

## VITAE

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23 October 2019

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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: Introduction to English Studies; 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;" "Issues in African American and Diaspora Studies"

**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* 50.2 (Spring 2018): 105-113.

“Pedagogies of Music, Politics, and Race: a Roundtable Discussion at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association” – *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 30.3 (2018): 17-44.

“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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rap Music” *Current Musicology* 93 (Spring 2012): 57-72.

#### Non-Peer Reviewed Articles

“Thowed Off” – *Slowed and Thrown: Records of the City Through Mutated Lenses* exhibition catalogue, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (forthcoming, Spring 2020).

“Ghosts in My Blood” – *Southern Cultures* 25.1 (Spring 2019): 138-145.

“Blood and the Rut” – *Bitter Root* #3 (Backmatter, Winter 2019).

“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 Guerrerro. 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 Calaico’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

“Choose Wisely.” *Scalawag* magazine (Winter 2018).

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

- 2017 Bram Stoker Award Finalist
- Honorable Mention – 2017 Best Horror Short Stories of the Year

“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.

- 2017 Pushcart Prize nomination in short fiction

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

## ACADEMIC MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

“Sitting on Zora’s Porch” – A critical autoethnography using southern hip hop as a critical lens to interrogate the contemporary American Black South.

## CREATIVE MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

*Same Bones* – horror short story collection about a black woman who cannot die and becomes the apprentice of the Grim Reaper.

*The Ghosts Come Home* – novel

- Seventeen year old Stinney Keen goes missing the first night of summer vacation in Dougherty Springs, a town in Southwest Georgia. While his family desperately searches to find him, Stinney watches them from the “Stalks,” the space between life and death. Stinney meets another black teenager, Cheney Boy, who went missing himself nearly a century before. While the Keens fight the odds to keep the search for Stinney alive, Stinney is in a battle of his own to make his way back to the living. However, Cheney Boy has plans of his own with a painful secret that could keep Stinney in the Stalks forever.

**SELECT PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

**2019 – 2021:** *Bottom of the Map* – a weekly podcast discussing the intersections of race, gender, and southern hip hop for Atlanta’s NPR affiliate WABE and PRX.

“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**

**2019:** OutKasted Conversations digital southern hip hop archive: ([www.outkastedconversations.com](http://www.outkastedconversations.com))

- An online archive dedicated to highlighting and collecting scholarship and criticism on southern hip hop culture. Sponsored by Emory University Center for Digital Scholarship.

**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*

- In 2018, I entered a partnership with the Emory University Center for Digital Scholarship to produce an additional 10 episode run of

OutKasted Conversations to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OutKast's first album *Southernplayalisticadilacmuzik*.

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

2019: College of Arts and Sciences Luminary (Outstanding Alumni), Indiana University Bloomington

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:

2019: "Tainted Biscuits and Long Division: Black Women's Labor in Southern Food."

- Southern Foodways Association Conference. 24-26 October. Oxford, MS\*
- 2018:** “Rendering the Hip Hop South in Kiese Laymon’s *Long Division*.” Southern History Association Conference. 8-10 November. Birmingham, AL
- “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):**
- 2019: “Funkentelechy: Black Music and Technologies.” Stanford University. 14 May. Palo Alto, CA.
- 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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

- 2019:** *Hip Hop Evolution*, “The Dirty South.” *Netflix*. September 6.
- 2018:** “Atlanta Music Experts on Donald Glover’s ‘This is America’” segment, City Lights. *NPR*. 11 May.
- 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. *GPB*. 17 February.
- 2015:** “Modern Southern Women” segment, On Second Thought. *GPB*. 1 December.
- “Gucci Mane” segment, “On Second Thought.” *GPB*. 17 November.
- “OutKast’s Role in Southern African-American Life Examined” segment, City Lights. *GPB*. 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:

**2019 – 2023:** Editorial Board, *Southern Cultures* Journal

**2018 – :** Editorial Board, *Journal of Popular Music Studies*

**2018:** Manuscript Reviewer  
*University of Mississippi Press*  
*Arizona State University Press*  
*SOULS Journal*  
*The Black Scholar*

**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:** Manuscript Reviewer:  
*Journal of Popular Music Studies*,  
*American Quarterly*  
*SAGE Journal*,  
*Black Camera*

**2016:** Manuscript Reviewer, The Historic New Orleans Collection

### University Service:

**2018 – 2020:** Member, Outstanding Teaching Award selection committee, Kennesaw State University

**2018 – 2020:** Member, Bentley Rare Book Museum Advisory Board, Kennesaw State University

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