

## MELISSA MELPIGNANO, PHD

The University of Texas at El Paso • Department of Theatre and Dance  
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### EDUCATION

- 2019** Ph.D. in Culture and Performance  
Department of World Arts & Cultures/Dance  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Committee: Drs. Susan L. Foster, Anurima Banerji, Janet O'Shea, Sarah A. Stein  
Dissertation: *Choreographing Livability: Dance Epistemes in the Kibbutz and in the Israel Defense Forces.*
- 2013** M.A. in Italian and European Studies (Summa Cum Laude)  
Università della Svizzera Italiana (University of Lugano), Lugano, Switzerland  
Supervisors: Drs. Stefano Tomassini, Carlo Ossola
- 2010** B.A. in Performance Studies (Summa Cum Laude)  
Department of Humanities  
Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia, Italy  
Supervisors: Drs. Stefano Tomassini, Giovanni Morelli
- 2005** B.A. (Hons) in Contemporary Dance  
London Contemporary Dance School  
University of Kent, UK
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### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Fall 2023-present** Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Director of Dance, Dance Faculty Advisor  
Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at El Paso.
- 2022-2023** Assistant Professor of Instruction, Director of Dance, Dance Faculty Advisor  
Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at El Paso  
Classes: Ballet (Intermediate, and Advanced), World Dance (Upper Elective), Dance Seminar, Choreography, Performance Studies, Dance Performance/Dance Theatre Lab.
- 2021-2022** Assistant Professor of Instruction, Director of Dance, Dance Advisor  
Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at El Paso  
Classes: Ballet (Foundations, Intermediate, and Advanced), World Dance (Upper Elective), Special Topics in Dance Studies, in Political Science, in Women and Gender Studies (research seminar), Choreography, Dance Performance, Dance Theatre Lab.
- 2019-2021** Full-Time Lecturer, Interim Director of Dance, Dance Advisor (since January 2020)  
Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at El Paso  
Classes: Ballet (all levels), Dance Appreciation (Core), World Dance (Upper Elective), Special Topics in Dance Studies (research seminar), Dance Theory and Composition,

Dance Performance, Dances of Mexico and Spain, Senior Choreographic Projects Seminar.

- Jul-Aug 2019** Part-Time Lecturer  
Department of Theater and Dance, The University of Texas at El Paso  
Lecturer in Ballet
- Spring 2019** Lecturer  
Dept. of World Arts & Cultures/Dance  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Lecturer on Dance in Israel
- 2016-2017** Teaching Fellow  
Dept. of World Arts & Cultures/Dance, University of California, Los Angeles  
Courses: Dance History; Theories of Dance (Upper Division); Arts Encounters (GE);  
Choreography and Israel: (Hi)stories of Nationalism and Dissent (GE), Instructor of  
Record.
- 2015-2016** Teaching Associate  
Dept. of World Arts & Cultures/Dance, University of California, Los Angeles  
Courses: Global Perspectives on Dance (Lower Division); Arts Encounters.
- 2015** Visiting Lecturer  
Escuela de Artes y Humanidades, Departamento de Artes  
Universidad de las Americas, Puebla, Mexico  
Courses: Theories of Performance; Dance History; Ballet Technique.
- 2013-2015** Teaching Associate  
Dept. of Italian, University of California, Los Angeles  
Courses: Italian Cinema and Culture in English (Lower Division); Italian 1 to 5, Instructor  
of Record.
- 2013** Guest Lecturer  
Dept. of Communication, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, Switzerland  
Course: Visual Arts Criticism
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## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS (monographs)

- Forthcoming** *Presenza Immemoriale: Variazioni su gender e colonialismo nei libretti di ballo sette  
ottocenteschi (Immemorial Presence: Gender and Colonial Variations in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> c. Dance  
Librettos)*. Scalpendi, Milan, IT.
- In preparation** *Undoing Ambiguity: Choreographic Theorizations in Palestine-Israel*. Book proposal to be  
submitted to Duke University Press and/or Northwestern University Press and/or  
Oxford University Press.
- In preparation** *Choreocracy: Dance Organizing and the Batsheva Dance Company*. (Review request by Seagull  
Books/The University of Chicago Press).
- In preparation** *Bailar es una lucha tierna: Dances of Tender Fight on the El Paso-Juárez Border*, monograph.

## BOOKS (edited)

- Planning** *Composing in Dance Practice and History* (multilingual project), co-edited with Stefano Tomassini. Scalpighi, Milano, IT.
- Planning** *CONFLICT* (In negotiation with MIT Press/Whitechapel: Documents of Contemporary Art).
- Planning** *Dancing Water Justice: Dance Artists in the Global Movement for Water Rights* (edited multimedia project)

## JOURNAL ARTICLES – PEER REVIEWED

- 2024** “Throwing like a Palestinian Girl: *Sumud* beyond Sentiment,” Special Issue  
**Proposal accepted** “Beyond Sentiment,” ed. by Silvia Schultersmandl, *Journal of Intercultural Studies*. (Expected publication: 2026).
- 2024** “Choreographing Place-Based Programming in Times of Institutional Change: Sensemaking, Scaffolding, And Dancing-With at The University of Texas at El Paso.” *Journal of Dance Education* (forthcoming).  
**Accepted for publication**
- 2023** “Corpographies of Falling and Abandonment: Dance, Literature, and the Challenge to the Resilience Industry” (Corpografie del crollo e dell’abbandono: danza, letteratura, e la sfida all’industria della resilienza). *Narrativa*, n. 45, 2023.
- 2023** “A Necropower Carnival: Israeli Soldiers Dancing in the Occupied Palestinian Territories” *TDR: The Drama Review* 67, n. 1, Spring 2023 (T256).
- 2021** “A Golem for Protest: Julie Weitz’s *My Golem*.” *AJS Perspectives*, Spring 2021.
- 2020** “For a Different Sense of Time: Italian Dance Artists and Labor Rights during the Pandemic.” *The Dancer-Citizen*, n.10, 2020. <http://dancercitizen.org/issue-10/melissa-melpignano/>

## BOOK CHAPTERS – PEER REVIEWED

- 2025** *Armida e Rinaldo: a performative commentary*, in *Embodied Knowledge and Making Texts: A Handbook*, ed. by Georgina Wilson and Helen Smith. London and New York: Oxford University Press.  
**Proposal accepted**
- 2024** “Gaga’s Aspirational Politics: Passepartout Bodies and Choreographic Passports,” in *Contemporary Choreography*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, ed. by Jo Butterworth and Vicky Hunter. London and New York: Routledge. (Exp. publication December 2025).  
**Accepted**
- 2024** “Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Performance as Research Praxis: *Mapping the Rio*,” in *In Other accepted Words: Opening Research to Creative Practices*, ed. by Ewa Tartakowski and Piera Rossetto. Bielefeld, DE: Transcript. (Exp. publication 2025).  
**Accepted**
- 2023** “Unhinging Choreography as Sovereign Border-Ma(r)ker,” *The Oxford Handbook of Dance Praxis*, ed. by Anurima Banerji, Jasmine Johnson, and Royona Mitra. New York: Oxford University Press.  
**Submitted**
- 2021** “Choreographing Livability after Oslo: Israeli Women Choreographers and Collective Responsibility,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Jewishness and Dance*, ed. by Naomi Jackson, Rebecca Pappas, and Toni Shapiro-Phim. New York: Oxford University Press.

2021 “Emanuel Gat,” in *50 Contemporary Choreographers, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*, ed. by Joanne Butterworth and Lorna Sanders. New York and London: Routledge.

2019 “Gradations of Presence: The Figure of Armida in 19th c. Dance Librettos,” in *The Body, the Dance, and the Text: Essays on Performance and the Margins of History*, ed. by Brynn W. Shiovitz. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.

2018 “Il libretto di ballo come genere letterario” (“The Dance Libretto as a Literary Genre”), in *Parole su due piedi: la danza nella storia della cultura italiana tra memoria e pratiche*, ed. by Stefano Tomassini and Andrea Torre. Pisa: Neri Pozza.

#### DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

2024 *Mapping the Rio*, with mentee Aliah Candia. Scholarworks @ UTEP.  
[https://utep-sandbox.digital-commons.com/map\\_rio/1/](https://utep-sandbox.digital-commons.com/map_rio/1/)

#### PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

2024 “Choreography and Borders,” in *Edward Elgar Encyclopedia on Migration and Artivism*, ed. by Melissa Moralli, Laura Oso, and Natalia Ribas-Mateos.

2020 *A Vocabulary Guide for Black Liberation*, co-written with al.  
<https://www.streetdanceactivism.com/vocabularyguide>

2020 “Black Lives Matter and Transnational Solidarity” (Black Lives Matter e la solidarietà transnazionale), *Vino Nuovo*, June 2020.  
<https://www.vinonuovo.it/attualita/societa/black-lives-matter-e-la-solidarieta-transnazionale/>

#### BOOK REVIEWS

2022 *La danse théâtrale en Europe: identités, altérités, frontières*, ed. by Arianna Beatrice Fabbricatore, Bénédicte Jarrasse, Béatrice Pfister, Giulia Taddeo e Hanna Walsdorf, in *Dance Chronicle*. (In preparation, under editorial agreement).

2021 Francesca Ferrando, *Philosophical Posthumanism*, in *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*. (In preparation, under editorial agreement).

2019 Shira Klein, *Italy's Jews from Emancipation to Fascism*, in *Carte Italiane*, 12, 2019.

2017 Einav Katan, *Embodied Philosophy in Dance: Gaga and Ohan Naharin's Movement Research*, in *Dance Research Journal*, 49/2, August 2017, 112-114.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS (TRANSLATIONS, CATALOGUES, DANCE REVIEWS, POETRY)

**In preparation** (Forth. 2025) Italian translation from Mexican Spanish and English of *StoneHeart* by Georgina Escobar. Nowhere Books, Calapranzi series, IT (Play translation).

**Under review** English translation of *Syriana* by Leonardo Tonini (Gattogrigio Editore, 2023). Under review with Massachusetts Review.

**Forthcoming** Italian translation from Mexican Spanish and English of Gris Muñoz's *Coatlícué Girl* (FlowerSong Press). Capovolte, IT (Poetry translation).

- 2024 “Zarhy’s Affect: Beyond the Binary of Ausencia and Presencia,” *Dance Context Webzine*, July 5, 2024: <https://www.dancecontextwebzine.com/reviews/zarhys-affect-beyond-the-binary-of-ausencia-and-presencia>.
- 2022 “Italy’s Kilowatt Festival: Dancing an ‘Ethic of Living,’” *arts•meme*, August 17, 2022: <https://artsmeme.com/2022/08/17/italys-kilowatt-festival-dancing-an-ethic-of-living/>
- 2022 “Italy’s Santarcangelo Festival Counters Apocalyptic Narratives through Dance,” *arts•meme*, July 23, 2022: <https://artsmeme.com/2022/07/23/italys-santarcangelo-festival-counters-todays-apocalyptic-narratives-through-dance/>
- 2017 “Uprising by Hofesh Shechter,” in *MilanOltre – 30 years*, Festival Catalogue.
- 2012 *Lento Notturmo*. Lugano, CH: Alla Chiara Fonte. (Poetry)
- 2012 “Dana Ruttenberg, Choreography in Listening”, *L’Universo*, IX, 5, May 2012
- 2011 “Saburo Teshigawara and His Bright Choreography,” *L’Universo*, VIII, 9 November 2011.
- 2011 “Poems for the Skull.” In *Cenobio: Rivista Trimestrale di Cultura*, LX, 1, Jan-Mar 2011. (Poetry)
- 2007 Italian translation of “Deleuze et la Politique” by Alain Badiou, in *Oltre l’Uno e il Molteplice: Pensare con Gilles Deleuze*, ed. by Tommaso Ariemma and Luca Cremonesi. Verona: ombre corte, 2007.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2024 Selma Jeanne Cohen Prize in Dance Aesthetics from the American Society for Aesthetics – for the article “A Necropower Carnival: Israeli Soldiers Dancing in the Occupied Palestinian Territories,” *TDR: The Drama Review* 67, n. 1, Spring 2023 (T256).
- 2024 Research & Innovation Rising Researcher Award – Social Science, Arts, Culture & Society Award, The University of Texas at El Paso.
- 2024 Included in the Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures (EWIC) Scholar Database.
- 2019 Mellon Dance Studies Fellow, Northwestern University
- 2016-2017 Fellow of the UCLA Collegium of University Teaching Fellows
- 2014 Selma Jeanne Cohen Award from the Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS)
- 2012 Credit Swiss Award for Excellent Writing
- 2012 Scholar in Residence, Fondazione Cini, Venezia, Italy

**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2024** UTEP College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Lecture Series grant for “Polarization and Constructive Conflict in Practice with Dana Caspersen” (\$ 2,500)
- 2024** Henry, Julia, and Jerry Kellen Holocaust Survivors Endowed Fund – for the project “Choreographing Holocaust Remembrance: The Process for the El Paso Performance ‘What Once Was’” (\$ 1,500)
- 2024** Aaron and Sylvia Wechter Excellence Fund (\$ 3,250)
- 2024** PI – Texas Commission on the Arts (\$ 1,500)
- 2024** PI – Humanities Texas mini-grant (\$2,000)
- 2024** PI – National Endowment for the Arts research grant “Somatics and Movement for Healthcare” (\$25,000 awarded from agency; total project \$ 50,000)
- 2023** Hazel Hervey Endowed Fund, UTEP
- 2020** Interdisciplinary Research Grant with One Water Cluster, UTEP
- 2020** Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)
- 2020** The Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, Teaching Grant
- 2019** Knapp Foundation Travel Grant
- 2019** Mellon Dance Studies Grant  
Mellon Foundation, Northwestern University
- 2018** Conference Travel Grant  
University of Arizona, Tempe
- 2018** Conference Travel Grant  
University of Central London (UCL), UK
- 2018** Bluma Appel Research Grant  
Leve Center for Jewish Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2017-2018** Dissertation Year Fellowship  
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2017** Bluma Appel Research Grant  
Leve Center for Jewish Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2017** Hawkins Scholarship Award, Clifton Webb Scholarship Fund  
School of Arts and Architecture, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2016** Graduate Student Research Fellowship  
Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2016** Research Travel Grant  
Center for the Study of Women (CSW), University of California, Los Angeles

- 2016** Conference Travel Grant  
Association for Israel Studies (AIS)
- 2016** Graduate Division Award  
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2015** Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (GSRM)  
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2014-2015** University of California Regent's Fellowship
- 2014-2015** Multiple Travel Grants  
Dept. of World Arts & Cultures/Dance, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2013-2014** University of California Regent's Fellowship
- 2010** Graduate Student Scholarship Award  
Istituto di Studi Italiani, University of Lugano, Switzerland
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## INVITED ACADEMIC LECTURES AND TALKS

- 2022, Nov 14** "Undermining (Choreographic) Sovereignty: Piyyutim as a Tactic of Dance Composition," The Contemporary Piyyut: Global Networks of Middle Eastern and North African Music, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Center for Jewish Studies, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.
- 2021, April 23** "Dance Partnerships: Dance Librettos and Their Reverberations in the Present," invited by prof. Stefano Tomassini, course: "Coreografia: studi, pratiche, estetiche," IUAV (Istituto Universitario di Architettura Venezia), Venice, IT.
- 2021, April 6** "Conversation with Elad Schechter and Rand Taha," invited by the Helen Diller Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
- July 2019** "The Israel-U.S. Modern Dance Exchange in the 1950s-60s," invited by Julianne O'Brien Pedersen, Department of Dance, Chapman University.
- 2018** "When Soldiers Go Viral: Digital Circulation of Dances in the Israel Defense Forces" Class: Modern Israel: Politics, Society, Culture (Jewish Studies M142/Mid East St M142), Dr. Shaiel Ben-Ephraim, UCLA
- 2018** "May 23: Italian Day of Legality"  
Department of Italian, for multiple classes of Italian, UCLA
- 2017** "When Soldiers Go Viral: Colonialism Reloaded in Global Consumption"  
Dept. of World Arts & Cultures/Dance, UCLA
- 2015** "Strategies of Dissent in Contemporary Israeli Choreography"  
Israel Studies Colloquium, Y&S Nazarian Center, International Institute, UCLA
- 2015** "Surface and Depth, Discipline and Affect: A Fieldwork Report from Israel/Palestine"  
Dept. of World Arts & Cultures/Dance, UCLA

- 2014** Praise “The Choreography of Ohad Naharin for the Batsheva Dance Company: Between and Boycott”  
School of Arts & Architecture, Dept. of World Arts & Cultures/Dance, prof. Victoria Marks *and* prof. David Gere, UCLA
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## ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- July 2024** Co-chair of the “Moving the Margins of the Long 19<sup>th</sup> Century” Hub at Dance Studies Association conference, Buenos Aires (Argentina), July 23-27, 2024.
- Sep’23-Mar’24** Co-chair of UTEP World Water Week 2024, “Bridging Borders: Leveraging Water for Peace,” The University of Texas at El Paso and Universidad Autónoma Ciudad Juárez, March 18-23, 2024.
- March 2023** Co-founder and organizing committee member of UTEP World Water Week. “Change through Partnerships,” in celebration of World Water Week, The University of Texas at El Paso.
- March 2022** Co-founder and co-organizer of the annual, interdisciplinary UTEP World Water Week. “Making the Invisible Visible,” in celebration of World Water Week, The University of Texas at El Paso, in collaboration with Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, March 21-26.
- March 2021** Co-founder and co-organizer of the annual, interdisciplinary UTEP World Water Week. “Re-valuing Water: A Dance and Performance Symposium” in celebration of World Water Week, The University of Texas at El Paso, The Rubin Center for Visual Arts, Centennial Museum.
- October 2020** Texas Dance Improvisation Festival (TDIF), campus organizing committee

### PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2024** “Interdisciplinary Community Engagement Methods.”  
World Water Week 2024, UTEP, El Paso, TX, March 21.
- 2023** “Archives in Motion: Embodiments of Diaspora, Commemoration, and Bureaucracy in Israeli Culture.”  
Association for Israel Studies (AIS), New York University, NY, June 26-28.
- 2022** “The resilience industry: Resilience Discourse and Cultural Production,” with Shir Alon.  
Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), Montréal, Québec, Canada, December 1-4.
- 2022** “The Women’s Struggle in Iran and Afghanistan: Reclaiming Bodies, Movement, and Life Against Oppression: with Global Dance Studies scholar Neema Soratgar and Dance Artist and Scholar Shahrzad Khorsandi,” co-organized with Hilda Ontiveros.  
UTEP Library, November 9.
- 2022** “*Bailar es una lucha tierna*. Recalibrating Resilience on the US-Mexico Frontera.”  
Dance Studies Association, Vancouver, Canada, October 13-16.
- 2021** “Reckoning with Plurality: Intersubjective Transformations in Israeli Contemporary Dance”  
Association for Israel Studies (AIS), University of Illinois–Urbana Champaign, June 7-9.



- 2019 “Shaping Reality, Imagining Bodies in Israeli Performance,” with Ruthie Abeliovich (University of Haifa)  
Association for Israel Studies (AIS), Kinneret College, Israel, June 24-26.
- 2018 “Choreographing Contention, Dancing Cold War (1940s-1960s)”  
Dance Studies Association (DSA), University of Malta, Valletta, Jul 5-8.
- 2018 “Scholarly and Pedagogical Issues in Diversity”  
Dance Studies Association (DSA), University of Malta, Valletta, Jul 5-8.
- 2017 “Choreographing Identities/Expanding Jewish Studies”  
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Washington, DC, Dec 19-21.
- 2017 “Wearing the Dance: Displacing Bodily Realities in Twenty-First Century Choreographies”  
Dance Studies Association (DSA), Ohio State University, Oct 19-22.
- 2017 “Embodied Resistances,” workshop co-organizer, UC/NCP Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium Meeting, Los Angeles, March 2017.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED AND FORTHCOMING PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “I don’t like things which you would call in Hebrew balagan’: Dance, Desire, Diplomacy, and Diasporic Dreams in the Baroness de Rothschild’s Politics of Patronage,” Association for Jewish Studies, annual conference (virtual), December 15-19, 2024.
- 2024 “Developing a Research-Based Model for the Use of the Performing Arts in Continuing Healthcare Education,” with Dr. Amelia Rau, Chyanne Reveles, and Crystal Najera. Third Annual UMC Nursing Research and Quality Symposium, El Paso, TX, November 8, 2024.
- 2024 “Italian State-Formation and Colonial Acceleration: MENA Archives, Italian Dance Librettos, and the Emergence of Fascism (and anti-Fascism),” Dance Studies Association (DSA) “Cartographies of Movement,” Buenos Aires (Argentina), July 23-27.
- 2024 “Somatics in Higher Education Settings to Expand Access to Healthcare,” NDEO National Dance Education Organization and ISMETA International Somatic Movement Education and Therapy Association, Gibney Center, New York, July 19-22.
- 2024 “Resisting Resilience: The Corporeality of Belonging among Palestinian Women,” MESEA (The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and Americas), June 12-14, 2024, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu Campus, Joensuu, June 12-14.
- 2024 “Italian Public Theatres and State Formation: A Contested History through 18th and 19th c. Dance Librettos,” 26th Annual Oxford Dance Symposium “Dance and Institutions,” New College, University of Oxford (UK), April 16-17.
- 2024 “Mapping the Rio” – Digital Water Project, World Water Week 2024 conference, UTEP, El Paso USA, March 19.
- 2023 “Improving Patient-Provider Communication through a Theater of Healthcare Equity Lens” (2023), Boston, MA. Co-authors: Amelia M. Rau, Sadhana Chheda, Rebecca F. Mayer, Chyanne Reveles, Melissa Melpignano, Kristyn Ingram.

- 2023** “Porosities of Groove: The Question of Gaga as a Choreographic Passport.”  
Dance Studies Association (DSA), London, September 7-8.
- 2023** “Choreocracy: The Bureaucratization of Dancing Bodies in the IDF’s Official and Unofficial Archives.”  
Association for Israel Studies (AIS), New York University, NY, June 26-28.
- 2022** “Throwing like a Palestinian Girl: Resisting Resilience.”  
Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), Denver (CO), Dec 1-4.
- 2022** “Expanding Academic Dance Outreach: Access, Belonging, and Interdisciplinarity on the Frontera.”  
National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), Oct 29-31.
- 2022** “*Bailar es una lucha tierna*. Recalibrating Resilience on the US-Mexico Frontera.”  
Dance Studies Association (DSA), Oct 13-16.
- 2021** “Reckoning with the Legacy of Zionism: Choreographic Practices of Solidarity.”  
Association for Israel Studies (AIS), June 7-9.
- 2021** “Ballet Online during the Pandemic: Physical and Emotional Care in the Digital Dance Classroom,” video-poster.  
SOL Conference, The University of Texas at El Paso, April 21-23.
- 2020** “Mirroring/Time: Choreography and the Conceptualization of History in Israel.”  
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), December 13-17.
- 2020** “Batsheva de Rothschild: Crafting U.S.-Israel Relations through Dance.”  
Association for Israel Studies, Tulane University, June 29-July 1 (Canceled for Covid-19).
- 2019** “Peeling Off the Multicultural: Rechoreographing Mizrahi Legacies in Israeli Dancing Bodies.”  
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), San Diego, December 15-17.
- 2019** “Dance, Sexuality, and Ethnicity in the Israeli Army: Reassessing the Sabra Body in the 1970s.”  
Dance Studies Association (DSA), Northwestern University, August 8-11.
- 2019** “Let the Sunshine in? Dancing Sabra in the IDF Pahad Dance Troupe.”  
Association for Israel Studies (AIS), Kinneret College, Israel, June 24-26.
- 2019** “Israel’s Corporeal Power and Palestinian Choreographies of Resistance.”  
World Dance Alliance, “Moviendo la Frontera: Dancing through / In-Between Borders,” University of Texas, El Paso, Feb 13-17.
- 2018** “Choreographing Livability on the Israeli Independent Stage (1990s-present).”  
Jews and Jewishness in the Dance World, Arizona State University, Tempe, Oct 13-15.
- 2018** “Israel’s Strategies of Arrest and Palestinian Choreographies of Resistive Action.”  
Action/Arrest: A one-day symposium on protest, performance and the law, King’s College, London, Sept 29.
- 2018** “Ideologies Contended: Dancing Israel in the Cold War.”  
Dance Studies Association (DSA), University of Malta, Valletta, Jul 5-8.
- 2017** “When Soldiers Go Viral: Digital Circulation of Dances in the IDF.”

Dance Studies Association, Ohio State University, October 19-22.

- 2017** “Folk Dance Texts as Hebrew Literature: A Different Look at the Israeli National and Global Project.”  
National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH), NYU, June 27-29.
- 2017** “Embodied Resistances,” with Shir Alon.  
Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium (UC/NCP IPC). The University of California/ New Center for Psychoanalysis, Lake Arrowhead, Mar 31 - Apr 2.
- 2017** “Gradations of Presence: The Figure of Armida in 19th c. Dance Librettos.”  
Nineteenth Century Studies Association (NCSA), Charleston, SC, Feb 2-4.
- 2017** “Mediterranean Relationships: Performing Models of Livability and Citizenship in the Choreography of Roberto Zappalà and Daniele Ninarello.”  
UCLA Italian Graduate Conference “Terra e Mare,” Los Angeles, Jan 13-14.
- 2016** “Playing (with) Reality: Choreographing Livability in Contemporary Israel—Orly Almi’s Post Status as a case study.”  
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), San Diego, Dec 18-20.
- 2016** “Choreographing the Arab Presence in Contemporary Israel.”  
Association for Israel Studies (AIS), Jerusalem, June 20-22.
- 2016** “Logics of ‘Flow’ According to Four Israeli Choreographers.”  
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Harvard University, Boston, March 18-20.
- 2015** “Strategies of Dissent in Contemporary Israeli Choreography.”  
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Boston, Dec 13-15.
- 2015** “Choreography of Sirens: Disciplined Bodies and Their Affective Counterpart (Tel Aviv, Summer 2014).”  
American Society for Theater Research (ASTR), Portland, OR, Nov 5-8.
- 2015** “Emmanuel Gat: Choreographing a Different Possible Livability.”  
Dance Under Construction (DUC), ‘Bodies Tracing Edges within Dance Studies’,  
University of California, Riverside, April 11-12.
- 2015** “Research Ethics among Sirens: Disciplined Bodies and their Affective Counterpart.”  
Possessive Investments: Systems of Power, Possibilities of Dissent, UCLA, Mar 7.
- 2015** “Language and ‘theatrical set up’ in Johnny the Partisan.”  
UCLA Italian Graduate Conference, “Italian Identities in War,” Los Angeles, Jan 24-25.
- 2014** “Dancing Texts: Writing the Presence of the Dancing Bodies.”  
Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS) and Congress on Dance Research (CORD),  
Iowa City, Nov 13-16.
- 2014** “Disdire Umano: Carmelo Bene e la Macchina Attoriale.”  
UCLA Italian Graduate Conference, “Mechanimalia,” Los Angeles, Jan 17-18.
- 2014** “Larger than Life: Two Israeli Female Choreographers Corporealities, Anat Grigorio and Yasmeen Godder.”  
Thinking Gender, University of California, Los Angeles, Feb 7-8.

## DISCUSSANT

- 2021** “Mobilizing History Through the Body: Dance, Representation, and Activism.”  
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Chicago, IL, Dec 19-21.
- 2021** “Zionism: Inclusion within the Exclusion?” workshop.  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, August 6-7.
- 2018** “Choreographic Time Travel from Absence to Embodied Presence: a little dance, a lot of talk” by choreographer Alexx Shilling.  
Jews and Jewishness in the Dance World, Arizona State University, Tempe, Oct 13-15.
- 2018** UCLA Undergraduate Scholars Conference in Israel Studies, “Back to the Future: Israel at 70, Examining Israel’s History and What the Future May Hold,” Los Angeles, June 3.
- 2017** “Choreographing Identities/Expanding Jewish Studies.”  
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Washington, DC, December 19-21.
- 2017** Melton Center for Jewish Studies Mann Symposium on Jewish Dance  
Dance Studies Association (DSA), Ohio State University, October 19-22.
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## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Dance Studies Association (DSA), Board of Directors (2018-2020)  
National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)  
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)  
Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)  
International Studies Association (ISA)  
Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AFFILIATIONS

National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN)  
Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (CIMER)

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## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GROUPS AT UTEP

- Principal Investigator, NEA Research Project, Somatics and Movement for Healthcare
  - Member of the UTEP One Water Cluster research group  
<https://www.utep.edu/onewater/people/people.html>
  - Co-founder of Somos Agua/WeAreWater, part of the UTEP One Water Cluster and co-hosted by the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts  
<https://www.utep.edu/rubin/community-engaged-practices-in-the-arts1/we-are-water.html>
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## CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP AND PERFORMANCE (selection)

### CHOREOGRAPHER/PERFORMER

- April 2025** Facilitator and performer in *The Polarity Party* by Dana Caspersen and Michael Douglas Kollektiv. Mexican American Cultural Center, El Paso, TX. April 3, 2025.

- March 2025** Choreographer and director with Allison Orr/Forklift Danceworks of *Water Moves*, a community-engaged performance on the people that steward water in El Paso, part of UTEP+UACJ World Water Week 2025. San Jacinto Plaza, El Paso, TX, March 20, 2025.
- February 2025** Choreographer of *In Movement*, part of *Monomyth*, UTEP Dance Faculty Concert, UTEP Theatre and Dance Season 2024-2025. Wise Family Theatre, El Paso, TX. February 20-21-22-23, 2025.
- January 2025** Choreographer and movement director in *What Once Was: A Holocaust Remembrance Play*, written by Sally Gilbert, directed by Georgina Escobar, produced by Norma Geller, The Plaza Theater, El Paso, TX, Jan 27, 2025.
- Nov 2024** Choreographer of *Swamp Lake*, a community dance performance and tree planting event. Cedar Grove Park, El Paso, TX, November 9, 2024.
- Oct 2024** Choreographer and performer of *#documance – Icons and Symbols of the Borderland*, The James Museum, St. Petersburg, FL, Oct 18-19, 2024. *Cancelled for Hurricane Milton*.
- April 2024** Choreographer of *Memories in Motion*, with the UTEP Performance Studies Collective 2024, UTEP Library Atrium, El Paso, TX, April 30, 2024.
- Dec 2023** Choreographer, *Metamorphoses* (Zimmerman), dir. by Jay Stratton, UTEP Theatre and Dance Season 2023-2024. Wise Family Theatre, El Paso, TX. December 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 2023.
- April 2023** Choreographer, dramaturg, *Whistles the Sea*, UTEP Dance Festival *Gathering for Water*. Wise Family Theatre, El Paso, TX. April 28, 29, 30, 2023.
- April 2023** Choreographer, *Mapping the Río*, part of the UTEP Dance Festival *Gathering for Water*. Downtown El Paso, TX. April 27, 2023.
- March 2023** Choreographer and performer, *Teoquiyaaatl (Sacred Portal)*. In collaboration with Angel Cabrales. *The Looking for America Project*. National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque, NM. March 9, 2023.
- Fall 2022** Concept, performer, and design, *#documance* within Sam Reveles's solo exhibit *Solastalgia*. Three performances: September 28, October 19, and December 9 (durational – 5 hours). Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts, El Paso, TX.  
<https://www.utep.edu/rubin/exhibitions/current/sam-reveles-solastalgia.html>
- Nov 2022** Concept, dramaturg, movement director, *Experiencing the Bosque*, community-engaged performance, co-produced by the UTEP Center for Environmental Resource Management et. Al. Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso, TX. November 5, 2022.
- Oct 2022** Movement Director, *Borderline*, UTEP Dept. of Theatre and Dance 2022-2023 season, dir. by Kim McKean, June Sadowski Kruszewski Studio Theatre.
- Feb 2022** Choreographer of *CONCiert0 – InConcert Series*. UTEP Dance Faculty Concert 2022. February 10-13, 2022.
- Nov 2021** Choreographer and performer, *#documance @ “That’s What She Said”* exhibition. Amano Gallery, El Paso, TX. November 20, 2021.
- Oct-Nov 2021** Choreographer in *Alebrjes!* UTEP Dept. of Theatre and Dance 2021-2022 season, dir. by Georgina Escobar.

- Sept 2021** Choreographer-facilitator for *Moving the Campus: Site Specific Dance Interventions*, for UTEP Homecoming Week, UTEP campus, various locations, El Paso, TX, September 27-30
- May 2021** Choreographer and performer for Angel Cabrales's *Teoquiyaoatl (Sacred Portal). The Looking for America Project*. UTEP campus/Centennial Museum. El Paso, TX, May 27.
- Nov 2019** Choreographer and performer of "The Uncolonized: Visions in the Parallel," sculptural installation by Angel Cabrales, Chamizal National Memorial Museum, El Paso, TX.
- Sept 2019** Choreography consultancy for the opening of visual artist Armando Cortes with the Matachines Group of El Paso, TX.
- June 2019** Performer in Ros Warby's *First Hand* concert. Gloria Kaufman Hall Dance Theater, Los Angeles, CA.
- Mar 2019** Performer for choreographer Darrian O'Reilly and music artist Molly Sarlé. Los Angeles and Venice, CA.
- June 2018** Choreographer and Performer. *Spideral: a choreographic rewriting of the history of the Taranta*, a folk-dance form from Apulia, Southern Italy, created by women to legitimize the performance of desire against its patriarchal pathologization.
- Mar 2018** Choreographer and Performer. *Curiosity Encounter*, a structured improvisation, collaborative project for eight professional dancers and non-dance trained performers, a choreographic development of the principles explored by Dana Caspersen's book *Changing the Conversation*. Première: University of California, Los Angeles.
- Feb 2018** Choreographer, Dramaturge, and Performer. *Undoing Training*, a solo that explores and deconstructs in the form of technical and political commentary dance techniques or styles such as Zouk, Gaga, Israeli Folk Dance, 90s Club Dance. Supervised by choreographer Ros Warby. Première: University of California, Los Angeles.
- May 2017** Performer and Assistant to Choreography. *Chick in Dance*, by choreographer Casey Brown. Première: Gloria Kaufman Theater, University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2016** Performer and Co-Creator. *Twining*, co-choreographed with Casey Brown. Première: Electric Lodge Performance Theater, Los Angeles.
- 2010** Performer. *Multinatural Parade (Blackout)*: by choreographer Richard Siegel (The Bakery/The Forsythe Company) and composer Arto Lindsay. Première: Venice Biennale, Italy.
- 2005-2010** Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer of the International Network of Site-Specific Performance *Spaesamento/Unheimlichkeit*: choreographic interventions in underrepresented urban communities and choreographic deconstructions of symbolic sites of neoliberal economy.
- 2002-2005** Performer in original and repertoire works by Hofesh Shechter, Trisha Brown, Maresa von Stockert, Yasmeen Vardimon, Kerry Nicholls, Wayne McGregor, Akram Khan, etc.

#### DANCE DRAMATURGY

- July 2021** Dramaturge for Italy-based choreographer Pietro Pireddu, Company Maktub Noir
- Aug 2019** Dramaturge for choreographer Darrian O'Reilly

- June 2019** Dramaturge for U.S.-based South Korean choreographer DaEun Jung
- 2015** Assistant to Dramaturgy. *Absence: A History*, by choreographer Alexx Shilling.
- 2013-2014** Dramaturge for the contemporary dance company Maktub Noir, directed by Pietro Pireddu. Florence, Italy.
- 2011** Assistant to Dramaturgy. *Speirsuotio*, by choreographer Manuela Bernasconi, MotoPerpetuo Dance Company. Première: Teatro alla Foce, Lugano, Switzerland.

#### PERFORMANCE CURATORIAL PRACTICE

- 2023** Co-Artistic Director of the first UTEP Dance Festival *Gathering for Water*, April 2023. Artistic Director of the Wise Family Theatre performances.
- 2022** *Aqueous* by and with Rosemary Candelario, site-specific performance at the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, March 26, 2022. <https://glasstire.com/2022/05/11/texas-waterways-an-interview-with-rosemary-candelario/>
- 2021-2022** Co-Curator of the community-engaged workshop series *Experiencing the Bosque*, at the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, as part of the initiatives of Somos Agua / We Are Water.
- 2021** *Moving the Campus*, site-specific performances on the UTEP campus during Homecoming Week.
- 2021** *Here: moving through the pandemic and for social justice*, Online Dance Concert curated for the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance, February 5 and 6, 2021 (curator)
- Feb 2019** Producer of High Voltage, an evening of experimental performance. Electric Lodge, Venice, CA.
- May 2018** Producer of *Castle*, by Rachel Erdos (Israel). Electric Lodge, Venice, CA.
- May 2017** Producer of a choreographic improvisation event by May Zarhy (Israel). University of California, Los Angeles.

#### GUEST DANCE TEACHING and WORKSHOPS

- May 2022** CONCiERT0 workshop for the community of El Segundo Barrio, El Paso, TX.
- Nov 2021** “What the Río Sees,” for dancers and community, SomosAgua/WeAreWater, Rio Bosque, El Paso, TX.
- June 2021** Guest Teacher of Contemporary Ballet and Modern, El Paso Ballet Summer Intensive, El Paso, TX
- Apr 2020** Masterclass and choreographic workshop at festival *Performática*, Cholula, Mexico (canceled for Covid-19)
- Oct 2019** Masterclass “Ballet for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Dance,” at Bailando International Dance Festival, Corpus Christi, TX

## TEACHING AREAS AND COURSES

**Teaching and Research Areas:** Ballet Techniques (Vaganova, Cecchetti, Royal Academy of Dancing, Forsythe, and contemporary ballet styles); Critical Ballet Studies; Somatics; Global and Diasporic Dance Histories; Theories of Dance; Performance Studies; Biopolitics and Critical Theories; Postcolonial, Neocolonial, and Decolonial Theories; Gender and Feminist Theories and Movements; Dance Activism; Choreography; Dance and Performance in Israel/Palestine and Middle Eastern/MENA/SWANA contexts; all levels of Ballet techniques; all levels of codified (Release, Cunningham, Limón, etc.) and uncodified Modern and Contemporary techniques.

**Original Syllabi:** “Decolonizing Ballet,” “Performance Studies on the Border(s),” “Choreography and Israel: (Hi)stories of Nationalism and Dissent,” “Jewish and Israeli Identities in Dance and Performance,” “Dancing the Mediterranean: Rethorizing Movement(s),” “The Body of the Soldier: Histories of Military Corporealities.”

## SERVICE IN THE PROFESSIONAL FIELD

- 2024** Editorial Committee Member of *Mimesis Journal* (ISSN (print): 2389-6086; ISSN (online): 2279-7203)  
Blind Reviewer for Routledge (for a book in dance, anthropology, and religious studies);  
Blind Reviewer for *Quest. Issues in Contemporary Jewish History*
- 2023-2025** Dance Studies Association (DSA), Standing Committee on Awards.
- 2021** Blind Reviewer for *Shofar: Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*.
- 2021** Blind Reviewer for *The International Journal of Screendance* (The Ohio State University)
- 2020** Blind Reviewer for *Journal of Jewish Identities* (John Hopkins University Press)
- 2020** Blind Reviewer for *Dune Journal* (IUAV University, Venice, Italy)
- 2020** Organizing Committee Member and Chair of the Paper Selection Committee for the ACDA Central conference, The University of Texas at El Paso
- 2018-2020** Dance Studies Association (DSA), Board of Directors, Graduate Student Representative
- 2018 -2020** Dance Studies Association (DSA), member of the Standing Committees on Professional Development
- 2014-2019** Editor, *Carte Italiane*, UCLA Journal of Italian Studies.

## DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE AT UTEP

- 2024-2025** **Service in the Department of Theatre and Dance:** Director of Dance, Dance Faculty Advisor (all majors and minors); Chair of the Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Instruction in Dance; Member of the Search Committee for Chair of Theatre and



Dance; Member of the Season Selection Committee; SACS Committee. **Campus-Wide Service:** UTEP Edge Faculty Curriculum Fellow.

- 2023-2024** **Service in the Department of Theatre and Dance:** Director of Dance, Dance Faculty Advisor (all majors and minors), Director of Capstone Projects; Member of the Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Acting, Member of the Season Selection Committee, SACS Committee. **Campus-Wide Service:** UTEP Edge Fellow 2022-2024; UTEP Edge Curriculum Fellow.
- 2022-2023** **Service in the Department of Theatre and Dance:** Director of Dance, Dance Faculty Advisor (all majors and minors), Director of Capstone Projects; Member of the Workload Committee, Member of the Season Selection Committee, SACS Committee. **Campus-Wide Service:** UTEP Edge Fellow 2022-2024; Reimagine Core Committee; Professional Learning Community: Social Responsibility, Personal Responsibility & Global Awareness Committee.
- 2021-2022** **Service in the Department of Theatre and Dance:** Director of Dance, Dance Advisor, Director of Capstone Projects; Member of the Departmental By-Laws Committee; Member of the Departmental Workload Committee; Member of the Season Selection Committee. **Campus-Wide Service:** Member of the College of Liberal Arts Advising Council.
- 2020-2021** **Service in the Department of Theatre and Dance:** Interim Director of Dance, Dance Advisor, Director of Capstone Projects. **Campus-Wide Service:** Member of the College of Liberal Arts Advising Council.
- 2019-2020** **Service in the Department of Theatre and Dance:** Interim Dance Director and Director of Capstone Projects, Department of Theatre and Dance; **Campus-wide Service:** Member of the College of Liberal Arts Advising Council.

## DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE (NON-UTEP)

- 2019** Reviewer for the Undergraduate Admissions to the Dance BA Program at UCLA.
- 2018** Organizer of prof. Hannah Kosstrin's Guest Lecture and Graduate Seminar at the University of California, Los Angeles
- 2016-2018** Teaching Assistants' Trainer, University of California Los Angeles
- 2017-2018** Head Steward UAW2865, University of California Graduate Students' Union
- 2016-2017** Committee member, "Chew on This: World Arts & Cultures/Dance Lecture and Performance Series," University of California, Los Angeles
- 2016-2017** Bruins Against Sexual Harassment, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2015** Co-organizer of prof. Rustom Bharucha's Guest Lecture and Graduate Seminar at the University of California, Los Angeles

## DANCE, SOMATICS, AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Conflict I with Dana Caspersen

Franklin Method ® Teacher Training, Level 1

Progressing Ballet Technique

Royal Academy of Dancing (I-VIII grades)

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## JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION TRAINING

**Fall 2022** UTEP Theatre and Dance, JEDI Faculty Training (2 sessions)

**Summer 2020** Embodied Activism: Navigating the Intersections of Embodiment and Social Justice, with Nkem Ndefo and Rae Johnson. Embodied Philosophy.

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## FURTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**2017-2018** Graduate Student Researcher, prof. Janet O'Shea  
Dept. of World Arts & Cultures/Dance, University of California, Los Angeles

**2016-2017** Graduate Student Researcher, prof. Sarah A. Stein  
Dept. of History, University of California, Los Angeles

**2016** Research Assistant, prof. Marla Stone  
Dept. of History, Occidental College, Los Angeles

**2012** Student Assistant, prof. Carlo Ossola  
Istituto di Studi Italiani, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, CH  
Collège de France, Paris

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## EXTRA ACADEMIC AND DANCE TRAINING

**2016** Certificate in Experimental Critical Theory  
University of California, Los Angeles

**2014** Hebrew Language Program (Final grade: 100/100)  
University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel

**2012** International Summer School of History of the Ideas  
Curso Internacional de Historia de las Ideas: XIII Lecturad de la Fundación Botín.  
Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, Santander, Spain

**2011** Summer School of Aesthetics lead by prof. Francisco Jarauta, "From the Ideal City to the Cosmopolis"  
Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici, Naples, Italy

**2010** Summer School of Critical Writing for the Performing Arts  
La Biennale di Venezia, VIII International Festival of Contemporary Dance, Venezia, Italy

- 2009** Seminar in Critical Analysis for the Performing Arts for Writers and Choreographers  
Choreographic Collisions/Danza Venezia, Venice Biennale, Italy
- 2006-2008** Seminars with prof. Giorgio Agamben (Theoretical Philosophy) and prof. Susanne  
Franco (Dance History)  
IUAV, Istituto Universitario di Architettura Venezia, Italy
- 2004** Exchange Program in Contemporary Dance  
Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse, Lyon, France
- 2001-2002** École Supérieure de Danse de Cannes Rosella Hightower, Cannes, France
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## LANGUGES

Italian, native speaker  
English, excellent command, highly proficient  
French, very good command, academically proficient  
Spanish, good command, academically proficient  
Hebrew, working knowledge and conversational  
Arabic, working knowledge

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## GALLUP STRENGTHSFINDER (June 2022)

Achiever  
Input  
Intellection  
Learner  
Responsibility