

Kelli Shermeyer

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Modern and Contemporary Literature, University of Virginia, May 2019

Dissertation: “‘Less-than-Human’ Tragedy?: Ecologies of Suffering in Contemporary Tragic Drama”

Committee: Rita Felski, Victor Luftig, Michael Levenson

Honors B.A. with distinction in English Literary Studies, University of Delaware, 2012

Minors: Medieval Studies, History

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2022 - University of Delaware, Department of English, Postdoctoral Researcher

2020-2021 University of Oklahoma, Helmerich School of Drama, Visiting Assistant Professor in Dramaturgy

2019-2020 University of Virginia, Department of English, Edgar F. Shannon Postdoctoral Fellow

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles & Book Chapters

“Performance, Labor and the Biopolitics of Reproduction: Views from Čapek’s *R.U.R.* and Kazan’s *After the Blast*, under review at *PMLA*

2023 “Better Worlds through Pedagogy,” (co-authored with Jake Allen and Kyara Mahlan) in *Toward a Just Pedagogy of Performance: Historiography, Narrative, and Equity in Dramatic Practice*, ed. Charles O’Malley (Routledge), publication date December 11, 2023

2019 “Catastrophic Futures: Tragic Children in Martin McDonagh’s *The Pillowman*,” *Journal of Contemporary Drama in English* 7.2 (2019): pp. 292-313.

2019 “The Future is Fey: Toward a Posthuman Dramaturgy in Caryl Churchill’s *The Skriker*,” *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* 30.1 (2019): pp. 52-67.

2017 “‘Systems Die Hard’: Resistance and Reanimation in Colson Whitehead’s *Zone One*,” *The Written Dead: The Zombie as a Literary Phenomenon*, ed. Kyle William Bishop and Angela Tenga (Jefferson: McFarland & Company, 2017), pp. 120-132.

Book & Performance Reviews

2022 “Review of *Radical Botany: Plants and Speculative Fiction*,” *SFRA Review*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (Spring 2022).

2020 “Feminist Futures,” *PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art* 125 (2020): pp. 67-74.

Digital Publications

2020 “Pandemic Dramaturgy: Tragedy and Accountability,” LMDA Dramaturging the Phoenix Project

2019 “Some Reflections on the Theatricality of Motion Capture,” Scholars’ Lab Blog

2017 “A Riff on ‘The Dead,’” UCD Contemporary Irish Writing

- 2016 “Using DH to Explore Movement and Meaning,” Digital Humanities at Washington and Lee University Blog

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2019 Thomas J. Griffis Prize, Department of English, University of Virginia
 2018 David G. Hartwell Emerging Scholar Award, International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 David Keller Travel Grant, American Society for Theatre Research
 2020 Performance Development Grant for [Performance X], Mellon Global South Lab in Performance Cultures and Embodied Creative Practices, UVa Institute for the Humanities and Global Culture
 2018 Digital Humanities Fellow, Scholars’ Lab, University of Virginia, 2018-2019, Project: “Digital Skriker”
 2018 Buckner W. Clay Summer Research Grant, UVa Institute for the Humanities and Global Culture
 2018 Lab Director and Co-Primary Investigator of “Art in Public” working group, Public Humanities Lab, UVa Institute for the Humanities and Global Culture
 2017 Co-Primary Investigator of “Art in Public” Working Group, Graduate Student Public Humanities Lab, Uva Institute for Humanities and Global Cultures
 2016 Power, Violence, and Inequality Collective Graduate Research Fellowship, University of Virginia
 2016 Irish Seminar Fellowship, Keough Naughton Institute of Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame
 2015 Learning Technology Incubator Grant (Participant), University of Virginia, 2015-2016

INVITED TALKS

- 2016 “Be patient, for the world is broad and wide’: Text, Performance, and the Digital Humanities,” Washington and Lee University, May 9

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Papers Presented

- 2023 “Hope without Optimism” in Zoe Kazan’s *After the Blast*,” Performance of Politics: Hopes for the Future Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research, Providence RI, Nov 9-12, paper accepted
 2023 “Folk Metal Worldmaking: Heilung’s ‘Amplified History,’” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, March 15-18
 2022 “Wole Soyinka’s Eco-Dramaturgy,” Performing the Anthropocene Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research, New Orleans, Nov 3-6
 2022 “Bad Revivals through Creative Anachronism,” MLA, Washington DC, January 6-9
 2021 “Against Time: Performance, Activism, Anachronism.” Plenary. American Society for Theatre Research
 2021 Performing Alternative History: Steampunk as Creative Anachronism, International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, March 18-21
 2021 “Writing Like a Dramaturg,” as part of the panel “Putting Writing and Performance in Conversation,” MLA, online, Jan 7-10
 2020 “Do Androids Dream of the Anthropocene,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, March 18-22 * canceled due to COVID-19
 2019 “Are We Not Men?” Thinking Through Sympathy and Alterity with Beast People, Horse Puppets, and Electric Sheep,” with Lara Musser, International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, March 13-16
 2019 “Violent ‘Becoming’: Technologies of Domination in Peter Shaffer’s *Equus*,” MLA, Chicago, Jan 3-6
 2018 “More-than-Human Actors in Wole Soyinka and Caryl Churchill,” Ecology and Performance Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research, ASTR Forum La Jolla, San Diego, Nov 15-18

- 2018 “The Future is Fey: Towards a Posthuman Dramaturgy in Caryl Churchill’s *The Skriker*,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Mar 14-18
- 2017 “Practices for Exploring the Unknown: Fostering Intellectual Curiosity with Digital Tools,” with Patricia Sullivan, Steph Ceraso, and James Ascher, Innovations in Pedagogy Summit at UVA, May 3
- 2017 “At the Crossroads of Horror and Tragedy: The Child in Martin McDonagh’s *The Pillowman*,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Mar 22-25
- 2016 “Writing as Learning: Advice from the Writing Center,” with Kate Kostelnik, Innovations in Pedagogy Summit at UVA, May 4
- 2015 “Writing, Inquiry, and Assignment Design,” with Jim Seitz, Innovations in Pedagogy Summit at UVA, May 6
- 2014 “Suicide in the Age of Zombies and Destruction: Re-coding Trauma in Whitehead’s *Zone One*,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Mar 19-23

Conference Activities Organized

- 2023 Exploring Dramatic Worlds, International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, March 15-18, panel accepted
- 2022 Bad Revivals: Dramas of Unruly Repetition, MLA, Washington DC, January 6-9
- 2020 Ecology and Performance Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, Nov 5-8
- 2019 Ecology and Performance Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research, Arlington, Nov 7-10
- 2019 Babes, Beasts, and Bots: Entangling with the Nonhuman in Performance, MLA, Chicago, Jan 3-6

Discussant

- 2017 Invited pre-conference participant and panelist, Bucknell University Digital Scholarship Conference, Lewisburg, October 5-8

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Interests

Global drama and performance, contemporary US theater, Irish theater
 Critical theory and method, environmental humanities, cultural studies
 Interdisciplinary and practice-based research methods

Courses Taught

University of Delaware—Undergraduate

Seminar in Composition

Spring 2023: Exploring Identity and Culture

Fall 2022: Cultivating Creativity

Spring 2022: Writing the Future

University of Oklahoma—Undergraduate

Introduction to Dramaturgy

Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Dramaturgy Studio (practicum)

Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Dramaturgy Seminar (advanced seminar for majors)

Fall 2020

Playwriting I

Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Playwriting II

Spring 2021
Theater for Social Change
Spring 2021

University of Virginia—Undergraduate

Dramas of the Future (advanced seminar)

Spring 2020

Global Dramaturgies (advanced seminar)

Fall 2019

Studies in Drama (introductory seminar)

Fall 2016: Political Theater

Fall 2018: Political Theater

Writing and Critical Inquiry

Fall 2014: Villains and Vigilantes

Spring 2015: Our Zombies, Ourselves

Spring 2017: Writing about Society

Spring 2019: Writing about Society

Fall 2019: The Future is Now

History of Literatures in English II (survey, Romanticism to present)

Spring 2016: discussion leader for Professors Michael Levenson and Steve Cushman

Shakespeare I

Fall 2015: discussion leader for Professor Katherine Maus

Live Arts Theater Education Program—Teens and Adults

Online Directing Lab (experimental course on directing), summer 2020

Online Theatre Lab (experimental course on playwriting and performing in online formats), spring 2020

University of Virginia Summer Transition Program

Pre-college summer course for admitted students: study skills and writing, summer 2015, summer 2016

University of Virginia Writing Center Tutor

Tutoring for students of all levels, some administrative work, fall 2013, spring 2014, fall 2014, spring 2015, fall 2015, spring 2016, fall 2016

SEMINARS & INSTITUTES

2022 Completed “Building Community Agreements” training through Theatrical Intimacy Education

2022 Completed “Intimacy Choreography” training through Theatrical Intimacy Education

2021 Completed “Best Practices” training through Theatrical Intimacy Education

2021 Completed “Working with Minors” training through Theatrical Intimacy Education

2019 Member of the IHGC Mellon Global South Laboratory in Performance Cultures & Embodied Creative Practices

2017 Participant in the Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research at Harvard University on “Research, Pedagogy, Activism”

2016 Participant in the Irish Seminar on Classical Influences, Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, Notre Dame

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 Consultant, Wilma Theater
- 2022 Board Member, New Light Theatre, Wilmington, DE
- 2022 Member, Anti-Racist Action Committee, Theatre Philadelphia
- 2022 Panelist, NEA Grants for Arts Projects (Theater Division)
- 2021 Institutional Giving Manager, Wilma Theater
- 2020 Consultant, I-Wrote Project at the University of Virginia
- 2020 Article Reviewer for *Literature, Interpretation, Theory*
- 2020 Grant Juror for the Speculative Literature Foundation
- 2019 Prize Committee for the IAFA David Hartwell Emerging Scholar Award

Campus Talks and Workshops

- 2017 “Responding to Student Writing in the Humanities and Social Sciences” (facilitator), Center for Teaching Excellence, Teaching as a Graduate Student workshop, August 17
- 2017 Application Statement Workshop (co-organizer), UVA Writing Center, March 31
- 2016 “Responding to Student Writing in the Humanities and Social Sciences,” Center for Teaching Excellence, August Teaching Workshop, August 18
- 2016 “The UVA Writing Center and Social Justice,” UVA Writing Center, Feb 10

THEATER DIRECTING, PRODUCING, AND DRAMATURGY

My full artistic resume is available on request.

- 2023 Intimacy Director & Dramaturg, *A View from the Bridge*, New Light Theater
- 2021 Dramaturgy, *Far Away*, OU Drama (studio production directed by visiting faculty)
- 2020 Director, *Paradise* (short play), Whole Theatre
- 2020 Dramaturg, *Sweat*, Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville *performances canceled due to COVID-19
- 2020 Producer, *Men on Boats*, Live Arts Theater
- 2019 Dramaturg, *She Kills Monsters*, UVA Drama
- 2019 Tech Team, American High School Theater Festival at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, World Strides
- 2019 Director, *The Wolves*, Live Arts Theater
- 2018 Director, *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (staged reading), Live Arts Theater
- 2017 Co-director, “Around the World in 80 Plays” (site-specific, micro-theatre), Live Arts Theater
- 2017 Dramaturg, “Locally Sourced,” Live Arts Theater
- 2017 Producer, *Death of a Salesman*, Live Arts Theater
- 2017 Artistic Season Selection Reader (2016-2020,) Live Arts Theater
- 2016 Director, *The Electric Baby*, Live Arts Theater
- 2016 Dramaturg, *Hunter Gatherers*, Live Arts Theater
- 2016 Literary Consultant, Live Arts Theater
- 2014 Producer, *The Master and Margarita*, Live Arts Theater

NEW WORK DEVELOPMENT

- 2023 Selection Committee Member, Waterworks Festival, Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville, May 12-Jun 3
- 2022 Co-curator of “Flash Plays VI,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Mar 16-20
- 2021 Producer/Faculty Advisor, Student Playwriting Festival, University of Oklahoma, Mar 31 – Apr 3
- 2021 Co-curator and co-host of Virtual “Flash Plays,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, March 18

- 2020 Co-curator and co-director of “Flash Plays” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Mar 18-22 *postponed due to COVID-19.
- 2019 Co-curator and co-director of “Flash Plays IV,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Mar 13-16
- 2018 Co-curator and co-director of “Unfashioned Creatures...Half Made Up: ICFA Flash Play Festival III,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Mar 14-17
- 2017 Co-curator and co-director of “The Return of the Flash Play Festival,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Mar 22-25
- 2016 Co-curator and co-director of “Live from ICFA! Flash Plays by the ThesBots,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Mar 16-20

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association
American Society for Theatre Research
Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas
International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts

REFERENCES

Dossier available on request