISCUSSED THE RECENT EU MINIMUM WAGE DIRECTIVE AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS INCLUDING FOR WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES.



LAUNCH OF BESPOKE
ARTWORK
'ODISSEO - ULYSSES'
12-11-24

BLIND ARTIST TIZIANO PANTANO CREATED A BESPOKE ARTWORK FOR DANCING THAT REFLECTS ON DIVERSITY AND CAPTURES THE THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE.



IALT ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
16-11-24

THIS TIME AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY, THE DANCING TEAM PRESENTED THEIR MOST RECENT RESEARCH IN A DEDICATED PANEL AT THE IRISH ASSOCIATION OF LAW TEACHERS' CONFERENCE.



WRAPPING UP OF
ERC DANCING
SPRING 2025



THE DANCING TEAM ARE FINALISING RESEARCH TASKS, WORK ON REMAINING PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT.



THE TEAM ARE ALSO ORGANISING AND PREPARING THE DANCING FINAL CONFERENCE ON 19-20 JUNE 2025 THAT PRESENTS THE FINAL RESULTS AND FINDINGS OF THE FIVE YEAR PROJECT TO CLOSE THIS RESEARCH ENDEAVOUR.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT:
ERC.DANCING.MAYNOOTHUNIVERSITY.IE



Acknowledgements: We acknowledge the contributions of all academic collaborators and artists as well as participants in the ERC DANCING research project. In particular, we would like to thank

James Kelly and Feenish Productions Ltd., Lucy Bennett, Sho Shibata, Lucy Glover and the whole cast of 'Lived Fiction' and Stopgap Dance Company, Tiziano Pantano as well as all guest speakers and attendees of DANCING events. Moreover, we would warmly like to thank Norbert Croonenberg for his accessible design contributions including the present photobook which have supported wide dissemination of DANCING research and findings. Photos of Stopgap's 'Lived Fiction' cast rehearsing and performing the piece on pages 9 and 14 are taken by photographer Chris Parkes (Courtesy of Stopgap Dance Company - used with permission).

Photos of the accessible concert on page 11 are taken by photographer Daniel Balteanu (used with permission).