

NAZLIHAN EDA ERÇİN

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SHORT BIO

N. Eda Erçin is an artist/scholar of contemporary embodied performance practices. She has substantial training and experience in artistic research, devised physical theatre, somatic movement, cultural ethnography and solo autobiographical performance. Her interdisciplinary Ph.D. research and teaching practice focus on intercultural (specifically the intersections of Western and Islamic) performances of everyday life in relation to body, memory, objects, gender, language, sound and voice. Since 2017, she has been a research affiliate at the University of Huddersfield (UK) as a core member of the Judaica Project: An Embodied Laboratory for Songwork funded by Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC, UK). In September 2018, she undertook the role of HopKins Black Box theater manager and instructor of Performance Studies in the Department of Communication Studies at Louisiana State University as well as the Assistant Editor of Theatre, Dance and Performance Training Blog (the digital platform of the Journal of Theatre, Dance and Performance Training).

EDUCATION

- 2020 Ph.D. in Drama / Performance Practice. Recipient of International Doctorate Studentship, College of Humanities, University of Exeter, UK. “Virginity as Performance: A practice-based inquiry on (female) embodiment and memory in contemporary Turkey and beyond.” Supervised by Dr. Natasha Lushetich.
- 2011 M.A. Performance Studies. Southern Illinois University Carbondale, IL. USA. Recipient of Fulbright Master’s Grant. Thesis: “Community [Theatre] & Self.” Supervised by Prof. Dr. Nathan P. Stucky.
- 2006 B.S. Sociology. Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey (High Honor Degree).
- 2006 Minor. Political Science. Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey (High Honor Degree).
- 2005 One-Year Intensive Performer Training Program. Ankara Art Theatre / *Ankara Sanat Tiyatrosu (AST)*, Ankara, Turkey.

PRACTICE AS RESEARCH

- 2020 (April) Director: “BUG - a physical ensemble adaptation of Franz Kafka’s *Metamorphosis*”, HopKins Black Box Theatre, Louisiana State University. (Rehearsals for the live production stopped in March due to Covid-19; virtual rehearsals continue.)
- 2017 Research Assistantship: “Judaica Project: Embodied Laboratory for Songwork.” AHRC-funded practice as research into new intersections of song as cultural and embodied knowledge. The selected audio-visual archive of the project featuring the work is available on: <http://urbanresearchtheater.com/songwork/>
- 2016 Ph.D. Practice Project (3): “Performing Virginity: Between Mother, Little Princess & Belly Dancer,” a solo voice and movement performance, University of Exeter, Drama.
- 2015 Ph.D. Practice Project (2): “Dis/assembling her Body,” an auto-topographic multimedia installation, University of Exeter, Drama.

2014 – 2015 Ph.D. Practice Project (1): “What Language Does My Body Speak?” design and facilitation of intensive physical performance and storytelling workshops on gender. Exeter, UK and Ankara, Turkey.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal article (to be published in June 2020) “Letting things rot”. *Journal of Theatre, Dance and Performance Training*. Special Issue: Training for Performance Art and Live Art.

Video article (in review) “Nefs: Embodied Flesh” a video essay by Nazlıhan Eda Erçin with Ilona Krawczyk, Agnieszka Mendel, and Ben Spatz. *Journal of the American Anthropological Association*. Special Issue: Knowing by Singing

Journal article (published, 2018) “From-ness: The identity of the practitioner in the laboratory”. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Voice Studies*, Themed Issue: ‘Voice, Identity, Contact.’ 3:2 (2018): 195-202.

Journal article (published, 2017) “Spell or Spill It Out: Dismembering a Name.” *Performance Research*. 22.5 (2017): 44-51.

Video article (published 2018) “Triptych: Genesis, Kavana, Sabbath.” Illuminated video triptych by Ben Spatz with Nazlıhan Eda Erçin, Caroline Gatt, and Agnieszka Mendel. *PARtake: The Journal of Performance as Research*. 2.2 (2018): 25 minutes.

Video article (published 2018) “Diaspora. An Illuminated Video Essay” by Ben Spatz with Nazlıhan Eda Erçin, Agnieszka Mendel, and Elaine Spatz-Rabinowitz. *Global Performance Studies (Performance Studies International)*. 2:1 (2018): 30 minutes

CONFERENCE & RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

2018 (June) Royal Anthropological Institute Conference. *Art, Materiality and Representation*. British Museum, London. “What is a Song? Body, Text, Video,” Nazlıhan Eda Erçin and Ben Spatz.

2018 (June) *The Audiovisual Body*, a symposium hosted by Judaica Project, University of Huddersfield. Keynote Presentation: “The Judaica Project” Nazlıhan Eda Erçin, Agnieszka Mendel, Ben Spatz.

2017 (September – October) Judaica Project, Research Seminars, Public Presentations and Open Work Sessions with Ben Spatz and Agnieszka Mendel:

Presenting organizations in the UK (organized by N. Eda Erçin)

JW3 Jewish Community Center, London

Royal Central School of Speech and Dance

Department of Theatre and Performance, Goldsmiths, University of London

European Theatre Research Network, University of Kent

Performance Training, Preparation and Pedagogy Research Group, University of Leeds

Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Arts and Languages, University of Manchester

Centre for Psychophysical Performance Research, University of Huddersfield

Presenting organizations in the US:

Department of Performance Studies, New York University

Drama Therapy Program, New York University

Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, City University of New York

CUNY Center for Jewish Studies

SITI Company Thought Center, NYC

LABA Laboratory for Jewish Culture, NYC

Cave Arts, home of Leimay, NYC
 Panoply Performance Laboratory, NYC
 Institute for Somatics and Social Justice, Philadelphia
 Jewish Voice for Peace, Philadelphia
 Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut
 Studio@550, Cambridge, Massachusetts
 Tufts University Hillel, Medford, Massachusetts

Presenting organizations in Poland:

The Grotowski Institute, Wrocław
 White Stork Synagogue, Wrocław
 POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw
 NN Theatre Centre, Lublin
 Galicia Jewish Museum, Kraków
 Massolit Books, Kraków
 Five synagogues in the Świętokrzyskie region

- 2017 Theatre and Performance Research Association (TAPRA) Annual Conference. Lecture Performance of Judaica Project, Nazlıhan Eda Erçin, Agnieszka Mendel, and Ben Spatz. “Molecular Identities: Song as Philosophy in the Embodied Laboratory.”
- 2017 Performance Studies International (PSi) #23—Overflow, Hamburg. Performance in Historical Paradigms Working Group. Performance Presentation of Judaica Project, Nazlıhan Eda Erçin, Agnieszka Mendel, Ben Spatz. “Embodied Research in Song-Action.”
- 2017 PSi #23—Overflow, Hamburg. Individual Paper Presentation: “A Phenomenological Female Anatomy and Leakage.”
- 2016 PGR Conference. *Audience, Experience, Desire. Researching interactivity & participation in contemporary performance.* Paper Presentation and Performance Installation: “Dis-assembling her body: An auto-topographic multimedia installation.”
- 2015 *Artistic Research: Is There Some Method?* Academy of Performing Arts, Prague. Performative Presentation. “Expression versus Exploration in Practice as Research.”
- 2015 Feminist and Women’s Studies Association (FWSA) Conference 2015. University of Leeds. *Everyday Encounters with Violence: Critical Feminist Perspectives.* Paper Presentation: “Senses of Virginity in a Female Body: a Practice-based account.”
- 2015 Alumni Research Talk, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Communication Studies. Performative Presentation: “From Performance Studies in the US to Practice as Research in the UK.”
- 2015 Pre-sessional Research Presentation. Drama, University of Exeter. PGR Paper Presentation “Performing Virginity and Female Embodiment.”
- 2015 Eleventh Qualitative Inquiry Conference at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Artistic Research Group. Paper Presentation: “Not ‘Why’ But ‘How’ Practice as Research? Tracing the Bones of a Practice-Based Account on Body, Gender and Virginity.”
- 2011 Seventh Qualitative Inquiry Conference at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Auto-ethnography Research Group. Paper Presentation: “Are We the Same When We Do Not Speak: An Identity Question Through Language and Otherness.”

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2013 – 2016 International Doctorate Studentship (overseas tuition and living expenses), College of Humanities, University of Exeter.

- 2016 Santander Postgraduate Research Award to present at the Conference of *Artistic Research: Is There Some Method?* Academy of Performing Arts, Prague.
- 2014 – 2016 (received three times) Postgraduate Research Activity Awards, College of Humanities, University of Exeter. Organization and hosting of following research events:
- (1) Workshop: *Body as a way of Knowing*, Core Training for the Relational Actor led by Alison Hodge, director, actor-trainer, author and lecturer. Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Drama and Theatre, Royal Holloway, University of London.
- (2) Advance Level Workshop: *Body as a way of Knowing*, Core Training led by Alison Hodge.
- (3) Performative Research Seminar: *The Shifting Landscape of My Belly: A Reflexive Retrospective*, discussion on Auto-ethnography, Body and Gender led by Dr. Elyse Pineau, Professor Emerita of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale (USA), Communication Studies.
- 2014 Bursary for participation. E|MERGE: Interdisciplinary Collaborative Residency at earthdance, MA, USA.
- 2012 Cultural Exchange Fellowship for Artists. Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF), Washington DC, USA.
- 2008 – 2010 Fulbright Master's Grant (two-years full scholarship to study in the USA, received from The Turkish Fulbright Commission).
- 2008 Venice Manley Bursary, The Center for Performance Research (CPR), Aberystwyth University (Wales, UK) to attend the International Voice Festival "Giving Voice 10."

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019 (Fall) Lead instructor and designer of the course, Performing Sound and Voice. Louisiana State University.
- 2018 – 2019 Lead instructor, Introduction to Performing Literature. Louisiana State University.
- 2018 – 2019 Lead instructor, Public Speaking. Louisiana State University.
- 2018 (Spring) Teaching Assistant, Interpretative Acting. Drama, University of Exeter.
- 2017 Lead Tutor, Research and Performance: "Physical Auto (Biographical) Performance and Body-centred Self-research." Drama, University of Exeter.
*Nominated for the 2017 Students' Guild and FXU Teaching Awards in the category of Best Undergraduate Supervisor. Selected as the Drama subject winner for the mentioned category.
- 2016 Lead Tutor, Research and Performance: "Autobiographical Performance: Body, Objects and Self-research." Drama, University of Exeter.
*Shortlisted for the 2016 Students' Guild and FXU Teaching Awards in the category Best Postgraduate Teaching Assistant. Selected as the Drama subject winner for the mentioned category.
- 2014 Teaching Assistant, Staging the Text. Drama, University of Exeter.

- 2014 – 2018 Workshop Facilitator, Widening Participation Program (designing and delivering specialized sessions to support students from all backgrounds into higher education) Drama, University of Exeter.
- 2014 summer
2018 summer Seminar & Project Facilitator, Grand Challenges, ‘Gender Equality’ Group (a week-long extracurricular independent research program for undergraduate students from all disciplines), University of Exeter.
- 2011 – 2013 Drama and Performing Arts Teacher (Full Time) for K-10 (group communication, collaboration, adaptation of stories, improvisation, and making performance in Turkish and English), Eskişehir Gelişim College, Eskişehir, Turkey.
- 2010 Lead instructor, Public Speaking and Oral Communication (1st year mandatory course), Communication Studies, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, USA.

INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE TRAINING & ARTICTIC RESIDENCY

- 2017 Grotowski Institute, Brzezinka, Poland. Judaica Project Residency with Ben Spatz and Agnieszka Mendel.
- 2015 *E | MERGE* Interdisciplinary Collaborative Residency, earthdance, MA, US.
- 2014 Odin Festival, training with the ensemble members of Odin Teatret and Eugenio Barba, Grotowski Institute, Wroclaw, Poland.
- 2014 – 2015
(twice) *Laboratory Karawanasun The School of Rena Mirecka*, Grotowski Institute, Wroclaw, Poland.
- 2014 – 2015
(three times) *Walk of Life* Workshops with Helen Poyner on somatic/non-stylized movement, Devon, UK.
- 2014 *Sensory Awareness and Gindler Work* workshop with Eva Schmale. University of Exeter.
- 2013 – 2015 *Core Training for Relational Actor* workshops with Alison Hodge. University of Exeter.
- 2013 – 2014 *Intercultural Performer Training* with Rebecca Loukes. Drama, University of Exeter.
- 2011 – 2012 Internship (3 months, 2011), Summer Residency (3 weeks, 2012). Double Edge Theatre (MA, USA). International laboratory for psycho-physical and site-specific performance.
- 2010 Summer Institute. Cornerstone Theater Company (CA, USA). Multidisciplinary professional training and practice in community-based theatre.
- 2009 Residency Training. *Body Maps: Autobiographical Performance* with Tim Miller. Communication Studies, SIUC.
- 2008 Workshops. *Giving Voice 10: Breath, Inspiration, and Voice*. The Center For Performance Research (CPR), Wales. (1) “Flesh of Sound” with Theatre Zar (Poland). (2) “A Blessing of Song from a Persian Garden” with Mahsa & Marjan Vadat (Iran).
- 2008 Residency. Group leader. *Juggling in Rome: Social Theatre and Clownery* with Compagnia Endaxi, Roma Italy, organized by Lunaria (Italy) and Youth Services Program (Turkey).

OTHER PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- 2010 “It’s All Bueno”, Cornerstone Theatre Company. A community-based theatre project in Pacoima, LA. Directed by Juliette Carrillo.

- 2010 “The Penelopiad” by Margaret Atwood. Adapted and directed by Dr. Elyse Pineau. Marion Kleinau Theatre. SIUC.
- 2010 “Spider Web,” a solo performance by N. Eda Erçin as a part of “Body Maps” directed by Tim Miller: An Ensemble-Generated Public Presentation of Self-Scripted Performances. SIUC.
- 2009 “The Carnival” a devised performance with Viewpoints technique directed by Rick Jones, Marion Kleinau Theatre. SIUC.
- 2009 “Vagina Monologues,” by Eve Ensler. V-Day Productions & SIUC.
- 2008 “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by W. Shakespeare. Directed by David S. Schneider. McLeod Theater. Theatre Department of SIUC.
- 2006-2007 “The Little Match Girl” Anderson’s Fairy Tales adapted as a masked performance. Ankara Art Theatre, Turkey.
- 2005-2006 “The Selfish Giant” by Oscar Wilde. Ankara Art Theatre, Turkey.
- 2003 “The Kitchen” by Arnold Wesker. METU Players: Middle East Technical University Theatre Society.
- 2002 “The Good Woman of Setzuan” by Bertolt Brecht. METU Players: Middle East Technical University Theatre Society.

ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELD RESEARCH AS PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2009 Project Assistant: “International Migration and Women in Konya, Turkey,” METU Scientific Inquiry Projects, Sociology Department. Conducting the field research, interviews, focus groups and transcription of the data.
- 2008 Field Research in *Cultural Anthropology*. “Performing Gender in a Sacred Space: An Ethnographic Study in Hacı Bayram Veli Mosque, Ankara Turkey,” METU Scientific Inquiry Projects, Cultural Anthropology Program.
- 2007 Project Assistant: “Life in a Borderland: a Socio-Cultural Analysis of Life in Hopa Turkey,” METU Scientific Inquiry Projects, Sociology Department.
- 2007 Research Project in *Special Project in Sociology and Social Anthropology*. “Multicultural Identity through Performing Arts: Turkish Migrant Theaters in Berlin.” A Joint German-Turkish Seminar between Middle East Technical University, Ankara and Free University of Berlin. Globalization: Impacts and Responses in Different Contexts, Germany and Turkey Compared.
- 2006 Research Project in *Seminar Works in Special Fields of Sociology*. “Social Space and Perceptions of Crime in a semi-open prison, Ulucanlar, Ankara.”
- 2007-2008 Field Coordinator & Project Assistant (full-time employed). “Developing a Socio-Economic Status Index and Understanding the Parameters of Social Mobility and Stratification in Ankara, Turkey”, Project Coordinator: Prof. Sibel Kalaycıoğlu” funded by the Scientific & Technological Research Council of Turkey.
- 2004-2006 Field Researcher (part-time employed). Collection and Analysis of Oral History. “Similarities and the Differences between Experiences of “Workers” in Istanbul, Bursa, Ankara before and after 1980”, Project Coordinator: Prof. Sibel Kalaycıoğlu, funded by Scientific Inquiry Project of METU.

SOCIAL WORK AND INTERNSHIPS

- 2004 “Model Youth Parliament 1 & 2,” Ankara, Turkey. Turkish Democracy Foundation (TDV). Internship at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.
- 2005
- 2004 Internship at International Labor Organization (ILO) Ankara. International Project of the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC). Archival work and documentation.