

Naomi P. Bennett

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Communication Studies | Louisiana State University

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EDUCATION

- PhD
May 2020 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.
Communication Studies/Performance Studies.
Minor: Women, and Gender Studies.
Dissertation: *Virtual Touch: Embodied Experiences of (dis)Embodied Intimacy in Mediatized Performance*.
- MFA
March 2015 California State University, Los Angeles.
Television, Film and Theatre Production.
Thesis: *Hold Me Tight* (performance); "Hold Me Tight: Creating a Sustainable Ensemble" (paper).
- BA
June 2001 University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
Theater. Area of Focus: Directing and Community-based theater. *magna cum laude*. Thesis: *Vietnam X* (performance).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Louisiana State University

- Aug 2020 – present Instructor, Department of Communication Studies College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Aug 2020 – present.
- Aug 2019 – Jul 2020 Graduate Assistant, LSU Women's Center, Office of Diversity.
- Aug 2015 – May 2019 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication Studies College of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Jun-Jul 2016 Office Assistant, Department of Communication Studies.

California State University, Los Angeles

- Nov 2013 – Apr 2015 Graduate Office Assistant, Department of Television, Film, and Media, College of Arts & Letters.
- Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014 Graduate Teaching Associate, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts & Letters.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 Bennett, Naomi P. "Telematic connections: sensing, feeling, being in space together." *International Journal of Performance Arts and Digital Media*, vol. 16, no. 3, 245-268. <http://doi.org/10.1080/14794713.2020.1827531>
- 2020 McDonald, Bonny; Hamzehee, Joshua; Bennett, Naomi P.; and Smith, Montana. "Abbreviating Boal at the Louisiana Old State Capitol Museum: Using Image

Theatre." *Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Journal*, vol. 5, Article 11.
<https://scholarworks.uni.edu/ptoj/vol5/iss1/11/>

- 2020 Bennett, Naomi P. "aisthēsis: Feeling Through the Skin of My Eyes." *Global Performance Studies*, vol. 3, no. 2. <https://doi.org/10.33303/gpsv3n2a3>
- 2019 Bennett, Naomi P. "Floating in Space: DisEmbodied Experiences of being Held Tightly by the Vast Emptiness in Turrell's *Perfectly Clear*," *PARtake: Journal of Performance as Research*, vol. 2, no. 2, article 5.
<https://journals.colorado.edu/index.php/partake/article/view/425>

GRANTS

- 2018 \$500. Emerald Necklace Conservatory Microgrant, made possible by Barbara and Amos Hostetter and Eugene M. Lang Foundation, in support of: *What is Carried by Clouds*, Jamaica Plain, MA.
- 2013 \$1,500. Stephen Bufton Memorial Education Fund Outright Grant, American Business Women's Association National Grant Awarded, Verdugo Glen chapter, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2000 \$500. Support of directing and producing thesis project performance: *Vietnam X* Pioneer Valley Arts Council Grant, Amherst, MA.

COMPETITIVELY SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- 2019 *un clin du corps*, choreographer. Video-dance performance exploring connection/disconnection of the omnipresent screens that have invaded our daily lives. Presented as part of collective performance: *Seeing Somatic*. Art Klub, New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 *What is Carried by Clouds*, video projection installation in conjunction with Fujiko Nakaya's *Fog x FLO/Fog x Beach*, Emerald Necklace Conservatory, Jamaica Plain, MA. Made possible by a grant from Barbara and Amos Hostetter and Eugene M. Lang Foundation. Nominated for HUBweek's *Provocative Performance Art* award (as part of local performance initiative).

ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES

- 2014 *Hold Me Tight*, Artist-in-Residence. Schkapf, Hollywood, CA.
- 2010 *Untitled (Support/Control)*, Shared Choreographers' Concert (Peer Mentorship Program). With Alisia L. L. Waller, The Dance Complex, Cambridge, MA.
<https://vimeo.com/20742650>
- 2010 *Searching for Molly Pye. . .*, Artist-in-Residence. Mobius Performance Group. Boston, MA.

INVITED WORKSHOPS

- 2021 “Virtual Contact Improv: Experiential in the Now, and Looking into the Future,” movement workshop taught as part of the Future of CI, International online conference, Earthdance, Plainfield MA (Zoom).

ARTISTIC SCHOLARSHIP (selected)

Directing, devising, and choreography

- 2020 *dist[Sense]*, devised with the ensemble. HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7554297>
- 2019 *(dis)embodied in space: interactive installation art*, devised with the ensemble. HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. <https://vimeo.com/330611615>
- 2016 *Being Present*, devised with the ensemble via long-distance communication (Cambridge, MA and Baton Rouge, LA). HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. <https://vimeo.com/249167463>
- 2016 *Perception Suspension*, guerilla video projection installation created in collaboration with Jamie Kutner. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2014 *Hold Me Tight*, devised by the ensemble. Arena Theatre, California State University, Los Angeles, CA. <https://vimeo.com/117528152>
- 2013 *Wings*, director. Written by Arthur Kopit. Complex Theatres, Hollywood Fringe Festival, California State University, Los Angeles, CA. *Nominated for Best Dance and Physical Theatre.*
- 2013 *The Va-Jay-Jay Chronicles*, director. Written and performed by the cast, Sponsored by the Gender & Sexuality Resource Center, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2012 *Tearing the World Apart*, devised with the ensemble and Barbara Ishida (writer). Complex Theatres, Hollywood Fringe Festival, Los Angeles, CA. *Nominated for Best Dance and Physical Theatre.*
- 2011 *Eurydice*, circus choreographer. Written by Sarah Ruhl. Independent Drama Society, directed by Lindsay Eagle. Boston Center for the Arts, MA.
- 2011 *pool*, devised with the ensemble. Mobius Artist Group, Boston, MA.
- 2010 *Beatnik Café*, director. Written by T. Namaya. Richmond Shepard Theater, New York City, NY.
- 2010 *Searching for Molly Pye. . .*, devised with the ensemble. Green Street Studios, Cambridge, MA.
- 2011 *Eurydice*, by Sarah Ruhl, choreographer. Independent Drama Society, directed by Lindsay Eagle. Boston Center for the Arts, MA.

Projection and lighting design

- 2019 *Burnt City*, Lighting Designer. Written and directed by Josh Hamzehee. HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2017 *You Menstrual Me*, Lighting Designer. Written and directed by Emily Graves. HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2017 *The Creature from the Primordial World*, Lighting and Projection Designer. Adapted and directed by Dr. Tracy Stephenson Shaffer. HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2015 *Circus Ugly*, written by Gabriel Rivas Gomez, Video Designer. Directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera. Playwrights' Arena, Los Angeles, CA.

Performance

- 2017 *Animal Rights*, Adapted and directed by Dr. Chris Collins. "Certification," Patti Pace Performance Festival, HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. 2017.
- 2016 *Animal Rights*, Adapted and directed by Dr. Chris Collins. "Living Statue," HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. 2016. "Certification," Patti Pace Performance Festival, HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. 2017.
- 2016 *Shadow of the Valley*, directed by Dr. David P. Terry, compiled by the ensemble. HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2015 *Back to the Future IV*, written and directed by Patrick McElearney. HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2015 *Rollerland*, devised by the ensemble, directed by Tracey Stephenson Shaffer. HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. Petit Jean Performance Festival, Morrilton, AR.

WORKING GROUPS

- 2021-present "Somatic Engagement Working Group," first year of a three-year working group developed out of the Somatic Engagement Seminar. Canadian Association of Theatre Research conference hosted virtually by the University of Ottawa, the University of Manitoba, and the Société québécoise d'études théâtrales, Canada (Zoom).
- 2021 FAB Summer School #4.33, Constellate, Performance Studies International (Zoom).
- 2021 "Performance and Pedagogy Working Group," Constellate, Performance Studies International (Zoom).
- 2020 *Liveness Lab*, The Orchard Project, NYC, NY (Zoom).
- 2017 "Experimental Collectivities, Collaborations, and (Dis)embodied Digital Experiences," invited working group participant at the Hemispheric Institute, Graduate Student Initiative Conference: *Unsettling the Americas: Radical*

Hospitalities and Intimate Geographies, NYU/York University, Toronto, ON, Canada.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2021 “Recovering Connection through Telepresence,” paper presented at the Canadian Association of Theatre Research conference, hosted by the University of Ottawa, the University of Manitoba, and the Société québécoise d’études théâtrales, Canada (Zoom).
- 2021 “‘dist[Sense]’: The Development of Connection in Zoom Space,” Page-to-Stage panel presented at the Southern States Communication Association Conference, originally scheduled for Norfolk, VA (virtual conference presented on Zoom).
- 2021 “Hope for the Black Box,” panel discussion presented at the Southern States Communication Association Conference, originally scheduled for Norfolk, VA (virtual conference presented on Zoom).
- 2020 “Feeling Through the Screen: Staging (*dis*)embodied in space,” presented virtually (due to COVID-19) at the Canadian Association of Theatre Research conference, workshop in somatic engagement, Montreal, QC, Canada.
- 2019 “*aisthēsis*: Feeling through the Skin of my Eyes,” presented at the Canadian Association of Theatre Research conference, seminar in somatic engagement, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- 2019 “*Being Present*: Performing (Dis)Embodied Presence, Intimacy, and Virtual Touch,” paper presentation at the Southern States Communication Association Conference, Montgomery, AL
Awarded Top Student Paper, Performance Studies Division.
- 2019 “The Privilege of Soy: Life versus Lifestyle,” paper presented at the Southern States Communication Association Conference, Montgomery, AL.
- 2017 “Boal in Baton Rouge: A Survey of Image Theatre Projects Since the Summer of 2016,” panel presentation at the National Communication Association Conference, Dallas, TX.
- 2017 “Trapped in *A Doll House*: How Nora’s Slammed Door Left the Men Behind,” paper presented at the Southern States Communication Association Performance Studies Division, Greenville, SC.
- 2015 “Queering the Wedding Ceremony,” paper presented at the Western States Communication Association Performance Studies Interest Group Conference, Spokane, WA.
- 2014 “Trapped in ‘*A Doll House*’,” paper presented at the 22nd Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2021 *Embodiment and Disembodiment in Live Art: From Grotowski to Hologram*, by Ke Shi. *Text and Performance Quarterly*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10462937.2021.1877807>

TEACHING

Louisiana State University

Fundamentals of Communication (*Communication Intensive Course-Written and Visual*)
Introduction to Research in Humanities and Social Sciences (*Communication Intensive Course-Written*)
Introduction to Performing Literature
Public Speaking
Digital Performance and Everyday Life
Topics in Film Genre: Horror (teaching assistant to Dr. Shaffer)
Topics in Film Genre: Zombie Films (scheduled for spring 2022)

California State University, Los Angeles

Acting Fundamentals: Scene Study
Acting Games and Exercises

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2019 Top Student Paper Award for “*Being Present: Performing (Dis)Embodied Presence, Intimacy, and Virtual Touch*,” Performance Studies Division, Southern States Communication Association Conference, Montgomery, AL.
- 2017 Graduate Student Organization HopKins Black Box Award, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2014 Lawrence P. Goodman Scholarship, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2014 Golden Eagle Film Festival, 2nd Place: Experimental Film, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2014 Alumni Association Scholarship, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2014 Women in Film Scholarship, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013, 2014 Associated Students Inc., Student Achievement Scholarship, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013, 2014 Graduate Equity Fellowship, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013 Research Scholarship and Creative Activities Grant, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013 Hollywood Foreign Press Award Scholarship, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2001 Honors Senior Thesis Project, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.
Support of directing and producing thesis project performance: *Vietnam X*.
- 2000 Honors Research Fellowship, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.
Support of research for thesis project performance: *Vietnam X*.
- 1998-2001 Chancellor’s Talent Award Scholarship, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.
- 1997-2000 Commonwealth Scholar, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

1998 Phi Kappa Phi Certificate of Excellence, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

TRAVEL AWARDS

2019 Canadian Association of Theatre Research/ L'Association canadienne de la recherche théâtrale Travel Subsidy Grant, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

2019 Southern States Communication Association Conference, Montgomery, AL. Graduate Student Association Travel Award, Louisiana State University. College of Humanities & Social Sciences Travel Award, Louisiana State University.

2018 Network of Ensemble Theaters National Gathering & Symposium, Travel Subsidy, Tempe, AZ.

2017 Hemispheric Institute, Graduate Student Initiative Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada. Graduate Student Association Travel Award, Louisiana State University.

2017 Southern States Communication Association Conference, Greenville, SC. Graduate Student Association Travel Award, Louisiana State University. College of Humanities & Social Sciences Travel Award, Louisiana State University.

2014 National Communication Association Conference, Spokane, WA. Office of Graduate Studies Travel Award, California State University, Los Angeles.

SERVICE

Louisiana State University

2021-present Recruitment Committee, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

2021-present Undergraduate Advisory Committee, Department of Communication Studies.

2021-present Coordinator for the Department of Communication Studies, Faculty Council Organizing Group.

2020-present LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus, Active Member.
(2021-present) Advocacy Committee.

2020-present Equity and Justice Committee, Department of Communication Studies.

2020-present Technical Director, HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory.

2020-2021 Recent graduate/instructor representative, HopKins Black Box Advisory Board.

2019-2020 University Council on Gender Equity, LSU Women's Center graduate student representative.
Co-Chair: Subcommittee on Female Grad Students/Complex students of concern.

2019-2020 Pregnancy and Parenting Program Committee, LSU Women's Center graduate student representative.

2018 Awards Committee Co-chair, Communication Studies Graduate Student Association.

- 2017-2018 ABD representative, HopKins Black Box Advisory Board.
- 2016-2018 Coordinator/facilitator, Graduate Student Teach-Back Workshops, HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory.
- 2017 Producer, Undergraduate Student Showcase (Spring), HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory.

Academic Community

2020-present CATR Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression, Canadian Association for Theatre Research/ L'association canadienne de la recherche théâtrale.

Peer Reviewer:

International Journal of Performance Arts and Digital Media. Published by Routledge. 2021.

Book Proposal. Hackett Publishing. 2021.

Storytelling, Self, Society: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Storytelling Studies. Published by Wayne State University Press. 2021.

PARtake: The Journal of Performance Research. Published by the University of Colorado Boulder. 2021.

Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies. Online journal. 2021.

Kaleidoscope: A Graduate Journal of Qualitative Communication Research. Published by South Illinois University, Carbondale, IL. 2018.

Conference Service:

Reviewer, National Communication Association Conference, Performance Studies Division. 2021.

Reviewer, Southern States Communication Association Conference, Performance Studies Division. 2020.

Panel Co-Organizer: "Taking Care: Performance as More than Just Survival," to be presented at the National Communication Association conference, Baltimore, MD. 2019.

Panel Chair: "Got Milk? Exploring the Intersections of Milk Consumption and Performance," presented at the Southern States Communication Association conference, Montgomery, AL. 2019.

Student Volunteer, The ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques (SIGGRAPH), Vancouver, BC, Canada. 2018.

Reviewer, National Communication Association Conference, GLBTQ Division. 2015.

California State University, Los Angeles

- 2015 First, Best, & Only reporter, College of Arts & Letters.
- 2013 Founding Member and Primary Organizer, CSULA Goes to the Fringe, Hollywood Fringe Festival.
- 2012-2013 Founding Member and Primary Organizer, Students4Student Theatre, Registered Student Theatre organization.
- 2012 Student Representative, Television, Film and Theatre Curriculum Committee.
- 2012 Student Representative, TVFT Communications Committee.

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

- 2000-2001 Undergraduate Peer Advisor.
1999 Editorial Intern, *Theatre Topics*. Editor: Dr. Harley Erdman.

Professional

- 2014 Social Media with a focus on promoting National Auditions, Diavolo: Architecture in Motion., Los Angeles, CA.
2013-2014 Research Intern, Critical Mass Performance Group, Los Angeles, CA.
2013-2014 Social Media Intern, Day Trader Play, Los Angeles, CA.
2012 Program Intern, Directors Lab West, Pasadena Playhouse, Pasadena, CA.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Selected)

Louisiana's Old State Capitol, LA

- 2017 Boal-based Image Theater workshops (school-age groups), with The Power of Children touring exhibit.

Playmaker's of Baton Rouge, LA

- 2016, 2017 Theater Instructor, "Who Tells Your Story?" Advanced Teen Summer Camp.

Inner City Arts, Los Angeles, CA

- 2014 Clowning Instructor, Summer Creativity Camp.

Young Audiences of Massachusetts, MA

- 2009-2011 Theater Specialist, After-School Enrichment Teacher

Community Art Center, Cambridge, MA

- 2008-2011 After-School enrichment, group leader, and full-day vacation camp.
Course design and teaching: Story-Theatre for Young Audiences; Adaptation (Alice in Wonderland); Commedia dell'Arte and Clowning; Performance Art

Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge, MA

- 2010-2011 Dance in the Schools Instructor (School day)
2006-2008 Community School (After-School): Circus skills, partner acrobatics, and yoga.
2005-2008 Cambridge Performance Project (After-School): Theatre games, circus arts, partner acrobatics

Boston Public Schools, Boston, MA

- 2011 Citi Performing Arts Target Artist (Theater), Trotter Elementary
2009-2011 Young Audiences of MA (Clowning), Gardner Pilot Academy
2009-2010 Philbrick School (Dance and Movement)

My First Yoga, Boston, MA

- 2008-2011 School-Day Enrichment Teacher

TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Curriculum development

- 2021 Designing and Teaching Accessible Courses. LSU Online (asynchronous). Certificate.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- 2021 Welcoming Diversity Workshop, National Coalition Building Institute, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2021 Theatrical Intimacy Education's Best Practices, Six Hour Training.
- 2021 Safe Space Training, LGBTQ+ Project, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. Certificate (Initial training: 2018).

Experience working with:

- Audio Describer, (live on Zoom). Future of CI international conference, movement workshop. April 2021.
- Captionist, (live on Zoom). Fundamentals of Communication course, Louisiana State University, Fall 2020.
- Sign interpreters, (in-person). *Vagina Monologues*, performance, Medford, MA. February 2002.

Physical-based certificate training

- 2021 Frantic Assembly Master Class Series, Zoom.
- 2020 InterPlay Life Practice Program/Secrets of InterPlay, CC King and Lisa Laing, Zoom.
- 2009 Project Joy: Basic Playmaker Workshop, Cambridge, MA. Certificate.
- 2007 New England Center for Circus Arts, Pro-Track Circus Program. Concentration: Partner Acrobatics; Rope & Harness. Brattleboro, VT.
- 2006 O2 Yoga Studio, 200 Hour Yoga Teacher Training (Astanga/Vinyasa), Somerville, MA. Certificate.
- 2003 VenezialNscena, Adriano Iurssovich (month-long Commedia dell'Arte Intensive), Venice, Italy.
- 2002 Stanislavski Summer School, Harvard University, Yuri Yeremin. Taught by professors from the Moscow Art Theatre School (MXAT). Cambridge, MA.

ARTISTIC TRAINING (other - selected)

- 2020-2021 Taiko drumming, Odaiko New England, Juni Kobayashi, Arlington, MA/Zoom.
- 2020-2021 Monday Momentum Contact Improv, CI Kollektive, Freiburg, Germany/Zoom.
- 2017-2021 Contact Improvisation / Contemplative Dance Practice (CDP), Ryuta Iwashita, New Orleans, LA and Zoom.
- 2020 Viewpoints/Pedagogy Laboratory, Deborah Black, Zoom.
- 2020 Etäjämät | Remote Contact Improvisation, Samee Haapa, Helsinki, Finland/Zoom.
- 2015 The Act of Falling (Physical Theater), Ronlin Foreman, Mondo Bizarro.
- 2013 Self with Others (Ensemble), John Britton.
- 2013 The Idiot Workshop (Clown), John Gilkey.
- 2009-11 InterPlay, Brad Brockman and C.C. King.
- 2008-2011 CHIMERALab, (Viewpoints, Butoh, Shintaido), Jennifer Hicks, Cambridge, MA.

- 2009 Theater of the Oppressed & Forum Theater Workshop, Julian Boal, Wheelock Family Theatre, Boston, MA.
- 2009 Bouffon Workshop, Eric Davis (The Red Bastard), Brattleboro, VT.
- 2007 Contact Improvisation, David Woodbury, Brattleboro, VT.
- 2006 The Red Nose & Neutral Mask, Giovanni Fusetti, Paris, France.
- 2003 Physical Theater Workshop, Andrew Hammerson (of DV8).
- 2000 Biomechanics Workshop, Cold War Project, Vladimir Rovinsky.
- 2000 Storycircle Workshop, Junebug Productions, Chuck Mike.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Communication Association

Southern States Communication Association

Performance Studies International

Theatre Communications Group

Network of Ensemble Theaters

Canadian Association for Theatre Research/L'association canadienne de la recherche théâtrale

Société québécoise d'études théâtrales (Quebec Society of Theater Studies)

Golden Key National Honors Society