

VITAE

Regina N. Bradley

Department of English
Kennesaw State University
1000 Chastain Road
MD #2701
Kennesaw, GA 30144
Email: rbradl14@kennesaw.edu
www.redclayscholar.com - website
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, Florida State University

Major Area: African American Literature and Culture

Minor Area: Gender and Women's Studies

Dissertation Title: "Race to Post: White Hegemonic Capitalism and Black Empowerment in 21st Century Black Popular Culture and Literature"

M.A. African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University Bloomington

B.A. English, Albany State University (with honors)

AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP

Twentieth and Twenty-First Century African American Literature, Race and Gender in Popular Culture, Hip Hop Studies, Southern Studies, Race and Sound Studies

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2017 – present: Assistant Professor of English and African Diaspora Studies, Department of English, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

- Affiliate Faculty, African American and Diaspora Studies
- Affiliate Faculty, American Studies
- Graduate Faculty

Courses Taught: Survey of African American Literature: "Why Do Black Lives Matter?;" Major African American Writers: "post-Civil Rights Writers;" Special Topics: "OutKast and the Rise of the Hip Hop South;" Regional Literature: Queen Sugar and the Black South

2015 – 2017: Assistant Professor of African American Literature, Department of Languages, Literature and Philosophy, Armstrong State University, Savannah, GA

- Affiliate Faculty, African American Studies
- Affiliate Faculty, Gender Studies

2011 – 2015: Instructor, English and Interdisciplinary Studies Departments, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw GA

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Chronicling Stankonia: OutKast and the Rise of the Hip Hop South [under contract, UNC Press]

Edited Collections

An OutKast Reader: Essays on Race, Gender, and the Postmodern South [under contract, UGA Press]

Guest-Edited Journals

Phylon: The Clark Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture. With Stephanie Y. Evans and Courtney Terry. “Hip Hop Culture and Rap Music Aesthetics in the Post-Civil Rights South” 54.1 (Winter 2017).

Black Camera: An International Film Journal, Close-Up. “Hip-Hop Cinema” 8.2 (Spring 2017).

Peer Reviewed Articles

“An Experiment in Teaching OutKast and the Hip Hop South” – *south: a scholarly journal* (forthcoming)

“Of the Wings of Traplanta: (Re)Historicizing W.E.B. Du Bois’ Atlanta in the Hip Hop South” (co-authored with Seneca Vaught) – *Phylon: The Clark Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture* 54.1 (2017): 11-27.

“Re-Imagining Slavery in the Hip-Hop Imagination” – *south: a scholarly journal* 49.1 (Spring 2017): 3-24.

“How I Use #BlackLivesMatter as an Entry Point and a Disruption Tool” – *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism* 15.1 (2016): 290 – 299.

“Awkwardly Hysterical: Theorizing Black Girl Awkwardness and Humor in Social Media” – *Comedy Studies* 6.2 (2015): 148-153.

“A Look In Our Lives: *The 4991 Series* and Black Women’s Narratives as Working Cultural Memories” – *ADA: Journal of Gender, New Media, and Technology* Issue 6 (2015).

“Getting Off at the 13th Floor: Rap Genius and Archiving 21st Century Black Cultural Memory” – *Journal of Ethnic American Literature* Issue 4 (2014): 86-98.

“Contextualizing Hip Hop Sonic Cool Pose in 21st Century Rap Music” *Current Musicology* 93 (Spring 2012): 57-72.

Non Peer Reviewed Articles

“Smelling Like Outside” – *Southern Glossary* #4 (Summer 2017): 4-7.

“Confessions of a Former Food Segregationist” – *Gravy Quarterly* (Summer 2017): 22-25.

“To See and Make Heard” – Jepson Center for the Arts Nick Cave Exhibit (Spring 2017)

“Sop It Dry: Or, How to Make Country Black Girl Magic” – *Gravy Quarterly* (Fall 2016): 38-41.

“Country Notes by Country Folks” – *Oxford American Magazine* (Winter 2015): 67-69.

“The Sound and Her (Black) Fury: Black Kirby’s Motherboxx Connection.” In *Black Kirby: In Search of the Motherboxx Connection*. Eds. John Jennings and Jonathan Gayles. New York: Createspace Independent Publishing, 2013: 25-26.

Book Chapters

“Becoming OutKasted: Archiving Contemporary Black Southernness in a Digital Age.” In *Digital Sound Studies: a Provocation*. Eds. Mary Caton Lingold, Darren Mueller, and Whitney Trettien. Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 2018: 120-129.

“Teaching Trayvon: Teaching about Racism through Public Pedagogy, Hip Hop, New Social Media and Trauma” (co-authored with Bettina L. Love). In *Racial Battle Fatigue: Insights from the Front Lines of Social Justice Advocacy*. Ed. J. Martin. New York: Praeger, 2015: 255-268.

“Barbz and Kings: Explorations of Gender and Sexuality in Hip-Hop.” In *The Cambridge Companion to Hip Hop*. Ed. Justin A. Williams. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2015: 181-191.

“Kanye West’s Sonic [Hip Hop] Cosmopolitanism.” In *The Cultural Impact of Kanye West*. Ed. Julius Bailey. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014: 97-107.

“Selling Blackness: Commercials and Hip Hop Athletes Hocking Products” – In *African Americans on Television: Race-ing for Ratings*. Eds. David Leonard and Lisa Guerrero. Westport: Praeger, 2013: 251-263.

Book Reviews

“Michael P. Jeffries’ *Thug Life: Race, Gender, and the Meaning of Hip Hop*” (Review). *Palimpsest* 1.2 (Fall/Winter 2012): 265-268.

“James Calais’s *Frederick Douglass and the Fourth of July*” (Review). *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 5.3 (2006): 416-418.

CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Books

Boondock Kollage: Stories from the Hip Hop South. New York: Peter Lang Press, 2017.

Short Fiction

“Letty.” In *Sycorax’s Daughters*. Eds. Kinitra Jallow, Susana Morris, and Linda Addison. San Francisco: Cedar Grove Publishing, 2017: 47-57.

- 2017 Bram Stoker Award Finalist

“Trapped Whispers.” *Obsidian: Literature and Arts in the African Diaspora* 42.1-2 (Fall 2016): 101-113.

“Sip Slow.” *Oxford American Magazine* (Winter 2016): 69-72.

“Beautiful Ones.” *Transition Magazine* 120 (2016): 61-78.

- Nominated for a 2017 Pushcart Prize in Short Fiction

“A Visitation from Grace.” *BOAAT Journal* (September/October 2015).

ACADEMIC MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

“When the Heroes Eventually Die: Cultural Genealogies in the Hip Hop South”

CREATIVE MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Same Bones – short story collection

The Ghosts Come Home – novel

SELECT PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

2010 – present: Founder and writer, Red Clay Scholar Blog (<https://redclayscholarblog.wordpress.com>) – self-published site that hosts collection of pop culture commentary. The site has over 200,000+ unique hits and 5,000+ Twitter followers.

“Buy U a Drank (Shawty Snappin’) by T-Pain Featuring Yung Joc,” *PBS American Experience*. 18 August 2017.

“Before Beyoncé made ‘Formation,’ Zora Neale Hurston laid out her roadmap,” *Washington Post*. 10 February 2016.

“Fear of a Black (in the) Suburb,” *Sound Studies Blog*. 17 February 2014.

“To Sir, With Ratchety Love: Listening to the (Dis)Respectability Politics of Rachel Jeantel,” *Sound Studies Blog*. 1 July 2013.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS

2014: Founder and Host, OutKasted Conversations – A 40 episode critical dialogue series discussing the cultural and popular influences of southern hip hop duo OutKast. Featured on *Ebony* (Digital), *Huffington Post*, *Musiqology*, *New York Times Blog*, *The Feminist Wire*, *For Harriet*, and *Creative Loafing Atlanta*

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

2018: Tin House Summer Workshop Participant (Novel)

2017: Recess Critical Writing Fellowship (Summer 2017)

Callaloo Creative Writer’s Workshop Fellowship (Fiction)

2016: Nasir Jones Hip Hop Research Fellow, Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University

2015: College of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Distinguished Teaching Award, Kennesaw State University

2012: Women of Color Leadership Project Fellow, National Women Studies Association

2011: Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowships for Minorities Alternate/Honorable Mention

Edward H. and Marie C. Kingsbury Writing Excellence Graduate Fellowship, Florida State University

2010: Edward H. and Marie C. Kingsbury Writing Excellence Graduate Fellowship, Florida State University

2008: William H. Wiggins Outstanding Teaching Award, Indiana University Bloomington
Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs Leadership Award, Indiana University Bloomington

2006: Georgia Council of Teachers of English Future Colored Teachers of English Award

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

* = invited keynote

Papers Presented:

2018: "Alla Us or Summa Ya'll?: What does Social Justice Look Like in the Contemporary South?" All Ya'll Social Justice Workshop. 24-25 July. Jacksonville, FL*

"Winning the Geography Lottery: OutKast's Brave New World." Society for Ethnomusicology, Southeast and Caribbean Chapter. 16-18 March. New Orleans, LA*

2017: "The Mountaintop Ain't Flat." TEDx Savannah Conference. 19 May. Savannah, GA.

"Living Comfortable but not Good: Sounding Protest in the Hip Hop South." Music in Action Conference, UCLA. 28-30 April. Los Angeles, CA*

"Sitting on Zora's Porch: Recognizing Southern Black Women's Agency in the Post-Civil Rights Era." Southeast Women's Studies Association Conference. 23-25 March. Atlanta, GA*

"Trap or Die: Trap Music as a Site of Critical Storytelling in the Hip Hop South." The Futurities of Blackness Symposium, Duke University. 3-4 February, 2017. Durham, NC.*

2016: "Sop It Dry: Cornfield Strength and Food Memories as Southern Sustenance." Southern Foodways Association Conference. 6-7 October. Oxford, MS*

"When the Quiet Arrives: Race, Agency, and Gender on Screen." Liquid Blackness Conference, Georgia State University. 6-7 October. Atlanta, GA*

"I'll Call When I Come: Sounding Pleasure in the Hip Hop South." EMP Pop Music Conference. 14-16 April. Seattle, WA

"SpottieOttie that was Shawty: Pleasure Politics in the Hip Hop South." University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. 3 March. Chattanooga, TN. *

"Time Travelin' and Mind Unravelin': Southern HipHop Realities in *Long Division*." Harvard University. 24 February. Cambridge, MA.

2015: "Bending Ears with that Old/New Southern Slouch: OutKast's Sonic Hip Hop South." American Studies Association. 8-11 October. Toronto, Canada.

"When the Mountaintop Ain't Flat: Protest and Black Folks in the Hip Hop South." University of South Carolina. Columbia, SC. 2 October. *

“The Revolution will be Meme-ified: Hip Hop and Social Protest in a Digital Era.”
Metropolitan State University of Denver. Denver, CO. 23 September. *

2014: “Recognizing OutKast’s Hip Hop South.” Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston.
Houston, TX. 22 November.*

“Chronicling Stankonia: OutKast’s Temporal South.” Rhodes College. Memphis, TN. 18
September.*

“Blurred Lines: Mapping Out Alternative Directions in Hip Hop Studies.” Albany State
University, Albany, GA. 11 April.*

2013: “Awkwardly Hysterical: Racialized Common Sense and Hip Hop Sensibility in the
Awkward Black Girl Online Series.” Southeastern Modern Language Association
Conference. 8-10 November. Atlanta, GA.

“I Like the Way You Rhyme, Boy: Hip Hop Sensibility and Racial Trauma in Django
Unchained.” International Association for the Study of Popular Music Conference.
Austin, TX. 28 February – 3 March. Austin, TX.

2012: “The Intellectual Plight of Tupac Shakur.” Tupac Amaru Shakur Archives National
Conference. 28-29 September. Atlanta, GA.

Discussant (Invited):

2016: “Terror and Public Memory after the Massacre at Emanuel A.M.E.” Society for the Study
of Southern Literature. 10-13 March. Boston, MA.

2014: “Baraka’s Blues at 50: Race, Rhythm, and Views in the Study of African American
Music Culture Today.” Society of Ethnomusicology Conference. 13-16 Nov. Pittsburgh,
PA.

2013: “Hip Hop Afrofuturism and New Black Aesthetics: Black Kirby and the Visual
Revolution.” Hip Hop Literacies Conference. 15-16 February. Columbus, OH.

2012: “Africana Women of the Future: Discussions with Les Nubians, Moya Bailey, and
Regina Bradley.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History. 26-30
September. Pittsburgh, PA.

2011: “Hot Sex on a Platter: Erotic Revolutionaries and Punanny Politics in Black Popular
Culture.” American Studies Association Annual Conference. 20-23 October. Baltimore,
MD.

Sessions Organized

2018: “When the Heroes Eventually Die: a Critical Listening of OutKast’s *Aquemini* on Its 20th
Anniversary.” American Studies Association. 8-11 November. Atlanta, GA.

“F.I.L.A.: Atlanta’s Evolution as a Hip Hop City.” American Studies Association. 8-11 November. Atlanta, GA.

2017: “Trying Times, Trying Conversations: Engaging the Taboo in Our Classrooms.” American Studies Association. 9-12 November. Chicago, IL.

2016: “We Ain’t Robbing Stagecoaches, We Settin’ It Off!: Black Women’s Protest and Agency in *Set It Off*.” National Women’s Studies Association. 10-13 November. Montreal, Canada.

“What Makes it Cool to be Southern?: Re-Imagining Home and Self in the New Black American South.” American Studies Association. 17-20 November. Denver, CO.

2013: “Cultural Emancipation and Sonic Blackness in African American Popular Culture.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History. 2-6 October. Jacksonville, FL.

2012: “Black Women’s Cultural Agency and Political Power in Late 20th and 21st Century Popular Culture.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History. 26-30 September. Pittsburgh, PA.

“I Pledge Allegiance to the Block: Cityscapes, Hegemonic Sounds, and Blackness.” International Association for the Study of Popular Music. 22-25 March. New York City, NY.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

2016: “From ‘Crank That’ to Dabbing: Atlanta is a Dance Craze Mecca,” segment, City Lights. *NPR*. 10 March.

“Beyoncé and Southern Blackness” segment, On Second Thought. *NPR*. 17 February.

2015: “Modern Southern Women” segment, On Second Thought. *NPR*. 1 December.

“Gucci Mane” segment, “On Second Thought.” *NPR*. 17 November.

“OutKast’s Role in Southern African-American Life Examined” segment, City Lights. *NPR*. 14 April 2015.

2012: “What You Really Know about the Dirty South: How Southern Hip Hop Helps Us Understand the American South After the Civil Rights Movement.” A3C Hip Hop Festival, Atlanta GA. 3 October.

2011: “What’s Racist?” segment, “All Things Considered.” *NPR*. 27 June.

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

National Service:

2016 – 2019: Committee Member: Graduate Education, American Studies Association

2016: Application Reviewer, Next Level Hip Hop Ambassadorship Program

2016: Liner Notes Writer, *Smithsonian Anthology of Hip-Hop and Rap*, Smithsonian Institution

2016: Article Reviewer:
Journal of Popular Music Studies,
American Quarterly
SAGE Journal,
Black Camera

2016: Manuscript Reviewer, The Historic New Orleans Collection

University Service:

2015-2017: Member, Armstrong State University Undergraduate Research Committee

Department Service:

2018-present: Member, Major Dialogues Committee

2018-present: Member, Speakers Committee

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, Modern Language Association

Member, American Studies Association

Member, National Women's Studies Association

Member, Society for the Study of Southern Literature