

Abstract: Reclaiming Consent – Intimacy Coordination as Artistic and Pedagogical Resistance

How can artistic education reclaim care, agency, and community in the wake of #MeToo and ongoing cultural shifts? Our project *(You) Can Touch This* explores how implementing consent culture and intimacy coordination in higher arts education can transform not only pedagogical practices, but the broader creative industries. Through interdisciplinary pilot modules at Kristiania's Institute of Performing Arts, Film and Media, we investigate how consent-based frameworks foster psychological safety, decolonization, and anti-hierarchical collaboration.

A survey of 215 students revealed a strong desire for early and continuous training in boundary-setting, communication, and mental health support. Students emphasized the need for shared language and protocols to navigate intimate and vulnerable situations—both on stage and behind the camera. Many reported past experiences where such tools were lacking, leading to discomfort or trauma.

By centering care and consent, we reclaim artistic practice as a form of civic engagement and community building. This paper presentation shares pedagogical insights and student reflections, contributing to a reframing of art education as a space for solidarity, inclusivity, and imaginative resistance.

Keywords: consent culture, intimacy coordination, arts education, decolonization, pedagogical resistance

Field: Performing Arts, Film and Media

Format: Paper presentation

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Mini-CV:

Signe Alexandra Domogalla:

Is an associate professor in dance at Institute for Performing Arts, Film and Media at Kristiania University for Applied Sciences. She is a multidisciplinary performing artist, choreographer and producer. Since 2013 she has been a part of the development of the first Norwegian BA program in Musical Theatre and through this developed new and innovative methods for teaching multidisciplinary performing arts. Her research interests center around decolonial and eco-sensitive artistic practices, hybrid spaces for performance (digital/physical), multimodal forms of performing and creating, autoethnography, migration and biographic narratives as basis for performance, as well as consent practices in performing art.

Alexandra (Lexie) Koren:

Is an intimacy coordinator, performing artist, and sexologist with extensive experience across film, television, theatre, and education. A pioneer in her field, she serves as the lead lecturer for Consent Culture and Intimacy Coordination at the Institute of Performing Arts, Film, and Media at Kristiania University College, Norway's first course of its kind. As a consultant and educator, she promotes safer and more authentic portrayals of intimacy, power, and relationships in creative work. Lexie also leads workshops and is part of the faculty at ESCAC's groundbreaking Fast Forward program in Barcelona, supported by Spain's Ministry of Culture and the EU's Next Generation funds.

Janne Haugland:

Janne Haugland is an actress and makeup artist. She has completed a Bachelor's degree in Acting and a one-year program in mask and hair design at Kristiania University for Applied Sciences. During and after these studies, Janne gained experience in the industry, both in front of and behind the camera and on stage. She also conducts makeup courses and workshops in mask design and theater makeup for amateur groups. Janne took Intimacy Coordination with Lexie Koren as an elective during her education. She is now a research assistant on the project, working from the student's perspective within the project.