

# LEON J. HILTON

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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Department of Theatre Arts & Performance Studies · Brown University  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2017-present **Brown University** · Providence, RI  
Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies  
*Affiliations:* Gender and Sexuality Studies Program; Science and Technology Studies Program
- 2016-2017. **University of Pennsylvania** · Philadelphia, PA  
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, Penn Humanities Forum  
*Affiliations:* Department of English; Cinema Studies Program

### EDUCATION

- 2010-2016. **New York University** · New York, NY  
Ph.D. (with Distinction), Department of Performance Studies  
*Dissertation:* “Minding Otherwise: Autism, Performance, and the Politics of Neurological Difference”  
*Committee:* José Esteban Muñoz & Tavia Nyong’o (chairs), Faye Ginsburg, André Lepecki, Heather K. Love, Karen Shimakawa
- 2009-2010. **New York University** · New York, NY  
M.A., Department of Performance Studies
- 2003-2007. **Wesleyan University** · Middletown, CT  
B.A. (with High Hons.), College of Letters

### PUBLICATIONS

#### **BOOK MANUSCRIPT**

*Feral Performatives*. University of Minnesota Press (Under Contract: publication expected 2022).

#### **PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

2020. “The Real End of a Nightmare: Amateurism, Feminism, and the Politics of Therapy in Jane Arden’s 1970s.” *Third Text*, special issue on “Amateurism and the Arts,” edited by Julia Bryan-Wilson and Benjamin D. Pickut. Vol. 33, Issue 5.
2018. “The Bright Shapes Were Going: Disability, Neurodivergence, and Theatrical Form in Elevator Repair Service’s *The Sound and the Fury*.” *The Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, “Drama, Theatrical Performance, and Disability,” edited by Carrie Sandahl and Ann Fox. Volume 12, Issue 2: 163-183.

2017. "Avonte's Law: Autism, Wandering, and the Racial Surveillance of Neurological Difference." *African American Review*, "Blackness and Disability," edited by Therí A. Pickens. Vol. 50, No. 2: 221-235.
2013. "The Horse in My Flesh: Transpecies Performance, Affective Athleticism." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, "The Athletic Issue," edited by Jennifer Doyle. Vol. 19, No. 4: 487–514.
2011. "Xiu Xiu and the Cause of Desire." *Journal of Popular Music Studies* Vol. 23, No. 3: 307–323.

#### **BOOK CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES**

2020. "The Politics of the Body: Disability and the Queer Imaginary in David Wojnarowicz's *Close to the Knives*." *Routledge Companion to Literature and Disability*, edited by Alice Hall, Routledge Press.
2020. "The Right to Bleed in Public." In *Ron Athey: Queer Communion*, edited by Amelia Jones and Andrew Campbell. Intellect Press: 232–38.

#### Forthcoming (accepted/in press):

"Staging the Asylum: Javier Téllez's Disability Aesthetics." In *Art/Sex/Identity: The Work of Tobin Siebers and Disability Studies*, edited by Cynthia Wu. University of Michigan Press.

"Organism – Biotic Component." In *Informatics of Domination*, edited by Jennifer Rhee, Zach Blas, and Melody Jue. Duke University Press.

"Shy Undergrounds: Field Notes from Aspergistan." In *Neurofutres*, edited by Elizabeth J. Donaldson, Ralph Savarese, and Remi Yergeau. MLA Press.

#### **JOURNAL ISSUES AND DOSSIERS EDITED**

2017. "AQ Forum: Mad Futures: Culture, Politics, Affect." *American Quarterly* Vol. 69 No. 2 (June): 291-302, co-edited with Tanja Aho and Liat Ben-Moshe.

#### Forthcoming:

*TDR/The Drama Review*, Brown Consortium Issue: "Pressure Points," co-edited with Jasmine Johnson.

#### **PUBLIC-FACING WRITING, PERFORMANCE & ART REVIEWS, ETC.**

2019. "Involuntary: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest in the Age of Neurodiversity." *Howlround* (29 November): Web.
2019. "Afro-fabulating in the Dark." "Periscope: Afro-Fabulations by Tavia Nyong'o." *Social Text* Online (August): Web.
2017. "In the Flesh: Mark Bradford in the US Pavilion." *Art In America* Online (May): Web.
2017. "Madness Is Contagious: Language, Madness, and Violence in a Theatrical Adaptation of Roberto Bolaño's *2666*" (co-authored with Ivan A. Ramos). *TDR/The Drama Review: The Journal of Performance Studies* Vol. 61, No. 2, (T234): 166-172.

2015. “Mapping the Wander Lines: The Quiet Revelations of Fernand Deligny.” *Los Angeles Review of Books* (July): Web.
2014. “Presence, Rhetoric, Difference: Jérôme Bel and Theater HORA’s Disabled Theater.” *TDR/The Drama Review: The Journal of Performance Studies* Vol. 58, No. 4: 156–162.
2011. Performance review: *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell. *Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory* Vol. 21, No. 1: 147–149.
2010. “X-Ray of Civilization: David Wojnarowicz and the Politics of Representation.” *Social Text* Online (December): Web.

#### **ACADEMIC BOOK REVIEWS**

2021. “Psycho-politics/Psycho-power.” *American Quarterly* (forthcoming)
2018. “Living On.” Review of *A Body, Undone* by Christina Crosby. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*. Vol. 24 Issue 4.
2017. Review of *Indirect Action: Schizophrenia, Epilepsy, AIDS, and the Course of Health Activism* by Lisa Diedrich. *Disability Studies Quarterly* Vol 37, No 4: Web.
2016. Review of *Acts of Conspicuous Compassion: Performance Culture and American Charity Practices* by Sheila Moeschen. *Disability Studies Quarterly* Vol. 36, No. 3: Web.
2016. Review of *Sensational Flesh: Race, Power, and Masochism* by Amber Musser. *Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory*. Vol. 26, No. 1: 105–107.
2013. Review of *Animacies: Biopolitics, Racial Mattering, Queer Affect* by Mel Chen. *E-Misferica* Vol. 10.
2010. Review of *B-Boys, B-Girls, and Hip Hop Culture in New York* by Joseph G. Schloss. *Dance Research Journal* Vol. 42, No. 2: 113–116.

#### **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS**

2020. Richard B. Salomon Faculty Research Award, Brown University (\$12,900)
2019. Faculty Fellowship (Spring), Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Brown University
2019. Brown Arts Initiative Public Presentation Grant, Brown University (\$5,000)
2019. Humanities Initiative Grant, Brown University (\$5,000)
2018. Pembroke Center Faculty Seed Grant, Brown University (\$1,000)
2017. Sheridan Center Junior Faculty Teaching Fellowship, Brown University

- 2016. Creative Capital/Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant/Article Category (\$15,000)
- 2016. Michael Kirby Memorial Award for Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation, NYU
- 2014. Andrew W. Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$33,000)
- 2014. Chateaubriand Fellowship—Humanities and Social Sciences, US Embassy of France (declined)
- 2013. Sponsored Participant, School for Criticism and Theory (Cornell University), NYU Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- 2012. NYU Council for the Study of Disability grant, “Disability, Access, and the Arts: A Critical Disability Studies Residency,” University of California Humanities Research Center, UC-Irvine
- 2011. Paulette Goddard Award Summer Research Fellowship, NYU
- 2011-15. Corrigan Fellowship for Doctoral Study, NYU
- 2009. Tisch School of the Arts Graduate Fellowship, NYU

## **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **INVITED TALKS**

- Sept 2020. “Double Talk: Art and Disability.” Public Conversation, RISD Museum.
- July 2020. “A For Asylum: Neuro-deviations and the Anti-Institutional Imaginary, after Deligny” Saas-Fee Summer Institute of Art, “Care, Caring, and Repair in Cognitive Capitalism.”
- June 2020. “Stuck in My Head: Bjork Has Overthrown the Police.” Pop Conference at the Museum of Pop Culture, Seattle (*panel moved online from cancelled in-person conference originally scheduled for April*)
- April 2020. “The Choreography of Rehabilitation.” Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton University
- June 2019. “Gesture, Wander, Trace.” (Re)Patterning Performance, curated by Lauren DiGiulio for the New Voices in Live Performance Series, Center for Performance Research, New York City
- March 2019. “Disability Theory and Contemporary Aesthetics.” Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, Denmark
- October 2018. “AIDS in the Future Anterior; or Sex and Real Estate: on *THEM* and *Reza Abdoh*.” Harvard University, Theater and Performance Studies Colloquium

- April 2018. “Institutional Space, Documentary Form, and the Theatricalized Body in Wiseman's Titicut Follies.” Performance Theory Working Group Research Seminar, Barnard College
- April 2018. “D. E. F. G.” “The F Words: Flesh, Fantasy, and Fugitivity” Symposium, Boston University
- Sept. 2017. “Disability, Late Liberalism, and the Activist Body.” Activist Body Symposium, Brown University
- March 2017. “Disability Aesthetics, Schizoanalysis, and the Neural Subject.” Gerrit Rietveld Academie “Studium Generale,” Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- March 2017. “Disability Aesthetics, Schizoanalysis, and the Neural Subject.” American Studies Working Group, Haverford College
- Feb. 2017 “Would It Get Some Wind for the Sailboat: Robert Wilson and Christopher Knowles, Toward a Theatre of Neurological Difference.” University of Hong Kong, School of English
- Feb. 2017 “Gestic Performance, Queer Voicing, and the Neurodivergent Commons.” Brown University, Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies
- Dec. 2016 “Would It Get Some Wind for the Sailboat: Robert Wilson and Christopher Knowles, Toward a Theatre of Neurological Difference.” Florida State University, School of Theatre
- Sept. 2016 “Shaping the Right Statement: Queerness, Disability, and the Texture of Neurodiversity.” “Sense Matters” Research Group, New York University Center for the Humanities.
- Sept. 2016 “Deligny's Cartographies: Translation, Performance, and the Mapping of Autism Before Neurodiversity.” Translating Cultures and the Medical Humanities Workshop, Wellcome Trust/UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, London

#### **CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND WORKING GROUPS ORGANIZED**

- Panel Co-Organizer, “Shut-Ins: The Minoritarian Aesthetics of Interiority and Revolt from Within.” Accepted American Studies Association (2020, moved to 2021)
- Roundtable Co-Organizer, “Against Work: Disability, Labor, and the Crisis of Human Worth.” American Studies Association (November 2018)
- Panel Co-Organizer, “Disability Aesthetics and Choreopolitics.” College Art Association (Feb. 2018)
- Panel Co-Organizer, “Mad/Queer Pedagogies of Dissent.” American Studies Association (November 2017)

Panel Co-Organizer and Respondent, “Critical Disability Studies Caucus: The Home Which Is Not One.” Annual Meeting, American Studies Association (November 2016)

Working Group Co-Convener, “Amateur Acts.” American Society for Theatre Research (November 2016)

Panelist and Session Co-Organizer, “Mad Studies and Affect Theory.” Critical Disability Studies Caucus, American Studies Association, Toronto (October 2015)

Working Group Co-Convener, “Avant-Gardes, Otherwise: Aesthetics, Experimentation, and the Undercommons.” American Society for Theater Research, Baltimore (November 2014)

Panel Co-Organizer: “Theorizing Beyond the Regime of the Theoretical.” Annual Meeting, American Studies Association, Los Angeles (November 2014)

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Disability Aesthetics, Decolonial Aesthetics.” Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics Encuentro, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico City (June, 2019)

“Gesture in the Commons: Disability, Ethics, and Performance in the Work of Javier Téllez.” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, New Orleans (October 2018)

“Beyond the Theatre, Beyond the Asylum: Mad Affect, Theatricality, and The ‘Other Spaces’ of Mental Disorder.” Capacious: Affect Inquiry/Making Space, Lancaster PA (August 2018)

“Institutional Space, Documentary Form, and the Theatricalized Body in Wiseman's Titicut Follies.” American Comparative Literature Association, Los Angeles (March 2018)

“Javier Tellez’s Disability Aesthetics.” College Art Association, Los Angeles (February 2018)

Roundtable speaker, “Blackness and Disability.” National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore (November 2017)

“Come Aboard Our Ship of Folly”: Kate Millett and the Mad/Queer Aesthetics of Anti-Psychiatry.” Annual Meeting, American Studies Association, Chicago (November 2017)

“Race, Performance, and Psychiatric Dissent.” Session on New Directions in Literary and Cultural Disability Studies and Critical Ethnic Studies, Annual Convention, Modern Language Association, Philadelphia (January 2017)

“The Slightest Gesture’: Autism, Wandering, Cartography.” Annual Convention, American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard University (March 2016)

“Avonte’s Law: Autistic Wandering, Disability Surveillance, Racial Schematization.” “Crip Futurities,” University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (February 2016)

“Caméra, outil pédagogique: Deligny, Autism, Cinema.” Annual Convention, Modern Language Association, Austin (January 2016)

“Vitality, Memory, Displacement: Bhanu Kapil, Ana Mendieta, and the Performance of Biological Sovereignty.” Performance Studies Working Group, Annual Conference, Association for Theater in Higher Education, Montreal (July 2015)

“Caméra, outil pédagogique: Deligny, Autism, Cinema.” Annual Conference, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Montreal (March 2015)

“Scenes of Teaching: Muñoz, Performance, and the ‘Living Abundance.’” GL/Q Caucus Panel: “Performing Impossibility: Memorializing José Muñoz.” Annual Convention, Modern Language Association, Vancouver (January 2015)

“The Shape of the Right Statement: Neurodiversity and Performance.” Annual Meeting, American Studies Association, Los Angeles (November 2014)

“Neurofugitivity: Race, Disability, and Cartographies of Survival.” Annual Meeting, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, Dallas (October 2014)

“Performing the Autism Archive: Deligny and Baggs.” Annual Meeting, International Federation for Theater Research, Warwick, UK (August 2014)

“Post-Industrial Pathology: Cognition, Disability, and the Aesthetics of Late Capitalism.” Living Labor: Marxism and Performance Studies Conference, Department of Performance Studies, New York University (April 2014)

“Autistic Perception, Neurodiversity, and Contemporary Performance.” Annual Meeting, American Studies Association, Washington, DC (November 2013)

“The Smallest Gesture: Neurodivergence, Queerness, Gesture.” Debilitating Queerness, LGBT Studies Program Annual Conference, University of Maryland-College Park (April 2013)

“Performing Queer Nonsovereignty: Roni Horn, Félix González-Torres, and the Politics of Friendship.” Working Group, “Performance and Geographies of Knowledge Production” 8<sup>th</sup> Encuentro, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, São Paulo (January 2013)

“How to Wake Up Next to Your Own Dead Body: The Necropolitical Performances of Ron Athey and Ishmael Houston-Jones.” Annual Meeting, American Studies Association, Puerto Rico (Nov. 2012)

“Neurodiversity and Autistic Performativity.” Working Group, “Sense, Affect, and Being Singular Plural.” Conveners: José Esteban Muñoz, Tavia Nyong’o, Karen Shimakawa Annual Meeting, American Society for Theater Research, Nashville (November 2012)

“Autistic Perception and the Terror of an ‘Unhuman’ Aesthetics.” “Terror and the Inhuman” Conference, Department of Modern Culture and Media, Brown University (October 2012)

“Is Violence Reparative? Ron Athey and the Erotics of the Boundary.” English Graduate Students Association Conference, CUNY Graduate Center (February 2010)

## **TEACHING**

### **BROWN UNIVERSITY Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies**

Summer 2021. Site-Specific Performance: History/Theory/Practice  
Spring 2020. Theatre History and Performance Historiography  
Neurodiversity and Performance  
Fall 2019. Graduate Seminar in Performance Studies: “Body Politics”  
Spring 2019. Neurodiversity: Science, Politics, Culture (Cogut Institute for the Humanities)  
Fall 2018. Queer Performance  
Spring 2018. Theatre History and Performance Historiography  
Fall 2017. Theatre Arts and Performance Studies Senior Seminar  
Queer Performance

### **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA Penn Humanities Forum/English and Cinema Studies**

Spring 2017. The Wild Child in the Cultural Imagination.

### **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY Department of Performance Studies**

Summer 2016. Performance in New York  
Summer 2015. Introduction to Performance Studies (TA)  
Summer 2014. Introduction to Performance Studies (TA)

### **OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE Department of Critical Theory and Social Justice**

Spring 2016. Introduction to Critical Theory  
Body Politics  
Methods in Critical Theory: Michel Foucault

### **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY—NORTHRIDGE Department of Communication Studies**

Fall 2015. Performance and Cultural Studies Criticism.  
Introduction to Performance, Language, and Cultural Studies

## **ADVISING**

### **Doctoral Committee Chair:**

Courtney Lau (TAPS)  
Julie Dind (TAPS)

### **Doctoral Committee Member:**

Mariahdessa Tallie  
Bret Zehner (TAPS)  
Yeong Ran Kim (TAPS)  
Suzahn Ebrahimian (TAPS)  
Marlon Jimenez Oviedo (TAPS)  
Emily Simon (English)

### **Undergraduate Thesis Advising:**

Sunil Tohan, English '21 (Honors Thesis Reader)  
James Damore, TAPS '20 (Honors Thesis Reader)  
Sebastian Nicolescu AMST '20 (Honors Thesis Reader)  
Leyla DeMolina, TAPS '19 (Honors Thesis Advisor)  
Andrew Giurlio, MUSIC '19 (Honors Thesis Reader)  
Erin West, GSS '19 (Honors Thesis Reader)  
\Anh Vo, TAPS '18 (Honors Thesis Reader)

## **SERVICE**

### **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

#### **AY 2019-20:**

- Director of Graduate Studies, PhD program in Theatre Arts and Performance Studies
- Faculty member, Sock and Buskin Board
- Annual review committee: Sydney Skybetter

#### **AY 2018-19:**

- Director of Graduate Studies, PhD program in Theatre Arts and Performance Studies
- Faculty member, Sock and Buskin Board
- Reappointment committees: Alex Haynes, Michelle Bach Coulibaly

### **SERVICE TO THE FIELD AND PROFESSION**

- Journal peer review reader: *Differences*; *Theatre Topics*; *Disability Studies Quarterly*; *GLQ: The Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies*; *Women & Performance*; *The Journal of Popular Music Studies*
- New Paradigms in Graduate Education Committee, American Society for Theatre Research (2019)
- Juror, Andy Warhol Foundation/Creative Capital Arts Writers Grant (2020)
- Committee Chair, Critical Disability Studies Caucus Graduate Paper Award, American Studies Association (2019)
- Board member, Spectrum Theatre Ensemble (Providence, RI) (2018–)
- Critical Disability Studies Caucus, American Studies Association (2015–)
- Alan Bray Memorial Prize Committee, GLQ Caucus, Modern Language Association (2015)

### **EDITORIAL**

- Editorial Review Board member, *Disability Studies Quarterly* (2015–)
- Managing Editor, *TDR/The Drama Review: A Journal of Performance Studies* (2011-13)

### **ACADEMIC SYMPOSIA AND EVENTS ORGANIZED**

#### **“Neurodiversity In Action: An Interdisciplinary Symposium at Brown University” (May 2-3, 2019)**

Neurodiversity In Action was an interdisciplinary symposium exploring the emerging concepts of neurodiversity and neurodivergence, terms first developed by autistic self-advocates and

activists in the late 1990s but that are increasingly gaining traction in a variety of fields. We considered how the concept of neurodiversity is being put into action — through various experiments in art, performance, scholarship, activism, and pedagogy — taking our cue from recent attention to the textures and temporalities of neurodivergence as a distinctive mode of acting, being, and world-making. The symposium featured keynote presentations by Melanie Yergeau and Lydia X. Z. Brown; readings by Cyree Jarelle Johnson and Hamja Ahsan; panel discussions about disability justice and neurodiversity on campus; and the world-premiere reading of a new play developed by Spectrum Theatre Ensemble, a neurodiverse theatre company based in Providence. The symposium was organized in conjunction with “Neurodiversity: Science, Politics, Culture,” a seminar taught by Professor Leon J. Hilton through the Cogut Institute for the Humanities at Brown University.

**“Sexual Politics and After: Thinking With Kate Millett,” Pembroke Center, Brown University (February 8, 2018)**

To mark the passing of Kate Millett, author of the revolutionary book *Sexual Politics*, and a key figure of feminism’s second wave, the Pembroke Center, partnering with Leon Hilton (TAPS), hosted an afternoon panel in February called: “Sexual Politics and After: Thinking with Kate Millett.” The conference featured Leon J. Hilton (TAPS, Brown) on “Kate Millett and the Feminist Aesthetics of Anti-Psychiatry”, Victoria Hesford (Stony Brook University) on “Kate Millett: A Feminist Spectacle”, Sara Mameni (CalArts) on “‘What Are the Iranians Wishing For?’ Millett in Iran, 1979” and Kevin Quashie (Smith College) on “The Ecology of a Single Body: Kate Millett and Audre Lorde.”

**“Colloquium: Translation Beyond the Human,” Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania (February 3, 2017)**

Is the act of translation exclusively human? How can thinking through translation help us understand the ever-shifting, historically and politically contingent category of “the human”? This daylong colloquium, with a keynote address by Columbia University’s Lydia Liu, will feature speakers exploring acts of translation involving objects, machines, plants, animals, and other animate forces. Traversing historical periods, geographic regions, and academic disciplines, our aim is to consider how the 2016-17 Penn Humanities Forum on Translation can illuminate current debates across the humanities about the shifting and unstable boundaries of the human in relationship to non-human others.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- American Society for Theatre Research
- American Studies Association
- Performance Studies International

**REFERENCES**

Available upon request.