

SOPHIE CAPOBIANCO
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Culture and Performance, University of California, Los Angeles, in progress

M.A. Theater and Performance Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, May 2024

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

- Exploring Practices in the Classroom (EPiC) Pedagogy Workshop Program, Center for Teaching and Learning
- Master's Essay: "Utopia in D Yard: Prefigurative Politics and the Attica Prison Uprising of 1971"

- Paige McGinley (chair), Joanna Dee Das, Jami Ake, Robert Henke

B.A. Theater and Music, Muhlenberg College, May 2022

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

AWARDS & HONORS

Washington University in St. Louis

2024 Second Place Winner, Graduate Research Symposium

2023 Finalist/Third Place Winner, Three Minute Thesis Competition, She Leads Symposium

Muhlenberg College

2022 Summa Cum Laude

2022 Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society

2020 Office of Communications Magazine Profile, Spring 2020 Issue

2019-2022 Presidential Scholarship

2019-2022 Talent Scholarship

2019-2022 Dean's List

Rider University

2018-2019 Baccalaureate Honors Program

2018-2019 Presidential Scholarship

2018-2019 Dean's List

2018 Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society

SERVICE TO WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

2023-2024 Student Coordinator, Reparative Performance Studies Working Group, Performing Arts Department, Washington University in St. Louis

2023-2024 Graduate Student Liaison, Student Liaison Committee, Performing Arts Department, Washington University in St. Louis

SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

2023-Present Member, Graduate Student Caucus, American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)

2023-2024 Organizer, Action Art Collaborative St. Louis

2022-2023 Ambassador, New Works Collective, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis

2020-2022 General Member, College Climate Coalition

2019-2021 Volunteer Educator, College Connect

CONFERENCES

- 2024 Paper Presentation: “Proposing a Queer Liminal Geography of Unwork in Somerset Maugham’s *The Razor’s Edge*”
Second International Trans Studies Conference,
Hosted by the Center for Applied Transgender Studies, Northwestern University
- 2024 Poster Presentation: “Live Stillness: Dichotomies of Indigenous Performance in James Luna’s *Artifact Piece*”
Second Place Winner, Graduate Research Symposium, The Graduate Center,
Washington University in St. Louis
- 2023 Paper: “Performing Humanity: Gendered Resistance, Public Grieving, and Legacies of Embodied Knowledge in Occupied Kashmir”
Rethinking Hope in/from the Global South Working Session,
Performance Studies in/from the Global South Working Group,
American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference
- 2023 Research Presentation: “Utopia in D Yard: Social Organization and the Attica Prison Uprising of 1971”
Finalist/Third Place Winner, She Leads Symposium, Office of the Provost,
Washington University in St. Louis

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 “Borders, Community, and Resistance”
Muhlenberg Academic Review, Vol. 5 Ed. 1, Spring 2022, pp. 27-37

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2023-Present Head of Research, Prison Education Project, Washington University in St. Louis
- Fulfill research requests for 90 incarcerated students at state correctional facilities. Direct all research activities related to class assignments, capstone projects, personal projects, reentry considerations, and quality of life for incarcerated students
 - Collaborate with WashU faculty to adapt syllabi for independent self-study by incarcerated students. Facilitate communications between faculty and students who have completed independent coursework to reinforce key learning goals and forge connections on the main WashU campus. Advise students on graduate school applications and admissions
 - Recommend, compile, and/or summarize appropriate sources on myriad academic subjects using online databases, library resources, research guides and more. Create research guides for incarcerated students, designed to accommodate their research access, specific coursework, and disciplinary background
- 2023-Present Reentry Assistant, Prison Education Project, Washington University in St. Louis
- Create an On-Campus Student Handbook for PEP students who finish their undergraduate education or pursue graduate education on WashU’s main campus after reentry. The Handbook includes information to help students acclimate to campus, find funding opportunities, learn about enrollment and registration requirements, identify key support structures and personnel, and navigate logistical support for their wellness on campus. Oversee revisions of the Handbook through rounds of feedback from the reentry committee, PEP staff, and recently released alumni
 - Contribute to general reentry projects, including a guide to educational funding opportunities for formerly incarcerated people, events for PEP alumni, faculty, and staff, and St. Louis-area general reentry resources (in collaboration with the Criminal Justice Ministry of St. Louis)

2023-Present Tutor, Prison Education Project, Washington University in St. Louis

- Tutor incarcerated students at Missouri Eastern Correctional Center, providing feedback on written work, class assignments, capstone research, personal projects, and more. Facilitate original workshops on paper outlining and other writing skills. Suggest resources such as books or journal articles, talk through project ideas and concepts, and facilitate group discussions relating to classwork
- Provide peer support in conversations about quality of life, coping, and the carceral system. Encourage students to identify personal interests and integrate their passions with coursework, assignments, and capstone projects to make academic endeavors more meaningful

2023-2024 Student Coordinator, Reparative Performance Studies Working Group, Performing Arts Department, Washington University in St. Louis

- Redesign the Reparative Performance Studies Working Group and Student Coordinator position, developing a Handbook to provide structure for the group's activities and leadership
- Lead regular Working Group sessions with the MA cohorts to review progress on relevant projects, solicit feedback, and discuss possibilities for increased minoritarian representation in various aspects of the MA program, including departmental culture, course offerings and coursework design, student recruitment, hiring practices, and speaker events
- Convene regularly with the co-chairs of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group and report on progress to the Chair of the Performing Arts Department

2022-2024 Assistant Instructor, Performing Arts Department, Washington University in St. Louis

- Assist instructors with various tasks in the following courses:
 - Politics and Performance in Historical Practice, Prof. Paige McGinley (Spring 2024)
 - Introduction to Theater Production, Prof. Rob Morgan (Fall 2022) & Prof. Sean Savoie (Fall 2023)
 - Neuroscience of Movement, Prof. Elinor Harrison (Spring 2023)
- Organize course materials and modules using Canvas, Kaltura, Microsoft Office, Google Suite, and other online tools
- Facilitate class discussions, projects, and team learning. Take attendance, document participation, and communicate with students and instructors to address concerns, questions, or accommodations. Grade assignments as requested by the instructor. Host office hours to assist students with writing, projects, and other coursework
- Create and lead lesson plans or lectures as requested by the instructor. Previous lecture topics include radical theatre stagings and an introduction to performance studies

2022-2024 Graduate Office Assistant, Performing Arts Department, Washington U. in St. Louis

- Facilitate all communication with guests of the department, including visiting professors, WashU speakers, and prospective graduate students. Arrange travel accommodations, create itineraries, and submit administrative reports to support departmental activities
- Organize, facilitate, and host the annual accepted graduate student campus visit. Serve as the main contact between accepted graduate cohorts and the department, fielding questions and requests, and planning personalized recruitment visits
- Facilitate and host the colloquium speaker series, as well as other departmental events. Write introductory statements and speaker bios ahead of guest lectures, organize event set-up, and accommodate guests throughout their visit
- Design and disseminate digital signage, posters, and other marketing materials for Performing Arts Department productions, events, and lectures

2020-2022 Action Lead and Head of Divestment, Sunrise Movement Muhlenberg

- Collaborated with action leads to direct the projects and activities of the Muhlenberg Sunrise Movement hub, including protests, rallies, petitions, education campaigns, acts of solidarity, and escalated actions
- Created standards for the hub's leadership structure, organization, and activities, including best practices for security culture, marketing, recruitment, direct actions, mutual aid, and campaign assistance for local progressive political candidates
- Created and directed the divestment team. Instructed general members on research strategies, investment practices, and divestment opportunities at Muhlenberg College. Created resources such as research guides, video tutorials, and spreadsheet templates to facilitate divestment-oriented research and activities. Petitioned the Muhlenberg Board of Trustees and executive administration to divest from fossil fuels, police, private prisons, health care corporations, and pharmaceuticals, and to engage in reparative reinvestment strategies with significant input from student representatives and community leaders

2021 Organizing Fellow, Divest Ed

- Developed strategies and skills around community organizing, including security culture, backwards planning, community agreements, social media campaigning, financial literacy, and mutual aid alongside other fellows, Divest Ed facilitators, and guest organizers from women-led anti-war organization Code Pink
- Conceptualized, organized, and facilitated, along with four other fellows from my cohort, a collective Divestment Day of Action with participation from over 40 college campuses in three countries, which included a variety of disruptive actions and indirect campaigns in protest of institutional investment practices. Created supportive materials, resource guides, and a collective platform for student-led divestment campaigns. Organized meetings for the planning committees, maintained detailed archives of meeting agendas, and coordinated marketing efforts. Various actions in solidarity with the Divestment Day of Action were covered by local news media
 - Participating student-led organizations included groups from Yale University, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, New York University, Carnegie Mellon University, Stanford University, Vanderbilt University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, Boston College, University of Virginia, Boston University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Oregon, University of Maine, University of Utah, University of Louisville, University of Cincinnati, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, University of Texas at Austin, Carleton University, University of Toronto, University of New Brunswick, McGill University, and ETH Zürich

SKILLS

- Intermediate Spanish
- Proficient in Google Suite and Microsoft Office products
- Proficient in Canva, Photoshop, and ProCreate design tools
- Power-mapping (LittleSis, OpenSecrets, FEC database)