

Elinor Harrison

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Present Position

2020-Present Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dance and Physical Therapy Departments
Washington University, Saint Louis, MO

Education

2019-2020 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dance and Neurology Departments
Washington University, Saint Louis, MO
2014-2018 Ph.D., Washington University, St. Louis, MO, Movement Science
1997-2001 B.A., Washington University, St. Louis, MO, French Lit., Dance, *magna cum laude*

Professional Experience and Academic Positions

2012-2014 Research Assistant, Columbia University Motor Performance Laboratory,
New York, NY

Honors and Awards

2001 Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Award, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2001 Dean's List, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2015 Tom Thach Award, Short Talks 1st Place Winner, Neuroscience Retreat,
Washington University, Grafton, IL
2016 Graduate Professional Council Interdisciplinary Travel Award, Washington
University, St. Louis, MO
2016 Travel Grant Award, 4th World Parkinson Congress, Portland, OR
2017 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) 1st Place winner, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2019 O'Leary Neuroscience Prize Finalist, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2019 Golden Synapse Award, most outstanding paper published in 2019 in the Journal of
Neurologic Physical Therapy
2021 Dance Educator Award, International Association for Dance Medicine and Science,
Nominee

Professional Societies and Organizations

2009-Present Actors Equity Association
2016-Present International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society
2016-Present Association for Women in Science
2017-Present International Association for Dance Medicine and Science
2017-Present Society for Music Perception and Cognition

2017-Present Society for Neuroscience

Teaching Titles and Responsibilities

2016-2018 Teaching Assistant/Guest lecturer: “Neuroscience”, School of Physical Therapy, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

2017 Guest lecturer: “Somatics for the Dancer”, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

2018 University college instructor U31 430: “Applied Anatomy for the Performing Artist”, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

2018 Guest lecturer: “Biocontrol”, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

2019-2021 Courses taught in Dance, Biology, and Psychology, Neuroscience, and Philosophy

L29 363 The Neuroscience of Movement: You think, so you can dance?

L29 201 Theory and Technique of Modern Dance II

L29 401 Theory and Technique of Modern Dance V

L29 331 Movement and Meaning: Dance in a Global Context

Academic Advising

2018 Olivia Fehrmann, Biology Major, Class of 2021, Washington University, Center for Aging Summer Research Experience

2019 Tishiya Carey, International Studies Major, Class of 2021, Washington University, Advanced Summer Program for Investigation and Research Education (ASPIRE)

2019 Zainab Ali, Public Health Major, Class of 2020, Saint Louis University, Center for Aging Summer Research Experience

2019 Nissy Lee, Biology Major, Class of 2021, Washington University, Summer Research Assistant

2019 Rachael Servello, Dance MFA Thesis Committee, Washington University

2020 Grace Myers, Anthropology and Dance Major, Class of 2022, Washington University, Summer Undergraduate Research Award Recipient

2020 Forrest Whiting, MARC-uSTAR Program, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

2021 Serena Schein, Summer Undergraduate Research Award, Washington University

2021 Jane Tellini, Dance MFA Thesis Advisor, Washington University

Scientific Invited Presentations

2013 *Tango and Parkinson Disease*, Motor Performance Laboratory, Columbia University, New York, NY

2015 *The Effect of Singing on Gait in Parkinson Disease*, Movement Science Program Spring Retreat, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

2017 *Moving to song: Using one’s own voice to enhance movement in healthy adults*. International Association for Dance Medicine and Science Annual Conference. Houston, TX

2017 *Mental singing to improve walking for people with Parkinson disease*. Movement Science Program Spring Retreat, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

2018 *Not the same old song and dance: Rhythm and Parkinson disease*. Co-presented with Dr. Gammon Earhart, Master of Liberal Arts Lecture Series, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

- 2018 *Moving while singing: how internal cues can improve walking for older adults and people with Parkinson disease.* Movement: Brain Body Cognition, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
- 2019 *Sing while you stride: How your own voice can help you walk better.* Honorary speaker, Annual Carlos Perez-Mesa Lectureship, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
- 2019 *When the voice dances: how singing can improve movement.* Missouri Dance Organization, Annual Conference, Stephens College, Columbia, MO
- 2019 *Self-generated auditory cues enhance gait kinematics for people with Parkinson Disease.* Movement: Brain, Body, Cognition Annual Conference. Tel Aviv, ISRAEL.
- 2019 *Differential Effects of Internal and External Cues on Gait Kinematics in Parkinson Disease.* Biennial Meeting of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition. New York, NY.
- 2019 *Sing while you stride: Combining movement with song.* International Association for Dance Medicine and Science Annual Conference. Montreal, CANADA.

Research Support

- 2018 GRAMMY Foundation Grant, 2 years, \$11,514. Role: Co-Principal Investigator. *“The Use of Singing to Aid Gait in Parkinson's Disease”.*
- 2020 NIH R61 Sound Health Initiative Grant, 5 years, \$542,164. Role: Postdoctoral fellow. *“Sing for Your Saunter: Using Self-Generated Rhythmic Cues to Enhance Gait in Parkinson's Disease.”*
- 2021 National Endowment for the Arts, 2 years, \$85,000. Role: Co-Principal Investigator. *“Graceful Gait: Community-Based Ballet to Improve Walking and Balance among Older Women”.*

Manuscript Reviewer/Editorial Responsibilities

- 2017-Present Ad hoc Journal Reviewer: PLOS ONE, Gait and Posture, Behavioral Brain Research, Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment, Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice, Neuroscience & Behavioral Reviews, Disability and Rehabilitation, Scientific Reports, Lifestyle Medicine

Abstracts

Harrison EC, McNeely ME, Earhart GM. (2015). Testing the feasibility of singing to improve gait measures in Parkinson Disease. University of Florida Neuromuscular Plasticity Symposium. Gainesville, FL.

Harrison EC, McNeely ME, Earhart GM. (2016). The feasibility of singing to improve gait in Parkinson Disease. Rehabilitation Research at NIH: Moving the Field Forward. Bethesda, MD. [poster presentation]

Harrison EC, McNeely ME, Earhart GM. (2016). Singing as a cue to improve gait in Parkinson Disease: A feasibility study. 4th World Parkinson Congress. Portland, OR. [poster presentation]

Harrison EC, McNeely ME, Horin AP, Earhart GM. (2017). The effects of internal versus external rhythmic cueing on gait performance in healthy adults. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. [poster presentation]

Harrison EC, McNeely ME, Horin AP, Earhart GM. (2017). Self-generated rhythmic cueing to improve gait patterns in healthy adults. Society for Music Perception and Cognition Meeting. San Diego, CA. [poster presentation]

Sutter EN, **Harrison EC**, Cherry-Allen KM, Mattlage AE, Gidday JM, Lee JM, Hershey T, Chen L, Lang CE. (2017). Evaluation of factors that might modify the benefit of remote limb ischemic conditioning on motor learning in older adults. American Society of Neurorehabilitation. Baltimore, MD. [poster presentation]

Horin, AP, **Harrison, EC**, Rawson, KS, & Earhart, GM. (2019). Auditory cueing of gait in Parkinson disease: Responses to different cues in people with and without freezing of gait. 144th Annual Meeting of the American Neurological Association, St. Louis, MO. [poster presentation]

Horin, AP, **Harrison, EC**, Rawson, KS, & Earhart, GM. (2019). The effects of music and mental singing on gait and finger tapping variability in healthy adults and people with Parkinson disease. Biennial Meeting of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition. New York, NY. [poster presentation]

Horin, AP, **Harrison, EC**, Rawson, KS, Earhart, GM. (2019). Differences in response to auditory cues across movement types in people with Parkinson disease with and without freezing of gait. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. [poster presentation]

Peer-reviewed manuscripts

Harrison EC, McNeely ME, Earhart GM. The feasibility of singing to improve gait in Parkinson disease. *Gait and Posture*, February 2017.

Sutter EN, Bland MD, Cherry-Allen KM, Chen L, Gidday, JM, **Harrison EC**, Hershey T, Lee JM, Mattlage AE, Surkar, SM, Lang CE. Remote limb ischemic conditioning and motor learning: Evaluation of factors influencing response in older adults. *Translational Stroke Research*, July 2018.

Harrison EC, Horin AP, Earhart GM. Internal cueing improves gait more than external cueing for healthy adults and people with PD. *Nature Scientific Reports*, October 2018.

Harrison EC, Horin AP, Earhart GM. Mental singing reduces gait variability more than listening to music for healthy adults and people with Parkinson disease. *Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy*, August 2019.

Horin, AP, **Harrison EC**, McNeely ME, Myers, PS, Rawson, KS, Sutter, EN, Earhart GM. Usability of a daily mHealth application designed to address mobility, speech, and dexterity in Parkinson disease. *Neurodegenerative Disease Management*, 2019.

Myers, PS, **Harrison EC**, Horin, AP, McNeely ME, Rawson, KS, Sutter, EN, Earhart GM. Backward, forward, and dual-task gait kinematics in people with Parkinson disease with and without freezing of gait. *Gait and Posture*, 2019.

Myers, PS, **Harrison EC**, Horin, AP, McNeely ME, Rawson, KS, Sutter, EN, Earhart GM. Yoga improves balance and low back pain, but not anxiety, in people with Parkinson Disease. *International Journal of Yoga Therapy*, 2019.

Horin, AP, **Harrison EC**, Rawson, KS, Earhart GM. Finger tapping as a proxy for gait: Similar effects on movement variability during external and self-generated cueing in people with Parkinson's disease and healthy older adults. *Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*, 2020.

Harrison, EC, Horin, AP, Myers, PS, Rawson, KS, and Earhart, GM. Changes in Parkinsonian Gait Kinematics with Self-Generated and Externally-Generated Cues: A Comparison of Responders and Non-Responders. *Somatosensory & Motor Research*, 2020.

Horin, AP, **Harrison EC**, Rawson, KS, Earhart GM. People with Parkinson disease with and without freezing of gait respond similarly to external and self-generated cues. *Gait and Posture*, 2020.

Harrison EC, Earhart GM, Leventhal D, Quinn L, Mazzoni P. A walking dance to improve gait speed for people with Parkinson disease: a pilot study. *Neurodegenerative Disease Management*, 2020.

Scientific Communication and Media Coverage

2016 Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science Workshop, selected participant
2017 "Sing while you stride", Dance your PhD contest entrant, Science Magazine
2017 "Sing for Your Saunter: Self-Generated Cues to Enhance Gait in Parkinson Disease", International Society of Posture and Gait Research blog post

Professional Development and Continuing Education

1999-2000 Université de Toulouse, Le Mirail, Toulouse, France
2009 Yoga Teacher Training, Laughing Lotus Yoga School, New York, NY
2014-Present Weekly Movement Disorders Journal Club Meetings, Washington University School of Medicine, Saint Louis, MO
2014-Present Bi-weekly Program in Physical Therapy Research Seminars, Washington University School of Medicine, Saint Louis, MO

Professional dance career

2002 Dancer, "A Chorus Line", European Touring Company
2002-2003 Dancer, Nancy Meehan Dance Company, New York, NY
2004 Dancer, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, National Tour
2005-2007 Dancer, The Fireside Theatre, Fort Atkinson, WI
2007-2011 Dancer, Mary Seidman and Dancers, New York, NY
2008 Dancer, AGORA, Noémie LaFrance, Brooklyn, NY

2009 Extra film dancer, “Black Swan”, New York, NY
2011 Extra film dancer, “Friends with Benefits”, New York, NY
2008-2014 Dancer, Jane Comfort and Company, New York, NY
2008-2014 Dancer, Thomas/Ortiz Dance, New York, NY

Dance awards

2000 Selected soloist, American College Dance Festival, Urbana-Champaign, IL
2001 Ian D. Cramer Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Dance,
Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2010 Career Transitions for Dancers Scholarship Awardee, New York, NY
2014 Marcus Artist-in-Residence, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Choreography

2003 “Wingwalking”, DanceSpace Center, New York, NY
2007 “After I take off my gray gloves”, Dumbo Dance Festival, Brooklyn, NY
2009 “Comme si j’etais la seule”, Dance New Amsterdam, New York, NY
2010 “Frank and Mamah”, Dumbo Dance Festival, Brooklyn, NY
2010 “If you let me”, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Brooklyn, NY
2011 “Spinning Lines”, Invisible Dog, Brooklyn, NY
2012 “You do not do”, Movement Research, New York, NY
2015 “Island”, St. Louis Fringe Festival, St. Louis, MO
2019 “As We Drift”, Washington University Dance Theatre, St. Louis, MO
2020 “Mama-land”, SEEN showcase, The Link Auditorium, St. Louis, MO
2020 “Party for the Lonely”, Washington University Dance Theatre, St. Louis, MO

Dance teaching

2009-2014 Ballet instructor, New England Academy of Dance, New Canaan, CT
2011-2014 Yoga Instructor, Prema Yoga, Brooklyn, NY
2012 Modern Dance Master Class, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
2012 Modern Dance Master Class, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Becket, MA
2013 Modern Dance Master Class, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA
2014 Modern Dance/Composition Master Classes, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2015 Movement and Music Workshop, Fringe Festival, St. Louis, MO
2017 Yoga instructor for Parkinson’s-specific class: Movement Science Research Center,
Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2018 Modern Dance Master Class, Webster University, St. Louis, MO
2019 Dance instructor for Parkinson’s-specific class: Movement Science Research Center,
Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2019 Voice and Movement Workshop, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, ISRAEL

Dance Communication and Media Coverage

2004 “Letting Minds Flow Unfettered, As Bodies Move To Bold Rhythms” by Anna
Kisselgoff, The New York Times
2006 “Take Me Out” by Deborah Jowitt, The Village Voice
2007 “My regional theatre summer” by Lauren Kay, Dance Magazine

- 2008 “How to Succeed at White Plains Photo Coverage”, Broadway World
- 2010 “Working Women: 15 women who went after their dream jobs”, featured in Cosmopolitan Magazine
- 2011 “KerPlunk and Friends at City Center” OffOffOff Dance Review
- 2011 “Cool New York 2011 Dance Festival”, Time Out NY
- 2011 “Jane Comfort troupe opens American Dance Institute with Fantastic Performance” by Rebecca Ritzel, The Washington Post
- 2011 “Barbie and Ken are all dolled up at Jacob’s Pillow festival” by Janine Parker, The Boston Globe
- 2011 “She’s Plastic, Beautiful and Rules the World” by Claudia La Rocca, The New York Times
- 2012 “Beauty” with Jane Comfort and Company, Dance Presentation/Lecture, TedxEast, Lincoln Center, NY
- 2013 “Backstage at BROADWAY BARES 23 Photo Coverage”, Broadway World
- 2014 “Celebrated dancer returns to campus”, The Source, Washington University
- 2017 “A Series of Slow Events: ‘Fossil’ for Six Dancers”, St. Louis Magazine
- 2018 “Jane Comfort to Present 40th Anniversary Retrospective”, Broadway World
- 2018 “Jane Comfort and Company Takes Audiences from Maniacal to Melancholy” by Wendy Perron, DANCE Magazine
- 2018 “Five performance to see in NYC in the week ahead” by Brian Schaefer, The New York Times
- 2018 “Comfort, humor, and grace”, by Susan Yung, The Brooklyn Rail

Community Service

- 2001 Habitat for Humanity Bicycle Challenge, rode 4,000 miles across the U.S. to raise money for and help construct low-income housing
- 2004-2006 New York Cares, Yoga Instructor to underprivileged children, New York, NY
- 2005 Upward Bound, Dance Instructor for first-generation college students, Orlando, FL
- 2006-2010 Jewish Child Care Association, Mentor to children in foster care, Brooklyn, NY
- 2009-2012 Administrative Assistant, Janis Brenner and Dancers, New York, NY
- 2010-2013 Broadway Bares, Annual benefit concert for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Dancer, New York, NY
- 2012 “Only Make Believe” Broadway Benefit for hospitalized children, Dancer, Shubert Theatre, New York, NY
- 2013 Art = Ammo anti-gun violence performance, Dancer, Times Square, NY
- 2014 American Parkinson Disease Association Support Group, Co-presented “Update on Exercise and Locomotion in Parkinson Disease”, St. Louis, MO
- 2016 National Biomechanics Day volunteer, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
- 2021 Our Chance to Dance, Faculty Advisor, Washington University, St. Louis, MO