

NAIMAH ZULMADELLE PÉTIGNY

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

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

EDUCATION

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 (Chair), 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

2026 Brown/RISD Elemental Media Lab Fellowship
2026 RISD Teaching and Learning Lab Faculty Fellowship
2026 RISD Social Equity and Inclusion Decolonial Teaching in Action Fellowship
2024 Center for Complexity Course Development Grant | Rhode Island School of Design
2021 Award for Pedagogy and Teaching Excellence in Feminist Studies | University of Minnesota
2021 Dissertation Completion Grant | University of Minnesota
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
2018 Thesis Research Travel Grant | 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

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- 2026 *The Hold is also an Embrace: Haunting and Black Erotic Life*. In progress.

Manuscripts Under Review

- 2026 “A Body Just out of Reach: Nelisiwe Xaba’s Fremde Tänze (2017),” *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*, February.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2025 “Haunting erotics: theorizing Black erotic aliveness,” *Cultural Studies*, 1–23.
2019 “Embodied Translations: Decolonizing Methodologies of Knowing and Being,” Co-authored with Beudelaine Pierre and Richa Nagar, *Commoning Ethnography*, Vol 1, no. 2.
2019 Collective Anti-disciplinarity: Feeling Promiscuous, Positioning Narrative, and Making Home,” Co-authored with Iyengar, S., Rellier, S., Ji, S, *Agitate!* Vol. 1.

Edited Collections

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

Open-Access Journals

- 2020 “Black Feminist Legacies,” *Films for the Feminist Classroom*, Vol 9.2.

Book Chapters

- 2020 “Decolonizing Methods Through Embodied Praxis”, Co-authored with Beudelaine Pierre and Richa Nagar, *Routledge International Handbook of Gender and Feminist Geographies*.

Art Magazine Publications

- 2023 “*Call to Remember Methodologies: Reflections*,” Co-authored with Leslie Parker, *MN Artists, Walker Art Center*

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

WRITING WORKSHOPS

2024 Tinhouse Summer Workshop
 Non-fiction
 Mentor: Safiya Sinclair

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rhode Island School of Design

Continuing Education

Summer 2026 CE 9489- To Ghost is to Stay: History, Memory, Haunting

Rhode Island School of Design

Literary Arts and Studies Department

Fall 2025 LAS E101-17 First-Year Literature Seminar
 LAS E101-18 First-Year Literature Seminar
Fall 2025 GAC 702G-01 - Research Issues
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

2021-- Leslie Parker Dance Project
Research, Publication, Development
Projects
Loverroot (2025--)
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

INVITED RESEARCH RESIDENCIES

Linden Place, Bristol, RI

Research residency. April 2025.

Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (MANCC), Tallahassee, FL

Dance research residency. February 2023.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Invited Public Lectures

- 2025 "The Hold is Also an Embrace: Tracing Haunting Erotics in Black Life," RISD Huminites Forum, Providence, December
- 2025 "Haunting Repair," RISD Industrial Design Department Repair Café, Providence, April
- 2024 "Black Aliveness: Thinking Blackness, Memory, and Performance," Dance Without Surrender, June
- 2024 "Black Feminisms X Repair," RISD Industrial Design Department Repair Café, Providence, April
- 2022 "The Hold is also an Embrace: Black life, Performance, and Liberation," Providence College Black Studies Department Spring Colloquium, Providence, April
- 2020 "The Radical Teachings of Audre Lorde's Berlin Years," Queens's University Belfast Centre for Gender in Politics Fall Colloquium Series, September
- 2018 "Embodied Translations: Decolonizing Methodologies of Knowing and Being," University of Minnesota Twin Cities Department of Geography Spring Colloquium, Minneapolis, March

Invited Classroom Lectures

- 2026 University of Minnesota Twin Cities, African and African American Studies Department, AFRO 3745: Black Cultural Studies
- 2018 "Haunted Ground: Black Women's Contemporary Performance," University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Department of Anthropology, ANTH: History, Haunting, Memory (Graduate Seminar)

Keynotes

- 2024 "Living Legacies of Black Liberation," 80 Acres 2nd Annual Juneteenth Gala, Amherst, June.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & ROUNDTABLES

- 2025 Moderator and Panelist. "Seditious Acts: Collectivity and Resistance Within and Against the Violences." American Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico. November
- Paper: "Teaching with Tenderness in Harsh Times." National Women's Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico. November
- 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
- Paper: “Black Femme Bodies in Motion.” Winton Chair Committee Cornerstone Visitor Lecture Series Panel. February.
- 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.

SERVICE

School One!

2026 Write Rhode Island Youth Fiction Contest Juror

Rhode Island School of Design

2026 Department of Literary Arts and Studies
Faculty Search Committee

2025 Dorner Prize Juror, RISD Museum

2025 Social Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee Co-Chair

2024 Social Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee

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

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

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

Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars
Modern Language Association
American Studies Association
National Women's Studies Association

