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MARIA DE SIMONE

Specialties: Theatre Historiography – Race & Migration – Comedy Studies

Languages: Italian (native), English (near-native), Spanish (proficient), French (intermediate)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Massachusetts Institute of Technology , Cambridge, MA	2024–2025
Lecturer, Department of Music and Theater Arts	
Harvard University , Cambridge, MA	Spring 2024
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English	
Massachusetts Institute of Technology , Cambridge, MA	2022–2024
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Music and Theater Arts “Scholarship Across Boundaries” Initiative	
Brown University , Providence, RI	2021–2022
Visiting Assistant Professor, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women	
Tufts University , Boston, MA	2021–2022
Lecturer, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (adjunct)	
Emerson College , Boston, MA	2021–2022
Affiliated Faculty, Department of Performing Arts (adjunct)	

EDUCATION

Northwestern University , Evanston, IL	
Ph.D., Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama (IPTD)	2021
<u>Dissertation:</u> “Embodying Race, Performing Citizenship: Racial Impersonation and Immigrant Identity in American Popular Entertainment, 1870–1920”	
<u>Committee:</u> Tracy C. Davis (Chair), Susan Manning, Harvey Young, Elizabeth W. Son	
Teaching Certificate, Searle Center for Advanced Learning and Teaching	2020
Graduate Certificate, Gender and Sexuality Studies	2019
MA, Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama (IPTD)	2017

Link Campus University of Malta in Rome, Rome, Italy

MA, Theatre Production and Management **2012**

Univeristà Ca' Foscari, Venice, Italy

MA, American Literature and Culture **2010**

BA, *summa*, English and Spanish Languages and Literatures **2008**

PUBLICATIONS

Single Author, Monograph

Hyphen-Nation: Racial Impersonation and the Performance of Hyphenated Americanness
(University of Iowa Press)

Under Contract

Single Author, Peer-reviewed Journals

- “Chinese American Identity, Performance, and Immigration Law: Jue Quon Tai in Theaters and at National Borders,” *Theatre Journal* **March 2024**

AWARDS:

- Vera Mowry Roberts Award for Research and Publication, American Theatre & Drama Society
- Early Career Researcher Prize, Theatre & Performance Research Association
- “Sophie Tucker, Racial Hybridity and Interracial Relations in American Vaudeville,” *Theatre Research International* **July 2019**

Journal Editor, with Katelyn Hale Wood, Matthew McMahan, and Grace Kessler Overbeke

“Comedy & Embodiment,” *Theatre Topics*, Special Issue **July 2024**

Book Associate Editor, with Dasia N. Posner and Kevin Bartig

Three Loves for Three Oranges: Gozzi, Meyerhold, Prokofiev (Indiana University Press) **2021**

AWARDS:

- Translation Prize, American Society for Theatre Research
- Runner-up, Excellence in Editing Award, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
- Runner-up, Edited Collection Prize, Theatre and Performance Research Association

Chapters in Edited Collections

- In *Women’s Innovations in Theatre, Dance, and Performance*, Bloomsbury **2026**
“Theatrical Brokering and Management as Community Activism: The Griffin Sisters”
- In *Researching Popular Entertainment*, Routledge **2024**
“Alternative Archives in Popular Entertainment Research: The Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files”

- In *Three Loves for Three Oranges: Gozzi, Meyerhold, Prokofiev*, Indiana University Press 2021
 - “*The Love of Three Oranges: A Multi-layered Manifesto*”
 - “Introduction: Three Theatrical Oranges” (co-authored)

Translations (from Italian into English)

- Included in *Three Loves for Three Oranges: Gozzi, Meyerhold, Prokofiev* 2021
- *Reflective Analysis of the Fairy Tale: The Love of Three Oranges*, play by Carlo Gozzi
 - “*The Love of Three Oranges*, a Theatrical Provocation,” essay by Alberto Beniscelli
 - “Carlo Gozzi in Doctor Dapertutto’s Journal,” essay by Raissa Raskina
 - “Notes on the First Sacchi Company,” essay by Giulietta Bazoli

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

America Theatre & Drama Society	2025
Vera Mowry Roberts Award for Research and Publication	
Theatre & Performance Research Association	2025
Early Career Researcher Prize	
American Society for Theatre Research	2023
Co-sponsored Events Award for “Comedy & Embodiment” Symposium at MIT	
De Florez Fund for Humor , Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2023
Grant for “Comedy & Embodiment” Symposium at MIT (\$17,500)	
Harry Ransom Center , The University of Texas at Austin	2023–2024
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (\$ 7,000)	
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	2022–2024
Postdoctoral Fellowship, “Scholarship Across Boundaries” Initiative	
Society of Fellows , University of Southern California	2022
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Alternate	
Pembroke Center for Research and Teaching on Women , Brown University	2021
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Alternate	
Office of Fellowships , Northwestern University	2019–2020
Graduate Assistantship Position	
International and Area Studies Program , Northwestern University	2019
Graduate Mentorship Award (\$3,000)	

School of Communication , Northwestern University. Dissertation Research Grant (\$2,000)	2018
The Graduate School , Northwestern University Dissertation Research Grant (\$3,000)	2018
Social Science Research Council Dissertation Research Grant (\$5,000)	2017
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Gender and Sexuality Cluster Fellowship at Northwestern University (\$2,500)	2015

* Conference Grants awarded by The Buffett Institute for Global Studies (2018 and 2019), The Sexuality Project (2018), and The Graduate School at Northwestern University (2018)

TEACHING

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Music and Theater Arts

- “Contemporary U.S. Political Theatre” **Fall & Spring 2024**
Course exploring the role of theatre in political discourse, particularly debates on native sovereignty, reproductive rights, immigration law, gun violence, and environmental racism.
- “U.S. Black Theatre” **Fall & Spring 2024**
Dramatic literature course focused on Black U.S. playwrights from the past ten years.

Harvard University, Department of English

- “Bold Bodies: Race in Feminist and Queer Performance” **Spring 2024**
Feminist and queer theory course applied to BIPOC performance practice and criticism.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Music and Theater Arts

- “Script Analysis” **Fall 2023**
Course oriented toward writing critical play analyses and mounting coherent productions.
- “Contemporary American Theatre: The Immigrant Experience” **Spring 2023**
Course emphasizing how theatre illuminates cultural perspectives on the immigrant experience in the U.S.

Brown University, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women

- “Feminist and Queer Performance across Media” **Spring 2022**
Feminist and queer theory course applied to BIPOC performance practice and criticism.

Tufts University, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

- “Queering Feminisms” **Spring 2022**
Introduction to feminist and queer studies.

- “Doing Feminist Research” **Fall 2021**
Methods in feminist research (fulfilling Minor’s and Major’s thesis requirement)

Emerson College, Department of Performing Arts

- “Minoritarian Theatre and Performance” **Spring 2022**
Graduate course discussing social justice activism through theatre and performance practices.
- “Stages of Drama” **Fall 2021**
Global theatre history course; play/script analysis fundamentals.

Northwestern University, Department of Theatre

- “Minoritarian Feminist Performance” **Spring 2021**
Feminist theory applied to minoritarian performance practices and criticism.
- “Theatre and Revolution” **Fall 2020**
U.S. theatre history course highlighting examples of theatre for social change.
- “Dancing Race” **Winter 2018**
U.S. dance history course; dance/performance analysis fundamentals.

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATION

American Society for Theatre Research, Denver, CO **November 2025**
Working Group Convener, “Generative Sequences as Historiographies”

American Society for Theatre Research, Seattle, WA **November 2024**
Comedy Studies Working Group Convener, “Comedy of Compost”

American Society for Theatre Research, Providence, RI **November 2023**
Comedy Studies Working Group Convener, “Humor Springs Eternal”

“Comedy & Embodiment” Symposium, Cambridge, MA **September 2023**
Department of Music and Theater Arts, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
A two-day event comprising an in-person writing workshop with twelve invited comedy scholars, a hybrid-mode roundtable discussion on new directions for comedy studies, the performance of stand-up comedian Negin Farsad, and a masterclass in bouffon-style clowning by Nathaniel Justiniano.

Co-organized with: Katelyn Hale Wood, Matthew McMahan, and Grace Kessler Overbeke

American Studies Association, New Orleans, LA **November 2022**
Conference Panel Organizer, “Performing Belonging and Displacement: Histories of Nationalism, Transnationalism, and Cosmopolitanism in U.S. Theatrical Cultures”

American Society for Theatre Research, New Orleans, LA **November 2022**
Comedy Studies Working Group Convener, “It’s Funny Because It’s Tragic”

“Color Crossings: Race, Affect, Aesthetics” Symposium, Providence, RI **April 2022**
Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, Brown University
A two-day event considering color’s, linguistic, philosophical, historical, perceptual, and practical resonances at the crossroads of performance, critical race theory, and color theory.
Invited speakers: Kareem Khubchandani (keynote, Tufts University), Vanatta Ford (Williams College), Tao Leigh Goffe (Columbia University), Tina Post (University of Chicago), and Anna Storti (Duke University).

Alumni Symposium Organizer, Evanston, IL **Fall 2018**
Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Society for Theatre Research, Denver, CO **November 2025**
“Echoes of Salome: Aida Overton Walker and the Generative Power of Identity Performance”

American Society for Theatre Research, Seattle, WA **November 2024**
“Hew Locke’s Postcolonial Carnavalesque: Composting Histories, Creating Hopeful Futures”

American Society for Theatre Research, Providence, RI **November 2023**
“Inescapable Chineseness: Lee Tung Foo”

American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, CA **November 2021**
“Eddie Cantor: Performing Jewishness as ‘America’s Blackest-faced Comedian”

American Society for Theatre Research, remote **November 2020**
“Racial Stereotyping, Comedy, and Repetition: The Elinore Sisters”

American Society for Theatre Research, San Diego, CA **November 2018**
“Re-orienting Orientalism: Jue Quon Tai’s and Lee Tung Foo’s in American Vaudeville”

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International Federation for Theatre Research, Manila, Philippines **July 2024**
“Leadership as Community Activism: The Griffin Sisters, ‘The First and Only Colored Women’s Theatrical Booking Agency in the United States”

- International Federation for Theatre Research**, Accra, Ghana **July 2023**
 “Alternative Archives in Popular Entertainment Research: The Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files”
- International Federation for Theatre Research**, Galway, Ireland **July 2021**
 “Anarchic Clowns vs Civilizing Women: Irish Impersonations in American Vaudeville”
- International Federation for Theatre Research**, Shanghai, China **July 2019**
 “Racial Masks on Foreign Faces: The High and Low Art of Chinese American Racial Impersonators in American Vaudeville”
- International Federation for Theatre Research**, Belgrade, Serbia **July 2018**
 “Immigrant Performers and Racial Impersonation in American Vaudeville”

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- American Studies Association**, New Orleans, LA **November 2022**
 “Coloring Blackness: Displacement and Belonging in African American Early-Twentieth-Century Racial Impersonation”

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- Association for Theatre in Higher Education**, Las Vegas, NA **August 2017**
 “Topsy and the ‘Pickaninny’ Stereotype on the American Stage and Screen”

THEATRE PRACTICE

Dramaturg

- Antigonik*, by Anne Carson, directed by Blythe de Oliveira Foster, MIT **Spring 2025**

Dramaturg, Adapter

- La Vida es Sueño*, by Pedro Calderón de la Barca, directed by Jorge Rubio, MIT **Fall 2024**

Dramaturg, Production Specialist

- Plum Box—Strange—Ideal & More Than...* devised piece based on poetry by Yi Sang, directed by Daniel Irizarry, MIT **Spring 2024**

Juror

- Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, Association of Theatre in Higher Education **2021**

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fellowship Advisor

2019–2020

Office of Fellowships, Northwestern University

- Coached students in writing persuasive fellowship applications and research proposals.
- Developed grant writing workshops tailored to international and undocumented undergraduates.
- Served on the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Campus Committee.

Graduate Advisor

2019–2020

International and Area Studies Program, Northwestern University

- Advised undergraduate students developing research projects in international studies.
- Advised undergraduate students on opportunities for study abroad.
- Planned a bi-weekly speaker series for undergraduates in the program.

Assistant Director

2014–2015

STAP Brancaccio School of Acting, Teatro Brancaccio, Rome, Italy

- Curated a program of courses in acting, voice, movement, and directing.
- Recruited students and instructors.
- Supervised application, tuition, enrollment, and course scheduling processes.
- Developed marketing and communication strategies.

Education and Outreach Associate

2013–2014

Teatro Sala Umberto, Rome, Italy

- Assisted the Artistic Director in the Theatre for Young Audience season selection.
- Oversaw student matinees.
- Promoted shows with local grade and high schools.
- Oversaw shows' bookings and sales.
- Curated workshops for teachers on integrating theatre techniques in pedagogy.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND OUTREACH

Community Building Committee Chair (elected position)

2022–2024

Postdoctoral Association, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Devise and plan social and cultural events for a +1400 people postdoctoral community.

Graduate Student Representative

2019–2020

Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University

- Revised the reimbursement system to support graduate conference travel.
- Oversaw the planning for the Graduate Humanities Council, a series of graduate mixer events.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING

[Six!] International Theatre Festival Global Workshop **2020–2021**

Graduate Seminar “Curating International Theatre Festivals,” by Tracy C. Davis, Peter W. Marx, Bishnupriya Dutt, Milena Grass Kleiner, Awo Mana Asiedu

Newberry Library & Andrew W. Mellon Foundation **2018–2019**

Newberry Library, Chicago, IL

Graduate Seminar “The Archive: Form, Theory, and Practice,” by Liesl Olson

Social Science Research Council **2017–2018**

Pittsburgh, PA; Minneapolis, MN

Dissertation Proposal Development Program

Summer Institute in Performance Studies **Summer 2016**

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Graduate seminars by Kim Solga, David Róman, Soyica Diggs Colbert, and Yana Meerzon

Harvard Summer School **Summer 2009**

Harvard University in Venice, Italy

Graduate Seminars by Marc Shell and Werner Sollors

****Awarded best graduate research paper****

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*****No Work Authorization Required*****