H. Performance Studies Scholar

The Performance Studies Scholar engages in a paradigm-driven discipline, studying nearly any event, site, or text as performance regardless of whether there is general agreement to classify it as such. Performance studies considers a range of human behaviors that are not ordinarily considered theatre including, but not limited to: performance art, ritual, sport, fashion, politics, popular culture, and everyday life performances of the kind that cultural anthropologists or qualitative sociologists might study. Performance Studies Scholars draw upon many other fields as part of their methodology including Theatre History; Ethnography; Art History; Film Studies; Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies; Ethnic Studies, Critical Studies and many others. The Performance Studies Scholar may be employed in many departments including, but not limited to, the ones listed above.

Performance Studies scholars may be evaluated on the publication of books or articles or for creative activities such as performances films or installations.

When evaluating documentation in a tenure dossier, external reviewers, administrators, and the tenure and promotion committee may ask themselves whether the candidate’s tenure portfolio demonstrates the ability to teach and use their practice to explore:

Production Expertise

- Expert skill in storytelling and narrative structures, as well as an ability to access the imagination in order to develop and interpret diverse characters. Complex historical and contemporary research in the area of performance practices and rituals
- Complex historical and contemporary research in the area of performance
- Ability to effectively communicate with theatre practitioners, members of the scholarly community, and the general public
- Knowledge of ethical practices for making work “about, for and with” diverse publics and communities
- In-depth understanding of equitable practices in the theatre through a display of cultural competency and the techniques necessary (consent based and trauma-informed practices) for honoring the personal and professional boundaries of collaborators
- Training in Mental Health First Aid, Bystander Intervention, Anti-Racism, LGBTQ+ support, and DEIJE work

Historical Context

- Extensive knowledge and understanding of performance contexts across geographical periods and time
- Knowledge of the political and socio-cultural role that performance holds historically and in the contemporary moment
- Knowledge and understanding of the theories and cultural contexts that have shaped performance throughout history and in the contemporary moment
- Knowledge of cognate fields related to the Performance Studies Scholar’s approach to research including, but not limited to Ethnography; Art History; Film Studies; Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies; Ethnic Studies
Collaborative Skills

- Ability to effectively work and collaborate with various artists and technicians, many of whom may be unskilled students with various levels of expertise, in a variety of professional and academic settings
- Experience in working within the creative process, exhibiting promptness, preparedness, flexibility, and a responsible attitude toward the creative work
- Understanding of curatorial practices as they relate to creating gallery displays or performance installations
- Understanding of the requirements for staging performance in community venues
- An understanding of how DEIJ is considered when selecting research projects for students
- An understanding of how DEIJ informs the recruitment of students, in cases where that is part of the candidate’s labor.
- An understanding of how DEIJ issues impact their life at the university and an ability to think about their own implicit biases