

# Mary C. Parker

Portland, OR

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

---

Over 17 years of experience as an international leadership trainer and dialogue facilitator. Curricula writer of race, inclusion, and leadership for students and communities in Potsdam, London, Kuala Lumpur, Pittsburgh, Zimbabwe, Atlanta, and Seattle. Interrupts bias and actively dismantles oppression as an applied theatre practitioner through playshops and coaching sessions for individuals, educational institutions, and corporations.

## EDUCATION

---

**Royal Central School of Speech and Drama**, Master of Arts in Applied Theatre London, England  
Modules: Pedagogies, Critical Contexts, Theatre and Social Exclusion, Performing Research, Applied Practices, Dissertation

**Emory University**, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology; minor in Ethics Atlanta, Georgia  
Modules: Racial & Ethnic Relations, Politics of Identity, Class/Status/Power

**Emory Summer Italian Studies Program** Multiple Italian  
Cities

## TEACHING AND ADVISING

---

### Special Visiting Faculty

*Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama Department of Dramaturgy* Aug 2021-Present

- Teach weekly courses on Theatre of the Oppressed: An Introduction to Forum Theatre and Applying Improv to the Workplace
- Taught all incoming first-year students and all incoming graduate students a weekly course on Anti-racism and Equitable Practices in Theatre
- Coordinated with experts in the field of dramaturgy, performance, and social justice to give guest lectures to enrolled students, faculty, and staff

### Instructor

*Point Park University Conservatory of Performing Arts, Department of Theater Arts* Jan 2022-Present

- Teach weekly Ensemble Lab course to junior theater art majors on methodologies from the theatre of the oppression and playback theatre

### Teaching Assistant

*The Alice Smith School Department of Drama, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia* May 2019

- Led original workshop for United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) secondary school teachers on applying drama tools and techniques in classroom settings
- Led UNHCR refugee youth (5-17) for one-time workshops on drama games
- Designed and led a custom workshop on leading with confidence and voice projection for Sixth Form students
- Collaborated to create an original stage combat workshop on Shakespeare's stage fighting for Year 7
- Drama in Role for year 8 on Macbeth with a focus on how voice and movement can create mood and atmosphere
- Drama Teacher Assistant for devising ensemble work incorporating Frantic Assembly techniques for Years 9 and 10
- Rehearsal Coach for the year 6 production of Mary Poppins with a focus on voice projection and character development

## **PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH**

---

Parker, Mary C. "Playing the Other." *Improv for Gamers*. Edited by Karen Twelves. *Improv for Gamers*, 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. Evil Hat Productions, 2022, pp. 62-63.

Parker, M., Walker, A., and Gasteratou, M., 2020. Reflections on Researching Within a Structurally Racist Institution. *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Equality and Diversity*, [online] 6(2). Available at: <<http://journals.hw.ac.uk/index.php/IPED/article/view/99>>

*Stand-up Comedy as an Applied Theatre Practice: One Black Woman's Autoethnographical Perspective*. Dissertation - Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, 2019.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

### **Poster Presentations**

- "Masters of My Life: Exploring Power through Humor and Storytelling," Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor (AATH), Orlando, FL March 2022

### **Oral Presentations**

- "Anti-Racism and Allyship in Academia Workshop" Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference, Virtual, August 2021
- "The DEI Lifecycle: Creating Sustainable Change Within Organizations," Diversity Forum, University of Pittsburgh, Virtual, July 2021
- "Using Humor to Address Challenges in a Changing World," Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor (AATH), Virtual, April 2021
- "How can Theatre the Oppressed inform our individual leadership styles?" SAVVY Arts Venture Challenge, University of South Carolina, SC 2019
- "How Our Identities Binds or Blinds Our Practice," 24th Annual Pedagogy and Theater of the Oppressed Conference, Colorado State University-Pueblo, CO, June 2019
- "Rehearsing the Revolution: Theatre of the Oppressed as a Tool for Change," Inclusive innovation week, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2018
- "Using Improv to Combat Everyday Microaggressions," 18th Annual Summit Against Racism, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, PA, January 2016
- "Dismantling Institutional Racism and Fighting for Racial Equality in Organizations," 18th Annual Summit Against Racism, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, PA, January 2016
- "Challenging White Supremacy in the Workplace," Pittsburgh, PA, 15th Annual Summit Against Racism, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, PA, January 2013

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

---

### **Just Collaboration, LLC**

*Creative Director, Principal Consultant*

*Founder, Organizational Consultant, Coach*

- Collaborate with individuals, educational institutions, and corporations that are ready to deepen their self-awareness, interrupt bias, and actively engage in dismantling oppression through services of playshops and coaching sessions
- Coached individuals, executives, and teams using intentional change theory as a framework and model to identify values amplify the voice and create a vision

Pittsburgh, PA  
Apr 2020-Present  
Oct 2015-Sep 2018



## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

---

### **Soliya**

*Trainer*

*Fellow: First-Year Connect; Facilitation*

*Connect Program Senior Facilitator*

Remote

Feb 2020- Aug 2021

July 2020 - August 2020; Oct 2017-Dec 2017

Oct 2012-Apr 2020

- Train individuals in a 20-hour facilitation training program on how to moderate meaningful and mutually beneficial dialogue exchange with young adults around the world at colleges and universities
- Facilitated over 280 young adults across 26 dialogue groups in virtual exchange to engage with their differences constructively and promote understanding and empathy during 8-weekly 2-hour dialogue sessions

### **Theatre Peckham**

*Special Projects Coordinator for Artistic Director, Workshop Lead,*

*STEP Festival Producer*

- Produced STEP Youth Theatre Festival managing a £900 event budget for 100 participants across 8 arts organizations and schools based in Southwark
- Organized Artist Development Programme social media strategy to reach Instagram and Twitter audiences of over 6,000
- Assistant Directed Theatre Peckham Young Company performance for sold out Desmond's 30<sup>th</sup>-anniversary show

London, England

Jan 2019-Mar 2019

### **Cardboard Citizen**

*Project Volunteer*

- Partnered with Armed Forces Veterans affected by homelessness for a two-week creative residency to devise an original Forum Theatre show to commemorate the centennial end of World War I for a sold-out crowd of over 50 attendees

London, England

Nov 2018

### **Racial Justice Summit (Formerly Annual Summit Against Racism)**

*19th Annual Coordinator*

- Oversaw planning of the 19th Annual Summit Against Racism as Summit Coordinator and created the first-ever Prelude to Summit Town Hall in partnership with an Assistant Coordinator and volunteer planning committee

Pittsburgh, PA

Oct 2016- May 2017

### **Coro Center for Civic Leadership, Coro Pittsburgh**

*Director of Training and Learning Development*

*Coro Fellow in Public Affairs*

- Trained and coached over 100 participants in the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs, Women in Leadership, and Next Neighborhood Leaders programs using a four-part learning model based on adaptive leadership curricula
- Participant in Partnering for Stronger Communities Grants Program, a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State and implemented by IREX (International Research & Exchanges Board) to travel to Zimbabwe and deliver leadership training
- Authored proposal for more inclusive policies for persons with sight, hearing, and mobility disabilities and impairments for Coro Pittsburgh including a toolkit with best practices

Pittsburgh, PA

May 2012-Dec 2015

Aug 2011-May 2012

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

---

### Civility Initiatives Committee

Students Affairs for Civility Initiatives, Carnegie Mellon University

- Serve on a university committee to propose how to incorporate civility initiatives with faculty

### Workshop Facilitator

School of Drama, Carnegie Mellon University

- Designed and facilitated workshops for the School of Drama Faculty and Staff on anti-racism, anti-oppression, and equity

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

---

- Association for Theatre in Higher Education Jul 2021-Present
- Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor Sep 2019-Present

## CERTIFICATIONS

---

- Katie Goodman “Improvisation for Life” Workshop Certification Oct 2019- Jan 2020
- artEquity Facilitation Training Sep-Oct 2019
- Duquesne University, Palumbo Donahue School of Business International Coaching Federation Professional Coaching Certificate, focus on individual, executive, and team coaching Apr 2016
- Soliya Advanced Training Facilitation (United Nations Alliance of Civilizations) Dec 2012
- International Institute for Sustained Dialogue Inclusive Facilitation Training on Transforming Relationships and Creating Change Jun 2011
- National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Prejudice Reduction Nov 2003-May 2011

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

---

- Improv Comedy
- Stand-up Comedy
- Singing
- Traveling
- Live Music
- Cooking