

Curriculum Vitae

Naomi P. Bennett

Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University
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EDUCATION

- PhD, 2020 **Louisiana State University**, Communication Studies, Focus: Performance Studies
Minor: Women's and Gender Studies
Dissertation: "Virtual Touch: Embodied Experiences of (dis)Embodied Intimacy in Mediatized Performance," Advisor: Patricia A. Suchy
- MFA, 2015 **California State University, Los Angeles**, Television, Film, & Theatre, Focus: Production
Thesis: "*Hold Me Tight: Creating a Sustainable Ensemble*," Advisor: Bridget Murnane
- BA, 2001 **University of Massachusetts, Amherst**, Theater, Focus: Community-Based Theater
Magna cum laude. Thesis performance: *Vietnam X*, Advisor: Harley Erdman

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Affiliate Faculty**, Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. 2023-present
- Adjunct Instructor**, School of Professional Advancement, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. 2022-present
- Postdoc Instructor**, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. 2020-present
- Graduate Assistant**, LSU Women's Center, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. 2019-2020
- Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. 2015-2019
- Graduate Teaching Associate**, Department of Theatre and Dance, California State University, Los Angeles, CA. 2012-2014

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Bennett, Naomi P.** "Telematic connections: sensing, feeling, being in space together." *International Journal of Performance Arts and Digital Media*, vol. 16, no. 3, 2020, pp. 245-268.
<http://doi.org/10.1080/14794713.2020.1827531>
- 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, no. 11, 2020. <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/ptoj/vol5/iss1/11/>
- Bennett, Naomi P.** "aisthēsis: Feeling Through the Skin of My Eyes." *Global Performance Studies*, vol. 3, no. 2, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.33303/gpsv3n2a3>
- 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, no. 5, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.33011/partake.v2i2.425>

Book Reviews

- Bennett, Naomi P.** Review of *Embodiment and disembodiment in live art: from Grotowski to hologram*, by Ke Shi, *Text and Performance Quarterly*, vol. 40, no. 4, 2020, pp. 424-426.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10462937.2021.1877807>

Accepted for Publication

Bennett, Naomi P., N. Eda Erçin, Gregory Langner, Irina Kruchinina, Johanna Middleton, and Cynthia Sampson. "Being Virtual Together: Creating Connection in *dist[Sense]*." Article. (Accepted)

Bennett, Naomi P. "Cultural Recipe Book." Book chapter. (Accepted with revisions)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Indicated courses I proposed and designed*

Graduate Courses

*Zombies, Culture, and Society (Online, synchronous)

School of Professional Advancement, Master of Liberal Arts Program, Tulane University, Summer 2023, Summer 2024.

*Digital Performance (Online, synchronous)

School of Professional Advancement, Master of Liberal Arts Program, Tulane University, Summer 2022.

Upper-Level Undergraduate Courses

Performance Composition

Certified Communication-Intensive: written and spoken communication, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Spring 2023, Spring 2024.

*Sex and Zombies

Certified Communication-Intensive: written and spoken communication, Honors College, Louisiana State University, Spring 2023, Spring 2024.

*Black Women in Film

Screen Arts Program, Louisiana State University, Fall 2023.

*Zombie Films

Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Spring 2022.

*Digital Performance in Everyday Life (Online, synchronous)

Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Fall 2020, Spring 2021.

Acting Fundamentals: Scene Study

Department of Theatre and Dance, California State University, Los Angeles, Spring 2013.

Introductory Level Undergraduate Courses

Fundamentals of Communication (General Education Course, Non-Majors)

Certified Communication-Intensive: written and visual communication, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University. Summer 2017, Spring 2019, Fall 2020-present.

Public Speaking

Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Fall 2016-Spring 2017, Spring 2023-present.

Introduction to Performing Literature

Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2023.

Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Certified Communication-Intensive: written and spoken communication, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, Louisiana State University, Fall 2022, Fall 2023.

Introduction to Research in Humanities and Social Sciences (Transition Course for Incoming Freshman)

Certified Communication-Intensive: written communication, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Louisiana State University, Fall 2021.

Acting Fundamentals: Games and Exercises

Department of Theatre and Dance, California State University, Los Angeles, Fall 2012, Spring 2014.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Breaking the Liveness Binary,” paper presented at the Southern States Communication Association conference, St. Petersburg, FL, 2023.
- “State and Future of the Southern Division” panel discussion presented at the Southern States Communication Association conference, St. Petersburg, FL, 2023.
- “Redefining “Realness” in the Age of Zoom,” paper presented at the Canadian Association of Theatre Research conference, co-hosted by St. Thomas University, University of Toronto Scarborough, and the University of Lethbridge, Canada (Zoom), 2022.
- “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 (Zoom), 2021.
- “Hope for the Black Box,” panel discussion presented at the Southern States Communication Association Conference, originally scheduled for Norfolk, VA (Zoom), 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), 2021.
- “Feeling Through the Screen: Staging (dis)embodied in space,” presented at the Canadian Association of Theatre Research conference, workshop in somatic engagement, Montreal, QC, Canada, (Zoom) 2020.
- “aisthēsis: Feeling through the Skin of my Eyes,” presented at the Canadian Association of Theatre Research conference, seminar in somatic engagement, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- “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, 2019.
- “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, 2017.
- “Queering the Wedding Ceremony,” paper presented at the Western States Communication Association Performance Studies Interest Group Conference, Spokane, WA, 2015.

CREATIVE RESEARCH (selected)

Directing

- “Rock Out with Your Schnoz Out: The COVID Play.” HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, March 2023, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2023.
- “dist[Sense],” devised with the ensemble. HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2020. <https://vimeo.com/501966865>

“(dis)embodied in space: interactive installation art,” devised with the ensemble. HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2019.

<https://vimeo.com/330611615>

“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, 2016. <https://vimeo.com/249167463>

“Hold Me Tight,” devised by the ensemble. Arena Theatre, California State University, Los Angeles, CA., 2014. <https://vimeo.com/117528152>

“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.

“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, 2012.

“pool,” devised with the ensemble. Mobius Artist Group, Boston, MA, 2011.

“Beatnik Café,” director. Written by T. Namaya. Richmond Shepard Theater, New York City, NY.

“Searching for Molly Pye. . .,” devised with the ensemble. Green Street Studios, Cambridge, MA, 2010.

“Memories: An Interactive Performance Art Experience,” conceived and arranged. Accompanying interactive performance with Searching for Molly Pye. . . Green Street Studios, Cambridge, MA, 2010.

“KuLandia: The Remains of the Planet,” director. Written by T. Namaya, Hooker-Duham Theater, Brattleboro 24-hour play festival, Brattleboro, VT.

“Curve 9,” director. Written by Brian Weissman, Nexus Theater Center, Somerville, MA.

“The Vagina Monologues,” director/producer. Written by Eve Ensler and performed as part of V-Day Medford, Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, MA, 2002.

Installation Art, Video, and Short Films

“The Jellyfish Are Alright,” video performance of “Alive at the End of the World” by Saeed Jones, HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2023. <https://vimeo.com/861112882>

“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), 2018.

“Perception Suspension,” guerilla video projection installation created in collaboration with Jamie Kutner. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2016.

“Empty head,” writer and director. California State University, Los Angeles, CA, 2013. 2nd Place: Experimental Film, Golden Eagle Film Festival. <https://vimeo.com/66879659>

Performing

“Animal Rights,” performer, directed by Dr. Chris Collins.

“Certification,” Patti Pace Performance Festival, HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. 2017.

“Living Statue,” HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. 2016.

“Shadow of the Valley,” performer, directed by Dr. David P. Terry, compiled by the ensemble. HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2016.

“Back to the Future IV,” performer, written and directed by Patrick McElearney. HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2015.

“Rollerland,” performer, directed by Tracey Stephenson Shaffer. HopKins Black Box, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2015.

Petit Jean Performance Festival, Morrilton, AR, 2015.

“Eye Spy,” performer/choreographer, with Alma Baulmwoll. Green Street Studios, Cambridge, MA, 2010.

“Toilet Bowl Love,” writer and performer, choreography by Alisia L. L. Waller. Gloucester Stage Company (and various locations), Gloucester, MA, 2009.

“The Death of Rasputin,” performer/writer, with The Grindhouse Marionettes (co-founder), Paradise Rock Club (featured in The Dresden Dolls: Live in Paradise), 2005.

“Mad Maids,” performer, directed by Leah Callahan, Illegitimate Theater Company, Somerville, MA and Boston, MA, 2004.

Performance Troupes

Traniwreck, drag show/regular cast member. Reverse drag performer Nomi Sparks, Truth Serum Productions. Jacques’s night club, Boston, MA, 2005-2006.

The Grindhouse Marionettes, human marionette performance troupe. Co-founder, producer, writer, and performer. Greater Boston Area, MA, 2004-2006.

Performance Design

“Burnt City,” Lighting Designer. Written and directed by Josh Hamzehee. HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2019.

“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, 2017.

“Circus Ugly,” written by Gabriel Rivas Gomez, Video Designer. Directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera. Playwrights’ Arena, Los Angeles, CA, 2015.

STUDENT EXHIBITIONS

“Art as Communication | Communicating Identity,” End of semester exhibit of Student Art, CMST 1061: Fundamentals of Communication, LSU Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. End of semester event, Spring 2023 – present.

ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES

“Hold Me Tight,” Artist-in-Residence. Schkapf, Hollywood, CA, 2014.

“Untitled (Support/Control),” Shared Choreographers’ Concert (Peer Mentorship Program). With Alisia L. Waller, The Dance Complex, Cambridge, MA, 2014. <https://vimeo.com/20742650>

“Searching for Molly Pye. . .,” Artist-in-Residence. Mobius Performance Group. Boston, MA, 2010.

INVITED WORKSHOPS

“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), 2021.

WORKING GROUPS

“Digital Performance Working Group,” Canadian Association of Theatre Research, Canada (Zoom, Discord), 2022-present.

“Performance and Pedagogy Working Group,” Constellate, Performance Studies International (Zoom), 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, Canada (Zoom), 2021-2023.

FAB Summer School #4.33, Constellate, Performance Studies International (Zoom), 2021.

Liveness Lab, The Orchard Project, NYC, NY (Zoom), 2020.

“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, 2017.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2023 LSU College of Humanities & Social Sciences ASPIRE Undergraduate Summer Research Program, \$1,000 awarded to pay research assistant (Role: Mentor; Student Research Assistant: Zoe Whitton). <https://scalar.usc.edu/works/rockout-resource-479/index>

2022 Communication Intensive Summer Teaching Lab, LSU Communication Across the Curriculum, Professional Development Grant, \$800.

2018 “What is Carried by Clouds.” Emerald Necklace Conservatory Microgrant, made possible by Barbara and Amos Hostetter and Eugene M. Lang Foundation, \$500.

2013 Stephen Bufton Memorial Education Fund Outright Grant, American Business Women’s Association National Grant Awarded, Verdugo Glen chapter, Los Angeles, CA, \$1,500.

2013 Research Scholarship and Creative Activities Grant, California State University, Los Angeles, CA, \$500.

2000 Honors Research Fellowship, Support of research for thesis project performance: *Vietnam X*. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, \$500.

2000 Pioneer Valley Arts Council Grant, Support of research for thesis project performance: *Vietnam X*. Amherst, MA, \$500.

ACADEMIC HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Outstanding Faculty/Affiliate Contribution, LSU Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Program, 2023.

Page-to-Stage spotlight panel for “‘dist[Sense]’: The Development of Connection in Zoom Space,” Southern States Communication Association Conference, originally scheduled for Norfolk, VA (virtual conference presented on Zoom), 2021.

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, 2019.

Graduate Student Organization HopKins Black Box Award, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2017.

Lawrence P. Goodman Scholarship, California State University, Los Angeles, CA, 2014.

Golden Eagle Film Festival, 2nd Place: Experimental Film “Empty head”, 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, 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, 2014.

Hollywood Foreign Press Award Scholarship, California State University, Los Angeles, CA, 2013.

Chancellor’s Talent Award Scholarship, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, 1998-2001.

Commonwealth Scholar, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, 1997-2000.

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

SERVICE

Louisiana State University

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| 2024-present | Faculty Advisor for: Aalyha Betata. Communication Across the Curriculum (CxC) Distinguished Communicator Certificate. Expected completion date: Spring 2025. |
| 2024 | Communication-Intensive Rubric Pilot Team Member, Geaux Communicate, QEP |
| 2023-present | Co-organizer, Communication Speaker Series, Department of Communication Studies. |
| 2021-present | Recruitment Committee, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. |
| 2021-present | Undergraduate Advisory Committee, Department of Communication Studies. |
| 2020-present | Equity and Justice Committee, Department of Communication Studies.
2022-2024: Co-Chair |
| 2020-present | LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus, Member. |
| 2021-2022 | Coordinator for the Department of Communication Studies, Faculty Council Organizing Group. |
| 2020-2022 | Technical Director, HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory. |
| 2020-2021 | 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

- 2022-2023 Central Representative, Performance Studies Division, National Communication Association.
2020- 2022 CATR Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression committee, Canadian Association for Theatre Research/ L'association canadienne de la recherche théâtrale.

Conference Service:

- 2020-2023 Reviewer, Southern States Communication Association Conference, Performance Studies Division.
2021-2022 Reviewer, National Communication Association Conference, Performance Studies Division.
2019 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.
2018 Student Volunteer, The ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques (SIGGRAPH), Vancouver, BC, Canada.
2015 Reviewer, National Communication Association Conference, GLBTQ Division.

Peer Reviewer:

- 2024 Palgrave: *Embodied Communication Pedagogy*, Chapter proposals.
2021-2023 International Journal of Performance Arts and Digital Media. Published by Routledge.
2022 Theatre Research International. Published by Cambridge University Press.
2021-2022 Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies. Online journal.
2021-2022 PARtake: The Journal of Performance Research. Published by the University of Colorado Boulder.
2021 Hackett Publishing, Book Proposal.
2021 Storytelling, Self, Society: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Storytelling Studies. Published by Wayne State University Press.
2018 Kaleidoscope: A Graduate Journal of Qualitative Communication Research. Published by South Illinois University, Carbondale, IL. 2018.

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.

TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Curriculum development

- 2024 REACH Mentorship Training, Co-sponsored by: Louisiana Sea Grant, LSU College of the Coast & Environment, and LSU College of Science, Certificate Program.
- 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, (Zoom). Future of CI international conference, movement workshop. April 2021.

Captionist, (Zoom). Fundamentals of Communication course, Louisiana State University, Fall 2020.

ASL interpreters, (in-person). Vagina Monologues, performance, Medford, MA. February 2002.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Communication Association

Southern States Communication Association

Performance Studies International

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

Golden Key National Honors Society