

Isaac Alexandre Jean-François

Yale University
Departments of Black Studies and American Studies
320 York St., P.O. Box 208369
New Haven, CT 06520-8369
+1-347-662-0548
isaac.jean-francois@yale.edu

EDUCATION

- 2026 (expected) Ph.D. Black Studies and American Studies
Yale University, New Haven, expected May 2026
Field of Study: 20th Century African American Gay Aesthetics
Committee: Roderick Ferguson (Chair), Daphne Brooks,
Marta Figlerowicz, Ellie Hisama, Karen Barad
- 2023 M.A., M.Phil., American Studies and African American Studies
Yale University
- 2022 Certificate of Study, Western New England Psychoanalytic
Institute, New Haven, Connecticut
- 2020 B.A., Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, *cum laude*
Columbia University
- 2019 Certificate of Study, The European Graduate School
Saas-Fee, Switzerland
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PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“‘self-slaughter:’ Gary Fisher’s Racialized Erotic Narrative Bridges Black Studies and Psychoanalysis.” *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly* 94, 2 (2025): 277–301.

Cox, Jessie and Isaac Jean-François. “Aesthetics of (Black) Breathing.” *liquid blackness* 6, 1 (2020): 98–117.

“Julius Eastman: The Sonority of Blackness Otherwise.” *Current Musicology* 106 (2020): 9–35.

Adapted and reprinted in an artist book: Romi Ron Morrison. *Song Book: The Quotient of Desire*. The Kitchen, New York: 2023.

Manuscript under contract with MIT Press: *Black/Medieval* (working title). Jung, Jacqueline and Isaac Jean-François.

General-Audience Writing and Publications

“An Ode to Julius Eastman.” Essay for deSingel. 15 January 2024.
<https://desingel.be/en/blog/item/an-ode-to-julius-eastman>

Ellie Hisama and Isaac Jean-François. Liner notes for Julius Eastman, *Feminine* (1974). Talea Ensemble. Recorded 2021. KAIROS Records: New York, April 2022.

“About the Music of Julius Eastman.” Program notes for *Julius Eastman Minimal Music*. Munich Philharmonic, Münchener Kammerorchester and Kukuruz Quartet. Munich: Kuntsbau, February–March, 2022.

“Archiving Tania León’s Limitless Dance.” *American Music Review*. Vol. LI, Issue 1. Fall 2021.
<https://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/centers/hitchcock/publications/amr/v51-1/jean-francois.php>

“Lorraine O’Grady: Both/And.” *Spike Art Magazine*. 26 April 2021.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PANELS, AND PRESENTATIONS

International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo: Invited panel presentation, panel title: “Buboes, Orifices, and Horns: Non-Normative Medieval Bodies Reconsidered” (*forthcoming, May 2026*)

American Studies Association, San Juan: Invited panel presentation, with Alex Valin, chair, panel title: “Exploding the Ear of American Empire” (*forthcoming, November 2025*)

Creative Time, New York: *Symphony No. -1*, reader alongside Laura al-Tibi, Sara Nadal-Melsió, and Avgi Saketopoulou, with Ethan Philbrick, composer-performer (*forthcoming, October 1, 2025*)

PS21, Chatham: Conversation with Kyle Marshall for BlackBox Ensemble and Kyle Marshall Dance Company performance, July 2025

The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York: Curated Julius Eastman-inspired concert for BlackBox Ensemble’s with post-concert Q&A, May 2025

Bang on a Can’s Long Play Festival, New York: Curated Julius Eastman-inspired concert for BlackBox Ensemble, May 2025

Stanford University, Department of Music (Zoom): Invited presentation, with Jessie Cox in Hans Kretz’s Julius Eastman Seminar, January 2024

deSingel, Antwerp: Invited lecture on Julius Eastman, FESTIVAL Downtown New York, January 2024

Early Music America, Boston: Invited presentation and workshop facilitator, on Julius Eastman and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Early Music for ChamberQUEER, October 2023

The 92nd Street Y, New York: Member of panel discussion, 2-day concert series: “Radical Adornment: The Music of Julius Eastman,” April 2023

Yale University History of Art Department, Modern and Contemporary Forum: Moderator, artist talk with Andrew Stock, April 2023

Center for Performance Research, New York (Zoom): Invited presentation: “Listening and Writing” series, April 2023

American Comparative Literature Association, Chicago: Conference paper titled: “Sister Sledge’s ‘Lost in Music’ (1979) and the Erotics of Loss,” presented at the seminar: Towards (Afropessimism), March 2023

ASAP/13, University of California Los Angeles: Conference paper titled: “‘Trapped:’ A Black Psychoanalytic Meditation on Rhythm and Repetition,” presented at the seminar: Psychoanalysis on the Edge/Of Nervous Breakdown, September 2022

National Sawdust, New York: Invited presentation, on Julius Eastman and Essex Hemphill for ChamberQUEER, June 2022

Yale University Comparative Literature Department: Invited lecture titled: “Black Blood” for the seminar “Blood: Science, Culture, and Society,” April 2022

University of Leeds, Leeds Arts and Humanities Research Institute (Zoom): Member of panel discussion, Staging Eastman Symposium, February 2022

Representations (Zoom): Respondent to Jessica Baker paper titled: ‘Music and Sound at the Edges of History,’ *Representations* online special journal issue symposium, June 2021

Fashion Institute of Technology, New York: Invited co-moderator, discussion with Richard Montañez on Marlon Rigg’s *Tongues Untied* (1989) in Alexander Nagel’s “Black Queer Masculinities in Modern and Contemporary Film” seminar, November 2021

Yale University’s Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department (Zoom): Event organizer and moderator of panel discussion, 25th Anniversary Commemoration with contributors to the edited volume *Representing Black Men* (1996), November 2021

BLACK PORTRAITURE[S]: *Absent/ed Presence*, Toronto (Zoom): Conference paper titled: “Sound Beyond Absence: Julius Eastman’s *Macle* (1971),” October 2021

The Royal Musical Association Music and Philosophy Study Group, Music, ‘Art’ and the White Racial Frame: Aesthetics and Critical Race Theory, London (Zoom): Invited presentation, with co-author Jessie Cox of the article: “Aesthetics of (Black) Breathing,” October 2021

Harlem Stage, New York: Invited post-concert discussant, with Christopher McIntyre on Julius Eastman’s *Feminine* (1974), October 2021

Keene State College, 41st Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum (Zoom): Conference paper titled: “Blackness, Flesh and Early-Modern Scent,” April 2021

American Comparative Literature Association, Chicago (Zoom): Conference paper titled: “‘self-slaughter’: Black Queer Desire, Phantasmatic Epidermalization and Enclosure,” presented at the seminar: Theorize Yourself: Autotheory and Psychoanalysis, April 2021

Columbia University, The Forum: Co-moderator, alongside Ellie M. Hisama for the screening and panel discussion: *Looking for Langston: A Film Screening Celebrating Queer Harlem*, December 2020

BlackBox Ensemble, New York (Zoom): Recorded interview, interviewed by Leonard Bopp: “The Life and Work of Julius Eastman: A Conversation with Isaac Jean-François,” September 2020

Columbia University, Institute for Research on Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (IRWAGS) (Zoom): Organizer and moderator, conversation with Kiyann Williams and Gioncarlo Valentine: “Art in Our Moment,” July 2020

Columbia University, Institute for Research on Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (IRWAGS) (cancelled due to coronavirus): Presentation and discussant, with Ana María Ochoa Gautier and Carlota Aguilar González: “Listening and Decoloniality,” March 2020

Columbia University, Institute for Research on Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (IRWAGS) (cancelled due to coronavirus): Moderator, Feminist Media(tions): Screening of *Meredith Monk: Inner Voice* and post-screening conversation with Meredith Monk, April 2020

Columbia University, Institute for Research on African American Studies (IRAAS) (cancelled due to coronavirus): Moderator, pre-concert talk about Julius Eastman’s *Feminine* (1974) with Ellie M. Hisama, Terrance McKnight, and Christopher McIntyre, April 2020

Columbia University, Institute for Research on Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (IRWAGS) (Zoom): Organizer and moderator, conversation with Angela Ellworth: “Museum of Walking: Curation, Ability, Queerness, and Mobility,” May 2020

CUNY Graduate Center, Graduate Students in Music Conference (Zoom): Conference paper titled: “Julius Eastman and Black Breath: The Sonority of Blackness Otherwise,” March 2020

Columbia University, Institute for Research on Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (IRWAGS) (Zoom): Member of panel discussion, post-screening conversation on The Otolith Group’s *The Third Part of the Third Measure* (2017), March 2020

Columbia University, Institute for Research on Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (IRWAGS): Moderator, Feminist Media(tions): Screening of Marlon Riggs’s *Tongues Untied* (1989) and post-screening conversation, February 2020

Cornell University, Department of Music: Member of panel discussion, “Listening Locally: Intersectionality and Contemporary Music,” January 2020

Columbia University, Institute for Research on Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (IRWAGS): Moderator, Feminist Media(tions): Screening of Ousmane Sembène’s *Black Girl* (1966) and post-screening conversation with Mantia Diawara, October 2019

Columbia University, Columbia Art History Forum: Invited presentation: “Performance: *Approaching* Gender and Sexuality,” February 2019

Columbia University, Institute for Research on African American Studies (IRAAS): Paper presentation: “*To Be Real*: Queer of Color Performance of Success and Survival,” April 2018

Columbia University, Institute for Research on Women Gender and Sexuality Studies (IRWAGS): Moderator, Feminist Media(tions): Screening of Jennie Livingston’s *Paris is Burning* (1990) and of post-screening conversation, March 2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

“Bodies, Senses, Representations: Black Studies and Medieval Studies in Conversation.” African American Studies and History of Art. Co-Instructor with Jacqueline Jung. Yale University. Spring 2024.

Teaching Assistant

“Proust and Joyce.” Comparative Literature. Professor Marta Figlerowicz. Yale University. Spring 2025.

“Sacred Art and Architecture.” History of Art. Professor Jacqueline Jung.

Yale University. Fall 2024.

“Vampires, Castles, Werewolves.” English. Professor Heather Klemann.
Yale University. Spring 2023.

“‘We Interrupt this Program:’ The Multidimensional Histories of Queer and Trans Politics.” Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Professor Roderick Ferguson.
Yale University. Fall 2022.

SERVICE

Elm City Consort, Early Music performance ensemble in New Haven
Board Member: August 2022 – ongoing

Stonewall Community Foundation, public LGBTQIA+ community foundation
Board of Directors: May 2018 – ongoing
Secretary, Executive Committee: January 2020 – ongoing

Columbia University’s Multicultural Affairs Advisory Council
Queer and Trans Advisory Board Member: May 2017 – May 2020