

**Hershini Young**  
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hbhanayoung@gmail.com

**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D.**    Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 1999  
**Committee:** Saidiya Hartman, Norma Alarcón, Barbara Christian, VÉVÉ Clark,  
**M.A.**    Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 1994  
**B.A.**    African-American Studies, University of Kansas, May 1992  
          *Summa Cum Laude*
- Humanities with an Emphasis in English, University of Kansas, May 1992  
          *Summa Cum Laude*

**RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Full Professor, UT Austin, 2018-present**  
**Full Professor, SUNY at Buffalo, 2016-2018**  
Associate Professor, SUNY at Buffalo, 2006-2016  
Assistant Professor, SUNY at Buffalo, 2002-2006  
**Assistant Professor, UC Riverside, 1999-2002**

**Books**

**PUBLICATIONS**

---Falling, Crawling, and Other Ways to Get Off: Differential Embodiment and Alternate Moving Practices in the African Diaspora. Under Review

—Illegible Will: Coercive Performances in Southern African Spectacles of Labor. Duke University Press, 2017.

Haunting Capital: Memory, Text and the Black Diasporic Body. University Press of New

England. (December 2005)

**Peer-Reviewed Articles**

- “Red Dots and Other Repeating Violences: The Mediterranean Crisis, Berni Searle and Isaac

- Julien." Women and Performance. Final Review
- "Inhabiting Inherited Structures of Representation." TDR 64. 2 (Summer 2020): 78-87
    - 'She's Lost Control Again': Representations of (dis)ability in Contemporary Performances of Spoek Mathambo and Die Antwoord. African and Black Diaspora. Special Issue on Music and Performance across the Black Atlantic. 9.1 (2016): 109-124
    - "Performing the Abyss: Octavia Butler's *Fledgling* and the Law". Studies in the Novel. 47. 2 (Summer 2015): 210-230
    - "'Sound of Kuduro Knocking at My Door': Kuduro Dance and the Poetics of Debility". African American Review. Special Issue on Black Performance. 45.3 (2012): 391-402
    - 'Black 'Like Me': (Mis) Recognition, the Racial Gothic and the post 1967 Mixed Race Movement in Danzy Senna's *Symptomatic*." African American Review. 42.2 (Summer 2008): 287-305
    - "Trafficking in Pain: Genealogies of Witnessing Slavery in Francesco Bartolozzi and Concluding with Lalla Essaydi". African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal 1.1 (Jan 2008): 43-57
    - "Inheriting the Criminalized Body: Race, Gender and Slavery in Gayl Jones' *Eva's Man*." African American Review. 39.3 (Fall 2005): 377-393. Reprinted in Contemporary Literary Criticism, v.270. Ed. Jeff Hunter.
    - "The Political Economy of Food: Hunger in Tsitsi Dangarembga's *Nervous Conditions*." Proteus: A Journal of Ideas. Special Issue on Food. 17.1 (Spring 2000): 18-24
    - "'The Condition of the Native': Autodestruction in Dangarembga's *Nervous Conditions*." Alternation 6, 1 (1999): 117-137
    - "Splitting Open Wide: Letters of Exile." Socialist Review Special Issue on The Traveling Nation: India and its Diaspora. 24.4 (1994): 109-150.

### Book Chapters

- "The Picnic." Sittin' in a Saucer. Ed. Omi Osun Joni L. Jones. Forthcoming.
- "Merciful Space; Performance Geography in Jeremy Love's Bayou, Volume 1". The Blacker the Ink: Constructions of Black Identity in American Comics and Sequential Art. Eds. Francis K. Gateword and John Jennings. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2015.
- "The Rise of the See J: John Jennings and Ike Ude." Black Performance Theory. Eds. Tommy DeFrantz and Anita Gonzalez. (Duke University Press, 2014).
- "'Rude' Performances: Theorizing Agency." Representation and Black Womanhood: The Legacy of Sarah Baartman. Ed. Natasha Gordon-Chipembere. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011.
- "Broken Mirrors and Reflections of One's Self: Blackness, Indianness and Hybridity." Blackberries and Redbones: Critical Articulations of Black Hair/ Body Politics in Africana Communities. Eds. Kimberly Moffit and Regina Spellens. New Jersey: Hampton Press, 2009.
- "Salt, Slavery and other Hauntings: Deborah Jack's 'Shore'". Exhibition

Catalogue Essay for Big Orbit Gallery, September 11-November 8, 2004.  
<http://bigorbitgallery.org/bigorbit/jack.html>

- “Reading Ghostly Desire: Writing the Edges of Bessie Head’s A Question of Power.” Emerging Perspectives on Bessie Head. Ed. Huma Ibrahim. New Jersey: Africa World Press, 2003. 52-73.
- "How to Articulate the Inarticulable I, II, and III." Making More Waves: New Writing by Asian American Women. Eds. Kim, Elaine, Lilia Villanueva and Asian Women United of California. Boston: Beacon P, 1997. 174-176.
- "*The Tempest* and Colonial Discourse." Shakespeare: A Study and Research Guide. Eds. Bergeron, David and Geraldo U. de Sousa. Lawrence: UP Kansas, 1995. 217-226.
- "Boundaries." Our Feet Walk the Sky: Women of the South Asian Diaspora. Ed. The Women of South Asian Descent Collective. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 1993. 296

### Other

- “Agency.” Key Words in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Routledge. Forthcoming.
- Biographical Entry on Bessie Head. The Literary Dictionary, a global internet reference work.

[www.literarydictionary.com](http://www.literarydictionary.com) (28 October 2000)

- Review of *Imagining the Nation: Asian American Literature and Cultural Consent* by David Leiwei Li. American Studies 42.3 (Fall 1999): 173-4

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS and READINGS

- “Illegible Will.” E3W Review of Books: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book Launch. Zoom. May 2020.
- “Illegible Will with Saidiya Hartman”. Faculty Book Talk. UT Austin, Feb 2019.
- “Mediterranean and other Border Crossings.” Keynote Speaker. Black Performance Theory, Arizona State University, May 2019.
- “Libidinal Economies of Slavery.” Prelude 2019 Arts Festival. Performance in response to M. Lamar’s *A Lynching Suite*. CUNY Oct 2019.
- “Nelisiwe Xaba’s Fremde Tanze.” Black Arts Initiative. Northwestern University, Oct 2019.
- “Response to performance by Francine Thirteen.” *The Eternal Virgin, Not Unsexed but Unowned*. UT Austin, Feb 2019.
- “Sound Knocking at my Door: Kuduro Dance and the Poetics of Debility”. *Disability and the Arts*. SUNY at Buffalo, April 2016.
- “Living Archives and Repertoires”. *Embodying History Roundtable*, SUNY at Buffalo, May 2016.
- “The Ground beneath her Feet: Towards a Black Poetics and Politics of Movement”. Performance

and Talk for Humanities Institute, SUNY at Buffalo, December 2015.

- Hostile Architecture. "How Can We Work it Out: Black Performance Between Death and Life". NYU, April 2015
- "Will I still Carry Water when I am a Dead Woman." Keynote Speaker at Yoruba Spirituality and Global Acts Conference. UCSB, February 2015.
- The Poetics of Falling. ASA, November 2014.
- "A Conversation: LaToya Ruby Frazier". *Brooklyn Museum* June 27, 2013.
- "Black Gold: Carolina Rice and Deafness." Black Performance Theory. University of Texas at Austin, April 2013.
- "Performing Disability: Landmines and Kuduro". AFTA Annual International Conference. University of Cape Town. July 12-15 2012
- "Mecca Flat Blues: Sound and Space". NEMLA. Rochester NY. March 17 2012.
- "Performance Word Swamp". Black Performance Theory 2011: Hemispheres and Souths. UC Santa Barbara. May 6-7 2011.
- "Making Merciful Space: Performance Geography in Jeremy Love's Bayou, Vol. 1. U. of Rochester, October 28.
- "Sila van den Kaap Or Black Geographies". American Comparative Literature Association. 2010
- "Water in the Break." Black Performance Theory. Yale University, New Haven, May 2009.
- "Superheroes and Other Bodies." U. of Flint Art Museum, Michigan, March 2009.
- "Auction Block Party." (Performance Art) HASTAC. U. of Champaign, Urbana, April 2009.
- "Consent, Sex and Spousal Hires." U. Massachusetts, May 2008.
- "Losing my Mother". *Theory in Motion*. Northwestern University, May 2007.
- "Periodization, African Americanness and 1967." Colloquium on Postmodernity. SUNY, Buffalo, April 2006.
- "Slave Agency and Sexuality". *Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)*. Buffalo, NY, October 2005.
- "Sarah Baartman and the Slave Body". *FMS Conference*. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, October 2005.
- "Coercive Performances". *English Department Speaker Series and the Gender Institute*. SUNY, Buffalo, August 2005.
- "Inheriting the Criminalized Body: The Case of Sukie". *Collegium of African American Research*. University of Tours, France, April 2005.
- "The Haunting Distance between Two Spaces." *American Studies Association*. Atlanta, GA, October 2004.
- "Carrie Mae Weems and Washing the Feet." *Black Performance Theory Conference*. University of Minneapolis, MN, April 2004.
- "Seeing the World Through Rose-Colored Glasses: Diaspora and Maryse Conde's *Heremakhonon*." *American Studies Association*: Hartford, CT, October 2003.
- "The Criminalized Body in Gayl Jones' *Eva's Man*." *American Studies Graduate Colloquium*: SUNY, Buffalo, October 2003

- “Authority as Paradox: Gender and Race in the College Classroom”. *Colloquium on Gender and Curriculum*: SUNY, Buffalo, Spring 2003
- “Above all, to Withhold: Voice, Identity and the Limits of the Knowable in J.M. Coetzee’s Foe”.
- *Roundtable discussion on J.M. Coetzee*: SUNY, Buffalo, October 2002
- “Ike Ude’s *Beyond Decorum*.” *Black Performance Roundtable*: Stanford University, Stanford, Spring 2002
- “‘Palms like Sunburnt Gold’: The Politics of Re-memory.” *American Women Writers of Color Conference*: Ocean City, MD, October 2001
- “Between a Push and a Pull: Gayl Jones’ Corregidora.” *The Black Aesthetic: 1960-2001*: Riverside, CA, October 2001
- “Meeting Places.” *Juncture: Cape Town/ London* curated by Robyn Denny and Frances Goodman: London, May 2001
- “Still Not Pretty: The Work of Ike Ude.” California Museum of Photography: Riverside, CA, 2001.
- “Vomit in his own hair: Performing Memory.” *Bloodmemories: Performance Artists examining Corporeality and Memory*: UC Riverside, Jan 2001
- “Burning Down the Big House: Obeah and Christophene.” *Crossing Boundaries – the African Diaspora in the New Millenium*: New York, September 21 2000
- “Conjure Women in Jean Rhys’ Wide Sargasso Sea.” *Casa del Caribe: Festival del Fuego*, Santiago de Cuba, July 6 2000
- “Reading Ghostly Desire: Writing the Edges of Bessie Head’s A Question of Power.” *UCR English Department: Works in Progress Series*: May 5 1999
- "Theorizing (by) the Ghost: Floating Signifiers and the Black Body." *Aesthetics and Difference: Cultural Diversity, Literature and the Arts*: Oct 23 1998
- "The Creole Body: Or what it means to be (both) Indian and African." Opening Speaker for *Got Rice: Asian Women and Representation*: Berkeley, June 27 1998
- "Words as Broken Vessels." Reading at *A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books*: San Francisco, Dec 2 1997
- "How to Articulate the Inarticulable I, II, and III." Readings from Making More Waves: Palo Alto, Sept 14 1997.
- "Diaspora Conversations and Other Cross-Currents." *Ethnic Studies Colloquium*: University of California, Berkeley, May 1997.
- "Dialoguing with Whiteness: Jean Rhys and the African Diaspora." *St. Clair Drake Cultural Studies Forum*: University of California, Berkeley, April 29 1997.
- "Re-mapping Black Identity: The Black Atlantic and Haile Gerima's Sankofa." *African Studies Association*: San Francisco, Nov 25 1996.
- "Boundaries" and "Denaturalising Language's Body." Readings from Our Feet Walk the Sky, Stanford University, Jan 29 1994.

#### University Service

- **Committees**
- Executive Committee, UT Austin (2019-2020)
- Cluster Hire Search Committee in Race (2020)
- Queer Speaker Lecture Series Coordinator (2019)

- Faculty Advisory Committee, UB Center for Disability Studies (2014-17)
- Hiring Committee African Diasporic Dance, Department of Dance (2017)
- Hiring Committee African American Assistant Professor (2013-2014)
- Hiring Committee African American Associate Professor (2013-2014)
- CAS Policy Committee (2013-2014)
- Admissions Committee (2012-2013)
- Visual Studies Hiring Committee (2012-2013)
- Faculty Advisory Committee, UB Center for Disability Studies (2011-2012)
- Admissions Committee (2011-2012)
- Executive Committee (2009)
- Search Committee in Global Literature (2007-2008)
- Search Committee in African American Performance (2006)
- English Department Planning Committee (2005)
- Women's Studies Planning Committee (2005)
- Advisory Committee in Department of Art and Art History (2004-5)
- Search Committee for Vice Provost of Academic Affairs (Fall 2004)
- Search Committee for Faculty in Romance Languages and Literatures (2004)
- Search Committee for English in Asian-American Literature (2003)
- Executive Committee in English Department (2002-2003)
- Women's Studies Faculty Search in African-American Studies (UCR 2001)
- Women's Studies Faculty Search in Asian-American Studies (UCR 2001)
- Ph.D Program Planning Committee (UCR 2001)

- Other

Official Faculty Mentor: Pavithra Vasudevan and Alison Kafer, UT Austin (2019-2020)

Mentor for Ariel Nereson, Department of Theatre and Dance, SUNY at Buffalo (2016)

Introduction of Walter Mosley for MLK Speaker Series (2013)

McNair Scholars Program Mentor (2004-6): Supervised the writing of a thesis and worked with student to develop advanced research skills. Participated in McNair Program Annual Conference aimed at developing academic skills in underprivileged populations of students.

Co-founder of *Deciphering Practices* (2000-2002): Interdisciplinary think-tank, educational tool and public forum concerning issues of the African Diaspora in the Humanities. Events included musical performances, master dance classes, and 'Learn-Ons' where working artists teach in public spaces.

Ford Foundation Planning Committee for *The Black Aesthetic: 1960-2001* (2000-2002): Participated in planning and co-ordinating conference (Oct 19-20) that grew out of the Center for Ideas and Society's conference on Aesthetics and Difference. Guest speakers include Carole Boyce Davies and Clyde Taylor.

Co-founder of the *John Henrik Clarke Forum* (2000-2002): Organized and obtained funding for brown bag talk series for black faculty and graduate students concerning issues pertaining to the African diaspora.

Founder of *The Assistant Professor Creative Group* (2000-2002): Organize funded gatherings for junior faculty aimed at retention and support. Activities include reading of work and creative writing.

Faculty Coordinator for *Young Black Men Program* (2001): Speaker and Participant in program aimed at exposing black male students who are failing high school to black role models/ mentors.

Annual presenter at *Honoring Black Academic Excellence* (1999-2001): Presenter at African Student Program awards ceremony honoring black students who excel academically.

- Community Service

Lecturer for PBS's Art: 21 Project (2005): Lecture co-sponsored by Albright-Knox Art Gallery and Buffalo

## Public Library

Guest speaker at Nichols School for Diversity Week (2004): Two presentations on South Africa, one aimed at the middle school and the other at the high school population.

Garret Club Seminar (2004): Ran a three week seminar on Black Women's literary and artistic production.

Facilitated discussion on selected readings and viewings.

## Professional Service

Reviewer of book manuscript. "Gesture and Power: Religion, Nationalism, and Everyday Performance in Congo". Duke University Press.

External Reviewer for Tenure. Candidate Matt Richardson. University of Texas at Austin (2012-2013)

External Reviewer for Tenure. Candidate Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman. Brandeis University (2011-2012)

Reviewer for Small Axe Journal. (2012-2013)

Reviewer for Gender, Place and Culture (2011). "Can't I be Seen? Can't I be Heard? Black Women Queering Politics in Newark, NJ".

Reviewer for Mosaic (2011). "Asiyefunzwa na Wazazi Hufunzwa na Mzuka: Swahili Supernatural Homiletics in an Age of Promiscuity".

Reviewer of book manuscript (2011). "Dead Roots, Bitter Fruits: The 'Tragic Mulatto' in Coloured South African and African American Literature" by Diana Adesola Mafe.

Ford Foundation Fellowship Reader (2009-2013): Reader of applications for pre, doctoral and post-doctoral Fellowships

NEMLA First Book Award (2009): Reader of relevant manuscript

Turner and Weixlmann Prize Judge (2008): Part of panel judging best essay in *African American Review*

*African American Review* Reader (2004-present): Reviewer of articles concerning African American feminism.

*Mosaic, a journal of interdisciplinary study of literature* (2000-present): Reviewer of articles concerning postcolonial literature of the African diaspora

## PROFESSIONAL HONORS

2015-16: OVPRED/HI Fellow

2005: UUP Professional Development Grant

2005: Future of Minority Studies Project Mellon Fellow at Cornell University

2004: Nuala McGann Drescher Award for 2005

Julian Park Publication Fund, \$2000

2001: University of California Grant to recruit exhibits of contemporary black artists, \$2000 Academic Senate Research Funds, \$1200

2000: State and Regional funds for Instructional Development, \$6000 Faculty Minigrant (Winter 2000)

Certificate of Appreciation for Retention and Success Network, ASP

1999-0: Regents' Faculty Fellowship/Faculty Development Award

University of California, Riverside, \$4000

1999: The Center for Ideas and Society Resident Faculty Fellowship, UCR Certificate of Appreciation from African Student Programs

1996-8: Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Year Fellowship

Dean's Final Year Dissertation Fellowship (not accepted)

1992-4: Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities

1993: Jacob Javitz Fellowship in the Humanities (not accepted)

1992: Valedictorian for College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at University of Kansas Rhodes Scholar Finalist

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

Undergraduate Advising: Isaac Kramer  
Alyssa Garnett  
Shiri Kester

Master's Students: Heather Bidell

MFA Lauren Jamieson  
Ariel Nereson  
Yvonne Fulmore

PhD. Students: Orathai Northern, Dissertation Committee  
Kwakiutl Dreher, Dissertation Committee  
Mary Foltz, Dissertation Committee  
Yasuko Kase, Dissertation Committee  
Marla Wick, Dissertation Committee  
Patrick Walter, Dissertation Chair  
Lorna Perez, Dissertation Committee  
Henriette Recny, Dissertation Committee  
David Squires, Dissertation Committee  
John Hyland, Dissertation Chair  
Kei Okajima, Dissertation Committee  
Ana Grujic, Dissertation Chair  
Melissa Schindler, Dissertation Chair  
Nick Lindsey, Dissertation Chair  
Minna Niemi, Dissertation Committee  
Jesse Jackson, Dissertation Committee  
Seth Cosimini, Dissertation Chair  
Peter Clavin, Dissertation Chair  
Aleksandra Szaniawska, Dissertation Chair  
Matthew Connolly, Dissertation Chair  
Caitlin Mcintyre, Dissertation Chair  
Nathan Moore, Exam Chair  
Hunter Capps, Exam Chair  
Auzimuth Jackson, Dissertation Committee  
Adena Rivera-Dundas, Dissertation Committee

## REFERENCES

Saidiya Hartman, Columbia University: svh2102@columbia.edu  
E. Patrick Johnson, Northwestern University: e-johnson10@northwestern.edu  
Susan Cahn, SUNY at Buffalo:cahn@buffalo.edu