

LEIGH MELANDER, PH.D.

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EDUCATION

PACIFICA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

PhD in Mythological Studies and Depth Psychology • 2005

Master of Arts in Mythological Studies and Depth Psychology • 2000

Multi-disciplinary humanities graduate program combining mythology, psychology, religious studies, and literature with research emphasis on creativity and imaginal studies.

Dissertation: *The Pointless Revolution: Frivolity and the Serious Business of Subversive Creativity*.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Non-Degree • 1996 - 1997

Studied writing by invitation with Nobel Poet Laureate Derek Walcott at Boston Playwright's Theater.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Philosophy • 1988 • Honors

Created independent, interdisciplinary degree program combining performance, literature and history. Researched and created academic thesis and original performance piece centered on the lives and poetry of women troubadours.

WORK EXPERIENCE

THE IMAGINAL INSTITUTE • NOVEMBER 2005-PRESENT

Founder

www.imaginalinstitute.com

Founder of socially responsible business supporting the leap between ideas and actions through dialogue, lifelong learning, and creative expression. The Imaginal Institute offers online and blended learning to adult learners using the Moodle platform; public events and gatherings; and organizational consulting.

Sample Online Learning Courses:

- *Finding the Muses: Writing Imagination and Memory* created and taught an exploration of the mythical and archetypal sources of creativity and inspiration through reading, writing, and dialogue (Melander)
- *The Power of Ideas: Celebrating the Worlds of James Hillman* facilitated online discussion on the eminent archetypal psychologist, with 100+ participants (scholars, psychologists, artists, writers) worldwide (Melander)
- *Intro to Imaginal Activism* created and taught philosophy of myth, imagination and creativity as force for activism and practical application in professional and community contexts (Melander)
- *Imagination Matters* facilitated course on finding meaning through making while building bricolage sculptures with found materials (Daniel Mack)

Sample Events:

- **Fools Gatherings:** Collegial retreats exploring one central idea, image, myth, or metaphor across disciplines.
 - *A Gathering of Fools 2006*. On community. Co-sponsored by Spring Journal and Books.
 - *Fools on the Edge 2007*. On authority. Co-sponsored by the Joseph Campbell Foundation.
- **Imaginal Practicums:** Hands-on explorations of imagination.
 - *Brave New Commedia*, a workshop on archetypes and Commedia dell'Arte. (Susan Kelejian)
 - *The Mythic Harp*, a music, myth, and storytelling workshop. (Patricia Brundage, Ph.D., Melander)
- **Conversations with Master Seekers:** Intimate conferences with leading thinkers in imaginal studies.
 - **Psyche's Poetry**, exploring the intersections between psychology and poetry. (David Miller, Ph.D.)

CHICAGO EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY • 2003- 2004, 2008-PRESENT

Director of Marketing and Community Building

Oversee all external communications and marketing efforts, IT, and digital product/professional development delivery for educational publishing company for *Science Companion*. Played an integral role in tripling sales and increasing market penetration to thousands of classrooms for this a K-5 inquiry-based science curriculum developed by founding authors of *Everyday Mathematics*. Supported company transition to distribution agreement with Pearson Scott Foresman Publishing in 2004, and upon re-acquisition of distribution rights by company returned as Marketing Director. Currently working with product development team to redesign curriculum as digital offering.

VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT • 2008-2011

Community Education Instructor

Taught a series of classes on writing and publishing to adult learners including minorities and others traditionally under represented in higher education.

VARIOUS NON-PROFIT & FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS • 1991-PRESENT

Consultant

Short and long-term consulting in strategic planning, visioning, marketing, community relations, development, grant writing, evaluation and assessment, educational programming, web positioning, etc. for over 100 nonprofit and commercial clients in PA, NJ, MA, OH, KY, IL, FL, WA, CO, CA, and NY.

Sample Consulting Projects

- *Boston Advantage* Led a design process for a learning initiative with Boston Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Boston Public Schools, and Boston Public Library to increase informal and formal STEM education access for underserved urban elementary students.
- *Strategies Online Professional Development* Using Blackboard, led a design process for online learning and assessment for adult learner social services providers for Strategies, Inc., a statewide technical support organization for social service agencies serving high need rural and urban populations across California.
- *Elementary Science Coalition* Supported the creation, branding, and web-based community building of national elementary STEM education advocacy and lobbying organization.
- *Global Resource Alliance* Led visioning process for joint programming/fundraising effort international microfinance NGO to bring resources to underserved areas of Africa.
- *First Five Kings County* Brought in as the facilitator for six-month community/non-profit/county government visioning process in rural, disenfranchised, predominately minority community to create and Family Resource Center for state-funded early childhood support service organization in California.
- *Math Made Easy* Redesigned online interface for parents seeking distance tutoring support in math for their elementary through high school students, strengthening evaluation and assessment tools.

OAK VIEW PARK AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER • 2000-2003

Executive Director

Coordinated community effort to save abandoned local elementary school as Family Resource Center. Oversaw development of partnership between County of Ventura, Community of Oak View, Interface Children Family Services (as managing site agency), Ventura County Library, and consortium of nonprofit arts, sports and social service agencies. Responsibilities included development of long-range strategic planning, community building, budgeting, tenant relations, site development, spearheading passage of parcel tax ballot measure to support project.

OJAI VALLEY YOUTH FOUNDATION • 2000-2003

Program Director

In addition to grant writing for a variety of projects as well as assessment/reporting for “California Well Villages,” a million-plus dollar funding initiative from the California Wellness Foundation; worked with area youth and community members on joint projects, including planning a teen summer day camp, an “Appreciative Inquiry” interview and writing project engaging community members from the Ojai Valley in ongoing dialogues about what they valued in the area, and spearheaded “Imagine Ojai,” a youth/adult valley-wide visioning project.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA • 1999-2001

Programmer, MultiCultural Center

Oversaw all programming hosted by the MCC including performances, lectures, workshops, and gallery shows as well as serving as liaison to over 30 Student User Groups and supervisor/mentor to student staff of 12. Developed new education-based protocol for student involvement in MCC programming. Responsibilities included program development, artist relations, publicity, and event management for over 40 events per academic quarter; theater management; and faculty and community relations.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS • 1991-2003

Teaching Artist

Residencies with elementary and high school students addressing conflict resolution and violence alternatives using theatre, music, dance, and visual arts in PA, NJ, KY, OH, MA, and CA. Worked with a wide variety of students in both urban and rural settings in conjunction with faculty and administration of public school systems and social service agencies. In MA, mentored female students as they developed a new student-run teen center and coffeehouse. In CA, led continuation school students in creation of original puppet theatre piece on water pollution for Ojai Unified School District's Service Learning Program.

THESE HORIZONS ARTS CENTER • 1995-1997

Co-Founder/Program Coordinator

Developed programming for new community-based children's art center in Newport, KY. Projects included the creation and implementation of original in-classroom and after school programming for elementary and high school students, utilizing both visual and performing arts. Developed and implemented community outreach, managed paid and volunteer staff, oversaw marketing, PR and grant-writing efforts for the organization.

INSTITUTE FOR ARTS IN EDUCATION • 1993-1994

Teaching Artist

Worked with nationally acclaimed Institute at the Annenberg Center on workshops for public school teachers, exploring the Howard Gardner theories of lateral learning within arts education, for implementation by workshop participants into regular public school curriculum. Model developed included innovative combinations of visual, literary and performing arts in interactive contexts.

MUM PUPPETTHEATRE • 1990-1994

Company Member/Public Relations Director

Performed and taught for award-winning mask, theatre, and puppetry company in international festivals in Greece, Mexico, Canada, and Romania and nationally. Taught artist residencies at public schools and universities around the country, including Towson College, Swarthmore College, Berea College, the University of Maryland, Phillips Academy, Bryn Mawr College. Additional responsibilities included building and maintaining booking contacts for national venues and international performance festivals; creating and distributing promotional materials: press releases, brochures, newsletters, etc; development and grant writing.

OLIO THEATRICALS • 1987-1994

Founder & Artistic Director

Created, directed, and performed original works centering around the lives of women, including: *Love is a Species of War*, on female troubadours; *Theatre of the Heart*, on 19th Century theatre; *Jacquard*, on the lives of 19th Century women mill workers, *Distaff of a Revolution*, on women's roles in the American Revolution; and *In a Pure Voice*, on contemporary women's presence in the community, in conjunction with the Women's Ensemble Theatre in Philadelphia. Received funding from various arts and cultural agencies, including the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Responsible for overseeing all production aspects, dramaturgy, grant writing, development, marketing, budgeting, etc.

AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE FESTIVAL • 1991-1993

Associate Producer & Associate Director of Marketing & PR

Responsibilities included literary management, artist relations, line-producing of a resident community outreach company working with University of the Arts and minority high school students; creation and management of a cabaret featuring local artists; etc. Creation of promotional material, including the creation of two versions of newspapers at 70,000 piece circulation each, press releases, newsletters, brochures, flyers, display ads, etc.; maintenance of promotional and booking contacts for two national tours for internationally acclaimed new-music theatre company, working with artists such as Edward Gorey, Paquito D'Rivera, Eduardo Machado, Laurie Andersen, and Julie Taymor.

WGMR RADIO 101.1 FM • 1987-1990

Disc Jockey/Program Director

Performed daily afternoon drive airshow and interviews for 55,000 watt country and western radio station. Designed programming; managed air staff of 15; acted as liaison between station and music industry for Gavin reporting station; created and recorded commercial voiceovers; managed promotional events and live drop interviews at business locations, festivals, special events; and emceed special events and concerts.

PENNSYLVANIA DANCE THEATRE • 1985-1990

Founding Company Member/Instructor

In addition to national performances, including internationally acclaimed Dance Theater Workshop in NYC, taught company and school ballet, modern and jazz classes for modern dance company to both children and adults. Worked extensively with students on imagery/relaxation techniques to extend technical range without injury. Choreographed original works.

ORCHESIS, EMERGENT DESIGNS DANCE, AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY • 1981-1984

Company Member/Instructor

Performed and taught modern, jazz, and ballet classes to members of university and professional dance companies; created and taught program of classes for non-dance major university students, professional dancers, and community members, choreographed original works.

WEB PROJECTS

Study of Myth International Forum
<http://www.studyofmyth.org/forum/index>

Invited Moderator

Art of Natural Dressage International Forum
<http://www.artofnaturaldressage.com/forum/>

Invited Moderator

Web Development and Social Media

Have designed or consulted on over 100 websites, blog, forums, online learning platforms, social media sites, and CRM using the following technology: Dreamweaver, WordPress, Moodle, Blackboard, phpBB, Café Press, Shopify, MIVA, Weebly, Wiki, Basecamp, Box.net, Salesforce, School Fusion, Ning, Wix, Etsy, Photobucket, Flickr, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Tumblr.

Living Landscapes

Working with internet designer/philosopher Derek Robinson (involved with earliest design iterations of Flickr) on a Wiki/GPS-based multi-media project that enables users to enter a 4-D relationship with the landscape around them, based on community assets and needs, stories, and geography.

RECENT VOLUNTEER BOARD WORK

Andes Works! Foundation • 2011-present
Founding Board Chair

CA Invasive Species Advisory Council • 2009-2010
Council Member, Communications & Outreach

Elementary Science Coalition • 2008-present
Member, Strategic Advisory Board

Spring Journal • 2008-present
Member, Academic Advisory Board

Sustainability Council of Ventura County • 2003-2004
Member, Board of Directors

Ojai Shakespeare Festival • 1999-2001
Member, Board of Directors

SAMPLE ARTICLES

Paradox Neverending: Psyche and the Soul of the Web	<i>Spring Journal</i>	2010
Invited Blogger, Community Blog	<i>www.ojai-post.com</i>	2010-11
Hope in Crisis: Imagining New Possibilities	<i>Working Strategies</i>	2009
Because Kids Don't Come with Directions	<i>Working Strategies</i>	2008
Imagine That: Re-Imagining Education	<i>Creative Pulse Magazine</i>	2006
Monthly Sustainability Columns	<i>Ventura County Reporter</i>	2003-04
Harp and Soul	<i>Harp Therapy Journal</i>	2001
Physician, Heal Thyself	<i>SelfGrowth.com</i>	2000
Committing Fun Monthly E-Column	<i>Inspired Lifestyles</i>	2000
Psyche's Sisters	<i>"Mythology" CD Rom</i>	2000
Grantwriting 101	<i>The Folk Harp Journal</i>	1997

ORIGINAL CREATIVE WORK

THE FRIVOLOUS REVOLUTION HANDBOOK.

Little Book, Big Idea Series. Meandering Press (in development)

A romp of essays, cartoons, and mythic stories exploring frivolity as paradoxical, positive movement of soul employing play theory, philosophy, depth psychology, and mythological studies. Slated for publication in 2012.

DISSED! THE REAL DEAL ON WRITING DISSERTATIONS, FROM ACTUAL SURVIVORS

Meandering Press (in development)

Editor of collection of humorous and insightful essays and anecdotes about the process of writing academic theses and dissertations. Slated for publication in 2012.

THE LYRA SYSTEM OF RELAXATION

Lyra Enterprises, Ltd. • 1997-1998

Created multi-media (compact disc, text, and video tape) relaxation system with original music. Released nationally and utilized for two years by University of Northern Illinois as stress management course text for incoming freshmen.

TOUCH THE GREEN

Individual Fellowship from the Kentucky Foundation for Women • 1997

Independently produced compact disc recording of original singer-songwriter material and arrangements of traditional Irish tunes, scored with harp, voice, and various instruments. Hit top forty folk charts in 1998.

IN A PURE VOICE

Women's Ensemble Theatre Company • Philadelphia PA • 1994

Created and performed solo music and monologues about contemporary women's perceptions for series of special world premiere fundraising performances.

JAQUARD

Individual Fellowship in Interdisciplinary Arts • Pennsylvania Council on the Arts • 1993

Original solo performance piece based on the lives of 19th Century female textile mill workers. Created script and harp scoring with original material combined with video footage of oral histories of surviving mill workers.

SALLY: DISTAFF OF A REVOLUTION

New Market Theatre • Philadelphia 1993

Created and performed piece based on the diaries of Sally Wister written during the British occupation of Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War.

WHEN SHE SANG

Lady of Note Productions • State College PA • 1992

Co-created and performed original solo show about the life and music of Judy Garland, touring throughout PA.

THEATRE OF THE HEART

Grant from the Bellefonte Historical & Cultural Commission • Bellefonte PA • 1991

Created and performed original music theatre piece on 1890's Opera House in Bellefonte and the women who performed there as restoration kick-off. Compiled script from theatre and music pieces performed at the Garman Opera House itself. Recorded live and repeatedly broadcast on cable television.

LOVE IS A SPECIES OF WAR

Pennsylvania State University • 1988

Created and performed original oral interpretive piece based on the writings of 13th Century female Provençal poets scored with original music and arrangements of medieval music for harp, voice and percussion.

WILL VIRTUE PREVAIL?

Grant from the Centre County Historical Society • State College PA • 1987

Created and directed one-act melodramatic farce for the Society's Centennial Fourth of July Celebrations.

LAVENDER BLUES

Pennsylvania State University • 1987

Created and directed one-act play produced as part of the University Resident Theatre Company Studio Six Series.

HEAR THE FALCONER

Pennsylvania State University • 1985

Anthony Ura Award winning short story.

TRAINING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- myrhc studies
- publishing
- modern dance
- jazz dance
- ballet
- movement improvisation
- puppetry
- breath work
- creativity
- marketing
- harp
- music composition
- acting/scene work
- mask work
- voice
- music improvisation
- non-fiction writing
- web design
- storytelling
- playwrighting
- poetry
- guided imagery
- constructive rest technique
- conflict resolution

REFERENCES

DAVID L. MILLER, PH.D. 315-475-4566
Professor Emeritus, Syracuse University & Pacifica Graduate Institute **dmliller@syr.edu**

ROBERT WALTER 415-456-6060
Executive Director, Joseph Campbell Foundation **walterca@comcast.net**

ANNETTE MARCUS, MFT 530-876-1543
Statewide Abuse Prevention Director, Strategies Inc. **amarcus@youth4change.org**

KATHRYN DAVISON, PH.D. 917-416-4440
Psychotherapist/Principal, Tonic Capital **kathy@toniccapital.com**

SUZIE NIXON-BOHNETT 805-798-7315
Former Co-Director, Ojai Valley Youth Foundation **dragonfly2b@yahoo.com**