

## *Mama D. Ujuaje*

***'We are thinking of rejecting being human, in favour of recognising/rebodying our more-than-human powerful relations – Wynterian praxis as practice/refusing over-representation and errors of colonial time and space/learning beyond trauma/understanding that the Food system is premised on violence and unrelinquished harm/Reparative Justice centres care'.***



Of the African diaspora routed through the Caribbean, Mama D Ujuaje is a creative, a community researcher and learning facilitator. Trained in Agriculture, horticulture with experience living and working with communities urban and rural across East and West Africa and the Caribbean and with a focus in decolonial and live art based processes, she has developed a variety of interactive learning experiences and explorations around the constitution and wielding of power at different social scales and geographies. She explores and examines the constructs of modernity/coloniality which disrupt and divert attention from somatic and social healing, repair and revitalisation. Her deep care and consistent attention is recognised as a critical mechanism through which working and living relationships have been successfully negotiated at different levels of organisation.

She is a Community Researcher and Facilitator whose background is in Nourishment praxis and embodied and art-based advocacy towards Socially Transformative Justice. She currently curates, within Community Centred Knowledge, Learning Journeys, exploring the interfaces of community, legacies of colonialism and the modernity which is constituted by it and systems of justice via art, culture and other than human 'lenses'. She uses embodied, multi-sensory and action research methods to interrogate the interfaces of both community and academic



institutional knowledge assemblage and flow. She is interested in how humans navigate justice issues over time and space and how all beings manage personal and social trauma within bodies located across the ecologies and territories of the Anthropocene. Mindful and sensitive to the value of cultural, social and ethical archetypes through which human sense-making is articulated, she encourages a range of creative authenticities to connect, co-inform and strengthen participatory and engaged learning and praxis. Mama D has been invited to a variety of spaces to share innovative, decolonial art based learning practice and to work alongside others to co-produce community centred learning. She is a plant whisperer traversing old and new worlds of the pluriverse.

### ***Current activities include***

**The Westway Trust: Journey to Nourishment:** working with marginalised and minoritised communities to identify and coproduce new and revitalised narratives of power. We will translate and reconfigure histories into meaningful art and support each other in this process between the various locations across urban Britain. We will use the medium of The Food Journey as a starting point and process to navigate the

emergence of underlying systemic trauma and collectively learn to navigate and repair bodyminds through centring self and collective care and improved systems of localised nourishment practice.

**Untold Stories:** working with a transformative artist: *Brown Baby* in the Westway Trust Area, to begin a process of capturing intergenerational stories and making meaningful public art. We will extend our relationship with The Pepperpot Centre and local schools to explore what constitutes art practice within the private lives of those whose stories do not often surface within communities.



**The History Project:** Following an upheaval of a project within a regional Museum in a British locality well known for its present being embedded in its legacies of human trafficking in colonial history, we felt it necessary to challenge the narrative of the liberal humanism of the institution. We are currently developing a tableaux of creative interventions to revisit narratives of empire and colonial traumas as institutionalised/systemic immobilities. We draw on various relationships invoked in the modern museum 'collecting the world' and decolonial aesthetics to examine and explore through live art our

entanglement in the current crisis of climate which has been present across the capitalocene and particularly represented by the disrepair of bodies travelled and unravelled by the audacities of human idea of enslavement and violent extraction, expropriation and harm in the name of empire.

**Race and Climate Justice:** supporting workshops to extend the understanding of the relationship of colonial legacies to environmental/climate injustices across the globe which included the Soul Deep sessions.

Mama D has many unpublished presentations and is always writing. Some of those that are out there currently include the below, but more are gestating and being given birth to:

**Journal:** Breadlines in collaboration with People's Knowledge (Coventry University)

**The Sensory Character of Vision** in Wild Alchemy Journal

D, Mama. 2017. **Reclaiming the yam: a critical journey into the origin and transformation of our food** in Everyday Experts: How people's knowledge can transform the food system. Anderson et al (eds) Reclaiming Diversity and Citizenship Series. Coventry: Coventry University. Available at: [www.coventry.ac.uk/everyday-experts](http://www.coventry.ac.uk/everyday-experts).

Ujuaje, M.D.; Chang, M. 2020. **Systems of Food and Systems of Violence: An Intervention for the Special Issue on "Community Self Organisation, Sustainability and Resilience in Food Systems"**. *Sustainability*, 12, 7092. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12177092>

Von der Haide et al. 2021. **Sharing the Harvest. Transformative artful and activist methodologies for urban agroecology** in Resourcing an Agroecological Urbanism: Political, Transformational and Territorial Dimensions Edited by Chiara Tornaghi and Michiel Dehaene (contributing to the chapter)

