

# Naomi P. Bennett

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Communication Studies | Louisiana State University  
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### EDUCATION

- 2020 PhD, Communication Studies, Performance Studies track. Minor: Women, and Gender Studies. Louisiana State University. Advisor: Patricia A. Suchy. May 2020.  
Dissertation: *Virtual Touch: Embodied Experiences of (dis)Embodied Intimacy in Mediatized Performance*.
- 2015 MFA, Television, Film and Theatre, Production track. California State University, Los Angeles. Advisor: Bridget Murnane. March 2015.  
Thesis: *Hold Me Tight* (performance); “*Hold Me Tight: Creating a Sustainable Ensemble*” (paper).
- 2001 BA, Theater/Devising and Community-Based Theater, *magna cum laude*. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Advisor: Harley Erdman. June 2001.  
Thesis: *Vietnam X* (performance).
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### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

#### Louisiana State University

- Aug 2020 to present Instructor/HopKins Black Box Technical Director, Department of Communication Studies College of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Aug 2019 to Jul 2020 Graduate Assistant, LSU Women’s Center, Office of Diversity.
- Aug 2015 to May 2019 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication Studies College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

#### California State University, Los Angeles

- Nov 2013 to Apr 2015 Graduate Office Assistant, Department of Television, Film, and Media, College of Arts & Letters.
- Sept 2012 to Jun 2014 Graduate Teaching Associate, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Arts & Letters.
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### 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>

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## 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

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## 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).

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## ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES

- 2020 *Liveness Lab*, The Orchard Project, NYC, NY (Zoom).
- 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.
- 2010 *Searching for Molly Pye*. . . , Artist-in-Residence. Mobius Performance Group. Boston, MA.

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**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.
- 2019 *(dis)embodied in space: interactive installation art*, devised with the ensemble. HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 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.
- 2014 *Hold Me Tight*, devised by the ensemble. Arena Theatre, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.
- 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.

**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.

## **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.

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## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

- 2021 “Recovering Connection through Telepresence,” accepted paper. Canadian Association of Theatre Research conference, hosted virtually hosted by the University of Ottawa, the University of Manitoba, and the Société québécoise d’études théâtrales, Canada.
- 2021 “‘dist[Sense]’: The Development of Connection in Zoom Space,” accepted page-to-stage panel. Southern States Communication Association Conference, originally scheduled for Norfolk, VA (virtual conference presented on Zoom).
- 2021 “Hope for the Black Box,” accepted roundtable. Southern States Communication Association Conference, originally scheduled for Norfolk, VA (virtual conference presented on Zoom).
- 2020 “The Woman behind the Glass,” accepted paper, not presented (due to COVID-19). National Communication Association Conference, Dallas, TX.
- 2020 “Feeling the Past, Touching the Future: Inter-Connectivity of Time and Space in teamLab’s *Au-delà des limites*,” accepted paper, not presented (due to COVID-19). Canadian Association of Theatre Research conference, Montreal, QC, Canada.
- 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 presentation 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 “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 “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 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, California State University, Los Angeles, CA.

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## TEACHING

### Louisiana State University

#### Instructor of Record

Digital Performance and Everyday Life (2)  
Fundamentals of Communication (10)  
Introduction to Performing Literature (3)  
Public Speaking (3)

#### Teaching Assistant

Film Genre: Horror, Instructor of Record: Dr. Tracy Stephenson Shaffer (1)  
Fundamentals of Communication, Instructor of Record: Dr. Joni Butcher (3)

### California State University, Los Angeles

#### Instructor of Record

Acting Fundamentals: Scene Study (2)  
Acting Games and Exercises (1)

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## GUEST LECTURES

- Fall 2018 “Video, Projection Design, and Media Technology in Installation Art,” Invited Lecturer in Dr. Patricia A. Suchy’s Installation Art Class. Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Fall 2018 “*Blair Witch Project* and the Rise of the Found Footage Subgenre in Horror,” Invited Lecturer Dr. Tracy Shaffer’s Horror Genre Film Class. Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Fall 2018 “*We Ate the Children Last* and the 2010 Era Zombies,” Invited Lecturer in Dr. Tracy Shaffer’s Horror Genre Film Class. Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Fall 2017 “Boal in Baton Rouge: A Survey of Image Theatre Projects Since the Summer of 2016,” Pre-NCA Colloquy presentation, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Spring 2017 G.I.F.T.S. presentation: “Encouraging Opinions: Using Progressive Speech Topics Assignments to Teach Open Dialogue in the Classroom,” Colloquy presentation, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Fall 2017 Clowning workshop, (and series coordinator), Graduate Student Teach-Back Workshops, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Spring 2016 Movement Workshop, Invited Lecturer in Dr. Chris Collins Performance Composition Class. Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Spring 2015 “Theater of Intimacy: Acknowledging the Need for Touch Amidst an Online World,” Invited presentation at Liminal LA, Los Angeles, CA.

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## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- 1998 Phi Kappa Phi Certificate of Excellence, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.
- 1997-2000 Commonwealth Scholar, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

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## 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>

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## 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.

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**SERVICE**

**Academic Community**

- 2020-present CATR Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression, Canadian Association for Theatre Research/ L'association canadienne de la recherche théâtrale
- 2020 Southern States 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, Special Interest Group on Computer GRAPHics and Interactive Techniques (SIGGRAPH), Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- 2018 Kaleidoscope: A Graduate Journal of Qualitative Communication Research. Published by South Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.
- 2015 National Communication Association Conference, GLBTQ Division.

**Louisiana State University**

- 2020-present Technical Director, HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory.
- 2020-present Board Member: Recent graduate/instructor representative, HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory.
- 2020 Qlab: Video and Sound Cueing Workshop, HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory (in-person, Zoom, and creation of videos tutorials).
- 2019-2020 University Council on Gender Equality, LSU Women's Center representative. Co-chair: Subcommittee on Female Grad Students/Complex students of concern.
- 2019-2020 Pregnancy and Parenting Program Committee, LSU Women's Center representative.
- 2018 Awards Committee Co-chair, Communication Studies Graduate Student Association.
- 2017 Producer, Undergraduate Student Showcase (Spring), HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory.
- 2017-2018 Board Member: ABD representative, HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory.
- 2016-2018 Coordinator/facilitator, Graduate Student Teach-Back Workshops, HopKins Black Box Performance Laboratory.

**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.

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**ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE (selected)**

- 2009-11 Theater Specialist, Young Audiences, Allston, MA.
- 2008-11 Theater and Movement Specialist, Community Art Center, Cambridge, MA.
- 2009-10 Movement Specialist, Philbrook School, Roslindale, MA.
- 2008-11 Kids Yoga Instructor, My First Yoga, Boston, MA.
- 2005-08 Enrichment Teacher: Theater and Circus, Cambridge Performance Project, Cambridge, MA.

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**TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2021 Safe Space Training Certificate, LGBTQ+ Project, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2020 InterPlay Life Practice Program / Secrets of InterPlay, CC King and Lisa Laing, Zoom.
- 2009 Project Joy: Basic Playmaker Workshop, Certificate, Cambridge, MA.
- 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 Certificate (Astanga/Vinyasa), Somerville, MA.

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**ARTISTIC TRAINING**

- 2020-present Taiko drumming, Odaiko New England, Juni Kobayashi, Arlington, MA/Zoom

- 2020 Viewpoints/Pedagogy Laboratory, Deborah Black, Zoom.
- 2020 Embodiment and Co-presence: Mindfulness of Virtually Connected Bodies (six-week course), Marlon Barrios Solano, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies, Barre, MA/Zoom.
- 2020 Immersive Theater Design Workshop, John Bechtold, Greenfield, MA/Zoom.
- 2020 Etäjämät | Remote Contact Improvisation, Samee Haapa, Helsinki, Finland/Zoom.
- 2017-present Contact Improvisation / Contemplative Dance Practice (CDP), Ryuta Iwashita, New Orleans, LA.
- 2013 Self with Others (Ensemble), John Britton, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013 The Idiot Workshop (Clown), John Gilkey, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2009-present InterPlay, Brad Brockman and C.C. King, Cambridge, MA.
- 2009 Theater of the Oppressed & Forum Theater Workshop, Julian Boal, Boston, MA.
- 2009 Bouffon Workshop, Eric Davis (The Red Bastard), Brattleboro, VT.
- 2008-2011 CHIMERA lab, (Viewpoints, Butoh, Shintaido), Jennifer Hicks, Cambridge, MA.
- 2007 Contact Improvisation, David Woodbury, Brattleboro, VT.
- 2006 The Red Nose & Neutral Mask, Giovanni Fusetti, Paris, France.
- 2003 VeneziaINscena, Adriano Iursseovich (month-long Commedia dell'Arte Intensive), Venice, Italy.
- 2003 Physical Theater Workshop, Andrew Hammerson (of DV8), Montreal, QC, Canada.
- 2002 Stanislavski Summer School, Harvard University, Yuri Yereimin. Taught by professors from the Moscow Art Theatre School (MXAT). Cambridge, MA.
- 2000 Biomechanics Workshop, Cold War Project, Vladimir Rovinsky, Northampton, MA.
- 2000 Storycircle Workshop, Junebug Productions, Chuck Mike, Amherst, MA.

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Communication Association

Southern States Communication Association

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