

Laura Biagi, Ph.D.

525 West Arlington Pl., Apt. 259, Chicago, IL 60614 | (845) 372 3418
explore@laurabiagi.com | www.mywildest.com

ACADEMIC TRAINING

Ph.D. New York University, Performance Studies (2004)

Dissertation: *Spider Dreams: Ritual and Performance in Apulian Tarantismo* (Dissertation Advisor: Richard Schechner)

Master of Arts Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, Performance Studies (1999)

Thesis: *The Voice of the Text and the Text of the Voice* (Thesis Advisor: Fred Moten)

Laurea (B.A.) With Honors Università di Siena, Siena, Italy, Facoltà di Lingue e Letterature Straniere, Foreign Languages and Literatures, *summa cum laude* (1998)

Thesis: *The Performance Art of Meredith Monk* (Thesis Advisor: Roberto Birindelli)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING: LEADERSHIP, EQUITY & INCLUSION

2020 *Health and Life Coach Training*, Health Coach Institute

2019 *Values-Centered Leadership Training*, Level I, sponsored by The Hay Project at 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

PROFESSIONAL YOGA TRAINING

2019-2020 *200-hour Teacher Certification*, Ganesha Yoga Studio, Chicago

2009-2012 *Two-Year Residential Senior Yoga Teacher Training*, Center for Yoga Education and Research, Tamil Nadu, India

AWARDS

2019 *Staff Recognition Award* for creating and directing the first Summer High School Training Program at The Theatre School, DePaul University, Chicago

2012 Vassar College, Research Committee Award (Salmon Fund)

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2012-2016 Vassar College, Carolyn Grant'36 Endowment Grants For the Integration of Expressive Arts and Experiential Processes Into Teaching

2015 Vassar College, Frances D. Fergusson Faculty Technology Exploration Fund to implement new technology in teaching and research

2013 Helene Wurlitzer Foundation Fellowship, Taos, New Mexico

2008 Vassar College, Andrew Mellon Faculty Conversation Grant

1994 European Community Erasmus Scholarship Year Abroad at the Université de Paris Jussieu, Paris, France

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

The Theatre School, DePaul University, Chicago (2016-2020)

Faculty: Teaching, advising, and devising (BFA and MFA levels) FOCUS: Arts, Wellness, and Leadership

- *Healing Narratives: Storytelling and Performance*, Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program Course, Cook County Jail, Chicago, 2017-2020
- *Performance Workshop*, 2019-2020
- *Discover Chicago: Theatres in Chicago* (mandatory course for all incoming freshmen)
- *History of Dramatic Literature* (mandatory course for all incoming freshmen), 2018-2020
- *Ride the Dragon: Theatre as a Healing Art*, 2019-2020
- *Theories of Directing*, 2018
- *Dance as a Healing Art: Movement Analysis and Devising*, 2018
- *Pop Culture, Politics, and the Stage: Intro to Performance Studies*, 2017
- *Bee's Knees, Introduction to Performance*, Fall 2017
- *Yoga and Mindfulness for Faculty, Administrators and Staff*, co-facilitated with Helen Damon Moore, a collaboration between The Theatre School, the Steans Center for Community-Based Service Learning, and the University Ministry, Winter 2017
- *BeLonging*, devised piece, *Introduction to Performance*, 2016
- TTS Faculty on the *Committee on Contingent Faculty*, 2017-2018

Administrator: Director of Summer High School Program, 2019-2020

- Building and maintaining the program's website and social media platforms
- Management of the application process
- Management of budget
- Co-design and co-development of the programs' curriculum
- Hiring of Faculty Heads and instructors
- Hiring of Assistant Director and Student Mentors/Chaperons
- Networking with students and their families
- Overviewing the program while in session
- Residing with students on campus while the program is in session

Department of Italian Studies, Vassar College, NY (2008-2016)

Faculty: Teaching and advising (B.A. level)

- Mentor, Multidisciplinary student project *Healing Narratives*, sponsored by the Creative Arts Across Disciplines Initiative at Vassar College, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Summer and Fall 2015
- *Contemplative Practices in Higher Education*, in collaboration with the departments of Media Studies, English, Religion, Music, Dance, Drama, and Psychology; sponsored by the Carolyn Grant'36 Endowment at Vassar College, Fall 2012
- Yoga for Students, Faculty and Staff (on-going)

Administrator: Director of Summer Program in Siena, Italy, Summer 2009

- Building and maintaining the program's website and social media platforms
- Management of the application process
- Management of budget
- Co-design and co-development of the programs' curriculum
- Networking with students and their families
- Overviewing the program while in session
- Residing with students on campus while the program is in session

GUEST LECTURES and WORKSHOPS

- 2020 “Contemplative and Theatre Practices for Change Makers and Diversity Advocate,” offered in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity and the BUILD Program at DePaul University, Chicago.
- 2019 “Failure Immunity: Contemplative and Theatre Practices for Change Makers,” offered as part of the FIELD/WORK Residency, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago
- 2018-2019 “Sound Baths” and “Stay Productive by Calming Down,” workshops designed for the well-being of the community at The Theatre School at DePaul University, in collaboration with the Take Care DePaul Initiative.
- 2018-2019 “Diversified Approaches to Reflection: Strategies for Integrating Academic and Community-based Learning Objectives,” one of four workshop presenters, with the Steans Center for Community Service and Learning at DePaul University
- 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
- 2018 “Diversified Approaches to ‘Reflection’: Strategies for Integrating Learning,” workshop series in collaboration with the Steans Center for Community Service and Learning at DePaul University
- 2018 “Bias, Privilege, and Inclusion” and “Theatre and Contemplative Techniques for Inclusive Leadership,” sponsored by the 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 in New Orleans
- 2018 “Storytelling as a Healing Art,” with Professor Helen Damon-More in her course *Mindful Activism*, DePaul University
- 2018 “Relaxation through Sound Healing,” DePaul Women’s Network, DePaul University, Chicago
- 2017 “The Art of Improvisation,” with Professor Kathleen Dumbleton and Romi N. Crawford, Arts Administration and Policy, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2016 Meditative Listening sessions, *Navigating and Addressing Race and Race Relations*, The Theatre School at DePaul University (October 7th), Fall 2016

CONFERENCES and TALKS

- 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,” performance-workshop, *8th International Health Humanities Consortium Meeting*, Chicago
- 2018 Presenter, “Contemplative Practices in Academia,” *18th International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations*; Theme: Without Walls, Affinity in Diversity; University of Texas at Austin
- 2018 TEDx DePaul Talk, “Reimagine Failure: Breathe, Belong, Believe,” scheduled on 05/01 at DePaul University, Chicago
- 2017 Presenter: Paper/Workshop, “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: Paper/Workshop, “Contemplative Pedagogy and Inclusive Leadership,” 2017 DePaul University Teaching and Learning Conference, *Beyond Grades: Capturing Authentic Learning*, DePaul University, Chicago

- 2015 Yoga Teacher, “Yoga for Healing Trauma,” The Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention (SAVP) Program at Vassar College
- 2015 Poster Presentation: “Contemplative Practices for Social Harmony,” *Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education Conference: Building Just Communities*, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
- 2015 Poster Presentation: “Spider Medicine: Wellbeing Through Language Awareness,” *Conference Caring for Artists and Arts that Heal*, Performing Arts Medicine Association and the University of South Florida,
- 2012 Lecture cum practicum: “Healing Through the Pranava AUM,” *Conference: Mind Body Medicine National Conference*, Department of Physiology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Wardha, India
- 2012 Lecture cum practicum: The Power of the Breath To Heal, *Conference: Healing Across Generations, Veterans’ Day*, Vassar College
- 2002 Paper: “Salentine Folk Music,” Global Weekends: Mediterranean Festival, American Museum of Natural History, New York City
- 2002 Moderator of Panel: Mediterranean Festival, Hosted by the Center for Traditional Music and Dance, New York

PERFORMANCE WORK

- 2019 *Singing the Dragon*, Collaboractions’ site-specific festival of short performances at Clouds’ Gate, Millennium Park, Chicago
- 2019 *Self-Love*, Fillet of Solo Festival, Chicago; Los Angeles Women’s Theatre Festival
- 2019 *Open Questions*, in collaboration with shadow puppeteer Karly Gesine-Bergmann, is selected for Collaboraction’s Encounter Series, Chicago
- 2018 *Stammi a Sentire*, concert of Italian folk songs, Italian Cultural Institute, Chicago
- 2018 *Self-Love*, solo performance, Stage 773;
- 2017 *The High Priestess*, a performance piece hosted by the Peacebook Festival, organized by Collaboraction. Performed: at the Goodman Theatre and LaFollette Park in Chicago, Summer and Fall (<http://www.collaboraction.org/peacebook2017>); and *Chicago Ideas Week*, Chicago
- 2016 *BeLonging*, a piece on identity, devised in collaboration with the students of Intro To Performance, The Theatre School at DePaul University, Chicago
- 2015 *In Light Of*, Mentor of the Vassar College student piece on the importance of storytelling in hospices, in collaboration with Hudson Valley Hospice and the Creative Arts Across Disciplines Initiative at Vassar College, New York
- 2012 *Aurum*, A Performance of Devotional Chants and Prayers in Ancient Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, and English, Skinner Hall of Music, Vassar College, New York
- 2008 *Danza del Sole*, dance performance created for Astralia, an art exhibit on the theme of art and astrology at PaRDeS Center of Contemporary Art, Mirano, Venice, Italy
- 2007 *Voices from Home*, Concert of Italian folk songs, Italian Departments at Vassar College, and New York University, New York
- 2003 *Lullabies and Dreams*, performance of folk Italian and Indian music, in collaboration with U.S. flutist Steve Gorn, Gallery at Deep Listening Space, New York
- 2003 *Italian Dreams*, a performance of music, dance, and tales, in collaboration with Italian-American storyteller Gioia Timpanelli, Gallery at Deep Listening Space, New York

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2020 *Singing the Dragon: Eight Steps to Explore and Honor Your Voice* (upcoming)
2013 *Saraswathi's Pearls: Dialogues on Yoga and Music*, co-authored with Dr. Ananda Balayogi Bhavanani (Dhyviananda Creations, Pondicherry)

Articles

- 2017 "In Paradise with Contemplative Pedagogy: A Journey," *Journal of Contemplative Inquiry*, 4 (I); The Center for Contemplative Mind in Society.
2015 "Spider Medicine: Vocal Awareness and Empowerment," *Courageous Creativity*, pp. 16-18
2014 "La strana storia dell'Integratron™ e di Giant Rock, pietra sacra del deserto." *L'altra medicina*, n. 34. Milano: Viola Edizioni, srl. pp. 76-78
2013 "Tradizione tantrica: la consapevolezza dell'ascolto sottile," *L'altra medicina fanzine*, n. 10
2011 "Are we there yet? Reflections on the yoga path," *Yoga Life*, (Pondicherry, India), vol. 42, no. 10
2003 "Estadanza, un corso sui tre balli della taranta" with Karen Lütke, in *Melissi, Le Culture Popolari* (Lecce: Besa), n. 6/7, pp. 63-66

Book Chapters

- 2013 "Yoga: Breaking the Spell of Ignorance," *Spell Breaking, Remembered Ways of Being: An Anthology of Women's Mysteries*, edited by Ione (Kingston, NY: M.o.M./Deep Listening Publications, pp. 37-46)
2005 "Initiation Dream," *Listening in Dreams: A Compendium of Sound Dreams, Meditations and Rituals for Deep Dreamers*, by Ione (New York: iUniverse)

Published Translations

- 2004 *Agathe*, a poem by Paul Valéry, part of *l'Incanto*, a book by Marialba Russo, Milano: Skira Editore; translated from French into English

Interviews

- 2017 "Inside-Out Program Brings DePaul to Department of Corrections," *The DePaulia*, (<http://depauliaonline.com/2017/09/25/inside-program-brings-depaul-department-corrections/>)
2011 "Biagi brings yoga sensibility to Italian," O'Brien, Jack, *The Miscellany News*

Music Albums

- 2019 *Sangeeta*, Yoga Chants and Mantras, (available on-line at cdbaby.com)
2011 *Chanting the Yoga Sutra*, with Dr. Ananda Balayogi Bhavanani. Geetanjali Music, India
2006 *Aria*, Italian Folk Songs, Le Carrozze Records

LANGUAGES

Italian: Native speaker
English and French: Near-Native Proficiency
Latin and Sanskrit: Writing and Reading Skills

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 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 Network, Programming Team Member, DePaul University, Chicago

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

On-going Official Tour Guide of the city of Florence, Italy

- 2014 Tour Designer and Guide, *In the Land Of Enchantment: Sustainability and Mindfulness*, New Mexico, in collaboration with Vassar College Alumnae Association and Pravassa.
- 2014 Earthship Academy Training, Taos, New Mexico
- 2014 Cal-Earth, Sustainable Living Training, Los Angeles, California