

Elizabeth M. Melton

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Education

Ph.D. in Communication, May 2020

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research, August 2016

Dissertation: Stages of (de)Segregation: Performing Stories of Public School
Desegregation in Longview, Texas

Committee: Renée Alexander Craft (Chair), Dana Thompson Dorsey, Patricia Parker,
Tony Perucci, Della Pollock

M.A. in Performance Studies, May 2013

Texas A&M University; College Station, Texas

Thesis: World-Class Entertainment: Producing Cosmopolitan Cultural Capital

Committee: Judith Hamera (Chair), Antonio La Pastina, Kirsten Pullen

B.A. in English & B.A. in Theater Arts, May 2010

Texas A&M University; College Station, Texas

Honors Thesis: The Color Lavender: Audience Reception, Adaptation, and Performance
of *The Color Purple*

Postdoctoral Experience

Leading Edge Fellow, September 2021- current

American Council of Learned Societies

Fellowship Purpose: Place recent humanities PhDs with nonprofit organizations
committed to promoting social justice in their communities.

Host Organization: Institute for Diversity and Civic Life; Austin, TX

Fellowship Project: Curating the Religions Texas Oral History Archive

Publications

Forthcoming

Melton, Elizabeth M. "Spectacular Sweethearts: Rethinking Theatricality through Femininity and
Racial Diversity on the Bandstand." *Text and Performance Quarterly*.

Publications cont.

Article

Melton, Elizabeth M. "Hometown Ethnography: Race, Place, and Reflexivity." *The Oral History Review* 46:2, (2019): 300-323. DOI: [10.1093/ohr/ohz022](https://doi.org/10.1093/ohr/ohz022).

Book Chapter

Melton, Elizabeth M. "Everything is Bigger in Texas: Camp and the Queerly Normal in *Greater Tuna*." *Sontag and the Camp Aesthetic: Advancing New Perspectives*. Edited by Bruce Drushel and Brian Peters, 135-152. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2017.

Book Reviews

Melton, Elizabeth M. "Performing heritage: Research, Practice and Innovation in Museum Theatre and Live Interpretation." Book Review. *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*. 27.2 (2013): 192-194.

Melton, Elizabeth M. "Aloha America: Hula Circuits Through the U.S. Empire." Book Review. *The Drama Review*. 58.3 (2014): 187-188.

Blog Post

Melton, Elizabeth M. "Challenges of conducting a hometown oral history performance." Oral History Association Blog. Oxford University Press blog.

University Work Experience

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, August 2013 – July 2020

Teaching Assistant

Department of Dramatic Arts, Spring 2018

Department of Communication, Fall 2013-Summer 2020

Department of Music, Fall 2014 & Spring 2015

Courses Taught

Introduction to Performance Studies

(Summer 2014, 2015, & 2016; Fall 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019)

Popular Music

(Fall 2015 & 2018; Spring 2019)

Performance and Culture

(Spring 2015 & 2017)

Perspectives in Theatre – Large Lecture

(Spring 2018)

Public Speaking

(Spring 2020)

University Work Experience cont.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Teaching Assistant

Department of Dramatic Arts, Spring 2018

Department of Communication, Fall 2013-Summer 2020

Department of Music, Fall 2014 & Spring 2015

Online Courses Taught

Popular Music

(Summer 2018, 2019, 2020)

Interpersonal Communication

(Spring 2020)

Courses Redesigned

Large Course Redesign Grant – Center for Faculty Excellence at UNC-CH

Introduction to Performance Studies (2015-2016)

Role: Graduate Student Researcher and Teaching Assistant

Texas A&M University, August 2011- May 2013

Graduate Assistant

Department of Performance Studies, Fall 2011- Fall 2012

Scene Studio Assistant, Production Manager

Graduate Assistant cont.

Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts, Fall 2012-Spring 2013

Master Class & Guest Artist Coordinator

Selected Performance Experience

The Utopia Machine (devised project)

Spring 2018

Performer: UNC Chapel Hill

Greater Tuna

Fall 2017

Director: Kilgore Junior College

Kilgore, Texas

Unpacking Longview

Fall 2017

Playwright and Solo Performer: Longview High School

Longview, Texas

Unpacking Longview Workshop

Fall 2016

Playwright and Solo Performer: UNC Chapel Hill

“In An Interrogative Mood” (devised project)

Spring 2016

Performer: UNC Chapel Hill

Selected Performance Experience cont.

Texas Shakespeare Festival

Summer 2012

Festival Dramaturg: Kilgore, TX

The Merry Wives of Windsor

The Liar

Measure for Measure

Blood Brothers

Texas Shakespeare Festival

Summer 2011

Festival Dramaturg: Kilgore, TX

The Taming of the Shrew

The Beaux' Stratagem

Hamlet

Ernest in Love

Conference Presentations

“Unpacking the Race Talk” and performances by Sonny Kelly and Elizabeth M. Melton. Virtual Presentation hosted by the Communication Studies Department at UNC Greensboro and the NCA Center for Communication, Community Collaboration, and Change. February 11, 2021. Recording available at <https://cst.uncg.edu/unpacking-the-race-talk/>.

“Critical Performance Ethnography at Home” presented by Elizabeth M. Melton as part of Autoethnographic Engagements: Surviving with/in Scholarship panel. National Communication Association. Baltimore, MD. November 17, 2019.

“Autobiography, Anti-Racism, and Performance as Scholarly Praxis” presented by Elizabeth M. Melton. Americans Society for Theatre Research. Private Lives in Public Spaces Working Group. Arlington, VA. November 8, 2019.

“Unpacking the Race Talk” presented by Sonny Kelly and Elizabeth M. Melton. Free Speech Conference: Finding Expression in Contested Public Spaces. UNC Greensboro. October 25 2019.

“Performatively Unpacking the Race Talk” presented by Sonny Kelly and Elizabeth M. Melton. Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration. Durham, NC. September 9, 2019.

“Creating Anti-Racist Performance” presented by Sonny Kelly and Elizabeth M. Melton. Let’s Talk Racism Conference. Durham, NC. March 23, 2019.

“Gendering in the Field: A Performance and Roundtable Discussion on Fieldwork and Bodies.” Discussants: Amanda Black, Nicole Castro, Sarah Evans, Elizabeth Melton. Feminist Geography Conference. Chapel Hill, North Carolina. 15 May 2017.

“Oral History/Hometown History: Performing Stories of Desegregation in My East Texas Hometown” presented by Elizabeth M. Melton. Oral History Association. Long Beach, California. 16 October 2016.

“Celtic Cosmopolitanism: Embracing Diversity in *Riverdance*” presented by Elizabeth M. Melton. Performance Studies Division. Southern States Communication Association. Austin, Texas. 9 April 2016.

Conference Presentations cont.

- “Spectacular Sweethearts: Rethinking Theatricality through Femininity and Racial Diversity on the Bandstand” presented by Elizabeth M. Melton. Performance Studies Division. Southern States Communication Association. Top Performance Studies Student Paper. Tampa, Florida. 9 April 2015.
- “The Arts Midwest Conference and Corporate Arts Performances” presented by Elizabeth M. Melton. Americans Society for Theatre Research. Corporate Tools Working Group. Dallas, Texas. 7 November 2013.
- “APAP/NYC: An Ethnographer’s Journey Through the Largest Performing Arts Marketplace” presented by Elizabeth M. Melton. Southern States Communication Association. Ethnography Group Top Student Paper. Louisville, Kentucky. 12 April 2013.

Service

UNC Chapel Hill

- The Hurston Collective for Critical Performance Ethnography
Founding Member & Co-President 2015-2019
- “Feminisms Here and Now: An Interdisciplinary Conversation” Conference
Organizing Committee Member 2014-2015
- Department of Communication Graduate Student Association
President 2015-2016
Secretary 2014-2015
Schwab Series Coordinator 2013-2014

Chapel Hill, NC

- Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church, PCUSA
Chancel Choir 2015-2020
Worship Committee 2019-2020
Liturgical Arts Coordinator 2018-2020

Texas A&M University

- University Statue and Sculpture Policy Committee 2013
Liberal Arts Dean’s Council 2012-2013
Graduate Student Council Representative 2012-2013

Grants and Fellowships

- American Council of Learned Societies Leading Edge Fellowship 2021
- Off-Campus Dissertation Research Fellowship 2017
UNC Chapel Hill
- Humanities Texas Mini-Grant for Post- Show Community Discussion* 2017
Longview, Texas

Grants and Fellowships cont.

Thelma Zaytoun Summer Research Fellowship UNC Chapel Hill	2017
Performing Arts Special Activities Fund UNC Chapel Hill	2016
Arts @ the Core – New Work Support Carolina Performing Arts, UNC Chapel Hill	2016
Carolina Center for Public Service Community Engagement Fellowship UNC Chapel Hill	2016
Graduate Certificate for Participatory Research Seed Grant UNC Chapel Hill	2015
College of Liberal Arts Vision 2020 Thesis Improvement Award Texas A&M University	2012

Honors and Awards

Outstanding Achievement in Service and Leadership Award UNC Chapel Hill Department of Communication	2016
Special Initiative Award – Graduate Student Group presented to Feminisms Here and Now Conference Committee UNC Chapel Hill Department of Communication	2016
Performance Studies Group Top Student Paper Award Southern States Communication Association	2015
Special Initiative Award UNC Chapel Hill Department of Communication	2014
Ethnography Group Top Student Paper Award Southern States Communication Association	2013
Phi Beta Kappa, Texas A&M University	2010

Administrative Arts Experience

Emil Kang's Teaching Assistant, Carolina Performing Arts UNC; Chapel Hill, NC	2014-2015
Master Class & Guest Artist Coordinator for the AVPA (Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts) Texas A&M; College Station, TX	2012-2013
Administrative Intern, ArtsView Children's Theater Longview, TX	2010-2011
Ticket Office Intern , Texas Shakespeare Festival Kilgore, TX	2010
Intern, The Mill Theater Dublin, Ireland	2009
MSC OPAS (Memorial Student Center Opera and Performing Arts Society) Texas A&M; College Station, TX	
Student Chair & Vice President of MSC OPAS Board of Directors	2009-2010
Program Advisory Committee	2008-2010

Guest Artist Workshops Attended

- Johanna Freiburg & Simon Will "Gob Squad Arts Collective." Current Artspace + Studio, Carolina Performing Arts, Chapel Hill, 20-21 February 2018.
- Mary Overlie "The Viewpoints." University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 8-10 February 2017.
- Barbara Santos "Theatre of the Oppressed." University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 3-4 December 2016.
- Paula Donnelly and Peter Howard "Cornerstone Theatre Workshop" Devised Activist Performance. Texas A&M University, 9 March 2012.
- Alvaro and Michelle Rios "Aggie Tales" Devised Activist Performance. Texas A&M University, 26 Sep 2011 - 1 Oct 2011.