ACTIVITIES REPORT NEP UFRJ_2023

Project: “Sea Matters - A pedagogical research performance-laboratory"

Partnership: Master in Performance of the Norwegian Theater Academy - MAP NTA (located in Fredrikstad, Norway) and Núcleo Experimental de Performance - NEP PPGAC ECO UFRJ (located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

UFRJ Process: 23079.223797/2023-16
FUJB Process: 27549-2
Effective Year: 2023

Coordination: Prof. Eleonora Batista Fabião
Co-coordination: Prof. Adriana Schneider Alcure and

1. Introduction:

The Atlantic Ocean, the sea that separates and unites us, womb and grave, is the medium, matter, and guide of action. We will research its stories, historiographies, and myths guided by counter-colonial theories and practices. We will articulate eco-politics and social justice, pedagogy and performance, human and other-than-human beings. Over four years – from 2023 to 2026 – we will carry out workshops (face-to-face and online), seminars (face-to-face and open to the public), collaborative and solo art projects, performative actions, graduate student residencies, speculative design of new curricula, and compose an online archive.

It is also a central aspect of the project working with local communities – in Rio de Janeiro with Muda Outras Economias and Ylê Asè Egi Omim Candomblé House, and in Fredrikstad with the Østfold International Theatre. We will work to establish and expand networks of cooperation, research, and sharing. We will collectively and collaboratively practice poetics and politics of life.

In 2023, as indicated in the "Work Plan", the following were carried out:

- 2 face-to-face workshops (at Praia Vermelha and at ECO UFRJ);
- 2 online meetings bringing together the participants of NEP ECO UFRJ and MAP NTA;
- 1 meeting at Ylê Asè Egi Omim Candomblé House;
- the creation of audiovisual material that was sent to Fredrikstad (1h10m video);
- the composition of a box with multiple materials that was sent via regular mail to Fredrikstad;

- the documentation of all mentioned practices.

All activities resulted in materials to compose the project's textual and image archive.

The details of each activity will be presented in Item 3: "Actions Developed."

2. Partnership Agreement signing process:

The Partnership Agreement signing process was long due to the need to analyze all procedures and documents by UFRJ, FUJB (Fundação José Bonifácio, UFRJ support foundation), and NTA, in addition to the translation of all documents.

From January to April, we worked on planning the actions for the four years of the project, detailing the allocation of financial resources and annual transfer amounts from NTA to FUJB. Period Activities:

2.01 - Meetings to define the actions of the four years, the services and contracts necessary to carry out the actions, and the financial resource transfer plan;

2.02 - Preparation of the Work Plan in Portuguese and English;

2.03 - Submission of the Work Plan for approval by the NTA;

2.04 - Submission of the Work Plan for approval by the support foundation (FUJB/UFRJ);

Between May and July, we worked on the approval process at the UFRJ units, and, in parallel, on the analysis of the Partnership Agreement's model proposed by UFRJ for the NTA:

2.05 - Submission of the Work Plan for approval by the Congregation of the UFRJ School of Communication (UFRJ unit where the project is linked);
note: the Congregation's meetings takes place once a month, which interfered with the processing time of the paperwork;

2.06 - After the approval of the Congregation of UFRJ's School of Communication, the process was approved by the Dean of UFRJ's Center of Philosophy and Humanities and its council (CFCH);
note: the Dean's counsil meeting also takes place once a month, which also interfered with the processing time of the paperwork;

2.07 - Submission of the UFRJ Partnership Agreement model for analysis by the NTA;

2.08 - Process opening at SEI/UFRJ (official electronic data system) to proceed with approvals and monitor execution;

2.09 - Submission of the necessary documentation for analysis by UFRJ's Administration Dean's Office (UFRJ unit responsible for the document analysis of the process), together with documents from UFRJ and the NTA;

2.10 - After analysis by UFRJ's Administration Dean's Office, the process was sent to UFRJ's Attorney's Office (sector responsible for legal analysis);
note: information about the support foundation had been removed from the Partnership Agreement model. After analyzing the documents, UFRJ's Attorney's Office requested the reinclusion of information about FUJB as it is the foundation that receives the financial resources.

In August and September, the updated Partnership Agreement was processed as requested by the Attorney's Office:

2.11 - After its approval, the Agreement was signed by the NTA, UFRJ, and FUJB;

2.12 - After signing, it was sent to UFRJ's Superior Council of Executive Coordination (CSCE) for approval;

In October and November, we worked on the transfer of funds from the NTA to FUJB:

2.13 - On October 4th, an invoice was sent from the support foundation to the NTA requesting the transfer;

2.14 - On October 20th, the NTA informed that the money had been sent to Brazil;

2.15 - On November 9th, the money arrived in Brazil;

2.16 - On this day, we started signing the contracts of the scholarships of the graduate students involved in the project;
note: this process requires the collection of documents that can only be done after the deposit of the resources in the project's account.

In December, the scholarships of the students were paid and the necessary services were hired:

2.17 - On December 5th, the payment of the students' scholarships was made;

2.18 - We are currently in the process of hiring the following services: Executive Production; Production for Ylê Asè Egi Omim Candomblé House's meeting; Video and Photo Recordings + Subtitling and Video Editing; Translation of the project texts and film subtitles from Portuguese to English.

It is important to highlight that all the procedures explained above are following the laws in force in Brazil: according to the Partnership Agreement signed with UFRJ, the financial resource in

question is a public resource. For this reason, for greater transparency in the execution of the project, the laws of the Brazilian Federal Government were followed.

3. **Participants of the project actions:**

To develop the actions, the following team participated in the project:

Pedagogical, administrative and financial Coordination:

- Prof. Eleonora Batista Fabião – General Coordination
- Prof. Adriana Schneider Alcure – Co-coordination
- Lerrânia Lima – Executive Production

Students of the Núcleo Experimental de Performance of the Postgraduate Program in Performing Arts (NEP PPGAC ECO UFRJ):

1. Bruno Alexandre Teixeira Alarcon - Master
2. Cátia Cilene Maria da Costa - Master
3. Charles Philippe Jacquard - Doctorate
4. Dieymes Pechincha Nascimento - Doctorate
5. Dyonne Chagas Boy - Doctorate
6. Francisco Inácio da Silva Mallmann - Doctorate
7. Jaqueline Souza de Andrade - Master
8. Marcos Vinícius Marinho Silva da Costa - Master
9. Mariah Valeiras Aguiar Miguel - Doctorate
10. Nadiana Assis de Carvalho - Doctorate
11. Natasha Souza Corbelino - Master
12. Nelson Bruno Delfino da Conceição - Doctorate
13. Nilen Lizeth Vergara Cohen - Master
14. Ricardo Alvarenga Ribeiro - Doctorate
15. Ricardo Cabral Pereira - Doctorate

The workshop held at Praia Vermelha also included the participation of other students from PPGAC, other programs at UFRJ, and other universities, as well as invited researchers:

1. Carolina Rosa - PPGAC UFRJ
2. Cristiane Souza - PPGARTES UERJ
3. Dandara Ribeiro - PPGDAN UFRJ
4. Daniel de Oliveira - PPGAC UFRJ
5. Erika Santos - PPGAC UFRJ
6. Lais Castro - PPGAC UFRJ
7. Natasha Pasquini - PPGAC UFRJ

8. Marcio Desideri - PPGAC UFRJ
9. Rubia Vaz - PPGAC UFRJ
10. Patrick Pessoa (guest researcher UFF)
11. André Lepecki (guest researcher NYU)

4. **Actions Developed:**

IN-PERSON NEP WKSP #1
Dates: 6/22, 6/29, 7/6, and 7/13

Four theoretical-practical face-to-face meetings were held to discuss readings and share memories and stories in order to develop our collaborative research by approaching concepts, practices and artistic works that deal with the Atlantic Ocean (directly or indirectly). The base study materials were texts, films, and songs produced by artists and thinkers dealing with Afro-Brazilian ancestry, studies of race, class and gender, religiosity, and oceanic culture, among others. As a result of this workshop, students created videos of a maximum of 5 minutes each that were sent to the NTA group. All videos were subtitled in English.

Youtube link: https://youtu.be/CWgsYeQVvW8?si=vmhD5MlLrQL8rNov

note: this link is and should remain restricted, as copyright issues have not yet been discussed.

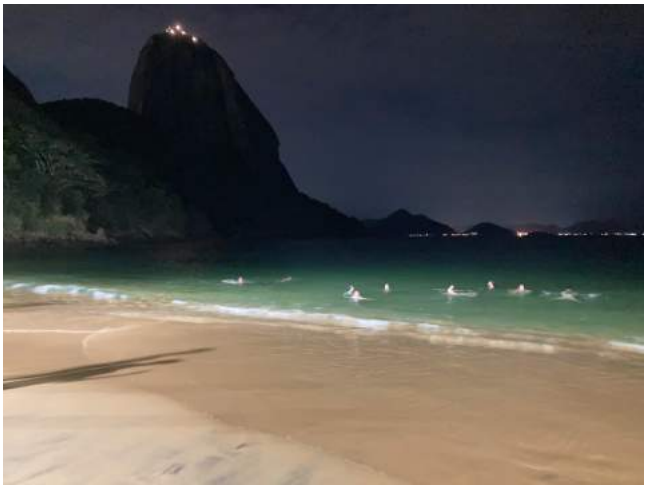
We also sent a box with “sea matters” that were received by our partners at NTA.

The following photos illustrate the meetings held at Praia Vermelha (Urca – Rio de Janeiro):












NEP at IN-PERSON WKSP #1 at Praia Vermelha.

IN-PERSON NEP WKSP #2
Dates: 7 and 8/11

Just as we sent a video of about 1h:10m subtitled in English to our interlocutors at NTA, we received a video from them subtitled in Portuguese. In this second in-person WKSP, we dedicated ourselves to reviewing the material we sent, watching the material sent by them, and debating another theme of the project: “imagining institutions.” The meetings took place at ECO UFRJ (room 104 and internal courtyard) and all began with body practices.



NEP at IN-PERSON WKSP #2 at ECO UFRJ.

Specifically with the NTA group, we held 2 online meetings:

NEP+NTA ONLINE MEETING #1
Date: 9/4

Our objective at this meeting was to present the project as a whole to the groups of both institutions and to introduce ourselves personally through our research to each other. Photo of the meeting:



NEP and NTA on the first online meeting.

NEP+NTA ONLINE MEETING #2

Date: 11/10

Our goal in this second online group meeting was to dialogue about the materials sent (videos and boxes). To this end, we subdivided the collective into four subgroups. When we met again, it was up to representatives from each group to share what was discussed.

On this occasion, we also talked about the schedule of our meetings in Rio de Janeiro (April 2024) listening to suggestions and requests, as well as presenting our proposals.

IN-PERSON NEP MEETING at Ilê Axé Egi Omim

Date: 12/14

In this meeting held at the Ilê Axé Egi Omim Candomblé House, we had the opportunity to get to know the space and its traditions, listen to a beautiful lecture by Yá Wanda d'Omolu on the notion of Ori, the religion, their Candomblé House, diasporic ancestry, and the relationship with the sea.

Below are photos of this meeting:







NEP at Ilê Axé Egi Omim.

5. **Conclusion:**

The first year of the “Sea Matters” project was marked, on the one hand, by extreme bureaucratic work and, on the other, by the beginning of a deep relationship with our subject of study, with new ways of studying and with our partner institution. Dealing with “Sea Matters” brought new archives, bibliographies, theoretical-conceptual issues, interpersonal relations, interspecies relations, and pedagogical, aesthetic, and socio-political perspectives. The study of Afrodiasporic cultures in Brazil was especially important. We analyzed and debated texts by authors such as Beatriz Nascimento, Denise Ferreira da Silva, Leda Maria Martins, and Glicéria Tupinambá; also texts by Édouard Glissant and Antônio Bispo dos Santos. We studied and discussed the work of important creators: Daiara Tukano, Denilson Baniwa, Ayrson Heráclito, Rosana Paulino, Arthur Bispo do Rosário, and Paulo Nazareth. Certainly, the current research processes of all those involved, teachers and students, grew with the meetings, exchanges, and creative processes developed.

Among the activities carried out, we highlight the process of creating the videos sent to the NTA. We carried out an intensive work that provided great dialogues, energized each participant’s research, and strengthened our artistic collaboration at NEP. The same during the process of composing the box that we sent to Fredrikstad in October. Another remarkable moment was the reception of the videos created by the NTA MAP students – it was extremely significant to learn more about their interests and creative methods. As for the box sent by them, unfortunately, it was retained at customs, and it has not yet been delivered.

Also important to mention that it is particularly meaningful to be developing this project in the post-pandemic period. The collective illness caused by the COVID-19 virus, the social distancing and its sequelae is combated through a markedly collective project, based on listening pedagogy, ecopolitical awareness (attention to interpersonal and interspecific relationships), and actions aimed at individual and collective health. As proposed in the project, we experienced throughout the year pedagogical and artistic actions that affirm life in a countercolonial way and reimagine possibilities for the academic institution today. And, remarkably, we are collectively learning about the crucial meaning of the SEA in this movement – the concrete and symbolic importance of the oceans, the SEA as a unique referent for the opening of artistic and political imagination, the SEA as a source of historical, ecological and social knowledge.

Finally, conversation circles are not something new for NEP. However, conversations change substantially when we leave the classrooms and sit on the sacred floor of a Candomblé house or the sands of the beach by the sea. We appreciate the opportunity to continue looking for new spaces that greatly inspire our pedagogical, artistic, and theoretical processes. We appreciate the opportunity to follow the journey in such an inspiring company. Thank you very much! We hope to continue discovering together ways to know, live, and share our cultural diversity and its richness.



NTA group watching the video sent by NEP at the Norwegian Theater Academy.

PPGAC Programa de Pós-Graduação em Artes da Cena

nep núcleo experimental de performance

Accountability Year 2023

Project: "SEA MATTERS: A Performance Research Pedagogy Laboratory"

DESCRIPTION	REAIS Exchange Rate 0,43880		NOK	
	INCOME	EXPENSES	INCOME	EXPENSES
Deposit First Installment 01/04 - 2023	48.268,00		110.000,00	
10% FUJB (supporting foundation)		4.826,80		11.000,00
Scolarship - Bruno Alarcon		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Dieymes Pechincha		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Francisco Mallmann		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Jaqueline Andrade		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Natasha Corbelino		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Nelson Bruno Delfino		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Ricardo Cabral		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Marcos Marinho		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Ricard@ Alvarenga		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Charles Jacquard		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Nadiana Carvalho		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship - Cátia Costa		700,00		1.595,26
Scolarship + Translations - Nilen Cohen		4.400,00		10.027,35
Scolarship + Writer + Producer - Mariah Valeiras		5.100,00		11.622,61
Executive Producer		8.300,00		18.915,22
Production for the encounter at Ilê Axé Egi Omim		1.450,00		3.304,47
Documentation Video and Photos Encounter Ilê Axé Agi Omim		2.000,00		4.557,89
Text Translations + Subtitles to the video made by NEP to NTA		7.300,00		16.636,28
	48.268,00	**41.776,80**	**110.000,00**	**95.206,93**
	Balance for 2024	**6.491,20**	**Balance for 2024**	**14.793,07**

Consecutive Translation (will be used to complement the service in 2024)	5.000,00	11.660,45
Resources destined to Exchange Rates that were not charged	1.000,00	2.332,09
Exchange Rates Difference	491,20	1.145,52