Jessica Friedman

EDUCATION

2023	PhD, Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University Critical Theory Cluster Dissertation: "Hidden in Plain Sight: Women Choreographers of 1940s American Modern Dance" Committee: Dr. Susan Manning (chair), Dr. Nadine George-Graves, Dr. Ramón Rivera-Servera, Dr. Elizabeth Son
2021	MA, Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University
2017-2019	Graduate Coursework in the Joint PhD Program in Drama and Theatre, University of California, San Diego/University of California, Irvine
2017	BA, Ethnic and Racial Studies (specialization in Race in Performance), Columbia University in the City of New York, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Departmental Honors Significant Research: "Who is Alright in a Rhythm Nation?: Performance as a Vehicle for Decoloniality" selected for funding by Columbia University and awarded Outstanding Thesis Award, advised by Dr. Deborah Paredez, 2016-2017.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2025-	Lecturer, School of Music and Dance, San Diego State University
2024-	Lecturer, Department of Theatre and Dance, California State University, Fullerton
2023-2024	Lecturer, Department of Theater and Dance, University of California, Santa Barbara
2022-2025	Co-Curator and Digital Exhibit Curator, *Dance to Belong: A History of Dance at 92NY*, 92nd Street Y, New York

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

2026	American Council for Learned Societies, Project Development Grant *Research grant for significant research projects by contingent faculty*
2025	American Theatre and Drama Society Contingent Faculty Research and Travel Grant Award *Award for excellence in research in American theatre and drama*
2025	Association for Theatre in Higher Education, High Teaching Load Research Grant for Contingent Faculty

Research grant for contingent faculty with high teaching loads

2025 Performance Studies Focus Group, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Contingent Faculty Scholar Award
Award for research by contingent faculty

2025 Library of Congress Annegret Fauser and Tim Carter Fellowship
Competitively awarded fellowship for research and presentation of book project at the Library of Congress

2024 American Society for Theatre Research Cambridge University Press Prize Honorable Mention
Award for best plenary presentation at ASTR the previous year

2024 American Theatre and Drama Society Contingent Faculty Research and Travel Grant Award Runner Up
Award for excellence in research in American theatre and drama

2023 University of California, Santa Barbara, Non-Senate Faculty Professional Development Grant
Competitively awarded grant for integrating research into teaching and mentorship

2023 American Society for Theatre Research Jessica Berson Dance Research Assistance Fund Grant
International award for excellence in research in dance and theatre.

2023 American Society for Theatre Research David Keller Travel Grant Award.
International award for travel and theatre research support.

2022 American Society for Theatre Research Selma Jeanne Cohen Presentation Award.
International award for excellence in research at the intersection of dance and theatre.

2022 International Federation for Theatre Research New Scholar Award Runner Up
International award for excellence in performance scholarship among emerging scholars.

2022 Northwestern University Fellowship in Leadership
Competitively awarded fellowship

2021 PEO Scholar Award Regional Nominee
Competitively awarded regional nomination for PEO Scholar Award dissertation completion fellowship and financial support.

2021	Renate Voris Fellowship *Competitively awarded fellowship and financial support for excellence in doctoral research in the Arts and Humanities.*
2019	New York Public Library Short-Term Research Fellowship *Competitively awarded fellowship provides archival and financial support for dissertation research conducted at New York Public Library*.
2019	92nd Street YM-YWHA Archival Research Fellowship *Competitively awarded fellowship provides archival and financial support for dissertation research conducted at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA's archives.*
2018	Dance Studies Association Selma Jeanne Cohen Award *International award for excellence in dance scholarship among graduate students.*
2017-2019	University of California, San Diego, The San Diego Fellowship *Competitively awarded fellowship for graduate students.*

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Forthcoming monograph	*Modern Dance in Crisis: Women Remaking Modern Dance in the 1940s.* University of Michigan Press, Under Advance Contract.
Forthcoming 2027	Co-Edited with Telory Arendell. *Embodied Dramaturgy: Liminal Movements in Dance and Theatre*. Routledge, expected early 2027.
Forthcoming January 2027	Co-Edited with Carolina D Santo. *Designers & Crafters*. Vol. 3. Women's Innovations in Theater, Dance, and Performance. Bloomsbury, 2027.

Peer Review Journal Articles:

2024	"Recruiting Places: Pearl Primus's Plans for Global Activism through Community-Engaged Dance Theatre." *Theatre Survey* 65, no. 3: 208-26.
2022	"Universalizing the Specific: Janet Collins's Spirituals and Genesis." *Dance Chronicle* 45, no. 3: 187–206.

Commissioned Article:

2024	Co-Written with Elizabeth W. Son. "Teaching Public Humanities in Practice." In *Preparing Publicly Engaged Scholars: A Guide for Innovation in Graduate Education*. New York: American Council for Learned Societies, 2024.

Commissioned Book Chapters:

Forthcoming 2028	"Dancing and Writing Criticism: Sybil Shearer as Dance Critic." In Sybil Shearer Exhibition Catalog, edited by Susan Manning, Expected 2028.
Forthcoming 2027	"At the Arts Club: Merce Cunningham, Jean Erdman, and the Chicago Avant-Garde." In *Dancing on the Third Coast*, edited by Susan Manning and Lizzie Leopold. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, Expected 2027.
Forthcoming 2026	"Finding Meaning in Abstract Modern Dance: Jean Erdman's Embodied Dramaturgy." In *Embodied Dramaturgy: Liminal Movements in Dance and Theatre*, edited by Jessica Friedman and Telory Arendell. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire: Routledge, Expected 2026.
2023	"Dancing Sharecroppers: Jane Dudley's and Pearl Primus's Border Crossing Blues." In *Border Crossings: Exile and American Dance, 1900 - 1955*, edited by Ninotchka Bennahum and Rena Heinrich. New York: New York Public Library Press, 2023.

Public Scholarship and Book Reviews:

2025	Commissioned Book Review: Lynn Matluck Brooks, Sariel Golomb, and Garth Grimball's *Dance and Science in the Long Nineteenth Century: The Articulate Body*. *Dance Chronicle*, December, 1–3.
2024	Commissioned Book Review: Jacqueline Shea Murphy's *Dancing Indigenous Worlds: Choreographies of Relation*. *Great Plains Quarterly,* 44.1 (Winter 2024): 106-7.
2021	Book Review: Carrie Noland's *Merce Cunningham: After the Arbitrary*. *Dance Research Journal.* 53, no. 1 (April 2021): 79–81
2020	"Reconstructing 1940s Dances of Sophie Maslow and Pearl Primus from the Archives." *The New York Public Library* (blog). https://www.nypl.org/blog/2020/02/18/reconstructing-1940s-dances-sophie-maslow-and-pearl-primus-archives.

INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures:

2026	"Describing Dance: Writing Culture," *Writing about Art* annual panel, Center for the Study of Media and Performance, San Diego State University, October 2.
2024	"Embodied Dance History: Pedagogy, Praxis, and Performance," *DEL Dance to Belong: An Embodied Dance History of 92NY Workshop*, Dance Education Laboratory, 92nd Street Y, July 15.

2023 "Prospectus to Defense: Dissertation Completion Strategies," Theatre and Drama 205 Graduate Seminar: "Research Design and Prospectus Writing," Northwestern University, January 11.

2021 "Race, Cold War Aesthetics, and Modern Dance: The Neutralization of Janet Collins's Modern Dances, 1947-1949," Theater 255 Graduate Seminar: "Race, Immigration, and the Cold War Politics of Contemporary American Dance," University of California, Santa Barbara, March 1.

2021 "Moving and Sounding American: Sophie Maslow's Staging of Contradictions in *Folksay*," Dance 145g Upper Division Undergraduate Seminar: "Race, Immigration, and Contemporary American Dance," University of California, Santa Barbara, February 1.

2020 "Introduction to Dance Theatre: Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and Urban Bush Women." Theatre 140-1 Lower Division Undergraduate Course: "Theatre in Context," Northwestern University, September 21.

Conference Papers and Presentations:

2026 "Writing the Body into the Field: Introducing New Directions for Centering the Body in Dramaturgy" presenter and "Taking Stock: Dramaturgical Methods that Center the Body" working group co-convener, American Society for Theatre Research Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 12-15.

2026 "Speculative Futures for Modern Dance in the 1940s," Dance Studies Association Annual Conference, Long Beach, California, October 23-25.

2026 "Writing in Community," Association for Theatre in Higher Education Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, July 22-26.

2026 "Politics of Description," Symposium on Critical Dance Studies in Honor of Susan Manning's Retirement, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, May 22.

2025 "Dancing Alarm: Pearl Primus's and Eve Gentry's 1940s Anti-Lynching Dances," American Society for Theatre Research Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 6-9.

2025 "Performing War: How Militarized Performance Creates National Reality," Association for Theatre in Higher Education Annual Conference, virtual, July 28-August 1.

2025 "Dancing Women in the Face of State Power: Eve Gentry, Pearl Primus, and the USO," Dance Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., June 25-29.

2024 "Corporeal Interventions in World War II USO Performances: Eve Gentry and Pearl Primus, Dancing Women in the Face of Empire," presenter, and "Changing Ecologies of the Body: Critical Corporeality in Dance, Sport, and Embodied Practice," group co-convener, American Society for Theatre Research Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington, November 14-17.

2024 "Revisioning Queer Performance Histories: Sybil Shearer's Modern Dances during the Lavender Scare," Association for Theatre in Higher Education Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, August 1-4.

2024 "Publicly Engaged Scholars," invited session, ACLS Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, May 3-4.

2024 "Dancing Sharecroppers and the Borders of Leftism: Jane Dudley's and Pearl Primus's Border Crossing Blues," *Border Crossings* Symposium, Santa Barbara, California, January 26-27.

2023 "An Unrealized Hope: Pearl Primus's Border Crossing Dance Theatre Troupe" plenary presentation, American Society for Theatre Research Annual Conference, Providence, Rhode Island, November 9-12.

2023 "Making Pathways Meet: Promising Directions for Publicly Engaged Doctoral Training" roundtable, National Humanities Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 25-29.

2023 "Women and Theatre Program: An Oral History Project," interviewer, Women and Theatre Program Pre-Conference for Association for Theatre in Higher Education Annual Conference, August 2.

2022 "Dancing a Transcultural Activism: Janet Collins's Biblical Dances," National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 10-13.

2022 "Dancing and Concealing: Sybil Shearer's Modern Dance Response to the Lavender Scare," American Society for Theatre Research Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 3-6.

2022 "Universalizing the Specific: Janet Collins's Biblical Dances," Dance Studies Association Annual Conference, Vancouver, Canada, October 13-16.

2022 "Modern Dance for Transnational Social Change: Global Echoes in Jane Dudley's and Pearl Primus's Danced Activism," Theatre and Social Change Focus Group Debut Panel, Association for Theatre in Higher Education Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, July 28-31.

2022 "Modern Dance, Race, and the Unfinished History of Cold War Aesthetics: Janet Collins's Modern Dances, 1947-1949," Association for Theatre in Higher Education Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, July 28-31.

2022	"Dancing Sharecroppers: Jane Dudley's and Pearl Primus's Border Crossing Blues," International Federation for Theatre Research World Congress, Reykjavík, Iceland, June 20-24.
2022	"Choreographing Blackness, Jewishness, and Questions of Universality: Janet Collins's Biblical Modern Dances," Conney Conference on Jewish Arts, Madison, Wisconsin, March 27-30.
2021	"Local Histories, Urban Geographies" Gathering, Dance Studies Association Annual Conference, New Brunswick, New Jersey, October 14-17.
2021	"Recovering the Work of Female Choreographers and Rewriting the Shift from Theatricalism to Formalism in Mid-Century Modern Dance," Association for Theatre in Higher Education Annual Conference, Virtual, August 5-8.
2019	"Building a Space for One's Body in an American Cultural and Economic Commons," American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawai'i, November 7-10.
2019	"Dancing a Demand for Space: The Interventions of Sophie Maslow and Pearl Primus in the American Cultural and Economic Commons," Dance Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, August 8-11.
2019	"Dancing a Demand for Space: The Interventions of Sophie Maslow and Pearl Primus in the American Cultural and Economic Commons at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA," 92Y Fellow Presentation, *Conney Conference on Jewish Arts,* New York, New York, March 31-April 3.
2018	"Dancing a Decolonizing Technique," invited presenter, Frantz Fanon Foundation Rencontres, New Brunswick, New Jersey, November 17-18.
2018	"Josephine Baker's Decolonial Corporeal Borderland," Dance Studies Association Annual Conference, Valletta, Malta, July 5-8.
2018	"Witnessing in Pearl Primus's Strange Fruit," Biennial International Dance Conference, Barbados, West Indies, May 23-26.
2018	"Josephine Baker's Decolonial Mimesis," InMotion: Performance and Unsettling Borders Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April 27-29.

TEACHING

San Diego State University:

2025-2027	Dance 181: "Introduction to Dance"
2025-2027	Dance 481W: "Performance Writing: Dance Analysis and Criticism"

2025-2027 Dance 380: “Dance History: Contemporary Global Contexts”

California State University, Fullerton:

2025-2027 Theatre 200: “Script Analysis”

2024-2025 Theatre 275: “World Theatre History”

University of California, Santa Barbara:

2023-2024 Dance 45: “Dance History and Appreciation”

Northwestern University:

2022 Instructor of Record, Dance 101-2: “Introduction to Dance Experience-Dance in Context: Decolonizing Dance Canons”

2022 Instructor of Record, Theatre 140-2: “Introduction to Theatre Research and Analysis: Adaptations”

2020 Teaching Assistant, Theatre 140-1: “Theatre in Context”

University of California, San Diego:

2018 Teaching Assistant, Theatre History and Theory 23: “Twentieth Century Drama”

2018 Teaching Assistant, Theatre History and Theory 22: “Theatre 1500-1900”

2017 Teaching Assistant, Theatre History and Theory 21: “Ancient and Medieval Theatre”

PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2026- Dance Studies Association, Nominations Committee, Nominated Position

2026 San Diego State University, Dance Program, Reviewer of undergraduate senior capstone projects in process

2026 San Diego Civic Dance Association Scholarship Committee, Appointed Member

2026 San Diego State University, S_3 Student Symposium, Judge

2025- American Theatre and Drama Society Contingent Faculty Research/Travel Award committee, Nominated Position

2025- Women and Theatre Program+: Allied Feminist Coalition, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Vice-President and Pre-Conference Planner, Elected Position

2025	San Diego State University, Professional Studies and Fine Arts (PSFA) Academic Resource Center Faculty Community of Practice, Invited Member
2025	Histories of Dance Working Group, Symposium Planning Committee, Appointed Member
2025-	Women and Theatre Program+: Allied Feminist Coalition, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Mentor for Debut Panel, Appointed Position
2025-	American Society for Theatre Research, Jessica Berson Dance Research Assistance Fund Grant, Award Selection Committee, Appointed Member
2025-	*Theatre Survey*, Peer Reviewer
2024-	First Book Writing Group in Theatre, Dance, and Performance, Convener
2024-	Women and Theatre Program+: Allied Feminist Coalition, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Reader for Student Jane Chambers Feminist Playwriting Award, Appointed Position
2023-2025	Women and Theatre Program+: Allied Feminist Coalition, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Co-Conference Planner, Elected Position
2023-2024	Carol M. Press & Nicholas Tingle Award for Promising Dance Scholar Selection Committee, Appointed Member, University of California, Santa Barbara
2022-2024	Chicago Dance Studies Working Group, Steering Committee, Appointed Member
2022-2023	Mary Poole Undergraduate Theatre Essay Award Committee, Appointed Member, Northwestern University
2022	New Works Lecture by Dr. María Regina Firmino-Castillo (Assistant Professor at University of California, Riverside), Appointed Moderator, Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University
2021	Research Assistant for Dance Studies Association under supervision of DSA President, Dr. Melissa Blanco Borelli
2020	Decolonizing the Classroom Student Working Group, Member, Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University
2020	Splash at Northwestern, Appointed Moderator, Northwestern University *Program to provide a university experience for students from low-income high schools in Chicago.*
2019	Conference Volunteer, *Dancing in Common* Dance Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, August 8-11.

2017-2019	Theatre and Dance Department Graduate Student Association Representative, University of California, San Diego

EDITORIAL, RESEARCH ASSISTANT, AND DRAMATURGY EXPERIENCE

2022-2023	Tenure Dossier Assistant for Professor Shoshana Ela Cooper, Northwestern University
2022	Research Assistant for Dr. Nina Spiegel, Portland State University
2021	Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama Graduate Assistant for Dr. Elizabeth Son, Northwestern University
2020-2023	Research Assistant for Dr. Susan Manning, Dr. Melissa Blanco Borelli, Dr. Elizabeth W. Son, and Dr. Masi Asare, Northwestern University
2018	Graduate Student Researcher for Dr. Nadine George-Graves, University of California, San Diego
2017-2018	*TheatreForum,* an international journal of theatre and dance, Editorial Staff
2017-2018	Native Film and Storytelling Institute, Dramaturg and Mentor, University of California, San Diego

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024	American Theatre and Drama Society Publication Development Forum *Competitively selected forum to workshop book proposal*
2021-2022	Searle Teaching Certificate Program, Northwestern University
2019	The Newberry Library and The Andrew Mellon Foundation "The Archive: Form, Theory, Practice," Chicago, Illinois, October-December 2019. *Competitively awarded Mellon-funded seminar for doctoral students that instructs and supports in archival research and processing.*

SELECTED DANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

2011-	Instructor, Dramaturg, and Choreographer in ballet, pointe, repertoire, dance theatre, composition, and conditioning in community and pre-professional dance instruction settings
2014-2017	Leaping Leaders, Manassas, Virginia, Founder and Choreographer
2013-2014	First State Ballet Theatre, Wilmington, Delaware, Dancer
2013	Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance, Asheville, North Carolina, Dancer
2012-2013	North Carolina Dance Theatre, Charlotte, North Carolina, Trainee Dancer and Choreographer
2010-2013	Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Dancer and Instructor

2010	Dance Theatre of Harlem Pre-Professional Residency, Washington, D.C., Dancer

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2024-present	Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas
2021-present	National Women's Studies Association
2021-present	International Federation for Theatre Research
2021-present	American Society for Theatre Research
2019-present	Association for Theatre in Higher Education
2018-present	American Studies Association
2017-present	Dance Studies Association