

**ALESSANDRA LEBEA WILLIAMS**

***alessandrawilliams.com***

**EDUCATION**

- 2016 Ph.D., Program in Culture and Performance, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)  
Department of World Arts and Cultures Dance (WACD)
- 2013 M.A., Program in Culture and Performance, University of California, Los Angeles  
WACD
- 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 Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship, UCLA
- 2005-07 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

**HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS**

- 2019 Dance Studies Association/Mellon Pre-Conference Seminar Participant
- 2018 Community Arts Grant, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, for East Side Freedom Library
- 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 Transnational Feminism: Artistic Excellence and Social Justice in Ananya Dance Theatre*. Edited by Ananya Chatterjea, Hui Wilcox, and Alessandra Williams. Decolonizing Feminisms: Anti-Racist and Transnational Praxis Series. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- . "An Afro-Asian Practice: Laurie Carlos and the Theatrical Jazz Aesthetic in Ananya Dance Theatre." Alessandra Williams.
- . "Introduction." Ananya Chatterjea, Hui Wilcox, and Alessandra Williams.
- . "Interview with Laurie Carlos." Alessandra Williams.
- Under Review. "An Enduring Practice: Ananya Chatterjea and Global Women of Color in Dance." In *Women in Dance, Volume 1*. Akron: The University of Akron.
- Revise/ Resubmit. "A Radical Practice of Inclusion: Reshaping Gender and Racial Binaries in the Contemporary Indian Dance of Ananya Dance Theatre." *TDR*.
- Proposal in-progress. *Bittersweet: Queer Black Life in Dances and Films by David Roussève and the REALITY Dance Company*.
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*. Emily Gastineau, et al. Funded in part by National Endowment for the Arts: 87–102.
2016. "Decolonizing Alliances: The Terms of World Dance in David Roussève/REALITY's *Saudade*." In *Talking Black Dance Inside Out/Outside In*. Edited by 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*. Committee chaired by David Delgado Shorter. UCLA, Dissertation.
2015. "Mixing Puppetry with Ethnography, Part Two: The 'Fugitive' Terms of Contemporary Indian Dance." *Center for the Study of Women Newsletter*. UCLA.
2012. "Mixing Puppetry with Ethnography at the Ananya Dance Theatre: Field Report." *Center for the Study of Women Newsletter*. UCLA.

**PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

2020. "Tracking Black Femininity in Ananya Dance Theatre," panel moderated by Thomas DeFrantz, Collegium for African Diaspora Dance Conference, Durham, NC
2019. "The Parallel: Queer Intersectionality in the Dance Series of David Roussève and the REALITY Dance Company," panel moderated by Raquel Monroe, National Women's Studies Association Conference, San Francisco, CA
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/Panelist, for East Side Freedom Library, 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<sup>2</sup>] 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

### **CHOREOGRAPHY & ARTISTIC WORKS**

- 2019 "A Ritual," DanceScapes Concert, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Shawngram Institute for Performance and Social Justice
2019. "We are Stamping, Shaking, and Soul Searching through Our Femininity," DanceScapes, 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

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. *Moreechika: 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

### GUEST LECTURES

2020. "Loving Deeply: A Conversation on Afro-Asian Aesthetic Authority," with Yuichiro Onishi, East Side Freedom Library  
 2020. "Alessandra Williams, Dancer-Scholar: Guest Artist," Summer Intensive, Shawngram Institute for Performance and Social Justice  
 2019. "Yorchhā: The Contemporary Dance Technique of Ananya Dance Theatre," regional American College Dance Association, University of Minnesota, Morris  
 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
- 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
- 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

*Through a teaching philosophy of 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.*

- 2020 07:206:441: 01 Dance History: World (Rutgers University-New Brunswick)
- 2020 08:206:522:M1 History of Creative Engagement (Rutgers University)
- 2020 07:206:363:01 Modern Dance Repertory (Rutgers University)
- 2020 08:206:523:01 Externship (Rutgers University)
- 2019 08:206:500:01 Graduate Technique (Rutgers University)
- 2019 07:203:115:02 Introduction to Dance Studies (Rutgers University)
- 2019 08:206:520:01 Oral History and Performance (Rutgers University)
- 2019 WOMENST 370 Women: Race and Ethnicity (University of WI-Whitewater)
- 2019 GENED 110 World of the Arts-honors (University of WI-Whitewater)
- 2018 DANCE 498 Independent Study in Dance (University of WI-Whitewater)
- 2018 WOMENST 250 Women in American Culture (University of WI-Whitewater)
- 2017 DANC 315 Topics in Dance History (Carleton College)
- 2017 WL ARTS 33 Indigenous Worldviews (Ucla), as Lecturer
- 2016 AFRO/HIST 3120 Social and Intellectual Movements in the African Diaspora (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), as Co-Instructor with Peter Rachleff
- 2015 DANCE 11 Beginning Yoga (Ucla), as 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 100B Art as Moral Action, T.A. for Peter Sellars (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)
- 2010 HIRE MN leadership development curriculum, as Co-creator and instructor
- 2005 AMST 110 Introduction to African American Studies, preceptor for Duchess Harris (Macalester)

## **ADVISING**

- 2020–1. Jessica Lynch. MFA Thesis Advisor. Rutgers University, New Brunswick  
2019. “Embracing the intersectional: Using white anger to form relationships with African American Women,” University of Wisconsin, Whitewater Honors Program Project by Shannon Lojeski

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE**

- 2020–1 Dance Executive Committee, Member, Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
2020 Dial Fellowship Panel: Inequities in the Arts, Panelist, Americans for the Arts  
2020 Roundtable on Black & Brown Solidarity, Panelist, (PGDC Living in Desmadre) Pieter  
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  
2016 Arts Access Grant Committee, Review Panelist, 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

## **TRAINING**

- Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor (2010-present)  
Program for Early Career Excellence, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (2020–present)  
Neighborhood Leadership Program, Wilder Foundation (2017-8)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Dance Studies Association, American Studies Association, Association for Asian Studies