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

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
My duties and responsibilities included assisting with the production of project deliverables. I was responsible for providing high quality photo and video documentation of various project workshops and presentations using appropriate camera, lighting, and recording equipment. I was also responsible for editing documentation files using various photo and video editing software, like Adobe Photoshop and DaVinci Resolve. Further, I acted as a workshop facilitator who taught project participants about new media video performance and sound art.

2024 **Research Assistant, "AMPD Opening Exhibit at the Markham Campus," York University**
I supported the AMPD Opening Exhibition at the Markham Campus with planning and implementation. This included set up and testing of artworks and equipment, administration and artist contracts, gallery support, editing of documents and wall panels, event management support, and installation/de-installation.

2023 – 2024 **Research Associate, "Terra Firma," InterAccess**
I collaborated with the project manager to conduct primary and secondary research on topics related to technology, accessibility, cultural competency, and innovation within the media arts sector, specifically: Disability Justice Futures, Harm Reduction in New Media, and Cultural Stewardship in Tech. I gathered, documented, and organized research findings to support the creation of content for project deliverables, including resource packages, training materials, conference presentations, and research reports. I also assisted in fact-checking and quality assurance processes for research-based content, ensuring accuracy, consistency, and adherence to project goals. Additionally, I coordinated written and visual content for resource packages, training materials, and research reports, integrating research findings, best practices, and community perspectives.

2019 – 2021 **Research Assistant, "Towards Inclusive and Interactive Spaces for Breakdancing," DisPerSion Lab, York University**
With Dr. Doug Van Nort's guidance, I developed an interactive software system that translated dance movements into sounds using the Max/MSP software. I researched and assessed different hardware and software technologies related to this goal, including Kinect sensors, machine learning models like Body Pix and PoseNet, and frame abstraction methods under the Jamoma framework. I worked with digital/numerical data in databases, prototyping the use of this in real-time software environments (including Ableton Live) that mapped this into musical MIDI data. I facilitated workshops that invited stakeholders (members of the public with dance training) to interact with and provide feedback on the technologies being developed.

2019 **Research Assistant, "Volumetric Video in Videogames," game:play Lab, OCAD University**
Under Dr. Cindy Poremba's supervision, I used various digital audio workstations like Adobe Audition to create sound design and edit/clean up recorded audio clips, and researched audio spatialization methods for the "Volumetric Video in Videogames" project.

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/DANC1500	BIG DANCE, small space
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	*The Biyuti Project: The Exhibition*, Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2021	*Until the Words Reach the Land*, Online Exhibition (curated by Jamie Park)
2019	*Artificial Hell: Materiality Without Materials*, Gales Gallery, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2019	*GradEx 104*, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2019	*Level Up Showcase*, Design Exchange, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2018	*ChangeUp Exhibition*, Toronto Media Arts Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2018	*Yes.*, The Great Hall and Anniversary Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2018	*Consciousness: The Embodied Space of Isolation*, Ada Slaight Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2018	*Festival of the Body*, The Great Hall, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario
2017	*OCADU's First Annual Moving Image Festival (Screening)*, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2016	*Exposure (Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival)*, The Great Hall, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2016	*First Year Art Celebration Exhibition*, The Great Hall, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2016	*First Year in Three Dimensions*, The Great Hall, OCAD University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2015	*The Salon of Inclusiveness II*, Black Cat Artspace, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2015	*Flash Forward Incubator Program Exhibition and Silent Auction*, Twist Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada