

Research and Ethics Proposal for Dissertation Projects
BA Commercial Dance

Section 1: Project Details

Project Title	<i>My Black Identity: Is systemic racism Prevalent in the South Wales dance industry?</i>	
Student Name	<i>Onyx Uwandulu</i>	
Application Category (select one)	<i>BA (Hons) Commercial Dance</i>	Yes
	<i>BA (Hons) Musical Theatre</i>	No
		No
Intended research start date	<i>15/10/25</i>	
Intended research end date	<i>31/01/26</i>	
Has this project been considered by another (external) Research Ethics Committee? <i>If yes, please provide the following information, and submit a copy of the approval letter with this application.</i>		No
External Committee Name:		
Date of Approval:		

Section 2: Project Summary

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Research methods (select all that apply)

Please attach questionnaires, visual methods and schedules for interviews (even in draft form).

- **Interviews YES**
- **Focus Groups**
- **Questionnaires**
- **Practice as Research**
- **Observation**
- **Use of Personal Records**
- **Systematic Review** *(if only method used, go to section 7)*
- **Secondary Data Analysis** *(if only method used, go to section 7) YES*
- **Advisory / Consultation / Collaborative Groups**
- **Other** *(please give details)*

Please provide an overview of your research.

This should include some or all of the following: purpose of the research, aims, main research questions, research design, participants, sampling, your method of data collection (e.g., observations, interviews, questionnaires, etc.) and kind of questions that will be asked.

My Black Identity aims to question the involvement of systemic racism in the dance industry and highlight the affects of racial issues on dancers of all ages. Within this project I aim to research into the existence of systemic racism particularly in South Wales, in what ways its present in 2025, historically the affect its had on equality and to also look at the issue through the lens of my own experience as a person with black heritage. In order to gain testimony from individuals with potentially similar experiences I will be conducting a series of interviews with dancers of all ages to hear them talk about how they personally believe their race has affected their journey as a dancer, whether that be as a hobby or in a professional setting.

The Documentary will be split into 4 sections in order to make research thorough and effective:

- Introduction: why i wanted to make this documentary, why this is important to me.
- Systemic racism: what does it look like? Where does it stem from? How is it prevalent in Wales? BLM and Wales today.
- My story: growing up in south wales as a black woman, how did the colour of my skin affect me? What effect did it have on my dance journey?
- Testimony: the largest section. Talking to black dancers young and old, what have their experiences been? How do they compare to my own? Is there a pattern?
- The industry going forward: What needs to change? How are we seeing changes today?

Section 3: Participants

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Will your research involve human participants? <i>If not, go to section 5.</i>	Yes
Who are the participants (i.e., what sort of people will be involved?) • Children (under 18) YES • Young People (aged 16-18) YES • Adults At Risk • Adults (please specify below) YES Adults with a background or professional experience in dance • Unknown (please specify below) • Other (please specify below)	
If participants are under the responsibility of others (such as parents, guardians, teachers, medical staff, etc.), how do you intend to obtain permission to approach the participants to take part in the study? <i>Please attach approach letters or details of permission procedures.</i> <i>I will be sending out a consent form to parents or guardians of all participants under 18, please see appendices</i>	
How will the participants be recruited (identified and approached)? I aim to conduct a mixture of approaching people within my sphere who I know fit the sample criteria And doing a public social media call out for welsh dancers of black heritage to respond to if they	
Describe the process you will use to inform participants about what you are doing. Each participant will receive a consent form outlining the purpose of the study and what would be expected of them as participants. They will also then receive a face to face briefing upon beginning the interviewing process where they will be reminded of the purpose of the study.	
How will you obtain the consent of participants? Will this be written? How will it be made clear to participants that they may withdraw consent to participate at any time? <i>Please note that the method of consent should be appropriate to the research and fully explained.</i> <i>Upon agreeing to be part of the study participants will receive a writing consent form outlining the study and their involvement that will need to be completed before an interview is arranged. Each consent form will also remind participants they are able to withdraw at any point. All involved will then be reminded of this at the beginning of their interview.</i>	
Studies involving questionnaires <i>Will participants be given the option of omitting questions they do not wish to answer?</i>	No

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<i>If NO, please explain why below, and ensure that you cover any ethical issues arising from this in section 6.</i>	
Studies involving observation <i>Confirm whether participants will be asked for their informed consent to be observed.</i>	NA
<i>If NO, read the guidelines (Ethical Issues section), and explain why below and ensure that you cover any ethical issues arising from this in section 6.</i>	
Might participants experience anxiety, discomfort or embarrassment as a result of your study?	Yes
<i>If YES, what steps will you take to explain and minimise this?</i> <i>If NO, explain how you can be sure that no discomfort or embarrassment will arise</i> <i>Participants may feel feelings of discomfort or anxiety when recalling potentially traumatic events regarding their race, in order to minimise this I aim to approach such topics with as much tact and empathy as possible. Participants will be interviewed in an informal comfortable environments of their choosing, participants will reserve the right to pause or finish the interview at any point without explanation. In the case of minors parents also reserve the right to conclude the interview on the Childs behalf, should they feel it necessary. If at any point I believe that participants seem to be in emotional distress or feeling extreme discomfort I will either pause in order for participants to gather themselves, change the line of questioning or conclude the interview of my own volition. In order to make the conversation less daunting and exposing should it be appropriate in the moment (and not leading in any way) I feel comfortable sharing my own personal experiences with participants in solidarity. Participants will have the right to decline answering any questions and be reminded of this regularly.</i>	
Will your project involve deliberately misleading participants (deception) in any way?	No
<i>If YES, please provide further details below and ensure that you cover any ethical issues arising from this in section 6.</i>	
Will you debrief participants at the end of their participation (i.e. give them a brief explanation of the study)?	Yes
<i>If NO, please explain why below and ensure that you cover any ethical issues arising from this in section 6.</i>	
Will participants be given information about the findings of your study?	Yes
<i>This could be a brief summary of your findings in general; it is not the</i>	
<i>If NO, why not?</i>	

Section 4: Systematic Review of Research

Only complete if applicable

Will you be collecting any new data from participants?	No
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Will you be analysing any secondary data?	Yes
If YES, please give further details in Section 6: Ethical Issues If your methods do not involve engagement with participants (e.g. systematic review, literature review) and if you have answered No to both questions, please go to Section 6.	

Section 5: Security-sensitive Material <i>Security sensitive research includes but is not limited to concerns terrorist or extreme groups.</i>	
Will you be visiting websites associated with extreme or terrorist organisations?	No
Will you be storing or transmitting any materials that could be interpreted as promoting or endorsing terrorist acts?	No
If YES, please give further details in Section 6: Ethical Issues If your methods do not involve engagement with participants (e.g. systematic review, literature review) and if you have answered No to both questions, please go to Section 5.	

Section 6: Ethical Issues <i>It is important that you demonstrate your awareness of potential risks or harm that may arise as a result of your research. You should demonstrate that you have considered ways to minimise the likelihood and impact of each potential harm that you have identified. Please consider / address ALL issues that may apply. Ethical concerns may include, but not be limited to, the following areas: Methods, sampling, recruitment, gatekeepers, informed consent, potentially vulnerable participants, safeguarding protection, sensitive topics, international research, risks to participants and/or researchers, confidentiality/anonymity, disclosures/limits to confidentiality, data storage and security both during and after the research (including transfer, sharing, encryption, protection), reporting, dissemination and use of findings.</i>	
Are there particular features of the proposed work which may raise ethical concerns or add to the complexity of ethical decision making?	Yes

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*If **YES**, please outline how you will deal with these. Please be as specific as possible in describing the ethical issues you will have to address*

Elements of this study requires talking to minors about potentially sensitive topics, these participants are vulnerable because of their age and so getting consent from a parents or guardian will be imperative. The parent or guardian will be present in the interview and will reserve the right to terminate the interview at any point should they feel their child is in any distress. A candid conversation about positive experiences with race following any negative conversations will also be imperative to not cause any long term anxiety.

There is also the risk of confidentiality, for example should a participant outline a racist events that involves another person as the perpetrator this may lead to ethical concerns. For this purpose participants will be asked to keep all names and locations anonymous to protect the identities of those around them.

Section 7: Declaration

I have discussed the ethical issues relating to my research with my Module/Leader.			Yes
I have read, understood and will abide by the following set of guidelines.			Yes
BERA - 5th Edition (2024)	Yes	Other (please state)	No
	No		No
I confirm that to the best of my knowledge: The above information is correct and that this is a full description of the ethics issues that may arise in the course of this project.			Yes
Student Name:	Onyx Uwandulu		
Date:	23/10/25		

Departmental Use

If a proposal raises ethics issues, or a more detailed review would be appropriate, Module Leaders may refer the application to the Ethics Committee for consideration.

Ethics Committee Review

Module Leader (or EC designate) name	
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<i>Comments</i>	
<i>Module Leader (or EC designate) signature</i>	
Decisions	
• Approved • Referred back to applicant and Module Leader • Referred to EC for review	
• Recorded in the Student Records	
<i>Date decision was made:</i>	<i>Date</i>