

Sahar Sajadieh

Media Arts and Technology
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Education

Ph.D. Media Arts and Technology (MAT), University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) 2019

- Dissertation: "Is Any-body There?: [Re]envisioning Liveness through Digital Performance [Re]visit"
- Committee: Professor Marko Peljhan (Co-Chair, MAT, UCSB), Professor Leo Cabranes-Grant (Co-Chair, Theater & Dance, UCSB), Professor Marcos Novak (MAT, UCSB), Professor Tobias Höllerer (Computer Science, UCSB), Professor Ricardo Dominguez (Visual Arts, UCSD)

M.A. Performance Studies, New York University (NYU), Tisch School of the Arts 2010

- Advisor: Professor Richard Schechner

B.A. Theater, University of British Columbia (UBC) 2008

B.Sc. Computer Science, University of British Columbia 2008

- Advisor: Professor Alla Sheffer

Research Interests and Art Practice

- Liveness/Digital Liveness and Presence/Telepresence in Digitally Mediated Interactions
- Art Practice as Research
- Digital Interactivity, Digital Activism, and Digital Story-telling
- Digital Performance and New Media Theory, and Software Studies
- Intersection of Interaction Design and Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)
- Surveillance Arts and Studies, Computational Design for Social Justice and Inclusivity
- Application of Artificial Intelligence, Immersion, and Robotics in Interactive Arts
- Performing Archives: Repetition, Re-enactment, Re-visit
- Performance Art, Devised Theater, Poetry, and Tactical Media

Academic Distinctions, Awards, and Honors

- UC Senate Doctoral Student Travel 2019
- Graduate Student Association (GSA) Conference Travel Grant 2019
- Interdisciplinary Humanity Center (IHC) Pre-doctoral Fellowship, UCSB 2015-16
- GSA Excellence in Teaching Award, Honorable Mention, UCSB, 2015

- The UC California Studies Consortium Graduate Student Travel Award, University of California Humanity Research Institute (UCHIRA) 2014
- Microsoft Research Summer Internship Position, Redmond, WA 2013
- Centre for Information Technology and Society (CITS) Travel Grant, UCSB 2013
- Media Arts and Technology Program Entrance Fellowship, UCSB 2011
- Tisch School of the Arts Entrance Scholarship, NYU 2009
- Member of Golden Key International Honor Society Since 2006
- Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) Program by Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC) 2006
- Canadian Distributed Mentor Project (CDMP) Award by Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC) 2006
- Undergraduate Scholar Program (USP) Scholarship, UBC, Vancouver, BC 2003
- Honorable mention at the Iranian National Mathematics Olympiad, Tehran, Iran 2000
- Accepted and participated at the National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents (NODET), Tehran, Iran 1994-2001

Publications

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- Book Chapter Publication Expected:** "Performing Liveness: On the Line between Recorded and Live" in *Digital Stage and Experimentations: Manifestos, Artist Statements, Rehearsals' Notes, Interviews* (In English and French). Montpellier: l'Entretemps press, Paris, France 2020
- Paper Published:** "Come Hither to Me: Performance of A Seductive Robot," CHI EA '19, Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Glasgow, UK 2019
<https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=3313287>
- Poetry Book Translated and Published:** "Songs of Prison," A collection of poetry by Amir Hossein Sajadieh, translated from Farsi into English poetry, published by Panda Publication, Mashhad, Iran 2018
- Paper Published:** "Touch Me Here: A Virtual Touch Cinema." Proceedings of the 25th ACM international conference on Multimedia, Mountain View, CA 2017
<https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=3129325>
- Paper Published:** "A Theatrical Turing Test: An Encounter of Telematic Bodies," CHI EA '16, Proceedings of the 2016 CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems, San Jose, CA 2016
<https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2889463>

Paper published: "Choreographing Response: Online Game of Shopping and the Digital Puppet Master." In Congress on Research in Dance, vol. 2014. 140-144, Cambridge University Press
<https://doi.org/10.1017/cor.2014.20>

Digital Performance and Media Arts Exhibitions

Creator and Performer, *Becoming the Fourteenth Moon: 14 Days, 14 Poems*, a durational poetry performance

- *19 Acts of Covid-19 Bravery* Online Digital Performance Festival 2020

Creator, *Come Hither to Me*, a robotic feminist performance

- *CHI 2019 Interactivity, Art Installations*, Glasgow, UK 2019
- *Media Arts and Technology End of Year Show*, UCSB 2018
- *Santa Barbara Center for Arts Science and Technology (SBCAST)*, Santa Barbara, CA 2018

Creator and Performer, *Please Keep Your Eyes Closed!!!*, a poetic performance

- *Alliance of Women in Media Arts and Sciences (AWMAS) 2020 Art Exhibition*, Corwin Pavilion, UCSB 2020
- *Media Arts and Technology End of Year Show*, UCSB 2012
- *Xenakis Studio, Music Department, UCSB* 2012

Creator, *Bodies at Work: I Love My Robot and My Robot Loves Me*

- *Multimodal Performance Festival*. Glassbox Gallery, UCSB 2019

Creator, *Virtual Reality Group Exhibition*

- *Media Arts and Technology End of Year Show*, UCSB 2018

Creator, *Touch Me Here: A Virtual Touch Cinema*, an augmented reality interactive performance

- *ACM Multimedia Exhibition*, Mountain View, CA 2017
- Selected for exhibition at *International Symposium of Electronic Arts (ISEA) 2017*, Manizales, Colombia 2017

Creator, *Tip Top Tap*, a therapeutic interactive sound installation, as part of "Creating Empathy Through Art," funded by the Museum of Contemporary Arts Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center

- *Take Art, Make Art public art exhibition*, People's Park, Isla Vista, CA 2017

Creator and Performer, *How to Explain Pictures to a Live Paro*, a durational participatory performance artwork with an interactive robot

- *Glass Box Gallery*, Art Department, UCSB 2017
- *Santa Barbara Center for Arts Science and Technology (SBCAST)*, Santa Barbara, CA 2017

- Creator and Performer, *Hello My Dear***, a durational participatory performance
- *ACM CHI Interactivity 2016 Exhibition*, San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, CA 2016
 - Selected for exhibition at *International Symposium of Electronic Arts (ISEA) 2016*, Hong Kong 2016
 - *Media Arts and Technology End of Year Show*, UCSB 2016
- Creator and Performer, *The Body is Presents?***, a durational participatory performance
- *Media Arts and Technology End of Year Show*, UCSB 2015
- Creator and Performer, *Erased***, a multi-media installation
- *Media Arts and Technology End of Year Show*, UCSB 2014
 - *Contours of Algorithmic Life Conference and Symposium*, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA 2014
- Creator and Performer, *Gridlock***, a multi-media performance
- *Media Arts and Technology End of Year Show*, TansLAB, UCSB 2012
- Creator and Performer, *The Artist Is Present?*** An interactive performance
- *TransLAB*, UCSB 2011

Research Experience (Academia and Industry)

- Graduate Researcher, Media Arts and Technology, UCSB** 2013-2019
- Practice-based digital performance research centered on the liveness of digitally simulated and synthesized bodies in three interactive performances (Theatrical Turing Tests), using Media Art Practice as Research methodology, Human Computer Interaction (HCI), and critical theory
- Software Development Internship Position at Natural Interaction Research (NIR), Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA** 2013
- Human Computer Interaction (HCI) project, supervised by Andy Wilson: a real-time system design to map Kinect skeletal tracking data into a target motion (human or non-human forms), using radial basis function interpolation networks for performance and storytelling
- Researcher at Computer Science Department, UBC, Vancouver, BC** 2006
- Graduate research project: modification of suggestive contour generation algorithms. Investigation of various sketch extraction methods from 3D models, geometric modeling application development on Meshmaker and Graphite platform
- The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Research fellow (CDMP/USRA NSERC Research Fellow) at the Imager Lab, UBC, Vancouver, BC** 2006
- Geometric Modeling research project, supervised by Professor Alla Sheffer: modification of a 3D template model based on a 2D sketch by applying geometric transformation techniques, development of a 2D editor, tagging interface, and painting toolkit in Graphite

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistantship for Mediated World/THEMAS Series Course (INT 80EM), UCSB 2018-2019

- Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Media Arts and Technology course: A THEMAS (Technologies, Humanities, Engineering, Mathematics, Arts, and Science) series course, focused on Engineering and Mathematics

Teaching Assistantship for Mediated World/THEMAS Series Course (INT 80AS), UCSB 2018

- Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Media Arts and Technology course: A THEMAS (Technologies, Humanities, Engineering, Mathematics, Arts, and Science) series course, focused on Arts and Sciences

Teaching Assistantship for Mediated World/THEMAS Series Course (INT 80TH), UCSB 2018

- Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Media Arts and Technology course: A THEMAS (Technologies, Humanities, Engineering, Mathematics, Arts, and Science) series course, focused on Technologies and Humanities

Teaching Assistantship for Mediated World-THEMAS Pilot Course (INT 80P), UCSB 2017

- Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Media Arts and Technology course: Pilot THEMAS (Technology, Humanities, Engineering, Mathematics, Arts, and Science) course. An integrative introduction to Media Arts and Technology in all schools and colleges

Teaching Associate for Digital Performance (THTR 194D/THTR 194T/Dance 194), UCSB 2016

- Undergraduate Theater and Dance course designed, developed, and taught by Sahar Sajadieh. Digitally mediated embodiment, interactivity, liveness, telepresence, application of virtual and mixed reality and artificial intelligence in performance space

Teaching Assistantship for Arts-Engineering Research (MAT 254), UCSB 2014-2015

- Graduate Media Arts and Technology course: design process, patterns, site-specific Art, contextual art, research methodologies in interdisciplinary digital arts projects

Teaching Assistantship for Computer Vision (CS 181), UCSB 2015

- Undergraduate course: introduction to computer vision, image processing techniques, motion tracking, feature recognition, camera calibration

Teaching Assistantship for Pattern Formation Algorithms (MAT 200C), UCSB 2013-2014

- Graduate Media Arts and Technology course: creation of complex visual and sonic patterns using various pattern generation techniques for artistic application in multi-media art, digital performance, and interactive installation

Teaching Assistantship for Physically Based Simulation and Animation (MAT 594G/CS 280), UCSB 2013-2014

- Graduate course: physical simulation methods, rigid body mechanics, fluid simulation, kinematics simulation using physics engines, solid object deformation and fracture

- Teaching Assistantship for Intro to Computer Graphics (CS 180), UCSB** 2013
 - Undergraduate course: introduction to computer graphics, OpenGL and GLUT, computer animation, ray tracing, scanline algorithm, and perspective-corrected texturing
- Teaching Assistantship for Advanced Computer Graphics: Shading Languages (MAT 594/CS 290I), UCSB** 2012
 - Graduate course: programmable shading, rigid body dynamics, physically based animation, shadow algorithms, ambient occlusion, and character skinning
- Graduate Student Readership for Entrepreneurship (TMP 122), UCSB** 2011-2012
 - Undergraduate Technology Management course: analysis of new business opportunities, development of customer-centric value propositions, financing, and marketing
- Graduate Student Readership for Computer Graphics (CS 180), UCSB** 2011
 - Undergraduate Computer Science course: introduction to computer graphics, Computer Graphics concepts and algorithms, computer animation, and OpenGL programming

Curatorial/Administrative & Academic/Community Service

- Art Paper Reviewer, 2020, ACM International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (SIGGRAPH) 2020, Washington, DC** 2020
- Exhibition Curator, Alliance of Women in Media Arts and Sciences (AWMAS) 2020 Conference Exhibition, Corwin Pavilion, UCSB** 2020
 - Reviewing and selecting artworks and digital media projects
 - Managing the symposium and planning conference events
 - Organizing equipment, space, timeline, and on-site technical requirements
- Paper Reviewer, CHI 2019, ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Glasgow, UK** 2019
- Participatory Performance Workshop Creator and Facilitator, takepart | makeart: Creating Empathy, a public art exhibition and workshop, commissioned by The Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center, Isla Vista, CA** 2017
 - Interactive sound installation designer
 - Participatory exercise creator
 - Leading therapeutic art workshop to raise awareness about sexual assault
- Exhibition Organizer, Media Arts and Technology End of Year Show, UCSB** 2016
 - Exhibition planning
 - Organizing committee for the event
 - Pedagogical workshop for high school visiting students

Graduate Students Representative to the Faculty, <i>Media Arts and Technology program, UCSB</i>	2014-15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedagogy advisor to students • Organizing student-faculty meeting and students' representative in meetings with chair • Managing students' budget, students' spaces, and media equipment 	
Exhibition Curator, <i>Media Arts and Technology End of Year Show, UCSB</i>	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing and selecting student projects • Selecting and Inviting critics for final review session • Organizing equipment, space, timeline and budget allocation 	
Workshop Organizer, <i>NYC<->Tehran Workshops, two-day workshop taught and facilitated by Professor Richard Schechner, conducted via digital Technology between New York and Tehran</i>	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating the workshop between New York and Tehran • Translating and leading discussion groups in New York City • Instructing and facilitating the team of artists and scholars in Tehran 	
Conference Organizer, <i>Acting Together on the World Stage: Theatre and Peace Building on the Conflict Zones, a conference by Theatre without Borders, La Mama E.T.C., New York, NY</i>	2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting the conference director • Organizing the event • Arranging the website materials 	
Mentor, <i>Tri-Mentoring Program, Computer Science Department, UBC, Vancouver, BC</i>	2006-2008

Additional Education and Certificates

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| • Certificate in College and University Teaching (CCUT), Instructional Development, UCSB | 2019 |
| • Acting Diploma. <i>Iran Film and Theatre Institute, Tehran, Iran</i> | 2005 |
| • Film Directing Diploma. <i>Vancouver Film School</i> | 2004 |

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

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| Artist Talk: "Is Any-Body There? How to Make Technology Feel Alive." Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE | 2020 |
| Artist Talk: "Is Any-Body There? How to Make Technology Feel Alive." The College of Architecture, Art, and Planning (AAP), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY | 2020 |
| Artist Talk: "Digital Performance (Re)visit as (Re)search: A Novel Methodology in Digital Media and Performance Studies." <i>Alliance of Women in Media Arts and Sciences (AWMAS)</i> , Corwin Pavilion, UCSB | 2020 |

Panel Discussion: "The Games We Play." Theatre and Social Change Workshop, Association for Theater in Higher Education (ATHE) Annual Conference, Orlando, Fl	2019
Paper Presentation and Panel Discussion: "An Archive and Repertoire of Digital Humanities and Media Projects in the Performing Arts." HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory), Tempe, Arizona	2016
Artist Talk: "The Body is Present?: A Theatrical Turing Test." The Celebration of Women in Computing (CWIC) Conference, Ventura, CA	2016
Paper presented: "Liveness within the Performance of Virtual Bodies." American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) and Theatre Library Association Joint Conference, Baltimore, CA	2014
Paper presented: "Sense of Temporality in Multimedia Performances: Subconscious and Digital Double." 19th Annual Performance Studies International (Psi) Conference, Stanford University, Stanford, CA	2013
Paper presented: "Choreographing Response: Online Game of Shopping and the Digital Puppet Master." A joint conference of Dance Under Construction and the Congress on Research in Dance (CORD), University of California, Los Angeles, CA	2013

Theatre Directing, Acting, Scenography, and Performance Art

Creator and Performer , <i>Bodies at Work: I Love My Robot and My Robot Loves Me</i> , Multimodal Performance Festival	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glass Box Gallery, Art Department, UCSB 	2019
Dramaturge and Creative Consultant , <i>Arabian Nights</i> , by Mary Zimmerman, Directed by Jeff Mills	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theater and Dance department, UCSB, (Dramaturge and Creative Consultant) 	2014
Creator and Performer , <i>SALUTE the Nation!</i> as a part of LettertoObama, September 11 th Performance Event	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shrine Performance Venue, New York, NY 	2011
Creator and Performer , <i>[[SuSpiciouS Pack-Cage!]]</i> , Produced by Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> La Mama E.T.C., New York, NY 	2011
Performer , <i>The Painted Bird Bastard</i> , by Pavel Zustiak Palissimo Company	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ellen Stewart Theatre, La Mama E.T.C., New York, NY 	2010
Performer , <i>The Return of Ulysses to his Homeland Circus</i> , by Bread and Puppet Theatre	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theatre for the New City, New York, NY 	2010
Performer , <i>The Decapitalization Circus</i> , by Bread and Puppet Theatre	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theatre for the New City, New York, NY 	2010

Director, Actor, and Scenographer, <i>Wiseacre Farm</i>, a Children's Theatrical Performance	
• Thirteenth Street Repertory Theatre Company, New York, NY	2010
Creator and Performer, <i>The Egg Timer</i>	
• Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY	2010
Creator and Performer, <i>Nausea</i>	
• Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY	2009
Director, Actor, Playwright, and Scenographer, <i>Memory Machine</i>, Vancouver Fringe Festival	
• Studio 16, Vancouver, BC	2008
Director and Scenographer, <i>Still Stands the House</i>, by Gwen Pharis Ringwood	
• Dorothy Somerset Studio, UBC, Vancouver, BC	2008
Creator and Actor, <i>The Clock Is Ticking...</i>	
• Dorothy Somerset Studio, UBC, Vancouver, BC	2007
Director, Actor, and Scenographer, <i>The Blind Child</i>	
• Great Northern Way Campus, Vancouver, BC	2007
Director and Scenographer, <i>That Woman</i>, by Daniel Danis	
• Dorothy Somerset Studio, UBC, Vancouver, BC	2006
Director, Actor, and Screenwriter, <i>My Favorite Picture</i>, a short film by Sahar Sajadieh	
• Vancouver, BC	2005

Performance/Design/Theatre Training and Relative Experience

Future of Story Telling Project Retreat , funded by Google, Supervised by Jeff Burke, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Arrowhead Conference Center, Arrowhead, CA	2014
Movement Workshop and Performance Lab , by Anna Halprin, Stanford University, Stanford, CA	2013
Performance Creation Workshop , by Tim Miller, University of California, Los Angeles, CA	2013
Set Design Workshop , by Nayna Ramey, UCSB	2012
Lighting Design Workshop , by Vicki Smith, UCSB	2012
EmergeNYC Art/Activism Workshops , a New York Emerging Artist/Activist Training Program by <i>Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics</i> , led by George Emilio Sánchez, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Diana Taylor, Peggy Shaw, Act-Up, Pamela Sneed, and Susana Cook, New York, NY	2011
Play Development Workshop, <i>Gotham Writers' Workshop</i>, New York, NY	2011
Voice and Movement Workshop with Rena Mirecka (Grotowski's Plastiques Techniques), <i>Double Edge Theatre Company</i>, Ashfield, MA	2011
Viewpoints and Suzuki Training Workshop (Beginning, Advanced, and Master Classes) , by <i>SITI Company</i> and Anne Bogart, New York, NY	2010-2011

Comedic Performance Workshop , by Richard Crawford and Virginia Scott, Movement Theater Studio, New York, NY	2010
WorkCentre of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards' Composition Workshop , by Thomas Richard and Mario Biagini, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU, New York, NY	2010
East Coast Artists Performance Workshop , by Richard Schechner, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU, New York, NY	2009
Marcel Marceau Mime Workshop , by Sara Mangano and Pierre Massip, International University Theatre Festival, Tehran, Iran	2009
Dramaturgy and Literary Management Workshop , by Rachel Ditor, the literary manager and dramaturg at the Arts Club Theatre, Vancouver, BC	2008
Collective Creation Performance Workshop , by <i>Electric Company's Kim Collier and Kevin Kerr</i> , UBC, Vancouver, BC	2007

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

- American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)
- Performance Studies International (PSi)
- Association for Theater in Higher Education (ATHE)
- Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, EmergeNYC Activist Art Program
- Association for Computer Machinery (ACM)
- Special Interest Group on Computer Human Interaction (ACM SIGCHI)
- Golden Key International Honor Society

Technical, Interpersonal, and Professional Skills

- Programming skills: C++, C#, OpenGL, MATLAB, Python, Max MSP Jitter, Prolog, Haskell, Processing, Unity
- Audio and video editing software: Audacity, Reaper, Adobe Premier, Adobe After Effect, Final Cut Pro
- Excellent project management, team development, and leadership skills
- Operating systems: Mac OS X, Linux, Windows
- Fluent in English and Farsi, moderate proficiency in Arabic, and basic proficiency in Spanish