

# Isaac Nathaniel Silber | [www.isaacnsilber.com](http://www.isaacnsilber.com)

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## **Education:**

**New York University**, New York, NY

PhD

Performance Studies, Expected May 2025

**New York University**, New York, NY

Master of Arts

Performance Studies

Final Project: “Sit right down and write myself a letter”: a collective (non)performance

**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Arts

Magna Cum Laude with Distinction in English

English Literature Major; Jazz and Popular Music Studies Minor

## **Work Experience:**

**Amant**, Brooklyn, NY

**Audio Engineer** (*September 2022 – Present*)

- Audio editing artist interviews, exhibition materials and podcast episodes

**National Sawdust**, Brooklyn, NY

**A2 Sound Technician** (*July 2022 – Present*)

- Setting up audio equipment, and assisting A1 engineer during events and performances

**Philly Soul Now**, Philadelphia, PA

**Content Writer** (*June 2022 – Present*)

- Conducting interviews with musicians, attending shows, and writing articles for the online magazine

**New York University**, New York, NY

**Faculty sponsor on Independent Study** (*June – July 2022*)

- Advised a Gallatin undergraduate student’s summer independent study project
- Suggested readings, met routinely during the summer semester to discuss project progress

**Adjunct faculty** (*January – May 2022*)

- Taught “Performance of the City” to undergraduates in the department of Performance Studies
- Developed course [syllabus](#), created assignments and assessments, graded and evaluated student work

**Teaching Assistant** (*January – May 2021*)

- Lead a recitation of Performance Studies undergraduate seniors for the Spring Capstone class
- Mentored students and facilitated peer workshops as they developed their capstone projects

**Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics**, New York, NY

**Photographic Archive Assistant** (*February 2019 – August 2019*)

- Organized and updated the Institute’s photographic archive into an easily searchable database
- Digitized older format tape materials and incorporated them into the archive’s database

**First-Generation, Low-Income (FGLI) Program**, University of Pennsylvania

**Academic Resource Coordinator** (*July 2017 – July 2018*)

- Established and operated a free textbook library for FGLI students
- Organized and led cross-departmental partnerships to support FGLI students
- Guided initiatives to improve student success
- Utilized needs assessments to develop responsive programs and resources

**Program Coordinator** (*August 2016 – June 2017*)

- Helped to establish the FGLI program

- Conducted support and awareness trainings with faculty and staff
- Helped establish a food pantry, mentorship program, academic break support program, and more

**University of Pennsylvania Music Department, Philadelphia, PA**

**Research Assistant for Dr. Timothy Rommen** (*September 2014 – June 2017*)

- Conducted microfilm archival research
- Organized and populated a system of meta-data tagging for collected archival materials
- Copyedited book manuscripts

### **Research Experience:**

**Dissertation research** (*September 2021 – Present*)

- Gathering oral-histories, conducting interviews, and attending performances related to soul and dance music in Philadelphia and New York City
- Conducting archival research in the John Jackson Collection of Indiana University’s Archives of African American Music and Culture, and Drexel University’s Sigma Sound Studios collection
- Analyzing scholarship in fields of performance studies, popular music studies, black studies, queer of color critique, quantum field theory

**Independent Ethnographic Fieldwork Project in Kingston, Jamaica** (*Summer 2014*)

- Conducted interviews, participated in and observed sacred ceremonies and performances, carried out archival research in the UWI, Mona Library, the Edna Manley College Library, and the National Library of Jamaica
- Culminated in Senior Honors Thesis, “Kumina on the National Stage: The Cultural Politics of African-Jamaican Religious Practice”

### **Honors and Awards:**

NYU Global Research Initiative Fellow (*Fall 2023*)

Patricia Dunn Lehrman Fellowship Award (*Summer 2023*)

Magna Cum Laude

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Scholar

Dean’s List (*2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2014-2015*)

### **Publications:**

Silber, I.N.: Poem “Empty Limits” *Symbiosis Magazine* Vol. 3 Issue 3, 2015

Silber, I.N.: Poem “I” *Impact Magazine* Vol. 1 Issue 3, 2014

### **Professional Affiliations:**

Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory

Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association

International Association for the Study of Popular Music

### **Artist Talks, Workshops and Conference Presentations:**

**Open Studios: Listening-Writing**, Center for Performance Research (*April 2023*)

Paper/performance: The Quantum Intentional Groove

Curated by Ethan Philbrick

**Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Conference 2022** (*November 2022*)

Presentation Title: We’re Doing the Cosmic Slop: Afrosurreal Sound Underground

**International Association for the Study of Popular Music, Pop Conference 2020** (*September 2020*)

Presentation Title: Look Up Kid: Queer Emo Youth and Differential Consciousness in Princess Nokia’s *A Girl Cried Red*

**International Association for the Study of Popular Music, Pop Conference 2019** (*April 2019*)

Presentation Title: Sampling Her Name: Echoes of Sandra Bland in Bearcat’s “CHARGED UP SANDY SPEAKS”

**NYU Performance Studies PRAXIS I.N.C.** (*February 2019*)

Lead workshop: Mic Check: Playing with Techniques of Sonic Documentation

**NYU Performance Studies Salon Series** (*December 2018*)

Co-lead workshop: Tending Towards Improv: A Collective Collecting