

REBECCA KASTLEMAN

Assistant Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature
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EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Harvard University, Department of English
2014 A.M., Harvard University, Department of English
2006 A.B., Harvard University
Special Concentration in Performance Studies, *cum laude*, highest honors in field

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021– Assistant Professor, Department of English, Columbia University
2020–2021 Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Southern Methodist University
2019–2020 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of English, University of Virginia
2018–2019 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, College of the Holy Cross
2017–2018 Lecturer, Program in History & Literature, Harvard University
2012–2016 Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research, Harvard University
Executive Director (2013–2016); Assistant Director (2012–2013)
2014 Adjunct Faculty, Department of Performing Arts, Emerson College

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript

- *Profaning Acts: The Drama of Religion on the Modern Stage*. In progress.

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2023 “Sounding the Gospel Play.” *PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art* 45, no. 2 (2023): 70–81.
2022 “Staging Hurston’s Heaven: Ethnographic Performance from the Pulpit to the Pews.” *Theatre Survey* 63, no. 2 (2022): 138–159.
2020 “Synecdoche’s Obloquy: Beckett and the Performance of Indecency.” *Journal of Beckett Studies* 29, no. 2 (2020): 179–195.
2019 “An Acquaintance with Religion: Pluralizing Knowledge in Gertrude Stein’s *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*.” *Modern Drama* 62, no. 3 (2019): 338–360.
*Selected to be profiled in “On TAP: A Theatre and Performance Studies Podcast”
2016 “Impersonating the Law: The Dramaturgy of Legal Action in the York Corpus Christi Pageant and John Bale’s *Three Laws*.” *Theatre Journal* 68, no. 1 (2016): 37–56.
2008 “Games with Ghosts in Müller’s *Explosion of a Memory*: A Study of Pre-Ideology in the Müller-Wilson Collaboration.” *Theatre History Studies* 28 (2008): 112–130.

Edited Collections

- *Demilitarized Futurities: Reimagining Landscapes of War*. Essay collection under contract with Anthem Press. With Darcie DeAngelo (University of Oklahoma), Joshua Reno (SUNY Binghamton), and Leah Zani.

- 2019 “Modernism on the World Stage,” peer-reviewed essay cluster for *Modernism/modernity* Print Plus platform (modernismmodernity.org), Oct. 15, 2019. With Kevin Riordan (Yale–NUS) and Claire Warden (Loughborough University). Includes co-written, peer-reviewed introduction.

Book Chapters and Essays

- “Religion.” *The Cambridge Companion to Modernist Theatre*. Ed. Brad Kent and David Kornhaber. *Forthcoming*.
- 2021 “Big Hole: Excavating Intimate Histories of a Nuclear Homefront.” *Critical Military Studies* 7, no. 4 (2021): 450–454.

Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries

- 2023 “Reforming the Chorus: Insurgent Collectivities in Hansberry’s Smug Bohemia.” Review of Lorraine Hansberry’s *The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window*. *American Quarterly* 75, no. 10 (2023). *Forthcoming*.
- 2020 “Performance, Theatre, Drama.” *The Year’s Work in Critical and Cultural Theory* 28 (2020): 329–350.
- 2019 “Performance, Theatre, Drama.” *The Year’s Work in Critical and Cultural Theory* 27 (2019): 303–323.
- *Selected for “Best of Recent Literature Scholarship” from Oxford University Press
- 2016 Review of Henry Bial, *Playing God*. *Modern Drama* 59.3 (2016): 380–382.
- 2013 “Bertolt Brecht, ‘A Short Organum for the Theatre.’” In *The Manifesto in Literature*. Detroit: St. James Press, 2013. 61–63.

Selected Public-Facing Essays

- 2010 “No Space Like Home: Global Connections Bolster Local Artistry at Los Angeles’s REDCAT.” *American Theatre* 27.5 (2010): 60–64.
- 2010 “More Work More Pleasure: Nature Theater of Oklahoma’s Game Plan Turns the Mundane into Marvels.” *American Theatre* 27.2 (2010): 22–24.
- 2010 Review of Susan Glaspell festival at Ontological-Hysteric Theater. *American Theatre* 27.2 (2010): 19.
- 2010 Profile of theater director Matthew Earnest. *American Theatre* 27.5 (2010): 21.

SELECTED AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021– Lavine Scholar, Columbia University, research support for tenure-track faculty
- 2020 Honoring Our Professors’ Excellence (HOPE) nominee, Southern Methodist Univ.
- 2018 Howard Mumford Jones Prize, Harvard Univ., best dissertation on 19th century lit
- 2016–2017 Frederic Wertham Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2016 Merit/Graduate Society Term-Time Research Fellowship, Harvard University, awarded to the “most outstanding students” across all fields of the graduate school
- 2016 Bryden Scholarship, International Shaw Society
- 2015, 2016 Jens Aubrey Westengard Scholarship, Harvard University (*two-time recipient*)
- 2015 Dexter Summer Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2014, ’15, ’18 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University (*three-time recipient*)

- 2012–2013 Eric Cooper and Naomi Siegel Graduate Fellowship, Harvard University
 2008 *American Theatre* Affiliated Writers Fellowship, New York, NY
 2006–2007 George Peabody Gardner Fellowship, Harvard Univ., for year of study in Belgrade
 2006 Thomas T. Hoopes Prize, Harvard University, for “outstanding scholarly work” in senior honors thesis across all fields of the College

TEACHING

Columbia University, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature

- 2021–2024 Literature Humanities (*undergraduate seminar in the Core Curriculum*)
 Spring 2024 Chorus and Collectivity (*graduate seminar*)
 Fall 2023 Dramatic Breakups (*undergraduate lecture*)
 Spring 2023 The Modernist Body (*mixed undergraduate and graduate seminar*)
 Fall 2022 Masters Seminar (*graduate seminar, required for incoming MA and PhD students*)
 Spring 2022 Global Anglophone Drama (*mixed undergraduate and graduate seminar*)
 Fall 2021 Rites in Crisis: Contemporary Theater and the Problem of Repair (*mixed undergraduate and graduate lecture*)

Southern Methodist University, Research Assistant Professor, Department of English

- Fall 2020 Political Theater: Modern Drama and the Art of Assembly (*undergraduate lecture*)

University of Virginia, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of English

- Spring 2020 History of Drama II: Neoclassicism to Now (*undergraduate lecture*)
 Spring 2020 Theaters Without Borders (*undergraduate lecture*)
 Fall 2019 Dramas of Sexuality (*undergraduate seminar*)

College of the Holy Cross, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English

- 2018–2019 Critical Reading and Writing: Drama (*undergraduate seminar*)
 Spring 2019 Shakespeare (*undergraduate lecture*)
 Spring 2019 Plays on Worlds: Dramas of Global English (*undergraduate lecture*)
 Fall 2018 Modern Drama (*undergraduate lecture*)
 Fall 2018 From Island to Empire: Mapping Women’s Writing in Modern British Lit (*undergraduate lecture*)

Harvard University, Lecturer, Program in History & Literature

- 2017–18 British National Identity from the Age of Empire to Thatcher (*junior tutorial*)
 2017–18 Senior Tutorial (*senior thesis seminar*)
 “Pursuing the Second Odyssey: A Study in Homeric Renegotiation by Modern Greek Poets,” by Alexandra Walsh
 “The Coherence of Suffrage: Writing Towards the Vote in the British Women’s Suffrage Campaign, 1903–1913,” by Emma City

Emerson College, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Performing Arts

- Fall 2014 World Drama in its Context I: Origins to 1800 (*undergraduate lecture*)

Harvard University, Dept. of English and Committee on Theater, Dance, and Media

Tutorial Instructor (Instructor of Record)

- Spring 2018 Performance: Process, Iteration, Identity (with Aysha Upchurch)
Fall 2017 Women's Parts on the Modern Stage
Fall 2015 Ruined Stages: Brecht, Beckett, and the Drama of History
Fall 2015 Cultural Crisis and the American Experimental Theater
Fall 2014 Apocalyptic Make-Believe: Religion, Politics, and Dramatic Modernism

Teaching Fellow

- Spring 2015 Political Theatre and the Structure of Drama
Spring 2014 Philosophy and Literature: The Problem of Consent
Fall 2013 Rules of the Game: The History of Literary Theory

Thesis Advisor

- 2015 "A Disquiet Not Otherwise Definable: Elena Ferrante, Lydia Davis, and Literature of Female Experience," by Yen Pham (with Amanda Claybaugh)

The Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research, Harvard University

- 2016 *Instructor*, "Secular Theaters," a ten-day seminar for graduate students and faculty (with Martin Puchner)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers

- 2024 Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Jan 2024. "The Rosary in the Gutter: Profaning Rituals in Tennessee Williams." In "Tarnished, Shattered, Spoiled: The Fractured Forms of Modern American Tragedy," session organized with Nicole Jerr (US Air Force Academy). Scheduled.
- 2023 American Society for Theatre Research, Providence, Nov 2023. "On Belief and Doubt in Theater Studies." In "Anchoring Historiographies: Hope, Method, and the Future of Theater History," working group organized with Debra Caplan (Baruch College - CUNY) and Max Shulman (U Colorado - Colorado Springs). Scheduled.
- 2023 Modernist Studies Association, Brooklyn, Nov 2023. "Modernist Church Performance." Roundtable presentation.
- 2022 American Society for Theatre Research, New Orleans, LA, Nov 2022. "Resurrecting the Passions of Sadakichi Hartmann." Plenary lecture.
- 2022 Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research, Cambridge, MA, June 2022. "Zora Neale Hurston's Theater Pedagogy."
- 2022 Modern Language Association, Washington, DC, Jan 2022. "Unfaithful Revivals: Resurrecting Sadakichi Hartmann's Passion Play." In "Bad Revivals: Dramas of Unruly Repetition," session organized with Kelli Shermeyer (U Delaware).
- 2021 Association for Theatre in Higher Education, online, Aug 2021. "Ritual, Revelation, Revolution: Grotowski's Initiates from Wroclaw to Washington Square." In "Can Ritual Be Decolonized?," session organized with Jyana Browne (U Maryland - College Park), Marjan Moosavi (U Maryland - College Park), and Dana Tanner-

- Kennedy (U Alberta).
- 2020–21* American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, Nov 2021. “Passionate Provocations.” In “Performing the Parish Calendar: Ritual Enactment Beyond Repetition,” working group organized with Dana Tanner-Kennedy and Kimberly Jannarone (Yale). *Postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19.
- 2020* The Space Between Conference, Charlottesville, VA, June 2020. “Zora Neale Hurston, Performance Theorist: Theater and Religion in the Carolinas, circa 1939.” *Originally scheduled for June 2020, canceled due to COVID-19.
- 2019 American Society for Theatre Research, Arlington, VA, Nov 2019. “Representing Faithfully: Contested Histories of Religious Performance.” In “Separations of Church and Stage: Performing Sacred and Secular Publics,” working group organized with Debra Caplan and Heather Nathans (Tufts).
- 2019 Modernist Studies Association, Toronto, Oct 2019. “Dramatizing Collaboration in Zora Neale Hurston: Performance, Religion, Ethnography.” Seminar paper.
- 2019 Modern Language Association, Chicago, Jan 2019. “Producing Endurance in Jerzy Grotowski’s Laboratory.” In “Producing Global Performance,” session I organized.
- 2018 American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, CA, Nov 2018. “Engendering Failure: *Mrs. Warren* at the Chicago Little Theatre.” In “Impotent Performance,” working group organized with Tarryn Chun (Notre Dame), Christopher Grobe (Amherst), Derek Miller (Harvard), and Alisa Zhulina (NYU). ASTR Forum.
- 2018 Modernist Studies Association, Columbus, OH, Nov 2018. “Apocalyptic Effort: Exhausting the Body in Grotowski’s Theater.”
- 2018 American Comparative Literature Association, Los Angeles, CA, March 2018. “Paul Robeson’s Musical Accompanist.” In “Modernist Ensembles,” seminar organized with Pardis Dabashi (Bryn Mawr).
- 2017 American Society for Theatre Research, Atlanta, Nov 2017. “Theatrical Collaboration as Anti-Racism.”
- 2017 Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Jan 2017. “Performance & the Passions”
- 2016 American Society for Theatre Research, Minneapolis, MN, Nov 2016. “Pagan Feelings in *The Rite of Spring*.”
- 2016 Modernist Studies Association, Pasadena, CA, Nov 2016. “*Salomé* and the Sovereign: Secular Theaters After Oscar Wilde.” In “Political Theology, Political Economy: Modern Drama Weighs In,” session organized with Nicole Jerr.
- 2016 Shaw Symposium, Niagara-on-the-Lake, July 2017. “Shaw’s Postcolonial Paradise.”
- 2016 American Comparative Literature Association, Boston, MA, Mar 2016. “Passionate Modernism: The Drama of Crucifixion in Barnes and Yeats.”
*Horst Frenz Prize Nominee for best paper delivered by a graduate student
- 2015 Modernist Studies Association, Boston, Nov 2015. “Montage and Mimicry: What John Heartfield Learned from the Weimar Theater.” Seminar paper.
- 2015 Modernist Studies Association, Boston, Nov 2015. “Shaw’s *Saint Joan* as a Modernist Miracle Play.”
- 2015 Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Montreal, Jul 2015. “Gertrude Stein and the Drama of Religion.”
- 2015 Northeast Modern Language Association, Toronto, April 2015. “Self-Made Man and

- Superman: Goethe, Nietzsche, Shaw.”
- 2014 American Comparative Literature Association, New York, NY, Mar 2014. “Wittenberg, Capital of the Avant Garde.”
*Horst Frenz Prize Nominee for best paper delivered by a graduate student
- 2013 American Comparative Literature Association, Toronto, Canada, Apr 2013. “Against Interpellation: Restaging the Acting Subject in Beckett’s *Play*.”

As Discussant, Moderator, Respondent

- 2023 Modernist Studies Association, Brooklyn, October 2023. “Reenacting the Street Scene,” seminar organized with Kevin Riordan and Claire Warden. Response: “Scenes of Criticism.”
- 2018 Modernist Studies Association, Columbus, OH, Nov 2018. “Obscenity and Transcultural Performance,” seminar organized with Alisa Zhulina. Response: “Global Obscenities.”
- 2017 Modernist Studies Association, Amsterdam, NL, Aug 2017. “Inventing Modernist Audiences,” seminar organized with Lawrence Switzky (U Toronto).
- 2016 Modernist Studies Association, Pasadena, Nov 2016. “Modernist Performance and Global Transmission,” seminar organized with Kevin Riordan and Claire Warden.
- 2015 Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research, Harvard University, June 2015. “What Gets Performed?,” roundtable organizer and moderator.
- 2015 Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research, Harvard University, June 2015. “Dramaturgy Roundtable,” organizer and respondent.
- 2014 Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas Meeting, Boston, MA, June 2014. “Problem Play Workshop with Boston Playwrights,” organizer and chair.
- 2014 Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas Meeting, Boston, MA, June 2014. Participant, roundtable on “Postdramatic Dramaturgy.”

Invited Talks

- 2024 NYU Tisch, April 2024. Panelist, “Alisa Zhulina’s *Theater of Capital*.” Scheduled.
- 2022 Yale U, Perf. Stud. Working Group, April 2022. Panelist and co-organizer, “Theatre and Religion Roundtable.” With Dana Tanner-Kennedy and Kimberly Jannarone.
- 2022 Columbia U, *Such Sweet Thunder* Festival, April 2022. “Listening to Desdemona,” on panel “Toni Morrison Rewrites *Othello*.”
- 2022 Columbia U, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Graduate Student Council, March 2022. Panelist, “Conference Presentation Workshop.”
- 2021 Southern Methodist U, Department of English, Feb 2021. “Profaning the Passions: Modern Drama After the Anti-Christ.”
- 2015 Harvard U, Drama Colloquium, Mar 2015. “Scenography of the Revolution.”
- 2014 Tufts U, Department of Drama and Dance, Nov 2014. “Medieval Immersive Theater,” guest lecture for the course “Ancient and Medieval Theater.”
- 2014 Harvard U, Drama Colloquium, Apr 2014. “Theater, Religion, Zealotry.”

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- Jul 2020– Book Review Editor, *Modern Drama*

- 2013 Contributing writer, Norton Anthology of Drama website
 2008 Young European Critics' Forum, New Plays from Europe Festival, Wiesbaden
 2007 Young Theatre Critics' Seminar, Belgrade International Theatre Festival, Belgrade

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

- 2023– Member, Mentoring Committee, American Society for Theatre Research
 2023– Peer reviews for national fellowships [*fellowship names redacted*]
 2020– Editorial Board Member, *Modern Drama*
 2020– Book manuscript and book series reviews for presses [*press names redacted*]
 2019– Peer reviews for journals [*titles redacted*]
 2020* Co-Organizer (with Kelli Shermeyer), “Migrating Family Dramas” symposium, University of Virginia. *Scheduled for April 2–3, 2020; canceled due to COVID-19.
 2012–14 Co-Founder and Co-Coordinator, Harvard Drama Colloquium, Harvard University

University and Department Service

- 2023– Co-Chair, University Seminar on Drama, Theatre, and Performance, Columbia U
 2023– Member, Executive Committee, Theatre and Performance PhD, Columbia U
 2023 Brick Prize Committee, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
 2022–24 Member, Committee for Graduate Education, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
 2022–23 Member, Personnel Committee, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University (*elected position*)
 2021– Admissions Reader, English and Comparative Literature PhD, Columbia University
 2021–23 Member, Admissions Committee, Theatre PhD, Columbia University
 2021–22 Member, Committee for Undergraduate Education, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

Graduate Advising

Ph.D. Advising

- Julia Bannon, Ph.D. in English, oral exam committee, 2022–2023
 Alice Clapie, Ph.D. in Theatre, dissertation committee, 2022–
 Charles Green, Ph.D. in Theatre, oral exam committee, 2022–2023; dissertation committee, 2023–
 Eduardo Pávez Goye, Ph.D. in Theatre, dissertation committee, 2023–

Ph.D. Defense Committees

- Ilana Gilovich-Wave, Ph.D. in Theatre, dissertation examiner, 2023
 Annie Potter, Ph.D. in Theatre, dissertation examiner, 2023
 Olivia Rutigliano, Ph.D. in Theatre, dissertation examiner, 2023
 Kate Suffern, Ph.D. in Theatre, dissertation examiner, 2023

M.A. Advising

Brandon Adams, M.A. in English, “‘A Talent [Not Just] to Amuse’: Nascent Steps Toward Performing a Matriarchal Utopia in Coward’s *Bitter Sweet*,” M.A. thesis sponsor, 2022

Michael Najjar, M.A. in English, advisor, 2021–2023

Undergraduate Advising

Audrey Brown, “From the Dressing-Table to the Window: Clothing and Self-Fashioning in Nella Larsen’s *Passing*,” senior essay sponsor, 2022–2023

PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCE

2016 Festival Advisor, Harvard Art Development Festival, Cambridge, MA

2015 Production Advisor, *The Normal Heart*, dir. Matthew Munroe, Cambridge, MA

2015 Dramaturg, Harvard Playwrights Festival, Cambridge, MA

2007 Assistant, Free Zone Human Rights Film Festival, Belgrade, Serbia, Feb–Nov 2007

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

Updated October 2023.