

Sinclair Ogaga Emoghene

Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance · University of Texas at Austin
sinclair@sinclair.dance · sinclair.dance

EDUCATION

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2016 | Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Dance, Choreography and Performance
University of Maryland, College Park, MD
Thesis: "Nyam Chiem – Reconstructing and Performing Nightmare" |
| 2007 | Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with Honors in Theatre Arts
Federal University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria |

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Aug 2024 –
present | Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance (Tenure-Track)
Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX |
| Aug 2019 –
May 2024 | Assistant Professor of Dance and Choreography (Tenure-Track)
Department of Dance and Choreography, Virginia Commonwealth University,
Richmond, VA |

CREATIVE AND SCHOLARLY WORKS

Creative labs

- 2025 – present **The Sensorium Project – Integrated Lab, Phase I & II**
Creator, Lead Researcher & Choreographer · University of Texas at Austin
- 2024 – present **Global Movement Research (GMR) Laboratory – Phase II**
Project Principal Investigator – Lab Director · University of Texas at Austin
- 2023 – 2024 **Global Movement Research (GMR) Laboratory – Phase I**
Project Principal Investigator – Lab Director · Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2026 – present **SEE Lab – Research Platform for Embodied Movement Scholarship**
Founder, Principal Investigator · University of Texas at Austin
Public scholarly platform for the Global Movement Research corpus and the Movement Language Model
- 2026 – present **TheMLM (The Movement Language Model)**
Creator, Principal Investigator · University of Texas at Austin
A computational AI system for dance that reads continuous motion and tokenizes it into sequences of discrete movement codes, guided by canonical frameworks for body design, spatial organization, ecosomatic reading and cross-cultural comparison

BOOKS

- 2023 **Dancing in the World: Revealing Cultural Confluences**
Emoghene, S. & Spanos, K. · Routledge, London

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

- 2026 **The Sensorium Project: Affective Computation and Embodied Feedback in Performance (Me Duniya Case Study)**
Emoghene, S. · Revision under review, submitted July 2026

CHOREOGRAPHY – FILM (SELECTED)

- 2026 **Rooted in Motion: The Ten Poem Project (Auntie)**
Choreographer, Director, Writer · University of Texas at Austin
- 2021 **Therapy**
Choreographer · Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- 2011 **Feature Film: I'll Take My Chances**
Lead Choreographer · The Royal Art Academy, Lagos, Nigeria
First feature-length dance film in Nigeria (Nollywood)

FESTIVAL AWARDS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2025 | Canada Shorts, Canadian & International Short Film Festival
Award Winner · Grand Prize; Best Experimental; Best Director; Best Cinematography; Best Score; Best International Short; Documentary |
| 2026 | Paris Short Film Festival
Award Winner, Best LGBTQ Short · Paris, France |
| 2026 | Stockholm City Film Festival
Award Winner, Best Experimental Film · Stockholm, Sweden |
| 2026 | LGBTQ+ Toronto & Los Angeles Film Festival
Award Winner, Best Experimental Short · Toronto and Los Angeles |

HONORABLE MENTION

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2025 | ATX Short Film Showcase
Honorable Mention · Austin, TX |
|------|--|

NOMINATION AND FINALIST

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2026 | Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival (TINFF)
Nominee and Finalist, 10th Anniversary Edition · Toronto, Canada |
|------|--|

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2026 | Austin Dance Festival presents DANCE ON FILM
Official Selection · Austin, TX |
| 2026 | Versatility Dance Festival
Official Selection · USA |
| 2026 | SHORT to the Point
Official Selection, Dance Film · International |
| 2026 | Liminal Dance Film Festival
Official Selection · International |

CHOREOGRAPHY – STAGE (SELECTED)

- 2020 **Kaleidoscope of Tuts · Parts I & II · Commission**
Choreographer · Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, Washington D.C. · VCU Dance Now
- 2017 **Peace Ball · Invitational**
Dancer, Choreographer · National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington D.C.
- 2016 **Love + Peace = Bad Names**
Dancer, Choreographer · Dance Theater, The Clarice, University of Maryland

CHOREOGRAPHY – SITE-SPECIFIC, INSTALLATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SELECTED)

- 2026 **The Sensorium Project: Mé Duniya Part II · Research Performance · October 2026**
Creator, Lead Researcher & Choreographer · The LIM, University of Texas at Austin
In collaboration with AET faculty Michael Baker, Kyle Evans, and Brandon LeJueane, and Engineering faculty Dr. Lillian Chin
- 2024 **Experimental Collaboration and Live Performance**
Director, Choreographer · Institute for Contemporary Arts (ICA), Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA · Spring 2024
Original sound design by Stephen Vitiello · Director of photography Evan McNair · Dancers and tumblers Addison Harksen and Robert Parietti · Location manager Alexandre Jones · Supported by the School of the Arts, Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2019 – 20 **Facets of Esoterics · Installation and Residency**
Director, Choreographer · The REACH, Kennedy Center and The Anderson, VCUArts
First dance artist to receive the Office Hours Award
- 2016 **Rooted on a Moving Spot (ROAMS)**
Choreographer · University of Maryland, College Park, MD

GRANT ACTIVITIES

External funding

- 2026 – 29 **The Movement Language Model: Culturally-Conditioned AI for Embodied Cultural Heritage (PI, with Co-PI Dr. Lillian Chin)**
Humanities and AI Virtual Institute (HAVI) · Schmidt Sciences · Grant ID HAVI_RFP_2026-0000000381 · Award period September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2029 · The University of Texas at Austin
Supports corpus expansion and international motion-capture fieldwork, haptic sensor engineering, graduate research assistantships in Dance Studies and Electrical and Computer Engineering, and community collaborator honoraria.
- 2022 **Dancing in the World: Revealing Cultural Confluences (co-PI)**
Creativity Grant · Maryland State Arts Council
- 2021 **Ainihi e Alteridade: Performing Otherness (co-PI)**
NextLOOK Residency · Joe's Movement Emporium & The Clarice · with Pablo Regis de Oliveira and Kathleen A. Spanos
- 2020 **Kaleidoscope of Tuts (PI)**
Performance Support Award · John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- 2019 **Facets of Esoterics (PI)**
Office Hours Award · The REACH, John F. Kennedy Center

INTERNAL FUNDING

- 2024 – 25 **The Ten Poem Project (PI)**
College of Fine Arts Creative Research Grant · University of Texas at Austin
- 2024 – present **Global Movement Research (GMR) (PI)**
Faculty Start-Up Fund · University of Texas at Austin
- 2024 – present **Faculty Fellowship – Research Fund (PI)**
Theatre and Dance Chair Fellowship · University of Texas at Austin
- 2022 – 23 **Living Archive: Analysis, Description, and Assemblages of African Dance (PI)**
Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Fund · Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2022 **Dancing in the World: Revealing Cultural Confluences (co-PI)**
Dean's Research Grant · Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2021 **Living Archives Research (co-PI)**
Dean's Research Grant · Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2020 **Kaleidoscope of Tuts (PI)**
Dean's Research Grant · Virginia Commonwealth University

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

2016	NextLOOK Alumni Award University of Maryland Distinguished Award for Alumni of the Year
2015	International Teaching Fellowship Teaching & Learning Transformation Center, University of Maryland
2013	Dean Fellowship Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, University of Maryland
2008	Service Excellence Award National Youth Service Corps, Enugu State, Nigeria
2005	Best Dancer Award Department of Theatre Arts, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

GUEST LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

2025	West African Dance Masterclass ACDA · Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
2024	Contemporary West African Dance Masterclass ACDA · Meredith College, Raleigh, NC
2023	Book Talk: Dancing in the World: Revealing Cultural Confluences Honors College, Dept. of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, University of Maryland
2023	Conversations in the Atlantic Theory: Dancing in the World Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy · Online Interview

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial and society service

2026 – present	Founder, The Movement Journal · Global Movement Research University of Texas at Austin Peer-reviewed venue publishing individual movement works as citable scholarship with the performer as author; first thirty-eight works published July 2026, registered with Crossref under the prefix 10.66420
2024 – present	Co-editor, Shaping Southern Shifts: Provocations in/through Laban Bartenieff Movement Studies ESI Publications, South Africa
2023 – present	Curator, Dance Film Organization dancefilmmaking.com
2025	Faculty Representative, American College Dance Association (ACDA) Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
2024	Faculty Representative, American College Dance Association (ACDA) Meredith College, North Carolina

TEACHING

Course development

2024 – present	Dance History I · TD 317M, 3 credits The University of Texas at Austin
2016	West African Dance · DANC 138W / DANC 338 University of Maryland, College Park

COURSES TAUGHT

2026 (Spring)	Choreography II · TD 332N, 3 credits · Intermediate Contemporary Dance · TD 322D, 2 credits The University of Texas at Austin
2025 (Fall)	Dance History I · TD 317M, 3 credits · Projects in Dance Performance and Repertory · TD 232P/332P, 2 credits The University of Texas at Austin
2025 (Spring)	Choreography II · TD 322N, 3 credits · Projects in Dance Performance and Repertory · TD 232P/332P, 2 credits The University of Texas at Austin
2024 (Fall)	Advanced Contemporary Dance · TD 322E, 3 credits · Projects in Dance Performance and Repertory · TD 232P/332P, 2 credits The University of Texas at Austin
2008	Teaching, from 2008 University Preparatory Secondary School, Benin City, Nigeria

THESIS, CAPSTONE AND ADVISING

2025 – 2026	MFA Thesis First Reader Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin
2024 – present	Advising The University of Texas at Austin · one graduate and seventeen undergraduate advisees per academic year

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Texas at Austin

2026	Auditions, applicant interviews and recruitment, dance program Department of Theatre and Dance · Spring 2026
2025	Creative Research Fund Grant Reviewer College of Fine Arts
2025	Choreographer and Archival Team Contact, Dance Repertory Theatre (Rooted in Motion, Fall Concert) · Choreographer and Co-Director (Equinox, Spring Concert)
2025	Mé Duniya Part I · Performance and Engineering Collaboration Choreographer · Oscar G. Brockett Theatre, University of Texas at Austin
2024 – present	Community Engagement Committee Member Department of Theatre and Dance
2024 – 2025	Recruitment and masterclasses Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Houston, TX

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY, VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

2019 – 2024	Department Lead for Tours and Recruitment VCUArts Open House
2022	Faculty Adjudicator American College Dance Association
2020	Dean's Grant Committee Member
2019 – 2020	Dance History and Theory Curriculum Committee Member

MEMBERSHIPS

2019 – present	Dance Studies Association (DSA)
2014 – present	National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)
2010 – 2011	National Association for Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (NANTAP) Chapter Secretary, Edo State, 2011
2010 – 2011	Dance Guild of Nigeria · International Dance Council (CID), UNESCO

PRESS AND MEDIA

2025	Wired for Rhythm Cockrell School of Engineering, The University of Texas at Austin, by Nat Levy, 19 November 2025
2024	Dance Filmmaking Prepares to Crown the Inaugural Dance Film of the Year LA Dance Chronicle, by Steven Vargas, 5 April 2024
2020	The Kennedy Center Announces Millennium Stage Schedule for February 2020
2011	Dance is My Life The Nation Newspaper, 18 January 2012

sinclair@sinclair.dance



[Curriculum vitae, PDF](#)



[home](#)

