

Amy E. Alterman, PhD MPH

Curriculum Vitae

2023

Amyealterman@ucla.edu ♦ amyelizabethalterman.com

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Working at the nexus of anthropology, performance studies, gender studies, and public health, I am an ethnographer who applies feminist and performance theory to current sexual and reproductive health problems.

EDUCATION

- PhD Culture and Performance, Department of World Arts and Cultures
University of California Los Angeles
Year of Completion: 2023
- Ph.D. Committee: Dr. David Gere (Performance Studies); Dr. Carole Joffe (Sociology); Dr. David Shorter (Anthropology); Dr. Anurima Banerji (Performance Studies); Dr. Jessica Gipson (Public Health)
- Dissertation: “Terror at the Clinic: Remembering, Performing, and Confronting Antiabortion Terror at Independent Clinics”
- MPH Public Health, Department of Community Health Sciences
University of California Los Angeles
Year of Completion: 2018
Bixby Population & Reproductive Health Certificate
- Comprehensive Exam Program Title: “Teachers for Healthy Youth: Implementing Comprehensive Sex Education in California”
- BA Gender Studies and Folklore
Indiana University Bloomington
Year of Completion: 2010
- Thesis Advisor: Dr. Susan Seizer (Anthropology)
- Senior Thesis: “Dykes on Mics: Lesbian Stand-up Comics Performing, Negotiating, and Sustaining Identities”

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 Postdoctoral Research Associate
University of California Los Angeles Fielding School of Public Health
Department of Community Health Sciences
Bixby Center on Population and Reproductive Health

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Lentjes, Rebecca, **Amy E. Alterman**, and Whitney Arey. "The Ripping Apart of Silence: Sonic Patriarchy and Anti-Abortion Harassment. 1." *Resonance* 1,no.4 (December 1, 2021): 422–42. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1525/res.2020.1.4.422>

Hsu, Ruth, Paula Tavrow, Jasmine Uysal, and **Amy E. Alterman**. 2019. "Seeking the Female (Internal) Condom in Retail Pharmacies: Experiences of Adolescent Mystery Callers." *Contraception*. doi: [10.1016/j.contraception.2019.10.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2019.10.006)

Uysal, Jasmine, Paula Tavrow, Ruth Hsu, and **Amy E. Alterman**. 2018. "Availability and Accessibility of Emergency Contraception to Adolescent Callers in Pharmacies in Four Southwestern States." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 64 (2):219–225. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.08.030>

Alterman, Amy E. 2018. "Performing Research in the Closeted City: One Lesbian Researcher's Autoethnographic Journey toward LGBTQ-Inclusive Sex Education in Atlanta, Georgia." *Queer Cats Journal of LGBTQ Studies*, 2(1). Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6t65v2fb>

Articles Under Review

Alterman, Amy E., Narasimhan, Suba, and Brooke Palmer. "Performing Terror: The Sensorial Tactics of Anti-Abortion Protesters and their Emotional Effects on Patients." (submitted to *Social Science and Medicine*)

Manuscripts in Preparation

Alterman, Amy E., Gipson, Jessica, and Marta Bornstein. "The Relationship between State Political Hostility toward Abortion and Provider Stigma among Independent Abortion Providers." (preparing to submit to *Contraception*)

Alterman, Amy E. "It Really Does Lighten the Load': Independent Abortion Providers' Uses of Humor in the Workplace." (preparing to submit to *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*)

Web-Based Publications

Alterman, Amy E. 2021. Abortion AF: Introducing Abortion Access Front's Comedy-based Health Intervention." UCLA Center for the Study of Women Blog, January 26, 2021. <https://csw.ucla.edu/2021/01/26/abortion-af-introducing-abortion-access-fronts-comedy-based-health-intervention/>

Alterman, Amy E. 2020. "We Won. Now What? Support Indie Clinics." *Medium*, July 22, 2020. <https://medium.com/@amyealterman/we-won-now-what-support-indie-clinics-10505f68fef3>

MEDIA COVERAGE

Ryzik, Melena. "Using Comedy to Push for Abortion Rights." *New York Times*, July 15, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/15/arts/lizz-winstead-abortion-comedy.html>

Morandi, Jessica. "Performance Art as an Activist Tool." *Harvard Political Review*, March 7, 2020. <https://harvardpolitics.com/performance-art-activism/>

Carroll, Linda. "Pharmacies Still Blocking U.S. Teens Looking for Emergency Contraception." Reuters.

Thomson Reuters, November 2, 2018.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-teens-contraceptives/pharmacies-still-blocking-u-s-teens-looking-for-emergency-contraception-idUSKCN1N72DS>

Scholar Strategy Network. "Episode 208: On the Abortion Front Lines." *No Jargon* Podcast, February 27, 2020. <https://scholars.org/podcast/abortion-front-line>

AWARDS & HONORS

2021-2022	UCLA Collegium of University Teaching Fellows (9,084.84)
2019	ANSIRH Abortion Research Cohort
2018 2013,	Inducted into Delta Omega (Public Health) Honors Society
2014 2010	Planned Parenthood of New York City Work Performance Spotlight Award Indiana
2010	University Founders Scholar Award (commendation for academic excellence)
2010	Indiana University Department of Folklore Distinguished Service Award
2006-2010	Indiana University Dean's List

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2021-2022	UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship (37,756)
2020	Emerging Scholar Grant, Society of Family Planning (7,500)
2020	Jean Stone Dissertation Fellowship, UCLA Center for the Study of Women (4,000)
2020, 2019,	Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance Travel Award
2018, 2016	
2014-2020	UCLA School of Art and Architecture Dean's Scholarship
2017, 2015	UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Grant (12,000)
2016-2017	UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship (35,829)
2012	Collaborative Arts Performance 21 Studio Scholarship Award
2009-2010	Indiana University Hutton Honors School International Experience Grant

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Papers Presented

2022 "In order to maintain our sanity': Independent abortion providers' uses of humor in the workplace." Presented and organized panel for "Shifting Landscapes of Abortion Access" for Unsettling Landscapes, American Anthropology Association, Seattle, WA.

- 2020 Invited reader and panelist (other panelists: Jennifer Reich, Zakiya Luna, Sara Yeatman) for *Obstacle Course: The Everyday Struggle to Get an Abortion in America* by David S. Cohen and Carole Joffe. Pacific Sociology Association, Virtual.
- 2018 “Feel the Vagic: How The Vagical Mystery Tour Connects, Celebrates, and Sustains Communities as Resistance to Abortion Stigma.” Presented at Thinking Gender: Pre-existing Conditions, UCLA Center for the Study of Women, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2017 “Availability and Accessibility of Emergency Contraception and Female Condoms for Adolescent Youth Across Pharmacies in the Southwestern United States: A Mystery-caller Approach.” Authors: Jasmine Uysal, Paula Tavrow, Ruth Hsu, and Amy E. Alterman. Presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 “Homage to Esther Newton: One Lesbian Researcher’s Autoethnographic Journey Toward LGBTQ-Inclusive Sex Education in Atlanta, GA.” Presented at QGrad: “Curing the Queer” from Pathology to Resistance, UCLA Department of LGBT Studies Graduate Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2015 “Dykes on Mics: Lesbian Comics Employing the Stand-up Comedy Stage as a Site for Change.” Presented at Hysterical Bodies: Disabling Normative Behavior in Contemporary Art, UCSD Department of Visual Arts Graduate Conference, San Diego, CA.
- 2010 “Dykes on Mics: Lesbian Stand-up Comics Performing, Negotiating, and Sustaining Identities.” Presented at Contact: The Dynamics of Power and Culture: The 2010 IU/OSU Folklore and Ethnomusicology Graduate Student Conference, Bloomington, IN.

Posters Presented

- 2017 “Seeking Help From a Pharmacist After Unprotected Sex: Differential Experiences by Gender of Adolescent Mystery Callers in the U.S.” Authors: Paula Tavrow, Amy E. Alterman, Jasmine Uysal, and Ruth Hsu. Presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 “Closeted City: Barriers to LGBTQ-inclusive Sex Education in Atlanta, GA.” Presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

Panel Moderation

2016. QScholars Undergraduate Symposium, UCLA LGBTQ Studies. Los Angeles, CA.

INVITED TALKS & CAMPUS LECTURES

- 2022 **Guest Lecturer**, “Legislating Reproduction: Sonic Patriarchy & Noise Ordinances outside of Independent Abortion Clinics.” Guest Lecture for Gender-based Violence and Public Policy course at Brandeis University, Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Waltham, MA. *Prof. Kaitie Chakoian*
- 2021 **Guest Lecturer**, “Abortion & Sonic Patriarchy.” Guest Lecture for PUBH 273: Reproductive Justice course at Augustana College, Public Health Program. Rock Island, IL. *Prof. Dr. Lena Hann*
- 2021 **Guest Lecturer**, “Sonic Patriarchy at the Abortion Clinic.” Guest Lecture for Social Science Perspectives on Abortion in the US Webinar at the University of California-San Francisco, Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health. San Francisco, CA. *Prof. Dr. Carole Joffe*
- 2020 **Guest Lecturer**, “Activist Scholarship at Abortion Clinics.” Guest Lecture for WAC 100: Introduction to World Arts and Cultures course at UCLA, Department of World Arts and Cultures. Los Angeles, CA. *Prof. Dr. David Shorter*
- 2019 **Guest Lecturer**, “Abortion AF: Ethnographic Research on the Road with Indie Clinics & Abortion Access Front.” Guest Lecture for Senior Seminar in Politics: Contemporary Politics in American Law and Politics course at Pomona College, Politics Department. Claremont, CA. *Prof. Dr. Amanda Hollis-Brusky*
- 2019 **Guest Lecturer**, “Abortion Can Be Funny: How Abortion AF uses Comedy to Advocate For Abortion Rights.” Guest Lecture for CHS 100: Introduction to Community Health Sciences course at UCLA, Department of Community Health Sciences. Los Angeles, CA. *Prof. Dr. May Sudhinaraset*
- 2017 **Guest Lecturer**, “Arts-based Sex Education: Theories and Approaches.” Guest lecture for G185: Performing Health: Transnational Perspectives course at UCLA, Department of Gender Studies. Los Angeles, CA. 2017. *Prof. Dr. Kimberly Clair*
- 2017 **Guest Lecturer**, “Navigating the Interdisciplinary Art/Health Landscape at UCLA.” Guest lecture for ARTSED 101: Creative Encounters in Public: Addressing Chronic Illness and Disease through Arts and Education course at UCLA Visual and Performing Arts Education Program. Los Angeles, CA. *Prof. Lindsay Lindberg*
2016. **Guest Lecturer**, “Fieldwork Methods: Researching Sex Education in Georgia.” Guest Lecture for WAC202: Research Methodologies graduate course at UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures. Los Angeles, CA. 2016. *Prof. Dr. Allen F. Roberts*
- 2016 **Guest Lecturer**, “Fieldwork Methods: Failure as a Finding.” Guest Lecture for WAC202: Research Methodologies graduate course at UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures. Los Angeles, CA. *Prof. Dr. Peter Nabokov*
- 2014 **Keynote Speaker**, “Debunking Common Myths We Hear from Teens About Sexual Health.” Sunnyside, Queens Community Center “Healthy Relationships and Sexual Health Fair Event.” Sunnyside, New York.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION & FACILITATION

- 2017 Evaluating Arts-based HIV Prevention Interventions: Can a Participatory Arts Program have an Impact on Stigma and Discrimination while Promoting Positive Sexual Behaviors? Organized a presentation by Sunil George, a visiting scholar from the Public Health Foundation of India, for the graduate students of the Fielding School of Public Health. UCLA, Los Angeles, California.
- 2017 UCLA World Policy Analysis Center Working Meeting on Poverty Alleviation. Planned a participatory arts-infused working meeting with Fielding School of Public Health Dean Jody Heymann and UCLA World Policy Analysis Center for International Poverty Alleviation Researchers. UCLA, Los Angeles, California.
- 2016 World AIDS Day Storytelling Workshop. Created an interdisciplinary workshop for students interested in art and health on UCLA's campus. Event sponsored by the UCLA Art and Global Health Center and Fielding School of Public Health Reproductive Health Interest Group. UCLA, Los Angeles, California.
- 2014 "Answering Tough Questions About Sexual Health." Facilitated a half-day workshop for PPNYC's training institute for school and after-school education professionals, New York, New York.

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022 Collegium University Teaching Fellow, University of California
- Created and taught a course called "**Stand-up Comedy and Social Change.**" Beginning with the premise that stand-up comedy is a generative site for the study of culture, the course examines the role of cultural knowledge and cultural literacy when it comes to humor. Simultaneously, students examine how stand-up comics employ rhetorical and gestural strategies to highlight social justice issues and potentially mobilize their audiences to participate in social change.
- 2018-
Current Teaching Fellow, University of California Los Angeles
- Social Justice Artivism
Visual and Performing Arts Education Program (Winter 2021); Prof. Karen Mack
- Performing Sexual Health
Department of World Arts and Cultures (Fall 2020); Prof. Jocelyn Adame
- Introduction to Community Engagement through the Arts
Visual and Performing Arts Education Program (Spring 2020); Prof. Dr. Kevin Kane
- Strategies for Teaching Artists Working with Youth Underserved Communities
Visual and Performing Arts Education Program (Winter 2019); Prof. Sabra Williams

- 2014-2017 Teaching Assistant, University of California Los Angeles
- Introduction to World Arts and Cultures
Department of World Arts and Cultures (Fall 2017); Prof. Dr. David Gere
- Ethnography of Religions
Department of World Arts and Cultures (Spring 2017); Prof. Dr. Allen F. Roberts
- Socially Engaged Pedagogy in Arts
Visual and Performing Arts Education Program (Winter 2017); Prof. Sue Bell Yank
- Arts Encounters: Exploring Arts Literacy in the 21st Century
School of Arts & Architecture (Fall 2016); Prof. Dr. David Gere and Prof. Meryl Friedman

THESIS COMMITTEE

Emory University

- 2022 “Examining Independent Abortion Providers’ Perceptions and Needs for Social Support: A Qualitative Social-Ecological Study in the Southern and Midwestern US.” Nabeeha Virani. Masters Thesis, Public Health.

SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TRAINING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2019 Abortion Escort, Trained by Charlotte for Choice
- 2019 Research Intensive Participant, Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health Abortion Research Incubator
- Invited to a multi-disciplinary workshop at the University of San Francisco’s Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health to share working knowledge of the state of abortion research, grow the network of multidisciplinary scholars with expertise in abortion, and enable further rigorous scholarship.
- 2015-2019 Researcher, UCLA Bixby Center on Population & Reproductive Health 2019
- As Research Team Member for Emergency Contraception & Female Condom Accessibility Study: developed instruments and analyzed data on youth access to emergency contraception and female condoms in pharmacies in the Southwest United States. As a Research Team Member for the Student-Assessed Sex-Ed Survey Project: created and implemented a community participatory program to evaluate and improve compliance of LAUSD high schools with new California sex education requirements.

- 2017 Community Health Research Fellow, Georgia Equality
- Evaluation and development for Georgia Equality’s ACFLY Program (Atlanta Coalition for LGBTQ Youth). Conducted a wide range of activities, from creating, disseminating, and analyzing a Coalition Outcomes Assessment to designing and facilitating a 2.5-hour, 50- person, ACFLY reboot coalition-wide meeting.
- 2016 Graduate Student Researcher, UCLA Art & Global Health Center
- Engaged in research and evaluation for World Arts and Cultures year-long Senior Project Initiative which included mentoring students’ senior thesis projects, conducting focus groups, creating and evaluating student survey instruments, and formulating recommendations for senior project systems quality improvement.
- 2012-2014 Senior Sexuality Educator, Planned Parenthood of New York City
- Implemented and facilitated the *Making Proud Choices* curriculum, evidence-based, comprehensive sexual education curriculum (STI/HIV Prevention, Puberty and Reproduction, Healthy Relationships and Communication Strategies Surrounding Sexual Health Topics) for youth ages 11-19.
- Created and facilitated training the trainer workshops: “Sex Ed Classrooms: Navigating Challenges to Foster Productive Learning,” “Don’t Forget the ‘Pleasure’ in Sex Education,” and “Answering Tough Questions in the Sex Ed Classroom.”
- 2011-2013 Sex Educator, Babeland of New York City
- Taught sex-positive, pleasure-based workshops to diverse populations on various sexual health-related topics. Created and conducted training sessions for other sex educators that focused on gender inclusivity, pleasure, and sexual anatomy.

ARTS TRAINING & PERFORMANCE

Theatre & Music Training

- 2011, 2012 Upright Citizen’s Brigade
New York, NY.
Improv 101, Improv 201
- 2012 CAP21 Conservatory, Summer Professional Program
New York, NY.
Acting, Vocal Technique & Performance
- 2008-2009 University of Sussex Theatre Program (study abroad)
Brighton, England
Performance Theory, Philosophy, and Practice

Performance Art Activism

- 2019 Performer in a street theatre skit to educate the public about anti-abortion organization Operation Save America. Directed by activist Lizz Winstead and produced by the Abortion Access Front in Milwaukee, WI. Abortion AF The Tour, AAF's annual summer tour.
- 2018 Performer in a street theatre skit to educate the public about Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Directed by activist Lizz Winstead and produced by the Abortion Access Front in Detroit, Michigan and Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Vagical Mystery Tour, AAF's annual summer tour.
- 2010 "Don't Let The Sheep Get in Your Eyes." Performer in a street theatre performance spectacle that combined Yiddish tradition and political provocation through puppetry, dance, and theatre. Directed by art activist Jenny Romaine and produced by the Sukkos Mob of Great Small Works, New York, New York. Annual tour.
- 2009 "Performing the Archive." Created an interactive performance piece at the University of Sussex in collaboration with the University of Sussex theatre department and The Archive of Mass-Observation, Brighton, England.
- 2008 "The Vagina Monologues." Performed and produced as a member of the Indiana University Feminist Student Association.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2012-2013 Archival Intern, Mitraniketan Rural Sustainability & Education Center in Kerala, India 2013
- Collected, recorded, and cataloged oral histories and photographs to assist in curating the central exhibit of the Mitraniketan History Museum. Assisted implementation of the Mitraniketan Women's Pottery Project to support women's professional development as working artists.
- 2009-2010 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Indiana University
- Research assistant for Anthropologist Susan Seizer during the production of her ethnographic documentary *Road Comics: Big Work on Small Stages*.
- 2009 Theatre Instructor, Bloomington Playwrights Project School of Dramatic Art, IN
- Created and facilitated a feminist acting class for girls ages 13-15 called "Eve-olution: Female Empowerment Through Theatre."

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2022-Current Advocacy chair for Council on Anthropology and Reproduction
- 2022 Peer editor for *Social Science and Medicine*
- 2020 Peer editor for *American Journal of Public Health*
- 2020 Peer editor for *Reproductive and Sexual Healthcare* journal

2016-2019 Founder and organizer, UCLA Art & Health Graduate Collaborative
2016-2018 Education chair, UCLA Reproductive Health Interest Group
2016- 2017 Peer editor, UCLA Queer Cats Journal
2015-2016 Organizing committee for UCLA World Arts & Cultures Graduate Student Lecture Series

AFFILIATIONS

2022- Council on Anthropology and Reproduction
2021- American Anthropology Association
2021- LA Abortion Support Collective (co-founder and member)
2018- Abortion Access Front (Abortion Rights Organization)
2019- Society of Family Planning Junior Fellow
2019- Scholars Strategy Network
2014- UCLA Art & Global Health Center and the UCLA Sex Squad
2020- 2022 UCLA Collegium of University Teaching Fellows
2018 UCLA OBGYN & Reproductive Health Working Group
2018 Delta Omega Public Health Honors Society
2016- 2018 APHA LGBT Caucus & Abortion Working Group
2016- 2020 UCLA Bixby Center on Population and Reproductive Health
2014- 2018 UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Reproductive Health Interest Group
2006-2010 Indiana University Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
2006-2010 Indiana University Feminist Student Association
2006-2010 Indiana University Folklore and Ethnomusicology Student Association

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Technical

NVivo, Stata, Microsoft Word, Notion, Evernote & Google Suite

Languages

English (native)
French (intermediate reading and beginner conversation)
Hebrew (beginner reading and conversation)

REFERENCES

Dr. David Gere
Professor, World Arts and Cultures
Director, Art and Global Health Center
University of California-Los Angeles
dgere@arts.ucla.edu
310.206.1334

Dr. Jessica Gipson
Professor, Community
Health Sciences
jgipson@ucla.edu
310.794.7028

Dr. Carole Joffe
Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Advancing New Standards in Reproductive
Health Research
University of California- San Francisco
Carole.Joffe@ucsf.edu

510.986.8938