

ALESSANDRA WILLIAMS

EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D., Program in Culture and Performance, Department of World Arts and Cultures Dance, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2013 M.A., Program in Culture and Performance, Department of World Arts and Cultures Dance, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2007 B.A., American Studies major & Dance minor, Macalester College, Saint Paul, Minnesota
- 2003 International Baccalaureate Program Diploma, Southwest High School, Minneapolis Minnesota

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018-19 Inclusive Excellence Fellowship, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater
- 2010-14 UCLA Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship
- 2005-07 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2019 Dance Studies Association/Mellon Pre-Conference Seminar Participant
- 2017 UCLA Office of Instructional Development Mini Grant Awards
- 2017 East Side Freedom Library Conference Travel Grant Award
- 2016 Society of Dance History Scholars Travel Award
- 2015-6 UCLA Departmental Dissertation Award
- 2015-6 UCLA Institute of American Cultures Dr. Shirley Hune Inter-Ethnic/Inter-Racial Studies Award
- 2014 UCLA Graduate Division Research Travel Grant
- 2014, 2011 UCLA Center for the Study of Women Travel Grants
- 2011-14 World Arts and Cultures Dance (WACD) Travel/Research Awards
- 2014 Mellon Mays Predoctoral Research Development Grant
- 2014 UCLA Research Library Summer Teaching Institute Fellow
- 2011-13 Mellon Mays Predoctoral Graduate Studies Enhancement Grants
- 2013 UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award
- 2012-3 Community Foundation Stanley J. Tarver Memorial Scholarship
- 2011-2 UCLA Chancellor's Award
- 2011 Northwestern University Performance Studies Black Feminist Summer Institute Fellow
- 2010 Minnesota Grassroots Solutions Organizer of the Year Award
- 2006 Macalester College David Wick Endowed Prize for Choreography
- 2004 Macalester Lilly Prize for Summer Internship
- 2003 MN Org. on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention & Parenting Teen of the Year Award

PUBLICATIONS

Under Review. "Dancing Intersectional Spiritualities: Tracing Black Feminism in Indian Dance Practice and Pedagogy through Yorhhā Technique of Ananya Dance Theatre." *Feminist Studies*.

Under Review. "Choreographing Crossings: A Case Study of Afro-Asian Alliances in Ananya Dance Theater. In *Meditations on Dream*. Edited by Ananya Chatterjea, Hui Wilcox, and Alessandra Williams. "Decolonizing Feminisms: Anti-Racist and Transnational Praxis Series." Seattle: University of Washington Press.

- Under Review. "Introduction." In *Meditations on Dream*. Edited by Ananya Chatterjea, Hui Wilcox, and Alessandra Williams. "Decolonizing Feminisms: Anti-Racist and Transnational Praxis Series." Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- Under Review. "Interview with Laurie Carlos." In *Meditations on Dream*. Edited by Ananya Chatterjea, Hui Wilcox, and Alessandra Williams. "Decolonizing Feminisms: Anti-Racist and Transnational Praxis Series." Seattle: University of Washington Press.
2018. "Listening to Native American Women and Women of Color Artists of an Experimental Performance Process: A Reflection on Naming Critical Discourses." In *Relay Relay: Interview Marathon on Contemporary Performance*. Organized by Emily Gastineau, et al. Funded by MN State Arts Board, Art Works, National Endowment for the Arts (2018): 87–102.
2016. "Decolonizing Alliances: The Terms of World Dance in David Roussève/REALITY's *Saudade*." In *Talking Black Dance Inside Out/Outside In*, ed. Takiyah Nur Amin and Thomas DeFrantz (Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies Series XXXVI), 28–33.
2016. *Decolonizing Alliances: Afro-Asian Choreographies by David Roussève/REALITY and Ananya Chatterjea/Ananya Dance Theatre*. University of California, Los Angeles, Dissertation. Committee chaired by David Delgado Shorter.
2015. "Mixing Puppetry with Ethnography, Part Two: The 'Fugitive' Terms of Contemporary Indian Dance." *UCLA Center for the Study of Women Newsletter*.
2012. "Mixing Puppetry with Ethnography at the Ananya Dance Theatre: Field Report." *UCLA Center for the Study of Women Newsletter*.

PERFORMANCES: Choreographic Works

2019. "We are Stamping, Shaking, and Soul Searching through Our Femininity," and "A Ritual," DanceScapes Show, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
2019. "Inclusive Excellence in the Arts," Co-featured Choreographer and Panelist, Whitewater Arts Alliance, WI
2017. "Listening for Freedom: Remembering 'Watch Night' History through Improvisation Dance and Music," East Side Freedom Library, St. Paul, MN
2016. "Layers: Black Transnational Bodies," Macalester Black Liberation Affairs Committee (BLAC) & The Spark Collaborative Showcase, Weyerhaeuser Chapel
2012. "An Exploration of Land, Narrative, and Performance," [the solo performance] *Chew On This* Presentation Series in WACD, Kaufman Hall
2007. "Until the End of Time," *Quantum Leaps*, Macalester's Student Dance Concert, Janet Wallace Building
2006. "Raging Humanity," *Inverted Force* Macalester Student Concert
2005. "Amazing Grace," *Toeing the Line* Macalester Student Concert
2005. "Who Amongst You Here Today," Macalester BLAC Showcase, Campus Center
2005. "A Scintillating Performance," Macalester *Umoja Show*, Alexander Hill Ballroom
2004. "Thriving Souls of Survival," *Peripheral Movement*, Macalester Student Concert
2004. "Spoken Expression," Macalester *Diversity Weekend 2004: Race and Leadership*
2004. "Dance Expression: 'Get Busy,'" *Diversity Weekend 2004*, Campus Center

PERFORMANCES: Dance Works

2019. *Sutrajaal: Revelations of Gossamer*, Ananya Dance Theatre, O'Shaughnessy, St. Paul, MN
2018. *Shaatranga: Women Weaving Worlds*, Ananya Dance Theatre, O'Shaughnessy, St. Paul, MN; Virginia Commonwealth University Dance; New Delhi, India
2017. *Shyamali: Sprouting Words*, Ananya Dance Theater, O'Shaughnessy; Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Pittsburgh, PA; UtahPresents! at University of Utah, Salt Lake City; Association of Performing Arts Professionals, New York City, NY; Maui Arts and Cultural Center, Kahului, HI; Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA; Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, PA
2016. *Horidraa: Golden Healing*, Ananya Dance Theater, O'Shaughnessy
2016. "Stimela," Fall Dance Concert, Macalester Department of Theater and Dance
2016. *Dreams of Our Ancestors*, Macalester African Music Ensemble, Mairs Hall
2016. "Gazillion Strong," Ananya Dance Theater, Bedlam Lowertown, St. Paul, MN
2015. *Roktim: Nurture Incarnadine*, Ananya Dance Theater, O'Shaughnessy
2013. *Mohona: Estuaries of Desire*, Ananya Dance Theater, O'Shaughnessy
2012. *Morechika: Season of Mirage*, Ananya Dance Theater, the National Academy for the Performing Arts, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad; Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN; Conwell Dance Theater, Philadelphia, PA
2012. *Disclosure Tactics*, choreographed by Sarah Wilbur, Kaufman Hall, UCLA
2009. *Ashesh Barsha: Unending Monsoon*, Ananya Dance Theater, Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN
2007. *Pipaashaa: Extreme Thirst*, Ananya Dance Theater, Southern
2004. "Special Guest Choreography" by Patience Sewor, *Macalester and University of St. Thomas African Music Ensembles*, Mairs Concert Hall, Macalester
2003. "A Sunday Afternoon," choreographed by Theresa Madaus, Janet Wallace, Macalester

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

2019. "Teaching Indian Dance as a Black Feminist: A Reflection on Transnational Pedagogy," Department of Women's and Gender Studies Brown Bag Series, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
2018. "Feminist Futurities and Connections: A Women of Color Artist-Writer Workshop," Co-presenter with Hui Wilcox, National Women's Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA
2018. "Black Queer Internationalists," Panel Chair, American Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA
2018. "Afro-Asian Alliances: An Embodied Search for Difference & Engagement," The Working for Freedom Symposium in Honor of Peter J. Rachleff, East Side Freedom Library, Saint Paul, MN
2018. "Afro-Asian Alliances, Social Movements, and Dance: A Case Study of Ananya Dance Theatre," Mid-America American Studies Association Conference, Iowa City, Iowa
2018. "Representing and Resisting Historical Injustices through Art, featuring John Matsunaga, Saymoukda Vongsay, Nikki McComb, and Alessandra Williams," Moderator and Panelist, for East Side Freedom Library's community event, Saint Paul, MN
2017. "Improvisation as Radical Dance Pedagogy: The Experimental, Cross-Cultural Practice of Choreographers of Color," American Studies Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois
2017. "Narrating History, Practicing Experimentation: Choreographic Transmission in African and Asian American Contexts," Dance Studies Association Conference, Columbus, Ohio
2016. "Decolonizing Queer of Color Bodies: The Narrative and Dance Technique of David Roussève/REALITY," American Studies Association Conference, Denver, Colorado
2016. "Allying Against Appropriation: The Contemporary Indian Dance/Jazz Aesthetic of Ananya Dance Theater," Society of Dance History Scholars, Pomona, California
2016. "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. "Stardust: Dancing Queer Praxis," for Queer Publics, Queer Praxis [QP^2] Graduate Student

- Conference, University of Minnesota
2012. “An Exploration of Land, Narrative, and Performance,” [the synopsis of the M.A. Thesis] for *Chew On This* Presentation Series in WACD
2005. “‘The Black Dancing Body,’” for Annual Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Conference, Oberlin College

GUEST LECTURES

2019. “Yorchhā: The Contemporary Dance Technique of Ananya Dance Theatre,” Department of Dance, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
2019. “Beginning Contemporary Dance,” Dance Program, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
2016. “African Diasporic Performance Analysis through works by Beyoncé Knowles and Kendrick Lamar,” for Sociology Club, St. Kate’s University
2016. “Dancing Black Feminism,” for the Bodacious Hip Hop Dance Team, Macalester College.
2016. “Performing Social Justice: Ananya Dance Theater’s *Horidraa*,” for #Say Her Name: Black Women and Performance course in University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Theater and Dance Department
2016. “Writing and Performing Autoethnographies,” for Oral Histories in Performance course in the Macalester Department of Theater and Dance
2016. “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
2015. “Theorizing Embodiment/Feminism,” for Civil Rights and Black Power Movement, 1954–1984 course in University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Department of African American and African Studies
2015. “The Collaborative Aesthetic of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company,” for Arts Encounters course in UCLA School of Art and Architecture
2014. “Choreographing Labor: David Roussève’s *The Whispers of Angels*,” for Heteronormative Colonialism course in UCLA Department of Gender Studies
2014. “Challenging Normative Teaching Paradigms,” Roundtable participant, for Teaching Assistant Seminar course in WACD, UCLA
2014. “Close Reading Strategies: Chapter Three of *The Authors of the Impossible*,” for Aliens, Psychics, and Ghosts course in WACD, UCLA
2013. “Performing and Writing ‘An Exploration of Land, Narrative, and Performance,’” for World Arts/Local Lives course in WACD, UCLA
2013. “Strategic Methods for Intersectionality and Positionality in Teaching,” Roundtable participant, for Teaching Assistant Seminar course in WACD, UCLA
2011. “‘Run the World (Girls):’ Performing Neoliberal Theory and Practice,” for Introduction to World Arts and Cultures course in WACD, UCLA
2007. “Why Transnational/Global Feminism?,” for Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Panel, Macalester College
2012. Roundtable participant, “Teaching Strategies and Best Practices,” for Teaching Assistant Seminar course in WACD, UCLA

OTHER LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

2018. “Segmented Communications for Mission and Donor Impact,” Co-Presenter, for MN Council of Nonprofits Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN
2018. “The Politics of the Pantry: A Book Discussion with Dr. Emily Twarog,” Roundtable participant, for East Side Freedom Library’s community event, Saint Paul, MN
2016. “Learning to Breathe: Black Feminism, Performative Pedagogies, and Creative Praxis,” Introduction to Keynote Speaker Andrea Jenkins, for Winton Cornerstone Event, University of

- Minnesota
- 2016. “Bodacious-ness: Envisioning Black Feminism, African Diasporic Performance, and Social Justice through Hip Hop Dance,” Introductory Address, for Bodacious Hip Hop Dance Team Showcase, Macalester
 - 2011. “Surviving Graduate School,” Roundtable participant, for the first year Graduate Student Introduction Series, WACD
 - 2004. “Examining the Souls of Black Folks: The Politics of Identity for Black People,” Roundtable participant, for *Soup and Substance* Series, Macalester Lealtad-Suzuki Center
 - 2003. “Don’t Trip,” Featured Student Speaker, for Southwest High School Graduation, Minneapolis, MN

TEACHING EMPLOYMENT, CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & ADVISING

Philosophy: Through regular co-student dialogue and evaluation, and continuous revisions of written and oral work, my courses guide students in analyses of the body as an intersectional politics in which race, sexuality, gender, ethnicity, nation, disability, and illness are inseparable categories of analysis in dance and performance-based works.

Employment

2019-present *Assistant Professor of Dance*, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

- Taught courses across MFA and BFA curriculum, helping to advance race and ethnic studies and dance technology areas of Intro to Dance Studies with guest artists and new course materials
- Reinvisioned Oral History and Performance course with studies of feminist theory and ethnography

2018-9 *Inclusive Excellence Fellow*, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

- Managed instructional appointment in Colleges of Letters & Sciences, and Arts & Communication
- Assisted with student travel and engagement at regional American College Dance Association

2017-8 *Assistant to the Executive Director*, East Side Freedom Library, Saint Paul, MN

- Envisioned and coordinated a collaborator program to train volunteers & build programming capacity
- Drafted, submitted, and was successfully granted applications in intercultural studies and arts-funding

2017 *Visiting Assistant Professor*, Carleton College, Northfield, MN

- Collaborated with dance program director to facilitate student participation in Ward Lucas Lecture Series in the Arts featuring Urban Bush Women dance company
- Cultivated student mentoring through supporting student activities such as Black Student Alliance
- Participated in first year faculty growth with learning/teaching center & junior faculty meetings

2011-17 *Lecturer, Teaching Fellow or Associate*, University of California, Los Angeles

- Secured mini-Office for Instructional Development grants to fund guest speaker series
- Advanced professional from teaching assistant to fellow through excellence in coursework
- Transformed indigenous worldviews curriculum with Native women’s literature and performance

2008-10 *Campaign Coordinator*, HIRE Minnesota Coalition, Minneapolis, MN

- Co-created leadership development curriculum for low-income, people of color in green jobs

Curriculum DevelopmentDance and Performance Studies Courses:

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| 2019 | 08:206:500:01 Graduate Technique (Rutgers University-New Brunswick) |
| 2019 | 07:203:115:02 Introduction to Dance Studies (Rutgers University-New Brunswick) |
| 2019 | 08:206:520:01 Oral History and Performance (Rutgers University-New Brunswick) |
| 2019 | GENED 110 World of the Arts-honors (University of WI-Whitewater) |
| 2018 | DANCE 498 Independent Study in Dance (University of WI-Whitewater) |
| 2017 | DANC 315 Topics in Dance History (Carleton College) |
| 2015 | DANCE 11 Beginning Yoga (Ucla), as Instructor |
| 2012 | WL ARTS 100B Art as Moral Action, T.A. for Peter Sellars (Ucla) |

Women's and Gender Studies Courses:

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| 2019 | WOMENST 370 Women: Race and Ethnicity (University of WI-Whitewater) |
| 2018 | WOMENST 250 Women in American Culture (University of WI-Whitewater) |

Cultural Studies Courses:

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| 2017 | WL ARTS 33 Indigenous Worldviews (Ucla), as Lecturer |
| 2016 | AFRO/HIST 3120 Social and Intellectual Movements in the African Diaspora, Co-Instructor with Peter Rachleff (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), as Co-Instructor |
| 2015 | ART&ARC 10 Arts Encounters, T.A. for Meryl Friedman and David Gere (Ucla) |
| 2014 | WL ARTS 51W Aliens, Psychics, and Ghosts, T.A. for David Shorter (Ucla) |
| 2013 | WL ARTS 24 World Arts/Local Lives, T.A. for Polly Roberts (Ucla) |
| 2013, 2014 | WL ARTS 33 Indigenous Worldviews (Ucla), as Instructor |
| 2013 | WL ARTS 33 Indigenous Worldviews, T.A. for David Shorter (Ucla) |
| 2012 | WL ARTS 33 Tribal Worldviews, T.A. for David Shorter (Ucla) |
| 2012 | WL ARTS 124 Introduction to Field-Based Research, David Shorter (Ucla) |
| 2011 | WL ARTS 1 Introduction to World Arts and Cultures, T.A. for Rosemary Candelario (Ucla) |
| 2005 | AMST 110 Introduction to African American Studies, preceptor for Duchess Harris (Macalester) |

Advising

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| 2019. | “Embracing the intersectional: Using white anger to form relationships with African American Women,” University of WI-Whitewater Honors Program Project by Shannon Lojeski |
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SERVICE

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| 2019-20 | Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Dance Search Committee, Member, Rutgers University-New Brunswick |
| 2018-9 | Arts & Communication Inclusive Excellence Committee, Member, UW-Whitewater |
| 2018 | Ananya Dance Theatre's “Indigo Connections” Workshop Series, Co-Instructor, Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis; O’Shaughnessy; Shawngram Institute for Performance and Social Justice in Saint Paul, MN |
| 2017-8 | Neighborhood Leadership Program, Accepted Participant, Wilder Foundation |
| 2016 | Review Panelist, Arts Access Grant Committee, Minnesota State Arts Board |
| 2011-12 | Professional Development Committee, Co-Chair, WACD |
| 2004-7 | Macalester Hip Hop Dance Team, Founder, President, Choreographer, and Creator of Executive Board |
| 2005-6 | Black Liberation Affairs Committee, Co-Chair, Macalester |
| 2004-5 | Facilitator, Black Women of the Diaspora Collective, Macalester |
| 2004 | Chaplain Visioning Team, Student Representative, Macalester |

OTHER SKILLS

Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor (2010-present)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Studies Association, Dance Studies Association, National Women's Studies Association