

# REBECCA KASTLEMAN

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## EDUCATION

- 2017            Ph.D., Harvard University  
                  Department of English  
                  Dissertation: “Profaning Theater: The Drama of Religion on the Modernist Stage”  
                  Committee: Martin Puchner, Elaine Scarry, Derek Miller
- 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

- “Sounding the Gospel Play.” *PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art*. Forthcoming.
- 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 Collection**

- 2019 “Modernism on the World Stage,” peer-reviewed essay cluster for *Modernism/modernity* Print Plus platform (modernismmodernity.org), Oct. 15, 2019. With Kevin Riordan (Nanyang Technological University) and Claire Warden (Loughborough University). Includes co-written, peer-reviewed introduction. Conducted a podcast with Carrie Preston (Boston University) for the collection.

**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**

- 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

- 2021–2023 Literature Humanities  
Fall 2022 Masters Seminar  
Spring 2022 Global Anglophone Drama  
Fall 2021 Rites in Crisis: Contemporary Theater and the Problem of Repair

**Southern Methodist University**, Research Assistant Professor, Department of English

- Fall 2020 Political Theater: Modern Drama and the Art of Assembly

**University of Virginia**, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of English

- Spring 2020 History of Drama II: Neoclassicism to Now  
Spring 2020 Theaters Without Borders  
Fall 2019 Dramas of Sexuality

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

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

**Harvard University**, Lecturer, Program in History & Literature

- 2017–18 British National Identity from the Age of Empire to Thatcher  
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

**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****Panels Organized**

- 2022 Modern Language Association, Washington, DC, Jan 2022. “Bad Revivals: Dramas of Unruly Repetition.” With Kelli Shermeyer (U Delaware). Paper: “Unfaithful Revivals: Resurrecting Sadakichi Hartmann’s Passion Play”
- 2021 Association for Theatre in Higher Education, online, Aug 2021. “Can Ritual Be Decolonized?” With Jyana Browne (U Maryland - College Park), Marjan Moosavi (U Maryland - College Park), and Dana Tanner-Kennedy (U Alberta). Paper: “Ritual, Revelation, Revolution: Grotowski’s Initiates from Wroclaw to Washington Square”
- 2020–21\* American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, Nov 2021. Scheduled. “Performing the Parish Calendar: Ritual Enactment Beyond Repetition.” With Dana Tanner-Kennedy and Kimberly Jannarone (Yale). \*Originally scheduled for Nov 2020, postponed due to COVID-19. Paper: “Passionate Provocations”
- 2019 American Society for Theatre Research, Arlington, VA, Nov 2019. “Separations of Church and Stage: Performing Sacred and Secular Publics.” With Debra Caplan (Baruch College - CUNY) and Heather Nathans (Tufts). Paper: “Representing Faithfully: Contested Histories of Religious Performance”
- 2019 Modern Language Association, Chicago, Jan 2019. “Producing Global Performance” Paper: “Producing Endurance in Jerzy Grotowski’s Laboratory”
- 2018 American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, CA, Nov 2018 “Impotent Performance.” With Tarryn Chun (Notre Dame), Christopher Grobe (Amherst), Derek Miller (Harvard), and Alisa Zhulina (NYU). Official conference canceled; working session met at ASTR Forum. Paper: “Engendering Theatrical Failure: *Mrs. Warren* at the Chicago Little Theatre”
- 2018 Modernist Studies Association, Columbus, OH, Nov 2018 “Obscenity and Transcultural Performance.” Seminar organized with Alisa Zhulina.
- 2018 American Comparative Literature Association, Los Angeles, CA, March 2018 “Modernist Ensembles.” Seminar organized with Pardis Dabashi (Bryn Mawr). Paper: “Paul Robeson’s Musical Accompanist”

- 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. "Political Theology, Political Economy: Modern Drama Weighs In." With Nicole Jerr (Air Force Academy). Paper: "*Salomé* and the Sovereign: Secular Theaters After Oscar Wilde"
- 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

### Conference Papers

- 2022 American Society for Theatre Research, New Orleans, LA, Nov 2022. Plenary lecture. "Resurrecting the Passions of Sadakichi Hartmann." Scheduled.
- 2022 Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research, Cambridge, MA, June 2022. "Zora Neale Hurston's Theater Pedagogy."
- 2021\* Modernist Studies Association, Chicago, Nov 2021. Participant in roundtable, "Modernist Performance and Mass Spectacle." \*Canceled due to COVID-19.
- 2019 Modernist Studies Association, Toronto, Oct 2019. "Dramatizing Collaboration in Zora Neale Hurston: Performance, Religion, Ethnography" (seminar paper)
- 2018 Modernist Studies Association, Columbus, OH, Nov 2018 "Apocalyptic Effort: Exhausting the Body in Grotowski's Theater"
- 2017 American Society for Theatre Research, Atlanta, GA, Nov 2017 "Theatrical Collaboration as Anti-Racism"
- 2017 Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, Jan 2017 "Performance and the Passions"
- 2016 American Society for Theatre Research, Minneapolis, MN, Nov 2016 "Pagan Feelings in *The Rite of Spring*"
- 2016 Shaw Symposium, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada, 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, MA, 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 Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas Meeting, Boston, MA, June 2014  
Panelist, roundtable on “Postdramatic Dramaturgy”
- 2014 American Comparative Literature Association, New York, NY, Mar 2014  
“Wittenberg, Capital of the Avant Garde”
- 2013 American Comparative Literature Association, Toronto, Canada, Apr 2013  
“Against Interpellation: Restaging the Acting Subject in Beckett’s *Play*”

### Invited Talks

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

### EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- Jul 2020– Book Review Editor, *Modern Drama*
- 2013–2014 Writing Tutor, Harvard Extension School Writing Center, Harvard University
- 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

- 2020– Editorial Board Member, *Modern Drama*
- 2020– Book manuscript reviews for [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

- 2022–23 Member, Personnel Committee, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University (*elected position*)
- 2022–23 Member, Committee for Graduate Education, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
- 2021–22 Member, Committee for Undergraduate Education, Department of English and

Comparative Literature, Columbia University

2021–22 Member, Admissions Committee, Theatre PhD, Columbia University

2021–22 Admissions Reader, English and Comparative Literature PhD, Columbia University

### **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 August 2022.*