**Bethany Hughes**

Assistant Professor Department of American Culture

University of Michigan

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Research and Teaching Fields

Research: Native American representation in theatrical performance, contemporary Indigenous performance, race and performance

Teaching Fields: Native American Studies, Performance, American Studies

Academic positions

2018-present University of Michigan

Assistant Professor, Department of American Culture

Affiliate: Center for World Performance Studies, Research for Indigenous Social Action and Equity Center, Institute for Research on Women and Gender

Education

2018 Ph.D., Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Dissertation: *Playing Indian on Stage 1829-1924*

Committee: Harvey Young (chair), Susan Manning, Liz Son

2014 MA, Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

2006 MA, Drama, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

2004 BA, Music Theatre/English/Drama, Friends University, Wichita, KS

Fellowships and Grants

2023 Arts & Resistance Project Grant, Arts Initiative, University of Michigan

* $15,000 for pilot research project on Indigenous student history at UM

2022-2023 Faculty Fellowship, Center for World Performance, University of Michigan

* $4,530 for research project on Indigenous performance

2020-2021 Hunting Family Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, Evanston, IL

* Competitive faculty fellowship

2019 SUCCEED Grant, ADVANCE Program University of Michigan, MI

* $1,800 grant in support of archival research at the Western History Collection, University of Oklahoma, OK

2016 − 2018 Presidential Fellow, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

* The most prestigious fellowship awarded to graduate students by Northwestern University in recognition of outstanding intellectual or creative ability.

2016 − 2017 Ford Dissertation Fellow, Ford Foundation, New York, NY

* Highly competitive, national fellowship awarded to graduate students who “have demonstrated superior academic achievement” and are committed to research, teaching, and diversity in higher education.

Publications (peer reviewed)

Forthcoming *Redface: Race, Performance, and Indigeneity*, NYU Press

Forthcoming “Little Chahta News Bird: Indigenous Periodicals and the Performance of Nationhood.” *American Periodicals* 33.2.

2022 “Beautifully Uncontainable: Of Honeysuckle and Choctaw Walking.” *Mobilities*, Volume 17.2. pp. 1-14 DOI: 10.1080/17450101.2021.2012504

2020 “Oka Apesvchi: Indigenous Feminism, Performance, and Protest.” *Theatre Journal*, Volume 72.2 (June). pp. 127-142 DOI: 10.1353/tj.2020.0029 \*Award winning,

see “Awards” section

2018 Harvey Young and Bethany Hughes. “Reaffirmation of Life: Dramatic Theory and Race” *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, Volume 32.1 (Spring). pp. 79-87 DOI: 10.1353/dtc.2018.0006

2018 “The Indispensable Indian: Edwin Forrest, Pushmataha, and Metamora.” *Theatre Survey*, Volume 59.1 (January). pp. 23-44 DOI: 10.1017/S0040557417000473

Publications (not peer reviewed)

Under contract Book chapter. “Building Nvnih Waiya: Creating an Immersive Chahta World.” In *Enveloping Worlds*. University of Michigan Press

Accepted “Little Chahta News Bird: Indigenous Periodicals and the Performance of Nationhood.” (reprint) *Indigenous Media Ecologies*, Jill Doerfler, Cristina Stanciu, and Oliver Sheiding, eds.

Forthcoming Invited article. “On Inclusion and Resurgence: The State of Indigenous Theatre and Performance Scholarship.” *Theatre Journal* (December 2023).

2020 Open access companion to my peer-reviewed article. “Witnessing *Oka Apesvchi*/Protecting the Water.” *Theatre Journal*, Volume 72.2 (June 2020). pp. E1-E6 DOI: 10.1353/tj.2020.0026

2020 Invited article (open access). Courtney Elkin Mohler, Lisa Jackson-Schebetta, Mertine Kei Green-Rogers, Bethany Hughes, Joy Brooke Fairfield. “A Reflection on the ATHE 2019 Session: ‘Decolonizing Institutional Norms….” *Theatre Topics*, Volume 30.1 (March 2020). pp. E-17-E27 DOI: 10.1353/tt.2020.0003

2019 Invited article (open access). “Guesting on Indigenous Land: Plimoth Plantation, Land Acknowledgment, and Decolonial Praxis.” *Theatre Topics*, Volume 29.1 (March 2019). pp. E23-E32 DOI: 10.1353/tt.2019.0013

2018 Performance review (open access). “Off the Rails: Look at Shakespeare, See a Native Play.” HowlRound.com (22 January 2018).

2014Book chapter. “Singing the Community: The Musical Theater Chorus as Character.” In *Gestures of Music Theatre: The Performativity of Song and Dance* edited by Dominic Symonds and Millie Taylor, 263-275. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 263-275 DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199997152.003.0016

Publications (Book Review)

2022 *Staging Indigeneity: Salvage Tourism and the Performance of Native American History*, Katrina M. Phillips. *American Indian Quarterly*, Volume 46.1-2. pp. 148-150

2021 *Performing Turtle Island: Indigenous Theatre on the World Stage*, editors Jesse Rae Archibald-Barbar, Kathleen Irwin, and Moira J. Day. *Critical Companion to Native American and First Nations Theatre and Performance: Indigenous Spaces*, editors Jaye T. Darby, Courtney Elkin Mohler, and Christy Stanlake. *Modern Drama*, Volume 64.1 (Spring). pp. 109-113

2018 *Performing Indigeneity*, editors Yvette Nolan and Ric Knowles. *Theatre Research in Canada*, Volume 39.1 (Spring). pp. 117-119

invited talks/Lectures

2023 Keynote. Native American Graduation Ceremony, **University of Michigan**

2023 Invited Talk. “Redface” for Theatre History. **Illinois State University**, Professor Shannon Epplett. (virtual)

2023 Invited Talk. “(Net)working: On the Early Stages of Research and Collaboration,” **Center for World Performance Studies** Faculty Lecture Series, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

2023 Invited Talk. “Can U-M Fulfill Its Promise to Native Americans? Fifty Years of Native American Student Activism,” **Making Michigan**, Detroit Observatory, Ann Arbor, MI.

2022 Invited Talk/Faculty. “Looking for Indians: Native American Representation and Performance on the 19th Century Stage,” Center for Historic American Visual Culture, **American Antiquarian Society**, Worcester, MA.

2022 Invited Talk. “Water & Land: Indigenous Performance as Invitation to Action,” Environmental Humanities Speaker Series, **Virginia Commonwealth University**, Richmond, VA (virtual)

2022 Invited Talk. “The Thanksgiving Play and Native American Theatre” for Contemporary American Theatre. **UC Riverside**, Professor Donatella Galella. (virtual)

2022 Respondent. Theater and Performance Studies Workshop, **University of Chicago**. (virual)

2021 Invited Talk. “Oka Apesvchi” for Introduction to Performance Studies. **Grinnell College**, Professor Elliot Mercer. (virtual)

2021 Invited Talk. “Persistence: The Problem of Excising Redface in Annie Get Your Gun” for **RISE Colloquium**, **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI (virtual)

2021 Invited Talk. “Metamora and Pushmataha: Nineteenth Century American Theatre and Native Americans” for Theatre and Culture. **Skidmore College**, Professor Eunice Ferreira. (virtual)

2021 Invited talk. “More Than Pocahontas, Less Than Matoaka: Native American Women in 19th Century American Theatre” **UCLA**, Los Angeles, CA (virtual)

2020 Invited talk. “Not Skin Deep: Redface in American Theatre.” **Kenyon College**, Gambier, OH (virtual)

2019 Invited Talk. “Indigenous Theater: Context and Content,” **Idyllwild Arts** Native American Arts Festival Week, Idyllwild, CA.

2019 Invited Talk. “Native American Theatre” for Indigenous Performance/Political Action. **University of Michigan**. Professor Anita Gonzalez.

2019 Invited Talk. “Authenticity and Representation” for Diversity and Social Justice in Social Work. **University of Michigan**. Professors Katie Schultz and Jaclynn Hawkins.

Awards

2021 Gerald Kahan Scholar’s Prize (best essay written and published in English in a refereed scholarly journal), American Society for Theatre Research, for “Oka Apesvchi”

2021 Honorable Mention, Vera Mowry Roberts Award (best essay published in English), American Theatre and Drama Society, for “Oka Apesvchi”

2020 UROP Outstanding Research Mentor Award, University of Michigan

Publicly Engaged Scholarship

2023 Podcast Guest. “Indigenous Performance,” **On Tap: A Theatre and Performance Studies Podcast**, Episode 61 <http://www.ontappod.com/home/2023/1/26/061>

2022 Speaker. “Native and/at UM: Education, Activism, Community,” **Native Student Welcome Week**, **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI

2022 Moderator. “Tanya Lukin Linklater: My Mind is the Weather,” **Center for World Performance**, **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI

2021 Panelist. “Roundtable on Social Justice and Activism in the Academy,” **Pasts and Futures: Rethinking the Role of Institutional Histories in the Humanities**, **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI

2021 Panelist. “Approaching Native Plays,” Autry Artists Salon Series, **Autry Museum of the American West**, Los Angeles, CA (virtual)

2021 Panelist. “Approaching Native Plays: A Conversation on Best Practices,” Indigenous Circles Workshop, **PlayPenn**, Philadelphia, PA (virtual)

2019 Speaker. “Less Than Matoaka, More Than Pocahontas,” **Stamps Colloquium**, **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI

2019 Speaker and Facilitator. “Fridays in the Wilderness: Indigeneity in Space and Story,” **Hatcher Graduate Library**, Ann Arbor, MI.

2019 Speaker. “Indigenous Healing in Action,” **Native American Heritage Month Series**, Ann Arbor, MI.

2019 Panelist. High Stakes Culture-The Politics of Blackface Then and Now: What’s in Your Yearbook?. **Institute for the Humanities**, **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI.

2018 Lecture. “Introduction to Native American Studies” for the docents in preparation for an Inuit art exhibition. **University of Michigan Museum of Art**, Ann Arbor, MI.

2018 Panelist. *Dawnland* Screening Panel. **Cinetopia Film Festival**, Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, MI.

2018 Panelist. **WeListen** “Slants” Panel Discussion. **University of Michigan**. Ann Arbor, MI.

2017 Moderator. “Indigenous Artists in Collaboration: A Conversation.” **Block Museum**, Evanston, Illinois. Sponsored by Northwestern’s Center for Native American and Indigenous Research.

2017 Panelist. “Understanding Indigenous Roots: An Intercultural Discourse between African Americans & Native Americans.” **Mitchell Museum of the American Indian**, Evanston, Illinois. Sponsored by the Chicago Cultural Alliance.

Conference Presentations

2023 Moderator. LIA Roundtable of Accountability. Association of Theatre in Higher Education (**ATHE**) Conference, Austin, TX.

2023 Session Co-Coordinator. Spotlight on New Works: LIA and ATDS. **ATHE** Conference, Austin, TX.

2023 Roundtable Contributor. Gathering Indigenous Performance and Scholarship in a Good Way: On the Challenges and Possibilities of Forming Interdisciplinary Communities. Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (**NAISA**) Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

2022 Roundtable Contributor. Land Acknowledgements: Poetics, Protocol, Politics, Performance, and Problematics. Western History Association (**WHA**) Conference, San Antonio, TX.

2022 Presenter. “Building Nanih Waiya: Creating an Immersive Chahta World,” Stepping into the Past, Rehearsing the Future: Immersivity as Reparative Practice, **ATHE** Conference, Detroit, MI.

2022 Presenter. “Little Chahta News Bird: Biskinik and Twitter as Sovereign Space,” **Indigenous Print Cultures, Media and Literatures** (an international symposium), Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany.

2022 Panel Chair. Teaching Ingenuity: Indigenous Repurposing of Concepts in American Education. Organization of American Historians (**OAH**) Conference on American History, Boston, MA.

2022 Panel Chair. “Cultural Tourism and the Performance of Identity. Mid-American Theatre Conference (**MATC**), Cleveland, OH.

2022 Roundtable Contributor for All Conference Plenary. Envisioning Revolution and Restoration: A Roundtable on Land Acknowledgement. **MATC**, Cleveland, OH.

2022 Roundtable Contributor for All Conference Plenary. Revolutionizing the Institutional Lives of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies through Critical University Studies Approaches. **MATC**, Cleveland, OH.

2021 Presenter, “Native American Representation, Justice, and Sovereignty in Mary Kathryn Nagle’s Work,” Mary Kathryn Nagle #InsteadOfRedface, **ATHE**, Zoom.

2021 Roundtable Contributor. Decolonial Performance: The Possibilities and Limitations of Embodiment. **NAISA**, Zoom.

2020 Panel Chair and Round Table Contributor. Inclusive Teaching: Assignments, Assessments, Course Policies, **ATHE**, Zoom.

2020 Roundtable Contributor. Decolonizing Institutional Norms II: A Breakout Session. **ATHE**, Zoom.

2020 Presenter. “More Than Pocahontas, Less Than Matoaka,” The Character of Indigenous Characters: Moving beyond ‘Noble’ or ‘Ruthless’ and the Confines of Playhouses into Cultural Performance. **MATC**, Chicago, IL.

2019 Panel Chair and Roundtable Contributor. Theorizing through Indigenous Art: Form and Process, American Studies Association (**ASA**), Honolulu, HI.

2019 Panel Chair and Presenter. “Ojibwe Hiawatha-Language, Place, Performance,” Shifting the Scenario: Land, Location, and Encounter. **ATHE**, Orlando, FL.

2019 Presenter. Decolonizing Institutional Norms: Syllabi and…**ATHE**, Orlando, FL.

2018 Panel Chair and Moderator. Directing Native American Plays. **ATHE**, Boston, MA

2018 Panel Chair and Moderator. Teaching Native American Plays in the Classroom. **ATHE**, Boston, MA

2018 Panel Chair and Moderator. Native Voices at the Autry: Indigenous Theatre in L.A. **NAISA**, Los Angeles, CA

2018 Presenter. “Will Rogers Indian Cowboy: Crossing, Erasing, Dismantling Racial Borders,” **MATC**, Milwaukee, WI

2017 Presenter. “But Is It Redface?: Character, Casting, and Revision in *Annie Get Your Gun,*” Staging Difference & Alliance: Latinx, Indigenous, and Beyond Working Session, American Society for Theatre Research (**ASTR**), Atlanta, GA

2017 Presenter. “What Does Dawes Look Like?: Embodied Enforcement of Allotment and the Subversive Indian,” **ATHE**, Las Vegas, NV

2017 Panel Chair. Spectacular Indians: Land Based Performance and Indigenous Repair, **ATHE**, Las Vegas, NV

2017 Presenter. “Locating Pushmataha,” Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies Graduate Student Conference (**NCAIS**), Chicago, IL

2017 Presenter. “Performing Removal: Conflicting Claims of Native Identity in the Construction and Enforcement of the Indian Removal Act,” **NAISA**, Vancouver, British Columbia

2016 Presenter. “Producing Native Plays in Indian Territory,” **ATHE**, Chicago, IL

2015 Presenter. “Will Rogers’ Occupations: Temporal Diaspora through Performance,” **NAISA**, Washington, D.C.

2014 Presenter. “I’m an Indian Too: Performing Race in *Annie Get Your Gun,*” **TDGSO** Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Pedagogy

University of Michigan

NATIVEAM/AMCULT 217 Introduction to Native American Studies

NATIVEAM/AMCULT 204 Authenticity and Representation

NATIVEAM/AMCULT 204 Indigenous Performance

AMCULT 350/THEATRE 315 Broadway and American Culture

AMCULT 498 American Performance

NATIVEAM/AMCULT 601 Indigeneity and Performance

Northwestern University

2016 Teaching Certificate, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching

Music Theatre History (Instructor of Record)

Theatre in Context (Teaching Assistant)

Broadway: Race, Gender, and Sexuality (Guest Lecturer)

Performance Theory (Guest Lecturer)

Mentorship and Graduate Students

2021-present Prospectus Committee and Dissertation Committee, Anthony Wood, University of Michigan, Graduate Student in Department of History.

2021-present Faculty Mentor, Erin Leary, University of Michigan, Department of American Culture.

2022-2023 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Mentor, University of Michigan, Research methods instruction for undergraduate research assistant. Yufan Zhang.

2019-2021 Prospectus Committee and Dissertation Committee, Mallory Whiteduck, University of Michigan, Graduate Student in Department of American Culture.

2018-2020 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Mentor, University of Michigan, Research methods instruction for undergraduate research assistant. Tuhin Chakraborty.

Service

Field

2019-Present Peer Review: *American Quarterly*, *Theatre Research in Canada (TRiC/RTAC)*, *Global Performance Studies*, *Theatre Research International*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*

2022-Present Editorial Board Member, *Theatre Research in Canada/Recherches théâtrales au Canada*

2023-2026 Betty Jean Jones Award Committee, American Theatre and Drama Society.

2023 Reviewer, Canada Research Chair in Land-based and Relational Dramaturgies, University of British Columbia.

2022-2023 2023 Conference Committee, American Society for Theatre Research

2021-2023 Focus Group Representative, Latinx, Indigenous, and the Americas Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

2022-2023 Research and Publications Committee Member, Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

2021-2022 Land Acknowledgement Committee, Mid-America Theatre Conference.

2020-2022 Nominating Committee, Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

2019-2021 Conference Planner. Latinx, Indigenous, and the Americas Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

2019-2020 Ad Hoc Land Acknowledgement Committee, Mid-America Theatre Conference.

2018-2019 Nominating Committee, Association for Theatre in Higher Education

2017-2018 Conference Committee, Association for Theatre in Higher Education

Institutional

2023 Committee Member. Steering Committee for Theme Semester (Fall 23), University of Michigan.

2023 Panelist. LSA Teaching Academy Alumni Panel.

2023 Search Committee (open rank tenure track position in Department of Theatre and Drama), University of Michigan

2022 Panelist. “Road to the Academy.” Indigenous Summer Research Program, University of Michigan.

2022 Faculty Supervisor. Indigenous Summer Research Program, The Research for Indigenous Social Action and Equity Center, University of Michigan. (worked with intern on digital research project)

2022 Committee Member. Graduate Fellows Selection Committee, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan.

2020 Panelist. “Sovereignty and Indigeneity in the Big Ten: Telling Our Stories.” Sponsored by the Big Ten Native Alliance.

2019-2021 Convener. R&E Faculty Working Group, University of Michigan.

2019 Speaker. Decolonizing Pedagogies Working Group. University of Michigan.

Departmental

2023 Search Committee (tenure track position in Department of American Culture), University of Michigan.

2023 Committee Member. Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of American Culture, University of Michigan

2021-2022 Committee Member. Postdoctoral Fellowship & NCID Collegiate Fellow Committee, Department of American Culture, University of Michigan.

2019-2020 Undergraduate Education Committee, Department of American Culture, University of Michigan.

2019-2020 Search Committee (tenure track position in Department of American Culture), University of Michigan.

2018-2019 Graduate Education Committee, Department of American Culture, University of Michigan

As Graduate Student

2013 − 2017 President and Co-Founder, Colloquium on Indigeneity and Native American Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

* Graduate student led colloquium dedicated to fostering scholarship on Indigenous/Native American Studies topics

2016 Convener and Organizer, Creating Nations: Past, Present, and Future symposium, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

* Raised $25k for interdisciplinary symposium on contemporary Native American art and sovereignty featuring international artists and scholars, including a keynote by Simon Ortiz.

2015 − 2016 Steering Committee Member, One Book One Northwestern, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

* Planned and coordinated events as part of a year-long, campus-wide initiative of programming related to Thomas King’s *The Inconvenient Indian.*

2014 − 2015 Graduate Student Representative to Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Theatre and Drama Executive Committee, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

* Liaison between graduate students and Executive Committee, oversaw transfer of online resource for student to new, campus-wide, electronic platform.

2014 Member and Chair of Academic Opportunities Working Group, Native American Outreach and Inclusion Task Force, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

* Lead working group tasked with creating list of recommendations for supporting and investing in Native American Studies, recommendations submitted to Provost’s Office.

2014 Faculty, Graduate Horizons, a Native American graduate school preparation program, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

* Mentor in week-long program of workshops, seminars, and one-on-one intensives preparing Native American students to apply to graduate school.

Theatrical Experience

2022 Consultant. New play development (with playwright Mary Kathryn Nagle). Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, OR

2021 Production Consultant. *Men on Boats*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

2019-2021 Juror. Native Voices at the Autry Short Play Festival. (selection committee for assessing which of the submitted plays should be produced as part of the festival)

2013 Dramaturg, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

2006-2012 Development Associate, Music Theatre of Wichita, Wichita, KS

2011 Director, *She Loves Me*, Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL

2006 Choreographer, *Annie Get Your Gun*, Music Theatre for Young People, Wichita, KS

2006 Dramaturg, *Pal Joey*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

2006 Choreographer, *Honk!*, Friends University, Wichita, KS

2005 Dramaturg, *My One and Only*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

2001-2004 Ensemble Performer, Music Theatre of Wichita, Wichita, KS