



## ARTiculating Deaf Experiences Conference Nov6-9,2019

### Presenter Biographies

Thursday, November 7

**IVT: The Art of Emancipation Contribution to a History of Deaf Art: a selection of contemporary cases**

**Olivier Schetrit**

Thur, 7 Nov 2019 (9:15 – 10:30 am)

Olivier Schetrit has a PhD in anthropology and is currently a postdoctoral researcher at CEMS-CNRS / EHESS in Paris.

Deaf from birth, he is a stylist and actor by training. He is part of the professional troupe, International Visual Theater (IVT), the only theater for the Deaf in Paris. He is also a pedagogue, director, and professional storyteller. After obtaining a professional license (Social Intervention, specialty teaching of sign language, Paris 8), he obtained a master's degree in social sciences. In 2016, he obtained his PhD in social anthropology and ethnology - EHESS-LAS-Collège of France-CNRS for his study, The Deaf culture filmic approach to artistic creation and identity issues of the Deaf in France and in transnational networks under the direction of Barbara Glowczewski. He has published about IVT, Deaf identity, aesthetics such as chansignes and choresignes.

**De'VIA Manifesto**

**Paul Johnston and Amy Stevens**

Thur, 7 Nov 2019 (11:00 – 11:30 am)

Paul Johnston was a founding member of De'VIA (an acronym for Deaf View Image Art). For 32 years Dr. Johnston taught at Gallaudet University. In 2011, he was artist in residence at Siena Art Institute in Siena, Italy. Expressive in many mediums, he was the first person to receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts in furniture design and woodworking from the School for American Craftsman at Rochester Institute of Technology. He holds a Master's and Doctoral degree in Art Education with Phi Delta Kappa honors from Penn State University. He was a company member of the National Theatre of the Deaf, and an original designer of Signing Mime—a performing company—where he wrote and directed plays. He has taught and led workshops and lectures on ASL poetry, creative signing and visual gestural communication. He has been a frequent lecturer, exhibition juror, moderator and guest artist in the U.S. and Europe.

Amy Stevens is a tenured professor of communication studies at Gallaudet University. Through her academic career, Professor Stevens has incorporated experiential learning in a broad range of courses including Women's Body Image in Advertising, Civil Rights Struggles through Images and Text, and Introduction to Mass Communication. Drawing upon her degrees in journalism, communication and art, Professor Stevens taught students how to write and design 24-page booklets, multi-page websites, infographics, posters and large banners. Students also embraced two-dimensional designs in several exhibits, titled "Social Justice Sneakers: Walk in Someone Else's Shoes," "Tears, Trials and Triumph: The African American Story," and "Iconic Images: One Button at a Time." Professor Stevens' MFA is in graphic design from Howard University. She serves as the media liaison and internship coordinator for the Communication Studies program.

### **On Deaf (Creative) Writing: Past, Present, and Future**

**Kristen Harmon**

Thur, 7 Nov 2019 (11:30 – 12:00 pm)

Kristen Harmon, Ph.D., is a professor of English at Gallaudet University. A Deaf author and academic, she has published both creative works (fiction) and scholarly works on a range of topics from literature to creative writing to Deaf Studies to writing for the public to ethnographic research and theory. She is series editor for Gallaudet University's Classics in Deaf Studies and has co-edited two anthologies of creative writing by Deaf authors for Gallaudet University Press (with colleague Dr. Jennifer Nelson). Some of her work on Deaf writing has been picked up by Lit Hub Daily (22 Jan. 2019). From 2010-2013, Dr. Harmon was the Communications Director for the National Science Foundation's Science of Learning Center on Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2); while there, she wrote, directed, and co-designed the VL2 Parents Package and multiple research briefs on the advantages of bilingualism for Deaf children and infants. More details about her work can be found here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kristenharmon/>

### **Nordic Deaf Theatre Co. Panel**

**Mira Zuckermann, Marita S. Barber, Mindy Drapsa**

Thur, 7 Nov 2019 (12:45 -1:25 pm)

Mira Zuckermann is a Norwegian-Israeli actor and director. Since 2001, Zuckermann have been theatre manager for the professional Norwegian sign language theatre, Teater Manu. With 13 directed plays and 13 performances as actress, she is well known by the deaf audiences. Since the start up in 2001, Teater Manu have been nominated six times for the National theatre award (Hedda award). One of the nominations was for the play "Pinocchio", which was directed by Zuckermann. Teater Manu also won the award for the best audio-visual play for "Jack and the Beanstalk", also directed by Zuckermann.

Artistic Director Marita S. Barber graduated in Theatre Arts, BA and Media minor of BA from Gallaudet University and in Manager minor MBA from Prohana 2017. Marita got different awards in shows and art works, like Josep Velez's Award from National Theatre of the Deaf 1989, the year of the best actress 1996 and the year of the best director 1995 at Gallaudet University. Medal for Merit award in Finnish Association of the Deaf's 100th Anniversary in 2007. Marita was one of founders for Living Hands- company. Marita has been teaching drama and poetry in Finland, Uganda, Namibia, Tansania, Mosambik, Etiopia, Brazilia, etc. Marita is well known by in deaf community in Finland through by her visit in media. Also, Marita is an actress and director. Marita received the honorary invitation for cultural well-being of society and community service from President of the Republic of Finland to celebrate Finland's independence in 2015.

Mindy Drapsa is Artistic Director of Riksteaterns Tyst Teater and have been a part of Tyst Teater's team since 2017. In Sweden Mindy Drapsa is also well known as co-founder of Dramaski where she still is president. Mindy Drapsa has BA in linguistics and is vice president of SIMA, a Swedish collage.

## **Documenting Deaf NYC Stories**

**Brian H. Greenwald and Brianna DiGiovanni**

Thur, 7 Nov 2019 (1:30 – 2:50 pm)

Brian H. Greenwald, PhD is professor of history and Director of the Drs. John S. and Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center at Gallaudet University. He is co-editor of *A Fair Chance in the Race of Life: The Role of Gallaudet University in Deaf History* and *In Our Own Hands: Essays in Deaf History, 1780-1970*. Brian has presented widely on many topics on American Deaf history. Currently, he is co-director (with Jean L. Bergey) of the Deaf NYC: Signs of Change project that explores deaf life in New York City during the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Brianna DiGiovanni is a fourth-year student at Gallaudet University, where she is pursuing a degree in History. She is a student research assistant at the Drs. John S. and Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center. She is currently working on the Deaf NYC: Signs of Change project that explores deaf life in New York City during the late 19th and 20th centuries. Ms. DiGiovanni has been also involved with different exhibits at the Gallaudet University Archives and Deaf Collections. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, she intends to apply to graduate school to further her knowledge of history and teaching, and progress toward a career as a history teacher.

## **Golden Years for Deaf Lesbians? An Exploration of Deaf Lesbian Options in Life's Last Chapter**

**Bridget Klein**

Thur, 7 Nov 2019 (1:30 – 2:50 pm)

Bridget Klein joined the ASL/English Interpreting Program at Bloomsburg University faculty in 2013. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Keuka College, focusing on ASL in 2003. In 2004, Ms. Klein enrolled at Gallaudet University and graduated with two masters; the first one was in teaching sign language (2006) and the second was in Deaf cultural studies (2007). She also graduated with a certificate in Deaf History. Currently, Ms. Klein is ABD at American University completing her doctoral study in anthropology. Her dissertation analyzes anthropological stories of older Deaf lesbian women's intersectionality identities from 1950s to today.

## **Yours Most Sincerely: A Study of the Friendship of a Nineteenth-Century Deaf-Mute Artist and Prominent Political Couple**

**Corinna Hill**

Thur, 7 Nov 2019 (1:30 – 2:50 pm)

Corinna Hill is a lecturer in the Deaf Cultural and Creative Studies department at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and a PhD student in the history department at the University of Rochester and. She studies deafness, disability, and women in the United States during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

## **Two Nations, Sign Languages and Sexes but One Shared Identity: Signed Poetry on Intersectionality of Deaf Queer African**

**Rezenet Moges Riedel**

Thur, 7 Nov 2019 (3:45 – 4:15 pm)

As a CSU-Long Beach alumnus, Rezenet Moges-Riedel returns there as a full-time Lecturer in ASL Linguistics and Deaf Cultures program. She graduated with Masters in Linguistic Anthropology after studying about sign language contact in her family country, Eritrea, located in east Africa. Her last publications are based on Deaf Queer, using crip theory and a new concept "Demissionization" that concentrates on an aftermath of language purism, dissociating from missionization. Currently, she is a Doctoral Candidate studying at CSU, Northridge about Deaf Faculty of Color and working on re-framing Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality with Deaf lens.

## **Contribution of Black Deaf Performing Arts**

**Fred Beam**

Thur, 7 Nov 2019 (4:15 – 4:45 pm)

Fred Michael Beam is Outreach Coordinator for Sunshine 2.0 .He has worked as acclaimed professional dancer, actor, director, choreographer, ASL Director and playwright for numerous dance concerts and theater nationally and internationally. He has performed around the globe including Africa, Australia, Egypt, England, and France among others. He was a member of "I Didn't Hear That Color," the first black deaf play ever produced. His television and film credits include "If You Could Hear My Own Tune," "The West Wing," "Secret Dream," "Little Lonely Monster, and "The New Captain Kangaroo, " for which he won the 2000 Media Access Award. He has served as the director of Invisible Hands, Inc., which promotes deaf awareness through performing arts. He was a founding member of the Wild Zappers, an all deaf male dance company. He also established Theatre Arts Leadership Training for Deaf People of Color at Gallaudet University.

**Friday, November 8**

**"Do It For the Culture": A Critical Look Into The Evolving BlackDeaf Expressions in Written English**

**Kristi Merriweather**

Fri, 8 Nov 2019 (9:15 – 10:30 am)

Kristi Merriweather is an educator and Deaf Learning Specialist by profession. Deaf since age 2, she was a prolific reader who attended schools under Atlanta Public Schools from elementary to high school. She is a graduate of Spelman, Howard, and Georgia State University with degrees in psychology and Deaf Education. A few of her poems have been published in Deaf American Poetry: An Anthology. Her community service has involved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Georgia Association of the Deaf and she is a co-founding member of Atlanta Tribe of Deaf A.C.E. (DeafBlack Americans Committed to Empowerhood) and established a national youth program for BlackDeaf teenagers for National Black Deaf Advocates, which is still in existence 22 years later.

**De'VIA: Understanding the Themes and Motifs**

**Nancy Rourke**

Fri, 8 Nov 2019 (11:00 – 11:30 am)

Nancy Rourke is an internationally-known Deaf artist and activist. As a full-time professional artist, she is involved implementing De'VIA art curriculum for Deaf children. Deaf View/Image Art, also known as De'VIA, is art that examines and expresses the Deaf experience from a cultural, linguistic, and intersectional point of view. She does artist-in-residencies at Deaf schools nationwide where she teaches and makes art in Rourkeism De'VIA. This is a style of De'VIA, modeled after her work, and noteworthy for its use of bold primary colors and Deaf-themes expressing affirmation, resistance and liberation. Nancy offers De'VIA retreats, hosts art galleries for Deaf artists, and raises awareness of Deaf people through Art. A book about her work is entitled "Nancy Rourke: Deaf Artist Series" and she illustrated the portraits appearing in "ABC Portraits of Deaf Ancestors," written by Karen Christie.

**Highlighting Intersectional Deafnicity: From Theory, to Experience, to Literature**

**Rachel Mazique**

Fri, 8 Nov 2019 (11:30 – 12:00 pm)

Rachel Mazique is an Assistant Professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology who specializes in Deaf literature, Deaf studies, and disability studies. As the latter two fields are interdisciplinary, Mazique's research interests are also interdisciplinary and include cognitive approaches to literary studies, research in human rights, as well as theories of ethnicity. Her presentation on "Intersectional Deafnicity" draws from and expands on a portion of her dissertation, Transatlantic Deaf Literature and the Human and Group Rights Claims of Sign Language Peoples. By examining the portrayal of Deaf ethnicity, or "Deafnicity," in transatlantic Deaf literature, her work asks how this literature engages "rights" discourses, including disability rights, human rights, group rights, as well as bioethical issues. Dr. Mazique teaches First Year Writing Seminar and Critical Reading and Writing to students of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. More recently, she has proposed a new course, "Literatures of Intersectionality."

## **TDG LOL: Teaching Deaf Culture through Humor**

**Matt Daigle**

Fri, 8 Nov 2019 (1:30 – 2:50 pm)

Matt Daigle is an award winning Deaf and partially sighted artist who is best known for his popular webcomic "That Deaf Guy". For the past 25 years, Matt has worked in a variety of artistic settings as a cartoonist, illustrator, and graphic designer and as a national speaker. Matt has received numerous art awards throughout the years most notably being invited to present at the Edmund Lyon Memorial Lectureship Series at RIT in 2012 and receiving the graduate of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.) Alumni Award from his alma mater Northern State University in 2011. Since 2016, Matt has worked with Sorenson Communications as a graphic artist creating the popular Buzzstickers, and as an ASL instructor at California State University, Northridge. In July 2019, he graduated with a Masters in Sign Language Education from Gallaudet University. Matt lives in Burbank, California, with his wife, Kay, and son, Hayden.

## **Justin Perez's Visual Vernacular**

**Justin Perez**

Fri, 8 Nov 2019 (1:30 – 2:50 pm)

Justin Perez was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He was a student at Texas School for the Deaf. He has always been fascinated by American Sign Language (ASL) performance art and storytelling styles. Throughout his teenage years, he had incredibly deep bonds with several of his close friends who also enjoyed sharing a variety of ASL stories, and that was where he defined numerous storytelling techniques along with sign language expressions. Repeated requests to share his storytelling became the fuel to his passion, creativity, and innovative persona--pushing new ASL performance boundaries and art. Justin has been a Vernacular (VV) teacher at Texas School for the Deaf, ASL tutor at National Technical Institute of the Deaf, ASL model and expert with TRUE+WAY ASL curriculum. Most recently, he won the ASL Elements national ASL competition with his fan favorite, a Super Mario Kart story.

## **From Deaf Eyes: Photography As A Visual Storyteller**

**Orkid Sassouni**

Fri, 8 Nov 2019 (1:30 – 2:50 pm)

Orkid Sassouni works as a Library Technical Assistant at the SFPL's Deaf Services Center. She is a member of the Access Advisor at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco. Ms. Sassouni is an ASL gallery lecturer, first at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, in NYC, for ten years and later with the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco. She is a council member for Mayor's Disability Council under Mayor's Office of Disability focusing on accessibility issues within City Departments and public spaces. Ms. Sassouni began developing her photography skills while a student at Gallaudet University. She graduated with a BA degree in Art History & Museum Studies. Later, Ms. Sassouni studied Studio Photography at Parsons School of Design. She worked on her documentary photography project called Being Deaf and Free Spirit for more than two years which was exhibited and traveled for two years all across the United States.

## **Journey of ASL Literature and Deaf Art in Digital Media**

**Ruthie Jordan**

Fri, 8 Nov 2019 (1:30 – 2:50 pm)

Ruthie "Eyepoetic" Jordan is an ASL Literature consultant, educator, filmmaker, and creative artist. My journey took me in many directions after college, and I am truly grateful for the seeds that were planted by those experiences that influenced and nourished my soul as a member of both the Deaf and Hearing communities. I'm passionate about sharing a creative language through various art forms which will inspire the next generation of Deaf people. "Sign Language is our voice of the soul"-Ruthie Jordan

## **Making of an Epic in American Sign Language: Tapping into Martha's Vineyard to Shed New Light on Deaf Storytelling**

**Samuel J. Supalla and Andrew Byrne**

Fri, 8 Nov 2019 (3:45 – 4:15 pm)

Sam Supalla began telling stories as a boy to his peers at Oregon School for the Deaf, then winning a national award for his work at the age of 14. He went on to publish the ASL Literature Series with Ben Bahan in 1992. Over the years, Sam has evolved as a performer and felt compelled to create the ultimate "Deaf experience" in his newest story. Being employed as a professor at the University of Arizona has allowed Sam to do research and development work with ASL literature. Dr. Supalla is currently the President of the Society for ASL organization. Sam's inspiration for "Martha's Vineyard" comes from his deep commitment to literacy, and continually striving to better understand how signers can find their rightful place in society. Signers encompass the essence of Deaf people at their core, which will promote diversity, differences, and inclusiveness across society.

Born to Deaf parents, Canada, Dr. Andrew Byrne attended the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf in Belleville, Ontario. He earned a B.A. in History from Gallaudet University, an M.Sc. in Deaf Education from McDaniel College, and a Ph.D. in Education: Language, Culture, and Teaching from York University. Dr. Byrne has been a teacher for 26 years in Canada and the United States teaching at the E. C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton, Ontario, York University, McDaniel College, the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind, the University of Hawaii at Moana, Lamar University, and Framingham State University. Currently, he is a clinical assistant professor/director of the ASL program at the University at Buffalo. Dr. Byrne is the recording secretary and the newsletter editor of the Society for American Sign Language (SASL). His current areas of interest are literary genre studies, ASL literary criticism, and the canon of ASL literary works.

## **What are the ties between the film industry and us?**

**David de Keyzer**

Fri, 8 Nov 2019 (4:15 – 4:45 pm)

David de Keyzer is a recognized personality in the world of the Deaf for its dynamism and its way of defending the Deaf Culture in France and in the world. Having grown up in the world of image, he became an actor from IVT (International Visual Theater) and then video assistant in film and finally director. Since 2005, he made several documentary films for the french emission « L'Oeil et la Main

**Saturday, November 9**

**Anthology of Poetics in Brazilian Sign Language**

**Fernanda de Araujo Machado**

Sat, 9 Nov 2019 (9:15 – 10:30 am)

Fernanda de Araújo Machado is a professor and researcher at the Federal University of Santa Catarina. She holds a degree in Arts Education (2009) from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and a degree in Letras (LIBRAS) (2011). Additionally, she holds a Master's Degree in Translation Studies (2013) from the Federal University of Santa Catarina. Since 2006-2008, she has been a member of the research group for the Research Project, Teaching and Extension Laboratory in LIBRAS, Faculty of Arts, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). Prof. Machado coordinates the creation of the Anthology of Poetry in LIBRAS. She is part of the Libras Corpus Research Group (2014-current) and a member of the CNPQ Research Group Directory, whose leader is Prof. Ronice Müller de Quadros. She is currently a PhD student in the Postgraduate Program in Translation Studies at UFSC under the guidance of Prof. Ronice de Muller Quadros and Prof. Rachel Sutton-Spence. She has made visits to California State University Northridge (CSUN), the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and California School for the Deaf in Fremont (CSDF) consulting with Prof. Dr. Flavia Fleischer, a professor and researcher in the area of Deaf Studies. Prof. Machado coordinated the Brazilian Folklore Surda Art Festival (2014 and 2016-current), with funding from the Ministry of Culture, with Prof. Rachel Sutton-Spence, which included various types of literary manifestations in LIBRAS.

**Political Activism through Deaf Lenses**

**Amy Cohen Efron**

Sat, 9 Nov 2019 (11:00 – 11:30 am)

I started my professional career as a school psychologist in 1992, and I worked for a non-profit organization, several state schools for the Deaf, and a residential treatment center for Deaf children for 25 years. In 2006, I founded my website, Deaf World As Eye See It. I published approximately 120 written posts, and produced more than 140 ASL videos covering a wide range of Deaf-related subjects. My artworks have been displayed at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri, the Mammal Gallery in Atlanta, Georgia, The Studio Door in San Diego, California, and the Dyer Arts Center in Rochester, New York.

**The Rise of Aesthetics and Intersectionality in Signed Language Performance Arts: Poetry and Music in Valli's "Dandelion"**

**Jody Cripps**

Sat, 9 Nov 2019 (11:30 – 12:00 pm)

Dr. Jody H. Cripps is an Assistant Professor of American Sign Language in the Department of Languages at Clemson University. His doctorate in the Second Language Acquisition and Teaching program is from the University of Arizona. Dr. Cripps' research interests primarily focus on universal design, signed music, signed language pathology, ASL-English literacy and the pedagogical methods. Dr. Cripps' latest grant allows for conducting ground-breaking ethnomusicological research on a signed music showcase titled, "THE BLACK DRUM", performed by a signing musical theater troupe. This first of its kind musical incorporates Dr. Cripps' signed music theories and will be featured at Clin d'Oeil in France. Dr. Cripps also serves as the Editor-in-Chief for the Society for American Sign Language Journal and the Vice President of The Gloss Institute, a non-profit organization providing educators and parents the necessary tools and resources to overcome the habitually low literacy (English) rates in deaf children.



## **Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies—Deaf Artists Residency Program**

**Cynthia Weitzel**

Sat, 9 Nov 2019 (1:30 – 2:50 pm)

Cynthia Weitzel is a Deaf visual artist who since 2011 has maintained a year-round studio at the Anderson Center at Tower View in Red Wing, Minnesota. Her work involves the continuum of visual art media with primary focus on themes relating to the Deaf life experience. She attended Gallaudet University and University of Minnesota before obtaining her BBA in business management and studio fine art from Austin Peay State University. In collaboration with the Anderson Center she founded the interdisciplinary Deaf Artists Residency Program supported by ArtWorks Grants (2014, 2016 and 2018) from the National Endowment for the Arts. And most recently was selected by the Alliance of Artist Communities to receive the 2018-2019 Diversity & Leadership Fellowship funded by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

## **Embodying Theory in the Classroom: Politics, Poetics and Pedagogy**

**Dirksen Bauman and Douglas Ridloff**

Sat, 9 Nov 2019 (3:45 – 4:15 pm)

H-Dirksen L. Bauman is Professor of Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University where he serves as coordinator of the Deaf Studies MA Program. He is the co-editor of the book/DVD project, *Signing the Body Poetic: Essays in American Sign Language* (U of California P, 2006); editor of *Open Your Eyes: Deaf Studies Talking* (U of Minnesota P, 2008); co-editor of *Deaf-Gain: Raising the Stakes for Human Diversity* (U of Minnesota P, 2014) and co-author of *Transformative Conversations: Mentoring Communities among Colleagues in Higher Education* (Jossey Bass, 2013). He is the founding editor of the *Deaf Studies Digital Journal*, executive producer and director of the film, *Audism Unveiled*.

Douglas Ridloff is a poet and visual storyteller creating original works in Sign Language. He is the owner, executive director and host of ASL SLAM ([www.aslslam.com](http://www.aslslam.com)) a monthly open mic event in NYC and now has been established as a monthly event in Washington DC, Chicago and Orlando. Recently, Douglas has organized performances at the Whitney Museum, the Jewish Museum, SITE Santa Fe and the 9/11 Memorial Museum, and has traveled to perform his own poetry and to bring ASL SLAM to Deaf communities around the world, including Jamaica, Cuba, Finland, England, Sweden and Australia. Ridloff has given a TEDx talk in Vienna in 2018. He has worked as an ASL consultant for film and TV with the likes of John Kraskinsky, Emily Blunt, Sam Rockwell, Donald Glover and Anthony Edwards. Douglas has been featured in NBC NEWS, Circa, HBO Vice, and CNN's Great Big Story for his work.

## **Screening of "Signing Black in America"**

**Joseph Hill**

Sat, 9 Nov 2019 (4:15 – 4:45 pm)

Dr. Joseph C. Hill is an assistant professor in the Department of American Sign Language and Interpreting Education in the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology. His research interests include socio-historical and -linguistic aspects of African-American variety of American Sign Language and attitudes and ideologies about signing varieties in the American Deaf community. His contributions include *The Hidden Treasure of Black ASL: Its History and Structure* (2011) which he co-authored with Carolyn McCaskill, Ceil Lucas, and Robert Bayley and *Language Attitudes in the American Deaf Community* (2012).