

MIA LEVENSON, PHD

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2024-Present** **Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine**
Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of History of Medicine
Center for Medical Humanities & Social Medicine
- 2020-2024 Tufts University
Instructor of Record
Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies
- 2022 Tufts University
Visiting Lecturer
Experimental College

Areas of Research: History of Medicine, Science & Technology Studies, Theatre History, Performance Studies

EDUCATION

- 2024 **Ph.D., Tufts University, Theatre and Performance Studies**
Dissertation: *Birthing "Utopia": Performing Science and Popularizing Eugenics, 1904-1939*
Chair: Heather S. Nathans
Committee: Lilian Mengesha, Kareem Khubchandani, and Robin Scheffler
- 2020 **M.A., Tufts University, Theatre and Performance Studies**
Thesis: *Theatre in the Time of Cholera: Health, Medicine, and the Physician's Role on the American Stage, 1832-1883*
- 2017 **B.A., University of Maryland, College Park, Theatre**
B.S., University of Maryland, College Park, Neurobiology and Physiology

PUBLICATIONS

Essays

- 2025 *[Forthcoming]* "Physicians in Film: The Case of *The Black Stork* (1917)," *Canadian Medical Association Journal*.
- 2023 Co-written with Michelle Granshaw, Elizabeth Son, Mac Irvine, Courtney Colligan, Noe Montez, and Victoria LaFavre, "[Imagining New Possibilities: Career Diversity and Doctoral Education in Theatre and Performance Studies](#)," *Theatre Topics*, November 2023.

- 2022 [“Epidemic Dramaturgies: Theatre and Public Memory During New York City's 1832 Cholera Outbreak,”](#) *Theatre Journal* (Special Issue: Pathologies & Performance), December 2022. [Peer Reviewed]
- 2022 [“‘That's The Way Eugenists Play’: Performing Utopian Fantasies of Race Science at the Eugenics Record Office,”](#) *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism* (Special Issue: Race and Fantasy), Fall 2022. [Peer Reviewed]
- 2022 “Anatomical Acts: Minstrelsy and Nineteenth-Century Performances of Popular Anatomy.” In *Identity, Culture and the Science Performance, Vol. 1: From the Lab to the Streets*, eds. Meredith Conti and Vivian Appler. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022.
- 2022 “Exterminating the Phantom: Nativist Constructions of Contagion and Monsters in Nineteenth-Century New York City.” In *Monsters in Performance: Essays on the Aesthetics of Disqualification*, eds. Analola Santana and Michael M. Chemers. New York: Routledge, 2022.
- 2021 Co-written with Heather S. Nathans. [“The Mysterious Murder of Mrs. Shakespeare: Transgressive Performance in Nineteenth-Century New York.”](#) *Journal of American Drama and Theatre* 34, no. 1 (Fall 2021). [Peer Reviewed]

Reviews

- 2020 [“The Nervous Stage: Nineteenth-century Neuroscience and the Birth of Modern Theatre,”](#) *Theatre Journal* 72, no. 1 (March 2020): 116-8.

Public Writing

- 2023 [“Four Plays That Put LGBTQ+ Stories in the Spotlight: *A Lady and a Woman* \(1990\),”](#) *Tufts Now*
- 2020 [“A Visit with Dr. DeGrasse: The Medical Account Book of Boston’s First Black Physician,”](#) *The Beehive: The Official Blog for the Massachusetts Historical Society*

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024-2026 Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- 2023-2024 Dissertation Fellow, Center for the Humanities at Tufts University
- 2023 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, “Disease, Pandemics, and Public Health in the United States,” Ohio State University
- 2022 GSAS Dean’s Summer Fellowship, Tufts University.
- 2022 Professor Kalman A. Burnim Prize for Scholarly Excellence in Drama

- 2021-2022 Research Fellowship, Consortium for History of Science, Medicine & Technology in Philadelphia.
- 2021 Finalist for Dean’s Outstanding Academic Scholarship Award, Tufts University.
- 2020-2021 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society.
- 2018-2020 Provost’s Fellowship, Tufts University
- 2017 Undergraduate Theatre Scholar Award, The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival
- 2013-2017 Banneker-Key Scholar Award, University of Maryland, College Park

CONFERENCE AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- March 2025 *[Forthcoming]* Invited Speaker, “Taking Center Stage: Physicians and the U.S. Eugenics Movement,” Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina (Virtual)
- Jan. 2025 Invited Speaker, “Inequity and Social Health Movements: Using the HIV/AIDS Crisis as a Lens,” Medical Humanities and Social Medicine in Practice course, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- April 2024 Invited Speaker, “Incubating the Future: Performing Science, Popularizing Eugenics,” Center for the Humanities at Tufts University
- Nov. 2023 Invited Speaker, “Science in Performance/Performing Science,” STEM on Stage course, Tufts University, Experimental College
- Sept. 2023 Invited Speaker, “‘Not more babies, but BETTER BABIES’: Eugenics, Sterilization, and the Popular Movement for Fitter Families,” Sterilization and Social Justice Lab (Virtual)
- March 2022 Invited Speaker, “Eugenics and the Politics of Scientific Performance,” Consortium for History of Science, Medicine & Technology, Philadelphia
- July 2020 Invited Speaker, “Anatomical Acts: Exploring the Intersections between Popular Anatomy and Popular Theatre in Nineteenth-Century America,” Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston

Papers Presented

- March 2025 [Forthcoming] “Performing Eugenic Science at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exhibition,” Mid-America Theatre Conference, Atlanta
- May 2024 “Preaching the Gospel of Better Babies and Fitter Families: Physicians and The Contests of the American Eugenics Society,” American Association for the History of Medicine, Kansas City
- March 2024 “Pageantry, Civic Theatre, and the 1915 Second National Conference on Race Betterment,” Tufts University Theatre and Performance Studies Graduate Symposium, Medford
- Nov. 2023 “Science History in Theatre Historiography,” American Society for Theatre Research, Providence
- Oct. 2023 “Ways of Spectating: Visualizing Technological Progress, Data Science, and Colonial Landscapes at World’s Fairs,” University of California Santa Cruz Center for World History Graduate History Conference, “Micro as Macro: Narrating World Histories of Science, Technology, and Environment,” Santa Cruz (Virtual)
- May 2023 “Scientific Rearing and the Proper Care of Premies: Race, Eugenics, and the Incubator Baby Show,” American Association for the History of Medicine, Ann Arbor
- Nov. 2022 “Performing Objectivity, Scripting Eugenics: Exhibitions of Race Science at the American Museum of Natural History,” American Society for Theatre Research, New Orleans
- July 2022 “‘That’s the Way Eugenists Play’: Performing Hereditary Science at the Eugenics Record Office,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit
- Nov. 2021 “Dramatizing Disease: John Brougham’s *The Revolt of the Sextons* and the Role of Epidemic Disease on the Nineteenth-Century New York Stage,” Comparative Drama Conference (Virtual)
- Aug. 2021 “‘People cannot find it in their hearts to laugh at cholera’: The 1832 Cholera Epidemic and Its Impact on New York Theatres,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (Virtual)
- April 2021 “Serendipity and the Virtual Archive,” Tufts University Theatre and Performance Studies Graduate Symposium (Virtual)
- Nov. 2020 “Exterminating the Phantom: Nativist Constructions of Contagion and Monsters in Nineteenth-Century New York City,” American Society for Theatre Research (Virtual)

Nov. 2019 “Anatomizing Whiteness: Minstrelsy and the Legacy of Anatomy within the Medical Institution,” American Society for Theatre Research, Washington DC

Panels Organized

March 2025 [*Forthcoming*] “Taxonomies of Belonging at the World’s Fair,” Theatre History Symposium, Mid-America Theatre Conference, Atlanta

Oct. 2023 “Disease-scapes: Environmental and Technological Infrastructures in Transnational Public Health Histories,” Co-Organizer with Mark Beirn and Franklin Howard, University of California Santa Cruz Center for World History Graduate History Conference, "Micro as Macro: Narrating World Histories of Science, Technology, and Environment,” Santa Cruz (Virtual)

July 2022 “Imagining New Possibilities: Career Diversity and Doctoral Education in Theatre and Performance Studies,” Roundtable Co-Organizer with Michelle Granshaw, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Detroit

March 2022 Theatre and Performance Studies Graduate Symposium, Co-Organizer with Jenny Henderson, Tufts University

Aug. 2021 “Performance Within and Beyond Contagion: Reflections on Disease in Theatre History,” Association for Theatre in Higher Education (Virtual)

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

Fall 2024 Introduction to Social Medicine and Health Humanities, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Co-Instructor with Christina Seto, MD

Fall 2024 Disability Studies Reading Group, Online Program in the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (Virtual)

Fall 2024 Introduction to the History of Medicine, Online Program in the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (Virtual)

Spring 2024 Introduction to Theatre, Tufts University

Fall 2023 LGBTQ Theatre, Tufts University

Fall 2022 Contagion in Culture, Media, and Popular Performance, Tufts University

Fall 2022 Practicum in Dramaturgy, Tufts University

Fall 2021 Introduction to Theatre, Tufts University

Spring 2021 LGBTQ Theatre, Tufts University (Virtual)

Spring 2020 Introduction to Theatre, Tufts University

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2022 Art of the Moving Image, Dr. Tasha Oren, Tufts University

Spring 2021 Contemporary U.S. Theatre, Dr. Noe Montez, Tufts University

Fall 2020 Race, Gender, and Ethnicity on the American Stage before World War II, Dr. Heather S. Nathans, Tufts University (Virtual)

Fall 2019 First Year Showcase, Bridget O’Leary, Tufts University

SERVICE

2024 Judge, Medical Student Research Symposium, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

2021-2023 Graduate Representative, American Theatre and Drama Society

2019-2020; 2021-2022 Assistant to the Director of Graduate Studies, Tufts University

2019-2020 Faculty Liaison, Tufts University

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

May 2025 *[Forthcoming]* “Jews as Subjects and Objects in Medicine: An Interdisciplinary Workshop,” Co-Organizer with Leigh Alon, Center for the Medical Humanities and Social Medicine, Johns Hopkins University.

April 2023 “Curating Your Cover Letter: A Virtual Workshop For Applying to Faculty Jobs,” Co-Organizer with Michelle Granshaw, American Theatre and Drama Society (Online)

March 2023 “Exploring Faculty Careers Roundtable,” Co-Organizer with Michelle Granshaw, American Theatre and Drama Society (Online)

April 2022 “Reframing Your Resume: A Virtual Workshop for How to Market Yourself for Careers Outside Professorship,” Co-Organizer with Michelle Granshaw, American Theatre and Drama Society (Online)

- April 2022 “PhDs on the Move: Building Non-Faculty Careers,” Roundtable, Co-Organizer with Michelle Granshaw, American Theatre and Drama Society (Online)
- 2020-2022 “Online Research Share,” Assistant and Collaborator with Kirsten Wynn Pullen and Heather S. Nathans
<https://onlineconversations.wixsite.com/research>

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022-2023 Editorial Assistant, University of Iowa Press, Theatre History Series
- 2020-2021 Editorial Assistant, *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, “Special Issue: Milestones in Black Theatre”
- 2019; 2020-2021 Editorial Assistant, *Theatre Topics*
- 2019 Copy-Editing Assistant, *Theatre Journal*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Theatre Research
 Association for Theatre in Higher Education
 History of Science Society
 American Association for the History of Medicine
 American Theatre and Drama Society

THEATRE EXPERIENCE

Director

- 2022 Director, *Under a Big Sky* by Randy Reinholz, Staged Reading, Tufts University
- 2019 Director, *Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties* by Jen Silverman, Staged Reading, Tufts University
- 2019 Director, *What Happened at the Dolphin Show* by Miranda Rose Hall, Workshop, Tufts University

Dramaturg

- 2020 Dramaturg, *Smart People* by Lydia Diamond, Staged Reading, Directed by Maurice Parent, Tufts University (Virtual)

- 2019 Dramaturg and Assistant Director, *Bull in a China Shop* by Bryna Turner, Workshop, dir. Lilian Mengesha, Tufts University
- 2018 Assistant Dramaturg, *Botticelli in the Fire* by Jordan Tannahill, Developmental Workshops and Production, dir. Marti Lyons, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
- 2018 Assistant Dramaturg, *Familiar* by Danai Gurira, dir. Adam Immerwahr, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
- 2017 Assistant Dramaturg, *The Arsonists* by Max Frisch, dir. Michael John Garcés, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
- 2017 Dramaturg, *The Schooling of Bento Bonchev* by Maksym Kurochkin, dir. Yury Urnov, University of Maryland
- 2017 Assistant Dramaturg, *The How and the Why* by Sarah Treems, dir. Shirley Serotsky, Theater J
- 2017 Assistant Dramaturg, *Copenhagen* by Michael Frayn, dir. Eleanor Holdridge, Theater J
- 2016 Dramaturg, *The Wild Party* by Andrew Lippa, dirs. Scot Reese and Alvin Mayes, University of Maryland

Script Reader

- 2017-present The Playwrights' Center, Minneapolis, MN
- 2023 Latinx Theatre Festival, San Diego, CA
- 2018 Campfire Theatre Festival, Boise, ID
- 2017 Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Waterford, CT

Miscellaneous

- 2018 Producer/Dramaturg, *Menstruation: A Period Piece* by Miranda Rose Hall, Staged Reading, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
- 2017-2018 Literary Fellow, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company