

Dr. Selena Couture – Faculty of Arts – University of Alberta



Research focuses on Canadian Indigenous Theatre, Performance and Decolonizing practices; Land, Place Names and Performance; Indigenous Language Revitalization Practices; Colonial Performance and the Construction of Whiteness; Archival Practices, the Repertoire and Historiographic Method

PRIMARY TEACHING AREAS:

Theoretical Approaches to Theatre and Performance; Canadian Theatre; Canadian Indigenous Performance; Modern Theatre and Empire; Theatre and Performance Historiography; Performance Studies Research Methodologies and Decolonization

EDUCATION:

PhD, Theatre, University of British Columbia. Vancouver, BC

Dissertation: “ $\chi^w a \dot{y} \chi^w \dot{o} \dot{y}$ and Stanley Park: Performing History and Land.”
Grounded at a Coast Salish village site this research demonstrates how theatrical, cultural and tourist performances are used for cultural continuation and historiography. Ways of thinking embedded in the $h\acute{o}n\grave{q}m\acute{i}n\acute{h}\acute{m}$ language and place names give access to Indigenous histories obscured by the colonial archive.

MA, Theatre, University of British Columbia. Vancouver BC

Thesis: “Margo Kane’s Creative and Community Work: Moving Towards Social Change.”

An investigation of the significance of Margo Kane’s (Cree/Saulteaux) work as a performer, administrator and senior artist mentor in Canadian Indigenous theatre.

Bachelor of Education, Intermediate/Senior Div., Queen’s University. Kingston, Ontario.

BA (Honours) English and Drama, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS:

Assistant Professor, Department of Drama, University of Alberta. 2016.

Sessional Instructor. UBC Department of Theatre and Film, 2015-16.

English and Drama Teacher. Windsor House Alternate Program. North Vancouver School District. 1996-2011.

PUBLICATIONS

Authored

- 2015 “Theatrical Activism in Vancouver: From the Native Brotherhood to Marie Clements’s *The Road Forward...and back.*” *Canadian Theatre Review* 164 Spec. Iss. “Vancouver After 2010” (2015): 44-50.
- 2014 “Indigenous Interventions at Klahowya Village, ḡʷayḡʷəy Vancouver/unceded Coast Salish Territory.” *Recasting Commodity and Spectacle in the Indigenous Americas*. Ed. Helen Gilbert and Charlotte Gleghorn. London, UK: Institute for the Study of the Americas, School of Advanced Study, University of London. 2014. 232-53. **Chapter in an Edited Book.**
- 2014 “Performativity of Time, Movement and Voice in Idle No More: *The Winter We Danced: Voices from the past, the future and the Idle No More movement.*” *Performance Research: A Journal of the Performing Arts* 19.6 (2014). 118-20.
- 2013 “Siddons’s Ghost: Celebrity and Gender in Sheridan’s *Pizarro.*” *Theatre Journal* 65.2 (2013): 183-96. **Refereed Journal.**
- 2011 “Dispatch: ‘Ali and Ali 7: Hey Brother (or Sister) Can You Spare Some Hope and Change?’ at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre.” *alt.theatre: Cultural Diversity and the Stage* 8.3 (2011): 34.
- 2011 “Frames of Mind: ‘Beyond Eden’ and ‘The Edward Curtis Project.’” *alt.theatre: Cultural Diversity and the Stage* 8.2 (2011): 10-17.
- 2010 “Windsor House School: Systems, Procedures and Curriculum that Support a Democratic Educational Philosophy.” *Alternatif Egitim* 1 (2010): 56-9. Turkish Alternative Education Assoc. Istanbul, Turkey.

2009 “Women’s Autobiographical Theatre as Affirmation, Preservation and Intercultural Communications.” *Canadian Theatre Review* 139 Spec. Iss. Performing Interculturalism (2009): 36-42.

Edited

Forthcoming *Sheridan’s Pizarro: A New Classroom Edition*. Co-editing with Alexander Dick. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press. [2017]

Forthcoming *Canadian Theatre Review* 174, special issue “Commemoration.” Co-editing with Heather Davis-Fisch. [2018]

2013 *Stay Solid! A Radical Handbook for Youth*. Ed. Matt Hern and the Purple Thistle Collective. Oakland, CA: AK Press. Editorial collective member.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

“Towards Responsible Methodologies of Guestness and Self-Unsettlement.” Decolonizing Theatre and Performance Studies Seminar: Indigenization, Settler Methodologies, and Intergenerational Responsibility, Canadian Association for Theatre Research Conference / Colloque de l’Association Canadienne de la Recherche Théâtrale, University of Calgary. Calgary, Alberta. 28-31 May 2016.

“The Premiere of ‘Lord Stanley Dedicates the Park,’ Directed and Written by Major J.S. Matthews.” Performance Historiographies Seminar. Canadian Association for Theatre Research Conference / Colloque de l’Association Canadienne de la Recherche Théâtrale, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. 29 May-2 June 2015.

“A History of Performative Activism in Vancouver: From the Native Brotherhood to Marie Clements’ *The Road Forward*.” Art and Activism Panel. Life and Death of the Arts in Cities After Megaevents Conference. Co-organized by Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia and University of London. Vancouver, BC. 13-16 August 2014.

“Performance and Place~Naming” with the Performance and the Geographies of Knowledge Production Work Group. Encuentro: Manifest!: Choreographing Social Movements in the Americas, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics. Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec. 21-28 June 2014.

“Iterations of Marie Clements’s ‘The Road Forward.’” In the Balance: Indigeneity, Performance, Globalization Conference. Royal Holloway College, University of London, UK. 24-27 October 2013

“Cloudy with a Chance of Contention: The Native Brotherhood of BC and Vancouver’s 1946 Diamond Jubilee.”

Counter-Plays: Performing Local Histories in the Shadow of Touristic Economies Panel, Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, Orlando, Florida. 1-4 August 2013.

“Colonial and Indigenous Histories during Vancouver’s 1946 Diamond Jubilee: Who Speaks for Whom?”

The Ethical Challenges of Performance History Seminar. Canadian Association for Theatre Research Conference / Colloque de l’Association Canadienne de la Recherche Théâtrale, Victoria, BC. 1-4 June 2013.

“Contention through Performance at Klahowya Village, Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC/χ^wayχ^wəy, Unceded Coast Salish Territory.”

Recasting Commodity and Spectacle in the Indigenous Americas Symposium. Royal Holloway College, University of London, UK. 22-23 November 2012.

AWARDS

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship (2016); Killam Pre-doctoral Fellowship (2013-2015); Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship (2013-2015); University of British Columbia Four-Year Fellowship (2012-2015); Elsie and Audrey Jang Scholarship in Cultural Diversity and Harmony (2012); University of British Columbia Faculty of Arts Graduate Award (2011); Dorothy Somerset Memorial Scholarship in Theatre (2011); Errol Durbach Graduate Scholarship in Theatre (2011);