

Holly Bree Nelson

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan Graduation | 2029
Ph.D. English Language and Literature (in progress)

Research Interests:

Performance Studies; Modernism; Drama; Dance; Historiography; The Archive; Ecocriticism;
Medical Humanities; Blue/Oceanic Humanities

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland Graduation | 2023
B.A. English | B.A. History | B.A. Medicine, Science, and the Humanities

Honors Theses:

“A Rare Standing Ovation’: Ballet Diplomacy, Russian Myth, and Black Transnationalism in the Dance Theatre of Harlem’s Soviet Union Tour (1988).” (Advised by Dr. Minkah Makalani, Department of History, Winner of [Arthur Kouguell Prize for Best History Thesis](#))

“The Gifted Consciousness: Reading Neurodivergence through Stephen Dedalus in James Joyce’s *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.” (Advised by Dr. Leonardo Lisi, Department of Medicine, Science, and the Humanities)

EMPLOYMENT

University of Michigan, Department of English 2024-Present
Archival Researcher – Detroit River Story Lab (PI: Dr. David Porter)

Johns Hopkins University, Department of History 2023-Present
Research Fellow – Black Louisiana Lab (PI: Dr. Jessica Marie Johnson)

Johns Hopkins University, Theatre Arts and Studies Program 2020-Present
Program Assistant

Johns Hopkins University, Undergraduate Research Office 2022-2023
Moderator – Richard Macksey National Humanities Symposium

The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation 2019-2021
Guest Services Associate

AWARDS, HONORS, & ACHIEVEMENTS

[Dante Prize](#), Dante Society of America – Best Essay in North America on Dante (\$500) 2023
Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan 2023
Phi Beta Kappa – Top 10% of Johns Hopkins University Class of 2023 2023
[Michel-Rolph Trouillot Anthropology Prize](#), Johns Hopkins University (\$500) 2023
Arthur Kouguell History Thesis Prize, Johns Hopkins University (\$500) 2023
Departmental Honors in English, Johns Hopkins University 2023
Departmental Honors in History, Johns Hopkins University 2023
Departmental Honors in Medicine, Science and the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University 2023
Fulbright Semi-Finalist 2023

Rhodes Scholarship Finalist	2022
Milton B. Strizever Research Excellence Award, Johns Hopkins University	2022
K. Michael and Natalie F. Jeffrey Scholarship, Johns Hopkins University (\$8,000)	2020-2023
Woodrow Wilson Research Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University (\$10,000)	2020-2023
Dean's List, Johns Hopkins University	2019-2023
Valedictorian, International Academy – Michigan's #1 Public High School	2019
International Baccalaureate Diploma	2019
Director's Award for Chorus, International Academy	2019
International Baccalaureate English Award, International Academy	2019
International Baccalaureate Spanish Award, International Academy	2019

PRESENTATIONS

“Sentiment, Appropriation, and Performativity in Nineteenth-Century Settler Song: Eliza Hamilton Dunlop and Isaac Nathan’s ‘The Aboriginal Mother’ (1841) and ‘The Aboriginal Father’ (1843).”

American Association of Australasian Literary Studies Conference, April 2024

“A Dramatic Ethnography: The Ethnographic Method as Structure in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Spunk* (1935) and *De Turkey and de Law* (1930).”

Inaugural Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Symposium, Morgan State University, April 2024

“Subversive Romance and Feminist Freedom in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.”

Michigan College English Association Conference, October 2023

“Absolving Matelda: Engaging with Ecofeminism in Dante Alighieri’s *Purgatorio*.”

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, UK and Ireland, Biennial Conference, August 2023

“Resistance, Radicalism, and Revelations: Black American Theatre and Performance from the Harlem Renaissance to the Black Arts Movement (1921-1988).”

URSCA Awardee Symposium, Johns Hopkins University, May 2023 (Woodrow Wilson Research Fellowship Capstone, Advised by Professor John Astin, Department of Theatre Arts and Studies)

[Invited] “Bloom’s Patriarchal Gaze: The Limitations on Female Agency in James Joyce’s *Ulysses*.”

Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Conference, November 2022

“The Work We are Attempting to Do”: The Politics of Representation in *Shuffle Along* (1921).”

Northeast Popular Culture Association Conference, October 2022

“A Vital Cultural Ambassador to the World’: Dance Diplomacy and Civil Rights in Alvin Ailey’s 1970 Soviet Union Tour.”

Richard Macksey National Humanities Research Symposium, April 2022

“Transforming ‘Dreams’ into Realities: The Sea as Metaphor in Langston Hughes’s Oceanic Literature (1925-1940).”

Johns Hopkins University DREAMS Symposium, April 2022

“A Dramatic Ethnography: The Ethnographic Method as Structure in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Spunk* (1935) and *De Turkey and de Law* (1930).”

Johns Hopkins University DREAMS Symposium, October 2021

PUBLICATIONS

[Forthcoming] Book Review of Mary Adams’s *James Joyce and the Internal World of the Replacement Child*.

James Joyce Quarterly, University of Tulsa, Fall 2024

[Forthcoming] “Creating Space?: Representations of Black Characters in Regency Romance.”

Writing with MLA Style, Modern Language Association, 2024

“A Vital Cultural Ambassador to the World’: Dance Diplomacy and Civil Rights in Alvin Ailey’s 1970 Soviet Union Tour.”

[Macksey Journal](#), Johns Hopkins University, October 2022

“The Fiction of ‘Shared Sisterhood’ between Indigenous and Settler Women in Anna Brownell Jameson’s *Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada*.”

Inquiries Journal, Northeastern University, April 2022

PUBLIC-FACING WORK

“Award-Winning Undergraduate Thesis Writer Holly Nelson on the Importance of Undergraduate Research.”

[Interview](#), Department of History Newsletter, Johns Hopkins University, October 2023

“To Be, or Not to Be (A Researcher)? A Portrait of a Humanities Student as a Woodrow Wilson Research Fellow.”

[Hopkins Insider](#), Johns Hopkins University, August 2023

“‘Going Native’ in Josephine Baker’s Parisian Dance Performances (1927-1937).”

[Virtual Exhibit](#), Johns Hopkins University, May 2023

“The Wyman Family and Slavery Project: The Gross Family at the Homewood Villa.”

[Hard Histories at Hopkins Newsletter](#), Johns Hopkins University, February 2022

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

American Studies Consortium, University of Michigan 2023–Present
Co-Coordinator

Modern Dance Company, Johns Hopkins University 2019–2023
President

English Club, Johns Hopkins University 2021–2023
President

Ballet Company, Johns Hopkins University 2021–2023
Production Manager and Choreographer

The John Astin Theatre, Johns Hopkins University 2020-2023
Actor and Production Crew

Barnstormers Theatre, Johns Hopkins University 2019-2023
Actor and Student Director

Homewood Arts Program, Johns Hopkins University 2019-2023
Modern Dance Class Demonstrator

LANGUAGES

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- Spanish, Advanced Proficiency (State of Michigan Seal of Biliteracy)
 - French, Advanced Proficiency
 - STATA Programming Language

AFFILIATIONS

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- Dante Society of America
 - Michigan College English Association
 - Modern Language Association
 - Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association