

I am a first year PhD Student in the Department of Theatre and Dance. My research interests lie in the fields of theatre for social change and new media. I believe the use of the later has potential for unlocking the power of narrative structure inside and as performance with the purpose of invigorating new thought and discourse regarding our place as sculptors of ethical and civic thought. New media can be a gateway tool used to restructure the way we think about changing public opinion and societal values. To this end, I am developing applicable theory that tests these assertions in relation to live performance. I have been working on a research paper that examines a specific instance in theatrical performance, comparing it to performance structures in ancient civilizations that served as crucial links to civic engagement. The purpose of this examination is to tease apart how we can develop contemporary narrative structures in performance that foster civic discourse with affective agency.

I have recently been invited to present a paper on my research at the Association of Theatre in Higher Education's 2015 conference as part of the Theatre for Social Change Debut Panel. The ATHE conference is the premiere conference in my field. Each year this conference brings together many of North America's well known performance scholars to discuss their work and to propose how it can be applied to performance pedagogy in higher education. As a future researcher and academic it is necessary that I cultivate relationships that can be found at this yearly gathering. This will be the first conference in which I have been accepted to present on my research. As part of a debut panel, I will be given access to respondents who have held senior positions in ATHE's governing structure. As respondents, they will offer me valuable critical commentary and guidance on the content of said paper before I present to the formal membership. I will also receive feedback on the research from this membership. I hope to have the paper published in one of my field's scholarly journals in the near future and this guidance and experience will add a crucial voice to the paper's as well as my own scholarly development. As a PhD student I plan to venture into the field of professional academia with the goal of attaining a tenure track teaching position at a research focused university. Developing publishable material is a necessary aspect of this trajectory.

The University of Colorado has an ongoing mission to advance humanistic endeavors. Social change and civic engagement are two of the many aspects relative to this mission. Presenting my research not only promotes my own individual goals but also serves as a way to highlight the visibility and mission of the University of Colorado and my home department. Currently the Department of Theatre and Dance does not have or offer funds to help cover travel costs for graduate students. This being the case we are heavily reliant on outside funding resources.

Thank you for taking the time to review this request.