

Curriculum Vitae

Cynthia Erin Sampson

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CONTACT

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, May 2020
Department of Communication Studies (Performance Studies)
Dissertation: "Theater of the Obsessed"
- M.A. Auburn University, Auburn, AL, August 2014
Department of English (Literature)
- B.A. University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, May 2012
Department of English

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Senior Instructor, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, August 2025-present.

Affiliate (Professional) Graduate Faculty, Louisiana State University, March 2023 -present.

Director of Basic Courses, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, August 2022-May 2026.

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Liberal Arts and Humanities, South Louisiana Community College, August 2022-May 2023.

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Fine Arts, Communication, and Social Sciences, Baton Rouge Community College, March 2021-July 2022.

Instructor, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, August 2019-May 2025.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication Studies, Louisiana State University, August 2014-May 2018.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Auburn University, August 2012-May 2014.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

performance studies, critical pedagogy, history of speech education, elocution, François Delsarte

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (# indicates how many sections taught)

Louisiana State University

- CMST 1061 Fundamentals of Communication (9)
- CMST 2040 Performance of Literature (14)
- CMST 2060 Public Speaking (44)
- CMST 3040 Performance Composition (2)
- CMST 3060 Advanced Public Speaking (5)
- CMST 3810 Independent Study (4)
- CMST 4312 Topics in Critical Media Theory and Practice (1)
- CMST 7904 Seminar in Communication Pedagogy (3)
- CMST 7941: Seminar Studies in the History of Performance (1)

South Louisiana Community College

- CMCN 1013 Introduction to Human Communication 16-week hyflex (4)
- CMCN 1013 Introduction to Human Communication (1)

Baton Rouge Community College

- SPCH 1013 Fundamentals of Speech 15-week asynchronous online (1)
- SPCH 1013 Fundamentals of Speech 7-week asynchronous online (1)
- SPCH 2013 Public Speaking 15-week asynchronous online (4)
- SPCH 2013 Public Speaking 12-week asynchronous online (1)
- SPCH 2013 Public Speaking 7-week asynchronous online (3)
- SPCH 2013 Public Speaking 4-week asynchronous online (2)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Catapult Course Director, Geaux Further Catapult Course Redesign Workshop Series, funded through Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Institutional Effectiveness, and the Louisiana Board of Regents, 2025-2026.

C-I Faculty Fellow, Communication across the Curriculum, Louisiana State University, 2024-2025.

Special Collections Faculty Fellow, Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, Fall 2024.

Faculty, Fundamentals of Communication Cohort in the Interactive OER for Dual Enrollment project, funded through an Open Textbooks Pilot grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, and coordinated by LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network and the Louisiana Board of Regents, 2021-2023.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“A Girl For All Seasons: Camp, Pleasure, Sequels, and Grease 2,” Performance presented at the Annual Convention of the National Communications Association, November 2025, Denver, CO.

“From France to ‘Fits Like a Glove,’” Performance presented at the Annual Convention of the Southern States Communication Association, April 2025, Norfolk, VA.

- “Great Creative, Pedagogical Ideas for Theatre, Film and New Multi-Media,” Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the National Communications Association, November 2024, New Orleans, LA.
- “Scholar to Scholar: Regard for Relationships & Politics,” Wandering Scholar at the Annual Convention of the National Communications Association, November 2024, New Orleans, LA.
- “Tell it Slash: Performances of Desire, Identity, and Queer Fandom,” panel chair and performer. Performance presented at the Annual Convention of the Southern States Communication Association, April 2022, Greenville, SC.
- “References All the Way Down,” paper presented at Annual Convention of the Southern States Communication Association, April 2022, Greenville, SC.
- “Performance (as) Miscellany,” panel chair and performer. Performance presented at Annual Convention of the Southern States Communication Association, April 2021.
- “Having Fun, Making Fun in a Funk: Collaging Diverse Perspectives on Comedy,” co-authored with Taylor Dawson and David Terry. Paper accepted for presentation at Annual Convention of the National Communications Association, November 2020.
- “Reperforming the ‘Center:’ Queer Genealogy and the Crossroads of Crisis.” Performance accepted for presentation at the Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, November 2020, Unable to present due to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.
- “The Legacy of Texas and the (Ir)relevance of Walls: Understanding Cultural Borderlands.” Performance presented at the Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, November 2017, Dallas, TX.
- “War Stories.” Performance competitively selected for presentation at the Annual Convention of the Southern States Communication Association, March 2017, Greenville, SC.
- “Shadow of the Valley.” Performance presented at the Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, November 2016, Philadelphia, PA.
- “Both? Both is Good: Miscast Gala as Fan Work and Original Work.” Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the American Society for Theatre Research, November 2016, Minneapolis, MN.
- “Transforming and Deforming Social Media: The Complex Rhetorical Life of Tumblr and Pinterest.” Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the Rhetorical Society of America, May 2016, Atlanta, GA.

- “What’s a Girl to Do: Physicality, Embodiment, and G!P.” Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association, March 2016, Seattle, WA.
- “Available on Tumblr: Fan Appropriation of *RuPaul’s Drag Race*.” Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, November 2015, Las Vegas, NV.
- “Femvids, Or, How to Queer the Canon.” Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association, April 2015, New Orleans, LA.
- “Devising Diversity with Playback and Theatre of the Oppressed Techniques.” Performance presented at the Annual Convention of the Southeastern Theatre Conference, March 2014, Mobile, Alabama.

SERVICE

Departmental

Chair’s Advisory Committee, Department of Communication Studies, (Fall 2024-May 2026)

Equity and Justice Committee, Department of Communication Studies, (Fall 2021-present)

Undergraduate Advisory Committee, Department of Communication Studies. Louisiana State University, (Fall 2019-present)

University

Vice Chair, LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus, Louisiana State University (Fall 2024-Spring 2026)

Faculty Advisor, Queer Graduate Student Association, Louisiana State University (Fall 2023-present)

LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus, Louisiana State University (Spring 2020-present)

Field

Appointed Member, SSCA Centennial Committee, Southern States Communication Association (Spring 2026-2030)

Vice Chair, Instructional Development Division, Southern States Communication Association (Spring 2026-2027)

Vice Chair-Elect, Instructional Development Division, Southern States Communication Association (Spring 2025-2026)

Immediate Past Chair, Performance Studies Division, Southern States Communication Association (Spring 2024-2025)

Chair, Performance Studies Division, Southern States Communication Association (Spring 2023-2024)

Vice Chair, Performance Studies Division, Southern States Communication Association (Spring 2022-2023)

Secretary, Performance Studies Division, Southern States Communication Association (Spring 2021-Spring 2022)

ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Directing and Writing

Pervirgin. Co-directed with Alex Jennings. Written by Nkechi Chibueze and Alex Jennings. HopKins Black Box theatre, Louisiana State University, January 2025.

Funny Her Her. Co-directed and written with Taylor Dawson and David Terry. HopKins Black Box theatre, Louisiana State University, November 2020.

War Stories. Writer, director, and performer. HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, January 2017.

Shadow of the Valley. Assistant director for David Terry. HopKins Black Box theatre, Louisiana State University, March 2016.

Back to the Future IV the Fans. Assistant director for Patrick McElearney, HopKins Black Box theatre, Louisiana State University, November 2015.

Dramaturgy, Consulting, and Technical Design

Pervirgin. Light Designer, Written by Nkechi Chibueze and Alex Jennings. HopKins Black Box theatre, Louisiana State University, January 2025.

Resilient Body: A Ritual to Unlearn Rape Culture. Advisor, Devised and directed by Johanna Middleton, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, April 2022.

dist[Sense]. Dramaturg, Directed by Naomi Bennett and devised by the cast, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, October 2020.

Burnt City. QLab Technician, Written and directed by Josh Hamzehee, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, February 2019.

(dis)embodied in space. Creative Consultant, Directed by Naomi Bennett, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, January 2019.

Undergraduate Showcase. Producer, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, May 2018.

Graduate Student Showcase. Light and Sound Technician. HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, August 2017.

Animal Rites. Light Technician. Adapted and directed by Chris Collins, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, October 2016.

Faculty and Graduate Showcase. Producer, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, August 2016.

Faculty and Graduate Student Showcase. Producer, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University. August 2016.

Performance

Hugeonic Pop! Culture Extravaganza. Devised and directed by Tracy Stephenson Shaffer, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, April 2025.

A Little Princess. Adapted and directed by Tracy Stephenson Shaffer, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, October 2023.

The Creature from the Primordial World. Adapted and directed by Tracy Stephenson Shaffer, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, October 2017.

The White Bicycle. Written and directed by Nicole Costantini, Petit Jean Performance Festival. October 2016.

Rollerland. Directed by Tracy Stephenson Shaffer and devised by the cast, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University and Petit Jean Performance Festival. September-October 2015.

Tracking Shots. Adapted and directed by Patricia A. Suchy, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University, March 2015.

On a Snowy Evening. Directed by John LeBret and devised by the cast, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University and Patty Pace Performance Festival, December 2014-February 2015.

Uncanny Valley. Written and directed by Stephanie Heath, HopKins Black Box Theater, Louisiana State University and Petit Jean Performance Festival, September-October 2014.

Mosaic Theatre Company. Ensemble directed by Heather May and Tessa Carr, Auburn University. 2013-2014 season.

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Communication Association

Southern States Communication Association