

### ON-GOING RESEARCH STATEMENT

As an acting educator and theatre practitioner, my research centers on the **diverse storytelling expressions** employed by marginalized communities, particularly within MENASA, Latinx, and African American contexts. I examine how these groups leverage their cultural identities as powerful tools for social change through performance. By analyzing the unique narratives within these communities, I aim to develop an academic curriculum that departs from Western-centric acting practices and instead offers a framework that authentically represents the voices and experiences of marginalized populations.

My research is grounded in the **historical and cultural nuances** of the performance practices of these groups. I systematically explore the who, what, where, when, why, and how of their storytelling, establishing connections to the mannerisms and behaviors intrinsic to their cultural contexts. This involves extensive field research, including observations of everyday life in settings such as markets, public transportation, celebrations, and educational institutions. I also engage with various forms of media that reflect aspects of the culture, including leadership dynamics, industry trends, and influential figures. Key questions guiding my inquiry include how mannerisms and behaviors have evolved over time, which movements have emerged, transformed, or been marginalized, and how these changes resonate across generations.

A critical aspect of my research is understanding the **political landscape** of the specified culture through the lenses of **oppression, occupation, and power**. I delve into the sentiments and perspectives of both empowered and disempowered individuals regarding their political environment, examining how political structures impact various demographic groups, including children, youth, adults, and the elderly. Ultimately, my research aims to illuminate the intersectionality of identity, empowering marginalized voices to engage in political discourse, challenge stereotypes, and advocate for social change and resilience within their communities.

Through the examination of performances within these cultural contexts, I discern storytelling expressions that resonate with their communities. This understanding informs the creation of inclusive and representative acting exercises designed to honor diverse narratives. By comparing storytelling practices across historical and contemporary contexts, I aspire to offer a comprehensive analysis of performance styles and techniques.

In conclusion, my research is driven by a passion for exploring culture with respect and a genuine intention to seek knowledge. I am committed to contributing meaningful insights to both academia and society at large, fostering an environment where marginalized voices can thrive and inspire transformative change.