

## NAIMAH ZULMADELLE PÉTIGNY

Rhode Island School of Design | Department of Literary Arts and Studies  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2021 Rhode Island School of Design  
Schiller Family Assistant Professorship in Race in Art and Design  
Department of Literary Arts and Studies

### EDUCATION

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- 2021 **University of Minnesota, Twin Cities**  
Feminist Studies, M.A./Ph.D.  
Dissertation: The Hold is also an Embrace: Readings in Contemporary Black Feminist Performance  
Committee: Richa Nagar (Advisor), Zenzele Isoke (Advisor), Rachmi Diyah Larasati, Cindy Garcia
- 2014 **Vassar College**  
Sociology and Women's Studies, B.A  
Thesis: Speaking to the Silences: Uncovering Black Women's Trauma and Pathways to Healing  
Committee: Diane Harriford (Advisor), Hiram Perez

### FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

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#### Fellowships

- 2020 Leadership in Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Dissertation *Fellowship* | University of Minnesota
- 2020 Dissertation Fellowship | P.E.O International
- 2019 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship | University of Minnesota
- 2019 Center for Innovation and Excellence Graduate Research Fellowship | Hennepin County Government
- 2019 Mary Richardson and Lydia Pratt Babbott Fellowship for Graduate Study | Vassar College
- 2018 Humphrey School of Public Affairs Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellowship | University of Minnesota
- 2017 Steven J. Schochet Interdisciplinary Fellowship in Queer, Trans and Sexuality Studies | University of Minnesota
- 2017 Race, Indigeneity, Gender & Sexuality Initiative Comparative Race & Ethnicity Studies Summer Graduate Research Fellowship | University of Minnesota
- 2016 Elsie Van Dyck Dewitt Scholarship Fund Fellowship for Graduate Study | Vassar College
- 2015 College of Liberal Arts Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellowship | University of Minnesota
- 2014 College of Liberal Arts Diversity of Views and Experiences Fellowship | University of Minnesota

#### Grants

- 2024 Center for Complexity Course Development Grant | Rhode Island School of Design
- 2023 Academic Affairs Conference and Presentation Fund Grant | Rhode Island School of Design
- 2022 Academic Affairs Conference and Presentation Fund Grant | Rhode Island School of Design

- 2021 Academic Affairs Conference and Presentation Fund Grant | Rhode Island School of Design  
2021 Dissertation Completion Grant | University of Minnesota  
2018 Thesis Research Travel Grant | University of Minnesota

### Awards

- 2021 Award for Pedagogy and Teaching Excellence in Feminist Studies | University of Minnesota

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Monographs and Edited Collections

*The Hold is also an Embrace.* In progress.

Petigny, Naimah., Santillana Blanco, J.M, Kong Pha, Kidiocus King-Carroll (Eds). “Seditious Acts: Being in, but not of, the Neoliberal University” *Agitate! Special Vol.* (Summer 2024). University of Minnesota Libraries, ed.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

**Petigny, Naimah.** “Haunting erotics: theorizing Black erotic aliveness.” in *Cultural Studies*, 1–23, 2025.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09502386.2025.2527035>

*Published*

Beudelaine Pierre, **Naimah Petigny**, and Richa Nagar. “Embodied Translations: Decolonizing Methodologies of Knowing and Being,” in *Commoning Ethnography*, Vol 1, no. 2, 2019.

*Open-Access Journals*

**Petigny, Naimah.** “Black Feminist Legacies,” in *Films for the Feminist Classroom*, Vol 9.2 Texas Woman’s University, Denton, Tx. 2020

**Petigny, N.**, Iyengar, S., Rellier, S., Ji, S. “Collective Anti-disciplinarity: Feeling Promiscuous, Positioning Narrative, and Making Home,” in *Agitate! Vol. 1* (Spring 2019). University of Minnesota Libraries, ed. Richa Nagar.

*Book Chapters*

Pierre, B., **Naimah Petigny**, Richa Nagar. “Decolonizing Methods Through Embodied Praxis”, in *Routledge International Handbook of Gender and Feminist Geographies*, Routledge International Handbooks, 2020.

Zenzele Isoke, **Petigny, Naimah.**, “Dancing Black Militancies: A Meditation on Performance, Dissent and Black Ecological Praxis in Ananya Dance Theater,” in *Meditation on Dream: Intersecting Artistic Excellence and Social Justice*, ed. Hui Wilcox and Ananya Chatterjea (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2021)

*Art Magazine Publications*

**Petigny, Naimah** and Leslie Parker. “*Call to Remember Methodologies: Reflections.*” *MN Artists. Walker Art Center.* April 2023.

**Petigny, Naimah.** “*Rapturous Groundings: Bouchra Ouizguen's Corbeaux and the Performance of Release,*” *Walker Art Center Magazine,* Nov 9, 2017

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**WRITING WORKSHOPS**

2024    Tinhouse Summer Workshop  
          Non-fiction  
          Mentor: Safiya Sinclair

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Rhode Island School of Design**

Literary Arts and Studies Department

Spring 2025	Decolonial Teaching in Action Seminar
Spring 2025	LAS – Intro to Gender Studies
Fall 2024	GAC 702G-01 - Research Issues
Fall 2024	LAS E101-11 First-Year Literature Seminar
	LAS E101-12 First-Year Literature Seminar
Spring 2024	GAC-703G-01 Politics/Ethics of Representation
Spring 2024	LAS-E220-01 Readings in Black Life
Fall 2023	LAS-E705-01 History, Haunting, and Memory
Fall 2023	LAS-E101-05 (19091) First-Year Literature Seminar
Fall 2023	Decolonial Teaching in Action Seminar
Spring 2023	LAS-34050 Readings in Black Life
Spring 2023	GAC-703G-01 (27949) Politics/Ethics of Representation
Fall 2022	LAS-E101-05 (19091) First-Year Literature Seminar
Fall 2022	LAS-E705-01 (34215) History, Haunting, and Memory
Fall 2022	Decolonial Teaching in Action Seminar
Spring 2022	LAS-E220-01 (33573) Readings in Black Life
Spring 2022	GAC-703G-01 (27949) Politics Ethics Representation
Fall 2021	LAS-E794-01 (33292) Radical Blk Experimentalisms
Fall 2021	LAS-E101-04 (19090) First-Year Literature Seminar

**University of Minnesota**

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department

Spring 2019	GWSS 1005 Engaging Justice
Fall 2018	GWSS 3307 Feminist Film Studies
Spring 2018	GWSS 3503 Girls, Girlhood, and Resistance (Graduate Teaching Assistant)

Fall 2016 GWSS 1003W Women Write the World (Graduate Teaching Assistant)  
Fall 2015 GWSS 3307 Feminist Film Studies (Graduate Teaching Assistant)  
Spring 2015 GWSS 1003W Women Write the World (Graduate Teaching Assistant)

**Macalester College**

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department

Fall 2018 WGSS 394 Radical Practice: Black Feminist Approaches to Performance and/of the  
Everyday

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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2021-- Leslie Parker Dance Project  
Research, Publication, Development  
Projects  
Givens Foundation, University of Minnesota Partnership Project (2025)  
More than a Single Story – Artist Talk series (2025)  
Black Dance Improvisation Workshops, Festival (2022--)  
Call to Remember (2021-2023)

2018 University of Minnesota Winton Chair in the Liberal Arts Research Program  
Graduate Research Assistant  
Project: Laurie Carlos Oracle, Dr. Alexis Pauline Gumbs

2017 University of Minnesota Provost's Grand Challenge Exploratory Grants  
Graduate Project Manager  
Project: The Art of Healing: Embodied Storysharing as Resistance and Praxis

2013 The Real Cost of Prisons Project  
Archival Researcher

2012 School for International Training Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Independent Scholar  
Project: Women of the Bijlmer: Stories of Survival and Community Organizing in the Southeast  
of Amsterdam

**PRESENTATIONS**

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2025 Organizer. Paper: "The Hold is Also an Embrace: Haunting Erotics." Modern Language  
Association. New Orleans, LA. January.

2024 Panelist and Organizer: "Decolonial Retrospeculation: Women of Color Feminist Temporalities  
and Imaginations." National Women's Studies Association. Detroit, Mi. November.

Panelist: "Black Feminisms: Resistance & Systems of Care in the Academy and Beyond."  
Association for Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars. Amherst, MA. October.

- Panelist and Organizer: “Building a Plane Mid-Air? Strategies for Faculty Engagement with AI.” Northeast Regional Computing Program Conference. Providence, RI. March.
- 2023 Paper: “Interruptive Life: Readings in Contemporary Black Feminist Performance.” American Studies Association. Montreal, Canada. November.
- 2022 Paper: “Entanglements: Black life, Performance, and Liberation.” National Women’s Studies Association. Minneapolis, MN. November.
- 2021 Paper: “The Hold is also an Embrace: Readings in Contemporary Black Feminist Performance” National Women’s Studies Association. Online convening. November.
- 2019 Panelist and Organizer: “Embodied Translations: Dancing Border and Cultural Aesthetics” National Women’s Studies Association. San Francisco, CA. November.
- 2018 Paper: “Blackness, Flesh, Fugivity.” National Women’s Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. November
- Paper: “Speaking to the Silences: Contested Violences, (Im)material Histories, and Rebellious Futures.” Critical Ethnic Studies Association Conference. Vancouver, Canada. July.
- 2017 Panelist and Organizer: “Deviance and/as Defiance: Queer Black Feminisms in the Age of Violence.” Women of Color Caucus sponsored Panel Presentation. National Women’s Studies Association. Baltimore, MD. November
- Paper: “Examining the Agency and Resistance in Death” National Women’s Studies Association. Baltimore, MD. November
- Paper: “She’s a Riot: Black Women’s Choreographies of Resistance.” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. Baltimore, MD. March
- 2016 Paper: “Fugitive Flesh: The Queer Embodiment of Black Liberation.” National Women’s Studies Association. Montreal, Canada. November.
- Paper: “Fugitive Flesh: Performance, Subversive Embodiment and Queer Black Liberation.” Strategies of Critique. North York, Canada. October.

## **INVITED RESEARCH RESIDENCIES**

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**Linden Place**, Bristol, RI  
Research residency. April 2025.

## **INVITED TALKS & MODERATIONS**

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### **Rhode Island School of Design**

Public Talk: “Haunting Repair.” Invited speaker for Industrial Design Department Repair Café. April 2025.

### **80 Acres, Amherst MA**

Public Talk: “Living Legacies of Black Liberation.” Invited speaker for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juneteenth Gala. June 2024.

### **Dance Without Surrender**

Public Conversation: “Black Aliveness: Thinking Blackness, Memory, and Performance.” June 2024.

### **Rhode Island School of Design**

Public Talk: “Black Feminisms X Repair.” Invited speaker for Industrial Design Department Repair Café. April 2024.

### **Providence College**

Public Talk: “The Hold is also an Embrace: Black life, Performance, and Liberation.” Invited speaker Black Studies Department Spring Colloquium Series. April 2022.

### **Barnard College**

Talk: “The Hold is also an Embrace: Black life, Performance, and Liberation.” Invited speaker Dance Department. November 2021

### **Queens’s University, Belfast**

Public Talk: “The Radical Teachings of Audre Lorde’s Berlin Years.” Invited speaker for Centre for Gender in Politics Fall Colloquium Series. September 2020.

### **University of Minnesota**

Public Talk: “Embodied Translations: Decolonizing Methodologies of Knowing and Being.” Invited speaker (with Beaudelaine Pierre and Richa Nagar) for Department of Geography, Spring Colloquium series. March 2018.

Public Talk: “Haunted Ground: Black Women’s Contemporary Performance.” Invited speaker for Department of Anthropology, Graduate Seminar. March 2018.

Public Presentation: “Black Femme Bodies in Motion.” Winton Chair Committee Cornerstone Visitor Lecture Series. February 2017.

## **SERVICE**

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### **Rhode Island School of Design**

2024 Social Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee Co-Chair

2023 Department of Literary Arts and Studies  
*Literary Arts and Studies Concentration Coordinator*

2023 Social Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee

2022 Social Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee

2021 Social Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee

2021 Department of Literary Arts and Studies  
*Faculty Search Committee: Asian American Studies*

### **University of Minnesota**

2021 Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies  
Graduate Representative, Graduate Studies Committee

2019 Department of African and African American Studies  
50th Anniversary Planning Committee

2018 Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Graduate Group Co-chair

2018 Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies  
Graduate Representative, Undergraduate Committee

2017 Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies  
Graduate Representative, Executive Committee

### **Minnesota State Arts Board**

2018 Dance Grants Division, Reviewer

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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2020 University of Minnesota  
Office of Graduate Student Services  
Administrative Fellow

2018 American Friends Service Committee St. Paul  
Facilitator, Twin Cities Healing Justice Program

2013 Vassar College  
Women Center  
Programming Intern

2012 The Eleanor Roosevelt Leadership Center at Val-Kill  
Girls Leadership Worldwide

Group Leader

- 2012 The Weekend School, Amsterdam  
Teaching Fellow
- 2012 Vassar College  
Admission Office  
Multicultural Recruitment Specialist, Admissions Office
- 2012 National Conference for Community and Justice  
Consultant
- 2011 Vassar College  
Exploring Transfer Program  
Residential Teaching/Writing Fellow

**CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED**

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- 2025 Rhode Island School of Design  
Gender Studies Symposium
- 2017 University of Minnesota  
“Seditious Acts: Graduate Students of Color Interrogating the Neoliberal University”
- 2016 University of Minnesota  
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department  
Undergraduate Research Symposium
- 2015 University of Minnesota  
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department  
Undergraduate Research Symposium

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars  
Modern Language Association  
Critical Ethnic Studies Association  
American Studies Association  
National Women’s Studies Association



