

curriculum vitae

XÉETL'EE / KATELYN STILES

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EDUCATION

PhD in Native American Studies, with a Designated Emphasis in Performance and Practice; Dissertation: Yee eedé tooshí áa [We sing to you]: Lingít Embodied Relationality with Yaaw [Pacific Herring]

2025 University of California, Davis, Committee Chair: Jessica Bissett Perea

MA in Native American Studies

2021 University of California, Davis

BA in Art Practice, Minor degree in Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies

2011 University of California, Berkeley

TRIBAL AFFILIATIONS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Lingít, Kiks.ádi Clan, Kaxhátjaa Hít [Shattering/Herring House], Kaagwaantaan Granddaughter
Enrolled Citizen of Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Kaxhátjaa Hít Collective Board President

Shareholder descendent of Sealaska and Shee Atika Native Corporations

Member of Herring Protectors, led by Kh'asheechtlaa Louise Brady

Dancer in Sheet'k'a Kwáan Dancers, led by Yeidikook'áa Dionne Brady

Dancer and Choreographer for "Herring Lady and Shame Robe Dance," collaboration with Khasheechtlaa and Herring Ladies

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

1. **Critical Indigenous Studies**, emphasis on community-based creative research and decolonizing methodologies;
2. **Visual and Embodied Sovereignty**, emphasis on fields including filmmaking (e.g., dance cinema and digital storytelling), life drawing, and contemporary dance and improvisation;
3. **Environmental Humanities**, emphasis on intersections between Indigenous arts, subsistence practices as food sovereignty, and Indigenous Science;
4. **Native American Literary Studies**, emphasis on combining textual with more-than-textual ways of engaging Native ways of being, knowing, and doing.

SELECTED TEACHING & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

2026 **Instructor of Indigenous Studies**, Instructor and Designer for Indigenous Studies
Module, Outercoast College, Sitka, Summer Seminar.

- 2026 **Assistant Professor of Indigenous Arts**, Instructor and Designer for team taught program: “Embodying Relationality: Indigenous Studies and Integrative Health Psychology,” Evergreen State College, Olympia, Spring Quarter.
- 2025-26 **Assistant Professor of Indigenous Arts**, Instructor and Designer for team taught full time program: “Performance Studies: Dance, Media, Theatre, Music,” Evergreen State College, Olympia, Fall and Winter Quarter
- 2025 **Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies**, Course Instructor: “Yaaw [Herring]: Indigenous Food Sovereignty,” University of Alaska Southeast, Sitka, Spring Semester.
- 2024 **Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies**, Course Instructor: “Mindful Learning,” Curriculum Development: “Indigenous Food Sovereignty,” University of Alaska Southeast, Sitka, Spring Semester.
- 2024 **Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies**, Course Instructor and Designer: “Navigating College: Relationality, Respect & Indigenous Futures” University of Alaska Southeast, Sitka, Fall Semester.
- 2024 **Dance and Drawing Instructor**, Workshop for Movement Artisans Summer program, Lake Studies, Berlin, June.
- 2023 **Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies**, Curriculum Development: “Navigating College: Relationality, Respect & Indigenous Resurgence,” and Course facilitator of “Herring Egg Harvest Apprenticeship” (Co-sponsored course with Herring Protectors for Indigenous Youth learning from Master Harvesters), University of Alaska Southeast, Sitka, Spring Semester.
- 2022 **Associate Instructor & Course Designer**: “Introduction to Native American Literature,” Department of Native American Studies at University of California, Davis, Spring Quarter.
- 2021 **Associate Instructor & Course Designer**: “Introduction to Native American Literature,” Department of Native American Studies at University of California, Davis, Spring Quarter.
- 2021 **Associate Instructor & Course Designer**: “Dance on Camera,” Department of Theatre and Dance at University of California, Davis, Winter Quarter.
- 2021 **Guest Lecture**: “Yáa at wooné: Respect for All Things” in “Native American Religion and Philosophy” with Professor Inés Hernandez-Avila at University of California, Davis. February 25.
- 2020 **Teaching Assistant**: “Introduction to Native American Studies,” Department of Native American Studies at University of California, Davis, Assistant to Dr. Jessica Bissett Perea, Fall Quarter.
- 2020 **Teaching Assistant**: “History of Cinema,” Department of Cinema and Digital Media Studies at University of California, Davis, Assistant to Dr. Fiamma Montezemolo, Winter Quarter.
- 2020 **Guest Lecture**: “Native American Cinema” In “History of Cinema,” Department of Cinema and Digital Media Studies at University of California, Davis. February 19.
- 2019 **Teaching Assistant**: “Introduction to Native American Studies,” Department of Native American Studies at University of California, Davis, Assistant to Dr. Jessica Bissett Perea, Fall Quarter.

- 2018 **Assistant Teacher**, Advanced Contemporary Dance Technique, Impulstanz Festival, Vienna, July.
- 2018 **Drawing Instructor**, Workshop at Sensing In Festival, Berlin, Germany.
- 2017 **Movement and Drawing Instructor**, Workshop at Burg University of Art and Design, Halle, Germany.
- 2016 **Movement and Drawing Instructor**, Workshop at Art Atelier Berlin, Germany.
- 2015 **Movement and Drawing Facilitator**, Workshop at Living Arts Base Catalonia
- 2014 **Video and Movement Lab Facilitator**, Contact Meets Contemporary Dance Festival, Germany

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2025 Faculty Research Grant, Evergreen State College
- 2022-24 Ocean Nexus Visiting Fellow, Equity in Ocean Science Research Fellowship, Earth Lab at University of Washington
- 2022-24 Featured artist in Traveling Exhibit: “Protection: Adaptation and Resistance.” The Pratt Museum, The Anchorage Museum, Native Arts and Culture Foundation, Tulsa Living Arts, Museum of International Folk Art, Alaska State Museum.
- 2023 Outer Coast College Artist in Residence
- 2022 Sitka Tribe of Alaska Higher Education Scholarship
- 2021 Margrit Mondavi Graduate Fellowship in the College of Letters and Science.
- 2021 Unhatching Research Grant, HATCH Mellon Research Initiative on Feminist Arts and Sciences.
- 2020 Mellon Public Scholar Fellowship, UC Davis Humanities Institute.
- 2020 Honorable Mention for Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, National Academies of Sciences.
- 2018 Environmental & Disability Film in Bronze, Global Independent Film Awards, for dance film “Rhizophora.”
- 2017 Research Academy ZHdK Participant: Performance, Lies and Videotape: Beyond Documentation, Zürich, Switzerland.
- 2015 Honorable Mention at Society for Visual Anthropology Film and Media Festival, for dance film “Rhizophora.”
- 2016 EcoVillage Design Certification, Gaia Education Switzerland.
- 2013 Migration Project Member, Digital Media and Dance, Tanzfabrik Berlin.
- 2011 Eisner Prize in Film, highest award in the Arts, received for “Moving Self and Other,” dance film, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2011 Sara Huntsman Sturgess Memorial Prize, Artistic Achievement in Dance, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2010 Member of Golden Key International Honour Society

SELECTED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS & PERFORMANCE LECTURES

- 2025 Talk for “Artist Lecture Series,” Evergreen State College, Olympia, October 8th
- 2023 Artist Talk for “Yee eedé tooshí áa/ we sing to you” in the exhibit: Protection: Adaptation and Resistance, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, Portland, Oregon, May 19th.
- 2023 Performance and Lecture: “Weaving a basket for my face” work in progress sharing at artist residency, Outer Coast College, Sitka, Alaska, May 9th.
- 2023 “Yee eedé tooshí áa/ we sing to you” Screening and Q&A Presentation, Naa Kahidi Community House, Sitka, Alaska, February 26th.
- 2021 “Gunahéen[Different Water]: A Portrait Series of Tlingit & Haida Women in Diaspora,” presentation at Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting (NAISA) Virtual Conference, June 14-18.
- 2021 “Improvising within the field of settler colonialism on Indigenous land,” presentation at Future of CI Virtual Conference, Earthdance Massachusetts, April 23.
- 2021 “Improvisation and Diaspora: Gunahéen[Different Water]: A Portrait Series of Tlingit & Haida Women in Diaspora,” presentation at American Indian and Indigenous Collective (AIIC) 2021 Virtual Symposium titled: Native Feminisms: Centering American Indian and Indigenous Land and People, held at University of California, Santa Barbara. February 21.
- 2020 “Tlingit Dance on Camera: Cultural Resiliency Through Video Documentation.” paper accepted for Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting (NAISA) in Toronto, Canada, May 7-9. (Canceled due to Covid19 Pandemic)
- 2020 “Salmon Relations: Mapping Tlingit Cosmologies through Embodied Stories of Returning.” Performance Lecture with film, drawing and dance at The Body As Archive Conference held by AIIC at UCSB, February 19th.
- 2019 “Marking Memory: Ancestral Salmon, a White Christmas and Balletic Traces.” University of California, Davis. Performance Studies Mini Conference. Davis, California. November 22.
- 2017 “The Earth Will Come.” Dance Cinema Panel with filmmakers. RIFF R.E.D. International Film Festival. Eina, Norway. July 29.
- 2017 “Consent and Power Dynamics in Documentation.” Research Academy Zurich University of the Arts. “Beyond Documentation: Performance, Lies, and Videotape.” July 20.

PROFESSIONAL ARTS EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

- 2011 – Present Freelance Filmmaker, specialization in dance documentation, Selected Commissions: Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Theater o.N. Berlin, Tanzfabrik Berlin, House of Poetry Berlin, Hebbel Am Ufer Berlin, Ponderosa Movement & Discovery, NOW! Festival Berlin, Tanztage Berlin, The Instrument, Sensing In Berlin
- 2011 – 2017 Dance Videographer and Editor for Rapt Productions, Selected Clients: San Francisco Ballet, Lines Ballet, Joe Goode Performance Group, ODC, Bandaloop
- 2013 Videographer for Contemporary Dance Archive for German Theater Institute, Funded by Berlin Senate to create Contemporary Dance Video Archive
- 2015 Artist in Residence, Living Arts Base, Catalonia

2014 – Present Axis Syllabus Training, Movement Artisans, Berlin
2013 Artist in Residence, Ponderosa Movement and Discovery, Stolzenhagen, Germany
2012 P.O.R.C.H. Professional Dance Training Program, Ponderosa, Germany
2012 La Alternativa Winter Dance Training Program, San Francisco
2011 Performer, Joe Goode Performance Group, San Francisco
2011 Joe Goode Performance Group Professional Winter Training Program
2005-2009 Company Member & Performer, Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo
2008 San Francisco Conservatory of Dance Winter Training Program, San Francisco
2004 State Street Ballet Summer Dance Intensive, Santa Barbara

SELECTED FILM SCREENINGS

The Earth Will Come. Director, Editor, Cinematographer

2018 Dance Camera West. REDCAT, Los Angeles.
2018 Cinedans Amsterdam. The Eye, Amsterdam.
2017 RIFF R.E.D. International Film Festival. Eina, Norway.
2017 San Francisco Dance Film Festival. Roxie Theater, San Francisco.
2017 Movimiento en Movimiento. Mexico City, Mexico.

Rhizophora. Co-Creator & Editor

2018 Dance on Camera Festival. New York City.
2017 Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival. Austin.
2016 Ethnographic Film Series. Portland.
2016 New Orleans Film Festival. New Orleans.
2016 Loikka Dance Film Festival. Helsinki.
2016 New Orleans Film Festival.
2015 Society for Visual Anthropology Film Festival. Colorado.
2015 San Francisco Dance Film Festival, San Francisco

Tanztage Berlin Dance Film. Director, Editor, Cinematographer

2014 Berliner Fenster, Berlin.

Moving Self and Other. Director, Editor, Cinematographer

2011 Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley (winner of the Eisner Prize)

SELECTED PERFORMANCES (as performer)

2011 The Rambler, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Joe Goode Performance Group
2011 Berkeley Dance Project-Stream, Solo Performance, UC Berkeley
2010 Flying and Falling, UC Berkeley Playhouse, Directed by Joe Goode

2008-2009 Slightest Movements, SLO Little Theater, Choreography: Drew Silvaggio
2008 Spanish, SLO Little Theater, Choreography: Mark Swanhart
2007-2009 Dreams, PAC San Luis Obispo, Choreography: Alex Ketley
2006-2007 Side Walk Stories, PAC San Luis Obispo, Choreography: Drew Silvaggio
2007 China Tour, Civic Ballet of SLO, Shanghai, Wuxi, Nanjing, and Beijing

REFERENCES

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