**Stephanie (Stevi) Costa**

7703 38th Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

[stevicosta@gmail.com](mailto:stevicosta@gmail.com)

**Education**

2016 University of Washington, Seattle, WA

PhD. in English

Teaching Areas: Late 20th c. American, Late 19th c. American, Feminist Disability Studies

2011 University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
 MA in English

1. University of California, Santa Barbara; Santa Barbara, CA

BA in English and Linguistics (English Emphasis), Magna Cum Laude

**Dissertation**

2016 “Freaks in Public: Reading the Freakish in Contemporary American Literature and Culture” English Department, University of Washington

Committee: Prof. Kate Cummings (director), Prof. Tom Foster, Prof. Eva Cherniavsky

* This project investigates the freak as a figure of critical potential for both reclamation and appropriation through feminist, queer, and disability studies lenses. It tracks the shifting relationships between “freaks” and U.S. national culture, illustrating how the freak serves as a powerful figure that disrupts binary logics and expands the knowable limits of public life and argues for "freak" as a heuristic through which historically marginalized populations engage with and transform these seemingly antiquated modes of representation in order to problematize and critique their own representational history, while simultaneously recognizing that the power of the freak is double-edged, enabling the appropriation of freakishness by “norms” through the same powerful logics of exceptional individualism and diverse pluralism that configure the freak show as a “freaktopia.”

**Academic Employment**

Autumn 2016-Present Adjunct Instructor, Cornish College of the Arts, Department of Humanities & Sciences

Autumn 2015-Present Adjunct Instructor, Highline College, Department of English

Winter 2017-Autumn 2017 Lecturer, University of Washington, Department of English

2010-2016 Teaching Assistant, University of Washington, Department of English

Summer 2011 & 2012 Tutor, Student-Athlete Academic Services Summer L.E.A.P., University of Washington

**Teaching Experience**

University of Washington

*Literature Courses*

English 200B “Reading Fiction: Writing the Body” (Autumn 2013)

English 200C “Reading Fiction: Writing the Body” (Winter 2014)

English 242F “Reading Literature: Monstrosity in American Fiction” (Spring 2013)  
English 244A “Reading Drama: Reading the Freakish Onstage” (Winter 2013)

*Writing Courses*

English 131

“Composition: Exposition – Journalism & Objectivity” (Spring 2017)

“Composition: Exposition – Language & Identity” (Winter 2017)

“Composition: Exposition – Language & Identity” (Spring 2016)

“Composition: Exposition – Language & Identity” (Winter 2016)

“Composition: Exposition – Journalism & Objectivity” (Summer 2015)

“Composition: Exposition – Fashion as Rhetoric” (Spring 2012)

“Composition: Exposition – Fashion as Rhetoric” (Spring 2011)

“Composition: Exposition – Language & Identity” (Winter 2011)

“Composition: Exposition – Language & Identity” (Autumn 2010)

English 111

“Composition: Literature – *Geek Love*” (Winter 2015)

“Composition: Literature – *Geek Love*” (Winter 2015)

“Composition: Literature – *Geek Love*” (Autumn 2014)

English 108

“Writing Ready” (Autumn 2012)  
 “Writing Ready” (Autumn 2011)

English 281

“Intermediate Expository Writing: Medical Humanities” (Autumn 2017)

“Intermediate Expository Writing: Writing About Performance” (Spring 2014)

English 297

“Intermediate Writing for the Humanities” (Autumn 2015)

“Intermediate Writing for the Humanities” (Winter 2012)

*Teaching Assistantships*

English 301

Gateway to the English Major Discussion Sections, University of Washington (Autumn 2012)

Gateway to the English Major Discussion Sections, University of Washington (Autumn 2011)

Highline College

*Writing Courses*

Engl&101

“Composition 1: Fashion as Rhetoric” (Spring 2018)

“Composition 1: Fashion as Rhetoric” (Winter 2018)

“Composition 1: Fashion as Rhetoric” (Winter 2018)

“Composition 1: Expository Composition” (Autumn 2017)

“Composition 1: Expository Composition” (Autumn 2017)

“Composition 1: Language & Identity” (Autumn 2016)

“Composition 1: Fashion as Rhetoric” (Autumn 2015)

“Composition 1: Fashion as Rhetoric” (Autumn 2015)

Engl&205

“Research & Persuasive Writing” (Spring 2018)

“Research & Persuasive Writing” (Winter 2017)

“Research & Persuasive Writing” (Winter 2017)

“Research & Persuasive Writing” (Autumn 2016)

Cornish College of the Arts

*Integrated Studies Courses* HS122  
 “Staging Disability” (Spring 2018)

*Writing Courses*

HS103

“Expository Composition for Artists” (Autumn 2017)

“Expository Composition for Artists” (Autumn 2016)

HS381

“Research Writing for Artists” (Spring 2017)

“Research Writing for Artists” (Spring 2016)

**Invited talks & Presentations**

June 16, 2018 “Making and Unmaking the Body: Curator Conversation with Nina Bozicnik and Invited Guests.” Guest Speaker. Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

June 1, 2018 “Sex Sells: Burlesque and Advertising 1886-2018.” Guest Speaker. ENG 299/HUM 299/PSY 298: “Sex Sells: Gender and Advertising in America.” Melissa Grinley and Kennan Knudson, North Seattle College. Seattle, WA.

April 2018 “The Actress Untamed: From *Sister Carrie* to *Kiss Me, Kate*.” Guest Speaker. Show Talks with Albert Evans. 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle, WA.

December 3, 2017 “How Monsters are Made.” Guest Speaker. Lobby Talks. University of Washington, School of Drama. Seattle, WA.

October 30, 2017 “Geeking Out over Geek Love.” Guest Speaker. ENG 2010: Introduction to Prose Fiction and Nonfiction: "Read. Write. Bodies." Dr. Edmond Y. Chang, Ohio University. Athens, OH.

September 19, 2016 “Feminist Freaks: Performing Gender, Producing the Public.” Guest Speaker. Psychlotron 14, Infinity Box Theatre Project. Seattle, WA.

December 11, 2015 “The Cultural History of the Freak Show.” Guest Speaker. WongDoody Advertising, Seattle, WA.

August 5, 2011 “Creating Student Buy-In by Applying Real World Genres to College Composition.” Guest Speaker. University of Washington English 131 in the High Schools Orientation. Seattle, WA.

**Conference Presentations**

April 13, 2017 Pop Culture Association National Conference, San Diego, CA: Body & Culture. Session Chair: “Automating Genders.” Panelist. Paper Title: “Plugging In, Cripping Up: Cyborgs, Disability, and Feminism in ‘The Girl Who Was Plugged In’”

April 13, 2017 Pop Culture Association National Conference, San Diego, CA: Body & Culture. Moderator: “Crossing (& Smashing) Gender Boundaries: Agency, Drag, Burlesque.”

January 7, 2017 MLA, Philadelphia, PA. Session Chair: “Visible and Visual Boundaries of Disability.” Panelist. Paper Title: “Mat Fraser and the Staging of Radical Difference”

May 14, 2016 Pacific & Western Disability Studies Symposium, Seattle, WA. Workshop participant. Paper Title: “Mat Fraser and the Staging of Radical Difference”

March 22, 2016 Pop Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, WA: Circuses & Circus Culture. Panelist. Paper Title: “Siamese Twins & Contemporary Queer Fiction.”

June 16, 2012 University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK: “Sensualising Deformity.” Panelist. Paper Title: “Queering the Siamese Twin: Contemporary Figurations of Longing and Desire through Shared Bodily Space.”

March 24-25, 2011 Susan B. Anthony Institute of Women’s and Gender Studies Graduate Conference at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY: “Precarious Spaces.” Panelist. Paper Title: “‘One ever feels their twoness’: Transnational Illegibility and the Siamese Twin in Lawrence Chua’s *Gold by the Inch*”

November 20, 2010 ASTR Working Session Participant: “Contaminating Bodies: The Threat of Women on Performative Display.” Paper Title: “Showing Some Skin: Tattooed Ladies, Burlesque Queens, and the Staging of Exposure.”

**Publications**

Forthcoming “Foreword.” Studies in Gothic Fiction. Eds. Laura Kremmel and Enrique Arjuria Ibarra. June 2018.

Forthcoming “American Horror Story: Capital, Counterculture and the Freak” *European Journal of American Cultural Studies*. May 2018.

Under review “Queering the Siamese Twin” *Genders*. Eds. Karen Jacobs and Judith Roof. Under review.

April 2018 “Bastard from a Basket: Deafness in *There Will Be Blood*.” April 16, 2018 for *In Media Res* “Paul Thomas Anderson” week. *In Media Res* is a collaborative Media Commons project for online scholarship. Ed. Geoffrey Daniel Henry. <<http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/2018/04/15/bastard-basket-deafness-there-will-be-blood-0>>

December 2017 “Consuming Horror on *American Horror Story: Freak Show*.” December 4, 2017 for *In Media Res* “American Horror Story” week. *In Media Res* is a collaborative Media Commons project for online scholarship. Ed. Geoffrey Daniel Henry. <<http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/2017/11/17/consuming-horror-american-horror-story-freak-show>>

June 2015 "Accio Burlesque! Performing Potter Fandom Through Nerdlesque" Playing Harry Potter. Ed. Lisa Brenner. McFarland & Co. 2015.

**Editorial Experience**

December 2017 Theme Week Curator: *American Horror Story*. *In Media Res*, a Media Commons project for online scholarship.

January 2014 Editor, Fonds Feedback/Transcripts, Paul Garton, Inc.

March 2010-June 2013 Editorial Committee, e.g. – a journal of undergraduate writing, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Sept. 2009-November 2013 Freelance Editor, Tigerfish Transcription, San Francisco, CA

March 2010-June 2012 Editor/Access Technologies Assistant, Disability Resources for Students, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Aug. 2007-Aug. 2009 Project Manager/Editor, Tigerfish Transcription, San Francisco, CA

June 2006-June 2007 Research Director, Pacific Coast Business Times, Santa Barbara, CA

**University Service**

2013-2015 Executive Officer, English Graduate Student Organization, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

2011-2012 Hiring Committee Member, Print Access Program Manager Search, Disability Resources for Students, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

2011-2014 Officer, English Graduate Student Organization, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

2011-2013 Print Access Coordinator, Disability Resources for Students, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**Community Engagement & Non-University Service**

Present Digital Archivist, Burlycon: the world’s only burlesque educational and social convention, Seattle, WA.

2014-Present President, Board of Directors, Theatre Off Jackson, Seattle, WA.

February-April 2018 NEH Discussion Group Leader, “Planting the Oar: Washington State,” in association with The Telling Project.

April 29, 2016 Co-Producer & Host, “Bechdel Test Burlesque,” part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, invited by Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Residence Halls Association, LGBTESS, University of Oregon.

2013-2016 Programming Committee, Burlycon: the world’s only burlesque educational and social convention

**Professional Memberships**

2018 National Women’s Studies Association

2018 American Studies Associations

2017-2018 Society for Disability Studies

2015-2018 Pop Culture Association / American Culture Association

2012-2018 Modern Language Association

2010-2014 American Society for Theatre Research

**Fellowships & Awards**

2012 English Department Travel Award, University of Washington, Seattle

* 1. Padelford Fellowship, University of Washington, Seattle

2009-2010 English-Speaking Union’s Recruitment Fellowship, University of Washington, Seattle

**Research Interests**

Late 20th century American literature, Late 19th century American literature, dramatic literature, freak studies, feminist theory, queer theory, disability studies, performance studies