

Pia Banzhaf

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Cultural Studies, Queen's University at Kingston, Canada 2018

Dissertation: *Towards a Cognitive Poetics of Puppetry*. A multi-disciplinary study cum auto-ethnography of the cognitive underpinnings of the perception of inanimate objects.

Dissertation advisors: Dr. Natalie Rewa (chair) School of Drama, Dr. Valerie Kuhlmeier (Department of Psychology), Dr. Allison Morehead (Department of Art History & Art Conservation)

M.A. German Literary Studies, Department of German and Russian Studies, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, 2010

Thesis: *Das Streben nach Erkenntnis als Weg zur Selbsterlösung in Hermann Brochs 'Tierkreis-Erzählungen.'* Supervisor Prof. Dr. Jean Snook

Zweites Staatsexamen (Second State Exam—Teacher Certification after two years teacher training), Bochum, Germany, 2002

Erstes Staatsexamen (First State Exam), Majors in German Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Anthropology of Textiles, Minor in Psychology. Fakultät Kulturwissenschaften, Universität Dortmund, Germany, 1999

Thesis: *Schreiben in der Zweitsprache—Kontrastive Fehleranalyse in Schülertexten* (Italienisch-Deutsch). Supervisor Prof. Dr. Ludger Hoffmann

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Puppetry & Material Performance. Teaching for Tolerance of Ambiguity. Creative Metacognition. Community Engaged Learning. Second and foreign language acquisition.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016–present **Assistant Professor**, Designation B, Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures, Michigan State University: 1st- 3rd year German language and culture. Courses taught at MSU Center of Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities (IAH) on the Creative Process 241E (Stop-Motion Animation, Automata, Puppetry Arts); affiliated with the MSU Residential College in Arts and Humanities (RCAH), with courses in puppetry arts, and languages and cultures.
- 2016 **Artist in Residence**, Residential College of Arts and Humanities (RCAH), Michigan State University: Contemporary Shadow Theatre. Co-taught with Steven Baibak in Reclamation Studio, October 17-31
- 2015 **Super-sessional Instructor**, Department of German and Slavic Studies, University of Manitoba: Beginning German (winter 2015), Introduction to German Culture 1918-2015 (winter 2015), Exploring German Literature (winter 2015)
- 2012 **Per-course instructor**, Department of German and Russian, Memorial University, St. John's, NL, Canada. Courses in Beginning German

- 2010-2011 **Teaching Fellow**, Department of German Studies, Queen's University at Kingston. Courses in Beginning German, GRM 101-102, AY 2010/11
- 2007-2010 **Per-course instructor**, Department of German and Russian, Memorial University and Lifelong Learning, St. John's, NL, Canada. Courses in Beginning German
- 2000-2004 **Teacher** at GS Berliner Platz, Herne, and at RS Herne-Sodingen, Germany. Grades 1-6. German, Mathematics, Social Sciences, English as a Foreign Language, and Art Education

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

A Cognitive Poetics of Puppetry. Routledge. (Forthcoming)

Journals

"La poétique de la marionnette." *Les poétiques de l'illusion*. Théâtre de marionnettes et des arts associés (THEMAA), Institut International de la Marionnette, CNAC, 14:20. 2018.

Conference Proceedings

"Puppets—A Distinct Ontological Category." *Dolls and Puppets: Contemporaneity and Tradition*. Ed. Kamil Kopania. The Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw (The Department of Puppetry Art in Białystok). 2018

Other publications

"A Cognitive Approach to the Poetics of Puppetry." *Puppet Notebook: Puppetry and Science*. Issue 24, Summer 2014. British UNIMA. p10-13.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conference Presentations

- 2021 "Disrupting Predictive Processing: Puppets and the Reference Framework." Puppetry and Material Performance Working Session online, American Society for Theater Research (ASTR), San Diego, October 28.
"The Creative Process. Theory and Practice." Alternative Course Structures & Assessments. Enriching Scholarship. University of Michigan May 4.
- 2020 "Disrupting Predictive Processing: Puppets and the Uncanny Valley." Puppetry and Material Performance Working Session, American Society for Theater Research (ASTR), virtual pre-conference, November 7.
"Maker Pedagogies in Non-Maker Classes: Lessons from a Faculty Learning Community." Rossi, Mapes, et. Al. MSU Academic Advancement Network. Spring Conference on Teaching, Learning, and Student Success. May 4-6. Canceled.
- 2019 "'The Willing Suspension of Disbelief'- What's in a phrase?" Puppetry and Material Performance Working Session, American Society for Theater Research (ASTR), Arlington, Nov 7-10.
- 2018 "What Cognition Tells Us About the Potential of Harnessing the Power of Co-Presence," Puppetry and Material Performance Working Session, American Society for Theater Research (ASTR), San Diego, November 15-18.

- 2017 “Light is Life – Lantern Puppets & The Newfoundland Puppet Collective,” Puppetry and Material Performance Working Session, American Society for Theater Research (ASTR), Atlanta, GA, November 16-19.
- 2017 “A Cognitive Poetics of Puppetry,” Critical Exchange Conference, Puppeteers of America, Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, August 22.
- 2015 “The Ontology of Puppets.” Northeast Association of Modern Languages, Toronto, ON, April 30-May 4.
- 2014 “Puppets–A Distinct Ontological Category.” Puppets and Dolls Conference, Bialystok, Poland, June 23-26.
- 2013 “A Cognitive Approach to the Poetics of Puppetry.” German Studies Association Conference, Denver, CO, October 3–6.
- 2013 “The Neuroaesthetics of Storytelling with Puppets.” 1st International Cognition and Poetics Conference, Osnabrück, Germany, April 25–27.
- 2012 “Puppet Power–The Magic of Cognition.” Humboldt-Foundation Excellence in Research Colloquium, Toronto, ON, November 2–4.
- 2012 “Humor als kognitives Spiel am Beispiel Christoph Martin Wielands *Geschichte des Agathon*.” German Studies Association Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 4–7.
- 2012 “Pinocchio’s Power: The Puzzle of Perception in Puppet Performances.” Northeast Association of Modern Languages Conference, Rochester, NY, March 15–18.
- 2011 “Kafkas *Das Urteil*–Ein hypnagoges Ein-Mann-Stück in zwei Akten” Louisville, KY, German Studies Association Conference, September 22–25.
- 2011 “Auf schwingender Schaukel zur neuen alten Sprache: Rose Ausländers Jerusalemgedichte.” A Cognitive Poetics Approach to Poetry in Translation. Canadian Association of University Teachers of German (CAUTG), Fredericton, NB, May 28–31.
- 2011 “Voyageur or Voyeur–Juli Zeh’s pointillist construction of the Balkans in *Die Stille ist ein Geräusch*.” Northeast Association of Modern Languages Conference (NMLA), New Brunswick, NJ, April 7–10.

Panels Organized

- 2019 *100 Years of Bauhaus-Symposium: Campus Weeks*. Co-organized with Matt Handelsman, Tessa Paneth-Pollock et al. MSU. Sponsored by German Embassy “Wunderbar Together” Initiative. Organized and coordinated two workshops with puppetry artist Christian Fuchs, Leipzig, Germany, in the context of the symposium, October 14-19.
- 2012 An Exploration of Puppet Power, Northeast Association of Modern Languages, Rochester, NY, March 15-18.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2012 “Puppet Power–The Magic of Cognition.” Undisciplined Graduate Symposium, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, September 29.
- 2011 “Kafkas *Das Urteil*–Ein hypnagoges Ein-Mann-Stück in zwei Akten”, German Speakers’ Series, Queen’s University at Kingston, ON, Canada, January 21.

Other

- 2021 Presented at SW Region MAE 4-HYS (MSU Extension Youth Program)
- 2019 Discussant, “Deciphering the Dress Code: Sartorial Practice and Identity Construction in Zainichi Cultural Production,” 2019 Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA), MSU, October 4.

INVITED TALKS and PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 Invited and paid presentation (2x90min) “How does it Work? The Cognition behind the Animacy Perception in Puppetry” at Puppet Power Conference, Calgary, June 1-3
- 2018 “Puppet Power”-Episode 10 in *Collaborative Edges* Podcast with Steve Baibak, hosted by Prof. Rocio Quispe-Agnoli, November
- 2018 Show & Tell about Umberto Eco’s “The Three Astronauts” shadow theater [RCAH](#) class project, Great Lakes Planetarium Association Conference (GLPA), Abrams Planetarium, MSU, 13 October
- 2018 “How does it Work? The Cognition behind the Animacy Perception in Puppetry” Puppet Power Conference 2018, WP Puppet Theatre, Calgary, June 2 & 3. (Honorarium \$1000)
- 2017 “Why do we believe in the Animacy of Puppets? The Poetics of Puppetry.” Chapman University, Orange, CA. March 28th. Via Skype. (Honorarium \$300)
- 2015 “The Ontology of the Puppet.” Chapman University, Orange, CA. April 13. Via Skype. (Honorarium \$300)

CREATIVE & ARTISTIC RESEARCH/PLAY

[Performances, Puppets](#)

- 2022 Gros Morne Residency and Workshop, Bonne Bay, Marine Station, NL, Canada, 18-29 August 2022 (partly funded by a [FOCI: Future Oceans and Coastal Infrastructures](#) grant)
- 2022 - Puppet Lab development in MSU STEM-building space
- 2022 Puppetry Spring Break Challenge, Explorations of light and shadow at MSU planetarium puppet lab
- 2019 Pacey, the Pelican. Commissioned puppet build by Dionne O’Dell for *Pond Project*, a play for a neurodiverse audience. Co-designed and built with Steve Baibak.
- 2018 *The Three Astronauts* by Umberto Eco. Shadow puppet theater with RCAH 291 students, MSU Abrams Planetarium, May 2018
- 2017 Residency with Kô-Festival of Performance at Amherst College, MA for development of theatrical adaptation of Patrick Süskind’s novella *The Pigeon* with David Lane and ad hoc collective, 10-17 July 2017
- 2016 “Jack and the Bottle of World’s End Water,” Illuminated Puppetry Arts Workshop, St. John’s, NL, Canada. Producer, workshop facilitator, puppeteer, Newfoundland Puppet Collective. December–August 2016
- 2014–2015 “Jack and the Bottle of World’s End Water,” 15th Victoria Park Annual Lantern Fest. Creation of multi-media, circus and physical theatre spectacle. 2nd lead puppeteer, puppet building workshop facilitator, event co-organizer, Newfoundland Puppet Collective, St. John’s, NL, Canada, July
- 2014 Puppetry Slam, Toronto, ON, Canada, June 15
- 2014 Performance of “Tales from the AGA: The Golden Butter Tart,” with puppetry and clowning in a Vaudeville-Dadaist tradition at the Annual Butter Tart Festival, ODD Puppet Collective, Midland, ON, Canada, June 14
- 2014 Performance of a fragment of “s e a r c h i n g,” a work in progress, performed at the POUF during the Festival “Les Trois Jours de Casteliers,” Montréal, QC, Canada, March 3
- 2011 Performance of Kafka’s “The Judgement” as puppet play with marionettes and shadow theatre. Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, Canada, March 24

Curatorial Activities

2018 *A Panoply of Puppets*, RCAH LookOut Gallery Exhibit, co-curated with Steve Baibak
May-September.

Other Research Experience

2013–2017 Member of the “Puppet Metaphor” Chapman Research Arts Social Sciences, Humanities
Research Group (CRASsH), Wilkinson College, Chapman University, Orange, CA

CONSULTATIONS

2020 Consultation sessions with Iker Vicente from La Liga-Teatro Elástico for their
experimental piece *Inventos Modernos* at Festival Vertice, in Mexico City. October 24.
Consultations with Dionne O’Dell for additional puppet builds for the *Pond Project*. Not
completed due to pandemic.

2018 Consulted with MSU Museum about interactive interpretative artifacts

2017 Consulted RCAH members on “Global Year of Africa” activities

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2021–2022 Fellow Adams Academy, MSU Office of Faculty and Academic Staff Development.
CeLTA: Alternative Modes for Early Literacy and Language Instruction (AMELLI) (monthly
meetings)
CeLTA: Designing Post-Pandemic Learning Spaces - Learning Community (Monthly
meetings)

2020 ASPIRE-Online Teaching Training, completed, July 23
MAET Mini-MOOC on Remote Teaching, completed, June 30
Data Visualization Summer Institute, MSU, June 1-4

2019–2020 Learning Community “Teaching Maker Pedagogies in Nonmaker Classes.” Facilitated by
Matthew Rossi, Brian Adams. Lansing Maker Network. Monthly during AY19-20.

2017 Online Presence and Digital Fellowship, MSU, January 18-March 3
The Transformative Power of Story: Advocating for Language Learning, CeLTA, MSU, April 5
A picture's worth 1000 words: An online wordless repository, CeLTA, MSU, March 15
The ACTFL OPI: What is it all about? + Start practicing!, CeLTA MSU, February 22
Designing accessible course Word documents, CeLTA, MSU, February 8
Participatory action research and the language curriculum, CeLTA, MSU, February 2
Getting on board with ACTFL listening, CeLTA, MSU, January 25

2016 Learn at Lunch: Talking about Terror in the Classroom, MSU, December 12
Facilitating respectful dialogue, MSU, December 1
Communication Dynamics in the Academic Community, November 22
"Cultivating an Online Presence: Expanding Your Scholarly Reach - Part II", MSU,
November 11
"Cultivating an Online Presence: Expanding Your Scholarly Reach - Part I", MSU,
November 4
Communication in the American Classroom, MSU, October 7
Academic Culture in American Higher Education, MSU, September 30

- D2L Workshops: Staff Introduction, Introduction, Gradebook, Advanced Features, MSU, September 29, October 5 & 26, November 17
 Charlotte Mellon HWW, MSU, September 17
 Humanities without Borders, MSU, August 25
 2002-2003 Qualifikationserweiterung (Zertifikatskurs) Englisch (320 hours). Unterrichtserlaubnis für Sekundarstufe I, Bezirksregierung Arnsberg, Germany, September 10, 2002 - July 27, 2003

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2022 - present Year-long "Academy of the Wooden Puppet" with puppet master builder Bernd Ogrodnik (Iceland).
 2021 „Puppet Mastery" Foundation Course with puppet master builder Bernd Ogrodnik, Iceland. Online Course With a Holistic Approach to Puppetry and a Focus on the Art of the Wooden Figure. October 13-December 6
 2019 „Von der Idee zum Stück" with director Joachim Torbahn, Thalias Kompagnions, Nürnberg, dramaturgy workshop, Bamberg, August 8-9
 "7 Expeditions with Light," Exploration Into Unknown Territory of Contemporary Shadow Theater with Norbert Götz, Theater des Lichts, Bamberg, August 12-16
 2019 Wood Carving & Puppet Design, Assets for Artists-Workshop Residency with David Lane, Mass MoCA, North Adams, June 19-25
 2018 Kinetic Objects, Workshop at Peters Valley School of Craft with Ben Pranger, July 13-17
 2018 "Las bestias danzan o el sigiloso conjuro de lo salvaje," workshop and performance with La Liga-Teatro Elástico, AQM, Montréal, Québec, Canada, March 1-8
 2015 "Taming the Light," workshop with Norbert Götz, Theater des Lichts, Bamberg, August 3-14
 2014 "The Power of the Puppet," workshop with Neville Tranter, Figuren-Kolleg Bochum, Germany, June 30-July 7
 2014 UNIMA-Canada Immersion Project, with Frank Soehnle, AQM, Montréal, Québec, Canada, February 27-March 9
 2013 New England Puppetry Intensive with members of The Old Trout Puppet Workshop, Williamstown, MA, July 29-August 13
 2012 6th Empirical Methods in Cognitive Linguistics Workshop, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, August 1-5
 2012 Marionette Construction Course, at Puppets in Prague with Mirek Trejtnar, Czech Republic, June 1-17

SERVICE

- 2021 Presentation at Virtual Professional Development Session, Southwest Region Michigan Association for Extension 4-H Youth Staff, MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute, October 15
 Consultation about web applications and creation of training examples with 4H-coordinator Lizz Duran and Jan Brinn for National Hispanic Month
 Honors Option supervision for N. Dantzer
 Provided references for R. Gaur and T. Lee (Graduate School)
 2020 Undergraduate Research Forum mentor for T. Borowicz
 Provided references for C. Sivak (Education Abroad), Z. Sun (Graduate School)
 Entrepreneurship and Innovation Experiences Option for A. Atalhi

- 2019 Facilitated learning experience for Dwight Rich Elementary 5th grade students at the MSU Abrams Planetarium with IAH 241E class
Undergraduate Advising: B. Stone, D. Garfield
Honors option supervision for C. Marks-Wilt
Provided references for D. Kujaszinski, S. Mackel, R. Norman, and D. Shen (Graduate School)
- 2018 Honors option supervision (2): R. Norman
- 2017 Grandparents' University session "From Hanau to Hollywood – The German Origins of Beloved Film Stories," June 28
Honors option supervision: C. McPherson
Honors option supervision (1): R. Norman
- 2012 - 2014 *Material Matters*, Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Led Discussion Group at Queen's University with branch at Seneca College in Toronto, co-founder and facilitator

OTHER

- 2020 Attended "MSU Social Change Wheel Listening & Feedback" Session, Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL), June 3
- 2019 Attended MSU Arts Strategy Workshops. ArtLab and HUB, MSU, February 22, March 29, April 19, 25
Facilitated significant donation of Punch and Judy puppets from the estate of the late Jane Gottschalk and negotiated with Lynne Swanson from MSU Museum Collection & MSU Museum director

GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020 #iteachmsu Educator Award
- 2019 IAH Connecting Pedagogy and Practice Funds. MSU, \$200
100 Years of Bauhaus-Symposium: Campus Weeks. Federal Government of Germany. \$6,000. collaborator
- 2016 "Coastal Boat" Community Arts Project with NL Puppet Collective, co-applicant. Canada Arts Council New Chapter Grant application. \$50,000 (denied)
- 2015 Newfoundland Puppet Collective Community Arts Project, Canada Council Community Project Development. \$15,000
- 2012–2014 Doctoral scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada, \$40,000
- 2014 Research Residency, Institut International de la Marionnette, Charleville-Mézières, France, \$2,800
- 2014 UNIMA Canada, Immersion Project, in kind \$1,800
- 2013–2014 Graduate Award, Queen's University, Canada, \$5,000
- 2011–2012 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), Canada, \$15,000
- 2011 MacGillivray Graduate Scholarship, Queen's University, Canada, \$6,800
- 2010 Graduate Award, Queen's University, Canada, \$2,853
- 2010 Graduate Entrance Tuition Award, Queen's University, Canada, \$6,258
- 2010 Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies, Memorial University, Canada
- 2010 MacGillivray Graduate Scholarship, Queen's University, Canada, \$3,574
- 2009 Graduate Support, Memorial University, Canada, \$10,864
- 2009 Merit Award, Memorial University, Canada, \$5,000

Membership in Professional Organisations

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

American Society for Theater Research (ASTR)

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)

Puppeteers of America (PoA)

Union International de la Marionnette (UNIMA)-Canada

UNIMA-USA

LANGUAGES

German & English (native/bilingual), French (C1), Italian (B1) , Spanish (A2), Japanese (A1), Latin