

JOANNA DEE DAS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Dance, Washington University, 2016-present
Postdoctoral Fellow, Dance Department, Williams College, 2015-16
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Dance Studies in/and the Humanities, Stanford, 2014-15

EDUCATION

PhD History, Columbia University, New York, 2014
MA American Studies, New York University, 2008
BA Dance and History, Columbia College of Columbia University, New York, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

Katherine Dunham: Dance and the African Diaspora. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017

Reviewed in *New York Times*, *Dance Research Journal*, *Library Journal*, Black Girl Nerds, HeatherDance.com, and CriticalDance.org.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

“Between the ‘Culture of Poverty’ and the Cultural Revolution: Katherine Dunham’s Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis, 1965-1973.” *Journal of Urban History* 41, no. 6 (2015): 981-988.

Articles in Other Journals:

“The Collective Memory of the Black Dancing Body: The 2016 Revival of *Cabin in the Sky*.” *TDR (The Drama Review)* 61, no. 1 (2017): 168-174.

“Dance and the Divided City: Katherine Dunham’s Legacy and East St. Louis.” *The Common Reader: A Journal of the Essay*, November 11, 2016, <https://commonreader.wustl.edu/c/dance-divided-city/>.

Book Chapters:

“Dancing Dahomey at the World’s Fair: Revising the Archive of African Dance in America.” In *The Futures of Dance Studies*, ed. Susan Manning, Janice Ross, and Rebecca Schneider. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, forthcoming 2019.

- “What Makes a Musical? *Contact* (2000) and Debates About Genre at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century.” In *The Routledge Companion to the Post-1970s American Stage Musical*, ed. Elizabeth Wollman and Jessica Sternfeld. New York: Routledge, forthcoming 2019.
- “Katherine Dunham and the Building of an African Diasporic Political Culture.” In *Dancing the African Diaspora*, ed. Thomas F. DeFrantz. Durham: Duke University Press, forthcoming 2019.
- “Ways of Knowing: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Musical Theatre.” Co-authored with Elizabeth T. Craft. In *A Critical Companion to the American Stage Musical*, edited by Elizabeth Wollman. New York: Bloomsbury, 2017.

Book Reviews:

- Review of *Performing Indigenous Culture on Stage and Screen: A Harmony of Frenzy*, by Marianne Schultz. H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online. Published May 2018.
- Review of *America Dancing: From the Cakewalk to the Moonwalk*, by Megan Pugh. *Journal of American History* 103, no. 3 (2016): 813-814.
- Review of *Don't Act, Just Dance: The Metapolitics of Cold War Culture*, by Catherine Kodat. *Journal of American History* 102, no. 3 (2015): 927.
- Review of *Black Performance Theory*, edited by Thomas F. DeFrantz and Anita Gonzalez. *Dance Research Journal* 47, no. 2 (2015): 91-93.
- Review of *Darkening Mirrors: Imperial Representation in Depression-Era African American Performance*, by Stephanie Leigh Batiste. *Journal of African American History* 100, no. 1 (2015): 158-161.
- Review of *Bernstein Meets Broadway: Collaborative Art in a Time of War*, by Carol Oja, *Studies in Musical Theatre* 8, no. 3 (2014): 297-299.
- Review of *Urban Bush Women: Twenty Years of African American Dance Theater, Community Engagement, and Working It Out*, by Nadine George-Graves. *Dance Research Journal* 45, no. 2 (2013): 145-148.
- Review of *The Dance Claimed Me: A Biography of Pearl Primus*, by Peggy & Murray Schwartz. *Dance Research Journal* 44, no. 2 (2012): 111-114.

Edited Interviews:

- “‘A Thing Called Human Hope’: Bill T. Jones on Trauma, Endurance and the Democracy of Dance,” *Washington University Record* and Washington University Center for the Humanities, Sep. 1, 2016, <https://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu/features/Joanna-Dee-Das-Bill-T-Jones-Trauma-Endurance-Democracy-of-Dance>.
- “Making Broadway Musicals: An Interview with Dan Knechtges.” *Studies in Musical Theatre*, 8, no. 1 (2014): 89-94.
- “Making Broadway Musicals: An Interview with Jess Goldstein.” *Studies in Musical Theatre* 7, no. 3 (2013): 375-383.
- “Making Broadway Musicals: An Interview with Lisa Lambert.” *Studies in Musical Theatre* 7, no. 2 (2013): 285-291.

Other Publications:

- Guest Editor, Special Issue of *Studies in Musical Theatre* on “Dance in Musical Theatre,” forthcoming 2019.
- “Rodney King in American History and Memory.” Program Notes for Roger Guenveur Smith’s

Rodney King, Fall 2015 New England performances.
“ABT at the Library of Congress.” Co-authored with Victoria Phillips. *Ballet Review* 43, no. 4 (2015-16): 70-73.
“Aida Overton Walker.” In *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*, forthcoming.
“Josephine Baker.” In *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*, forthcoming.
“Katherine Dunham.” In *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*, forthcoming.
“Katherine Dunham.” Dance Heritage Coalition, www.danceheritage.org/dunham.html

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Washington University Center for the Humanities Research Seed Grant, Summer 2018
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Williams College, 2015-16
Andrew K. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Stanford University, 2014-2016 (declined 2015-16)
Richard Hofstadter Fellowship, Columbia University, 2009-2010, 2012-2014
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, 2006-2009; 2010-2012
Victor Barnouw Fellowship, Columbia University, 2011-2012
Research Grant from the Center for American Studies, Columbia University, 2010, 2012
Academic Quality Fund Grant from the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race (CSER) at Columbia University, 2009-2010

HONORS AND AWARDS

Nominated for Allan Nevins Prize, given by Society of American Historians for best-written dissertation on an American subject, 2015 (declined)
Nominated for Bancroft Award for Best Dissertation at Columbia University, 2014
Travel Award, Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, 2013
Third Prize, “Memphis State Eight” Paper Prize, Twelfth Annual Graduate Student Conference in African American History, Memphis University, 2010

Mellon Foundation, “Futures of Dance Studies,” Invited Participant, Brown University, June 22-23, 2016
Book Manuscript Review Grant, Oakley Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Williams College, March 16-17, 2016
Mellon Foundation, “Dance Studies in/and the Humanities,” Invited Participant, Northwestern University, June 22-26, 2015
Mellon Foundation, “Dance Studies in/and the Humanities,” Invited Participant, Stanford University, June 23-27, 2014
Mellon Foundation, Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research, “World Performance” Summer Seminar, Invited Participant, Harvard University, June 3-14, 2013
Mellon Foundation, “Dance Studies in/and the Humanities,” Invited Participant, Northwestern University, June 24-30, 2012

INVITED TALKS ON KATHERINE DUNHAM

Duke University, March 6, 2018
Washington University Faculty Book Celebration, February 15, 2018
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, November 30, 2017

Temple University Dance Studies Colloquium, November 28, 2017
Chicago Public Library, November 8, 2017
Columbia College Chicago, November 8, 2017
Missouri History Museum, November 1, 2017
Washington University Library Fall Faculty Book Talk Series, September 28, 2017
New Books Network Podcast, September 7, 2017
Left Bank Books Independent Bookstore, St. Louis, July 12, 2017
St. Louis on the Air, St. Louis Public Radio, July 12, 2017
Creative Exchange Lab, St. Louis, August 22, 2016
The Juilliard School, March 29, 2016
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, March 8, 2016
American College Dance Association—New England, Springfield College, February 13, 2016
University Seminar on Dance, Columbia University, October 12, 2015
Northwestern University, February 23, 2015
Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University, January 27, 2015
Brown University, March 12, 2013
Harvard University, October 22, March 5, 2012

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Reviving *Shuffle Along*: Embodiment and the Haunting of Race.” *Song, Stage and Screen XIII*, Los Angeles, June 3, 2018.
- “The Katherine Dunham School of Dance in New York: A Radical Pedagogy of Dissent.” American Studies Association, Chicago, Nov. 9, 2017.
- “Dance and Decolonization: African American Choreographers in Africa during the Cold War.” Dancing the Cold War Symposium, Feb. 17, 2017.
- “Dancing Dahomey: Strategies of Satire and Authenticity in the Performance of African Dance in *Show Boat*.” CORD-SDHS Joint Conference, Pomona College, Nov 4, 2016.
- “Dancing Dahomey at the World’s Fair: Revising the Archive of Black Dance in America.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), Chicago, Aug. 13, 2016.
- “Dancing Dahomey at the World’s Fair: A New Usable Past for the Afrofuture.” Collegium of African Diaspora Dance, Duke University, Feb. 20, 2016.
- “(Auto-)Primitivism and (Auto-)Orientalism: Katherine Dunham and Uday Shankar’s Challenge to 1930s American Modern Dance.” Modernist Studies Association 17th Annual Conference, Boston, Nov. 21, 2015.
- “Choreographing Against the Grain? Dance in Early African American Musicals.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), Montreal, Jul. 31, 2015.
- “Diasporic Moves: Dancing *Dahomey* in the Progressive Era.” Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS) Special Topics Conference, Johns Hopkins University, Mar. 28, 2015.
- “Beyond Ethnography? Katherine Dunham’s Embodied Translations of Caribbean Dance.” Writing Dancing/Dancing Writing Conference, CORD-SDHS, University of Iowa, Nov. 15, 2014.
- “Funding the Cultural Revolution in East St. Louis.” Urban History Association Biannual Conference, Philadelphia, Oct. 10, 2014.
- “Dancing Diaspora: Katherine Dunham’s International Tours During the Cold War.” Dancing the African Diaspora Conference, Duke University, Feb. 8, 2014.

- “Dancing the Haitian Revolution: Katherine Dunham’s *Christophe* and the Political Uses of the Past.” CORD-SDHS Joint Conference, University of California Riverside, Nov. 15, 2013.
- “Katherine Dunham’s Americana and the Uses of the African American Folk, 1940-1963.” Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association Annual Conference, St. Louis, Oct. 12, 2013.
- “The Unofficial Ambassador: Katherine Dunham and Cold War Diplomacy, 1950-1965.” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Jan. 5, 2013.
- “Preserving Memory, Producing Diaspora: Katherine Dunham’s Multiple Archives.” Producing Race: Technology and the African Diaspora Conference, New York, Oct. 28, 2011.
- “A Legacy of Activism: Katherine Dunham and the Black Arts Movement.” SDHS Annual Conference, Toronto, June 24, 2011.
- “Dancing in ‘The Worst Hell-Hole in America’: Katherine Dunham’s Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis.” Twelfth Annual Graduate Student Conference in African American History, 3rd prize. Memphis, Nov. 11, 2010.
- “The Triangulated Travels of the Tango, 1880-1914.” New York Metro American Studies Association (NYMASA) Annual Conference, New York, Nov. 8, 2008.

OTHER INVITED GUEST LECTURES

- “The African American Influence on Neoclassical Ballet.” San Francisco Ballet, March 7, 2015.
- “Is American Ballet Black?” Guest lecture for Rethinking the Ballerina, Stanford University, Feb. 15, 2015.
- “African American Dance: Anthropology, Concert Dance, and Broadway.” Guest lecture for Dance and Cultural History, Marymount Manhattan College, Jan. 21, 2014.
- “Worlding Dance: Possibilities, Probabilities, and Impossibilities,” Guest lecture for Dance and Cultural History, Marymount Manhattan College, Jan. 6, 2014.
- “Dance in American Musicals.” Guest lecture for American Musical Theatre, Columbia University, Sep. 30, 2013.
- “Swing Culture.” Guest lecture for History of American Popular Culture Through Music, Columbia University, Apr. 1, 2013.
- “From Race Riots to Race Pride: East St. Louis in the Twentieth Century.” Guest lecture for American Urban History, Columbia University, Nov. 1, 2012.
- “The African Diaspora on Broadway and in Hollywood: The Case of *Cabin in the Sky*.” Guest lecture for Graduate Seminar in African American Musical Theater, Harvard University, Nov. 1, 2011.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Courses Taught:

- From Romantic to Postmodern Dance (WU, Spring 2018)
- Methodologies of Global Dance Studies (WU, Spring 2018)
- Introduction to Contemporary Dance (WU, Spring 2017)
- Performing the Political in American Dance (WU, Fall 2016; Barnard College, Fall 2013)
- Theories of the Body in Performance (WU, Fall 2016)
- Dance and Diaspora (Williams College, Spring 2016)

Foundations in Dance (Williams College, Fall 2015)
Introduction to Dance in the African Diaspora (Stanford, Winter 2015)
Movement and Meaning: Dance Studies in Global Comparative Context (Stanford, Fall 2014)
Western Theatrical Dance from the Renaissance to the 1960s (Barnard College, Fall 2013)

Academic Advising:

MFA Thesis Advisor, Heather Himes, Washington University, 2017-18
MFA Thesis Advisor, Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Hollins University, 2017-18
MA Thesis Reader and Respondent, Brett Carr, Washington University, Spring 2017
Senior Thesis Advisor, American Studies Program, Columbia University, 2012-2014

Teaching Assistantships, Columbia University:

History of American Popular Culture Through Music, Spring 2013
American Urban History, Fall 2012
U.S. in the Era of Slavery and Jacksonian Democracy, Spring 2010
American Civilization to the Civil War, Fall 2009

Other Independent Instruction:

Teacher of Dunham History and Theory Course at Institute for Dunham Technique Certification, July 23-29, 2017, Columbia College Chicago.

Guest teacher of Dunham Technique classes at American College Dance Association, March 2018, February 2016; Skidmore College, March 2014; and Harvard University, March and October 2012

Dancing Through History: Social Dance in American Culture (History and Studio course)
Saturday Academy, Museum of the City of New York, Fall 2013

Jazz and modern dance technique at Camp Eagle Hill (New York), Universidad Nacional de Cuyo (Argentina), New Dance Group (New York), Manhattan Motion Dance Studio (New York), and the Center for Creative Arts (St. Louis), 2003-2006

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, RESEARCH, AND ARCHIVAL WORK

Moderator, Post-Screening Discussion of *Stormy Weather*, St. Louis International Film Festival, November 4, 2017.

Invited Scholar, Katherine Dunham Certification Workshop and Katherine Dunham Technique Seminars in St. Louis, Tampa, and Chicago, Summers 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.

Co-Organizer of the 2017 Dunham Symposium, “Katherine Dunham and Art for Social Change in 1930s Chicago: A Contemporary Call to Action,” Northwestern University, July 23, 2017.

Moderator, Post-Screening Discussion of *Gentlemen of Vision* documentary on stepping, St. Louis International Film Festival, November 10, 2016.

“Would Katherine Dunham have joined Black Lives Matter? Historian Says Yes.” *Cut & Paste* Podcast, St. Louis Public Radio, August 4, 2016.

Co-Organizer of the 2016 Dunham Symposium, “Dunham in Haiti: Forging Diasporic Solidarity.” University of South Florida, July 3, 2016.

Co-Organizer of the 2015 Dunham Symposium, “Black Lives Matter: The Relevance of Katherine Dunham’s Legacy for Today’s Artist-Activists.” University of South Florida, June 28, 2015.

Co-Curator, “American Ballet Theatre: Touring the Globe for 75 Years,” Exhibit at Library of Congress, Washington, August 2014 to January 2015 and Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, February 2015 to August 2015. <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/american-ballet-theatre/>

Historical Consultant, *Heart and Lights* Rockettes show at Radio City Music Hall, March 2014
Provided research on culture and history of New York City from 1950s to the present day

Researcher, Mouseion Project, <http://mouseion.fac33.co.uk/>, 2012-2013
Wrote and edited textual analyses for American history curriculum for institutions of higher education in the Middle East

Research Assistant for Mae Ngai, Professor of Asian American Studies and History, 2009-2010
Conducted research for Major Problems in American Immigration History, 2nd Edition.

Archives Intern at the Missouri Historical Society Library & Research Center, St. Louis, 2009
Processed the Katherine Dunham Papers and created a finding aid.

DEPARTMENTAL, UNIVERSITY, AND FIELD-WIDE SERVICE

Treasurer, Dance Studies Association, April 2018-April 2020
Faculty Sponsor, American College Dance Association Conference, Midwest, March 2018
PAD Colloquium Committee, Washington University, 2018-present
Awards Standing Committee, Dance Studies Association, 2017-2018
Guest teacher, K-12 Connections Master Class for University City High School students in relation to Washington University Dance Theater: Critical Mass, December 2, 2016
Facilitator, Public Discussion with Teaching Artist Germaul Barnes in conjunction with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, September 29, 2016
Facilitator, Artist Studio Visit with Candice Salyers and New England Presenters, December 9, 2015
Founder and Organizer, Stanford Colloquium on Dance Studies, 2014-15
Co-founder and organizer for US History Workshop of Columbia University, 2011-2012
Co-President, Graduate History Association of Columbia University, 2009-2010
Social Chair, Graduate History Association, Columbia University, 2008-2009

ADDITIONAL DANCE TRAINING/PERFORMING/CHOREOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Training:

Certified Dunham Technique Instructor

Modern Dance (multiple techniques), Ballet, Jazz, West African, Tango, Yoga

Professional Performing:

Tze Chun Dance Company, 2006-2008

Independent projects by Rebecca Alaly and Shanti Wargo at Dance Theatre Workshop, White Wave Dance Festival, Yale Summer Cabaret, and other New York City area performance venues, 2006-2009.

Choreography:

Dee Dance Theatre choreography presented by Merce Cunningham Studios, DanceNow/NYC, WaxWorks (Brooklyn), and Center of Creative Arts (St. Louis), 2005-2008

Dance Dramaturgy:

Dance dramaturge for *Evita!*, Stanford University, Winter-Spring 2015

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish; Proficient in French

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association

American Society for Theatre Research

American Studies Association

Dance Studies Association