

Kelli Shermeyer

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Modern and Contemporary Literature, University of Virginia, May 2019
Research Focus: Contemporary Drama, Critical Theory, Performance Studies
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

EMPLOYMENT

Visiting Assistant Professor in Dramaturgy, School of Drama, University of Oklahoma 2020-2021
Edgar F. Shannon Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of English, University of Virginia, 2019-2020

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

2020 Performance Development Grant for [Performance X], Mellon Global South Lab in Performance Cultures and Embodied Creative Practices, Institute for the Humanities and Global Culture, University of Virginia
2018 Digital Humanities Fellow, Scholars’ Lab, University of Virginia, 2018-2019, Project: "Digital Skriker"
2018 Buckner W. Clay Summer Research Grant, Institute for the Humanities and Global Culture, University of Virginia
2018 Lab Director and Co-Primary Investigator of "Art in Public" working group, Graduate Student Public Humanities Lab, Institute for the Humanities and Global Culture, University of Virginia, 2018-2019.
2017 Co-Primary Investigator of "Art in Public" Working Group, Graduate Student Public Humanities Lab, Institute for Humanities and Global Cultures, University of Virginia, 2017-2018
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

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles & Book Chapters

2021 "Performance, Labor and the Biopolitics of Reproduction: Views from Čapek’s *R.U.R.* and Kazan’s *After the Blast*, under review at *Theatre Survey*

- 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.

Review Essays

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

Public-Facing Essays (selected)

- 2020 "[Pandemic Dramaturgy: Tragedy and Accountability](#)," LMDA Dramaturging the Phoenix Project
- 2019 "[Some Reflections on the Theatricality of Motion Capture](#)," Scholars' Lab Blog
- 2019 "[Starting out on the Right Foot](#)," 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

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

Panels Organized

- 2020 Ecology and Performance Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), New Orleans, Nov 5-8 (working group accepted) *postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19
- 2019 Ecology and Performance Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Arlington, Nov 7-10
- 2019 Babes, Beasts, and Bots: Entangling with the Nonhuman in Performance, MLA, Chicago, Jan 3-6

Papers Presented

- 2021 "Against Time: Performance, Activism, Anachronism." Plenary. American Society for Theatre Research (paper accepted in 2020, presentation postponed to October 2021 due to COVID-19)
- 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
- 2016 "Haunted by History: The Material and Metaphorical Specters of Marina Carr's *By the Bog of Cats*..." International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Mar 16-20
- 2015 "Writing, Inquiry, and Assignment Design," with Jim Seitz, Innovations in Pedagogy Summit at UVA, May 6
- 2015 "Narrative, Authenticity, and the Fantastic Female Body in Conor McPherson's *The Weir*," International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Mar 18-22
- 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
- 2013 "Director v. Author: Who Owns *The Changeling*?" Blackfriars Conference, Staunton, Oct 23-27

Other Conference Activities Organized

- 2021 Co-host of "Flash Plays Plays TBA," International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, March 18-21
- 2020 Co-organizer of "Flash Plays" International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Mar 18-22 *postponed due to COVID-19.
- 2019 Co-organizer of "Flash Plays IV," International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Mar 13-16
- 2018 Co-organizer of "Unfashioned Creatures...Half Made Up: ICFA Flash Play Festival III," International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Mar 14-17
- 2017 Co-organizer of "The Return of the Flash Play Festival," International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Mar 22-25
- 2016 Co-organizer of "Live from ICFA!: Flash Plays by the ThesBots," International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Mar 16-20

Discussant

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

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

(evidence of teaching excellence available on request)

Teaching Interests

Modern and contemporary literature, environmental humanities, speculative fiction, cultural studies

Global drama and performance, dramaturgy, theater history, directing, performance studies
Critical theory, interdisciplinary methods, writing and composition

Courses Taught

University of Oklahoma—Undergraduate

Introduction to Dramaturgy, fall 2020, [spring 2021]
Dramaturgy Studio (practicum), fall 2020, [spring 2021]
Dramaturgy Seminar (advanced course on dramatic theory and dramaturgical practice), fall 2020
Playwriting I/II (introduction to writing for performance), fall 2020, [spring 2021]
Theater and Social Change [spring 2021]

University of Virginia—Undergraduate

Dramas of the Future (advanced seminar for majors in the Modern and Contemporary Literature Program), spring 2020
Global Dramaturgies (advanced seminar for majors in the Global English Literature and Culture program), fall 2019
Studies in Drama (introductory seminar for prospective majors), fall 2016, fall 2018
Course topic: Political Theater
Writing and Critical Inquiry, (themed first-year writing course), fall 2014, spring 2015, spring 2017, spring 2019, fall 2019
Course topics: Villains and Vigilantes; Our Zombies, Ourselves; The Future Is Now
History of Literatures in English II (survey, Romanticism to present), discussion leader for Professors Michael Levenson and Steve Cushman, spring 2016
Shakespeare I (major-level survey of histories and comedies), discussion leader for Professor Katharine Maus, fall 2015

Live Arts Theater Education Program (Teens and Adults)

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

ACADEMIC SEMINARS & INSTITUTES

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 TO PROFESSION

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

- 2017 Writing and Composition Representative (graduate student member of the Writing Program Curriculum Committee), Graduate English Students Association, Department of English, University of Virginia, 2017-2018

THEATER DIRECTING, PRODUCING, AND DRAMATURGY

My full artistic resume is available on request and at www.kellishermeyer.com.

- 2020 Director, *Paradise* (short play), Whole Theatre, Charlottesville
 2020 Dramaturg, *Sweat*, Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville *performances canceled due to COVID-19
 2020 Producer, *Men on Boats*, Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville
 2019 Dramaturg, *She Kills Monsters*, UVA Drama, Charlottesville
 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 Creative Assistant to the Artistic Director (artistic direction apprenticeship), Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville
 2017 Co-director, "Around the World in 80 Plays" (site-specific, micro-theatre), Charlottesville
 2017 Dramaturg, "Locally Sourced," Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville
 2017 Producer, *Death of a Salesman*, Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville
 2017 Artistic Season Selection Reader (2016-2020,) Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville
 2016 Director, *The Electric Baby*, Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville
 2016 Dramaturg, *Hunter Gatherers*, Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville
 2016 Literary Consultant, Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville
 2015 Assistant Director, *Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike*, Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville
 2015 Director, *The Master and Margarita* at the Live Arts Gala (site-specific), Charlottesville
 2014 Producer, *The Master and Margarita*, Live Arts Theater, Charlottesville

LANGUAGES

French (reading)

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

Rita Felski

Niels Bohr Professor, University of Southern Denmark & John Stewart Bryan Professor,
University of Virginia

Bree Luck

Director of the Moment Work Institute, Tectonic Theater Project

Seth Gordon

Professor and Director of the Helmerich School of Drama, University of Oklahoma

Victor Luftig

Professor and Director of the Center for the Liberal Arts, University of Virginia

Michael Levenson

William B. Christian Professor, University of Virginia

Miller Susen

Education Director of Live Arts Theater

Carrie J. Cole

Associate Professor of Integrative Theatre Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania