

Ani Javian, MFA

Assistant Professor
Department of Dance
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EDUCATION

MFA Dance Department, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2015
Thesis Committee: Susan Hadley and Bebe Miller
BA Dance Department, Connecticut College, New London, CT, 2005
Cum Laude with Distinction in Dance
BA English Department, Connecticut College, New London, CT 2005
Cum Laude, Poetry Concentration

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2018–present Assistant Professor, Dance Department, Mason Gross School of the Arts, New Brunswick, NJ
2017–18 Lecturer, Dance Division, Ohio University, Athens, OH
2015–17 Visiting Assistant Professor, Dance Division, Ohio University, Athens, OH

EXTERNAL AWARDS, GRANTS and FELLOWSHIPS for CREATIVE and SCHOLARLY RESEARCH

2024 Fulbright Scholar Award
Award for project “Listening Inward, Moving Outward: Dance and Memory, Story, and Trauma” to teach and conduct research in Yerevan, Armenia in Fall 2024
2024 Semi-finalist, Brooklyn International Short Awards
Award for dance film *Breaking the Surface*, co-director and co-choreographer with John Evans
2023 Mini-Grant, Dance New Jersey
Grant to support *When The Sky Separated From The Earth*, \$1100
Adjudicators David Hochoy, Artistic Director of Dance Kaleidoscope (IN), Jennifer Calienes, National Arts Consultant with credits including Huntington Theatre, New England Foundation for the Arts, and Jacob’s Pillow (MA), and Michael Blake, Assistant Professor of Modern Dance at University of Missouri-Kansas City (MI)
2023 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship Finalist Award, Mid-Atlantic Arts

- Finalist for fellowship in acknowledgement of artistic excellence and professional accomplishments, \$4000
Adjudicators Jennifer Harge, Gabriel Mata, and Molly Johnston
- 2023 Best Experimental Film Award, New Jersey Film Festival
Awardee for dance film *Breaking the Surface*, co-director and co-choreographer with John Evans
- 2023 Quarterfinalist, Edinburgh Film Awards
Awardee for dance film *Breaking the Surface*, co-director and co-choreographer with John Evans
- 2022 Emergency Grant, Foundation for Contemporary Arts
Grant to support original work *the earth is old, we are ancient* in Yerevan, Armenia
Principal Investigator, \$2994
- 2021 Mini-Grant, Dance New Jersey
Grant to support original work *the earth is old, we are ancient*
Principal Investigator, \$1000
- 2017 Arts for Ohio Grant, Ohio University
Grant to support Joanna Kotze creative residency in Dance Department, College of Fine Arts' Guest Artist Recruitment Committee, \$2111
- 2017 Arts for Ohio Grant, Ohio University
Grant to support David Dorfman, Kendra Portier and Jasmine Hearn creative residency in Dance Department, College of Fine Arts' Guest Artist Recruitment Committee, \$4000
- 2017 College of Fine Arts Dean's Discretionary Fund Grant, Ohio University
Grant to support production of *Hocking River – Athens, Ohio*, in Columbus, OH, \$700
- 2016 College of Fine Arts Travel Grant, Ohio University
Grant to support creative residency and performance of *Changing States* in Bangkok, Thailand, \$1300
- 2016 Individual Excellence Award in Choreography, Ohio Arts Council
Award in recognition of artistic excellence and professional accomplishments, \$5000

- 2015 Individual Artist Fellowship Award, Greater Columbus Arts Council
Award to support production of *Elsewhere* at Columbus Dance Theater,
Columbus, OH, \$2000
- 2009 Manhattan Community Arts Fund (MCAF) Award, Lower Manhattan Cultural
Council
Grant to support Propel-her Dance Collective's production, *The Balancing Act*,
at Cunningham Studio Theater, New York, New York, \$1000
- 2008 Dance/USA Access Scholarship, Dance/USA
One of four young professionals to receive stipend for registration, travel and
lodging to attend The National Performing Arts Conference in Denver,
Colorado

INTERNAL AWARDS, GRANTS and FELLOWSHIPS for CREATIVE and SCHOLARLY RESEARCH

- 2023 Inclusive Teaching Grant, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University
Grant to support revision of University DanceWorks course syllabus to reflect
values of equity, diversity, and inclusion
\$2500
- 2023 Dean's Research and Professional Activity Fund, Mason Gross School of the
Arts, Rutgers University
Grant to support of research trip to Yerevan, Armenia
Principle Investigator, \$2000
- 2022 Research Council Grant: Collaborative Multidisciplinary Award Program,
Rutgers University
Grant to support production of new film, *Breaking the Surface*, with PI John
Evans, and team of Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
faculty Co-Investigators: Thomas Grothues, Carrie Ferraro, Kaitlin Gannon,
and Christina Kaunzinger
Co-Investigator, \$20,000
- 2021 COVID Impact on Scholarly Productivity Faculty Grant, Rutgers University
Grant to support production of original works *When The Sky Separated From
The Earth* and *the earth is old, we are ancient*
Principal Investigator, \$5000
- 2019 Program for Early Career Excellence (PECE) Mini-Grant, Rutgers University
Grant to support performance of original work *bone, mauve, and eggshell blue*
in Brooklyn, NY in 2020
Principal Investigator, \$300

- 2019 Program for Early Career Excellence (PECE) Mini-Grant, Rutgers University
Grant to support performance of original work *bone, mauve, and eggshell blue*
in Evanston, IL in 2019
Principal Investigator, \$460
- 2019 Dean's Research Travel Fund Grant, Rutgers University
Grant to support research trip to Yerevan, Armenia and Tblisi, Georgia
Principal Investigator, \$1570
- 2019 Research Council Grant, Rutgers University
Grant to support creative residency for *bone, mauve, and eggshell blue*
Principal Investigator, \$3000

OTHER AWARDS, GRANTS and FELLOWSHIPS for CREATIVE and SCHOLARLY RESEARCH

- 2014 Arts & Humanities Graduate Research Small Grant, The Ohio State University
Grant awarded by the Associate Dean for Faculty and Research in the Arts and
Humanities for creative research, \$200
- 2014 Vera Blaine Special Projects Award, Dance Department, The Ohio State
University
Grant awarded to support production of *Elsewhere* in Columbus, OH in 2015,
\$300
- 2014 Semester Funding Initiative, Dance Department, The Ohio State University
Grant awarded to attend the International Conference on Somatics-Based
Dance Education, \$300
- 2014 Alumni Grants for Graduate Research and Scholarship Award, The Ohio State
University
Grant awarded to sixteen graduate students from across the University to
support thesis project development. Used to support production of *Elsewhere*
in Columbus, OH in 2015, \$2000
- 2014 Critical Difference for Women Professional Development Grant, The Ohio
State University
Grant to support production of *Elsewhere* in Columbus, OH in 2015, \$1000
- 2012–13 University Fellowship, The Ohio State University
Annual award in recognition of scholastic achievement, full tuition plus
stipend of \$17,220

2005 Martha Myers Prize, Dance Department, Connecticut College
Awarded as a distinguished honor to a student who “exhibits exceptional
artistry in technique, improvisation, and composition,” \$300

APPOINTMENTS AS GUEST ARTIST

2024 Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana; co-taught with Benjamin Roach
Master Class: Improvisation

2024 American College Dance Association Northeast Regional Conference,
University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Master Class: Improvisation

2023 Summer Dance Conservatory, Rutgers Community Arts at Mason Gross School
of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Workshop Series: Contemporary Fusion Movement Practice and
Repertory

2023 Yerevan State Institute of Theater and Cinematography, Yerevan, Armenia
Workshop Series: Contemporary Technique

2023 American College Dance Association Northeast Regional Conference,
Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ
Master Class: Improvisation

2022 CoChoLab, Yerevan, Armenia
Master Classes: Contemporary Technique and Improvisation

2022 Mason Gross School of the Arts’ Summer Dance Conservatory, New
Brunswick, NJ
Master Classes: Contemporary Technique

2022 American College Dance Association East-Central Regional Conference, Ohio
University, Athens, OH
Master Class: Improvisation

2022 Salem State University, Music and Dance Department, Salem, MA
Master Classes: Contemporary Technique, Improvisation, Artist Talk

2020 Keshet Center for the Arts, Albuquerque, NM
Master Class: Contemporary Technique

2020 Performática Festival, Puebla, Mexico (declined invitation)
Master Class: Improvisation

2020 Downtown Dance and Movement Center, Los Angeles, CA
Master Class: Contemporary Technique

2020 American College Dance Association Northeast Regional Conference, SUNY
Potsdam, Potsdam, NY
Master Class: Contemporary Technique

2019 Miami Arts Charter High School, Miami, FL
Master Class: Contemporary Technique

2019 Dance New Jersey’s “First Look” Audition & Job Fair, New Brunswick, NJ
Master Classes: Contemporary Technique

- 2019 The Edge Performing Arts Center, Los Angeles, CA
Master Class: Contemporary Technique
- 2019 Mason Gross School of the Arts' Summer Dance Conservatory, New Brunswick, NJ
Workshop Series: Contemporary Technique, Improvisation, Repertory
- 2019 American College Dance Association Northeast Regional Conference, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, NY
Master Class: Improvisation
- 2019 Ohio University, Dance Division, Athens, OH
Master Classes: Contemporary Technique
- 2018 Movement Research, St. Mark's Church in the Bowery, New York, NY
Master Class: Contemporary Technique
- 2018 Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts, Dallas, TX
Master Class: Contemporary Technique
- 2017 Wittenberg University, Dance Department, Springfield, OH
Workshop Series: Contemporary Technique, Repertory
- 2017 American College Dance Association East-Central Regional Conference, Kent State University, Kent, OH
Master Class: Contemporary Technique
- 2017 OhioDance Festival, Ohio University, Athens, OH
Master Class: Contemporary Technique
- 2016 Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, Hartford, CT
Master Class: Contemporary Technique
- 2016 Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH
Workshop Series: Contemporary Technique
- 2016 American College Dance Association East-Central Regional Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
Master Class: Contemporary Technique
- 2016 Santa Barbara Dance Theater, Santa Barbara, CA
Company Class: Contemporary Technique
- 2016 AS220, Providence, RI
Master Class: Contemporary Technique
- 2016 Dance Factory, Bangkok, Thailand
Master Classes: Contemporary Technique, Improvisation
- 2014 The Ohio State University, Dance Department, Columbus, OH
Master Classes: Contemporary Technique, Improvisation, Pedagogy
- 2014 'May-mester' Summer Workshop, The Ohio State University, Dance Department, Columbus, OH
Workshop Series: Contemporary Technique

CREATIVE RESIDENCIES (invited)

- 2023, 2021 Ohio University, recipient of 5 days of rehearsal space to support the development of *When The Sky Separated From The Earth*, Athens, OH

- 2020 Keshet Center for the Arts' Maker Space Experience, recipient of 10 days of rehearsal space, lodging, and performance of *bone, mauve, and eggshell blue* and *mine* at Keshet, Albuquerque, NM
- 2019 Work Up 6.0 at Gibney Dance Center, finalist for residency, professional development program, and performance opportunity for *bone, mauve, and eggshell blue*, New York, NY
- 2010 The Field's Artist Residency Program, recipient of 70 hours of rehearsal space and performance of *FIXED* at JoyceSoho, New York, NY
- 2009–10 Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX) Upstart Residency, recipient of 30 hours of rehearsal space and performance of *Moves She* at BAX, Brooklyn, NY
- 2009–10 Newsteps at Chen Dance Center (CDC), recipient of 40 hours of rehearsal space and performance of *Moves She* at CDC, New York, NY

CHOREOGRAPHY

Original Works and Performances (choreographer and performer)

- 2022–24 *When The Sky Separated From the Earth*
In collaboration with co-director and performer Benjamin Roach, dramaturg Amy Blumberg, and theatrical advisor Stephanie Lane
Barnett Theater, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, May 31, 2024
Take Root, Greenspace, Queens, NY, May 10-11, 2024
Queer Spaces for Queer Faces Festival, Muncie, IN, March 14-17, 2024
Movement Research Open Performance, virtual, October 19, 2022
- 2022 *the earth is old, we are ancient*
In collaboration with composer Aaron Michael Butler and performers
Armenian Center for Contemporary and Experimental Art, Yerevan, Armenia, August 20
- 2019–20 *bone, mauve, and eggshell blue*
In collaboration with composer Aaron Michael Butler
Misc Crafts from Misc Sources, curated by Jasmine Hearn
Triskelion Arts, Brooklyn, NY, April 3–4, 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19)
Makers Showcase
Keshet Center for the Arts, Albuquerque, NM, February 22, 2020
Never Before Never Again Festival, curated by The Lovelies
Triskelion Arts, Brooklyn, NY, January 16, 2020

Barn Dances, curated by Nathalie Jonas
Private residence, Philipstown, NY, July 27, 2019

2020 *mine*
Keshet Center for the Arts, Albuquerque, NM, February 22

2016 *changing states*
Dance Factory, Bangkok, Thailand, June 18

2014 *Weight Study*
Winter Concert
Pomerene Hall, Columbus, Ohio, December 9

2013–14 *Ruby*
Graduate Performance
Barnett Theater, Columbus, OH, March 31, 2014
American College Dance Association Gala (Adjudicated by Gerri Houlihan,
Heidi Latsky, and Randy Duncan)
Oakland University, Rochester, MI, February 23, 2013

Collaborative Original Works (choreographer)

2021 *floating | stasis* (dance film)
In collaboration with composer Aaron Michael Butler and the University of
Washington-Seattle Wind Ensemble, virtual, March 5

2017 *Hocking River – Athens, Ohio*
In collaboration with composer Aaron Michael Butler
It Looks Like It's Open, curated by Alison Coleman
The Fuse Factory, Columbus, OH, May 5

2017 *In Between*
In collaboration with choreographer Mihwa Koo
Studio Series, curated by Edgar Miramontes
Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater (REDCAT), Los Angeles, CA, April 9–
10

2015 *Elsewhere*
In collaboration with composer James Lo and visual artist Leah Frankel
Urban Arts Space Gallery, Columbus, OH, February 5–7
Columbus Dance Theater, Columbus, OH, March 6–7

Other Selected Original Works (choreographer)

- 2014 *Token*
Ten Tiny Performances, curated by Paige Phillips
The Garden Theater, Columbus, OH, January 24–25
- 2010 *FIXED*
JoyceSoho, New York, NY, December 14
- 2009–10 *Moves She*
Newsteps, adjudicated by HT Chen, Jan Chen, and Peggy Chang
Chen Dance Center, New York, NY, May 6–8, 2010
Upstart Festival, adjudicated by Marya Warshaw
Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX), Brooklyn, NY, March 6, 2010
Magic Show, curated by Molly Lieber and Eleanor Smith
Triskelion Arts, Brooklyn, NY, February 18–20, 2010
The Balancing Act, produced by Propel-her Dance Collective
Cunningham Studio Theater, New York, NY, May 28–30, 2009
COOL NY Dance Festival, curated by Young Soon Kim
White Wave Dance, Brooklyn, NY, January 29–February 8, 2009
- 2008 *World to Come*
Jonathan Law Auditorium, Milford, CT, June 27–28
- 2007–08 *Glue*
Dumbo Dance Festival, curated by Young Soon Kim
White Wave Dance, Brooklyn, NY, September 27, 2008
Domestic Flight, produced by Propel-her Dance Collective
Cunningham Studio Theater, New York, NY, November 3–4, 2007
- 2007 *Bound to Collide*
Installation, curated by Jigsaw Soul, with Propel-her Dance Collective
Chashama Gallery, New York, NY, November 10
- 2006 *Ruling Worlds*
Letters to the Editor, produced by Propel-her Dance Collective
Cunningham Studio Theater, New York, NY, November 3–4
- 2005–09 Co-founder, Propel-her Dance Collective, New York, NY
Co-founder of collective with four female-identifying choreographers. Shared administrative duties, involved in all aspects of production of annual performances at Cunningham Studio Theater. Coordinated fundraising efforts and received MCAF grant (2009). Commissioned and produced other female-identifying artists. Conceived and ran outreach program at Harlem Children’s

Zone (2008). Featured in *Dance Spirit Magazine* (September 2007) and helped develop and maintain website.

Original Works with Students (choreographer)

- 2023 *heft*
Fall DancePlus, New Brunswick Performing Arts Center, New Brunswick, NJ,
November 30–December 2
- 2023 *My Bed Is a Boat*
In collaboration with composer Vincent Pierce Smith
Spring DancePlus, Victoria J. Mastrobuono Theater, New Brunswick, NJ, April
26–29
- 2021 *Tectonic*
In collaboration with composer Aaron Michael Butler
Fall DancePlus, New Brunswick Performing Arts Center, New Brunswick, NJ,
November 10–13
- 2021 *We Keep Moving* (dance film)
In collaboration with composer Mesia Austin
Spring DancePlus, virtual, April 14–15
- 2020 *flying at night*
Spring DancePlus, Victoria J. Mastrobuono Theater, New Brunswick, NJ, April
22–25 (event cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2019 *a whisper, a trace*
In collaboration with sound artists Jasmine Hearn and Slowdancer, and visual
artist Nina Guevera
Fall DancePlus, New Brunswick Performing Arts Center, New Brunswick, NJ,
November 20–23
- 2018 *where we've been*
In collaboration with composer Aaron Michael Butler
Fall DancePlus, Victoria J. Mastrobuono Theater, New Brunswick, NJ,
November 28 – December 1
Winter Concert, Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium, Athens,
OH, March 1–3
- 2017 *Lobby For You*
Winter Concert, Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium, Ohio,
Athens, OH, February 17–18

- 2017 *mercy*
In collaboration with composer Aaron Michael Butler
Winter Concert, Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium, Athens,
OH, February 17–18
- 2016 *After Monk, In Five Parts*
Winter Concert, Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium, Athens,
OH, February 19–20

Collaborative Original Films

- 2023 *Breaking the Surface* (dance film)
In collaboration with co-director and co-choreographer John Evans, composer
Michael Wall, and performers
New Jersey Film Festival, New Brunswick, NJ, September 18; Film Fest by
Rogue Dancer, December 22; Edinburgh Film Awards, September 15
- 2023 *the earth is old, we are ancient* (film, director and performer)
In collaboration with composer Aaron Michael Butler and performers
“Exhibition of Diasporic Artists” at the Armenian Center for Contemporary and
Experimental Art, Yerevan, Armenia, October – November, 2023
- 2021 *the earth is old, we are ancient* (dance film)
In collaboration with composer Aaron Michael Butler
“Dancing Beyond Memories: Armenian cultural heritage and corporeality,
South Caucasian approaches to creative practices,” Digital Colloquium,
University of Chicago-Paris, April 6

PERFORMANCES and PROJECT INVOLVEMENT

- 2023 *State/Stage/Story* by Betsy Miller
Dancer for performances at the American College Dance Association Faculty
Concert, Montclair, NJ, March 4; Motion State Dance Festival, Providence, RI,
November 4
- 2022–23 *’lectric Eye* by Bessie-award winning choreographer Joanna Kotze
Dancer for performances at The Irondale Center, Brooklyn, NY, February 9–12,
2022, New York Live Arts’ Live Artery, New York, NY, January 16, 2023
- 2021 *BIG BEATS* by Bessie-award winning choreographer Joanna Kotze
Dancer for performances at Pier I, Riverside Park, New York, NY, September 18
- 2021 *The Dis/Agreement Project* by Dana Caspersen, virtual
Member, Artist Cohort

The project is a collective act of anti-polarization initiated by choreographer and conflict engagement specialist Dana Casperson. The project took place through filmed interviews, carried out by artists from around the world, representing Kuwait, Syria, Kenya, China, the United States, and the Romani diaspora. Funded through The Goethe Institute Boston and the National Performance Netz, with support from the German Federal Government Commission for Culture and the Media.

- 2019 *The air is describing us / lining our bodies / squeezing us gently / inside and out* by choreographer Paige Phillips
Dancer for performances at Mascher Space, Philadelphia, PA, May 10–11
- 2018 *UNDERGROUND* (video installation) by choreographer Paige Phillips
Dancer in video presented at High Tide Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, May 4
- 2017 *Elegy* by choreographer Gladys Bailin, former Nikolais/Louis company-member
Dancer for performances at BalletMet as part of the OhioDance Festival, Columbus, OH, April 29
- 2016 *There I was, UNDERGROUND, bending the light* by choreographer Paige Phillips
Dancer for performances at ChoWhy Gallery, Bangkok Thailand, June 25
- 2014 *New Lucy* by Bessie award-winning choreographer Susan Rethorst
Dancer for performances at the Capital Theater, Columbus, OH, November 14–15
- 2014 *Aprés Moi, le deluge* by choreographer Paige Phillips
Dancer for performances at Skylab Gallery, Columbus, OH, April 18–19
- 2014, 2013 *(here)ing* by choreographer Kaya David
Dancer for performances at Links Hall, Chicago, IL, April 21, 2014, Advanced Computer Center for the Arts and Design (AACAD), Columbus, OH, November 14–16, 2013
- 2013 *Etched* by choreographer Rachel Barker
Dancer for performances at the Advanced Computer Center for the Arts and Design (AACAD), Columbus, OH, April 11–3
- 2013 *Floating Field* by choreographer Tammy Carrasco
Dancer for performances at the Recreation and Physical Activity Center at The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, April 11–13

- 2013 *May that we be inspired by the light* by choreographer Paige Phillips
Dancer for performances at the Columbus College of Art and Design (CCAD),
Columbus, OH, April 3
- 2009–13 *Dances for a Variable Population*, choreographer Naomi-Goldberg Haas
Dancer, Company Rehearsal Director for performances of *Fanfare*,
Washington Square Dances, *Three Mambos*, *Autumn Crossing*, *Short Bits Part
2: The Love of Wagner*, *Round Up* at Jacob’s Pillow, Becket, MA, PS21,
Chatham, NY, JoyceSoho, Skirball Center, The High Line, Times Square
Alliance, Washington Square Park, New York, NY and *Movement Speaks*,
collaborative performances with older adults from various senior and
community centers, various locations, New York, NY
- 2012 *Commonplace* by choreographer Susan Hadley
Dancer for performances at Mershon Auditorium at the Wexner Center for
the Arts, Columbus, OH, November 16–17
- 2009 *My Angle* by Bessie-award winning choreographer Molly Lieber
Dancer for performances at Chen Dance Center, New York, NY, November 20-
22, St. Mark’s Church, New York, NY, April 23, Triskelion Arts, Brooklyn, NY,
October 24–25
- 2009 *Swaying Quarters* by Bessie-award winning choreographer Lisa Race
Dancer for performances at Cunningham Studio Theater, New York, NY, May
28–30
- 2009 *Home* by choreographer Maggie Bennett
Dancer for performances at Cunningham Studio Theater, New York, NY, May
28–30
- 2007 *Dominion* by choreographer Betsy Miller
Dancer for performances at Cunningham Studio Theater, New York, NY,
November 3–4, DUMBO Dance Festival, Brooklyn, NY, September 27–30,
THROW Series at The Chocolate Factory, Queens, NY, September 12
- 2006 *underground* by Bessie-award winning choreographer David Dorfman, Artistic
Director of David Dorfman Dance. Dancer for performances at the Harvey
Theater, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY, November 16–18

PRESS

Print

- 2011 Featured as company member of Dances for a Variable Population
Goldberger, Paul. "MIRACLE ABOVE MANHATTAN." *National Geographic*, 04,
2011, 122–136.
- 2007 Featured as Propel-her Dance Collective
Freese, Julie. "Smart and Sexy." *Dance Spirit Magazine*, 09, 2007, 90–95.

Media

- 2023 Nagrin, Al. "Experimental dance film *Breaking the Surface* Premieres at the
Fall 2023 New Jersey Film Festival on Friday, September 8!" New Jersey Stage.
September 2023.
[https://www.newjerseystage.com/articles/getarticle2.php?titlelink=experime
ntal-dance-film-breaking-the-surface-premieres-at-the-fall-2023-new-jersey-
film-festival-on-friday-september-8092023](https://www.newjerseystage.com/articles/getarticle2.php?titlelink=experimental-dance-film-breaking-the-surface-premieres-at-the-fall-2023-new-jersey-film-festival-on-friday-september-8092023)
- 2023 LaBelle, Anita. "*Breaking the Surface* screens at the Fall 2023 New Jersey Film
Festival on Friday, September 8." New Jersey Stage. August 2023.
[https://www.newjerseystage.com/articles/getarticle2.php?titlelink=breaking-
the-surface-screens-at-the-fall-2023-new-jersey-international-film-festival-on-
friday-september-8082023](https://www.newjerseystage.com/articles/getarticle2.php?titlelink=breaking-the-surface-screens-at-the-fall-2023-new-jersey-international-film-festival-on-friday-september-8082023)
- 2023 Hildebrand, Karen. "Uneasy Moves." Fjord Review. January 2023.
<https://fjordreview.com/joanna-kotze-lectric-eye/>
- 2020 Chien, Sarah. "A Home for Improvisation at 'Never Before Never Again.'" *Life
as a Modern Dancer* blog. February 2020.
[https://blog.lifeasamoderndancer.com/2020/02/-a-home-for-improvisation-
at-never-before-never-again.html](https://blog.lifeasamoderndancer.com/2020/02/-a-home-for-improvisation-at-never-before-never-again.html)
- 2015 Morris, Michael J. "Watch From Here: Part I – *Elsewhere* and *Trace Forms*."
Blog. February 2015.
[https://morrismichaelj.wordpress.com/2015/02/06/elsewhere-and-trace-
forms/](https://morrismichaelj.wordpress.com/2015/02/06/elsewhere-and-trace-forms/)
- 2015 Ferrell, Taylor. "Master's Students Collaborate with Dancers for Contemporary
Show." *The Lantern*. February 2015.
[https://www.thelantern.com/2015/02/masters-students-collaborate-with-
dancers-for-contemporary-show/](https://www.thelantern.com/2015/02/masters-students-collaborate-with-dancers-for-contemporary-show/)

2014 Morris, Michael J. "Taking Back the Short End." Blog. April 2014.
<https://morrismichaelj.wordpress.com/tag/taking-back-the-short-end/>

Quoted as Expert

2023 Nagrin, Al. "New Jersey Film Festival Fall 2023 Q+A with *Breaking the Surface* Directors John Evans + Ani Javian." New Jersey Film Festival. August 2023.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJ2iYLUHkLM>

2020 Holmes, Kathryn. "How are Dance Professors Grading During COVID-19?" *Dance Teacher Magazine*. November 2020.
<https://dance-teacher.com/how-are-dance-professors-grading-during-covid-19/>

2021 Rodriguez, Gina Marie. "The Great Return: Fall DancePlus at NBPAC." Discover Jersey Arts. November 2021. Interview.
<https://jerseyartsfeatures.com/content/2021/11/12/the-great-return-fall-dance-plus-at-nbpac>

2020 Buccino, Neal. "Mason Gross Dance Students Show Resilience, Creativity Despite Pandemic Constraints." Rutgers Today. November 2020.
<https://www.rutgers.edu/news/mason-gross-dance-student-films-show-resilience-creativity-despite-pandemic-constraints>

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY (peer-reviewed)

Papers

2021 "Technique as Philosophy: Movement Practice During Crisis."
National Dance Education Organization Conference, virtual, October 7–10.

2019 "Contextualizing Creative Work as Research for Young Dance Artists."
National Dance Education Organization Conference, Miami, FL, October 23–26.

Workshops

2022 "Dreaming and Decolonizing: Improvising an Imagined Future." National Dance Education Organization Conference, Atlanta, GA, October 28–31.

Co-Presented Workshops

2017 "The Personal is Political: The Pedagogy of Improvisational Composition as Action." National Dance Education Organization Conference, San Antonio, TX, November 12–14.

2016 “Improvisation in Contemporary Technique: Unlocking Potential and Curiosity.” National Dance Education Organization Conference, Arlington, VA, October 6–10.

Panel Activity

2017 “Reconsidering Hierarchical Structures: Promoting Agency in Pedagogical and Artistic Practices.” Co-panelist with Rachel Barker (UNC Charlotte) and Tammy Carrasco (SUNY Brockport). National Dance Education Organization Conference, San Antonio, TX, November 12–14.

Performance Activity

2021 “The Earth is Old, We are Ancient: Intergenerational Trauma.” Dancing Beyond Memories: Armenian cultural heritage and corporeality, South Caucasian approaches to creative practices, Digital Colloquium, April 6

2019 “Through Listening: Improvisation as a Form of Commemoration.” Dance Studies Association Conference, Evanston, IL, August 8–11

2019 “bone, mauve, and eggshell blue.” Somatic Dance Conference and Festival, curated by Cynthia Williams and Bill Evans, Geneva, NY, July 11 (declined invitation)

PANEL ACTIVITY as ADJUDICATOR (invited)

2022 East-Central American College Dance Association Conference, Adjudication Panelist, Ohio University, Athens, OH

2019 Ohio Arts Council “Individual Excellence Award in Choreography” Adjudication Panelist, Columbus, OH

2017 East-Central American College Dance Association Conference, Adjudication Panelist for “Dance for Camera,” Kent University, Kent, OH

PANEL ACTIVITY as EXPERT (invited)

2023 “The Dis/Agreement Project: Interactive Discussion with Dana Caspersen and Artistic Collaborators,” Goethe Institute, virtual

2021 “World of Work: Industry Highlights,” Aldridge Foundation, London, England

2017 “Dance and College,” Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, Chicago, IL

2016 “Creating a Sustainable Dance Career,” Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, Chicago, IL

TEACHING

2018–present Dance Department, Mason Gross School of the Arts, New Brunswick, NJ

Graduate Courses:

MFA Thesis 1

MFA Thesis 2

Thesis Supervision:

MFA Candidate Amber Hongsermeier, 2021

MFA Candidate Jessica Featherson, 2019

Honors College Course Supervision: Introduction to Dance Studies

Jasmine Agme, Fall 2020 (contract course)

Annabelle Bowman, Fall 2020 (contract course)

Christina Cruz, Fall 2020 (contract course)

Honors College Capstone Supervision: Choreography 4

Jordan Pratkano, Spring 2019

Undergraduate Courses:

Choreography 1, 2, 3, 4

Modern Dance Technique 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Contemporary Fusion Movement Practice 1, 5

Improvisation 2

Performance Skills 1

University DanceWorks

Introduction to Dance Studies

Byrne Seminar: Somatic Studies: Practicing Mindfulness

Undergraduate Independent Study Supervision:

Independent Study in University DanceWorks:

Dasia Darden, Spring 2024

Madison Meza, Spring 2024

Madison Scheideler, Spring 2023

Emmaline Adkins, Fall 2022

Samantha Schenck, Fall 2022

Alex Silvis, Fall 2021

Laura de la Garza Noble, Spring 2020

Independent Study in Performance Skills 1:

Molly Weidmaier, Spring 2023

Alexandra Francois, Spring 2023

Rachel Calabrese, Spring 2020

Jennifer Wrede, Spring 2020

Guest Instructor:

Improvisation 2, Fall 2021

- 2017–18 Lecturer, Dance Division, Ohio University, Athens, OH
Undergraduate Courses:
Composition (Beginning, Intermediate)
Modern Dance Technique I/VI
Ballet Technique II/VII
Repertory
Special Topics: Somatic Studies
Special Topics: Improvisation
Independent Study: Group Forms
Honors Tutorial College: Thesis Advisor
Honors Tutorial College: Evening Length Multi-Disciplinary Works
Honors Tutorial College: Dance Film
Guest Lecturer:
Community Dance for Movement Therapy, School of Music
- 2015–17 Visiting Assistant Professor, Dance Division, Ohio University, Athens, OH
Undergraduate Courses:
Composition (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced)
Modern Dance Technique 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Ballet Technique 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Repertory
Special Topics: Improvisation
Honors Tutorial College: Improvisation
Honors Tutorial College: Dance Film
- 2015 Long-term Substitute, Dance Department, Denison University, Granville, OH
Undergraduate Courses:
Modern/Post-Modern Technique II
Choreographic Investigations: Music and Dance
- 2013–15 Graduate Teaching Associate, Dance Department, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Instructor of Record for Undergraduate Courses:
Jazz Technique III
Improvisation I
Composition for Minors
Instructor of Record for Undergraduate/Graduate Courses:
Contemporary Technique III
Teaching Assistant for Undergraduate Courses:
Designing Dance, Professor Bebe Miller
Dance in Global Contexts Seminar, Professor Kaustavi Sarkar
Guest Lecturer for Undergraduate Course:
Dance Writing Workshop for General Education dance course
Dance Pedagogy

**Guest Lecturer for Undergraduate/Graduate Course:
Concert Workshop Facilitator**

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Dance Department, Rutgers University

- 2023-24 University DanceWorks
Recipient of Mason Gross' Inclusive Teaching Grant to initiate and implement redesign of University DanceWorks course syllabus to reflect values of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- 2020–22 Movement Practices Curriculum
Instrumental in designing and implementing new 28 Movement Practice courses for BFA dance majors as part of the Department's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. The curriculum's aim is to provide students excellent education in four areas: African and African Diasporic, Classical/Traditional, Contemporary Fusion, and Somatic Movement Practices.
- 2020–21 Senior Capstone
Instrumental in initiating and designing two new courses for senior BFA dance majors in which students develop and implement a Capstone project across an academic year. Students build on previous content knowledge and experiences to select and research a specific area of interest from the following concentrations: Choreography, Performance, Somatic Studies, Dance Science, or Learner-Designed Research.
- 2020 Byrne Seminar: Practicing Mindfulness in our Daily and Creative Lives
Principal author of new seminar for first-year students from around the University that works toward understanding and experiencing mindfulness through an introduction to general somatic principles. The course's primary objective is for students to explore creative strategies for listening to their inner selves and the world around us.

Dance Division, Ohio University

- 2018 Special Topics: Somatic Studies
Designed and implemented a Somatic Studies course for BFA and BA dance majors and minors that introduced general somatic principles and a range of somatic modalities. The studio/seminar course offered students an opportunity to deepen perceptual abilities and sensory awareness, and to increase movement range and expressivity.

2017 Special Topics: Improvisation
Designed and implemented an Improvisation course for BFA and BA dance majors and minors in which students explored creative and technical strategies for moving together in the moment. The studio course also introduced students to the history of improvisation in our field through readings and viewings.

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

2013 Bates Dance Festival Youth Arts Program Teaching Assistant, Lewiston, ME

2009–13 *Movement Speaks*, Naomi Goldberg Haas and Dances for a Variable Population, various community and senior centers, New York, NY
Co-developed and implemented *Movement Speaks*, a 10-week workshop with culminating performance that taught movement as exercise and expression for older adults.

2008 Harlem Children’s Zone, New York, NY
As part of Propel-her Dance Collective, conceived and implemented an after-school program/workshop, *The Group Solo Project*, for young women to practice “collaboration rather than competition.”

2006 PS154, after-school program for pre-schoolers, Brooklyn, NY

ACADEMIC and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2020–present Member, Examining Whiteness Group, facilitated by Jen Abrams and April Biggs in accountability with Adjowah Scott, virtual
A white caucus working group exploring individual and collective relationships to racism through an anti-racism framework.

2019–present Rutgers University Center for Teaching Advancement and Assessment
Teaching Portfolio Workshop (2023), *Strategies for Inclusive Teaching* (2023), *Alternative Grading Schemes Panel* (2022), *Facilitating Difficult Dialogues in the Classroom* (2021), *Classroom Inclusivity Through Self-Awareness* (2021), *Culturally Responsive Course Design and Teaching Strategies* (2021), *Developing a Teaching Portfolio* (2020, 2019), *Using Evidence to Evaluate Teaching* (2020), New Brunswick, NJ and virtual

2018–present Member, Nikolais/Louis Foundation: Creative Excellence Group, facilitated by Phyllis Lamhut and Robert Small, New York, NY
Invited member into group that discusses artistic and pedagogic excellence through the lens of seminal choreographers Murray Louis and Alwin Nikolais.

2018–present	ConcussionWise Online Certification
2023	Western Armenian Language course, Stockton University, virtual
2023	Somatic Abolitionism with Resmaa Menakem, Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, NY Workshop in embodied anti-racist practice and culture-building.
2022–23	Rutgers University’s Faculty Diversity Collaborative’s OASIS Leadership and Professional Development Program, New Brunswick, NJ Participant in program that attends to the unique needs and challenges women face in academia through six months of intensive career development support via interactive workshops, mentoring and leadership coaching.
2023, 2022, 2021, 2020	Speak Out! Summer Institute SpeakOut Institute for Democratic Education and Culture www.speakoutnow.com , virtual
2022	Anti-Racist Training Practice Progress via ARCOS Dance www.practiceprogress.org , virtual
2020	Anti-Racist Training Academics 4 Black Lives www.academics4blacklives.com , virtual
2018–20	Rutgers University’s Program for Early Career Excellence (PECE), Cohort 3, New Brunswick, NJ Participant in program that provides intensive career development support with a focus on scholarly/creative productivity.
2018	CPR Certification (3-year certification)
2017–18	Teaching Academy, Ohio University’s College of Fine Arts, Athens, OH Participant in professional development series on excellence in teaching in the arts that provided peer-to-peer feedback.
2016–18	Online Course Cohort, Ohio University’s College of Fine Arts, Athens, OH Participant in workshop series that trained instructors on the National Standards for Quality Online Teaching/Courses and Quality Matters.

ADMINISTRATION

- 2018, 2017 Director, Summer Dance Institute, Ohio University, Athens, OH
Managed funding in the amount of \$50,000 to coordinate and direct a two-week summer workshop. Secured David Dorfman Dance as featured resident artist and negotiated artist contracts. Conceived, co-designed, and organized all application, scholarship, work-study, waiver/liability, and housing materials. Assisted in the design and organization of all publicity efforts and materials including posters, postcards, videos, etc. Managed artist relations, student relations (ages 16+), and work-study students. Obtained additional private funding for future Summer Dance Institutes.
- 2015 Workshop Facilitator, Bebe Miller Company, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Assisted Bebe Miller and company to organize curriculum for week-long workshop. Organized housing, transportation, and scheduling needs of workshop participants.
- 2014 Research Assistant for Dr. Harmony Bench, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Provided research organization in bibliographic compilation and on dance in the media and in public spaces.
- 2004 Intern, Ellen Jacobs Associates, New York, NY
Assisted with daily procedures of major dance PR firm in a three-month summer internship. Gained skills in marketing, press relations, and developing effective press releases.

SERVICE

To the Profession

- 2022–present Board Member, Lieber and Smith, Inc. (Molly Lieber and Eleanor Smith)
Bessie-award nominated and winning choreographers
- 2019–present Board Member, American College Dance Association
Member, Equity + Justice Committee
- 2023 External Evaluator, Full Professor application, Montclair State University
Dance Department
- 2021 Member, Local Accommodations Committee, Dance Studies Association (DSA)
International Conference
- 2017–18 Board Member, OhioDance
- 2008–10 Member, Dance/NYC Youth Advisory Committee

**Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
To University**

2023	Coordinator, Rutgers Day, Dance Department Performance (cancelled due to 2023 strike)
2021	Member, Solberg Scholarship Selection Committee, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
2019	Coordinator, opening dance performance at the Big Ten Counseling Center Conference, The Heldrich Hotel, New Brunswick, NJ

To School

2021–present	Academic Integrity Facilitator, Division of Student Affairs
2020	Coordinator, opening dance performance for grand opening of the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center (NBPAC) (event cancelled due to COVID-19)

To Department

2024-25	Co-Coordinator, American College Dance Association Conference at Rutgers University
2024	Member, Non-tenure Track Reappointment Committee (D. Blanchard, C. Marte, P. Tanowitz)
2023-24	Chair, Capstone Committee
2022–24, 2018–20	Co-Director, University DanceWorks Company (UDW)
2018–24	Faculty Advisor, American College Dance Association
2023	Part-Time Lecturer Teaching Evaluator (M. Lieber)
2022–23, 2021	Chair, Artistic Advisement Committee
2023	Part-Time Lecturer Teaching Evaluator (L. Malvacias)
2023	Part-Time Lecturer Teaching Evaluator (T. Ward)
2022–23, 2019–20	Member, BFA Audition Committee
2022–23	Member, Search Committee for faculty member, EdM
2022–23, 2018–21	Member, Admissions and Recruitment Committee
2022	Part-Time Lecturer Teaching Evaluator (S. Martino)
2021	Chair, Curriculum Committee
2021	Member, Non-tenure Track Reappointment Committee (P. Tanowitz)
2021	Mentor, MFA Thesis Concert
2021, 2019	Co-Coordinator/Mentor, BFA Thesis Concert
2021, 2020, 2018	Co-Coordinator/Mentor, BFA Senior Solo + Duet Concert
2020	Co-Coordinator/Mentor, Student Concert
2019–20	Member, Dance Executive Committee
2019–20	Member, Search Committee for 2 faculty members, EdM
2019	Member/Teacher, BA Audition Committee
2019	Member, Non-tenure Track Reappointment Committee (B. Angeline)
2019	Mentor, MFA Thesis Concert

2019, 18 Member, Student Dance Concert Adjudication Panel
2018–19 Member, Curriculum and Artistic Advisement Committee
2018–19 Member, Search Committee for faculty member, Dance Studies

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2005–present Intensive study with Barbara Mahler and Joanna Kotze, New York, NY and virtual
2005–present Individual classes at Movement Research, Gibney Dance, Dance New Amsterdam, BKSD, Freeskewl, New York, NY and virtual
2007–present MELT at Movement Research with Bebe Miller, Jasmine Hearn, Vicky Shick, Yvonne Meier, Neil Greenberg, Jeremy Nelson, Irene Dowd, New York, NY and virtual
2012–present Notable master classes and workshops with Jesse Zaritt, Wendell Beavers, Kent DeSpain, Faye Driscoll, Ohad Fishof and Noa Zuk, Vida Midgelow, Angie Hauser and Darrell Jones, Marcia Siegal, Talvin Wilks, various locations
2013 Bates Dance Festival, Lewiston, ME
2012 Bessie Schönberg Laboratory in Composition with Gwen Welliver, Dance Theater Workshop, New York, NY
2007, 2006, 2005 Doug Varone and Dancers Summer Workshop, Purchase College, Purchase, NY

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2020–present Dance New Jersey (DNJ)
2020–present Creative Armenia Network
2014–present National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)
2014–2020 Dance Studies Association (DSA)