

# MYRIAM D. DIATTA | UX & DESIGN CV

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## FORMAL EDUCATION

- 2018 - 2022 **PhD**, School of Art, Design and Architecture, WonderLab, Dissertation title: Thinking Form: A Creative Practice for Bringing Together the Everyday and Black Onto-Epistemologies, Completed: January 2022  
Monash University, Melbourne, AU
- 2014 **MFA**, Transdisciplinary Design, Parsons School of Design  
The New School, New York City
- 2012 **BFA**, Interior Design, Minor in Industrial & Interaction Design, School of Visual Performing Arts, Thesis on community memory of "Westcott Nation" in neighborhood of Westcott, Syracuse  
Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York
- 2011 **I.DO Summer Project**, Interdisciplinary Design: Design for The Ageing Population in the Pearl River Delta  
Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Kowloon, Hong Kong
- 2007 **Summer Seminar**, Art workshops, demos, lectures, and studio work  
Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia

## TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

- 2016, 2017 **Assistant Professor at Pratt Institute**  
2 Courses — Graduate Level "Design Strategies Studio: Objects for Psychology and Social Justice" in Master of Industrial Design (MID) Program; Undergraduate Year 4 "Psychological Futures" in Industrial Design Program
- 2015, 2017 **Adjunct Faculty at The New School**  
3 Courses — "Introduction to Service Design" for Undergraduates; "Integrated Studio 2: Systems and Strategies" for First-Year Program; Undergraduate course "Collaborative: Human Services" in Integrated Design Program
- 2014 **Graduate Assistant Teacher at The New School**  
2 Courses — "Worldmaking: Design and Designing in Social and Political Context" seminar for Shana Agid's University Undergraduate Lecture; "Design at the Edge" seminar course for Bruce Nussbaum's University Undergraduate Lecture Series
- 2009 - 2012 **Multicultural Mentor at Syracuse University**, WellsLink Leadership Program mentor for first-year undergraduate students in an effort to increase retention rates of BIPOC students at private institutions, Maintaining weekly, 1-hour individual meetings with 5 to 6 students, Handling outreach for students at risk of disengaging in the program, Conducting reports for monthly staff meetings, Participating in monthly cohort seminars

## DESIGN RESEARCH AND FACILITATION (SELECTED)

*Graphic design, Planning and managing workshops and research activities involving students, faculty, and industry professionals. Transforming research insights to innovative concepts and services.*

- 2022      **UX Researcher and Workshop Designer at StrawberryFrog**, Strategic and creative brand consultancy, Freelance, Translating previously completed user research into workshop activities. Designing multiple 3 to 4-hour ideation and user experience workshops for 120+ participants at a New York City based consulting firm, March to May 2022
- UX Researcher at The Design Gym**, Freelance, Designing workshops and co-creative activities for global investment company, January to February 2022
- 2021      **Reflective Processes with Librarians**, Instruction & Outreach Team at Lehigh University Libraries, Facilitating six 90-minute sessions across spring and summer of 2021, Facilitating team to develop a process for reflecting together as alternative to traditional approaches to library 'assessment,' Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
- 2018 - 2022      **Thinking Form: A Creative Practice for Bringing Together the Everyday and Black Onto-Epistemologies**, A practice-led, non-disciplinary PhD project that demonstrates a methodology and introduces creative methods dedicated to aligning politicized values and everyday actions, Entailing applications in seven diverse contexts
- 2015 – Pres.      **Co-Founder, Partner at Matter-Mind Studio**, A creative studio dedicated to understanding and supporting people's emotional well-being, Co-managing the studio, acquiring clients, internal strategy and planning, consulting and facilitation for clients, talks and panels for design and art community, establishing membership at three incubators in two years, developing and curating a collection of 30+ emotion-centered design tools published independently
- 2016      **UX Design Researcher at Field and Studio**, Coordinating relationships with 100+ users, Moderating dozens of interviews for New York Times and a tech startup at Cornell Tech, Toplining insights from interviews, Translating findings for product development, September to December 2016
- 2017      **Value-Driven Research for NEW INC x New Museum**, 5-months of research and design conducted for the first museum-led cultural incubator, NEW INC in New York City, Translating community values and needs into tangible, physical artifacts in the office space, Objects installed to prompt reflection, collect 'data,' and evaluate ways community members implement and engage with the values on a day-to-day scale
- 2014 - 2015      **Graphic Designer and Design Consultant at The Duckworth Lab**, University of Pennsylvania, Designing research intervention materials for grade level students to learn and apply social-emotional learning, Piloting exploratory iterations of behavioral science interventions for research team at The Duckworth Lab, June 2014 to December 2015
- Graphic Designer and Designer at Character Lab**, Translating evidence-based character development intervention into an accessible set of K12 classroom materials, Co-facilitating and planning design workshops with teachers, Conducting UX research, Leading production of three case study videos of teachers and schools implementing character, Designing internal progress reports, August 2014 - November 2015
- 2013 - 2014      **Independent Researcher with Child Mind Institute**, Program observation, evaluating gaps in the program, and interviews with parents, For Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

(PCIT) program at a private institute for supporting children with mental health and learning disorders and their families, New York City, Part of [Material Communications](#)

**Design Researcher at [Thriving Lab](#)**, Analyzing reflective practice methods for lead design researcher Lisa Grocott, Composing workshops and materials to incite metacognitive thinking in students ranging from grade school students to PhD candidates.

2013 **Graduate Assistant Researcher at The New School**, Researching community-based storytelling methods and transcribing interviews for [Shana Agid](#) PhD's research in collaboration with [Critical Resistance \(CR\)](#), a national organization dedicated to opposing the expansion of the Prison Industrial Complex

## TALKS, CONFERENCES, AND FACILITATION (SELECTED)

2021 Guest Demo, "Fabstract" Demo for Masters by Research course, [Video](#) and [Medium Article](#)  
At Performing and Creative Arts at Monash University, Melbourne

2020 Workshop facilitator, On theme of 'care' with Designers in Residence 2020 Cohort  
At London Design Museum  
  
Presenter, "How might you em/body your own becoming?: An exploration of Critical Autoethnography," Black Feminist Thought Session in Autoethnography Special Interest Group, 16th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI) [Submission Accepted, Conference cancelled due to Covid-19 Pandemic]  
At University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

2019 Workshop facilitator, "Unsettling Design Study," Workshops with undergraduate students, Expansion Studies in Design, Self-Directed Study Program  
At Monash University Italy Campus, Prato, Italy  
  
Workshop organizer and facilitator, "Resist Smaller, Resist Slower: 'Make' Visible your Day-to-Day Resistance Practice" with Yi Zhang, at [Autoethnography Special Interest Group](#) (SIG), 16th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI), Theme: Qualitative Inquiry and the Politics of Resistance  
At University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Panelist, "How does time and relationships matter in human-centred design?," Alongside Shana Agid and Sean Donahue, Hosted by Yoko Akama, [Design and Ethics #3](#), Service Design Melbourne  
At Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Melbourne, Australia

2017 Guest workshop facilitator, For artist [Stephanie Dinkins](#)' Project al-Khwarizmi (PAK), working with young people aged 18-26 participating as 'an alternative to incarceration and its intersecting systems of oppression'  
At [Recess Art](#), Brooklyn, New York

Panelist, [Designing for Unconscious Bias](#), Alongside Rafael Sergio and Project Inkblot, At [NEW INC](#): Museum-led Incubator, New York City

Panelist, Emotion-Centered Design, [Better World by Design Conference](#)  
Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

2015 Speaker, Global Design Graduate representing Parsons The New School  
At Design Indaba Conference, Cape Town, South Africa

2014            Conference presenter and paper, Material Communications, *The Art of Research V: Experience, Materiality, Articulation* [Peer-reviewed conference paper]  
At Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland

## **PUBLISHED WORKS**

### **Book Chapter**

Diatta, M. D. (in press). Turning the Body Inside Out: Model-Making, Critical Theory, and Self-Accountability. In *Making Knowledge: Design Studies Practices in Action*, Bloomsbury Publishing

### **Articles, Peer-Reviewed**

Diatta, M. D. (in press). Freezing Ontologies: Making Visible the Messiness of Working with Theory. *Text and Performance Quarterly*.

Diatta, M. D., Goncalves, R. D., & Grocott, L. H. (2022). A Family of Sensibilities: Toward a Relational Design Practice Grounded in Materiality and Embodiment. *Design and Culture*, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17547075.2021.2018539>

Diatta, M. D., Jones, S. H., McEntee, K. (2021). A Place to Meet: How Critical Theory Cares for the Everyday in Artistic Practice. *Research in Arts and Education*, 304–326. <https://researtsedu.com/2021-december-4>

Diatta, M. D. (2014). *Material Communications*. In *Journal of Arts Writing for Students*, 1(1), 63-76.

## **AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND MEMBERSHIPS**

2016 - 2018    Member, NEW INC: Museum-led Incubator, Project: Running Matter–Mind Studio, a research, strategy, and design consultancy, New York City

2015 - 2016    Fellow, Parsons ELAB, Founding and running Matter–Mind Studio, New York City  
Member, Centre for Social Innovation, Founding and running Matter–Mind Studio

2013            University Merit Scholarship Award, The New School, New York City

## **LANGUAGES**

WORKING PROFICIENCY	HOME LANGUAGE	ELEMENTARY PROFICIENCY
English	Japanese	Mexican Spanish, French, Italian