

Hiie Saumaa
Writer, Dancer, Educator
26 December 1980
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EDUCATION

2014	PhD in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, New York City
2014	BodyLogos Active Meditation Teacher Certification, NYC
2012	JourneyDance Teacher Certification, NYC
2010	Nia Dance Teacher Certification, NYC
2008	MA in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia
2005-07	Coursework toward PhD in English, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Phi Kappa Phi honors
2005	M.Ed. in English Education, Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi, Lambda Iota Tau honors
2005	MA in English Language and Literature, University of Tartu, Estonia
2005	Pilates and Group Exercise Teacher Certification, USA
2003	BA in English Language and Literature, University of Tartu, Estonia Diploma <i>cum laude</i>
2001	Diploma in music (major in flute, minor in orchestral conducting), Heino Eller Music School, Tartu, Estonia

FURTHER EDUCATION IN MOVEMENT & DANCE

2019	African Dance, with Irène Tassembédo. Camping, Centre National de la Danse, Paris
2019	Yoga and Creativity, with Ali Cramer. Camping, Centre National de la Danse, Paris
2019	Choreographic Workshop with Ann Moradian, Paris
2019	SuryaSoul® Dance Training, with creators Sabine Zweig and Philippe Beaufour. Auroville, India
2016	Tamalpa Life/Art Process, with Elisabeth Osgood-Campbell. Earthdance, Plainfield, Massachusetts
2016	Moving to Heal, with creator Debbie Rosas. NYC
2011	Sivandanda Yoga. Level 1 & 2 training at Sivananda Yoga Center, NYC

PUBLICATIONS

Academic Articles and Chapters:

- “Regina Jones Woody aka Nila Devi – An American Performer and Dance Writer.” *Dance Research Journal* (under review).
- “Moving Mind and Body: Language and Writings of Simone Forti” (commissioned chapter). *The Routledge Companion to Dance Studies*, Eds. Helen Thomas and Stacey Prickett. New York: Routledge, 2019. 125-137.
- “Annie Payson Call’s Training in Release and Somatic Imagination.” *Dance Research Journal*, April 2017, Vol. 49, No. 1, pp. 70-86 (peer-reviewed).
- “Alys Bentley’s Dance Impulse, Embodied Learning, and the Dancing Mind.” *Dance Chronicle: Studies in Dance and the Related Arts*, October 2016, Vol. 39, No. 3, pp. 249-278 (peer-reviewed).
- “Margaret Fisk Taylor’s Sacred Dance, Moving Imagination, and Kinesthetic Empathy.” *Journal of Dance, Movement, and Spiritualities*, July 2016, Vol. 3, No. 1-2, pp. 29-52 (peer-reviewed).

Essays:

- “Somatics, Spatial Awareness, and Chronic Pain.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies* (under review).
- “Somatic Practices: Going Beyond the Classroom.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies* (forthcoming).
- “Somatic Muscle: Is Somatic Strength Training Possible?” *Journal for Dance & Somatic Practices* (under review).
- “Somaticist in the Dance Archives.” *Journal for Dance & Somatic Practices* (forthcoming).
- “Healing Burnout with Movement and Imagination.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2020, Vol. 26, No. 2, 61-63.
- “Somatic Strength Training: An Alternative to ‘No Pain No Gain.’” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2020, Vol. 26, No. 1, 19-22.
- “Dance Therapeutics: Movement as a Path Toward Healing.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2019, Vol. 25, No. 5, 238-240.
- “Wisdom of Sensations.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2018, Vol. 24, No. 4, 159-161.
- “Journeying from Sensation into Words: Dancing Language in the Tamalpa Life/Art Process.” *Somatics Magazine/Journal*, 2017-2018, Vol. 18, No. 1, 16-19.
- “Aflame with Sensations.” BodyLogos Blog, 2018.
- “Jerome Robbins’ Love Lessons.” *The Jerome Robbins Newsletter*. Vol 5. No 2, p. 4. 2018.
<file:///Users/hiiesaumaa/Downloads/Jerome-Robbins-Vol-5-No-2.pdf.pdf>
- “An Emotional Archive: Hiie Saumaa on Jerome Robbins.”
<https://www.nypl.org/blog/2018/02/14/emotional-archive-hiie-saumaa-jerome-robbins>
- “‘We did trees, clouds, storms, waves’: Jerome Robbins’s Creative Dance Training with Alys Bentley” (commissioned article). *The Jerome Robbins Newsletter*, 2016, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 8-9.
- “A Time for Discovery: Margaret Fisk Taylor, Sacred Dance, and Creative Research.” *Sacred Dance Guild Journal*, Summer 2017, pp. 12-17.
- “Daily Rituals.” *Movement Research Performance Journal*, 2017, #50, p. 19.
- “Creativity and the Power of Two.” Co-authored with Michael Cennamo, *Hybrid Pedagogy* (peer-reviewed), 26 Oct, 2016. <https://hybridpedagogy.org/creativity-power-of-two/>
- “Dance Yourself Free.” *Bodono Wellness Newsletter*, 2015.
<https://www.bodono.com/dance-yourself-free/>
- “What is Active Meditation?” *Wellbody’s The Seedling Newsletter*, 2014.

Reviews:

Review of *The Oxford Handbook of Dance and Wellbeing*, Ed. Vicky Karkou et al (2017). *Dance Research Journal*, 2018, Vol. 50, No. 2, 90-92. Reprinted in *Moving On: Dance Movement Therapy Association of Australasia Journal*. Vol 16, No's 1 & 2, 42-45.

"Ohad Naharin's Sensual, Somatic Gaga." Review of Einav Katan-Schmid's *Embodied Philosophy in Dance: Gaga and Ohad Naharin's Movement Research* (2016). *Dance Chronicle*, 2017, Vol. 40. No. 3, 406-409.

"Bodily Listening in Somatic Education." Review of Martha Eddy's *Mindful Movement: The Evolution of the Somatic Arts and Conscious Action* (2016). *Dance Chronicle*, 2017, Vol. 40, No. 2, pp. 229-232.

Profiles and Interviews:

"Insider Perspectives on Jerome Robbins' *Watermill*."

<https://blog.bam.org/2018/10/insider-perspectives-on-watermill.html>

"Discovering New Ways to Teach Lit Hum with Dr. Hiie Saumaa." By Michael Cennamo, Columbia Center for Teaching and Learning

<https://ctl.columbia.edu/announcements/discovering-new-ways-to-teach-lithum-with-dr-hiie-saumaa/>

CHOREOGRAPHY & DANCE PERFORMANCE

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| 2020 | "Electric Ocean," 24 Hour Dance Festival, organized by Blue Goat Theatre. Original choreography and dance performance.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Np4ehOKQn0&t=6s |
| 2019 | "BioConnect," choreographer and dancer, with visual artist Alexandra Deutsch. Performed at the Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris |
| 2019 | "Limitations." Choreographer and dancer, in collaboration with visual artist Hura Mirshekari. Performed at the Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris |
| 2013 | "Spring into Dance Festival," dancer, YMCA, NYC |
| 2011, 2010 | "Dancers Who Care," dancer. Choreography by Ryan Daniel Beck. YMCA, NYC |

AWARDS

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|---------|---|
| 2018-20 | Laureate, Artist in Residence, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris |
| 2018-19 | Inaugural Fellow, Columbia's Institute for Ideas & Imagination, Paris |
| 2017 | Dance Research Fellow. Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts |
| 2014-17 | Columbia Core Curriculum Postdoctoral Fellowship. Columbia University |
| 2016 | Tamalpa Institute fellowship |
| 2016 | Nia New York. Scholarship to attend Moving to Heal training, NYC |
| 2014 | The Mind & Life Institute Scholarship, Boston, MA |
| 2007-14 | Marjorie Hope Nicolson Fellow, Columbia |
| 2007-14 | Institute for Comparative Literature and Society Fellow, Columbia |
| 2013 | Teaching Scholar, Columbia |
| 2006 | School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York |
| 2006 | John C. Hodges Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Tennessee |

2006-07	Nathalia Wright Research Assistant Fellowship, University of Tennessee
2006	The Council of Writing Program Administrators Research Grant Award
2005-07	John C. Hodges PhD Fellowship, University of Tennessee
2006, 2003	P.E.O. International Scholarship Fellow, Des Moines, Iowa
2004-05	Scholarship from Alumni Foundation and Provost, Vice-President, Delta State University, to attend Renaissance art study program in Florence, Italy, July 2004
2001	Estonian National Culture Fund Scholarship
2001	Scholarship from University of Exeter, Exeter Rotary Club, University of Exeter
2000	Harald Raudsepp Scholarship, Estonia Revelia Academic Fund, Maryland
1999-2005	Academic Excellence Scholarship, Division of Germanic and Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Tartu
1997	Grand Prix for artwork (oil pastels, drawing), European Commission, European Union

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Academic Teaching Experience

2020	“Intermediate Research Methodology for Masters Students,” Paris College of Art
	“Collaboration,” Paris College of Art
	“Critical Thinking and Writing II,” Paris College of Art
2019	“Dance History,” Paris College of Art
	“Critical Thinking and Writing I,” Paris College of Art
	“English Writing and Speaking for International Students,” Paris College of Art
2018	“Literary Theory and Criticism,” New York University School for Professional Studies
	“Writing II: Worlds of Languages,” New York University Liberal Studies Program
2013-17	“Literature Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Literature and Philosophy,” Columbia Core Curriculum
2013	“Modern Comparative Fiction: Transatlantic Modernism,” Columbia
2012	“Literary Texts, Critical Methods,” seminar leader, Columbia
2011	“American Novel 1865-1914,” teaching assistant, Columbia
2008-11	“University Writing,” Columbia (separate sections for Columbia College students, General Studies students, international students)
2010	“Modern Poetry,” teaching assistant and discussion section leader, Columbia
2005-07	“Rhetoric and Composition,” University of Tennessee
2005-07	“Composition with Literature,” University of Tennessee
2003-05	“Developmental Writing,” Delta State University
2004	“College Reading,” Delta State University

Somatic Movement and Dance Workshops Leader

2020	“Somatic Tools for Creativity,” L’Air Arts interdisciplinary conference, “The Roaring Twenties,” Paris
2020	“Movement and Artistic Process,” co-teacher of a course on Collaboration, Paris College of Art
2020	Somatic Dance workshops, Les Napoleons conference in Val d’Isere, France
2019	“Dance Your Dreams,” UNFINISHED Conference, Bucharest, Romania
2018	“Dance for Mothers and Kids,” Tartu Dance Academy, Estonia

	"What is Somatics?" Tartu Dance Academy, Estonia
2016	"Improvisation," Tartu Yoga Center, Estonia
2015	"Music and Movement," Yoga and Dance Retreat, Alatskivi, Estonia
2015	"Creative Movement," Tartu Yoga Center
2014	"Introduction to Nia Dance," Women's Wellbody Retreat, East Chatham, NY
2013	"Active Meditation: BodyLogos," Women's Wellbody Retreat, NY
2013	"Moving through Sounds and Silence," NYC
2012	"Healthy Kids Nia," Dance workshop for visually impaired children. Newman Family Support Center, NYC

EMPLOYMENT

2019-current	Adjunct Faculty, Paris College of Art
2019-20	Co-Organizer, L'Air Arts, International Artist Residency Program. Paris
2019	Dance Instructor. "Expression and Creativity." Workshop series in the ERD (Entraînement régulier du danseur) program for professional dancers at Micadanses Dance Studio, Paris
2017-18	Adjunct Associate Research Scholar, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia
2017	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Liberal Studies Program; School for Professional Studies, NYU
2014-17	Lecturer, "Literature Humanities: Masterworks of Western Literature and Philosophy." Columbia Core Curriculum
2010-18	Nia dance instructor, BodyStrength Fitness, NYC
2012-13	Editorial Coordinator, <i>Social Text</i> (journal), Columbia and NYU
2008-12	Editorial Assistant, <i>Social Text</i> , Columbia
2007-11	Research Assistant to Prof. Brent Hayes Edwards, Columbia
2003-05	Administrative Assistant, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, DSU

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

2019	"Multi-Artistry in the Creative Process." Invited speaker, Paris College of Art
2019	"Dancing – Moving – Knowing." Organizer of and participant in a roundtable discussion, Columbia Global Centers Paris
2019	"Robbins' 'Camera Eye.'" The Arts Arena, Paris
2018	"A Dance for Two: Choreographer Jerome Robbins' Unpublished Letters." Columbia Institute for Ideas & Imagination, Paris
2018	Invited speaker on a panel on Jerome Robbins, with Wendy Whelan and Julia Foulkes, Jacob's Pillow
2018	"Jerome Robbins' Love Lessons." Performer, co-organizer (with Evan Leslie), writer. A multimedia performance on the writings of Jerome Robbins. New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
2017	"Jerome Robbins: Composer in Words." Jerome Robbins Symposium, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
2017	"The Writings of Jerome Robbins." Invited talk, Dance Studies Seminar, Columbia
2015	"Beyond the Essay: Creative Writing in Literature Classes." Invited talk, Columbia

- 2014 “Creative Thinking, Technology, and Collaboration.” Invited talk, Columbia
 2014 “Multimedia Collaborative Writing and ‘Our Epic’ Project,” Invited talk, Columbia
 2014 “‘This peace, this rest, this eternity’: Meditation and Consciousness in Modernist Literature.” International Symposium for Contemplative Studies. Mind & Life Institute
 2013 “‘Aware and Awake’: Health and Movement in D.H. Lawrence’s Travel Writings.” ACLA Annual Conference, Toronto
 2012 “‘Watch Your Bank Account of Muscular and Nervous Strength’: Ordering the Mind-Body-Spirit in Annie Payson Call’s Psycho-Physical Technique.” Mindful Body in Healing and the Arts Conference. Center for Mind, Body, and Culture, Florida Atlantic University

LANGUAGES

Estonian	(native language)
English	(near-native writing, reading, speaking)
German	(fluent reading, advanced writing, speaking)
French	(beginner reading, speaking)
Russian	(fluent reading, advanced writing, speaking)
Finnish	(intermediate reading, writing, speaking)
Portuguese	(reading)
Italian	(reading)
Latin	(reading)

WEBSITES

www.hiiesaumaa.com
<https://ideasimagination.columbia.edu/fellows/profile/hiie-saumaa>
<https://www.citedesartsparis.net/fr/hiie-saumaa>
<https://micadanses.com/artistes/hiie-saumaa/>

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Sacred Dance Guild
 Dance Studies Association
 International Somatic Movement Education & Therapy Association
 Nia Livelihood
 Nia New York City

REFERENCES

Prof. Brent Hayes Edwards, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia,
bhc2@columbia.edu

Prof. Lynn Matluck Brooks, Director of Dance, Franklin & Marshall College. Former Co-Editor,
Dance Chronicle: Studies in Dance and the Related Arts, lbrooks@fandm.edu

Dr. Linda Murray, Curator, the Jerome Robbins Dance Division, New York Public Library for the
Performing Arts, lindamurray@nypl.org

Prof. Marianne Hirsch, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia,
mh2349@columbia.edu

Prof. Lynn Garafola, Barnard College, Columbia University, lg97@columbia.edu

Prof. Helen Thomas, Dance Studies, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Editor,
Dance Research Journal, helen.thomas827@ntlworld.com