



Gigi Otálvaro

Academic Prog Prof 2, Health and Human Performance

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Gigi Otálvaro, Ph.D. is an educator, interdisciplinary performance artist-scholar, writer, and psychogeographer. As Associate Director of Stanford Living Education (formerly Health and Human Performance), she leads 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 her current position, 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 Yogi® 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.

For pre-ordering options for her forthcoming book, *Erotic Resistance: The Struggle for the Soul of San Francisco*, visit: <https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520398955/erotic-resistance>

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Visual & Critical Studies Alumni Award, California College of the Arts, M.A. Program in Visual & Critical Studies (2023)
- Carl Weber Prize for Integration of Creative Practice & Scholarly Research, Stanford Department of Theater & Performance Studies (2018)
- Graduate Feminist Scholar Award, Stanford Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and the Women's Community Center (2018)

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Ph.D., Stanford University , Theater & Performance Studies (minor: Art History) (2018)
- M.A., California College of the Arts , Visual and Critical Studies (2012)
- B.A., Brown University , Independent Concentration: Hybridity and Performance (1998)

LINKS

- My website: <http://gigiotalvaro.org>

Teaching

COURSES

2023-24

- Creative and Contemplative Movement: Intro to Qigong: DANCE 121, LIFE 121 (Spr)
- Kinesthetic Delight: Movement and Meditation: LIFE 99, TAPS 99, WELLNESS 99 (Win)
- Laugh to Relax: WELLNESS 171 (Win)
- Psychedelics and Social Justice: CSRE 126, LIFE 116, PSYC 116, PSYC 216 (Spr)
- Tools for a Meaningful Life: LIFE 101 (Aut)

2022-23

- Art, Meditation, and Creation: ARTHIST 180, ARTSINST 280, LIFE 180 (Spr)
- Kinesthetic Delight: Movement and Meditation: LIFE 99, TAPS 99, WELLNESS 99 (Spr)
- Laugh to Relax: WELLNESS 171 (Aut)
- Laughter & Play for Wellbeing: LIFE 170, TAPS 170W, WELLNESS 170 (Win)
- Performing Race, Gender, and Sexuality: ARTSINST 150G, CSRE 150G, CSRE 350G, FEMGEN 150G, LIFE 150G, TAPS 150G (Aut)
- Tools for Meaningful Communities: ANTHRO 104, LEAD 104, LIFE 104 (Win)

2021-22

- Art, Meditation, and Creation: ARTHIST 180, ARTSINST 280, LIFE 180 (Aut)
- Laugh to Relax: WELLNESS 171 (Win)
- Selected Topics: LifeWorks: LIFE 199 (Aut, Win)
- Tools for Meaningful Communities: LEAD 104, LIFE 104 (Win)
- Tools for a Meaningful Life: LIFE 101 (Spr)
- Yoga Psychology for Resilience and Creativity: LIFE 120, PSYC 120, TAPS 102L (Spr)

2020-21

- Laughter & Play for Wellbeing: TAPS 170W, WELLNESS 170 (Spr)
- Performing Race, Gender, and Sexuality: ARTSINST 150G, CSRE 150G, CSRE 350G, FEMGEN 150G, LIFE 150G, TAPS 150G (Win)

- Selected Topics: LifeWorks: LIFE 199 (Spr, Sum)
- Tools for a Meaningful Life: LIFE 101 (Aut, Sum)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Erotic Resistance: The Struggle for the Soul of San Francisco**
Otálvaro-Hormillosa, G.
University of California Press.2024
- **Michael Richards: Performance as Ritual and Black-Indigenous Haptic Visuality** *The Routledge Companion to Decolonizing Art History*
Otálvaro-Hormillosa, G.
Routledge.2023; 1st: 544-554
- **Metamorphic and Sensuous Brown Bodies: Queer Latina/x Visual and Performance Cultures in San Francisco Strip Clubs, 1960s–1970s** *Latin American & Latinx Visual Culture*
Otálvaro-Hormillosa, G.
2019; 1 (2): 58-73
- **Ex-ESMA Memory as open source** *PERFORMANCE RESEARCH*
Otalvaro-Hormillosa, G.
2013; 18 (4): 116-123