

# ALESSANDRA WILLIAMS

## Education

**Ph.D., Program in Culture and Performance, Department of World Arts and Cultures Dance, University of California, Los Angeles** 2016

- *Dissertation: Decolonizing Alliances: Afro-Asian Choreographies by David Rousève/REALITY and Ananya Chatterjea/Ananya Dance Theatre*
- *Committee:* Profs. David Delgado Shorter (chair), David Gere, Aparna Sharma, and Shana L. Redmond

**M.A., Program in Culture and Performance, Department of World Arts and Cultures Dance, University of California, Los Angeles** 2013

**B.A., American Studies major & Dance minor, Macalester College, Saint Paul, Minnesota** 2007

## Honors and Awards

- Society of Dance History Scholars Travel Award 2016
- UCLA Departmental Dissertation Award 2015–16
- UCLA Institute of American Cultures Dr. Shirley Hune Inter-Ethnic/Inter-Racial Studies Award 2015–16
- UCLA Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship 2010-14
- UCLA Graduate Division Research Travel Grant 2014
- UCLA Center for the Study of Women Travel Grants 2014,2011
- World Arts and Cultures Dance (WACD) Travel/Research Awards 2011-4
- Mellon Mays Predoctoral Research Development Grant 2014
- UCLA Research Library Summer Teaching Institute Fellow 2014
- Mellon Mays Predoctoral Graduate Studies Enhancement Grants 2011-3
- UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award 2013
- Community Foundation Stanley J. Tarver Memorial Scholarship 2012-3
- UCLA Chancellor's Award 2011-2
- Northwestern University Department of Performance Studies Black Feminist Performance Summer Institute Fellow 2011
- Minnesota Grassroots Solutions Organizer of the Year Award 2010
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship 2005-07
- Macalester College David Wick Endowed Prize for Choreography 2006
- Macalester Lilly Prize for Summer Internship 2004

## Research

- "*Moreechika: Season of Mirage: Dancing Indigenous and African Diaspora Resistance.*" In *Meditations on Dream*, ed. Ananya Chatterjea and Hui Wilcox (Decolonizing Feminisms: Anti-Racist and Transnational Praxis Series, University of Washington Press). 2018

- “Decolonizing Alliances: The Terms of World Dance in David Roussève/REALITY’s *Saudade*.” In *Dancing the African Diaspora*, ed. Takiyah Nur Amin and Thomas DeFrantz (Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies Series Vol. 36, Society of Dance History Scholars).

2017
- “Mixing Puppetry with Ethnography, Part Two: The ‘Fugitive’ Terms of Contemporary Indian Dance.” *UCLA Center for the Study of Women Newsletter*.

2015
- “Mixing Puppetry with Ethnography at the Ananya Dance Theatre: Field Report.” *UCLA Center for the Study of Women Newsletter*.

2012

## **Papers and Presentations**

### **Scholarship**

- Presenter, “Decolonizing Queer of Color Bodies: The Narrative and Dance Technique of David Roussève/REALITY,” American Studies Association Conference, Denver, Colorado

2016
- Presenter, “Allying Against Appropriation: The Contemporary Indian Dance/Jazz Aesthetic of Ananya Dance Theater,” Society of Dance History Scholars, Pomona, California

2016
- Presenter, “Stardust: Dancing Queer Praxis,” for Queer Publics, Queer Praxis [QP^2] Graduate Student Conference, University of Minnesota

2016
- Presenter, “Afro-Asian Performance Methods in the Americas,” for the Hemispheric Blackness: Afro-Diasporic Politics & Performance Across the Americas work group, Hemispheric Institute, Santiago, Chile

2016
- Guest Lecturer, “Performing Social Justice: Ananya Dance Theater’s *Horidraa*,” for #Say Her Name: Black Women and Performance course in the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Department of Theater and Dance

2016
- Guest Lecturer, “Writing and Performing Autoethnographies,” for Oral Histories in Performance course in the Macalester Department of Theater and Dance

2016
- Guest Lecturer, “Critiquing the Possibilities of Resistance in Global Hip-Hop: A Dance Analysis of the Film *Rize*,” for Black History Month Series, East Side Freedom Library, Saint Paul, MN

2016
- Guest Lecturer, “Theorizing Embodiment/Feminism,” for Civil Rights and Black Power Movement, 1954–1984 course in the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Department of African American and African Studies

2015
- Guest Speaker, “The Collaborative Aesthetic of Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company,” for Arts Encounters course in UCLA Art and Architecture

2015
- Guest Lecturer, “Choreographing Labor: David Roussève’s

2014

*The Whispers of Angels,*” for Heteronormative Colonialism course in UCLA Department of Gender Studies

- Guest Lecturer, “Performing and Writing ‘An Exploration of Land, Narrative, and Performance,’” for World Arts/Local Lives course 2013
- Presenter, “An Exploration of Land, Narrative, and Performance,” [the synopsis of the M.A. Thesis] for *Chew On This* Presentation Series in WACD 2012
- Guest Lecturer, “‘Run the World (Girls):’ Performing Neoliberal Theory and Practice,” for Introduction to World Arts and Cultures course 2011
- Presenter, “Why Transnational/Global Feminism?,” for Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Panel, Macalester College 2007
- Presenter, “‘The Black Dancing Body’,” for Annual Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Conference, Oberlin College 2005

### Teaching

- Guest Lecturer, “Dancing Black Feminism,” for the Bodacious Hip Hop Dance Team, Macalester College 2016
- Guest Lecturer, “African Diasporic Performance Analysis through works by Beyoncé Knowles and Kendrick Lamar,” for Sociology Club, St. Kate’s University 2016
- Guest Lecturer, “Close Reading Strategies: Chapter Three of *The Authors of the Impossible*,” for Aliens, Psychics, and Ghosts course, WACD 2014
- Roundtable participant, “Challenging Normative Teaching Paradigms,” for Teaching Assistant Seminar course, WACD 2014
- Roundtable participant, “Strategic Methods for Intersectionality and Positionality in Teaching,” for Teaching Assistant Seminar course 2013
- Roundtable participant, “Teaching Strategies and Best Practices,” for Teaching Assistant Seminar course 2012

### Service

- Introduction to Keynote Speaker Andrea Jenkins, for Winton Cornerstone Event “Learning to Breathe: Black Feminism, Performative Pedagogies, and Creative Praxis,” University of Minnesota 2016
- Introductory Address, “Bodacious-ness: Envisioning Black Feminism, African Diasporic Performance, and Social Justice through Hip Hop Dance,” for Bodacious Hip Hop Dance Team Showcase, Macalester 2016
- Roundtable participant, “Surviving Graduate School,” for the first year Graduate Student Introduction Series, WACD 2011

- Roundtable participant, “Examining the Souls of Black Folks: The Politics of Identity for Black People,” for *Soup and Substance* Series, Macalester Lealtad-Suzuki Center 2004
- Featured Student Speaker, “Don’t Trip,” for Southwest High School Graduation, Minneapolis, MN 2003

## **Employment** (all courses taught at UCLA unless indicated otherwise below)

### **Courses, Seminars, and Instructional Units, as Instructor**

- DANC 315 Reading the Dancing Body: Topics in Dance History, Instructor (Carleton College) 2017
- WL ARTS 33 Indigenous Worldviews, Instructor 2017
- AFRO/HIST 3120 Social and Intellectual Movements in the African Diaspora, Co-Instructor with Peter Rachleff (University of Minnesota) 2016
- DANCE 11 Beginning Yoga, Instructor 2015
- WL ARTS 33 Indigenous Worldviews, Instructor 2014
- WL ARTS 33 Indigenous Worldviews, Instructor 2013

### **Courses, Seminars, and Instructional Units, as Teaching Fellow, Associate, Assistant, or Preceptor**

- ART&ARC 10 Arts Encounters, Meryl Friedman and David Gere 2015
- WL ARTS 51W Aliens, Psychics, and Ghosts, David Shorter 2014
- WL ARTS 24 World Arts/Local Lives, Polly Roberts 2013
- WL ARTS 33 Indigenous Worldviews, David Shorter 2013
- WL ARTS 100B Art as Moral Action, Peter Sellars 2012
- WL ARTS 124 Introduction to Field-Based Research, David Shorter 2012
- WL ARTS 33 Tribal Worldviews, David Shorter 2012
- WL ARTS 1 Introduction to World Arts and Cultures, Rosemary Candelario 2011
- AMST 110 Introduction to African American Studies, Duchess Harris (Macalester) 2005

## **Performances**

### **Choreographic/Creative Research**

- “Layers: Black Transnational Bodies,” Macalester Black Liberation Affairs Committee & The Spark Collaborative Showcase, Weyerhaeuser Chapel 2016
- “An Exploration of Land, Narrative, and Performance,” [the solo performance] *Chew On This* Presentation Series in WACD, Kaufman Hall 2012
- “Until the End of Time,” *Quantum Leaps: The Science of Motion* Macalester Department of Theater and Dance Student Choreographers Concert, Janet Wallace Fine Arts Building 2007
- “Raging Humanity,” *Inverted Force* Macalester Student Concert 2006
- “Amazing Grace,” *Toeing the Line* Macalester Student Concert 2005
- “Who Amongst You Here Today,” Macalester Black Liberations Affairs Committee Showcase, Campus Center 2005
- “A Scintillating Performance,” Macalester *Umoja Cultural Show and Dance Competition*, Alexander G. Hill Ballroom 2005
- “Thriving Souls of Survival,” *Peripheral Movement and the Organization of Feet: A Repertory Dance Concert*, Macalester Student Concert 2004
- “Spoken Expression,” Macalester *Diversity Weekend 2004: Race and* 2004

*Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

- “Dance Expression: ‘Get Busy,’” *Diversity Weekend 2004* 2004

**Performances**

- *Horidraa: Golden Healing*, Ananya Dance Theater, O’Shaughnessy Theater, Saint Paul, MN 2016
- “Stimela,” Fall Dance Concert, Macalester Department of Theater and Dance, Janet Wallace Fine Arts Building, Mainstage Theater 2016
- *Dreams of Our Ancestors*, Macalester African Music Ensemble and the Theater and Dance Department Showcase, Mairs Concert Hall 2016
- “Gazillion Strong Presents: Sex, Dance, and Rock & Roll,” Ananya Dance Theater, Bedlam Lowertown, Saint Paul, MN 2016
- *Roktim: Nurture Incarnadine*, Ananya Dance Theater, O’Shaughnessy 2015
- *Mohona: Estuaries of Desire*, Ananya Dance Theater, O’Shaughnessy 2013
- *Moreechika: Season of Mirage*, Ananya Dance Theater, the National Academy for the Performing Arts, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad 2012
- *Moreechika: Season of Mirage*, Ananya Dance Theater, Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN 2012
- *Moreechika: Season of Mirage*, Ananya Dance Theater, Conwell Dance Theater, Philadelphia, PA 2012
- *Disclosure Tactics*, choreographed by Sarah Wilbur, Kaufman Hall Theater, University of California, Los Angeles 2012
- *Ashesh Barsha: Unending Monsoon*, Ananya Dance Theater, Southern 2009
- *Pipaashaa: Extreme Thirst*, Ananya Dance Theater, Southern 2007
- “Special Guest Choreography” by Patience Sewor, *Macalester and University of St. Thomas African Music Ensembles*, Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Concert Hall 2004
- “A Sunday Afternoon,” choreographed by Theresa Madaus, Macalester Student Concert 2003

**Service****University**

- Co-Chair, Professional Development Committee, WACD 2011–12
- Macalester Hip Hop Dance Team, Founder, President, Choreographer, and Creator of the Executive Board 2004-7
- Co-Chair, Black Liberation Affairs Committee, Macalester 2005–6
- Facilitator, Black Women of the Diaspora Collective, Macalester 2004–5
- Student Representative, Chaplain Visioning Team 2004

**Community**

- Review Panelist, Arts Access Grant Committee, Minnesota State Arts Board 2016
- Campaign Coordinator, HIRE Minnesota Coalition, Minneapolis, MN 2008–10

**Professional Memberships**

- American Studies Association
- Society of Dance History Scholars