

ALESSANDRA LEBEA WILLIAMS, Ph.D.

<http://alessandrawilliams.com>

EDUCATION

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| 2016 | Ph.D., Program in Culture and Performance,
Department of World Arts and Cultures Dance
(WACD) | University of California, Los
Angeles (UCLA) |
| 2013 | M.A., Program in Culture and Performance,
WACD | 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

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| 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

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| 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

2021. *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.
- . "Loving Deeply: Black and Brown Women and Femmes in the Theatrical Jazz Aesthetic of Laurie Carlos and the Yorchhā Practice of Ananya Dance Theatre." Alessandra Williams.
- . "Introduction." Ananya Chatterjea, Hui Wilcox, and Alessandra Williams.
- . "Interview with Laurie Carlos." Alessandra Williams.
- . "It's Been My Community." Gina Lynn Kaur Kundan, interviewed by Williams.
- . "Femininity: Breaking that Boundary." Orlando Zane Hunter, Jr. interviewed by Williams.
2021. "An Enduring Practice: Ananya Chatterjea and Global Women of Color in Dance." In *Women in Dance, Volume 1*. Akron: The University of Akron.
- Under Review. "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

2021. "'Work Women Do': Choreographing Race, Gender and Black Lives in the Contemporary Indian Dance of Ananya Dance Theatre," Association for Asian Studies Virtual Conference.
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^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

CHOREOGRAPHY & ARTISTIC WORKS

2019. "A Ritual," DanceScapes Concert, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Shawngnam 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

PUBLICLY ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP & PRESENTATIONS

- 2021. "Book Launch: Ananya Chatterjea's 'Heat and Alterity in Contemporary Dance,'" Panelist with Talvin Wilks, Thomas DeFrantz, Ananya Jahanara Kabir, and Douglas Kearney, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- 2020. "Arts Counter/Act" Webcast Forum, Panelist, University of California, Los Angeles

2020. "Loving Deeply: A Conversation on Afro-Asian Aesthetic Authority," Presenter 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, choreographic, 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.

- 2021 07:206:241:01/02 Dance Technique 4.1/4.2 (Rutgers University)
- 2020 07:206:441: 01 Dance History: World (Rutgers University)
- 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)
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- 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)
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- 2017 DANC 315 Topics in Dance History (Carleton College)
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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 (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
 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

- 2021–22 Division of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement, Diversity Associate, Rutgers University
 2020–1 Dance Executive Committee, Member, Rutgers University
 2021 Dance Studies Association Conference, Local Arrangements Committee
 2020 Pre-College Dance Experience, Faculty Master Class Presenter, Dance Department, Rutgers University
 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
 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

OTHER SKILLS & TRAINING

Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor (2010–present)

Program for Early Career Excellence, Rutgers University (2020–present)

Rutgers Connection Network Mentoring Program, Peer-to-Peer Mentor (2020–present)

Neighborhood Leadership Program, Wilder Foundation (2017–8)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Dance Studies Association, Association for Asian Studies