

# LANGUAGE OF GESTURE

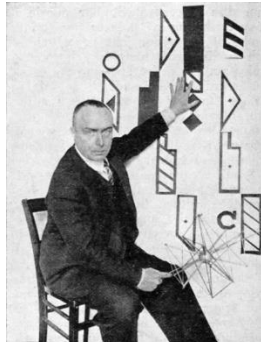
A DuVersity event May 10-13, Claymont Court, West Virginia



J.G. Bennett leading movements - 1973

This is an ambitious and pioneering attempt to encompass multiple aspects of the meaning of dance and, specifically, the 'language of gesture'. Our compass will include the Movements of Gurdjieff as prime case study material, but also many other kinds of dance and work with the body. There will be an overview of dance ancient and modern, east and west from, for example, the Odissi tradition of India to the hip-hop of America. Special attention will be paid to developments in twentieth century Europe, including various attempts to find spirituality through dance.

Our world or 'monad' of gesture will include the sources of gesture in work practices and the behaviour of animals, its expressive functions in theatre and its ritual meanings in ceremonies. We will look at the phenomenology of body image and awareness and various physical therapies, as well as the nature of eastern *mudras* and yoga. A special session will look at the history of gestures of prayer. This will lead us into the form of rituals, such as the Mass; and the general function of preserving cultural memories.

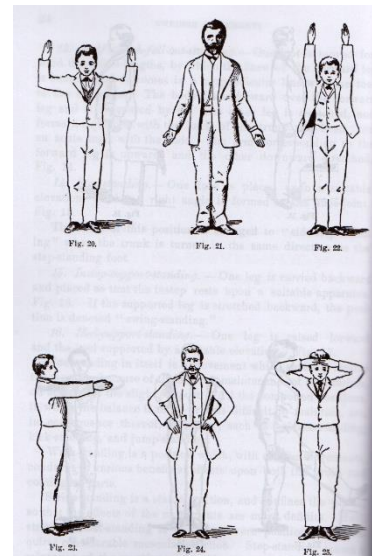


Rudolf van Laban with his notation

There will be sessions focussed on the role of music, especially with regard to rhythm and its relation to time. Particular Movements of Gurdjieff will be practised and analysed. The mathematical patterns of dance will be looked at, from the Baroque to Gurdjieff. This will be related to the notation of dance, leading us into how we learn a Movement, for example, and the burning question of *what is its content?* Gurdjieff expressed the idea that dances were at one time like books. At

another time, he implied that specific gestures corresponded to or evoked specific inner states. We will see how far we can test such ideas. A third aspect, is how each of us has a unique *signature of gesture* and there is a special work of blending intentional practices into our everyday life and activities.

Behind the various expositions and explorations we will be bearing in mind the bold statement by John Bennett that *gesture is the language of will*.



Gymnastics once practised by Gurdjieff

The event will be facilitated by Deborah Rose Longo, well known teacher of Gurdjieff Movements, Elan Sicroff pianist and interpreter of the music of Thomas de Hartmann, Anthony Blake, Director of Research of the DuVersity, and Molly Knight on piano.

*The Language of Gesture* is the latest in a series of seminars supported by the DuVersity that began in 2000 with *Systematics and Globalization*. The last three seminars were *The Real Present Moment*, *Music* and *The Dramatic Universe and Beyond*. The series is dedicated to developing and applying the method of *systematics*, emphasising progression in depth and *unity in diversity and diversity in unity*.



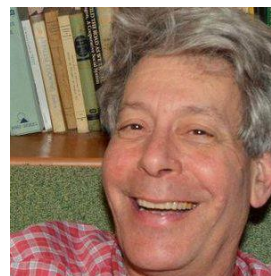
**Gudea of Lagash**



**Anthony**



**Deborah**



**Elan**



**Molly**

## **Outline of Program**

**The program is subject to revision as it adapts to the participants and what emerges in the process.**

*During the course of the seminar we will use the Gurdjieff 'stop' exercise to increase awareness of what we are doing in the moment.*

### **THURSDAY**

We begin on Thursday night with a vista of dance and movement over the ages until the present day.

### **FRIDAY**

On Friday we have a series of sessions, each of which will contain information and conversation, exercises and movements, music and illustrations:

- . mechanical, physical, medical and gymnastic
- . the moving center and dynamism of the centers

- . memory, notation and sources of gesture
- . rhythm in music, dance, craft and thought
- . expression and theatre, drama and speech
- . 'inner work' in the Gurdjieff movements and the finer bodies

We will show a illustrative compendium of dance in the twentieth century giving a context for Gurdjieff's movements.

## **SATURDAY**

We will continue on Saturday with:

- . the history and forms of prayer
- . patterns and structures of movements and the 'multiplications' of Gurdjieff
- . the language of will
- . the construction of a simple movement from our experience
- . relevance of modern physics, the *holomovement* of David Bohm
- . revealing oneself in movement
- . the gesture of every moment

We hope to have a concert from our musicians.

## **SUNDAY**

On Sunday morning we will revisit the various themes and practice some of the things shown and created, ending the seminar at lunch.

## **Gesture in Spain**



The seminar has been run in slightly simplified form in Spain this Easter, with great success.

## **Practical Details**

- Dates: May 10-13, 2018. The seminar will begin with dinner on Thursday evening and end with lunch on Sunday.
- Location: The Claymont Society for Continuous Education  
Charles Town, WV 25414  
(See [www.society.claymont.org](http://www.society.claymont.org) for more information about the Claymont Society)
- Cost: \$495 includes lodging and meals

*For more information and to register: please contact Matt Zenkovich – [zenkm1428@gmail.com](mailto:zenkm1428@gmail.com)*

## **Registration and Payment Instructions**

Thank you for your interest in attending the “Language of Gesture” seminar being presented by DuVersity. To register for the seminar, please send an email to [zenkm1428@gmail.com](mailto:zenkm1428@gmail.com) with the following information:

Name

Email Address

Cell Phone Number

Dietary restrictions/preferences. - The Claymont kitchen accommodates: Vegetarian, Dairy Free, Gluten Free

If you pay by March 1, the registration fee is \$450, after March 1, it will be \$495.

You can pay by check, credit card or PayPal.

Payment by Check

Checks should be made payable to DuVersity and mailed to Matt Zenkovich 299 Westwoods Ln Charles Town, WV 25414

## **Credit Card/PayPal**

To pay by credit card or PayPal, go to the DuVersity Website ([duversity.org](http://duversity.org))

In the lower left, you will see a “Donate” button. Press the button and follow the instructions for a donation. (There is not a special button or feature to pay the registration fee for the seminar, so just use the donation button for the registration fee).

As part of the payment process, there will be an option to “Add special instructions to the seller”.

Click on this and a memo field will appear. In the memo field, indicate the payment is for the “Language of Gesture seminar”

After you have paid the registration fee, please send me an email ([zenkm1428@gmail.com](mailto:zenkm1428@gmail.com)), letting me know that you have paid the registration fee. I will be sending out additional information as we get closer to the event. However, feel free to send me an email if you have questions or need additional information.