

SUSAN SGORBATI

Bennington College
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BENNINGTON COLLEGE

PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Director, Center for The Advancement of Public Action (CAPA)	2015 – present
Barbara and Lewis Jones Chair for Social Activism	2002 – present
Founder and Director, Conflict Resolution Program	1996 – present
Member of the Faculty	1983 – present
Founder and Co-Director w/Daniel Michaelson, Quantum Leap Program	1999 – 2019
Co-Leader of the Dance Program	1994 – 2015
Dean of Faculty, Bennington College	1991 – 1994

REGIONAL/STATEWIDE SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

Board Member, The Four Corners Community Market at The Putnam Development Project, Bennington; President-Advisory Board	2021
Co-Founder and Facilitator, The Southern Vermont Regional Food System Network w/Michael Philipp (CAPA)	2019 – present
Affiliate of the The Gund Institute for Environment University of Vermont, Burlington	2016 – present
Board Member, The Fund for North Bennington	2013 – present
Mediator, Vermont Attorney General's Office	1999 – present
Mediator, Vermont Human Rights Commission	1999 – present
Mediator, Small Claims Court, Bennington	1999 – present
Founder and Director, Green Heron Associates in Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Projects, Vermont	1996 – present
Vice-President, Bennington Community Justice Center, Bennington	1999
President, Vermont Mediators Association	1996 – 1998
Co-Founder and Director, The Governor's Institute on the Arts, Vermont	1983 – 1987

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder and Facilitator, w/Dr. Asim Zia TWIN (Transboundary Water In-Cooperation Network) (CAPA)	2017 – present
Collaborator, w/Vahidin Omanović of The Center for Peacebuilding in Bosnia to create an exchange program for Students (FWT and Internships) (CAPA)	2016 – present
Collaborator, w/Andrea Galindo, Director of RFK Human Rights, in Florence, Italy to create FWT Internships for Students (CAPA)	2015 – present

PROFESSIONAL ART PROJECT

Artistic Director, The Emergent Improvisation Project	2006 – present
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EDUCATION

Dr. Stuart Kauffman ; University of Calgary, in residence at Bennington College <i>Complex Systems and Evolutionary Biology</i>	2004 – 2005
Dr. Yaneer Bar-Yam , New England Complex Systems Institute, MIT <i>Complex Systems</i>	2002
Dr. Gerald Edelman ; The Neurosciences Institute (NSI); La Jolla, California, in residence <i>Complex Systems and the Brain</i>	2002 – 2005
Edgar Holmes III, M.D. ; Principles of Orthopedics, tutorial; Rutland, Vermont	2001
Ann Hampton, Ph.D. ; Anatomy and Physiology, course at Castleton State College, Vermont	2001
Bennington College ; Bennington, Vermont Bachelor of Arts in Dance	1972
Master of Fine Arts in Dance	1986

MEDIATION TRAINING

The Vermont Human Rights Commission	1997 – present
The Vermont Attorney General's Office	1996 – 2001
Vermont Law School <i>Environmental Dispute Resolution</i>	1995
<i>Negotiation and Mediation</i>	1990
Prime Family Resources <i>Family Mediation</i>	1990
PennAccord <i>Advanced Work in Environmental Dispute Resolution</i>	1989
Friends Conflict Resolution Services	1988

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS RELATED TO PUBLIC ACTION
NOTING THOSE WITH CAPA AFFILIATION

Co-Founder and Director, The Governor's Institute on the Arts, Vermont

1983 – 1987

Vermont Education Commissioner Steven Kagan, Vermont Council on the Arts President Ellen McCollough Lovell, and Christine Graham of CPG Enterprises hired Susan Sgorbati to create the structure and programming, hire the staff and faculty, and direct the first Governor's Institute on the Arts in Vermont in 1983 at Lyndon State College. The program was a residency for middle and high school students, each two weeks in its first year. In subsequent years, it was offered only to high school students for two weeks each summer. In its first year, each high school in Vermont sent two students. The students studied, intensively, drama, dance, music, creative writing, sculpture, painting and poetry. The Institute moved to Castleton State College, now Castleton University, and has been there ever since. Since then, there are many different kinds of Governor's Institutes, such as on Science and Technology and on Writing, all still with the same organizational structure as the original Governor's Institute on the Arts. With Sgorbati's organizational help, starting in 2018, The Governor's Institute on Writing is now held at Bennington College in the summers.

Founder and Director, Green Heron Associates in Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Projects, Vermont

1996 – 2001

Founded by Susan Sgorbati, and later joined by Daniel Michaelson and Lalaina Rakotoson from Vermont Law School and Madagascar, Green Heron Associates in Conflict Resolution served as a Program for Mediation, Negotiation and Facilitation services for Community, Environmental, Small Claims Court, Special Education and Business disputes.

Founder and Director, Conflict Resolution Program, Bennington College

1996 – present

Susan Sgorbati founded the Conflict Resolution Program in 1996 and since 2001, directed it as a program that offers certificates in mediation. She and Daniel Michaelson, from their extensive training in mediation and negotiation practices, worked on the course, *The Art of Mediation and Negotiation*, with four students, and developed other curricula. Most of these courses included theory and practice along with a 12-hour training that led to certification. Many students also went on to mediate in Small Claims Court in Bennington, Vermont, and become part of The Peer Mediation Program at Bennington College. Sgorbati went on to develop more classes in this area, joined by Peter Pagnucco and Amy Kuzmicki. This Program officially moved into the Center for the Advancement of Public Action in 2013. The work in conflict resolution also contributed to the current Restorative Justice Program led by Alisa del Tufo, part of the APA (Advancement of Public Action) curriculum at Bennington College since 2012.

Founder and Co-Director, Quantum Leap Program, Bennington College

1999 – 2019

Sgorbati founded Quantum Leap in 1999 and co-directed it with Daniel Michaelson in subsequent years. The Program promoted student-centered education for elementary, middle, and high school students who were truant, at-risk, or had dropped out of school. By developing individualized education plans, which resulted in systems change, it had reconnected more than 3,000 students to their education in the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union. The organization handed over three programs to the Mount Anthony Union High School: Quantum Leap Classroom, Project Leap, and Academic Mentoring; and one program to Mount Anthony Union Middle School: Quantum Leap. The Program became a part of CAPA curricula and projects starting in 2013.

Sgorbati and Michaelson were asked to consult with other school districts in upstate New York, teachers from Virginia, many school districts across Vermont, and with the North American Families Institute out of Boston. Sgorbati and Michaelson made presentations at many conferences on Education in Philadelphia, New York and Boston. Quantum Leap also created projects that were outside of the public school structure. These happened after-school, on weekends, and included ‘learning expeditions’ to all parts of Vermont, New York City and the Maine seashore. Sgorbati and Michaelson oversaw the projects:

The Pangaea Project directed by local chef/restaurateur Bill Scully 2002
Students learned from a chef how to cook a complex meal and then served their parents and the community.

Twelve Angry Jurors directed by actor Janis Young 2003
Students enacted the play *Twelve Angry Jurors* based on the play *Twelve Angry Men* in a real courthouse. They played the jurors and sat where the jurors would be; an actual Judge, whom many of the students had encountered in their own real-life cases, played the Judge in the play; and it was performed for the community, who sat in the courthouse to witness the play.

Blooming Chefs, directed by Carol Adinofi 2004
This cooking and writing program engaged Middle School Students in growing their own organic vegetables, creating nutritious recipes and serving the Town of Bennington.

The Quilting Project with the Quiet Valley Quilters Guild 2004
Students designed and created their own quilts.

The Gardening Project, directed by Hilary Batchelor, with gardener Liisa Kissel 2005
Students worked to plant a garden at Mount Anthony Union High School.

Quantum Leap Finance, directed by seniors Henry Lyon, Tim Voice 2006
Two Bennington College students created this project by mentoring younger adults in Bennington County who wanted to start their own entrepreneurial ventures.

Collaboration with Marianne Kennedy, *Summers 2001 – 2002*
Director of The Center for Restorative Justice, Bennington, Vermont

Sgorbati and Michaelson worked closely with Marianne Kennedy to develop very successful youth programs for students who had many challenges staying in school and staying out of jail. One of their most talented students, Marcos Barbery, became a ‘street checker’ who was employed by CRJ to watch over students who were on probation. With Marcos and Kennedy, Sgorbati and Michaelson created an international program at an orphanage in Nicaragua where troubled youth from Bennington could go to help out for two weeks in the summer. This program went on for two years. It was the first time that the Commission for the Department of Corrections in Vermont gave special permission for youth who had been incarcerated or brought up on charges to leave the country for such a program. Later, Sgorbati decided to bring up a foster son who had been one of the youths who had traveled to Nicaragua and who had been a student in the Quantum Leap Program.

Residencies: The Neurosciences Institute, La Jolla, California 2002 – 2005

Sgorbati was invited by Dr. Gerald M. Edelman, Nobel Laureate and author of numerous books, including *A Universe of Consciousness* (with Giulio Tononi) and *The Remembered Present*, to be in residence at The Neurosciences Institute in La Jolla, California. Edelman founded and directed The Neurosciences Institute, a nonprofit research center in San Diego, that between 1993 and 2012 studied the biological

bases of higher brain function in humans. Sgorbati's residency happened every winter for three years. While there, Sgorbati met regularly with Dr. Edelman, had sessions with many different neuroscientists such as Dr. Anil Seth and Dr. Ani Patel, and attended lectures and discussions. Her main topic of conversation related to complex systems dynamics and how the structures in movement improvisation developed by Sgorbati related to complexity in biological systems and in brain/consciousness patterns. Eventually, Sgorbati toured with a group of dancers/improvisers and performed the *Emergent Improvisation Project* at the theater on the campus of The Neurosciences Institute for the scientists in residence and then for the public.

**Convening: An investigation into the Intersection of Life Sciences and the Arts
Washington, D.C.**

2011

*Jointly sponsored by the National Science Foundation and
the National Endowment for the Arts*

A select group of artists working in the fields of visual arts, dance, and literature, and scientists working in the fields of behavioral biology, neuroscience, and evolution, convened in Washington, D.C., in early 2011. The purpose of this convening was to encourage innovative collaboration among practitioners across a diverse set of disciplines who share a common involvement in creativity and discovery. While attending this conference, Sgorbati worked in collaboration with Stuart Kauffman, considered to be the "Father of Complex Systems," and met Janine Benyus, who spearheaded the work on Biomimicry.

**Projects in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
New England**

2012 – 2014

The White House Roundtable Project

2012

Shira Sternberg, Bennington alumna and EPA Regional Representative from Boston, introduced Sgorbati to Dan Abrams (EPA Lead Region Coordinator, Office of the Administrator, Executive Assistant to the Regional Administrator) and Nancy Grantham (EPA Public Affairs Director and Chief of Staff). They came to Bennington College and led a process with Sgorbati's class in *Solving the Impossible: Intractable Conflicts* to give feedback to President Obama on his recent White Paper on Environmental Policy. Students divided into groups to focus on different topics in the paper and compiled their responses later forwarded to President Obama and the EPA Office in Washington, D.C.

The Mapping Project

2012 – 2013

The above group again contacted Susan Sgorbati, this time to ask if her class in *Solving the Impossible: Intractable Conflicts* would draw an infographic and visual map to help identify the programs in all of the EPA regions across the United States. The Boston EPA regional administration was serving as the lead communication region for others in the country during this time and was interested "in improving its organization and systems for communicating both internally and externally." The EPA staff came to Bennington College to speak with the class. The students then divided into groups and communicated with each region's representatives to get the accurate information. After identifying all of the programs in each region, the students were able to see the patterns of where there were similar programs across regions, and where there were marked differences. The students compiled a large visual map which showed the Boston EPA the full scope of the Environmental Protection Agency's programs. They were so impressed with the work that they took the Visual Map to EPA headquarters in Washington, D. C., where it was put on the wall and used as a helpful tool.

Residency: PELS (Irmgard Barum Peace-Building and Environmental Leadership Seminar Program) of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, Kibbutz Ketura, Israel.

Spring 2013

Sponsored by the U.S. State Department grant, for “Developing Cultural Awareness, Peace-Building and Democracy for Environmental Leadership in the Middle East.”

Sgorbati was in residence teaching Conflict Resolution workshops and Improvisation classes to graduate students from Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Europe and South America. There were Conflict Resolution workshops every morning that evolved into workshops on complex systems. This group of students, under the guidance of Sgorbati, constructed a new concept called “emergent structuring” that was an integration of complex systems analysis and conflict resolution processes. At their request, in the afternoons and evenings, Sgorbati held intensive improvisation sessions for dancers and musicians. As students who were often part of the Middle Eastern conflict, they were resolving their own conflicts by creating improvisational structures together that broke down boundaries between them.

Residency: The CAPA Leadership Institute for Young Environmental Leaders (I) from Israel, Palestine & Jordan

2013

After her residency in the Middle East at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies on Kibbutz Ketura, Sgorbati decided to create the CAPA Leadership Institute for young environmental leaders in conflict zones from around the world. She had formed lasting relationships among the Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians while she was offering workshops the year before. The first CAPA Leadership Institute invited young environmental leaders from Israel, Palestine and Jordan to Bennington College in Fall 2013. A group of Bennington College students hosted them and participated in several of their sessions. The Leadership Institute consisted of workshops with Bennington faculty, sessions where they developed and were mentored on their own professional work by Bennington faculty, and field trips with legislators and other Vermont officials who wanted to meet them while they were in the U.S. Strong bonds were formed between the participants and also with the Bennington College students. These relationships continue to the present.

Residency: The CAPA Leadership Institute for Young Environmental Leaders (II) from Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan

2014

Because of the success of the first CAPA Leadership Institute, the previous participants recommended that CAPA offer a second one. One of the Bennington College students, Onur Fidangul from Turkey, reminded Sgorbati that it was the anniversary of the Armenian genocide that Turkey was still not recognizing, and that it would be very beneficial to invite young environmental leaders from Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan, since it was and still is a hot conflict zone. Many people told Sgorbati that it would be impossible to have leaders from Azerbaijan attend, as they would not make the trip. However, the invitations went out over the Internet, and more applicants came from Azerbaijan than anywhere else. In fact, military personnel applied to come, but it was determined that it was not a wise idea to have them attend. This CAPA Leadership Institute, also very successful, included several leaders from the year before who assisted Sgorbati and the faculty at Bennington College. Many of the participants are still in touch with Sgorbati many years later, and have gone on to have professional careers in water management and environmental studies.

Coral Reef Conservation Project, Grand Cayman Island
w/Elizabeth Sherman

2014

With biologist Elizabeth Sherman, Sgorbati visited Grand Cayman Island, where Sherman had set up meetings with the Minister of the Environment. Sherman has a strong commitment to conservation of the coral reefs, which are in deep trouble from pollution. While visiting, Sgorbati and Sherman had several meetings with scientists and politicians. Sherman then set up a data collection project with students for the following year; they presented their findings on the current conditions of the coral reefs to Dr. Nancy Knowlton, Visiting Scientist who studies New Genetic Approaches to Understanding Marine Diversity, and Dr. Jeremy Jackson, Visiting Scientist who studies The Future of Caribbean Coral Reefs.

Street Lamp LED Project for the Village of North Bennington, Vermont

2014

One of the Village Trustees of North Bennington, David Monks, approached Susan Sgorbati and asked if students at Bennington College might be interested in helping by working on a street lamp project for the Village. He relayed that the local electric utility company had a program for converting existing street lamps to LED bulbs, and that it would pay for the conversion if the Town would come up with all of the necessary data, a survey of the local population, and recommendations. Given that the Village Trustees are all volunteers, it was not possible for them to complete the work. In the fall of 2014, Sgorbati held a class, *Solving the Impossible*, and asked the students if they were interested in participating. The students agreed, divided up into different groups, and went out into North Bennington to collect numbers and accurate descriptions of each lamp. Students then conducted a survey with town residents to determine if they wanted the street lamps turned down or turned off, and made a formal presentation to the Village Trustees. The plan passed and was shared with the electric utility company. Six months later the LED bulbs were installed. The Village of North Bennington Trustees and residents later learned that North Bennington was now using one-third of the energy used previously, saving the taxpayers.

Vermont Department of Health Project, Bennington, Vermont (CAPA)

2014 – present

Vermont Department of Health Director (Bennington Region), Christine Bongartz, her Associate, Kathleen O-Reilly, Susan Sgorbati, and CAPA students collaborated to work on several projects with youth in Bennington related to health and wellness. A study was made to consider new youth programs at the Bennington Recreation Center and the construction of a new elementary student gym. Currently, Sgorbati works with Megan Herrington, the new Director of the Vermont Department of Health (Bennington Region), collaborating with her to lead joint monthly meetings of the Hunger Council and the Advisory Board for The Mellon Foundation Grant on Food Insecurity awarded to Bennington College.

After-School Program at Molly Stark Elementary School (CAPA)
Personal Learning Plan Mentoring Program at Mount Anthony Union Middle School

2014 – present

Students initiated the After-School Program at Molly Stark Elementary School, one of the schools in the Town of Bennington where students come from severely low-income families. Students Lushik Wahba and then Ara Aman directed this project and assisted Sgorbati in tutorials for three years, during which Bennington students created their own curricula for After-School classes. These included workshops in film-making, visual arts, nature walks, education, and drumming. Because Act 77 in the State of Vermont implemented a Plan Process for all Middle School and High School students, the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union came to Sgorbati to ask if she would teach a class and organize college students to mentor Middle School students on their Plan Processes. For three years, Bennington College students

went over to Mount Anthony Union Middle School to work with the students. After this process, Middle School students wrote personal letters to their College mentors about how transformative this program had been for them.

Director, Center for The Advancement of Public Action (CAPA)

2015 – present

Mariko Silver, the President of Bennington College and Elizabeth Coleman, former President of Bennington and first Director of the Center for the Advancement of Public Action, approached Sgorbati to see if she would take on the role of the second Director of the Center. They cited her extensive experience with conflict resolution, her transdisciplinary and collaborative approach to research and problem solving, and her dedication to finding solutions to urgent social problems proactively. Her career-long research in improvisation and her investigation into complex systems dynamics continue to assist in the discovery of emerging systems -- leading to changes in group dynamics and shifts in systems design. Since her appointment in July, 2015, she has expanded the Center's reach - the number of initiatives, generative tutorials, projects, programs, conferences, convenings, residencies, and opportunities. She has invited others openly, from the College and beyond, to submit proposals for potential projects; has supported and assisted many students, faculty, and guests with their initiatives, project development and implementation; and has coordinated fundraising efforts. She has connected countless individuals and organizations, locally, statewide, nationally and internationally, crossing multiple boundaries and encompassing myriad cultures. Part of her work in CAPA has been to assist international students and faculty with political asylum, visa challenges, and adjusting to the Bennington College culture. Often melding fields of study, Sgorbati has taught a wide range of courses, collaboratively and on her own, and has contributed numerous initiatives, all of them emphasizing creative, collective process in the active search for solutions.

CAPA Water Dialogues: A Week of Lectures, Panel Discussions, Films and Art Exhibitions

Spring 2012

Sgorbati organized the CAPA Water Dialogues in order to bring together experts to discuss water issues. Participants included scientists, mediators, artists, and policy makers working on the ground locally, nationally, and globally, as well as Bennington students, faculty, and staff. This was open to the public. Topics included the examinations of: a new hydro-energy project in North Bennington, Vermont; the national water sharing conflict over the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee Flint River Basin and Lake Lanier between the states of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida; and the global dispute in the Middle East over the Dead Sea, the Red Sea, the Jordan River, and the West Bank aquifer.

Water Film Festival with Burçu Seyben

November 2018

Sgorbati, together with Burçu Seyben, who was the International Education Rescue Fund Scholar at Bennington College from Istanbul, Turkey, organized a Water Film Festival in the CAPA Symposium to present documentaries on concerns over water, nationally and globally. Independent, foreign and Hollywood films were included.

The Village Privileges of North Bennington

2016

The Hydropower Project w/Bill Scully

Susan Sgorbati and Bill Scully, entrepreneur and Bennington alum, co-taught a class with the objective of filling out a FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) Application for a new hydropower project in North Bennington, Vermont. This substantial application included a community survey, an engineering plan, a mapping of biodiversity species, and a design for the construction of the project. The class completed the project and sent it to FERC, where it was approved.

Affiliate: The Gund Institute for Environment, University of Vermont, Burlington

2016 – present

The Gund Institute for Environment invited Susan Sgorbati and David Bond, Associate Director of CAPA, to become Affiliates of the Institute. Gund Affiliates are individuals who are interested in participating in Institute activities and whose scholarship aligns with its mission.

Collaboration w/Vahidin Omanović, Founder and Director of The Center for Peacebuilding in Bosnia-Herzegovina (CAPA)

2016

The Center for Peacebuilding (CIM–Centar Za Izgradnju Mira) is a non-governmental organization based in Sanski Most, Una-Sana Canton, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The organization was founded in 2004 to address the ethnic divisions present in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Susan Sgorbati invited Vahidin Omanović to CAPA to train students in Peacebuilding skills. Together, they formed a partnership between CIM and CAPA enabling Bennington students to spend Field Work Terms at CIM. Bosnian students at Bennington College created a program for CIM, and Omanović has been in residence each Spring term since 2016.

Co-Facilitator, Meeting in Montreal (CAPA) w/ Dr. Asim Zia; involving Water Managers and Scientists from Afghanistan and Pakistan

2017

Susan Sgorbati, with Dr. Asim Zia (Director of The Institute for Environmental Diplomacy and Security, University of Vermont, Burlington) organized and facilitated a week-long diplomacy session in Montreal at the Dawson Center for Peace, which is directed by Diana Rice, at Dawson College in Montreal. Both Ambassadors to Canada, from Pakistan and Afghanistan, met with the participants. The workshop was held to foster cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan communities in the Kabul River Basin, one of the most heavily conflicted transboundary river basins in the world. The outcomes were substantial and led to the creation of TWIN (Transboundary Water In-Cooperation Network) that now has over 75 members in 5 River Basins on 5 different continents.

Co-Founder and Co-Facilitator, TWIN (Transboundary Water In-Cooperation Network) w/ Dr. Asim Zia (CAPA)

2017 – present

Sgorbati Co-Founded TWIN (Transboundary Water in Cooperation Network) with Dr. Asim Zia, Director of The Institute for Environmental Diplomacy and Security, University of Vermont, Burlington. TWIN carries out diverse activities to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between grassroots organizations, communities and scientific institutions. The goal is to improve water quality to all the communities in the river basin areas. The Network engages stakeholders in Track II and Track III diplomacy across political, cultural, social, economic, and physical borders. Sgorbati and Zia co-facilitate and moderate sessions that bring together community activists, scientists, educators, water managers, and government officials in 5

different river basins (Jordan River, Mekong River, Amazon River, Kabul River, Congo River) and involve 75 community partners.

www.transboundarywater.org

Co-Founder and Facilitator, The Southern Vermont Regional Food System Network w/Michael Philipp (CAPA)

Dec 2019 – present

Susan Sgorbati and Michael Phillip (Chairman of Ambata Capital of Family Owned Investment Firm “that believes businesses should act as a positive force for change in the communities, industries, and environment in which they operate;” Chairman of Regenerative Food Networks, Inc.; and Co-Chair of the Bhutan Foundation) assembled a regional food system network, based on the principles of regenerative agriculture. This network provides access to nutritious, fresh, and affordable food for communities in southern Vermont. There are 45 members involved, connecting Rutland (Vermont Farm and Family Center) and Brattleboro (Food Connects) to Bennington. The network includes farmers, distributors, educators, engineers, social impact investors, the Community Development Director (Town of Bennington), and the Bennington County Regional Commission.

Residency: Ohio State University for Emergent Improvisation Dance Residency and Emergent Structures for Interdisciplinary Panel on Interconnected Complex Problems

2020

The salon-form panel discussion, *Interconnected Complex Problems*, included faculty from the College of Social Work, the College of Law, and Visiting Artist in Dance, Susan Sgorbati. This discussion modeled an inclusive atmosphere for dialogue with the panelists who provided examples from their respective fields and practices. There was then an opportunity for the audience—consisting of grad students, faculty members, staff, and the public—to engage in break-off discussions about interconnected complex problems from their own experiences. The panelists’ answers to her final question, “How do you think your work influences change?,” provided all present with different approaches to facing challenging issues.

Board Member, The Four Corners Community Market at The Putnam Development Project, Bennington; President - Advisory Board

2021

Four Corners Community Market will become a not-for-profit small grocery store serving downtown Bennington with affordable staples and fresh produce, meat, and dairy products from local farmers. The market will need to use distributors for some non-local goods to keep the store stocked throughout the year. There will be a Pop-Up Event Space (rentable) next door, to help incubate small businesses and host educational events. The Four Corners Community Market will also collaborate with the Regenerative Food Network’s Shields Drive Project, which includes a not-for-profit food hub and a for-profit meat processing facility.

Guest Speaker, The Liberal Education Talks (via Zoom)
Leuphana University of Lüneburg (Germany)

June 2021

Sgorbati gave a lecture entitled *Radical Pedagogy: Improvisation for a Catastrophe* as part of a series of Liberal Education Talks regarding Progressive Education. She included her student Ara Aman, who was able to give a student perspective.

ART PROJECTS, PERFORMANCES, RESIDENCIES, FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS
RELATED TO DANCE

- Dance Tour: Sweden; Finland; England** 1963 – 1965
Classes and performances w/Dyane Gray-Cullert, Riita Vanio under the direction of Nadia Chilkovsky, Founder, Philadelphia Dance Academy
- Collaborative Ensemble of Dancers and Musicians** 1974
Philadelphia; Boston; New York
Performances w/dancers: Susan Myers (Sgorbati), Halle Watson, Annette LaRoque, Karen Radler, Paula Sepinuck; musicians: Tom Guralnik, John Hagan, Baird Hersey, Michael Lewis, David Moss
- Dance Faculty** 1974
Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts
- Dance Faculty**
Castleton State College, Castleton, Vermont 1975 – 1980
- New Works: Collaborative Projects** 1975 – 1980
New England - Occasional events
Collaborated and performed w/composers Tommy Guralnik, David Moss
- New Works: Performances of Liturgical Dance** 1976 – 1978
New England
- New Work: *Elements*** 1978
Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts
Collaborated with composer David Moss
- New Work: *Journey of Abraham*** 1978
Castleton State College, Vermont
- New Work: *The Night Watchers*** 1980
American College Dance Festival, Boston Conservatory of Music; Castleton State College
Choreographed a work for 14 dancers
- New Work: *Rite of Passage*** 1980 – 1981
Bennington Museum, Bennington, Vermont
Traveled to Benson, Castleton, Middlebury, Montpelier, Rutland
Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Vermont Council on the Arts
Dancers: Susan Sgorbati, Leslie Cormier, Barbara Cowan, Agi Klausz, John L'Esperance, Jennifer McMahon, Donna Shirley
- New Work: *Sacred Dance*** 1981
Churches throughout Castleton State College, Vermont
- New Works: *Site Dances***
- #1: Pre-Columbian Archeological Digs**, South Woodstock, Vermont 1981
Dancers: Susan Sgorbati, Agi Klausz, Barbara Cunningham, Kathleen Little
- #2: Formal Gardens, Philadelphia Museum of Art**, Philadelphia 1982
Dancers: Susan Sgorbati, Agi Klausz

- #3: Huff Pond**, Sudbury, Vermont 1983
Dancers: Susan Sgorbati, Barbara Cunningham, Agi Klausz, Kathleen Little
- #4: Marble Quarry**, Danby Mountain, Vermont 1984
Dancers: Susan Sgorbati, Barbara Cunningham, Jennifer Garrow, Agi Klausz, Kathleen Little
- #5: Horse Neck Beach**, Westport, Massachusetts 1986
Dancers: Susan Sgorbati, Hope Clark, Agi Klausz
- President, Vermont Dance Alliance** 1983 – 1984
- Dance Faculty** 1983 – present
Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont
- Co-Founder and Director, The Governor’s Institute on the Arts** 1983 – 1987
Lyndon State College, Vermont
Co-Founded, directed, developed, and led summer residential program in the arts for adolescents
(See under *PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS RELATED TO PUBLIC ACTION* for further description)
- Member: Intermedia Ensemble “Ars Gratia Novae”** 1984
w/composer Randall Neal
- New Work: *Bird Descending*** 1986
The Vermont Dance Festival
The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington, Vermont
Choreographed and performed solo project for Juried Program
- New Work: Site Dance** 1987
Sara Delano Roosevelt Lower Park, Eastside, New York City
Set Design: Daniel Michaelson (25’ x 25’ origami paper bird)
- New Works: *The Factory Series***; New England 1988
Choreographed and directed performances for five factories in New England
- New Works: *The Farm Series***; Vermont 1989
Choreographed and directed performances on two regional farms
- Performance: *The Giants of Sciants, an improvisation ensemble*** 1990
The Warren Street Performance Space; New York City
Co-created and performed with w/dancers Penny Campbell, Terry Creach, Peter Schmitz
- New Work: *Point*** 1990
Bennington College; Castleton State College; Dartmouth College
Collaboration and solo performances w/film animator David Ehrlich, composer Tom Farrell
- New Work: *The Housatonic River Project*** 1992 – 1994
Commissioned by Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival; Becket, Massachusetts
Choreographed a seven-site project along the Housatonic River
Dancers: Susan Sgorbati, Penny Campbell, Terry Creach, Maya Greaves, Jonathan Kinzel, Peter Schmitz; Composer: Jonathan Bepler; Project Design: Sue Rees; Costume Design: Daniel Michaelson; Documentation: Julius Rosenwald

- Performance: w/musicians Charles Gayle and Milford Graves** 1994
Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont
- Co-Leader of the Dance Program w/Terry Creach, Michael Giannitti, Dana Reitz** 1994 – 2015
Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont
 Together the Dance Group fostered the making of new work, emphasized creative and collaborative process, and actively sought, supported, and incorporated innumerable guest projects and guest faculty from a wide range of cultures and artistic practices.
- New Work: *Improvisations*** 1995
Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont
 Dancers: Susan Sgorbati, Penny Campbell
- New Work: *The Vets*** 1996 – 1998
Bennington College and Middlebury College, Vermont
Warren Street Performance Space, New York City
 Performed in improvisation ensemble w/dancers Penny Campbell, Terry Creach, Peter Schmitz
- Summer Teaching Residencies: *Work in the Performance of Improvisation (WIPI)*** 1996 – 2005
Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont
 Co-created w/teachers Penny Campbell, Terry Creach, Peter Schmitz
 Summer workshops and performances in improvisation for teachers, graduate and undergraduate students
- New Work: *Improvisation Ensemble*** 1998
Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont
 Performed w/dancers Terry Creach, Penny Campbell, and Peter Schmitz
 Set Design: Sue Rees
- New Work: *The Remember Project 98, Dancers Responding to AIDS*** 1998
Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, New York City
 Choreographed and performed solo work
- New Work: *Materia Prima*** 1997 – 2002
 Created and directed an improvisation ensemble w/dancers Hope Clark, Maureen Ellenhorn, Jonathan Kinzel, Paul Matteson, Lionel Popkin
 – **8th Annual Improvisation Festival, Danspace**, New York City, 1999
 (curated by Movement Research); **Temple University**, Philadelphia
 – **Conwell Dance Theater, Temple University**, Philadelphia 1999
 – **9th Annual Improvisation Festival, Movement Research**, New York City 2000
- New Work: *Dance Infusion*** 1999
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York
 Collaboration w/architect Francis Bronet; performance in built environment
 Dancers: Susan Sgorbati, Terry Creach, Paul Matteson, Peter Schmitz
- New Work: *Tiny Trips*** 1999
Cambridge, New York; Bennington, Vermont
 Founded and performed in a collaborative project w/designer/videographer Tony Carruthers

Created a series of activities that were pre-chosen by participants (5-7 each time) and researched in depth in preparation for the tiny trips (in a van) that would take 3-4 hours each.

- New Work: *Duet*** 1999
The Vision Festival, New York City
Performed duet with musician/composer Arthur Brooks
- New Work: *In Visible Fields*** 2000 – 2001
Movement Research Improvisation Festival
Judson Church, New York City
Collaborative experiment in dance and imagery
Created and performed an ensemble piece w/dancers Agnès Benoit-Nader, Matthew Brown, Maureen Ellenhorn, Katherine Ferrier, Lisa Gonzalez, Sean Hoskins, Jack Magai, Pam Vail, Allison Weiss; Made in collaboration w/photographer Jonathan Kline and lighting designer Michael Giannitti
- Residencies and Performances** 2002 – 2005
The Flynn Center for The Performing Arts, Burlington, VT
Led improvisation residencies and directed performances
- New Work: *Duet*** 2003
Improvised and Otherwise Festival
Williamsburg Arts Nexus, Brooklyn, New York
Performed a duet with Cori Olinghouse
- New Work: *Duet*** 2004
Improvised and Otherwise Festival
Williamsburg Arts Nexus, Brooklyn, New York
Performed a duet with Eva Karczag
- New Work: *Disaster Dances*** 2004
Brooklyn Academy of Art, Brooklyn, New York
Performed a duet with Cori Olinghouse for the exhibition,
Manufactured Landscapes: The Photographs of Edward Burtynsky
- New Work: *Disaster Dances*** 2004
New York City Improvisation Festival, New York City
Performed a duet with Cori Olinghouse; curated by Miguel Gutierrez
- New Work: *moment*** 2004
Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont
Created and performed a in collaboration with composer Jake Meginsky; visual artist Jon Isherwood; lighting designer Garin Marschall; costume designer Amelia Powell
- New Work: *Duet*** 2005
Improvised and Otherwise Festival
Williamsburg Arts Nexus, Brooklyn, New York
Performed a duet with Katie Martin
- Creative Residency: Dartmouth College**, Hanover, New Hampshire 2006
- The Emergent Improvisation Project*** 2005 – present

The Emergent Improvisation Project – Tour

2005 – 2006

Created *The Emergent Improvisation Project* and coordinated a national dance tour sponsored by The Creation Fund of The National Performance Network, The Jerome Robbins Foundation, The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, The Neurosciences Institute, The International Conference on Complex Systems of The New England Complex Systems Institute, and Bennington College

- Group #1: Carson Efird, Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, Katie Martin, Cori Olinghouse, Nicole Pope, Lionel Popkin, Zornitsa Stoyanova, Keith Thompson
Musicians: Sean Mattio, Jake Meginsky, John Truscinski
- Group #2: Marie Blocker, Emily Climer, Katie Martin, Leah Morrison, Finn Murphy, Cori Olinghouse, Tony Orrico, Nicole Pope, Joe Poulson, Zornitsa Stoyanova, Niko Tsocanos
- Group #3: Marie Blocker, Lydia Chrisman, Emily Climer, Corina Dalzell, Theo Koppel, Finn Murphy

www.emergentimprovisation.org

Convergence: The Emergent Improvisation Film

2010 – 2014

This project, a series of experiments in working with emergent dance improvisation and film, was a collaboration between Elliot Caplan, filmmaker (*Beach Birds for Camera*, *Points in Space*, *Cage/Cunningham*) and Susan Sgorbati, director (*The Emergent Improvisation Project*). Funded by The Wyncote Foundation, The Philadelphia Foundation, and private donors.

<https://vimeo.com/202948356>

Convening: An Investigation into the Intersection of Life Sciences and the Arts

2011

Jointly sponsored by The National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts

A select group of artists working in the fields of visual arts, dance, and literature, and scientists working in the fields of behavioral biology, neuroscience, and evolution, convened in Washington, D.C., in early 2011. The purpose of this convening was to encourage innovative collaboration among practitioners across a diverse set of disciplines who share a common involvement in creativity and discovery. While attending this conference, Sgorbati worked in collaboration with Stuart Kauffman, considered to be the “Father of Complex Systems,” and met Janine Benyus, who spearheaded the work on Biomimicry.

Residency: The 1st Creative Research Residency at the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York

2012

Sgorbati explored new research on “emergent structuring” for intractable conflicts, relating to her previous work in Emergent Improvisation. This residency included a salon, classes, performances and lectures.

Improvisation Workshops

2013 – 2019

The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington, Vermont

A series of Improvisation Workshops sponsored by the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts and held at the University of Vermont, Burlington

Residency: ITU, MIAM University, Istanbul, Turkey

2013

The Music Department at MIAM University in Istanbul invited Sgorbati to teach an intensive improvisation workshop for one week with dancers and musicians.

Residency: Ohio State University for Emergent Improvisation Dance Residency and Emergent Structures for Interdisciplinary Panel on Interconnected Complex Problems 2020

The salon-form panel discussion, *Interconnected Complex Problems*, included faculty from the College of Social Work, the College of Law, and Visiting Artist in Dance, Susan Sgorbati. This discussion modeled an inclusive atmosphere for dialogue with the panelists who provided examples from their respective fields and practices. There was then an opportunity for the audience—consisting of grad students, faculty members, staff, and the public—to engage in break-off discussions about interconnected complex problems from their own experiences. The panelists’ answers to her final question, “How do you think your work influences change?” provided all present with different approaches to facing challenging issues.

HONORS

The Barbara and Lewis Jones Chair for Social Activism; Bennington College 2002 – present
An endowed chair to recognize public action for Quantum Leap, The Conflict Resolution Program, and role as Dean of Faculty and promote future public action at the College.

The 1st Annual David G. Rahr Award for Community Service 2003
The Vermont Community Foundation
for Public Action in the State of Vermont

Best Practice for Drop-Out Prevention 2003
The Vermont Agency of Human Services identified Quantum Leap as the recipient of this honor

The Vermont Heroes Award, shared with Daniel Michaelson 2004
Vermont Life Magazine, Volume 58, issue 3, Spring 2004
For the co-direction and development of Quantum Leap

Top 10 Performances of 2006; *Emergent Improvisation Project at The Neurosciences Institute*; San Diego Union-Tribune 2006

New England Higher Education Excellence Award, New England Board of Education 2010
Quantum Leap was a recipient of this Merit Award for its work with youth in New England.

The Bennington Museum Award, shared with Elizabeth Coleman 2018
For CAPA’s service to the Community

GRANTS/NON-CAPA

For: ***Convergence: The Emergent Improvisation Film*** 2013
The Wyncote Foundation
The Philadelphia Foundation
Private Donors

For: ***The Emergent Improvisation Project*** 2004 – 2006
The Creation Fund of The National Performance Network
The Bumper Foundation
The Jerome Robbins Foundation
The Flynn Center for The Performing Arts
The Neurosciences Institute
The International Conference on Complex Systems
of The New England Complex Systems Institute
Bennington College

For: ***Quantum Leap*** 2000 – 2005
The Vermont Agency of Human Services
The Leir Trust
The Velmans Foundation
The Henderson Foundation
The Vermont Community Foundation
The Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union

For: **New Works** 1976 – 1990
New Works Grant, The Vermont Council on the Arts
The Bennington Religious Education Foundation
The National Endowment for the Arts
Grant for Choreography, The Vermont Council on the Arts
Artist-in-Residency Grant, The Vermont Council on the Arts

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Contact Editions; *Emergent Improvisation: Where Dance Meets Science on Spontaneous Composition*, Chapbook (Summer 2013)

The Bakery, Berlin, Germany; *Essay on Order for Free: Emergent Improvisation as a System for Composition and Communication from Idea in Action*, a collection of essays (2012)

Contact Quarterly; Emergent Improvisation Project: Embodying Complexity; vol.32, no.1; article (Winter/Spring 2007)

San Diego Union-Tribune; *Locals Go Global to Reach Out and Present Someone: 2006 Top 10 Performances*; article (Janice Steinberg) (2006)

National Performance Network 2007 Directory; *NPN Partners*; dance photo (Paul Kyle) (December 2006)

National Public Radio/KPBS; *Dance and the Brain*; The Dana Foundation's Gray Matters Radio Series; interview with Susan Sgorbati, Dr. Gerald Edelman (Director of The Neurosciences Institute),

dancer Katie Martin, and musician Jake Meginsky; interview (Marjorie Sun) (November 15, 2006)

Royal Academy of Dance/Dance Gazette; *The Appliance of Science*; issue 3; article (David Jays) (October 2006)

Dance Magazine; *By Chance or Design?*; article (Janice Steinberg) (June 2006)

Contredanse/Nouvelles de Danse 53: Scientifiquement Danse: Quand la danse puise aux sciences et réciproquement; *L'improvisation émergente*; editor (Florence Corin); article (May 2006)

College Campus News; *Dance Project Unites the Arts and Science at International Conference*; article (Brie Della Rocca) (May 2006)

Bennington: The Alumni Magazine; *Emergent Improvisation Takes Flight*; article (Joan Taylor) (Spring/Summer 2006)

WCAX-TV / Burlington, VT;
Emergent Improvisation Project at the Flynn Theater (March 29, 2006)

Bennington Banner; *Mad science, dance style*; article (Hinda Mandell) (March 16, 2006)

The San Diego Union-Tribune; *Improv marries dance and science*; article (Janice Steinberg) (February 7, 2006)

The Dana Foundation: *Brain in the News; Improv marries dance and science*; The San Diego Union-Tribune; article (Janice Steinberg) (February 2006)

ESSAYS

Order for Free: Emergent Improvisation as a System for Composition and Communication; The Bakery, Berlin, Germany (2013)

How Deep and Broad are the Laws of Emergence?; co-authored with evolutionary biologist Bruce Weber; presentations include:

6th International Conference on Complex Systems; hosted by the New England Complex Systems Institute (Summer 2006)

Conference on Emergence; hosted by the Star Island Institute for Science in the Age of Religion (Summer 2006)

Essay on Emergent Improvisation; published in *Contredanse/Nouvelles de Danse* (2006) and *Contact Quarterly* (2007)

SELECTED COURSES & MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS – COLLABORATIVE

ART RELATED

Improvisation Ensemble for Dancers & Musicians

Taught multi-year; repeated collaborations (1995–present)

w/musicians including

Joseph Alpar (ethnomusicologist/composer)

Arthur Brooks (musician/composer)

Milford Graves (percussionist/medical researcher/healer)

Susie Ibarra (percussionist/composer)

Bruce Williamson (musician/composer)

Michael Wimberly (musician/composer)

Advanced Improvisation; Intermediate Improvisation

w/Bill Dixon (musician/composer)

Dance Workshop (1994–2015)

Participated each term w/Dance & Design Faculty; fostered the development of new work, emphasized creative and collaborative process

Worked with students of all levels and guests and co-supervised productions

w/Terry Creach (choreographer/dancer), Michael Giannitti (lighting designer),

Peggy Florin (until 2008) (dancer/choreographer), Dana Reitz (choreographer/dancer)

Dance Guest Artist Creative Residencies, Performances, Teaching Residencies (1994–2015)

Co-Initiated and Co-Hosted Guest Artist Residencies, Performances, Guest Faculty Teaching Residencies – actively sought, supported, and incorporated innumerable guest projects and guest faculty from a wide range of cultures and artistic practices

w/Terry Creach (choreographer/dancer), Michael Giannitti (lighting designer),

Dana Reitz (choreographer/dancer)

Improvisation in Dance (multi-year)

w/Terry Creach (choreographer/dancer)

Music and Dance Collaboration; The Radicals: Stravinsky and Dance

w/Allen Shawn (musician/composer)

Practicum in Dance: Composition for Dancers & Musicians

w/Nicholas Brooke (musician/composer)

Art in the Public Realm:

Chiang Mai, Thailand Art in US Embassy; Bennington and China; Oslo Project

w/Jon Isherwood (sculptor)

Graduate Seminar on Pedagogy and Public Action

w/Robet Ransick (digital artist; Director of MFA in Public Action)

Graduate Seminar in Dance; Graduate Research in Dance;

Graduate Assistantship in Dance (multi-year)

w/Terry Creach(choreographer/dancer); Dana Reitz (choreographer/dancer)

Advanced Workshop in CAPA

w/Erika Mijlin (producer, editor, writer in media studies)

Dance Intensives *(all levels; multi-year)*

w/Terry Creach (choreographer/dancer); Dana Reitz (choreographer/dancer)

The State of the Arts in the Present; Dance Now and Then; Dance on Film

w/Dana Reitz (choreographer/dancer)

Dance History

w/Sandra Burton (Director, Williams College Dance Program)

Movement and the Still Image; Advanced Projects in Movement and the Visual Image

w/Jonathan Kline (photographer)

Object, Movement, and Sound

w/Jon Isherwood (sculptor)

Creating New Work: Dance + Music; Music + Dance

w/Dana Reitz (choreographer/dancer; Allen Shawn (musician/composer); Amy Williams (musician/composer)

Place and Experience

w/Tony Carruthers (videographer/designer), Charles Gayle (musician), Donald Sherefskin (architect)

EMBODIMENT OF MIND

Complexity

w/Bruce Weber (evolutionary biologist, philosopher)

Emergence of Embodied Mind

w/Bruce Weber (evolutionary biologist, philosopher)

Emergence of Embodied Mind

w/ Michael Mishkind (biologist), Dana Reitz (choreographer/dancer), Bruce Weber (evolutionary biologist, philosopher)

Mind, Brain, Body: The Study of Experience: The Muscular System

w/Peggy Florin (dancer/choreographer)

An Understanding of Movement (Embodiment of Mind II) - Intermediate

w/ Peggy Florin (dancer/choreographer)

Mind, Brain, Body: The Study of Experience Program Group

w/Peggy Florin (dancer/choreographer), Susan Engel (developmental psychologist)

Experiential Anatomy: Dance & Physics

w/Norman Derby (physicist)

The Embodiment of Mind: Toward a Study of Human Nature

w/Susan Borden (Trustee: Bennington College; Trustee: Neurosciences Institute, La Jolla, California)

Development and Physiological Perspectives: How We Sense and Experience The World

w/Trudy Carter (Director, Bennington College Psychological Services)

ANTHROPOLOGY

Reading the Body

w/Miroslava Prazak (anthropologist)

DRAMA

Windfall

w/Sherry Kramer (playwright)

Tsunami Wave Clouds: Metaphor, Body, and Text

w/Sherry Kramer (playwright)

PUBLIC ACTION

International Human Rights; International Human Rights Law *(multiple spring terms)*

Andrea Galindo (international human rights lawyer; Director of RFK Human Rights, Florence, Italy); initially w/Susan Sgorbati; later terms w/oversight by Susan Sgorbati

Peacebuilding *(multiple spring terms)*

Vahidin Omanović (Director of the Center for Peacebuilding in Bosnia) initially w/Susan Sgorbati; later terms w/oversight by Susan Sgorbati

Is This Made for You and Me?: Land Use

w/Brian Campion (Director of Public Policy Programs in CAPA/Vermont State Senator), Donald Campbell (Regional Director, Vermont Land Trust), and Andrew Schlatter (architect/Bennington College Vice President for Facilities Management and Planning)

Community Transformation: A Multi-Party Negotiation over Trans-boundary Water Resources in the Indus Basin between Pakistan and Afghanistan

w/Michael Cohen (environmental activist, religious scholar)

Understanding Food Insecurity (#2 and #3)

w/Tatiana Abatemarco (researcher/activist in food studies)

Educating for a Democracy

w/Brian Campion (Director of Public Policy Programs in CAPA/Vermont State Senator)

Participation in Democracy: What Can I Do to Make a Difference?

w/Brian Campion (Director of Public Policy Programs in CAPA/Vermont State Senator)

Democracy Under Siege

w/Brian Campion (Director of Public Policy Programs in CAPA/Vermont State Senator)

Public Policy Forum

w/Brian Campion (Director of Public Policy Programs in CAPA/Vermont State Senator)

Graduate Seminar on Pedagogy and Public Action

w/Robert Ransick (digital artist; Director of MFA in Public Action)

Climate Under Siege: Public Policy Forums @ CAPA

w/Brian Campion (Director of Public Policy Programs in CAPA/Vermont State Senator)

The Refugee Crisis: Where Can I Go?

w/David Bond (cultural anthropologist/Associate Director of CAPA)

The Art of Negotiation and Mediation *(multiple terms)*

w/Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer)

Community Dispute Resolution

w/Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer)

Small Claims Court Mediation *(multiple terms)*

w/Amy Kuzmicki (mediator/Bennington College Director, Budget & Administration)

w/Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer)

The Process of Collaboration and Change (Intermediate/Advanced)

w/Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer)

The Village Privileges of North Bennington

w/William Scully (community entrepreneur in hydropower and food systems)

Advanced Mediation Training

w/Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer)

Working with At-Risk Kids; Projects: Working with At-Risk Students

w/Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer)

The Sababa Project at Mount Anthony Union High School

w/Danielle Crosier (Coordinator of Quantum Leap Program, Mount Anthony Union High School, Bennington)

The Sababa Project: Children in Crisis

w/Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer)

The Land of Immigrants: US Policy and Immigration in the 20th and 21st centuries

*w/John Hultgren (environmental political theorist),
Mariko Silver (Bennington College President: 2013–2019)*

Thought, Action, and Passion: Fundamentals of CAPA

*w/Elizabeth Coleman (Bennington College President: 1987–2013);
Founding Director of CAPA: 2013–2015)*

Mediating the World: Making a 21st Century Peace

w/Eileen Scully (historian)

Group Tutorial: The Role of Peer Mediation Within a Community

w/Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer)

Led to multiple projects in the following years

High School Confidential: Developing Projects for Public Education

w/Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer)

The Process of Collaboration and Change

w/Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer)

The Artist, The Community and Public Service

w/Ron Cohen (social psychologist)

Collaboration and Conflict Lab

w/Mansour Farhang (international diplomat and scholar), Mac Maharaj (South African politician; African National Congress) Geoff Pigman (economist), Daniel Michaelson (mediator/costume designer) Robert Ransick (digital artist), Sue Rees (set designer/videographer), Oceana Wilson (Dean of the Library)

Community, Culture, and Environment Program Group

w/Ron Cohen (social psychologist), Mansour Farhang (international diplomat and scholar), Edward Hoagland (writer), David Luebke (historian), Sue Rees (set designer, videographer), Kerry Woods (ecologist)

SELECTED COURSES & MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS - SOLO

PUBLIC ACTION

Tutorial: Education and Public Action

w/students Ara Aman, Alice Jennings, Cole Edmundson

The Point of Criticality: Problems of Complexity

The Sababa Project: Children in Crisis

Solving the Impossible: Intractable Conflicts

Solving the Impossible: Breaking Bread

Tutorial: Internship with Northshire Grows

w/student Eli Calhoun

War or Peace: Multi-party Dispute Resolution; Make War or Peace?

Tutorial: Seed Library

initiated by student Joana Santos; joined later by Oceana Wilson

(Bennington College Dean of the Library)

Led to the formation of the Seed Library in the Crossett Library at Bennington College

Creating our Future: Improvisation for a Catastrophe

Tutorial: Bennington College Incarceration Task Force

w/students Ben Simpson & Roi Karlinsky

Belarus: A Critical Understanding of Democracy

Group Tutorial: Non-Violence and Direct Action in the 20th Century

w/students Rachael Torchia, Kenyon Zimmer

Building Regenerative and Resilient Communities

Graduate Assistantship in Public Action; Graduate Research in Public Action

Understanding Food Insecurity in Bennington County (#1)

Led to the development of the Food Studies Curriculum, the creation of an advisory board for a Mellon Foundation Grant on Food Insecurity (awarded to Bennington College), a collaboration with the Regenerative Food Network, and the formation of the Southern Vermont Regional Food System Network

The Personal Learning Plan: Vermont Act 77 Educational Reform

Water Dialogues: Conflicts Over Our Most Valuable Resource

Climate Under Siege: Public Policy Forums@CAPA

Group Tutorial: GANAS (I, II, III)

initiated by students Nina Berinstein, Carlos Mendez, Selina Petschek, Andrea Tapia; joined in III by Jonathan Pitcher, faculty in Spanish

Led to curricula and projects

Dispute Resolution and the Environment

After-School Education Design in Bennington

Led to after-school programs in the following years

Learning by Doing: Progressive Education in Public High School Classroom

EMBODIMENT OF MIND

Experiential Anatomy

Mind, Brain, Body: The Study of Experience: The Muscular System

Envisioning Information: Mapping Complexity

ART RELATED

Forms in Emergent Improvisation

Advanced Projects in Dance; Intermediate Projects in Dance; Composition

Advanced Performance

Dance Intensives (*all levels*)

Dance on Film; Dance History; Sources

Performance Projects

Tutorials for Advanced Projects (*multiple*)

– *JULY, 2021*