

# Weston Twardowski

Rice University, Herring Hall  
Room 311  
6100 Main Street  
Houston, TX  
77005

westont@rice.edu

## **SPECIALTIES**

Theatre and Performance Theory; Environmental Humanities; Southern US Culture and Politics  
Placemaking and Urbanism; Race/Racism; Community Engaged Activism and Art

## **EDUCATION**

- 2022 Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University  
Dissertation: “They’re Tryin’ to Wash Us Away”: Performance, Urban Adaptation,  
and Surviving in the New New Orleans  
Committee: Elizabeth Son, Tracy C. Davis, E. Patrick Johnson
- 2018 M.A. in Theatre and Drama, Northwestern University
- 2016 M.A. Theatre Studies, The University of Houston
- 2014 B.A. Theatre (Performance), Louisiana State University
- 2014 B.A. History, Louisiana State University

## **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION/TRAINING**

- 2021 Teaching Certification, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching.  
Northwestern University.
- 2020-2021 Graduate Public Humanities Research Workshop, Alice Kaplan Institute for the  
Humanities. Northwestern University.
- 2020 Performance Studies International Summer School. Online.
- 2018 Critical Theory Certificate. Northwestern University.
- 2017 Summer Institute in Cologne! [sic!]  
—Theatre Colloquium in a joint program  
between the University of Cologne and Northwestern University through the  
Theaterwissenschaftliche Sammlung aus Universität zu Köln.
- 2017 German language and culture summer course, B2 certificate. DID Deutsch-Institut,  
Frankfurt an Main, Germany.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- 2022-Present Instructor, Center for Environmental Studies and Dept. of Theatre, Rice University.
- 2021-Present Program Manager, Diluvial Houston Initiative, Rice University.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

- Forthcoming*     **Twardowski, Weston.** “Moving Together: Creating Solidarity Through Site-Specific Performance in Post-Katrina New Orleans.” *Performance Research*, 27.3 (2022).
- 2022             Suiseeya, Kim, Margaret G. O’Connell, Edith Leoso, Marvin Shingwe Biness Neme DeFoe (and 23 others, including **Weston Twardowski**). “Waking from Paralysis: Revitalizing Conceptions of Climate Knowledge and Justice for More Effective Climate Action.” *Annals of Political Science*, 700, no. 1 (2020): 166-182.
- 2021             **Twardowski, Weston** and Gary Alan Fine. “Entertaining the Forgotten: Southern Governors and the Performance of Populism.” *TDR: The Drama Review* 65 (Spring 2021): 144-166.
- 2016             **Twardowski, Weston.** “A Rally Cry Unheard: Arthur Schnitzler and Political Drama.” *Ecumenica* 9 (Fall 2016): 7-20.

### Performance Reviews

- 2020             Twardowski, Weston. “Performance Review: *Lottery Day*.” *Theatre Journal* 72/1 (March 2020): 98-99.

### Book Reviews

- 2020             Twardowski, Weston. “Book Review: Braun, Julianne. *Creole Drama: Theatre and Society in Antebellum New Orleans*.” *Theatre History Studies* 39 (2020): 270-272.
- 2017             Twardowski, Weston. “Hartnell, Anna. *After Katrina: Race, Neoliberalism, and the End of the American Century*.” *European Journal of American Studies, Reviews*, 12/3 (2017).

## GRANTS

- 2022-2025     Building Research on Inequality and Diversity to Grow Equity (BRIDGE). Grant to develop arts-based Environmental and Climate Justice educational outreach initiatives for underinvested Houston Public Schools, including: an annual environmental summer camp for underserved students, teacher training workshops, and in-school environmental arts programming. Principle Investigator, \$60,000, Rice University.
- 2022             Global Humanities Institute Grant. Member of a team from five universities (University College Dublin, Tallinn University, University of Witwatersrand, Australian National University and Rice University) to develop a three-year summer institute focused on post-extraction communities. Contributor, \$200,000, Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes/Mellon Global Humanities Institute Grant.
- 2019             The Graduate School Conference Travel Grant. \$2,000, Northwestern University.
- 2018             Interdisciplinary Working Group Conference Travel Grant. \$1,200, Northwestern University.
- 2017             Summer Language Intensive Program Grant. \$3,000, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD).

2017 Summer Language Grant. \$2,000, Northwestern University.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- 2020 Conducting Transdisciplinary Research Graduate Assistantship, Buffett Institute for Global Affairs Disproportionate Impacts of Environmental Challenges Working Group, Northwestern University.
- 2019 New Scholars Prize, Honorable Mention. International Federation for Theatre Research.
- 2014 Cynthia Woods-Mitchell Fellowship, \$2,500, University of Houston.

### **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

- 2022 “City on the Edge: Anthropocenic Tourism and Galveston's Contradictory Performances.” American Society of Theatre Research. Theatre and Tourism Working Session (Co-Convener). American Society of Theatre Research.
- 2021 “Reclaiming the Memoryscape: Local Memorials and Resisting the Tourist Gaze in Post-Katrina New Orleans.” Theatre and Tourism Working Session (Co-Convener). American Society of Theatre Research.
- 2021 “‘This Was What Happened to Real People’: Place Making and Time Breaking in New Orleans Flooded House Museum.” International Federation of Theatre Research. Virtual conference.
- 2020 “Lingering Dead, Haunting Past: Pervasive Death as Character in Post-Katrina Drama.” Mid-America Theatre Conference.
- 2019 “Peering into the Past: New Orleans' Flooded House Museum and Re/Living History.” Theatre and Tourism Working Session. American Society of Theatre Research.
- 2018 “Statues Falling, Rebels Rising: Violence, Anger, and Exposing the Wounds within Public Memory in the Removal of New Orleans Confederate Monuments.” Association of Theatre in Higher Education.
- 2017 “‘When I Die, You Better Second Line’: The Evolving Nature of the Jazz Funeral Post-Katrina.” Rituals of the Dead Working Session. American Society of Theatre Research.
- 2016 “Breaking Gods and Making Gods: Magical Realism as Gateway in Gem of the Ocean.” Association for Theatre in Higher Education.
- 2016 “‘They’re Tryin’ to Wash us Away’: Turning Trauma into History in Post-Katrina Theatre.” Mid-America Theatre Conference.

- 2016 “‘It All Comes Back, It All Comes Back, It All Comes Back’: *Glass Menagerie*, *Fun Home*, and Making the Memory Musical.” Texas Educational Theatre Association Academic Symposium.
- 2015 “From Suppression, Inspiration: The First World War, Censorship, and *The Last Days of Mankind*.” Mid-America Theatre Conference.
- 2014 “A New Diagnosis: Revising Schnitzler from Social Critic to Nationalist Champion.” Mid-America Theatre Conference (Emerging Scholars Panel).

### **INVITED TALKS**

- 2022 Invited speaker. “Careers in Environmental Humanities.” Rice University’s Environmental Humanities Graduate Student Colloquium.
- 2022 Invited speaker. “Regeneration.” Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes Global Humanities Institute 2023 on “Post-extractivist legacies and landscapes: Humanities, artistic, and activist responses.” Zoom.
- 2022 Roundtable participant, “Petrocultures Across Disciplines.” Spillovers Conference hosted by Rice University’s Center for Environmental Studies, Department of History, and Maastricht University.
- 2021 Moderator, “Round table with Citizens’ Environmental Coalition, Bayou City Waterkeeper, and Air Alliance Houston.” In the Path of Disaster(s) Conference hosted by Rice University’s Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and the Center for Environmental Studies.
- 2021 Invited panelist, “What the Heck is a Dramaturg? Answered by Dramaturgs!” discussion of dramaturgy and the role of dramaturgs for lecture hosted by the Department of English and Department of Theatre at Rice University.
- 2021 Invited panelist, “Beyond the Pandemic: A Sustainable Recovery,” virtual Q&A session on Sustainable Development Goals and sustainability post-pandemic for the Midwest branch of UNICEF.
- 2021 Invited speaker, “Entertaining the Forgotten: Southern Governors and the Performance of Populism,” dialogue with Richard Schechner and Gary Alan Fine. Virtual webinar for Cambridge University Press.
- 2019 Invited speaker, “Storytelling and Science Communication,” presentation on storytelling and communication for scientists at the PREP/IMSD Midwest Regional Symposium.
- 2019 Invited speaker, “What Does Your Grandma Think You Study,” presentation on communicating science to non-scientists for the Northwestern Graduate Student Association.

## **TEACHING**

### **Rice University**

Special Topics in Environmental Justice: Theatre and Performance Activism. (Spring, 2023).

Instructor of Record.

Introduction to Theatre (Fall, 2022). Instructor of Record.

### **Northwestern University**

Theatre and Revolution (Fall 2020). Instructor of Record.

American Tragedy (Spring 2019). Instructor of Record.

Dramaturgy (Fall 2019). Teaching Assistant (co-designed and co-taught course).

Intro to Theatre (Spring 2019). Teaching Assistant.

### **University of Houston**

American Drama (Spring, 2016). Teaching Assistant.

Dramatic Genres and Forms (Fall, 2015). Teaching Assistant.

Intro to Theatre (Fall/Spring 2014). Teaching Assistant.

## **ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE**

### **Select Directing**

2018	The Tragic Ecstasy of Girlhood (LA Premier)	Third Culture Theatre
2016	King Lear ‡	University of Houston
2016	All My Sons	University of Houston
2016	A Midsummer Night's Dream ‡	Fourth Wall Theatre
2016	Summit (World Premiere)	NOLA FAUX/REAL
2015	Milking It*	University of Houston
2015	A Horse Called Exhaustion*	University of Houston
2015	Valid ID*	University of Houston
2014	As You Like It ‡	Swine Palace
2014	Romeo and Juliet ‡	Swine Palace
2014	Into the Woods Jr.	Playmakers Children's Theatre
2014	Frost/Nixon	Theatre Baton Rouge
2013	Seussical Jr.	Playmakers Children's Theatre

### **Select Dramaturgy**

2022	We Are the Forgotten Beasts*	Third Culture Theatre
2022	Treat Me Softly*	Third Culture Theatre
2022	Halo Halo*	Third Culture Theatre
2020-2021	Virtual Play Development Workshop Series	Third Culture Theatre
2020	Los Dreamers (World Premiere)	Third Culture Theatre
2019	We Are Proud to Present a Presentation... †	Third Culture Theatre
2016	Much Ado About Nothing	Houston Shakespeare Festival
2016	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Fourth Wall Theatre
2015	Everything Will Be Different ‡	Catastrophic Theatre
2015	Three Sisters	University of Houston

2014            The Playboy of the Western World            University of Houston

\* Reading/Workshop

‡ Asst.

† Mentor

### **Other Artistic Experience**

2022            Diluvial Houston Arts Incubator. Project director, multidisciplinary performance collaborative, research fellowship program with student workshops and culminating performance on Rice University campus. Collaborative artists: Aron Chang, Lisa D'Amour, Shana M. griffin, Lisa E. Harris, Ronald L. Jones, Ayanna Jolviet McCloud, JD Pluecker, Kathy Randels, Monique Verdin.

2016-Present    Co-founder/Literary Manager. Third Culture Theatre.

2012-2014      Summer Camp Director, Playmakers Children's Theatre Baton Rouge

2013-2014      Acting Workshop Instructor. Theatre Baton Rouge.

2010-2011      Education Director. Louisiana Center for Theatrical Arts.

Acting résumé available on request.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE**

2022-present    Working group on Indigeneity convener. Rice University.

2022-present    Committee member, Building Research on Inequality and Diversity to Grow Equity (BRIDGE). Rice University.

2021-present    Center for Environmental Studies Community Partnerships Organizer. Rice University.

2021-present    Co-coordinator, *Planet Now!* Lecture series. Speakers included Matthew Tejada (Director of Environmental Justice for the Environmental Protection Agency); Kerri Arsenault (Author of Mill Town); Holly Jean Buck (academic); Luis A. Campos (academic); Christopher Preston (academic); Sean Sherman (Indigenous chef and activist); Tunde Wey (artist/writer); etc.

2021-2022      Founding Member, Graduate Advisor Committee on the Environmental Humanities. Northwestern University.

2020-2021      Graduate Leadership Advisory Council Representative. Northwestern University.

2020-2022      Graduate Assistant, Buffett Transdisciplinary Working Group on the Disproportionate Impacts of Environmental Challenges. Worked on a team of transdisciplinary partners, government agencies, non-profit leaders, and Tribal leaders to hold three virtual workshops with 40 Tribal members from Ojibwe Tribes in the Great Lakes region. Supervised four research assistants to the project. Coordinated regular meetings for the group. Northwestern University.

2018            IPTD Department GA. Responsible for weekly emails to the department and organizing the annual applicant weekend. Arranged food, coffees, theatre outing, and coordinated interviews for nine applicants. Northwestern University.

2015            Book Review Editorial Assistant. *Theatre History Studies*.

## **CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION**

- 2022 Co-coordinator, Gulf Coast Connections conference. Rice University.
- 2022 Co-coordinator, Spillovers conference. Rice University.
- 2021 Administrative support, In the Path of Disaster(s) conference. Rice University.
- 2018 IPTD @ 30 Conference Co-Organizer. Responsible for assisting in event planning for the conference, coordinating a banquet for 70, conducting grant follow-up, collecting, and depositing conference materials for university archives, and conducting post-conference research at regular intervals (over six months) with attendees in order to help foster mentoring relationships and improve future events. Northwestern University.

## **LANGUAGES**

B2 in German (with further translational training)

## **ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS**

Performance Studies International

International Federation for Theatre Research

American Society of Theatre Research

Association for Theatre in Higher Education

Mid-America Theatre Conference