

MARIA DE SIMONE

Specialties: Theatre Historiography – Race & Performance – U.S. Popular Entertainment

No Work Authorization Required

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Massachusetts Institute of Technology , Cambridge, MA	2023–2024
Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Music and Theater Arts	
Massachusetts Institute of Technology , Cambridge, MA	2022–2023
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, “Scholarship Across Boundaries” Initiative Department of Music and Theater Arts	
Brown University , Providence, RI	2021–2022
Visiting Assistant Professor, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women	
Tufts University , Boston, MA	2021–2022
Lecturer, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program	
Emerson College , Boston, MA	2021–2022
Affiliated Faculty, Department of Performing Arts	

EDUCATION

Northwestern University , Evanston, IL	
PhD, Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama (IPTD)	2021
<u>Dissertation</u> : “Embodying Race, Performing Citizenship: Racial Impersonation and Immigrant Identity in American Popular Entertainment, 1870–1920”	
<u>Committee</u> : Tracy C. Davis (Chair), Susan Manning, Harvey Young, Elizabeth W. Son	
Teaching Certificate, Searle Center for Advanced Learning and Teaching	2020
Graduate Certificate, Gender and Sexuality Studies	2019
MA, Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama (IPTD)	2017
Link Campus University of Malta in Rome , Rome, Italy	
MA, Theatre Production and Management	2012
Univeristà Ca’ Foscari , Venice, Italy	
MA, American Literature and Culture	2010
BA, <i>cum laude</i> , English and Spanish Languages and Literatures	2008

PUBLICATIONS

Single Author, Monograph

Hyphen-Nation: Racial Impersonation and the Performance of Hyphenated Americanness **In Progress**

Single Author, Peer-reviewed Journals

- “Chinese American Identity, Performance, and Immigration Law: Jue Quon Tai in Theaters and at National Borders,” *Theatre Journal* (forthcoming) **March 2024**
- “Sophie Tucker, Racial Hybridity and Interracial Relations in American Vaudeville,” *Theatre Research International* **July 2019**

Journal Editor, with Katelyn Hale Wood, Matthew McMahan, and Grace Kessler Overbeke

“Comedy & Embodiment,” *Theatre Topics*, Special Issue **July 2024**

Book Associate Editor, with Dassia N. Posner and Kevin Bartig

Three Loves for Three Oranges: Gozzi, Meyerhold, Prokofiev, (Indiana University Press) **2021**

AWARDS:

- Translation Prize, American Society for Theat Research
- Runner-up, Excellence in Editing Award, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
- Runner-up, Edited Collection Prize, Theatre and Performance Research Association

Chapters in Edited Collections

- In *Women’s Innovations in Theatre, Dance, and Performance* (Bloomsbury) **In Progress**
“Leadership as Community Service: The Griffin Sisters, “The First and Only Colored Women’s Theatrical Booking Agency in the United States””
- In *Researching Popular Entertainments* (Routledge). **2024**
“Alternative Archives in Popular Entertainment Research: The Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files”
- In *Three Loves for Three Oranges: Gozzi, Meyerhold, Prokofiev*, (Indiana University Press) **2021**
 - “Introduction: *The Love of Three Oranges*: A Multi-layered Manifesto”(analytic essay)
 - “Introduction: Three Theatrical Oranges” (co-authored, introduction to book)

Translations (from Italian into English)

Included in *Three Loves for Three Oranges: Gozzi, Meyerhold, Prokofiev*, (Indiana University Press) **2021**

- *Reflective Analysis of the Fairy Tale: The Love of Three Oranges*, play by Carlo Gozzi
- “*The Love of Three Oranges*, a Theatrical Provocation,” essay by Alberto Beniscelli
- “Carlo Gozzi in Doctor Dapertutto’s Journal,” essay by Raissa Raskina
- “Notes on the First Sacchi Company,” essay by Giulietta Bazoli

TEACHING

As Instructor of Record, self-designed courses:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Music and Theater Arts

- “Script Analysis” **Fall 2023**
Course oriented toward writing critical play/script analyses and mounting coherent productions (fulfilling writing and communication requirement at MIT)
- “Contemporary American Theatre: The Immigrant Experience” **Spring 2023**
Course emphasizing how theatre illuminates cultural perspectives on the immigrant experience in the USA (fulfilling writing and communication requirement at MIT)

Brown University, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women

- “Bold Bodies: Race in Feminist and Queer Performance” **Spring 2022**
Feminist and queer theory applied to performance practice and criticism. Focused on racialized performance and BIPOC artists

Tufts University, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

- “Queering Feminisms” **Spring 2022**
Introduction to feminist and queer studies
- “Doing Feminist Research” **Fall 2021**
Methods in feminist research (fulfilling Minor’s and Major’s thesis requirement in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

Emerson College, Department of Performing Arts

- “Minoritarian Theatre and Performance” **Spring 2022**
Graduate course discussing social justice activism through theatre and performance practices
- “Stages of Drama” **Fall 2021**
Global theatre history course; play/script analysis fundamentals

Northwestern University, Department of Theatre

- “Minoritarian Feminist Performance” **Spring 2021**
Feminist theory applied to minoritarian performance practices and criticism
- “Theatre and Revolution” **Fall 2020**
U.S. theatre history course highlighting examples of theatre for social change
- “Dancing Race” **Winter 2018**
U.S. dance history course; dance/performance analysis fundamentals

As Teaching Assistant:

Northwestern University, Department of Theatre

- “Introduction to Theatre Arts” **Fall 2016**

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

American Society for Theatre Research	2023
Co-sponsored Events Award for “Comedy & Embodiment” Symposium	
Event organized in collaboration with Katelyn Hale Wood (University of Virginia), Matthew McMahan (Emerson College), and Grace Kessler Overbeke (Columbia College)	
De Florez Fund for Humor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2023
Grant for “Comedy & Embodiment” Symposium at MIT (\$17,500)	
Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin	2023–2024
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (\$ 7,000)	
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	2022–2024
Postdoctoral Fellowship, “Scholarship Across Boundaries” Initiative	
Society of Fellows, University of Southern California	2022
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Alternate	
Pembroke Center for Research and Teaching on Women, Brown University	2021
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Alternate	
Office of Fellowships, Northwestern University	2019–2020
Graduate Assistantship Position	
International and Area Studies Program, Northwestern University	2019
Graduate Mentorship Award (\$3,000)	
School of Communication, Northwestern University.	2018
Dissertation Research Grant (\$2,000)	
The Graduate School, Northwestern University	2018
Dissertation Research Grant (\$3,000)	
Social Science Research Council	2017
Dissertation Research Grant (\$5,000)	
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	2015
Gender and Sexuality Cluster Fellowship at Northwestern University (\$2,500)	

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP & PRESENTATIONS

As Organizer, Convener, and Presenter:

American Society for Theatre Research, Providence, RI **November 2023**

Comedy Studies Working Group Convener, “Humor Springs Eternal”

“Comedy & Embodiment” Symposium, Cambridge, MA **September 2023**

Department of Music and Theater Arts, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

A two-day event comprising an in-person writing workshop with twelve invited comedy scholars, a hybrid-mode roundtable discussion on new directions for comedy studies, the performance of stand-up comedian Negin Farsad, and a masterclass in bouffon-style clowning by Nathaniel Justiniano.

Co-organized with Katelyn Hale Wood, Matthew McMahan, and Grace Kessler Overbeke

American Studies Association, New Orleans, LA **November 2022**

Conference Panel Organizer and Presenter

Panel title: “Performing Belonging and Displacement: Histories of Nationalism, Transnationalism, and Cosmopolitanism in U.S. Theatrical Cultures”

Paper title: “Coloring Blackness: Displacement and Belonging in African American Early-Twentieth-Century Racial Impersonation”

American Society for Theatre Research, New Orleans, LA **November 2022**

Comedy Studies Working Group Convener, “It’s Funny Because It’s Tragic”

Paper title: “Eddie Cantor: Performing Jewishness as ‘America’s Blackest-faced Comedian””

“Color Crossings: Race, Affect, Aesthetics” Symposium, Providence, RI **April 2022**

Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, Brown University

A two-day event considering color’s metaphorical, linguistic, philosophical, historical, perceptual, and practical resonances at the crossroads of performance, critical race theory, and color theory.

Invited speakers: Kareem Khubchandani (keynote, Tufts University), Vanatta Ford (Williams College), Tao Leigh Goffe (Columbia University), Tina Post (University of Chicago), and Anna Storti (Duke University).

Co-organized with Erica Kanesaka, Bernabe Mendoza, and Allison Puglisi.

As Presenter:

International Federation for Theatre Research, Accra, Ghana **July 2023**

“Alternative Archives in Popular Entertainment Research: The Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files”

International Federation for Theatre Research, Galway, Ireland **July 2021**

“Anarchic Clowns vs Civilizing Women: Irish Impersonations in American Vaudeville”

American Society for Theatre Research, remote. **November 2020**

“Racial Stereotyping, Comedy, and Repetition: The Elinore Sisters”

International Federation for Theatre Research, Shanghai, China **July 2019**

“Racial Masks on Foreign Faces: The High and Low Art of Chinese American Racial Impersonators in American Vaudeville”

American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, CA **November 2018**

“Re-orienting Orientalism: Jue Quon Tai’s and Lee Tung Foo’s in American Vaudeville”

International Federation for Theatre Research, Belgrade, Serbia **July 2018**

“Immigrant Performers and Racial Impersonation in American Vaudeville”

In Motion: Performance and Unsettling Borders, Evanston, IL **April 2018**

“Sophie Tucker, A ‘Yiddishe’ Red-Hot Mama”

Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Las Vegas, NA **August 2017**

“Topsy and the ‘Pickaninny’ Stereotype on the American Stage and Screen”

* Conference Travel Grants awarded by The Buffett Institute for Global Studies (2018 and 2019), The Sexuality Project (2018), and The Graduate School at Northwestern University (2018)

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING

[Six!] International Theatre Festival Global Workshop **2020–2021**

Northwestern University, University of Cologne, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, The University of Ghana, Tel Aviv University [online]

Graduate Seminar: “Curating International Theatre Festivals”

Newberry Library & Andrew W. Mellon Foundation **2018–2019**

Newberry Library, Chicago, IL

Graduate Seminar: “The Archive: Form, Theory, and Practice”

Social Science Research Council **2017–2018**

Pittsburgh, PA; Minneapolis, MN

Dissertation Proposal Development Program

Summer Institute in Performance Studies **Summer 2016**

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Graduate seminars by Kim Solga, David Róman, Soyica Diggs Colbert, and Yana Meerzon

Harvard Summer School **Summer 2009**

Harvard University in Venice, Italy

Graduate Seminars by Marc Shell and Werner Sollors

****Awarded best graduate research paper****

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fellowship Advisor **2019–2020**

Office of Fellowships, Northwestern University

- Coached students in writing persuasive fellowship applications and research proposals
- Developed grant writing workshops tailored to international and undocumented undergraduates
- Served on the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Campus Committee

Assistant Director **2014–2015**

STAP Brancaccio School of Acting, Teatro Brancaccio, Rome, Italy

- Curated a program of courses in acting, voice, movement, and directing
- Recruited students and instructors
- Supervised application, tuition, enrollment, and course scheduling processes
- Developed marketing and communication strategies

Education and Outreach Associate **2013–2014**

Teatro Sala Umberto, Rome, Italy

- Assisted the Artistic Director in the Theatre for Young Audience season selection
- Oversaw student matinees
- Promoted shows with local grade and high schools
- Oversaw shows' bookings and sales
- Curated workshops for teachers on integrating theatre techniques in pedagogy

Curator of Public Engagement **2012–2013**

Teatro Vascello, Rome, Italy

- Planned public programming to complement the theatre season
- Promoted events on social media platforms

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND OUTREACH

Community Building Committee Chair (elected position) **2022–2024**

Postdoctoral Association, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Devise and plan social and cultural events for a +1400 people postdoctoral community

Graduate Mentor **2019–2020**

International and Area Studies Program, Northwestern University

- Mentored undergraduate students in developing research projects in international studies
- Planned a bi-weekly speaker series for undergraduates in the program

Graduate Student Representative **2019–2020**

Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University

- Revised the reimbursement system to support graduate conference travel
- Oversaw the planning for the Graduate Humanities Council, a series of graduate mixer events
- Organized teaching workshops for graduate students with invited guest speakers

Alumni Symposium Organizer **Fall 2018**

Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University

- Supervised the planning and logistics for a two-day research and professional development symposium with Northwestern Theatre and Drama graduate alumni

LANGUAGES

Italian (native)

English (near native)

Spanish (proficient)

French (intermediate)