

**JENNA KATE IHARA GERDSEN**  
**Postdoctoral Scholar at Florida State University**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

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**EDUCATION**

PhD, Theatre and Performance Studies, June 2021, University of Maryland College Park

Dissertation Title: Huika'i Mo'o 'olelo: Theatre in Hawaii during the 21st Century

Advisor: Esther Kim Lee

Committee Members: Faedra Chatard Carpenter, James Harding, Caitlin Marshall, and Janelle Wong

Certificate in University Teaching and Learning Program, June 12, 2020, University of Maryland, College Park

MA, Theatre Arts (emphasis in dramaturgy), June 2015, University of California Santa Cruz

BA in Theatre Arts and English, May 2014, University of Puget Sound

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book Chapters:**

"Critical Juxtapositions: Implementing Transpacific Studies in the Arts." *Learning Antiracism through the Arts*. Ed. Michelle Washington and Sharon Ammen. Illinois University Press. Forthcoming 2022.

"Thus, I Exist, Too: A Crip Analysis of Afong Moy and Mari Katayama." *Freakery 2: The Performativity of Disability*. Ed Michael Chemers and Analola Santana. University of Michigan Press. Forthcoming 2022.

**Encyclopedia Entries:**

Contemporary Asian American Playwrights: "Frank Chin," "Velina Hasu Houston," "Young Jean Lee," "Qui Nguyen," "Jiehae Park," "Lauren Yee," Ed. Sara Freeman *Encyclopedia of Modern Theatre*, 2022 (Forthcoming)

**Production Review:**

*White Pearl* by Anchuli Felicia King. *Theatre Journal*: v72 n3 (2020): 347-348

**Journal Article:**

“Theatre in Hawaii: An ‘Illumination of the Fault Lines’ of Asian American Theatre,” *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre*: Spring 2022. Forthcoming.

(Co-Authored with Jonelle Walker)

“Making Whispers Audible: The Whisper Network, The Phonetic Network & Not in Our House DC,” *Theatre Topics*: vol. 29, no. 2, 2019, pp. 161–168

**Book Review:**

“The Racial Mundane: Asian American Performance and the Embodied Everyday,” *Asian Theatre Journal*: v33 n2 (2016): 522-525

**Online Publication:**

“A New Hope for Wayang Kulit: *Peperangan Bintang* Re-Awakens Tradition” *HowlRound*  
9 May 2016

**AWARDS**

2020 Candidacy Tuition Fellowship, University of Maryland

2019 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Maryland

2016-2020 Teaching and Research Assistantship, University of Maryland

2016-2018 Dean’s Fellowship, University of Maryland

2015 Arts Division Dean’s Award at University of California Santa Cruz

**CAMPUS TALKS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

“Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl and Hawaiian Theatre,” for Professor James Harding, THET 711  
Critical Theory, Fall 2021

“Racist Notions: Racist imagery, performance, and stereotypes in US popular media, past and present,” Invited by Neijma Celestine-Donnor, Program Director for Bias Incident Support Services. Panelist for Office of Diversity and Inclusion, October 24, 2019

“I Dream of Gotanda’s Chang and Eng: Exploring Asian American Identity Formation in 19th

century America,” for Professor Terry Park, AAST 298J Asian American Performance, Spring 2018.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

### **Panels Chaired**

Co-Convener for “Catastrophe in Global Asia, the Asian Diaspora, and the Transpacific” with Michelle Liu Carriger and Ana E. Puga. American Society for Theatre Research, Global Asia, the Asian Diaspora, and the Transpacific Working Group, New Orleans, LA, November 3-6 2022

Co-Convener for “Pacific Time,” with Dr. Diana Looser and Shannon Steen. American Society for Theatre Research, Transpacific Working Group, San Diego, CA, October 28-31, 2021

Co-Convener for “Pacific Time,” with Dr. Diana Looser and Shannon Steen. American Society for Theatre Research, Transpacific Working Group, Zoom, November 21, 2020

Panel Co-Organizer and Presenter (with Jonelle Walker) at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference “S.P.E.A.K. Now: Sexual Harassment in American Theatre,” August 1-5, 2018

Moderator for “\_\_\_\_ Face Symposium: The After-life of Racial Masquerade,” at the University of Maryland College Park, March 3, 2017.

### **Papers Presented**

Participant for “Pitching Your Book’ Session.” Mid-America Theatre Conference. Cleveland, OH March 3-6, 2022

Panelist for “New Directions in Theatre and Performance Studies.” American Society for Theatre Research. San Diego, CA October 28-31, 2021

Panelist for “New Directions in Theatre and Performance Studies.” American Society for Theatre Research. New Orleans, LA, November 5-8, 2020. (Session canceled due to Covid 19 pandemic)

Roundtable Panelist “Unsettling Displacements” with Dr. Sean Metzger, Dr. Ju Yon Kim, Dr. Elizabeth Son at The Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists, Honolulu, HI August 7-16, 2020 (conference canceled due to Covid 19 pandemic)

Presenter “Staging ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i: Hawaiian Language Theatre at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa,” Ka Haka Māori and Indigenous Performance Studies Symposium, San Francisco, CA, November 14-17, 2019

Presenter “Staging Da Kine: A Re-examination of Kumu Kahua Theatre and Local Drama Tradition,” American Society for Theatre Research, November 7-10, 2019

Presenter “The Window in A Raisin in the Sun: A Window into Black Male Identity Formation,” Comparative Drama Conference, April 5-7, 2018.

Presenter “Thus I Exist, Too: A Crip Analysis of Afong Moy and Mari Katayama,” American Society for Theatre Research, Nov. 16-19, 2017.

Presenter “I Dream of Gotanda’s Chang and Eng: Exploring Asian American Identity Formation in 19th century America,” Pacific and Ancient Modern Language Association, Nov. 10-12, 2017.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Instructor of Record**  
**Florida State University**  
**School of Theatre**

Script Analysis  
Major Requirement  
Fall 2022

**Instructor of Record**  
**University of Maryland, College Park**  
**Department of Theatre and Performance Studies**

THET 285: The Art of Communication and Presentation  
Major Requirement  
Fall 2020

THET 489D: Asian American Theatre  
Undergraduate Seminar  
Spring 2019

THET 223: Text and Context in Western Theatre  
Major Requirement  
Fall 2019

**Course Developer**  
**University of Maryland, College Park**  
**Department of Theatre and Performance Studies**

THET 400: Contemporary Indigenous Women's Theatre  
Course developer  
Fall 2020

THET 290: History Plays: From Conquest to Contemporary American Theatre  
Co-course developer with Dr. Caitlin Marshall  
Undergraduate Seminar  
Spring 2019

**Teaching Assistant**  
**University of Maryland, College Park**  
**Department of Theatre and Performance Studies**

THET 489V/IMMR 400 Vital Voices: Oral Histories of the Immigrant Experience  
Undergraduate Seminar  
Spring 2018

THET 489D/AAS 489D Asian American Theatre  
Undergraduate Seminar  
Fall 2017

THET 408: Introduction to Performance Studies  
Undergraduate Seminar  
Fall 2018

THET251: Broadway Mashup: Remixing America Through Musical Theater  
Undergraduate Seminar  
Spring 2020

THET 110 Introduction to the Theatre  
University Lecture  
Fall 2016  
Spring 2017

**Secondary Education**

Substitute teacher grades K-12  
Hawaii Preparatory Academy, Kamuela Hawaii  
August 2015 to May 2016

After school program supervisor and Administrative Assistant  
Parker School, Kamuela Hawaii  
August 2015-May 2016

Private Tutor grades K-12  
Kamuela, Hawaii  
August 2015-May 2019

**Teaching Assistant**  
**University of California Santa Cruz**  
**Department of Theater Arts**

Flashmob! Mass Performance in the Information Age  
University Lecture  
Spring 2015

Drama from the Renaissance to the Modern Age  
University Lecture  
Winter 2015

Ancient and Medieval Drama  
University Lecture  
Fall 2014

**Teaching Assistant**  
**University of Puget Sound**

World Theatre II: Asian Theatre  
Co-developed with Dr. Geoff Proehl  
Spring 2014

World III: Theatre of the Americas  
Co-developed with Dr. Geoff Proehl  
Fall 2013

**Non-Academic Teaching**

Tennis instructor at Four Seasons Hualalai, Hawaii  
Taught one-hour private adult lessons  
Taught youth group lessons to kids ranging from ages 5 to 12  
May 2013-August 2013

Camp Counselor at Kahilu Theatre Youth Performing Arts Summer Camp, Kamuela, HI  
Taught acting and improvisation to children ages 5-12  
Co-Directed musical revue style performance  
June 2013-July 2013

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Graduate Student Advisor for Hate Bias Response Team for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
University of Maryland, College Park  
2020-2021

Graduate Student Department Representative for The Teaching and Learning Center  
University of Maryland, College Park  
2020-2021

### **THEATRE PRODUCTION**

Dramaturg/Co-Director, *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen, Directed by Rachel Grossman,  
Clarice Smith Performing Center, College Park, MD, May 1-6, 2020

Writer/Performer/Designer, *Hapa: A One Woman Show*, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center,  
College Park, MD, February 1-2, 2019

Dramaturg for *Ramayana*, Directed by Kathy Foley, UC Santa Cruz, November 14-23, 2014

Lakshmana/Batara Narada. *Ramayana*. Dir. Kathy Foley at UC Santa Cruz, November 14-23,  
2014

Dramaturgy Intern for TheatreWorks, supervised by Robert Kelley, June - September 2014

Dramaturgy Intern for Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, Supervised by Seema Sueko, May-  
July 2013

### **LANGUAGES**

English-Native Language

Hawaiian Pidgin-Native Language

Spanish-Intermediate Listener, Novice Speaker, Advanced Reading and Writing

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Member, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, 2013 – Present

Member, American Society for Theatre Research, 2016 - Present

Member, Association for Higher Education, 2018 – Present

Member, Association of Asian American Studies, 2019-Present

## REFERENCES

Dr. Esther Kim Lee, Professor  
Duke University, Theater Studies  
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Dr. Faedra Chatard Carpenter, Associate Professor  
University of Maryland  
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College Park, MD 20742  
fcarpenter@american.edu  
202-885-3420

Dr. Caitlin Marshall, Visiting Assistant Professor  
University of Maryland  
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College Park, MD 20742  
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301-405-6676

More references available upon request