

# DIANA A. CHESTER

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12 College Avenue West, Singapore 138610 | +65 8799 0132 | diana.chester@gmail.com  
www.dianachester.com

## EDUCATION

### Doctor of Philosophy

Digital Media, University of Porto, December 2016

Dissertation Title: *“Creative Response - A New Look at Archiving: The Role Artists Play in Developing Creative Response from Field Recordings of Ethnographic Research”*

### Master of Arts

Interdisciplinary Studies: Sociology and Education, Columbia University, May 2007

### Bachelor of Arts

Religion, Mount Holyoke College, May 2004

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Post Doctoral Fellowship in the Arts, Yale-NUS College July 2017 – Present
- Lecturer, Interactive Media, NYU Abu Dhabi August 2015-August 2016
- Lecturer in Music Technology, NYU Abu Dhabi April 2013-May 2015
- Capstone Advisor in the Arts, NYU Abu Dhabi April 2013-May 2015
- Instructor of Arts and Media, NYU Abu Dhabi Spring 2011-April 2013
- Assistant Director for Academic Technology, NYUAD Library October 2010-April 2013

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- Visiting Scholar, Tisch School of the Arts at New York University May 2018 – January 2019
- NYU Abu Dhabi, Research Grant for Doctoral Studies September 2015–August 2016
- Art Hub Liwa: Artist Residency, UAE December 2014
- William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India August 2007-July 2008
- Columbia University, Graduate Student Scholarship September 2004 – May 2006
- Edward J. Chapin Sr. Prize, Mount Holyoke College May 2004

## PUBLICATIONS

- “Sonic Landscapes: Field Recording as Ethnographic Research,” *Materials of Sound, Journal of Sonic Studies*, Issue 16, forthcoming 2018.
- “Women in Sound Women on Sound: Active Strategies to Address the Gender Imbalance in Sound, Music and Technology.” *The Eaves*, March 2018.
- “Composition as Exploration” A Hybrid Media Composition, that form shifts Gertrude Stein’s 1925 Essay, “Composition as Exploration.” *The Eaves*, October 2017.
- “Acquisition as Appropriation: from the Parthenon to the Abu Dhabi Guggenheim,” *Affirmations: Of the modern*, 4.1, Autumn 2016.
- “Lest We Forget: In Conversation with Susan Meiselas and Michele Bambling” *Tribe Magazine*, Issue 38. March 2016.
- “Artists, Archivist, and Community,” *IASA Journal*, Issue 45. October 2015. 59-61
- “The Telematic Learning Environment: Experiences and Outcomes Teaching via Network Audio,” IEEE conference proceedings for International Conference on Audio Language and Image Processing, June 2012.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Audience as Performer: Interactive Exhibitions and the Call to Prayer,” Performance Studies Network Conference, The Norwegian Academy of Music, July 2018.
- “Deep Listening: To Women” A Lecture on Women in Sound, Yale-NUS College, March 2018.
- “Form-Shifting Gertrude Stein,” Thinking Through the Digital, Hosted by Linköping University, Sweden, December 2017.
- “The WISWOS Database and Reading List,” Sounds Like Her Exhibition Conference, New Art Exchange (NAE), Nottingham, UK, November 2017.
- “Found in Translation: Connecting Cultural Heritage and Community through Sight and Sound,” panel convener and chair, NonfictionNOW Conference, Hosted by the University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland, June 2017.
- “Mapping the *adhan*, the urban soundscape of Abu Dhabi City,” Urbanisms Conference: Yale- NUS College, Singapore, April 2016.
- “How Does Modernist Work Work Where? Art and Politics In Modern Day India,” Australian Modernist Studies Network Conference: Modernist Work, University of New South Wales, Sydney, March 2016.
- “Digital Media Archivism: Considering the Role of Creative Scholars and Artists in Preserving Cultural Heritage,” UWC Mahindra Faculty Lecture Series, October 2015.
- “Composition as Appropriation: Claim and Resist, Resist and Claim,” Australian Modernist Studies Network Conference: Transnational Modernisms, University of Sydney, Australia, December 2014.
- “Artist as Archivist,” Plenary Speaker at International Association of Sound and Audio Visual Archives Conference, Cape Town, South African, October 2014.
- “Sonic Storyboard: The Call to Prayer,” Noise From the Middle East: A Micro-Festival of Electronic Music, Abu Dhabi, UAE April 2014.
- “Art as Music: Travelling Cortex/Unravelling Core Text,” New York University Abu Dhabi Music Lecture Series, Abu Dhabi, April 2014.
- “Effective Classroom Design for Information Literacy and Learning,” Information Literacy Network of the Gulf Region, Abu Dhabi, 2012.
- “The Telematic Learning Environment: Experiences and Outcomes Teaching via Network Audio,” International Conference on Audio, Language and Image Processing, Shanghai, 2012.

## EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

- Women In Sound, Women on Sound, Website Resource of Women Sound Artists and Musicians, Administrator and Curator. Ongoing
- Sound Map of the Islamic Call to Prayer, A sonic mapping projects that chronicles the Adan from mosques around the world. Ongoing.
- *Etsy Biennale*, Group Art Show in DUBMO, Brooklyn. *Ghost, Organ, and Untitled 2016*, All Gelatin Silver Prints shot on 4x5 film.
- *Theyyam Ritual, Nature, and People*, A walking art installation in collaboration with visual artist Dhanaraj Keezhara. February 2017 in Keezhara village, Kerala and April 2017 in Folklore Village Kannur, Kerala.
- *Theyyam Nilathezhuthu*, A floor mural in collaboration with visual artist Dhanaraj Keezhara. February 2016 in Keezhara village, Kerala.
- *Rub Al Khali (The Empty Quarter)*, Sound Design for film by French Director Sophie Bachelier, on Artists in the United Arab Emirates. April 2015.
- *Kalima wa Nagham*, Arabic language book authored by Nasser Isleem and Ghazi Abuhakema, Audio Book by Diana Chester, February 2015.
- *Ramsah Emirati Dialect Language Book*, Co-Authored by Nasser Isleem and Ayesha Al Hashemi, Audio Book by Diana Chester, April 2014.
- *Everyday Life: A Repertoire of Ritual and Performance*: A multimedia exhibition in collaboration with Indian artist Dhanaraj Kheezara, fusing painting, drawing and spacialized sound composition in exploration of caste marginalization in Theyyam, IMA Hall, Kannur, India. December 2014.
- *Adan Sonic Storyboard*, An interactive installation exploring the sonic nuance of the call to prayer, fusing digital images, recorded sound, and sensor based data collection via microcontroller, Gallery 4211, Al Ain Tower, Abu Dhabi, UAE, May 2014.
- John Cage's Radio Music reimagined by William David Fastenow, Performer via twitter from the Middle East, Beyond the Machine, Julliard, New York, 2012.
- *Babel*, 8-channel audio installation inspired by the story of the tower of babel, co-composed with Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology Martin Daughtry, Abu Dhabi, 2011

## SELECTED COMPOSITIONS

- Album: [Theyyam](#), Sonospace Archive, March 2018.
- Album: [Soundmap for the Dreamer II](#), SonoSpace Sound Archive, January 2018.
- "Movement 2: Wind" (13:00), "Call to Prayer" (4:02), "Rain Frog" (00:40), and "work" (1:50), *Framework Radio: phonography: field recording: the art of sound-hunting*. January 2018.
- "[Tartaria](#)" (4:03), *Sono Space*, December 2017.
- "Stein in Translation," (5:51), *Radiophrenia*, Special Broadcast on Sound and Transmission Artwork, 87.9FM, Glasgow, UK, November 2017.
- *Destination Somewhere*, soundscape for film, previewed in the telematic concert for peace, Abu Dhabi and New York, 2012.
- *Traffic Jam*, Basement Records, Delhi, India, 2008 (1 piece by D. Chester)
- Album: *When Not In Your Head*, People Pin Productions, New York, 2007 (8 original compositions by D. Chester dianachester.com, iTunes)
- *Three Bodies*, film score composition for Turkish director Elif Refig, 2006.
- *Challenge Me*, composed for dance, 2004.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Art and Ethnography – Yale NUS College**

Spring 2018

Students learn about ethnographic research methods, with a specific focus on digital ethnography, and arts production tools. They combine an exploration in ethnographic research of communities in Singapore with narrative media making, and work on four projects in which they spend time within and documenting a community through both traditional written methods, and research documentation methods including photography, audio recording, and video recording.

### **Interactive Narrative in Game Design – Yale NUS College**

Spring 2018

Students learn about the interaction of narrative design, through navigating the pre-production, production, and post-production phases of creating a game in Unity located in the city of Singapore.

### **Capstone Advising – Yale NUS College**

AY 2017-2018

Serve as lead reader and advisor for two senior capstone projects in the Arts and Humanities. The first a Virtual Reality Animation Project exploring vulnerability, and the Second a Film Project exploring the Heritage Coffee movement in the Philippines. Hold weekly tutorial sessions; provide guidance on resources, texts, and thinking for project. Evaluate final Capstone.

### **Digital Narratives – Yale NUS College**

Fall 2017

Students explore narrative through trans-media storytelling, and learn techniques and methods used in the development of narrative and production including; the role of visual culture, the role of oral history, the 'ethnographic ear' and theories and methods of 'soundscape research', collective and digital memory, and web based storytelling.

### **Notions of Identity Through Travel, Writing, and Arts Practice (Kerala, India)**

February 2016

Students are lead in a weeklong investigation of place, transport, and personal identity. The course is designed to provide students with new ways of looking at and writing about evidence through written reflections, sonic recordings, and visual interpretations of place.

### **Writing, Art, & Notions of Identity (Abu Dhabi, UAE)**

February 2015

Students explore notions of cultural identity and heritage, through a class designed to help them develop a method for creation. Students develop creative pieces in response to prompts and their surroundings.

### **Live Mixing Workshop – Yale NUS College**

Spring 2015

This workshop series focuses on preparing students for class projects and live and recorded events. The workshop provides a synthesized overview of analog and digital sound.

### **Sound Design for Scene and Screen - NYU Abu Dhabi**

Fall 2014

Students are introduced to the fundamentals of sound design, for theater and film, and exposed to techniques and topics including Automatic Dialog Replacement (ADR), Foley, post-synchronized sound and musique concrete.

### **Music Technology Fundamentals – NYU Abu Dhabi**

Fall 2014

This course is the Gateway to the Music Technology disciplinary area courses in the NYUAD Music Program and is mandatory for all Music majors. Students learn the fundamentals of digital audio, studio and location recording, audio and MIDI sequencing using Logic and Live, music production, and audio programming using Max/MSP.

### **Independent Study in Music Production – NYU Abu Dhabi**

Spring 2014

Students create an EP of original composition in this class. Students learned intermediate level recording and producing techniques; chord charts for singer songwriters; mixing techniques; and the art of creating unique recorded sounds in unique spaces.

- Arts Capstone Design Workshop - NYU Abu Dhabi** Fall 2013  
Students learn the fundamentals of design theory, including a basic overview of set, lighting, sound, and video design, to support their senior capstone projects.
- Directing the Camera II (Workshop) - NYU Abu Dhabi** Fall 2013  
Film Majors learn the basics in audio theory, sound design for film, location sound recording, microphones, recording technique, post-production, and sound editing.
- Capstone Production and Advising – NYU Abu Dhabi** Fall 2013  
Met with Theater and Music capstone students weekly. Reviewed their project proposals and budgets and guided their technical design process, and project production.
- Independent Study in Recorded Music – NYU Abu Dhabi** Fall 2012  
Students learn music technology fundamentals, microphone technique, recording studio basics, signal flow, post-production, production technique, business of producing, midi controllers, and introduction to mixing.
- Single Shot Cinema - NYU Abu Dhabi** Fall 2012  
Guest Lecturer for location sound for film, sound stage boom operation technique, lavalier microphones, recording and placement technique, sound mixer basics, hands-on mentoring within production shoots.
- Sound, Image, Story (Lab Component) – NYU Abu Dhabi** Spring 2012  
Through the labs, students learn about sound design fundamentals, location sound, interview technique, and microphone technique for video projects. Worked with students on voice over recordings and post-production sound.
- Global Telematic Music Ensemble – NYU Abu Dhabi** Fall 2011  
Students learn music technology fundamentals, signal flow and routing, recording equipment basics, digital audio recording, Logic and JacTrip software, microphone basics, microphone building exercises, microphone placement, internet audio transmission and technology, multi-channel audio.
- Translation: Multimedia Practice and Metaphor (Instructor) NYU and NYU Abu Dhabi** Spring 2011  
Students learn about distance learning techniques, recording basics, composition and recording techniques, and studio recording, while working on an audio installation project throughout the semester.

## CREATIVE CONSULTANT

- “Honey” Endurance by artist Julie Tolentino, Sound Mixer and Lighting Design, 2014
- “Sounds of Sand” Recorded sound and video composition/performance, sound mixer, 2014
- “Filligrane” Short Film Directed by Gail Segal: Sound Recordist/Mixer, 2013.
- “Astoria” Podcast for NPR, by Lisa Smith, Mixed and Edited for Broadcast, 2013.
- Sound Design, *The Odyssey*, NYUAD student production, 2013.
- Video Design, *Beyond the Machine*, The Julliard School, 2013.
- Location Sound Recordist, *Women in Film*, Abu Dhabi, 2012.
- Sound and Media Consultant, *Living National Treasures*, Michele Bambling, 2011-2013.
- Recorded Sound Consultant, *Home*, Joanne and Jim Savio, 2011.
- Curriculum and Recorded Sound, *FIND: Cultural Heritage Project*, Mo Ogradnik, 2010-2011.
- Darkroom Designer, Kellam Clark’s Labspace, Brooklyn, New York, 2008-2010.
- Recording Studio Consultant, Charles Morrow Studios, New York, 2008-2009.
- Sound Consultant, EMF’s Ear to the Earth Festival, 2008 & 2009.
- Sound Design and Photography, *The Mothership Landing*, Conni’s Avant Garde Restaurant Theater Company, 2009.
- Studio Designer, Basement Records Recording Studio, Delhi, India, 2007-2008.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE IN ACADEMIA

- Faculty Advisor, Filmmakers Society, Yale NUS College (2017-2018)
- NYU Abu Dhabi Campus Advisory Committee, Chair (2015-2016)
- Music Faculty Curriculum Planning Committee (2014-2015)
- Capstone Implementation Coordination Working Group, Arts Capstone Advisor (2013-2015)
- Arts Capstone Festival Committee, Member (2013-2016)
- Master Work Plan Committee Member– institution-wide planning for campus opening (2010-2014)
- Sakai/Kaltura rollout Working Group
- Saadiyat Library Campus Planning Team

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### LEARNING SYSTEMS MANAGER

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA

ETSY

August 2016 – May 2017

Responsible for developing and implementing a global digital learning strategy to grow and scale learning and professional development offerings for employees at Etsy, across their 9 offices in 7 countries. The role demanded strong project management skills to oversee, conducting a needs analysis, assessing key needs and gaps to achieving a global digital learning strategy, defining a scope for the project, developing relationships with key stakeholders, conducting market research on digital tools and resources that meet Etsy's professional development and learning needs, conducting vendor evaluations, choosing a vendor(s), leading rollout of new tools, developing communication strategy and guidelines for rollout. Leading content migration to seamlessly bring existing content into the new tools, work with vendors to hold trainings for Etsy employees on new tools.

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Library, New York University Abu Dhabi

October 2010 – April 2013

Member of the Library team with a particular focus on the academic technology and academic computing environments; instructional design of campus classrooms; telematic music & recording/production spaces; designed the Digital Media Studio environment; designed and implemented Global courses and classrooms. Provided technical expertise, vision, and leadership, in consultation with other responsible parties, for the planning and development of an innovative academic technology environment that places students, faculty, and staff at the center of globally cutting-edge classrooms, web based learning teaching tools, equipment, and technical resources. As a leader in Academic Technology, design innovative classroom spaces, integrated technical environments for teaching and learning over distance, and policy design and implementation for the deployment, upkeep and development of technology tools housed within the library. Served as liaison to the Dean and faculty of the Arts and Humanities on library, IT, and academic technology resources and services. Developed educational training workshops for faculty and students, on digital recorded sound, video/audio digitization and post-production, and field recording.

### ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY PROJECT MANAGER

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

IT, New York University Abu Dhabi

April 2010-October 2010

Member of ITS Project Management Team responsible for audiovisual and IT readiness of NYU Abu Dhabi's Downtown Campus Classrooms, residential facility, and science and Engineering Labs. Responsible for developing a retrofit project plan, gathering stakeholder requirements, defining retrofit system revisions, and AV oversight. Developed readiness guidelines with faculty and staff, defined and designed downtown

campus AV retrofit requirements, served as conduit between NY and AD for AV readiness in conjunction with campus opening. Managed installation of AD instance of Echo 360 Lecture capture system, classroom playback and projection environment, videoconferencing configuration, podia build, user interface programming and visual identity. Managed project plan, timeline, budget and all vendors in association with project.

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**TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST****NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA****Global IT, New York University****November 2008-April 2010**

Responsible for readiness of instructional technology spaces, video conferencing service model, research institute video archive model and process, website, and technical operations for both of NYU Abu Dhabi's New York operations offices, the Silk Offices located at 14 east 4<sup>th</sup> St, and 19 Washington Square North.

Primary responsibilities included:

- Systems Planning, Creation of Work Flow Model and Technical Coordination: Development and execution of media archive service model for NYU Abu Dhabi Institute, worked with NYU Abu Dhabi senior leadership to ensure smooth technical outfitting of new buildings, oversaw purchase and installation of all new work stations for four story building.
- Project Management, Training and Supervision: Oversaw installation and configuration of complex audio-visual and video conferencing technology in NY offices. Managed integrated audio-visual systems, created staff/faculty training materials and conducted trainings. Project Manager for technical move to new facility. Supervised IT coordinator, consultant, audio-visual technician, and media production team.

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**MANAGER OF TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR STUDENT EVENTS****NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA****University Event Management, Columbia University****May 2006-August 2007**

- Responsible for providing overall technical support for the Columbia University Student Center, managed a staff of 25 comprised of students and casual hires.
- Guided college students in their theatrical and artistic endeavors in university spaces.
- Managed student technical theatre crew, and student event planning.
- Responsible for inventory, maintenance, and daily operations of all technical spaces and equipment within student center.
- Managed, trained, supervised, and scheduled staff for all events in our seven story venue with a 1400 person main theatre, black box theater, cinema space and 10 conference rooms.

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**SOUND ENGINEER AND PHOTOGRAPHER****NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA****Park Boulevard Productions****August 2008 - May2010****Julliard School & The Museum of Art and Design**

Supported an array of artistic, theatrical, and educational events and projects including studio and live recordings, event photography and photography for print materials, video and lighting design and live audio engineering.

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**WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER****DELHI, INDIA****Traffic Life Magazine****September 2007-June 2008**

Worked with editor and staff on new Indian Lifestyle magazine targeting India's urban young professionals. Wrote articles, travelogues, and photographed on location as well as within the studio.