

MIA LEVENSON, PhD

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MiaLevenson.com

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

EDUCATION

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

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscript

[Forthcoming] *Empirical Spectacles: Performing Science in the Age of Eugenics*
 (under contract with Columbia University Press's Race, Inequality, and Health Series)

Essays

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

- 2026 [Forthcoming] “Theatre of War Production’s *A Refutation* at Johns Hopkins Hospital,” *Theatre Journal* (March 2026).
- 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
- 2025 Eugene Garfield Short-Term Research Fellow, American Philosophical Society
- 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

Sept. 2025	“Eugenics Congresses, Exhibitions, and the ‘Masque for Race Betterment’,” Johns Hopkins University Program in the History of Science, Medicine & Technology’s Fall Colloquia
March 2025	“Physicians and the Popularization of Eugenics,” Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina (Virtual)
Jan. 2025	“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	“Incubating the Future: Performing Science, Popularizing Eugenics,” Center for the Humanities at Tufts University
Nov. 2023	“Science in Performance/Performing Science,” STEM on Stage course, Tufts University, Experimental College
Sept. 2023	“‘Not more babies, but BETTER BABIES’: Eugenics, Sterilization, and the Popular Movement for Fitter Families,” Sterilization and Social Justice Lab (Virtual)

March 2022 “Eugenics and the Politics of Scientific Performance,” Consortium for History of Science, Medicine & Technology, Philadelphia

July 2020 “Anatomical Acts: Exploring the Intersections between Popular Anatomy and Popular Theatre in Nineteenth-Century America,” Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston

Papers Presented

Nov. 2025 [Forthcoming] “Paying It Forward: Creative Mentorship and Collaborative Communities” [Plenary Paper delivered with Heather Nathans], American Society for Theatre Research, Denver

Nov. 2025 [Forthcoming] “How Science Performs: Using Eugenics as a Case Study for Integrating Performance and Science Histories,” History of Science Society, New Orleans

May 2025 “Staging ‘A Great Race’: Eugenics, Pageantry, And Jewish Day at the Chicago World’s Fair,” Jews as Subjects and Objects in Medicine: An Interdisciplinary Workshop, Johns Hopkins University

April 2025 “Eugenics Takes Center Stage: Theatricality and Spectacle-Making in the U.S. Eugenics Movement,” Eugenics and the Body Workshop, Wheaton College (Virtual)

March 2025 “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* (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 “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 2025	Introduction to the History of Medicine, Online Program in the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (Virtual)
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

2025-2026	Academic Liaison for Medicine, Science, and the Humanities Major, Johns Hopkins University Krieger School of Arts & Sciences
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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

2025-present	"For the Medical Record" Podcast , Center for the Medical Humanities & Social Medicine at John's Hopkins University School of Medicine, Producer and Host
May 2025	"Jews as Subjects and Objects in Medicine: An Interdisciplinary Workshop," Co-Organizer with Leigh Alon, Center for the Medical Humanities & 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, <i>Journal of American Drama and Theatre</i> , "Special Issue: Milestones in Black Theatre"

2019; Editorial Assistant, *Theatre Topics*
2020-2021

2019 Copy-Editing Assistant, *Theatre Journal*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Theatre Research
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