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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

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

### EDUCATION

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#### **Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL

Ph.D., Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama (IPTD)	<b>2021</b>
<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	<b>2020</b>
Graduate Certificate, Gender and Sexuality Studies	<b>2019</b>
MA, Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama (IPTD)	<b>2017</b>

**Link Campus University of Malta in Rome**, Rome, Italy

MA, Theatre Production and Management

**2012**

**Università Ca' Foscari**, Venice, Italy

MA, American Literature and Culture

**2010**

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

**2008**

## PUBLICATIONS

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### **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 Dassia 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

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AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

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

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

\* 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

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### **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” Methods in feminist research (fulfilling Minor’s and Major’s thesis requirement)	<b>Fall 2021</b>
<b>Emerson College</b> , Department of Performing Arts	
• “Minoritarian Theatre and Performance” Graduate course discussing social justice activism through theatre and performance practices.	<b>Spring 2022</b>
• “Stages of Drama” Global theatre history course; play/script analysis fundamentals.	<b>Fall 2021</b>
<b>Northwestern University</b> , Department of Theatre	
• “Minoritarian Feminist Performance” Feminist theory applied to minoritarian performance practices and criticism.	<b>Spring 2021</b>
• “Theatre and Revolution” U.S. theatre history course highlighting examples of theatre for social change.	<b>Fall 2020</b>
• “Dancing Race” U.S. dance history course; dance/performance analysis fundamentals.	<b>Winter 2018</b>

## CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATION

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<b>American Society for Theatre Research</b> , Denver, CO	<b>November 2025</b>
Working Group Convener, “Generative Sequences as Historiographies”	
<b>American Society for Theatre Research</b> , Seattle, WA	<b>November 2024</b>
Comedy Studies Working Group Convener, “Comedy of Compost”	
<b>American Society for Theatre Research</b> , Providence, RI	<b>November 2023</b>
Comedy Studies Working Group Convener, “Humor Springs Eternal”	
<b>“Comedy &amp; Embodiment” Symposium</b> , Cambridge, MA	<b>September 2023</b>
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.	
<u>Co-organized with:</u> Katelyn Hale Wood, Matthew McMahan, and Grace Kessler Overbeke	
<b>American Studies Association</b> , New Orleans, LA	<b>November 2022</b>
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

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**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 Carnivalesque: 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

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### **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

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<b>Fellowship Advisor</b>	<b>2019–2020</b>
Office of Fellowships, Northwestern University	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coached students in writing persuasive fellowship applications and research proposals.</li><li>• Developed grant writing workshops tailored to international and undocumented undergraduates.</li><li>• Served on the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Campus Committee.</li></ul>	
<b>Graduate Advisor</b>	<b>2019–2020</b>
International and Area Studies Program, Northwestern University	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advised undergraduate students developing research projects in international studies.</li><li>• Advised undergraduate students on opportunities for study abroad.</li><li>• Planned a bi-weekly speaker series for undergraduates in the program.</li></ul>	
<b>Assistant Director</b>	<b>2014–2015</b>
STAP Brancaccio School of Acting, Teatro Brancaccio, Rome, Italy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Curated a program of courses in acting, voice, movement, and directing.</li><li>• Recruited students and instructors.</li><li>• Supervised application, tuition, enrollment, and course scheduling processes.</li><li>• Developed marketing and communication strategies.</li></ul>	
<b>Education and Outreach Associate</b>	<b>2013–2014</b>
Teatro Sala Umberto, Rome, Italy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assisted the Artistic Director in the Theatre for Young Audience season selection.</li><li>• Oversaw student matinees.</li><li>• Promoted shows with local grade and high schools.</li><li>• Oversaw shows' bookings and sales.</li><li>• Curated workshops for teachers on integrating theatre techniques in pedagogy.</li></ul>	

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND OUTREACH

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<b>Community Building Committee Chair</b> (elected position)	<b>2022–2024</b>
Postdoctoral Association, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Devise and plan social and cultural events for a +1400 people postdoctoral community.</li></ul>	
<b>Graduate Student Representative</b>	<b>2019–2020</b>
Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revised the reimbursement system to support graduate conference travel.</li><li>• Oversaw the planning for the Graduate Humanities Council, a series of graduate mixer events.</li></ul>	

## ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING

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**[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\*\*\*