

**Laura Biagi, Ph.D.**

*Curriculum Vitae*

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ACADEMIC EDUCATION

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- 2004 *Ph.D.*, Performance Studies (Theory and Practice), Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, New York.
- 1999 *M.A.*, Performance Studies (Theory and Practice), Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, New York.
- 1998 *B.A.* with Distinction, Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Siena, Italy.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2016-2020 *Multicultural Faculty*, The Theatre School, DePaul University, Chicago. Focus: Theatre Studies, Performance Studies, Devised Theatre, Theatre for Social Change, Inside Out Prison Exchange Program, Contemplative Practices in Higher Education.
- 2019-2020 *Artistic Director*, Summer High School Training Program, The Theatre School, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2008-2016 *Visiting Professor*, Italian Studies Department, Vassar College, New York. Focus: Italian Cultural Studies, Contemplative Practices in Higher Education.
- 2009 *Director*, Summer Program in Italy, Vassar College, New York.

AWARDS

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- 2020 *Excellence in Teaching Award*, The Theatre School and Quality of Instruction Council at DePaul University Award given in recognition of the dedication and skill that faculty members bring to their work, and to the high regard in which they are held by students and colleagues.
- 2019 *Staff Recognition Award*, The Theatre School at DePaul University Award given in recognition of service to The Theatre School for designing, creating and directing the first Summer High School Training Program.

RELEVANT ON-LINE FEATURES

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- 2020 *THE GIRL INSIDE*, short documentary by 1 Girl Revolution, in partnership with BEHOLD, featuring a poignant look at the stories of incarcerated women within Cook County Jail in Chicago and a life-changing academic course taught by Dr. Laura Biagi.
- 2018 “*Reimagine Failure: Breathe, Belong, Believe*” TEDx Talk, May 5, 2018. DePaul University, Chicago.

EDITING, PUBLISHING & BOOKSELLING EXPERIENCE

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- 2009-2013 Editor, bookseller and publishing assistant for the International Center of Yoga Education and Research at Ananda Ashram in Pondicherry, India (Tamil Nadu). I compiled and edited books, helped design book’s formats and graphics, managed the Ashram’s bookshop, and co-wrote a book with my Yogacharya Dr. Ananda Balayogi Bhavanani, *Saraswati’s Pearls: Dialogues on the Yoga of Sound*.
- 2001-2003 Assistant editor and assistant director, Ministry of Maat, New York. The Ministry’s collection publishes books by women who highlight the history and legacy of women around the world.

## SELECTED TRAINING IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

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- 2009-2012 *Bharatnatyam Classican Indian Theatre*, ICYER, India.  
2000 *Italian Folk Songs*, with Giovanna Marini, Rome, Italy.  
2000 *Frame Drums*, with Glen Velez, New York City.  
1999 *Street Theater*, with The Living Theatre, New York City.  
1998-2004 *Deep Listening and Composition*, with Pauline Oliveros, New York City.  
1998-1999 *Extended Vocal Techniques*, with the Meredith Monk Ensemble, New York City.  
1998 *Theatre of the Oppressed* with Augusto Boal, New York University, New York City.  
1997 *Jazz Vocal Theory and Practice*, with Fabrizia Barresi, Siena Jazz, Italy.

## TRAINING IN HEALTH & LIFE COACHING, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, YOGA

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- 2020 *Health and Life Coach Training*, Health Coach Institute.  
2019 *Values-Centered Leadership Training*, Level I, sponsored by The Hay Project, DePaul University.  
2019 *Cracking the Code Facilitator Training* with Ericka Huggins, Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity at DePaul University, Chicago.  
2016-17 *BUILD Diversity Certificate Training*, Levels I and II, Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity, DePaul University.  
2017 *Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program International Instructor Training*, Inside-Out Center, Philadelphia.  
2009-2012 *Two-Year Residential Senior Yoga Teacher Training*, Center for Yoga Education and Research, Tamil Nadu, India.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### BOOKS

- 2013 Biagi, Laura and Ananda Balayogi Bhavanani. *Saraswathi's Pearls: Dialogues on Yoga and Music*. Pondicherry: Dhivyananda Creations.

### ESSAYS & ARTICLES

- 2017 Biagi, Laura. "In Paradise with Contemplative Pedagogy: A Journey." In *Journal of Contemplative Inquiry*, 4 (I). Trudy and David Sable, co-editors. The Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, 129-142.  
2015 Biagi, Laura. "Spider Medicine: Vocal Awareness and Empowerment." In *Courageous Creativity*. Shahana Dattagupta, editor. Seattle: Flying Chickadee, 16-18.  
2013 Biagi, Laura. "Yoga: Breaking the Spell of Ignorance." In *Spell Breaking, Remembered Ways of Being: An Anthology of Women's Mysteries*. Ione, editor. Kingston, NY: M.o.M./Deep Listening Publications, 37-46.  
2003 Biagi, Laura and Karen Lüdtke. "Estadanza, un corso sui tre balli della taranta." In *Melissi, Le Culture Popolari* n. 6/7. Lecce: Besa, 63-66.

## GRANTS

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- 2012-2016 Carolyn Grant'36 Endowment Grants For the Integration of Expressive Arts and Experiential Processes Into Teaching, Vassar College, New York.  
2015 Frances D. Fergusson Faculty Technology Exploration Fund to implement new technology in teaching and research, Vassar College, New York.  
2012 Research Committee Award (Salmon Fund), Vassar College  
2008 Andrew Mellon Faculty Conversation Grant, Vassar College

## STORYTELLING

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- 2019 Playwright, Director and Performer. *Singing the Dragon*, Collaborations' site-specific festival of short performances at Clouds' Gate, Millennium Park, Chicago.
- 2019 Playwright, Director and Performer. *Self-Love*, Fillet of Solo Festival, Chicago; Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival, Los Angeles.
- 2019 Playwright, Director and Performer. *Open Questions*, in collaboration with shadow puppeteer Karly Gesine-Bergmann, is selected for Collaboration's Encounter Series, Chicago.
- 2018 Storyteller. *Stammi a Sentire*, concert of Italian folk songs, Italian Cultural Institute, Chicago.
- 2018 Playwright, Director and Performer. *Self-Love*, solo performance, Stage 773.
- 2017 Playwright, Director and Performer. *The High Priestess*, Peacebook Festival, Collaboration. Goodman Theatre Chicago; *Chicago Ideas Week*, Chicago.
- 2016 Director. *BeLonging*, student-devised play, The Theatre School, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2015 Mentor. *In Light Of*, student-devised play, Hudson Valley Hospice and the Creative Arts Across Disciplines Initiative at Vassar College, New York.
- 2012 Storyteller. *Aurum*, performance of devotional chants and prayers, Skinner Hall of Music, Vassar College, New York.
- 2008 Playwright, Director and Performer. *Danza del Sole*, dance performance, Astralia Festival, PaRDeS Center of Contemporary Art, Mirano, Venice, Italy.
- 2007 Playwright, Director and Performer. *Voices from Home*, concert of Italian folk songs, Italian Departments, Vassar College and New York University, New York.
- 2003 Storyteller. *Lullabies and Dreams*, performance of folk Italian and Indian Music with flutist, Steve Gorn, Gallery at Deep Listening Space, New York.
- 2003 Playwright, Director and Performer. *Italian Dreams*, a performance of music, dance, and tales, in collaboration with Italian-American storyteller Gioia Timpanelli, Gallery at Deep Listening Space, New York.

## CONFERENCES

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- 2020 Plenary Speaker and Teacher. "Nada Yoga for Yoga Therapy," *Annual Symposium of Yoga Therapy*, The International Association of Yoga Therapy, Chicago.
- 2019 Presenter. "Contemplative Practices in Prisons," *National Conference on Higher Education in Prison*, St. Louis.
- 2019 Presenter. "Storytelling as A Healing Art," *8th International Health Humanities Consortium Meeting*, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2018 Presenter. "Contemplative Practices in Academia," *18th International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations*, University of Texas at Austin, Austin.
- 2017 Presenter. "Contemplative Pedagogy and Inclusive Leadership at Cook County Jail," Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program 20th Anniversary Conference *Inside-Out at 20: The Power of Connection and Community*, Temple University, Philadelphia.
- 2017 Presenter. "Contemplative Pedagogy and Inclusive Leadership," *Beyond Grades: Capturing Authentic Learning*, DePaul University Teaching and Learning Conference, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2015 Presenter. "Yoga for Healing Trauma," The Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention (SAVP) Program at Vassar College, New York.
- 2015 Poster Presentation. "Contemplative Practices for Social Harmony," *Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education Conference: Building Just Communities*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- 2012 Presenter. "Healing Through the Pranava AUM," *Conference: Mind Body Medicine National Conference*, Department of Physiology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Wardha, India.

## INVITED LECTURES

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- 2020 “*Sound Healing For Optimal Health.*” Stress-reduction techniques in response to COVID 19, Office of Alumni Relations, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2020 “*Virtual Breathwork and Meditation Session.*” Stress-reduction techniques in response to COVID 19, Division of Marketing and Communications, DePaul University.
- 2020 “*Contemplative and Theatre Practices for Change Makers and Diversity Advocate.*” Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity and the BUILD Program, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2019 “*Failure Immunity: Contemplative and Theatre Practices for Change Makers.*” FIELD/WORK Residency, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago.
- 2018-2019 “*Diversified Approaches to Reflection: Strategies for Integrating Academic and Community-based Learning Objectives.*” Steans Center for Community Service and Learning, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2018-2019 “*Contemplative Practices and the Heart of Inclusion.*” B.U.I.L.D. Inclusion and Diversity Program, Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2018 “*Diversified Approaches to Reflection: Strategies for Integrating Learning.*” Steans Center for Community Service and Learning, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2018 “*Bias, Privilege, and Inclusion.*” Contemplative Inquiry Team, the Performance Studies Lab, the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Faculty Development and the Department of Communication Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans.
- 2018 “*Theatre and Contemplative Techniques for Inclusive Leadership.*” Contemplative Inquiry Team, the Performance Studies Lab, the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Faculty Development and the Department of Communication Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans.
- 2018 “*Storytelling as a Healing Art.*” *Mindful Activism* course. Professor: Helen Damon-More, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2018 “*Relaxation through Sound Healing.*” DePaul Women’s Network, DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2017 “*The Art of Improvisation.*” *Arts Administration and Policy* course. Professor: Kathleen Dumbleton and Romi N. Crawford, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago.
- 2016 “*Meditative Listening Sessions.*” *Navigating and Addressing Race and Race Relations*, The Theatre School at DePaul University, Chicago.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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- 2017-2018 BUILD (Professional Development Diversity Program) Advisory Board Member and Instructor, Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity, DePaul University, Chicago
- 2017-2018 DePaul Women's Network, Programming Team Member, DePaul University, Chicago

## LANGUAGES

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Italian: Native speaker  
English and French: Near-Native Proficiency

## SUSTAINABLE LIVING

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- Ongoing Official Tour Guide of the city of Florence, Italy.
- 2014 Earthship Academy Training, Taos, New Mexico
- 2014 Cal-Earth, Sustainable Living Training, Los Angeles, California

## HOBBIES

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Scuba diving, swimming, hiking.