

JANICA OLPINDO

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Breaking & Hip-Hop Studies
Queer Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Theory
Human-Centered Interaction Design
Embodied Music Cognition

EDUCATION

- 2021 – Present **Ph.D. (ABD), Digital Media, York University**
Dissertation: “Flip the Hip, Queer the Hop: Creating More Inclusive Breaking Spaces with B-Ones & Filipinx Folks”
Supervisor: Dr. Marissa Largo
Committee: Dr. Doug Van Nort, Dr. Mary Fogarty, Dr. Casey Mecija, and Dr. Korina Jocson
- 2019 – 2021 **M.A., Digital Media, York University**
Major Research Project: “Breaking Barriers: Transforming Breaking Movements and its Culture”
Supervisor: Dr. Doug Van Nort
Committee: Dr. Mary Fogarty
- 2015 – 2019 **B.F.A., Integrated Media, OCAD University**
Thesis: “1v1 – Solo Battle: Finding My Voice”
Committee: Judith Doyle, and Johanna Householder
- 2026 – 2027 **College Diploma, Interaction Media Design, Seneca Polytechnic**

CERTIFICATIONS

- 2024 **It's Bigger Than Hip Hop II: Celebrating 50 Years of Women and Gender Expression in Hip Hop**
A 5-week certificate course led by Dr. Francesca D'Amico-Cuthbert with featuring special guests. It explores hip-hop's origin story and the role that women have played in the culture's development since its inception.
- 2023 **CreatingSpace: Facilitation Training and Development Program**
A certification program led by Tafiya Itiaba-Bayah that explored topics/concepts relating to facilitating spaces within the context of breaking.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2025 – 2026 **Research Assistant, “The Biyuti Project: Queer and Trans Filipinx Youth in Ontario Catholic Education,” York University**
Working in a research team led by Dr. Marissa Largo, Dr. Korina Jocson, Franklin Manapul, and Dr. Pino Fritz to assist with deliverables for the “Biyuti Project.”
- 2024 **Research Assistant, “AMPD Opening Exhibit at the Markham Campus,” York University**
Supported the AMPD Opening Exhibition at the Markham Campus with planning and implementation, including set up and testing of artworks and equipment, administration and artist

contracts, gallery support, editing of documents and wall panels, and event management support and installation/de-installation.

2023 – 2024

Research Associate, “Terra Firma,” InterAccess

Copyedited transcripts and created notes of various files to ensure valuable and accessible documentation of content; engaged in research, coordination, and administration to ensure all info gaps were filled in notetaking files; supported the “Terra Firma” project in putting together databases for resource packages centered on knowledges from Black, Indigenous, and Disability Justice communities.

2019 – 2021

Research Assistant, “Towards Inclusive and Interactive Spaces for Breakdancing,” DisPerSion Lab, York University

Worked with Dr. Doug Van Nort to sonify movements/gestures from various inputs, such as Kinect sensors, machine learning models like Body Pix and PoseNet, and frame abstraction methods under the Jamoma framework via Max MSP and Ableton Live MIDI/OSC connections.

2019

Research Assistant, “Volumetric Video in Videogames,” game:play Lab, OCAD University

Created sound design, edited recorded audio clips, and researched audio spatialization methods for the “Volumetric Video in Videogames” project under Dr. Cindy Poremba’s supervision.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Conference Paper

Olpindo, J., & Van Nort, D. (2022). Towards Inclusive and Interactive Spaces for Breakdancing. In M. Wölfel, J. Bernhardt, & S. Thiel (Eds.), *ArtsIT, Interactivity and Game Creation* (pp. 189–206). Springer International Publishing. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357698494_Towards_Inclusive_and_Interactive_Spaces_for_Breakdancing

Symposium

Olpindo, J. (2022, November). Interactive Breaking Music System: Improving the Human-centered Interactive Music System for Breakdancers. In Parfitt, C. (Chair), *PoP Moves, Popular Dance: Pivoting Towards Digital Sociality* [Symposium], Online. <https://popmoves.com/events/popular-dance-pivoting-towards-digital-sociality/>

Panel

Panel Member. (2025, October 18). Research-Creation Caucus Roundtable: Making Equity Centered Artistic Research in Dark Times. In Stéfy McKnight (Chair), *The Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC)* [Caucus], York University.

Panel Moderator. (2022, March 26). VIRTUAL PANEL: On Equity, Inclusivity and Queerness in Breaking. In *Breaking Canada* (Organizer), *Notebook Sessions* [Virtual Talks], Online. <https://www.breakingcanada.ca/events/notebook-sessions>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2021 – Present

Teaching Assistant, School of the Arts, Media, Performance, & Design, York University

Courses:

FA/DATT1100 Fundamentals of Digital Media Studies
FA/DATT1200 Multimedia Asset Creation I
FA/DATT1939 Making Interactive New Media Art
FA/PANF1900 Skills for Success in the Arts

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

2024	Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Province of Ontario (\$15,000)
2022	Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Province of Ontario (\$15,000)
2021	Susan Crocker and John Hunkin Scholarship in the Fine Arts, York University (\$12,500)
2020	Mitacs Research Training Award, Mitacs (\$6,000)
2020	Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Province of Ontario (\$15,000 Declined)
2020	Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) (\$17,500)
2019	York Graduate Scholarship, York University (\$6,000)
2015	Delaney Entrance Undergraduate Scholarship, OCAD University (\$5,000 for 4 years – Total: \$20,000)
2015	Magenta Foundation Photography Scholarship, The Magenta Foundation (\$1,000)
2015	Silas H. Rhodes Scholarship, School of Visual Arts (US\$15,000 for 4 years – Total: US\$60,000 Declined)

EXHIBITIONS & PUBLIC EVENTS

2026	<i>The Biyuti Project: The Exhibition</i> , Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2021	<i>Until the Words Reach the Land</i> , Online Exhibition (curated by Jamie Park)
2019	<i>Artificial Hell: Materiality Without Materials</i> , Gales Gallery, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2019	<i>GradEx 104</i> , OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2019	<i>Level Up Showcase</i> , Design Exchange, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2018	<i>ChangeUp Exhibition</i> , Toronto Media Arts Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2018	<i>Yes.</i> , The Great Hall and Anniversary Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2018	<i>Consciousness: The Embodied Space of Isolation</i> , Ada Slight Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2018	<i>Festival of the Body</i> , The Great Hall, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario
2017	<i>OCADU's First Annual Moving Image Festival (Screening)</i> , OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2016	<i>Exposure (Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival)</i> , The Great Hall, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2016	<i>First Year Art Celebration Exhibition</i> , The Great Hall, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2016	<i>First Year in Three Dimensions</i> , The Great Hall, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2015	<i>The Salon of Inclusiveness II</i> , Black Cat Artspace, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2015	<i>Flash Forward Incubator Program Exhibition and Silent Auction</i> , Twist Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada