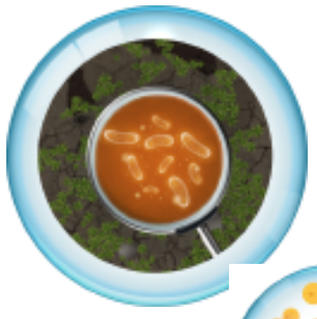
INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE TO CELEBRATE THE WORLD MICROBIOME DAY

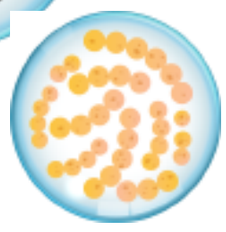
Dancing with our friends: Bacteria!!

To the rhythms of science, art and life.

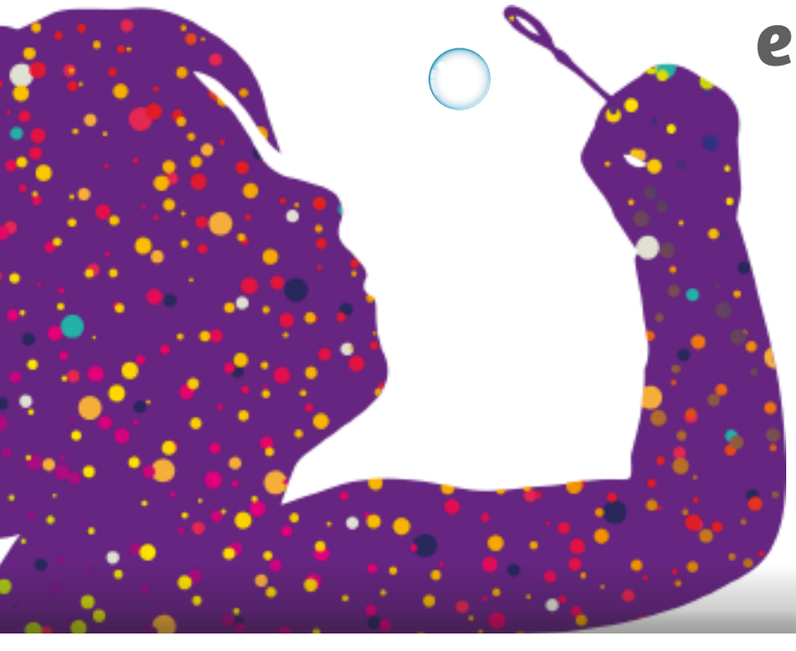
Why might we dance with bacteria?
How we may dance with bacteria?

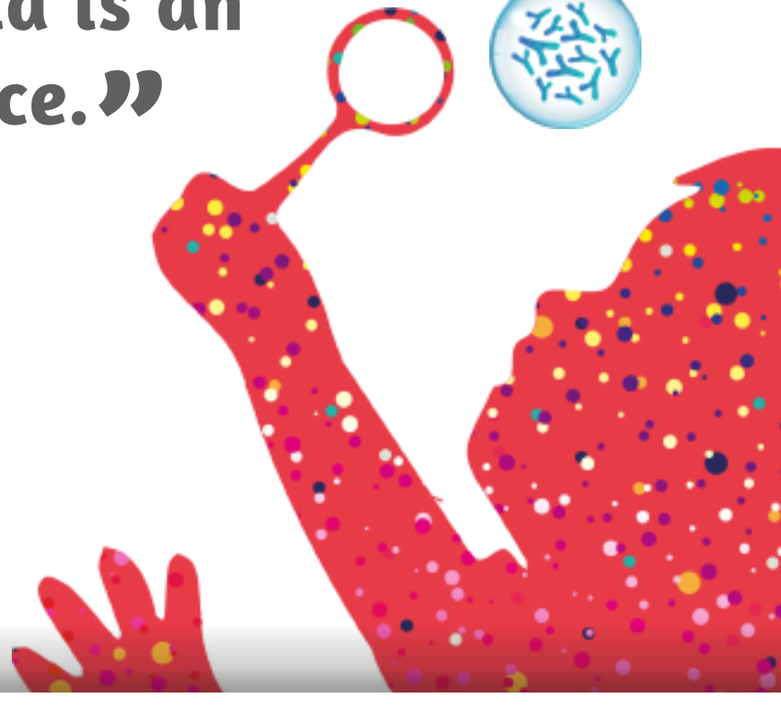
June 27th, 2024 / 11pm UTC





“ Dancing with bacteria means feeling and experiencing the microbial world as the heart of all ecosystems. Living, feeling, singing and dancing with bacteria is an essential part of our existence.”





Link to register: https://bit.ly/LetsDanceFriends

ReAct LATINOAMÉRICA

GRUPO REIMAGINANDO LA RESISTENCIA

The war metaphor has long governed human-bacterial and microbial relationships. It is built on fear, historical and inadequate knowledge of the invisible microbial world. We now know much more about how ecosystems of microbes including bacteria help generate and sustain life on the planet. These complex relationships of microbes are called microbiomes and taken together they are actively contributing to clean environments, sustaining food systems, mitigating climate change and keeping people healthy.

Dancing with bacteria and the whole microbial world is a more accurate and joyful metaphor to guide a new living relationship with bacteria and microbiomes of the planet and its many life forms.

In 2023, we celebrated World Microbiome Day with an international dialogue on Dancing with Bacteria. We drew attention to the lessons we can learn from bacteria, such as conserving diversity, adapting to change, working collectively, balanced consumption, and moving with ecological cycles. ‘Dancing with bacteria means feeling and experiencing the microbial world as the heart of all ecosystems. Living, feeling, singing and dancing with bacteria is an essential part of our existence.’

Currently, however, learning to dance with bacteria is a challenging task for all… In 2024, we will explore more deeply how to dance with bacteria and why we might dance with bacteria.

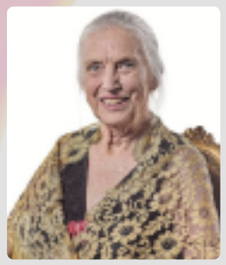
Date:
Thurs 27th June/Friday 28th, 2024

Duration:
1 hour and 15 minutes

Zoom link:
please register at
https://bit.ly/LetsDanceFriends
and a zoom link will be sent to you.

Australian east coast	9AM	Friday 28th June
Taiwan, Singapore	7AM	Friday 28th June
Bangkok	6AM	Friday 28th June
Sweden/Europe	1AM	Friday 28th June
London	Midnight	Thursday 27th June
Buenos Aires	8PM	Thursday 27th June
New York	7PM	Thursday 27th June
Ecuador/Peru/Colombia	6PM	Thursday 27th June
Mexico City	5 PM	Thursday 27th June
Los Angeles	4 PM	Thursday 27th June

PARTICIPANTS



Elizabeth Cameron Dalman, Australia

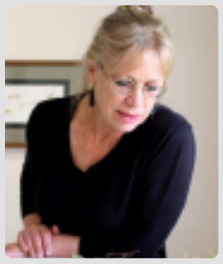
Dr Elizabeth Cameron Dalman, currently Director of **Mirramu Creative Arts Centre** and Artistic Director of **Mirramu Dance Company,** founded Australia's iconic contemporary dance company, **Australian Dance Theatre** and was its Artistic Director from 1965 - 1975. Elizabeth's more recent work has been focused on Dance in Nature and inter-cultural collaborations, especially with Australian First Nations artists and members of the Taiwanese dance community. She has been collaborating with Peng, Hsiao-yin, Artistic Director of Dancecology, Taiwan, for twelve years.

Elizabeth's career in dance spans more than six decades and she continues to explore new avenues in her work. Included among her many awards are an OAM for her contribution to contemporary dance in Australia, an Australian Artists Creative Fellowship, an ACT Creative Arts Fellowship and several Canberra Critics Circle Awards. In 2015 she was inducted into the Australian Dance Hall of Fame and awarded the Canberra Times Artist of the Year. In 2023 she was awarded the medal of Chevalière de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture in Paris.

Peng Hsiao-yin (Grace) and Dancecology, Taiwan

Peng Hsiao-yin (Grace) is the Artistic Director of Dancecology, founder of Dancescreen Collective Taiwan. She is a choreographer, dance-film director, and dance teacher. Peng received a B.A. in Agronomy and M.F.A. in Choreography.

Her practices focus on the connection between nature's ecosystem and dancers' movements. She enjoys developing interdisciplinary and intergenerational works, teaching and dancing with different people. She won the 2017 1-min dance-film competition of Jumping Frames International Dance Video Festival.



Sharon Field, Australia

In 2009, shortly after COP15 in Copenhagen (Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, 2015), I resigned from my government employment, which included several years with Australia's aid program in Africa and the Pacific to pursue a career as a full-time artist. With 20 years of experience as a volunteer fire-fighter, I have witnessed ecosystems in crisis and have become increasingly concerned about human impacts on the health of our planet's environment.

My passion for botanical art grew in parallel with my deepening interest in environmental issues. My artwork has strong environmental themes, and it has won awards both in Australia and overseas.

Stephen Sherwood, US-Ecuador

Stephen Sherwood (B.Sc. Penn State, M.P.S. Cornell, and Ph.D. Wageningen) is a farmer, Specialist in Knowledge, Technology, and Innovation at EkoRural (Quito, Ecuador), and external researcher and lecturer at Wageningen University. Steve has lived and worked in Latin America (Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador) for 30 years, where he has supported knowledge-based, people-centered approaches to social change and development. Previously, he was the Andes Regional Director at World Neighbors, held positions at the International Potato Center (CIP), the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture, and Development (CIIFAD), and with the FAO's Global IPM Facility introducing Farmer Field Schools in Latin America, including the implementation of over 4,500 FFS and the training of trainers in Bolivia, Perú, Ecuador, Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Honduras.

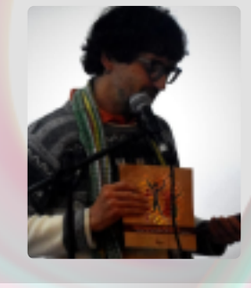
Steve and his wife own a family-run organic farm and CSA in Ecuador, Granja Urkuwayku, where they are active members of national and regional grower and consumer food movements. In addition, Steve is co-founder of several grassroots, community-based development initiatives. Currently, Steve is leading a research program in human-nonhuman inter-subjectivity in ecological soil management and emergent food networks to enable more regenerative agriculture and food in the highland Andes.

Johanna McBride and A Chorus of Women, Canberra, Australia

A Chorus of Women came into being with the singing of a lament in the Australian Parliament House, in response to the announcement in 2003 of Australia's participation in the war in Iraq. This lament was a song of solidarity with the women and men of Iraq and of sorrow for the coming horrible suffering. The focus of Chorus activities has broadened over its more than twenty years beyond 'peace on earth' to embrace many relational concerns, including 'peace with the earth'. Johanna McBride has been directing music for A Chorus of Women since 2003. For more detail see **www.chorusofwomen.org**

Peter Cameron, Australia - Rapporteur

Peter Cameron is largely self-taught and has painted, drawn and sculpted most of his life. He asserts that through the active participation of the imagination in the arts, we can learn about the reciprocal nature of diverse sensory perceptions. Working "en plein air" then becomes a realization of relational ontology. He has had about twenty solo exhibitions and has published poetry in "Cordite Poetry Review". His works have been included in numerous group exhibitions and are the subject of public and private collecting. Peter lives in Garigal Country, Sydney, Australia. www.petercameron.com



Klever Calle, Ecuador - Rapporteur

Communicator focused on health, ecology, water and rivers. Since 2004 he has been part of social and academic networks working together on social participation, science, ancestral knowledge and art. Co-author and co-editor of several publications on human and planetary health. Collaborator with ReAct Latin America and member of the environmental collective Yasunidos Guapondelig.

Arturo Quizhpe Peralta, Ecuador - Co-facilitator

Physician, Master of Science, Specialist in Pediatrics, Postgraduate degrees from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, University of London, Tel Aviv University, Radboud University, Nijmegen Medical Centre and University of Buenos Aires. For more than 40 years he has worked as a professor, researcher and international consultant in child health, participating in the foundation of several national, regional, and international academic and social organizations, including Action Against Antibiotic Resistance, (ReAct) of which he is currently the director for Latin America.

Mary Murray, Australia - Cco-facilitator

Pharmacist and Artist. She has worked for over 40 years in Australia, in many countries and in global settings to develop and implement equitable and effective National Medicines Policies (NMPs). For 10 years, she assisted the Philippines, Vietnam, Samoa and other countries in NMP development and implementation. In 2000, she helped organize the First People's Health Assembly in Bangladesh. From 2005 to 2014 she was global network coordinator of ReAct global. Past President of the International Society for Improving the Use of Medicines -ISIUM.

Juan Carlos Lopez, Ecuador – Communication Coordinator

Social Communicator. Currently the Coordinator of Communication for ReAct Latin America. For over 18 years, he has been a part of the Observatorio Ciudadano de la Comunicación de Cuenca, advocating for human rights in the media. He is a founding member of the Environmental Journalism Network of Ecuador, a network affiliated to the Earth Journalist Global Network. He has worked on numerous sustainable development programs in Latin America, collaborating with women's groups, food producers, environmental and water conservation initiatives, gender and youth participation programs. Additionally, he has served as a consultant for UN Women, FAO, UNDP, and government agencies in the region.

PROGRAM

1. Introduction

Mary Murray – International Reimagining Resistance Group

2. Resounding the Harmony - Reconnecting to the Whole

Johanna McBride A Chorus of Women, Australia
A metaphor is a symbol of civilisation and, through dialogue, can guide us to promote a culture of peace between people and with the earth. Presentation and song video.
Ubuntu: I am who I am because of you; we are who we are because of each other.

3. 3000 days ... and counting ... : Plants and Bacteria dancing together

Sharon Field, Botanical artist, Australia
The scroll project – how art is engaging people to help them understand climate change and the loss of plant diversity and its impact.

4. Farming for life: from 'feeding plants' to 'restoring ecosystems' and the lifeforce of Pachamama

Stephen Sherwood, Agroecologist, Ecuador
What is the meaning of dancing and interacting with microbes and the earth to grow food?
How to "dance with bacteria" in land care, restoration, and promoting the health of the soil microbiome, as well as sharing and interacting in the community itself?

5. Reflecting Weereewa: The Aura of the Bodyscape and Land

Dance performance Video
Elizabeth Dalman and Peng Hsaio-yin, Australia and Taiwan
Mirramu Dance Company and Dancecology

6. Dialogue with dancers: Taiwan and Australia

Elizabeth Cameron Dalman and Peng Hsiao Yin
What is the meaning of dancing – why does a dancer dance?
What is the anthropological meaning of dance? Why do people dance? What do they feel when they dance? What interaction do they feel with others and with 'other'. What does it mean to dance with nature?
Everyone likes to dance – is dancing perhaps a necessity – it is also a therapy?

7. Panel and Audience interaction

8. Conclusion

Arturo Quizhpe, Ecuador
Coordinator, ReAct Latin America

9. Song Vengan, Lleguen

Ulises Freire and musicians, Ecuador

What are microbiomes and why are they important?

Microorganisms (also called microbes, including bacteria, fungi, viruses, archaea, etc.) are pretty much everywhere. Even though they are usually invisible to the naked eye, they live in and on plants, animals, water, soil, food and humans. Within each of those habitats, microorganisms form communities called 'microbiomes'.

Microbiomes have many essential functions in the environments they live in. Researchers are uncovering more and more about what they do, and why this is so important to maintain the balance and health of their environment. For example, trillions of microorganisms live in and on our body (skin, mouth, lungs, intestines,…) where they actively help protect us from infections by fighting off bad bacteria, among other things. They also help us digest food, and produce vitamins and hormones that are essential for our health. Microbiomes can also be found in the soil, where they help plants to grow. They do this by fixing nitrogen – a gas from the atmosphere – in the soil and converting it into a form that plants can use for growth. Microbiomes of the ocean produce most of the oxygen we breathe and can absorb as much carbon dioxide as plants on land.

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