



Gigi Otálvaro

Affiliate,

Bio

BIO

Gigi Otálvaro, Ph.D. is an educator, interdisciplinary performance artist-scholar, writer, and psychogeographer. She currently serves as Program Coordinator for the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence and Stanford Data Science. In her previous role as Associate Director of Stanford Living Education (formerly Health and Human Performance), she led the LifeWorks program which offers courses and workshops that combine scholarship, creative expression, as well as creative and embodied practices to help students connect their academic work with their core values and goals. Her research and pedagogy engage Latina/x and women of color feminisms, queer of color critique, eroticism and performance, mindfulness-based art practice, as well as art and activism. Prior to leading LifeWorks, she was a Teaching Fellow in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, where she taught research-based writing courses exploring the connections between visual art, performance, embodiment, and mindfulness. She is also certified as a Laughter Yoga Leader and Yoqi® Qigong Associate Instructor. She integrates laughter yoga and qigong into many of the LifeWorks courses she designs and teaches in her areas of expertise, such as performance theory and practice, visual studies, and critical studies in race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

She obtained her doctorate of philosophy in Theater & Performance Studies with a minor in Art History from Stanford University. She holds a M.A. from California College of the Arts in Visual and Critical Studies and a B.A. from Brown University in an independent concentration entitled “Hybridity and Performance.” She is the recipient of the first-ever Stanford Theater & Performance Studies Department Carl Weber Prize for Integration of Creative Practice and Scholarly Research for her doctoral research and dissertation entitled *Erotic Resistance: Performance, Art, and Activism, in San Francisco Strip Clubs, 1960s-2010s*. The title for her book project which is based on the dissertation is *Erotic Resistance: the Struggle for the Soul of San Francisco*, and will be published by University of California Press in spring of 2024. Her M.A. thesis, *Embodying Spaces: Memory and Resistance in the Aftermath of Argentina’s Dirty War (1976-1983)*, focused on cultural memory, embodiment, and the politics of space in relation to human rights activism, public art, and memorials in the aftermath of the dictatorship. Her work in performance and video has been presented nationally and internationally.

From 2002 to 2008, she directed her own arts organization (a)eromestiza, dedicated to presenting cutting edge video and performance by queer artists of color. Her writing has been published in *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture*, *San Francisco MOMA’s Open Space*, *Art Practical*, *Performance Research*, *Social Justice Journal*, *shellac*, *artistmanifesto.com*, *Antithesis Journal: Sex 2000* and anthologies such as *Postcolonial and Queer Theories: Intersections and Essays*, *Pinay Power: Peminist Critical Theory / Theorizing the Filipina American Experience*, and the *Routledge Companion to Decolonizing Art History* (forthcoming). She has received awards from the Stanford Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and the Stanford Women’s Community Center (the university-wide Graduate Feminist Scholar Award), *Core77*, *Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art*, the *San*

Francisco Art Commission, the Potrero Nuevo Fund Prize, and the National Association for Latino Art and Culture, among others. For her complete C.V. and samples of work, visit gigiotalvaro.org.