

## Hiie Saumaa

Writer, Dancer, Educator

<https://www.hiiesaumaa.com/>

26.12.1980

6 rue des Alouettes, A11

75019 Paris, France

[hiie.saumaa@gmail.com](mailto:hiie.saumaa@gmail.com)

phone: +33 6 36 14 05 03

## EDUCATION

- 2014 PhD in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, New York City
- 2008 MA in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia
- 2005-07 Coursework toward PhD in English, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville,  
Phi Kappa Phi honors
- 2005 M.Ed. in English Education, Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi,  
Lambda Iota Tau honors
- 2005 MA in English Language and Literature, University of Tartu, Estonia
- 2003 BA in English Language and Literature, University of Tartu, Estonia  
Diploma *cum laude*
- 2003-14 Teacher certifications in Somatic Dance and Wellness (Nia, BodyLogos,  
JourneyDance, Pilates, Group Fitness, Nutrition)
- 2001 Diploma in music (major in flute, minor in orchestral conducting), Heino Eller  
Music School, Tartu, Estonia

## EMPLOYMENT

- 2021-current Instructor of Dance and Writing, Columbia Global Centers I Paris
- 2020-current Adjunct Faculty, L'Institut Mines-Télécom
- 2020-21 Adjunct Faculty, Catholic Institute of Paris
- 2020-21 Adjunct Faculty, Emlyon Business School, Paris
- 2020-current Flexibility Coach, Vitality Society, NYC
- 2019-20 Adjunct Faculty, Paris College of Art
- 2019-20 Co-Organizer, L'Air Arts, International Artist Residency Program, Paris
- 2019 Dance Instructor. "Expression and Creativity." Workshop series in the ERD  
(Entraînement régulier du danseur) program for professional dancers at Micadanses  
Dance Studio, Paris
- 2017-18 Adjunct Associate Research Scholar, Department of English and Comparative  
Literature, Columbia
- 2017 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Liberal Studies Program; School for Professional  
Studies, NYU
- 2014-17 Lecturer, "Literature Humanities: Masterworks of Western Literature and  
Philosophy." Columbia Core Curriculum
- 2010-18 Nia dance instructor, BodyStrength Fitness, NYC

2012-13 Editorial Coordinator, *Social Text* (journal), Columbia and NYU  
2008-12 Editorial Assistant, *Social Text*, Columbia  
2007-11 Research Assistant to Prof. Brent Hayes Edwards, Columbia  
2003-05 Administrative Assistant, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, DSU

## PUBLICATIONS

### ***Book Manuscript:***

*Inspired by the Archives: Essays on Jerome Robbins and Creative Research* (in progress)

### ***Dissertation:***

“Meditative Modernism: Tuning the Mind in British Literature, 1890-1940” (committee: Profs. Brent Hayes Edwards, Marianne Hirsch, Sarah Cole)

### ***Academic Articles and Chapters:***

“How to Become a Choreographer: Reading the Dance Fictions of Regina Jones Woody aka Nila Devi.” *Journal of Dance Education* (under review)

“Somaticist in the Dance Archives: Exploring Jerome Robbins’ Diaries through Somatics.” *Journal of Dance & Somatic Practices*, 2020, Vol. 12, No. 2, pp. 229-238.

“Moving Mind and Body: Language and Writings of Simone Forti” (commissioned chapter). *The Routledge Companion to Dance Studies*, Eds. Helen Thomas and Stacey Prickett. New York: Routledge, 2019. 125-137.

“Annie Payson Call’s Training in Release and Somatic Imagination.” *Dance Research Journal*, April 2017, Vol. 49, No. 1, pp. 70-86 (peer-reviewed).

“Alys Bentley’s Dance Impulse, Embodied Learning, and the Dancing Mind.” *Dance Chronicle: Studies in Dance and the Related Arts*, October 2016, Vol. 39, No. 3, pp. 249-278 (peer-reviewed).

“Margaret Fisk Taylor’s Sacred Dance, Moving Imagination, and Kinesthetic Empathy.” *Journal of Dance, Movement, and Spiritualities*, July 2016, Vol. 3, No. 1-2, pp. 29-52 (peer-reviewed).

“Constructing Texts and Reality: On the Writings in and of A.S. Byatt’s *Babel Tower*.” *POMPA: Publications of the Mississippi Philological Association*. Ed. William Spencer et al. Delta State University Press, 2006. 45-58.

“Britishness in the Academe: David Lodge’s *Changing Places* and *Small World*.” *Defining Englishness. Cultural Studies Series No 5*. Ed. Pilvi Rajamae and Krista Vogelberg. The Estonian Center for British Studies, Tartu: University of Tartu Press, 2004. 104-13.

### ***Essays:***

“Improving Posture and Alignment with Somatics.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies* (forthcoming).

“Anxiety and Somatic Dance.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies* (forthcoming).

“Awake Muscles and the Light Mind.” *Journal of Dance, Movement & Spiritualities* (forthcoming).

“Healing Performance and Somatic Choreography.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2021, Vol. 27, No. 6, 285-288.

“The Dancing Brain: Attention, Cognition, and Somatic Movement.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2021, Vol. 27, No. 5, 230-234.

“Is Somatic Strength Training Possible?” *Journal of Dance and Somatic Practices* (under review).

- “Connecting to the Dance Space: Teaching Somatic Dance Online.” *Dance Education in Practice* (under review).
- “Connecting to the Spirit through Dance.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, August 2021, Vol. 27, No. 4, 196-201.
- “Mindful and Creative Movement for Children and Teenagers.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, June 2021, Vol. 27, No.3, 1-5.
- “Practicing Gratitude and Compassion Through Somatics and Dance.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*. April 2021, Vol. 27, No. 2, 1-4.
- “Dance, Somatics, and Self-Care.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, February 2021, Vol. 27, No. 1, 44-46.
- “Dance and Movement in the Advanced Age.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2020, Vol. 26, No. 6, 1-4.
- “Connecting to Nature with Dance and the Imagination.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2020, Vol. 26, No. 5, 210-213.
- “Finding the Sacred in Nia Dance.” *Sacred Dance Guild Journal*. July 30, 2020.
- “Somatics, Spatial Awareness, and Chronic Pain.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2020, Vol. 26, No. 4, 149-152.
- “Traces on the Body: On the L’AiR Arts Interdisciplinary Arts Program ‘Roaring Twenties.’” 3.15.2020.
- “Somatic Practices: Going Beyond the Classroom to Build Resilience and Gain New Insights.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2020, Vol. 26, No. 3, 106-108.
- “Healing Burnout with Movement and Imagination.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2020, Vol. 26, No. 2, 61-63.
- “Somatic Strength Training: An Alternative to ‘No Pain No Gain.’” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2020, Vol. 26, No. 1, 19-22.
- “Dance Therapeutics: Movement as a Path Toward Healing.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2019, Vol. 25, No. 5, 238-240.
- “Wisdom of Sensations.” *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 2018, Vol. 24, No. 4, 159-161.
- “Journeying from Sensation into Words: Dancing Language in the Tamalpa Life/Art Process.” *Somatics Magazine/Journal*, 2017-2018, Vol. 18, No. 1, 16-19.
- “Aflame with Sensations.” BodyLogos Blog, 2018.
- “Jerome Robbins’ Love Lessons.” *The Jerome Robbins Newsletter*. Vol 5. No 2, p. 4. 2018.
- “An Emotional Archive: Hiie Saumaa on Jerome Robbins.”
- “We did trees, clouds, storms, waves?: Jerome Robbins’s Creative Dance Training with Alys Bentley” (commissioned article). *The Jerome Robbins Newsletter*, 2016, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 8-9.
- “A Time for Discovery: Margaret Fisk Taylor, Sacred Dance, and Creative Research.” *Sacred Dance Guild Journal*, Summer 2017, pp. 12-17.
- “Daily Rituals.” *Movement Research Performance Journal*, 2017, #50, p. 19.
- “Creativity and the Power of Two.” Co-authored with Michael Cennamo, *Hybrid Pedagogy* (peer-reviewed), 26 Oct, 2016.
- “Dance Yourself Free.” *Bodono Wellness Newsletter*, 2015.
- “What is Active Meditation?” *Wellbody’s The Seedling Newsletter*, 2014.

### **Reviews:**

Review of *The Oxford Handbook of Dance and Wellbeing*, Ed. Vicky Karkou et al (2017). *Dance Research Journal*, 2018, Vol. 50, No. 2, 90-92. Reprinted in *Moving On: Dance Movement Therapy Association of Australasia Journal*. Vol 16, No's 1 & 2, 42-45.

“Ohad Naharin’s Sensual, Somatic Gaga.” Review of Einav Katan-Schmid’s *Embodied Philosophy in Dance: Gaga and Ohad Naharin’s Movement Research* (2016). *Dance Chronicle*, 2017, Vol. 40. No. 3, 406-409.

“Bodily Listening in Somatic Education.” Review of Martha Eddy’s *Mindful Movement: The Evolution of the Somatic Arts and Conscious Action* (2016). *Dance Chronicle*, 2017, Vol. 40, No. 2, pp. 229-232.

### **Profiles and Interviews:**

“Paris Center Stories: Hiie Saumaa.”

<https://globalcenters.columbia.edu/news/paris-center-stories-hiie-saumaa>

“Insider Perspectives on Jerome Robbins’ *Watermill*.”

<https://blog.bam.org/2018/10/insider-perspectives-on-watermill.html>

“Discovering New Ways to Teach Lit Hum with Dr. Hiie Saumaa.” By Michael Cennamo, Columbia Center for Teaching and Learning

<https://ctl.columbia.edu/announcements/discovering-new-ways-to-teach-lithum-with-dr-hiie-saumaa/>

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Academic Teaching Experience:**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2022-current | “Technology and Society,” “Public Speaking, Critical Thinking,” “Technology and Wellbeing,” Efrei, Paris Panthéon-Assas Université  |
| 2021-current | “Creativity & Inspiration,” L’Institut Mines-Télécom, Paris   |
| 2021         | “Creativity & Inspiration,” Catholic Institute of Paris   |
| 2021         | “Writing for a New Audience: Starting Your Life as a Writer in the English Language” (Columbia-Alliance Program: Columbia, École Polytechnique, Sciences Po, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) |
| 2020         | “Anglophone Literature: Text and the City,” Emlyon Business School, Paris   |
| 2020         | “British Literature,” Catholic Institute of Paris   |
| 2019-20      | “Intermediate Research Methodology,” “Collaboration,” “Critical Thinking and Reading,” “Dance History,” “English for International Students,” Paris College of Art                      |
| 2018         | “Literary Theory and Criticism,” New York University School for Professional Studies  |
|              | “Writing II: Worlds of Languages,” New York University Liberal Studies Program  |
| 2013-17      | “Literature Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Literature and Philosophy,” Columbia Core Curriculum  |
| 2013         | “Modern Comparative Fiction: Transatlantic Modernism,” Columbia   |
| 2012         | “Literary Texts, Critical Methods,” seminar leader, Columbia  |
| 2011         | “American Novel 1865-1914,” teaching assistant, Columbia  |
| 2008-11      | “University Writing,” Columbia (separate sections for Columbia College students, General Studies students, international students)  |
| 2010         | “Modern Poetry,” teaching assistant and discussion section leader, Columbia   |

- 2005-07 "Rhetoric and Composition," University of Tennessee  
 2003-05 "Developmental Writing," "College Reading," Delta State University

***Somatic Movement and Dance Workshops Leader:***

- 2022 "Improve Mind-Body Connection," 4-week special program, Vitality Society  
 2021 "Mouvement Creatif," a workshop at Traverses School of Creativity at MyLittleParis  
 2021 "Dance and the City," a 6-week online workshops program, Columbia Global Centers I Paris  
 2021 "European Expressive Arts: Dance and Visual Art," 5-week online workshop co-taught with visual artist Alexandra Deutsch, Vitality Society, NYC  
 2020 "NYC Dance Week: Nia Movement Class," online workshop  
 2020 "Nia Dance Workshop." "Virtually There ... A Sacred Dance Experience!" Festival. Sacred Dance Guild, online workshop  
 2020 "Dancing the Nia Technique." Sacred Dance Guild, online workshop  
 2020 "Movement and Creativity." WICE (Where Internationals Connect in English), Paris  
 2020 "Virtual Movement Workshop." American Library in Paris  
 2020 "Somatic Tools for Creativity." L'Air Arts interdisciplinary conference, "The Roaring Twenties," Paris  
 2020 "Movement and Artistic Process," co-teacher of a course on Collaboration, Paris College of Art  
 2020 Somatic Dance workshops, Les Napoleons conference in Val d'Isere, France  
 2019 "Dance Your Dreams." UNFINISHED Conference, Bucharest, Romania  
 2018 "Dance for Mothers and Kids," Tartu Dance Academy, Estonia  
 "What is Somatics?" Tartu Dance Academy, Estonia  
 2016 "Improvisation." Tartu Yoga Center, Estonia  
 2015 "Music and Movement." Yoga and Dance Retreat, Alatskivi, Estonia  
 2015 "Creative Movement," Tartu Yoga Center  
 2014 "Introduction to Nia Dance." Women's Wellbody Retreat, East Chatham, NY  
 2013 "Active Meditation: BodyLogos." Women's Wellbody Retreat, NY  
 2013 "Moving through Sounds and Silence." NYC  
 2012 "Healthy Kids Nia." Dance workshop for visually impaired children. Newman Family Support Center, NYC

**PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS**

- 2021 "A ballet is a ritual?: On Jerome Robbins' Creative Process," Symposium: Dance and Rituals, Centre National de la Danse, Paris  
 2021 "Somatic Expeditions." Invited Speaker, Online Summit, organized by Ahni Bonner.  
 2020 "Jerome Robbins' Creative Process." Invited speaker, "Dance Historian Is In" talks, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts  
 2019 "Multi-Artistry in the Creative Process." Invited speaker, Paris College of Art  
 2019 "Dancing – Moving – Knowing." Organizer of and participant in a roundtable discussion, Columbia Global Centers Paris  
 2019 "Robbins' 'Camera Eye.'" The Arts Arena, Paris  
 2018 "A Dance for Two: Choreographer Jerome Robbins' Unpublished Letters." Columbia Institute for Ideas & Imagination, Paris

- 2018 Invited speaker on a panel on Jerome Robbins, with Wendy Whelan and Julia Foulkes, *Jacob's Pillow*
- 2018 "Jerome Robbins' Love Lessons." Performer, co-organizer (with Evan Leslie), writer. A multimedia performance on the writings of Jerome Robbins. New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
- 2017 "Jerome Robbins: Composer in Words." Jerome Robbins Symposium, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
- 2017 "The Writings of Jerome Robbins." Invited talk, Dance Studies Seminar, Columbia
- 2015 "Beyond the Essay: Creative Writing in Literature Classes." Invited talk, Columbia
- 2014 "Creative Writing, Technology, and Collaboration." Invited talk, Columbia
- 2014 "Multimedia Collaborative Writing and 'Our Epic' Project," Invited talk, Columbia
- 2014 "'This peace, this rest, this eternity': Meditation and Consciousness in Modernist Literature." International Symposium for Contemplative Studies. Mind & Life Institute
- 2013 "'Aware and Awake': Health and Movement in D.H. Lawrence's Travel Writings." ACLA Annual Conference, Toronto
- 2012 "'Watch Your Bank Account of Muscular and Nervous Strength': Ordering the Mind-Body-Spirit in Annie Payson Call's Psycho-Physical Technique." Mindful Body in Healing and the Arts Conference. Center for Mind, Body, and Culture, Florida Atlantic University

## AWARDS

- 2021 Full scholarship, Sacred Dance Guild, to participate in a workshop series/festival "Webs of Light"
- 2018-20 Laureate, Artist in Residence, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris
- 2018-19 Inaugural Fellow, Columbia's Institute for Ideas & Imagination, Paris
- 2017 Dance Research Fellow. Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
- 2014-17 Columbia Core Curriculum Postdoctoral Fellowship. Columbia University
- 2016 Tamalpa Institute fellowship
- 2016 Nia New York. Scholarship to attend Moving to Heal training, NYC
- 2014 The Mind & Life Institute Scholarship, Boston, MA
- 2007-14 Marjorie Hope Nicolson Fellow, Columbia
- 2007-14 Institute for Comparative Literature and Society Fellow, Columbia
- 2013 Teaching Scholar, Columbia
- 2006 School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- 2006 John C. Hodges Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Tennessee
- 2006-07 Nathalia Wright Research Assistant Fellowship, University of Tennessee
- 2006 The Council of Writing Program Administrators Research Grant Award
- 2005-07 John C. Hodges PhD Fellowship, University of Tennessee
- 2006, 2003 P.E.O. International Scholarship Fellow, Des Moines, Iowa
- 2004-05 Scholarship from Alumni Foundation and Provost, Vice-President, Delta State University, to attend Renaissance art study program in Florence, Italy, July 2004
- 2001 Estonian National Culture Fund Scholarship
- 2001 Scholarship from University of Exeter, Exeter Rotary Club, University of Exeter
- 2000 Harald Raudsepp Scholarship, Estonia Revelia Academic Fund, Maryland

- 1999-2005 Academic Excellence Scholarship, Division of Germanic and Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Tartu
- 1997 Grand Prix for artwork (oil pastels, drawing), European Commission, European Union

## CHOREOGRAPHY & DANCE PERFORMANCE

- 2021 “Tropisms 3,” dancer and choreographer, at art exhibition “Vilnius-Paris,” Biennale Européenne des Blancs Manteaux, with Alexandra Deutsch (visual artist, Germany) and Marcel Kopenhof (actor, the Netherlands)
- 2021 “Tropisms 2,” dancer and choreographer, festival “Wiesbaden Tanzt,” Wiesbaden, Germany. With visual artist Alexandra Deutsch, dancer Sibylle Magel, sound artist Axel Schweppe.
- 2021 “Tropisms 1,” dancer and choreographer, festival “Poesie im Park,” Wiesbaden, Germany. With Alexandra Deutsch and Axel Schweppe.
- 2021 “Dance and the City” program, dancer / choreographer / teacher, in collaboration with Columbia Global Centers I Paris and Columbia Undergraduate Program.
- 2020 “Embodied Image,” a dance/art/video project in collaboration with L’AiR Arts and Mémoire de l’Avenir Gallery in Paris, a part of UNESCO Philosophy Day. Original choreography and dance performance.
- 2020 “BioConnect 2,” choreographer and dancer, festival “Poesie im Park,” Wiesbaden, Germany. With Alexandra Deutsch and Axel Schweppe.
- 2020 “Electric Ocean,” 24 Hour Dance Festival, organized by Blue Goat Theatre. Original choreography and dance performance.
- 2019 “BioConnect,” choreographer and dancer, with visual artist Alexandra Deutsch. Performed at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris
- 2019 “Limitations.” Choreographer and dancer, in collaboration with visual artist Hura Mirshekari. Performed at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris
- 2013 “Spring into Dance Festival,” dancer, YMCA, NYC
- 2011, 2010 “Dancers Who Care,” dancer. Choreography by Ryan Daniel Beck. YMCA, NYC

## LANGUAGES

Estonian	(native language)
English	(near-native writing, reading, speaking)
German	(fluent reading, advanced writing, speaking)
French	(beginner reading, writing, speaking)
Russian	(fluent reading, advanced writing, speaking)
Finnish	(intermediate reading, writing, speaking)
Portuguese	(reading)
Italian	(reading)
Latin	(reading)

## WEBSITES

<https://www.hiiesaumaa.com/>  
<https://globalcenters.columbia.edu/content/dance-and-city>  
<https://ideasimagination.columbia.edu/fellows/profile/hiie-saumaa>  
<https://www.citedesartsparis.net/fr/hiie-saumaa>  
<https://micadanses.com/artistes/hiie-saumaa/>

## ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Sacred Dance Guild  
International Dance Council (CID)  
Dance Studies Association  
International Somatic Movement Education & Therapy Association  
Nia Livelihood  
Nia New York City  
Nia Paris

## REFERENCES

Prof. Brent Hayes Edwards, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia,  
[bhe2@columbia.edu](mailto:bhe2@columbia.edu)  
Prof. Lynn Matluck Brooks, Director of Dance, Franklin & Marshall College. Former Co-Editor,  
*Dance Chronicle: Studies in Dance and the Related Arts*, [lbrooks@fandm.edu](mailto:lbrooks@fandm.edu)  
Dr. Linda Murray, Curator, the Jerome Robbins Dance Division, New York Public Library for the  
Performing Arts, [lindamurray@nypl.org](mailto:lindamurray@nypl.org)  
Prof. Marianne Hirsch, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia,  
[mh2349@columbia.edu](mailto:mh2349@columbia.edu)  
Prof. Lynn Garafola, Barnard College, Columbia University, [lg97@columbia.edu](mailto:lg97@columbia.edu)  
Prof. Helen Thomas, Dance Studies, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Editor,  
*Dance Research Journal*, [helen.thomas827@ntlworld.com](mailto:helen.thomas827@ntlworld.com)