

Isaac Nathaniel Silber

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Education:

New York University | New York, NY

May 2026

PhD in Performance Studies

Dissertation: *Sounds of Love Entangled: On Music-Making Between Philadelphia and New York City*

Advisor: Fred Moten

New York University | New York, NY

May 2019

MA in Performance Studies

Final Project: *"sit right down and write myself a letter": a collective (non)performance*

University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA

May 2015

BA in English, Minor in Jazz and Popular Music Studies

Teaching Experience:

Instructor, *Department of Performance Studies, New York University* | New York, NY

Spring 2022

PERF-UT 103: Performance of the City

- Developed and taught course syllabus on approaches to thinking the site of performance (specifically NYC) for 28 undergraduates from various disciplines
- Employed a range of lecture styles, from PowerPoint lectures to collective close textual readings to performance analyses to peer discussions and feedback sessions
- Created assignments and assessments, and graded and evaluated student work

Faculty Sponsor, *Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University* | New York, NY Summer 2022

INDIV-UG 1901 003: Independent Study

- Advised and guided a student's independent study project
- Suggested reading materials, and met regularly over the summer semester to discuss and evaluate progress
- Graded and provided feedback on final paper
- Paper resulted in student's presentation, "Sub-Bass and Queer Space," at the 2023 Pop Conference hosted at NYU in April 2023

Teaching Assistant, *Department of Performance Studies, New York University* | New York, NY Spring 2021

PERF-UT 401 003: Capstone Project

- Lead a recitation of Performance Studies undergraduate seniors for their final Capstone projects
- Mentored students, taught course material, and facilitated peer workshops towards the development of students' self-directed creative and scholarly work

Research Experience:

Dissertation, *Department of Performance Studies, New York University* | New York, NY

2021 – Present

- Gathered oral-histories, conducted interviews, and attended performances related to soul and dance music in Philadelphia and New York City
- Conducted archival research in the John Jackson Collection of Indiana University's Archives of African American Music and Culture, Drexel University's Sigma Sound Studios collection, and the Barnes Foundation Archives
- Analyzed scholarship in fields such as performance studies, Black studies, popular music studies, Black feminist theory, women's, gender and sexuality studies, queer of color critique, affect theory, quantum field theory, poetry and poetics, aesthetics

Research Assistant, *Department of Music, University of Pennsylvania* | Philadelphia, PA

2014-2017

- Worked under ethnomusicologist Timothy Rommen
- Conducted microfilm archival research on music in Dominica from the 18th- 20th centuries

- Organized and populated a system of meta-data tagging for collected archival materials
- Copyedited the manuscript for *Sounds of Vacation: Political Economies of Caribbean Tourism* (2019), coedited by Timothy Rommen and Jocelyn Guilbault

Senior Honors Thesis, *Department of English, University of Pennsylvania* | Philadelphia, PA 2014-2015

- Awarded funding from the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, as well as the English Department of the University of Pennsylvania, to conduct fieldwork research in Kingston, Jamaica in the summer of 2014
- Conducted interviews, participated in and observed sacred ceremonies and performances, carried out archival research in the UWI, Mona Library, the Edna Manley College Library, and the National Library of Jamaica
- Culminated in Senior Honors Thesis, "Kumina on the National Stage: The Cultural Politics of African-Jamaican Religious Practice"

Professional Experience:

Administrative Assistant, *Psychoanalytic Hub of Online Liberatory Education (P-HOLE)*, New York, NY 2025

- Monitoring and responding to emails from prospective and registered students
- Facilitating communications with faculty members of the program
- Managing backend logistics and organizing data regarding registration and operations

Photographic Archive Assistant, *Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics*, New York, NY 2019

- Organized and updated the Institute's photographic and film archives into easily searchable databases
- Digitized older format tape materials and incorporated them into the Institute's internal and online archival databases

Academic Resource Coordinator, *University of Pennsylvania* | Philadelphia, PA 2017-2018

- Worked for the First-Generation, Low-Income (FGLI) Student Program
- Established and operated a free textbook library for FGLI students
- Organized and led cross-departmental partnerships to support FGLI students
- Guided initiatives to improve student success
- Utilized needs assessments to develop responsive programs and resources
- Supported and advised undergraduate FGLI students

Program Coordinator, *University of Pennsylvania* | Philadelphia, PA 2016-2017

- Helped to establish the FGLI program
- Conducted support and awareness trainings with faculty and staff
- Helped establish and operate a food pantry, mentorship program, academic break support program, and many other initiatives to holistically serve FGLI students' needs

Research Interests:

Black performance studies, Black poetics, popular music studies, jazz studies, aesthetics, queer time and temporalities, Black geographies, Black feminist theory, queer and trans theory, queer of color critique, affect theory, quantum field theory, sound studies, new materialisms, women's and gender studies, Marxist feminism

Grants/Honors/Awards/Fellowships:

NYU GSAS Predoctoral Summer Fellowship	Summer 2024
NYU Global Research Initiative Fellow	Fall 2023
Patricia Dunn Lehrman Fellowship Award	Summer 2023
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Scholar	2013-2015

Publications:

Silber, I. N. "Disco-Seismology: Becoming Cosmic Flesh in Labelle's "Black Holes in the Sky" (under review, *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*)

Professional Affiliations:

International Association for the Study of Popular Music
Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory

Presentations:

NYU Performance Studies PRAXIS I.N.C.

March 2024

- Performance lecture/workshop: Playing with Feedback

NYU Performance Studies PRAXIS I.N.C.

March 2024

- Workshop: Entangled Improvisations: Finding a Common Non-Space
- Co-facilitated with Camila Arroyo

Open Studios: Listening-Writing, Center for Performance Research

April 2023

- Paper/performance lecture: Grooving with Quantum Intentionality

Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Conference 2022

November 2022

- Paper: We're Doing the Cosmic Slop: Afrosurreal Sound Underground

International Association for the Study of Popular Music, Pop Conference 2020

September 2020

- Paper: Look Up Kid: Queer Emo Youth and Differential Consciousness in Princess Nokia's *A Girl Cried Red*

International Association for the Study of Popular Music, Pop Conference 2019

April 2019

- Paper: Sampling Her Name: Echoes of Sandra Bland in Bearcat's "CHARGED UP SANDY SPEAKS"

NYU Performance Studies PRAXIS I.N.C.

February 2019

- Workshop: Mic Check: Playing with Techniques of Sonic Documentation

NYU Performance Studies Salon Series

December 2018

- Workshop: Tending Towards Improv: A Collective Collecting

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

March 2015

- Paper: Kumina on the National Stage: The Politics of Music and Religion in Jamaica

University Service:

Camp/Fire: The Center for Research and Study Graduate Student Conference

2024

- Served on the conference Creative Committee
- Contributed to developing conference theme, identifying the keynote speaker, developing the conference call for papers, and organizing proposals into panels
- Moderated the panel discussion: "At The Threshold: Sounds of Transformation"

(Un)Making: The Center for Research and Study Graduate Student Conference

2023

- Supported conference coordination/planning
- Moderated the panel discussion: "Cut the Music: Materiality and Sound"

Additional Professional Experience

Sound Engineer *Performance Space New York* | New York, NY

2024-Present

- Working as sound engineer for performances and events
- Worked with artists such as Black Quantum Futurism, Joy Guidry, Kyle Kidd, YATTA, Julio Torres, Tara-Jo Tashna, Whitney Mallett, Vijay Iyer, Wadada Leo Smith, Linda May Han Oh, and more

Sound Engineer *The Kitchen* | New York, NY

2023-Present

- Working as sound designer and engineer for performances, film productions, installations and more
- Worked with artists such as Harmony Holiday, Taja Cheek, Jeremy Touissant-Baptiste, Sacha Yanow, J Jan Groeneboer, and Wong Kit Yi among others

Sound Engineer *Francis Kite Club* | New York, NY

2024-Present

- Working as audio engineer for live performances
- Worked with artists such as Susan-Lori Parks, Diane Cluck, Shahzad Ismaily, Katy Pinke, Michael Duncan, Kyp Malone, Huda Asfour, and more

Skills:

Technology: Microsoft Office, Google Apps, Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Lightroom, Acrobat, Audition, Premiere Pro), iMovie, WordPress, Skitch, Evernote, Squarespace, Mail Chimp, Constant Contact, Pro Tools, Logic, Ableton Live
Languages: Spanish (intermediate), Korean (basic)