



## Branislav Jakovljević

Sara Hart Kimball Professor of the Humanities

Theater and Performance Studies

---

### Bio

#### BIO

My research is highly interdisciplinary. I find it very rewarding to study performance in the context of visual arts, film and digital media, literature and poetry, critical theory, as well as larger social and historical processes. Most recently, I have been focusing on climate change and environmental justice. Over the past year, I have co-edited with my colleagues from TAPS Diana Looser and Matt Smith a two-part special issue of TDR: The Drama Review on performance and climate change. This research and teaching interest comes from my more long-term engagement with performance and politics.

My most recent monograph in English is *Alienation Effects: Performance and Self-Management in Yugoslavia 1945-1991* (University of Michigan Press, 2016) which received the Joe A. Callaway Prize for the Best Book on Drama or Theater for 2016-17 and Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Outstanding Book Award, 2017. It has been translated into Serbian (2019) and Slovenian (2021). I co-translated and edited Radomir Konstantinović's book *The Philosophy of Parochialism*, a groundbreaking analysis of the relation of the national literature and the formation of totalitarian ideas and political practices in a small European nation during the first half of the 20th century (University Michigan Press, 2021). My most recent book project is *The Performance Apparatus: On Ideological Production of Behaviors* (forthcoming from University of Michigan Press), in which I investigate the relationship between performance art and theories of ideological formations from the 1970s until the present.

I hail from Yugoslavia, the country that was located in central and western Balkans, in southeastern Europe. There, I attended Drama Schools at universities in Skopje and Belgrade (present-day Northern Macedonia and Serbia, respectively). I worked as Dramaturg in professional theaters during and immediately after the completion of my BFA studies.

Most of my views on politics, ethics, justice, and the arts were informed by the unraveling of Yugoslavia in a series of bloody civil wars in the 1990s. I was active in anti-war movements before I left the country and remained active in pro-democracy publications in Serbia and the region of the former Yugoslavia. Some of these writings have been collected in the book *Frozen Donkey and Other Essays* (Smrznuti magarac i drugi eseji, Komuna Links, Belgrade 2017).

Both my MA and PhD are from the Department of Performance Studies at New York University. While pursuing my PhD, I was active in the New York downtown theater and alternative press scene in the late 1990s and early 2000s. In the subsequent years, I served on the board of Performance Studies international (PSi) and chaired the 19th PSi conference held at Stanford in June of 2013.

Before joining Stanford in 2006, I taught at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and University of Minnesota. In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate classes in my home department, over the years I served as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Director of Graduate Studies, and Chair (2015-2019). Some of the highlights from my tenure as Chair are: devising a strategic plan for the department that yielded the current structure of our undergraduate program, supervising the return of the department to the renovated Roble Gym, the establishment of Nitery Experimental Theater as the first fully student-run theater space on campus, working with the Dean's office to set up Carl Weber graduate fellowships, and opening TAPS season-planning process to include all members of the department who are willing to participate (students, faculty, staff).

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Theater and Performance Studies

## LINKS

- Academic freedom, teaching: <https://stanforddaily.com/2023/05/31/from-the-community-a-parable-of-academic-freedom/>

## Teaching

---

### COURSES

#### 2024-25

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Climate Change and the Arts: TAPS 26Q (Win)
- From Absurd to AI: Theater for the Age of Anxiety: TAPS 157A, TAPS 357A (Spr)
- Money Matters: The 2008 Financial Crisis in History, Economy, and the Arts: MLA 387 (Sum)
- Performance Art: ARTSTUDI 160M, ARTSTUDI 260M, TAPS 160P, TAPS 260P (Spr)

#### 2023-24

- Can Beauty Save the World?: Climate Change and the Arts: TAPS 26N (Spr)
- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- History of Directing: TAPS 153H, TAPS 253H (Aut)
- Learning from the Absurd: Drama for the Age of Anxiety: MLA 382 (Sum)
- Political Performance: TAPS 362 (Spr)

#### 2022-23

- Anthro-Scene: Climate Change and the Arts: TAPS 26N (Spr)
- Ars Theoretica: On Scholar-Artists: TAPS 341 (Win)
- Dramaturgy: TAPS 151, TAPS 315 (Spr)
- The Wretched of the Stage: TAPS 155W, TAPS 255W (Win)

## STANFORD ADVISEES

### Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Anna Kristina Golubkova, Daniel Jackson, Connor Lifson

### Master's Program Advisor

Anna Zheng

### Doctoral (Program)

Lucas Baisch, Maria Zurita Ontiveros

## Publications

---

### PUBLICATIONS

- **Genet in Gaza** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2024; 68 (4): 102-111
- **Performance Art and the Novel** *PAJ-A JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE AND ART*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2024; 46 (3): 152-159
- **Catastrophe of the Catastrophe Industrial Aristotelianism and the (Dis)Emplotment of the Capitalocene** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2023; 67 (1): 21-27
- **Under the Sign of The Mother The Wooster Group's Learning Play** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2023; 67 (1): 223-235
- **Madness as a Form of Knowledge: Pavel Ivanovich Karpov's Creativity of the Mentally Ill** *ARTMARGINS*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2022; 11 (1-2): 126-151
- **Elementary Poetry (Book Review)** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Book Review Authored by: Jakovljevic, B.  
2021; 65 (4): 179-181
- **Peripeteia Rehearsing Against the End of the World** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Jakovljevic, B., Looser, D.  
2021; 65 (4): 6-10
- **The Peyote Dance (Book Review)** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Book Review Authored by: Jakovljevic, B.  
2020; 64 (4): 177-79
- **The Ownership of Evil: 1968, 1989, and the Mainstreaming of the New Right** *PRIMERJALNA KNJIZEVNOST*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2020; 43 (3): 49-63
- **Pere Gynt Mendacity for the 21st Century** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2020; 64 (3): 8-13
- **The Drama of Space: Spatial Sequences and Compositions in Architecture (Book Review)** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Book Review Authored by: Jakovljevic, B.  
2020; 64 (1): 168-70
- **Performance Art and Illiberal Democracy: Marina Abramovic's The Cleaner in Belgrade** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2020; 64 (1): 182-89
- **The Voice from the 10th Row: Carl Weber and the Berliner Ensemble** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Jakovljevic, B., Harman, K., Hunter, M., Lyons, J., Mantoan, L., Matic, L., Murphy, C., Pohlmann, J., Tacata, R., Vittori, G., Weber, C., Ensemble, B.  
2018; 62 (3): 55-108

- **THE HOWLING WILDERNESS OF THE MALADAPTIVE STRUGGLE IN BELGRADE IN NEW YORK** *ARTMARGINS*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2018; 7 (2): 17–41
- **For an Art of Participation Common goods for the commons** *PERFORMANCE RESEARCH*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2018; 23 (4-5): 210–13
- **On Performance Forensics: The Political Economy of Reenactments** *ART JOURNAL*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2011; 70 (3): 50-54
- **Wooster Baroque** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-A JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2010; 54 (3): 87-122
- **Theater of Atrocities: Toward a Disreality Principle** *PMLA-PUBLICATIONS OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2009; 124 (5): 1813-1819
- **From mastermind to body artist - Political performances of Slobodan Milosevic** *TDR-THE DRAMA REVIEW-THE JOURNAL OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2008; 52 (1): 51-?
- **Human Resources: June 1968, Hair, and the Beginning of Yugoslavia's End** *GREY ROOM*  
Jakovljevic, B.  
2008: 39-53