

**THE NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY BLACK GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS**

**RADICAL ECOLOGY:
BLACK TECHNOLOGIES
OF
INNOVATION AND INTERVENTION**



**APRIL 8 - 9, 2011
HILTON GARDEN INN
EVANSTON, IL**



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Greeting

Greetings Everyone,

On behalf of Northwestern University's Black Graduate Student Association and the conference planning committee, I would like to welcome you to our Fifteenth Annual Graduate and Professional Student Research Conference, *Radical Ecology: Black Technologies of Innovation and Intervention*. *Radical Ecology* has been both an organically collaborative venture and an unbelievable journey. Building upon the tradition set by BGSA members in 1996, and wanting to demonstrate our appreciation of an unapologetically Black community and network of scholars, the conference committee sought out to create a conference that not only radicalized the way we viewed our community (particularly within the halls of academia), but also expanded and challenged our notions of community, where and how its boundaries were constructed, who constructed them, and who will break them down. Because of the exchange of ideas amongst us, *Radical Ecology* became a conference that would respect the physical world in every possible way with the utilization of digital resources, ensure that artists had a forum for which to voice/photograph/sculpt their scholarship, and foster a rigorous learning and professionalizing environment for all of its participants.

Our *Radical Ecology* demands that each of us contribute, in our distinctive ways, to a body of knowledge about/for/ by Black people and every other person of color. We must tackle a myriad of issues that affect us, whatever they may be. Whether it is through social justice initiatives, environmental law, artistic expression or biochemical discoveries, we must also collaborate and share knowledge in every way that illuminates the areas of overlap between our respective disciplines. Our sessions: *The Land*; *The People*; and *The Culture* all work together to inform the ways in which we think about meaning at macro-, meso-, and micro-levels. *The Land* pertains to how our physical and social environments, specifically through law, labor, organizations and circulation, generally mold and shape us on a macro level. *The People* urges us to navigate the "middle" space by rethinking, redefining and redeveloping notions of identity and how we employ/deploy new mechanisms for this type of activity. *The Culture* consists of panelists who highlight the dynamic between resistance and survival, as performed by individuals and groups against oppressive and repressive forces on very personal levels. When considered as a whole, the panels link to display a body of knowledge that is inter- and intraconnected on all levels, embodying what we feel is a radical ecology. We feel extremely grateful to host a group of presenter that also embody this idea.

The idea of hosting students of color to share their experiences and showcase their research interests began fifteen years ago when BGSA's research conference provided a forum for a handful of students and their peers at Northwestern. Since then, the conference has grown significantly, including participants from the greater Chicago area, the midwest, the continental United States, the Caribbean and even further abroad. *Radical Ecology* boasts scholars from California, Ghana, West Africa, Haiti, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New York and Wisconsin that will represent the humanities, natural and social sciences as well as the business, law, and medical sectors. Reflecting upon the tradition set by BGSA members fifteen years ago, we hope that *Radical Ecology's* keynote speaker, panelists, and professional development sessions all align with the conference's legacy, and that the conference continues to promote the importance and vitality of scholarship by students of color.

We encourage you to absorb all of the invaluable information and experiences shared by our incomparable keynote speaker Dr. Imani Perry, take the opportunity to network with our distinguished and award-winning faculty and students, and revel in the possibilities that lie ahead of you as scholars in both academia and industry. However, please remember that regardless of our personal and professional goals, what we do now shapes the path of progress for future generations and that we are all connected in this way. We look forward to the continued growth of our annual conference and hope that you will continue to support us in our future endeavors.

Welcome to our celebration of scholarship and thank you for sharing this day with us.

Sincerely,

Courtney J. Patterson
BGSA President and Conference Chair



Program

8:00 am - 8:50 am

Registration & Continental Breakfast

Hilton Garden Inn Lobby

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Opening Remarks & Keynote Address

Welcome: **Simon Greenwold**, Senior Associate Dean, *The Graduate School*

Opening Address: **Courtney J. Patterson**, President, *BGSA*

Keynote Speaker: **Imani Perry, Ph.D.**, *Princeton University*

Northshore BC

10:10 am - 11:30 am

Session One: The Land

Panel A: Politics of a Black Ecology

Moderator: **Lisa Calvente, Ph.D.**, *Northwestern University*

Northshore BC

Analena Hope, *University of Southern California*

“Green is the New Black: Restoring Environmental Interdependence in Communities of Color”

Kofi Asante, *Northwestern University*

“Making a Living: Immigrants in the US Labour Market”

Francisca Chaldez-Gutierrez, *Case Western Reserve University*

“Re-conceptualizing Accountability: Power dynamics between the philanthropic sector and grassroots organizations in communities of color”

Panel B: Technologies of Circulation

Moderator: **Russ Joseph, Ph.D.**, *Northwestern University*

Lakeshore AB

Janeane Anderson, *University of Southern California*

“The Natural & New Media: An examination of Black female hair politics and digitally mediated agency”

Jasmine Mahmoud, *Northwestern University*

“Race and Rhetoric to the Top: Black bodies, performance and education reform”

11:30 am - 11:40 am

Break

Hilton Garden Inn Atrium



Program

11:40 am - 1:00 pm

Session Two: The People

Panel A: Modes of Social & Biological Interventions

Moderator: **Guillermo Ameer, Sc.D.**, *Northwestern University*
Northshore BC

Dana Baynard Harley, *Ohio State University*

“Reshaping Hope and Hopelessness Among Urban African American Adolescents Through ‘Photovoice’ ”

Kyla McMullen, *University of Michigan*

“Spatial Auditory Interfaces Aiding Situational Awareness”

Jessica Andrews, *Northwestern University*

“The Effects of Intergroup Bias on Memory Contagion”

Mario Shields, *Northwestern University*

“Pancreatic cancer: Progressing at Snail pace”

Panel B: Rethinking Race, Sex & Gender

Moderator: **David D. Reid, Ph.D.**, *University of Chicago*
Lakeshore AB

Kiana M. Green, *University of Southern California*

“Marching Home: Black LGBTQI Movement Building”

Rhaisa Williams, *Northwestern University*

“The Price of Freedom, The Promise of Punishment: Neoliberalism and Homonormativity in Boystown, Chicago”

Erika Richardson, *Northwestern University*

“Black and Sassy: Black Women Escape Backlash for Dominance Displays”

1:00 pm - 2:20 pm

Networking Luncheon

Hilton Garden Inn Restaurant & Grill

Invited Faculty Guests:

Guillermo Ameer, Sc.D., *Northwestern University*

Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Lisa Calvente, Ph.D., *Northwestern University*

Lecturer, Department of African American Studies

Russ Joseph, Ph.D., *Northwestern University*

Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

David D. Reid, Ph.D., *University of Chicago*

Senior Lecturer, Department of Physics



Program

2:20 pm - 2:30 pm

Break

Hilton Garden Inn Atrium

2:30 pm - 3:50 pm

Session Three: The Culture

Panel A: The Radical Aesthetics of Representation

Moderator: **Lisa Calvente, Ph.D.**, *Northwestern University*
Northshore BC

Shylah Pacheco Hamilton, *School of the Art Institute of Chicago*

“That’s The Way The Cracker Crumbles. Afro Surrealist Expressionists: Redefining Blackness in the Post Black Era”

Sherley Camille Olopherne, *Artist*

“Taken Spaces: Black Lesbians Against White Aesthetics”

Nicole Melanie Davis, *Rhode Island School of Design*

“*Seshura, Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutation)*: The Legacy of Saartje (Sarah) Baartman AKA the ‘Hottentot Venus’ ”

Panel B: Educational Innovations

Moderator: **Russ Joseph, Ph.D.**, *Northwestern University*
Lakeshore AB

Louis R. Mercer, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*

“Inciting Trouble and Riots and Stuff”: Black Protests for Improved Education in Chicago, 1963-1968”

Tony Laing, *University of Illinois at Urbana Campaign*

“A Dream Deferred: Addressing the All-Black Male School Debate in Virtual Spaces”

Angela M. Slates, *University of Illinois at Urbana Campaign*

“STEM: Community Inquiry as a Tool for Emancipatory Scholarship”

Valencia Moses, *Michigan State University*

“E Pluribus Unum: The 1960’s Birth of State-Wide Accountability as an Educational Reform Agenda in Michigan”

3:50 pm - 4:00 pm

Break

Hilton Garden Inn Atrium



Program

4:00 pm - 5:25 pm

Mini-Professional Development Sessions

Workshop A: Putting Your CV to Work

Tamara A. Johnson, Ph.D., *Northwestern University*
Northshore A

Workshop B: Financial Fitness

Dwayne Nash, *Northwestern University*
Northshore BC

Workshop C: The Road to the Job Market

Kinohi Nishikawa, Ph.D., *Northwestern University*
Lakeshore AB

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Closing Ceremony


Northshore BC

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Closing Reception

Hilton Garden Inn Atrium & Lakeshore AB


Keynote Speaker



Imani Perry, Ph.D. is a Professor in the Center for African American Studies at Princeton University. She is also a faculty associate in the Princeton Program in Law and Public Affairs and the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Prior to joining the Princeton faculty, Professor Perry was a Professor at the Rutgers School of Law in Camden. Professor Perry is the author of *More Terrible and More Beautiful: The Embrace and Transcendence of Racial Inequality in the United States* (NYU Press, 2011) and *Prophets of the Hood: Politics and Poetics in Hip Hop* (Duke University Press, 2004) as well as over 20 scholarly articles in the areas of race, law, cultural studies, and literary and legal history, many of which are available for download at <http://www.imaniperry.com>. Professor Perry has commented on current affairs for the Associated Press, The New York Times, The Huffington Post, Fox, CNN International, and twitter. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard University Program in the History of American Civilization, her J.D. from Harvard Law School, her L.L.M from Georgetown University Law Center, and her B.A. from Yale College in Literature and American Studies.



Faculty Guests



Guillermo Ameer, Sc.D. a native of Panama City, Panama, received his bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and his doctor of science degree in Chemical and Biomedical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined the faculty of the Biomedical Engineering Department at Northwestern University in 2001 and is currently an associate professor of Biomedical Engineering. Moreover, he has been appointed associate professor in the Department of Surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine.




Dr. Ameer's research interests include biomaterials, vascular and orthopaedic tissue engineering, controlled drug delivery and bio/nanotechnology for improved therapeutics and diagnostics. He has co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal publications and conference abstracts, several book chapters, and multiple patents issued and pending (>25). He has served on several scientific review committees for funding research at the state and federal levels and was one of 100 invitees by the National Academy of Engineering to attend the 10th annual Frontiers of Engineering Symposium (2004). Dr. Ameer served as a permanent member of the Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering study section of the National Institutes of Health.

To accomplish his research goals, Dr. Ameer has assembled a team of collaborators, which include: Dr. William Pearce, Chief of Vascular Surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital; Dr. Melina Kibbe, Associate Professor and vascular surgeon at Northwestern Memorial Hospital; Dr. Jason Koh, Associate Professor and orthopaedic surgeon at Northshore Hospital; Dr. Stuart Sprague, Director of the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, Northshore Hospital; Prof. Vadim Backman, Biomedical Engineering Department at Northwestern University; Prof. Timothy Carroll, Biomedical Engineering Department at Northwestern University, and Prof. Lonnie Shea Prof. of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Northwestern University.

Lisa Calvente, Ph.D. is a Lecturer in the African American Studies Department at Northwestern University. Her primary areas of research are the Black Diaspora, cultural studies, and performance and media ethnography. Her interests lie in interrogating the ways in which discursive formations of race, class, and gender maintain inequality and how counter-discourses generate possibilities of belonging and social justice. She is currently working on her manuscript, *Keep On Keepin' On: Performing and Imag(in)ing Leadership and Homespace within the Black Diaspora*.



Faculty Guests



Russ Joseph, Ph.D. Russ Joseph is Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Northwestern University. His research interests are in power and reliability aware computer architecture. Specifically his ongoing projects examine cooperative hardware/software techniques that adaptively manage microprocessors to respond to environmental conditions, manufacturing variability, and hardware failure. Joseph has been a Northwestern faculty member since 2004. He is the recipient of a 2007 NSF CAREER Award and a 2009 BEYA Modern Day Technology Leader Award. He earned his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University in 2004. He earned a B.S. degree with a double major in Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University in 1999.



David D. Reid, Ph.D. grew up in suburban Detroit. He earned my bachelor's degree in physics from Cornell University in 1985. Dr. Reid attained a master's degree in physics from Eastern Michigan University in 1988. He joined the faculty of Eastern Michigan University in 1988 while pursuing a Ph.D. in physics from Wayne State University in Detroit. Dr. Reid completed his Ph.D. in theoretical atomic physics in 1995 and continued on the faculty at Eastern Michigan University until 2004. Since the fall of 2004 he has been Executive Officer and Senior Lecturer in the physics department at the University of Chicago. His active areas of research are in atomic physics, spacetime structure, and physics pedagogy.





Professional Development Workshop

Tamara A. Johnson, Ph.D. is currently the Executive Director for Multicultural Student Affairs at Northwestern University. In this position, she is responsible for overseeing African American Student Affairs, Asian/Asian American Student Affairs and Hispanic/Latino Student Affairs. Prior to her current position, she worked within a range of higher education settings that include: career services, counseling centers, minority student affairs and residential life. She also spent time as a consultant, working for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Johnson has served as an Adjunct Professor at Argosy University and the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She currently teaches two courses for the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University. Dr. Johnson has a bachelor's degree in Psychology, a master's degree in Human Resources and a doctorate in Counseling Psychology. Her research interests include multicultural counseling, career development and organizational consultation.



Dwayne Nash Dwayne A. Nash, JD is a third year doctoral student in the inter-disciplinary program of African American Studies and Performance Studies Cluster. His research interests include: Social History of Racial Profiling, Criminal Sociology, Performance Identity, and Visual Culture. He is a graduate of Middlebury College, Boston College Law School and London School of Economics. He also practiced law as an Assistant District Attorney in New York City and the ACLU of Chicago.



Kinohi Nishikawa, Ph.D. earned his Ph.D. in Literature from Duke University. He is currently Visiting Assistant Professor and Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of African American Studies. Kinohi's research focuses on African American print culture in the twentieth century. His book manuscript, "Reading the Street," examines the reception of black pulp fiction among activists, critics, and everyday readers in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Kinohi draws from a range of archival sources to reconstruct the experience of reading black pulp fiction in its time. In addition to honing our sense of post-civil rights black cultural production, "Reading the Street" offers scholars a deeper understanding of the emergence of hip hop and, more recently, the return of so-called "urban fiction."





Presenters

The Land

Janeane Anderson is a first-year doctoral student in the Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California. She is interested in health communications research with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS prevention interventions tailored for the African-American community. Prior to attending USC, Ms. Anderson worked as a newspaper and magazine journalist for both mainstream and Black Press publications.



Kofi Takyi Asante did his college education at the University of Ghana, Legon, and went on to the London School of Economics for a Masters in Sociology. He is currently a first year student at the Department of Sociology at Northwestern. He is interested in studies of Inequality and Immigration.

Francisca Chaidez-Gutierrez, a Chicana from San Francisco, California holds a B.A. in African American Studies with a Fine Arts Concentration focusing on African Diasporic visual and performing arts. She holds a Master of Social Science Administration from the Mandel School of Applied Social Science at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Cleveland, Ohio and has worked in direct practice with youth for several years. She is currently a Masters candidate in the full-time program at the Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations at CWRU where she champions communities of color and grassroots organizations within the corporate structure of the nonprofit sector.



Analena Hope does Environmental Justice research, focusing specifically on the politics of food access in communities of color. She studies "food deserts" and the health implications of access to healthy foods (or lack thereof), and the ways that unhealthy eating practices and other health disparities become internalized and reproduced. She also looks at ideologies of health and green movements and the ways that they are being subsumed by corporate interests and contorted to fit the logic of capitalism (i.e.: WalMart goes green, and McDonald's sells salads, etc.), and more recently she has been exploring the ways that food sovereignty and urban farm movements promote survival and solidarity in Black communities.

Presenters

Jasmine Mahmoud is a first-year PhD student in Performance Studies at Northwestern University. Her research investigates aesthetics, race and a political economy of emerging and experimental performance landscapes. Jasmine has worked in public policy and arts education, and as a classical and soul/folk musician who has performed with a handful of bands in New York City and Seattle; she is also the founder and editor of *The Arts Politic*, a magazine dedicated to arts policy and cultural activism.



The People



Jessica Andrews is originally from North Carolina and currently a second year PhD student in Learning Sciences at Northwestern University. Her research interests concern understanding the psychological effects of engaging in collaborative learning situations. Her aim for this research is to aid educational practitioners and employers in more effectively designing and capitalizing on group activities.

Dana Baynard Harley is currently a PhD Candidate in the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University. Her research interests are related to child and adolescent mental health, primarily among African American adolescents. She has served as a research and teaching assistant at OSU, and she currently practices as a Licensed Independent Social Worker with the state of Ohio.



Kyla McMullen is in the final phase of her PhD program in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan. She has been investigating the acquisition of spatial mental models in auditory interfaces through spatial audio processing.

Presenters

Kiana M. Green is 3rd year PhD candidate in the department of American Studies and Ethnicity at USC. She is a gender non-conforming scholar/activist/artist. Through her scholarship, filmmaking and spoken word poetry she examines issues of visibility, memory and the history of Black LGBT folks in Los Angeles.



Erika V. Richardson is a second year doctoral student in the Management & Organizations department of the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Prior to graduate school she attended the University of Maryland, College Park, and was a research associate at Harvard Business School. Her research focuses on how social categories of low social status (e.g. Women, Blacks) can strategically show the aggressiveness and dominance that is necessary to succeed in business without bearing social costs.

Mario Shields was raised and educated in Jamaica, where he attended the University of the West Indies. He obtained a BSc in Chemistry and Biochemistry. For his Masters thesis he investigated adverse drug reactions arising from the combination of ethnic herbal remedies with conventional drugs. He is now investigating the molecular mechanisms of pancreatic cancer progression. His future goal is to further the understanding of cancer development and progression by engaging in basic science research as an academic faculty. He likes to travel and exploring the outdoors.

Rhaisa Williams is a first-year master's student in the department of Performance Studies at Northwestern University. Her research interests include how race, gender, sexuality are negotiated and configured within particular spaces.



Presenters

The Culture

Nicole Melanie Davis is an American sculptor and installation artist whose work explores hyper sexualized constructions of female bodies of color in visual culture. She is a graduate of the Baltimore School for the Arts, received a BFA in sculpture and BA in visual and critical studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2003 and 2004 respectively. This fall, she will begin the MFA at Rhode Island School of Design. Davis is interested in exploring the molding of historical and contemporary representations of the fetishized black female body in popular culture. Sub-themes depicting ethnic difference that often perpetuate myths, contemporary issues regarding the industrialization of beauty and theories of race and ethnography as they relate to the history and perceptions of beauty are investigated. Several works involve challenging and engaging the viewer's gaze of the female body to raise consciousness rather than consumption and objectification.



Shylah Pacheco Hamilton makes films, draws comics, takes photographs and builds worlds out of found objects. Her work is about the here and now. Shy holds a BFA from California College of the Arts and is completing her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Shy enjoys making Gumbo, homemade tortillas and perfecting her dirty martini recipe and for the record, Shy is not Shy.

Tony Laing is a Ph.D. student in Educational Policy Studies and African American Studies, with a certificate in Community Informatics at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, studies innovational educational options for black male youth in K-12 public schools. His research interest is in gender and cultural studies and alternative approaches to educating black male youth in Virtual Learning spaces.



Louis R. Mercer is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in History with a specialization in Urban Historical Studies. He is also a part-time high school social studies teacher at Carmen High School of Science and Technology in Milwaukee. His research interests include the direct action of high school students in the Civil Rights era and American Indian education in urban settings.



Presenters

Valencia Moses is currently a doctoral student at Michigan State University in the Curriculum, Teaching, and Educational Policy program. Her research interests include accountability policies, politics of education, and professional learning communities. She enjoys drawing from her experiences in the public and private sectors of education and utilizes her sensitivity to context to meet the learning needs of teachers and students.



Sherley Camille Olopherne was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, raised by a single mother in various urban dwellings in both Massachusetts and New York. She is therefore a Haitian, butch, black, woman, educator and photographer, and she is well aware her identities formulate her perspective on life amongst women, life amongst men, life amongst Haitians, life in the many localities of NYC, and ultimately the life of compromised visibilities. As an artist, she strongly believes her social responsibility lies in the realms of visual representation to engage mainstream communities in a dialogue about what an immigrant, a dyke, various marginalized communities look like. Sherley Camille Olopherne sees photography, art as simply telling one's story orally, visually, textually, and honestly.

Angela M. Slates is a University of Illinois graduate student in the College of Education, department of Educational Policy Studies. With a research focus of community inquiry as emancipatory scholarship, Angela currently works with youth based community action research projects that emphasize using experiential knowledge and technology to engage in community research projects such as GIS/GPS asset mapping, videography, digital photography, community archiving and other activities that involve using community resources as research foundations. Angela currently seeks to complete her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois.



The Land: The Politics of a Black Ecology

Analena Hope
University of Southern California
American Studies & Ethnicity

“Green Is the New Black: Restoring Environmental Interdependence in Communities of Color”

The Great Migration from farms to cities transformed the relationship between Black people, the land, and the production and consumption of food. The new generation of inner city Black Americans had no idea how to plant a garden or cultivate the land, because the “land” itself had changed from soil to concrete. This paper examines the historical relationship between poor people of color and environmental sustainability, and explores innovative new avenues for their involvement in contemporary Green movements, particularly those concerning food justice in their own communities. I focus primarily on the Chicago Office of Growing Power: an urban-agriculture organization working to physically reclaim underutilized urban spaces and to redefine sustainability in the context of Black urban life. In addition to providing educational workshops, youth and volunteer programs, Growing Power has helped to facilitate both the Chicago Avenue Community Garden and the Jackson Park Urban Farm; two examples of community interventions into urban blight and food insecurity. Urban agriculture is a radical solution to the rift caused by industrialization, and it also rearticulates an otherwise alienating, middle-class Green movement to be inclusive of marginalized populations fighting for survival.

Kofi Takyi Asante
Northwestern University
Department of Sociology

“Making a Living: Immigrants in the US Labour Market”

Immigration studies have established that immigrants fare far worse in the labour market than the native born, and that when immigrants possess distinct physical features that mark them out, this disadvantage tend to be very severe. However, widespread debates surround what exactly explains this disadvantage. In this paper, I investigate the relative positions of different immigrant groups in the United States. Studies on immigration have established that although all immigrants are in the main disadvantaged in the labour market, those with relatively higher educational attainments tend to perform better. Related studies have shown that over time, immigrants tend to earn better with increasing years of stay in their destination countries. My paper will focus on which factors are salient for highly educated and less education immigrants in their experience on the labour market, and track how these factors work overtime. I’m interested in the African immigrant population, because of their relative absence in the empirical and theoretical literature on immigration. To better understand their position, I’ll contrast their experience with that of Latin American immigrants, specifically Mexican immigrants. This analysis will be conducted on data from the Immigration and Intergenerational Mobility in Metropolitan Los Angeles (IIMMLA) dataset.



Abstracts

Francisca Chaidez-Gutierrez
Case Western Reserve University
Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations

“Re-conceptualizing Accountability: Power dynamics between the philanthropic sector and grassroots organizations in communities of color ”

The nonprofit sector (NPS) plays a major role in establishing standards for education, culture, and health in our society, as well as they are part of many socially formative institutions and systems as many states have begun to privatize human and social services. However, focusing on charitable organizations or organizations that have 501(c)3 tax-exempt status—ranging from large corporate privately owned foundations (the philanthropic sector) to small grassroots organization in communities of color—there seems to be a disconnect between communication, need for autonomy, and validating social justice work. This project focuses on the reconceptualization of accountability to the social contract between the philanthropic sector and grassroots organizations in communities of color (COC) as one in which grant recipients receive holistic service and empowerment rather than charity and judgment through evaluation. Other than federal and state laws for establishing and receiving 501(c)3 tax-exempt status the NPS has no guidelines for how foundations and organizations should define their cultures. One theory behind the disconnect between communication can be attributed to –isms that exist within the NPS. Using review of established and emerging methods of evaluation, thoughts on the field, and interviews with leaders from the philanthropic sector and grassroots organizations in COC gives a better understanding of a NPS hierarchy related to power dynamics, distribution of resources (financial and social), and focus and definition of service. Several recommendations are at hand on how the NPS hierarchy can be eliminated and some of the issues can be resolved within the NPS.

The Land: Technologies of Circulation

Janeane Anderson
University of Southern California
Annenberg School of Communication & Journalism

**“The Natural & New Media:
An examination of Black female hair politics and digitally mediated agency”**

For Black women, hair matters—a lot. Conversations about hair are not simply about hair. Seemingly casual dialogue exists in a complex narrative of identity politics. For Black women, hair is an identity marker and status symbol, representing beauty, acceptance (or the lack thereof) and power. Black hair’s politicization implicates it in matters pertaining to Black female self-image, social and economic standing and cultural legitimization. Black women’s ability to reclaim ownership and self-confer value upon their personhood is vitally important to the Black national agenda and localized communities. Whereas Black women’s hair has been politicized from the arrival of the first slave-carrying vessel, the ability of Black women to control the dialogue about themselves within a framework that values their Africanness without comparisons to an unattainable white standard is paramount. Traditional, mainstream mass media outlets, and to some extent ethnic publications, have been purveyors of images and notions that are antithetical to Marcus Garvey-esque “Black is Beautiful” conceptions of female beauty authenticity. This perpetuates the complexity of Black hair. Thus, explication of mass media’s role in this endeavor provides insight into the ways media, particularly new digital media, create a politically inclined public sphere.



Abstracts

Using Africana Womanism and standpoint theory as a theoretical framework, this paper seeks to analyze how new media technologies are facilitating African-American women's 1) conscious resistance to Eurocentric beauty standards; 2) creation of Afrocentric, self-affirming communities; 3) rearticulation of cultural norms and behaviors that counter hegemonic standards; and 4) creation of an Africana public sphere with aims toward increased political consciousness and economic agency via entrepreneurial endeavors. Contemporary online outlets, including social networking websites, online hair forums and natural-hair product websites, are now being co-opted by Black women whose manipulations of their natural hair is a rhetorical device by which they seek to control discourse about themselves while simultaneously asserting agency in social, political and economic domains.

Jasmine Mahmoud
Northwestern University
Performance Studies

“Race and Rhetoric to the Top: Black bodies, performance and education reform”

Test scores, failing schools and 21st century nostalgia for the 1950s: these discourses from across the past decade have performed contemporary education reform. But how and what does education reform perform? This paper tackles that question with performance studies—through theories of embodiment, performance as a way of knowing, dialogic discourse analysis and performativity—to reconsider how black bodies are inscribed upon and perform education reform.

This paper makes three critical moves. First, it interrogates theories of John T. Warren (dis/appearing black bodies in the classroom), E. Patrick Johnson (classroom pedagogies of racialized performance), Toni Morrison (*American Africanism* and literary imaginations of whiteness), Peggy Phelan (performance as disappearance) and Rebecca Schneider (failures of performance remnants) to capture how education policy inscribes rhetoric upon de-normalized, marked black bodies in and outside of the classroom. Second, this paper collects those theories within an analysis of images past and present of the rhetorical black body in American education, including pre-Brown v. Board and 21st century “doll tests,” contemporary black students chronically inscribed onto visual rhetoric about closing the achievement gap, and President Obama, the ostensible engineer of current American education reform policy, *Race to the Top*. I will argue that these images, crowned by images of President Obama, have not normalized black bodies, but rather have made room for normalization of mal-marked bodies, and mal-marked marginalized bodies, including queer and low-wealth bodies. Third, this paper will reconvene neoliberal, nostalgic and progressive education reform rhetoric to identify absences performed within each, including, respectively, poverty and inequity silenced by meritocracy myths, re-imagined 1950s desires silencing the real of that era such as progressive tax policy and regressive social policy, and (referencing Iton's *Solidarity Blues*) the mainstream (white) left silencing disparate black progressive politics.

In doing so, this paper uses performance—as a theory, as a method, and as a pedagogy—to recuperate what was been silenced and unfocused, and to imagine American education towards a more humanistic, equitable, embodied and effective place to learn.

The People: Modes of Social & Biological Interventions

Dana Baynard Harley
The Ohio State University
College of Social Work

“Reshaping Hope and Hopelessness Among Urban African American Adolescents Through Photovoice”

Participatory Action Research (PAR) has been utilized by a variety of disciplines to amplify the “voice” of those who have seldom been heard, particularly marginalized and oppressed populations. Photovoice allows research participants or community members to communicate through photographs about a particular topic. PAR ultimately provides an opportunity for individuals to take collective action targeted at addressing a problem or issue. This paper explores the perceptions of hope and hopelessness as viewed through the eyes of impoverished African American adolescents using the photovoice technique.

Kyla McMullen
University of Michigan
Computer Science and Engineering

“Spatial Auditory Interfaces Aiding Situational Awareness”

Situational awareness is extremely critical for operators in dynamic, constantly changing environments, such as pilots, air traffic controllers, and submarine operators. Auditory interfaces can be used to convey spatial information, by using sounds, to decrease the task load of its operator. Little is known about the best practices for conveying audio-spatial information in the context of situational awareness. Our study examines the following aspects of auditory interface design for situational awareness: sound source presentation, reference points, and change deafness. Our study seeks to determine the implications of these visuospatial techniques, when employed within the auditory domain. The information discovered will guide the future design of auditory interfaces by answering many important questions that will discover the common and dissimilar properties of auditory spatial awareness and visual spatial awareness.

Jessica Andrews
Northwestern University
Learning Sciences

“The Effects of Intergroup Bias on Memory Contagion”

Research on collaborative remembering has investigated the ways in which groups exhibit memorial benefits. However, group members often develop false memories (i.e., memories for events that were not actually experienced). This occurrence is referred to as the social contagion of memory. Despite this finding, little attention has been given to how the composition of a group influences social contagion. The current study explored whether individuals differentially exhibit social contagion when interacting with members of their in-group, as compared to members of an out-group. Using a minimal group paradigm, participants were assigned to groups based on perceived artistic preference. Participants viewed six household scenes before engaging in a collaborative recall with a virtual confederate from the in-group or out-group. The virtual confederate sometimes recalled items that were not present in the scenes. Results showed that participants in both in-group and out-group conditions provided evidence for false memories. More importantly, false memories were observed more so when information was provided by in-group members as compared to the out-group. These findings have potential implications for current work on collaborative memory, showing that false memories develop not merely as a function of experiences with inaccurate information, but are also dependent upon who provides that information.



Abstracts

Mario Shields
Northwestern University
Department

“Pancreatic cancer: Progressing at Snail pace”

Pancreatic cancer cells respond to type I collagen by inducing Snail expression to increase membrane type 1-matrix metalloproteinase dependent collagen invasion. Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) is characterized by pronounced fibrotic reaction composed primarily of type I collagen. Although type I collagen functions as a barrier to invasion, pancreatic cancer cells have been shown to respond to type I collagen by becoming more motile and invasive. Since epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) is also associated with cancer invasion, we examined the extent to which collagen modulated the expression of Snail, a well-known regulator of EMT. Relative to cells grown on tissue culture plastic, PDAC cells grown in 3D collagen gels induced Snail. Inhibiting the activity or expression of the TGF- β type I receptor abrogated collagen-induced Snail. Downstream of the receptor, we showed that Smad3 and Smad4 were critical for the induction of Snail by collagen. In contrast, Smad2 or ERK1/2 were not involved in collagen-mediated Snail expression. Overexpression of Snail in PDAC cells resulted in a robust membrane type 1-matrix metalloproteinase (MT1-MMP, MMP-14)-dependent invasion through collagen-coated transwell chambers. Snail-expressing PDAC cells also demonstrated MT1-MMP-dependent scattering in 3D collagen gels. Mechanistically, Snail increased the expression of MT1-MMP through activation of ERK-MAPK signaling and inhibiting ERK signaling in Snail-expressing cells blocked 2D collagen invasion and attenuated scattering in 3D collagen. To provide in vivo support for our findings that Snail can regulate MT1-MMP, we examined the expression of Snail and MT1-MMP in human PDAC tumors and found a statistically significant positive correlation between MT1-MMP and Snail in these tumors. Overall, our data demonstrate that pancreatic cancer cells increase Snail on encountering collagen-rich milieu, and suggest that the desmoplastic reaction actively contributes to PDAC progression.

The People: Rethinking Race, Sex & Gender

Kiana M. Green
University of Southern California
American Studies & Ethnicity

“Marching Home: Black LGBTQI Movement Building”

In this paper and a preview of a documentary I am working on entitled "Marching Home" I use ethnographic interviews and participant observation in order to examine the role of the Black LGBTQI contingent in the annual MLK day parade in Los Angeles. I ask my subjects why they feel it is important to be a part of the legacy of Martin Luther King Day events, and by participating in the march myself, I try to gage its spirit and how it is that Black LGBT folks walk proudly despite onlookers who sometimes vocally damn them to hell. I ask why and how it is that marching, as a political strategy of visibility, is spiritual and connected to a history of Civil Rights activism. While some like Todd Boyd have argued that Civil Rights is dead and of the past, I ask why then do these Black LGBTQI folks now take up the methods of Civil Rights activism? And what is embedded in that activism that is deeply spiritual and connected to Black charismatic church sensibilities? What is the relationship between politics, spirituality, and the march? The march could be the March on Washington in 1963, or it could also be the march that the choir takes on a Sunday Morning as they enter the sanctuary unified, helping to create the space for something or someone to be moved. This work explores the Black church sensibilities embedded in the Black LGBTQI march in order to illuminate the relationship between politics, spirituality, and marching as a tool that Black LGBTQI folks use to create spaces of growth and healing within their own Black communities.



Abstracts

Rhaisa Williams
Northwestern University
Performance Studies

**“The Price of Freedom, The Promise of Punishment:
Neoliberalism and Homonormativity in Boystown, Chicago”**

During the past five years, there has been much mediating discourse about issues the mostly white, middle class home and business owners of Boystown have with the presence of black queer youth who come to the neighborhood from the south and west sides of Chicago. For the most part, the complaints deal with the disruptions black youth cause as they socialize on sidewalks and parking lots, much to the dismay of residents—who claim to feel threatened and afraid to walk freely in their neighborhood—and to the dismay of business owners—who claim that these crowds have frightened away potential customers. Focusing on online and print newspaper and magazine articles, I am interested in how fear of and the threat from black queer youth speak to the desires of ridding Boystown of racial and classed differences that become euphemized within neoliberal ideology, where the consuming body stands in for people who matter and belong and the non-consuming body stands in for people who are excessive and unnecessary. Examining how popular discourse explicates the performance of particular bodies within the space of Boystown, I attempt to illustrate how the on-the-ground tensions between the queer, white, middle class, consuming body vis-à-vis the queer, black, poor, young, idle body work within the contextual framework of neoliberalism that has thus, according to Agathangelou, Bassichis, and Spira, resituated “national belonging through recent shifts in the gendered and sexual order.”

Erika V. Richardson
Northwestern University
Kellogg School of Management

“Black and Sassy: Black Women Escape Backlash for Dominance Displays”

Research suggests that agentic/dominant females are routinely subject to backlash for violating the female norms of niceness and communality (Rudman and Glick, 1999). This backlash effect holds that female agency can increase perceived competence but decrease likeability (Rudman, 1998). In a study that examined this phenomenon, strongly agentic female applicants were consistently rated as less socially skilled than identically presented men. Similarly, these female applicants were deemed less hireable when the job was feminized (Rudman, 1998). Brescoll and Uhlmann (2008) found that expressing anger conferred women lower status, wages, and competence, whereas it may have heightened status for men. Furthermore, there are strong prescriptions for females to be warm and kind, sensitive, and friendly (Prentice and Carranza, 2002). Any deviation from females’ established prescriptions could very well result in negative reactions. Prior research on the backlash effect has not focused on the prescriptions and proscriptions for Black females. Given the stereotypical image of the Black female as ‘aggressive,’ ‘demanding,’ ‘angry,’ and even ‘loud,’ Black women may not be subject to the same negative reactions that result from violating a prescriptive norm. The present study establishes whether the prescriptions for women and men’s behaviors differ by race. Additionally, we determine whether the backlash effect applies cross-culturally to Black Women. The findings provide insight into stereotype content by race and gender, and also, into the generalizability of the backlash effect beyond White populations. We will explain how Black women can be dominant in the workplace in a way that White women cannot.

The Culture: The Radical Aesthetics of Representation

Shylah Pacheco Hamilton
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Fine Arts

“That’s The Way The Cracker Crumbles. Afro Surrealist Expressionists: Redefining Blackness in the Post Black Era”

The future has been around so long it is now the past”. Living within the constructs of “post-racial” society and a “post-black” art world, Afro-Surrealists expose the reality of race, racism and ethnicity while simultaneously redefine what it means to be an artist of color in contemporary times. D. Scott Miller has created The Manifesto for the artist working towards this goal. Afro-Surreal is the best description to the reactions, the genuflections, the twists, and the unexpected turns this “browning” of White-Straight-Male-Western-Civilization has produced. An Afro-Surreal aesthetic addresses these lost legacies and reclaims the souls of our cities. Afro-Surrealism is drifting into contemporary culture on a rowboat with no oars, entering the city to hunt down clues for the cure to this ancient, incurable disease called “western civilization.” Or, as Ishmael Reed states, “We are mystical detectives about to make an arrest.” Outside of the historical manifesto which lays the foundation for what exactly Afro-Surrealist Expressionism consists of, there are other contemporary artists who are practicing these actions: including, the musicians OutKast, especially in collaborations with Erykah Badu, the visual artist Fahamu Pekou, and the cinematic art of myself, Shy Hamilton. This paper is an exploration of Afro-Surrealist Expressionist artists and how they are redefining the social construction, yet lived reality, of race, and in particular blackness in contemporary times. With the emergence of the United States electing its first Black president, mass media pundits have often referred to the collective population as living in a post-racial society. In fine art circles, some Black artists are embracing the genre of post-black, where race and racism are intertwined in a way that rejects their interaction within society. Afro-Surrealist Expressionists take the opposite approach by exposing the reality that ethnicity; race and racism do exist as byproducts of imperialism and are inexplicably intertwined in the history and future of Western civilization. Their respective creative practices are firmly grounded in experience, and are often weaved with keen observations of maintaining sense of self in the present. Afro-Surrealist Expressionists adhere to a manifesto of ten declarations. I will discuss three of these tenants and examine three concrete examples from contemporary artists working in the visual, musical and cinematic arts. Southern rap group OutKast in collaboration with Erykah Badu on the song Humble Mumble from the album Stankonia is discussed in relationship to statement number 4, which discusses the idea of excess expressed in the form of emotion. My own films How To Read Poetry and Untitled (proper) shares sentiments with statement number 6 and its discussion of ambiguity and finally, Visual Artist Fahamu Pecou and his pieces entitled, American Dream & POP! Illustrate statement number 8 proclaiming the absurdity of a post-racial world while defining what the world really has become.

Sherley Camille Olopherne
Artist

“Taken Spaces: Black Lesbians Against White Aesthetics”

“Taken Spaces: Black Lesbians Against White Aesthetics” examines the subtleties of moments for black lesbians as they negotiate and insist on space. Historically dominated by white women, the queer and lesbian community is presented in “Taken Spaces” as a black experience. A collection of portraits and mixed media in the form of collage, black lesbians are exhibited in all their complexities and colors in human and mundane acts. This momentary portraiture presumes community building for Black Lesbians can and should include grinding and sweating at a club as well as a rally or picnicking.



Abstracts

Nicole Melanie Davis
Rhode Island School of Design
Fine Arts

*“Ssebura, Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutation):
The Legacy of Saartje (Sarah) Baartman AKA the ‘Hottentot Venus’ ”*

Nicole Melanie Davis is an American sculptor/ installation artist whose work explores hyper sexualized constructions of female bodies of color in visual culture. Davis is interested in exploring the molding of historical and contemporary representations of the fetishized black female body in popular culture. Sub-themes depicting ethnic difference that often perpetuate myths, contemporary issues regarding the industrialization of beauty and theories of race and ethnography as they relate to the history and perceptions of beauty are investigated. Several of her works involve challenging and engaging the viewer’s gaze of the female body to raise consciousness rather than consumption.

Davis’ current work explores Yoga as a contemporary practice where one can purify the physical body to lead to the purification of the mind and juxtaposing the iconography of the Hottentot Venus. She aims to create a meditative figure that addresses how we construct historical, social, and cultural preconceived notions. Drawn upon Barbara Chase-Riboud’s *Hottentot Venus: A Novel* and yogic philosophy this series depicts the iconographic Venus Hottentot in a yoga practice that addresses meditation and contemplation to facilitate healing of the internalized pain, shame, and anxiety that some women experience who have inherited the visual and cultural legacy of Saartjie Baartman.

The Culture: Educational Innovations

Louis R. Mercer
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Department of History

“Inciting Trouble and Riots and Stuff: Black Protests for Improved Education in Chicago, 1963-1968”

The turmoil over integration of Chicago’s public schools in the 1960s led to many protests involving black students. During the school year in 1963 and 1964, school boycotts organized by established black organizations included nearly a quarter-million students sent aftershocks throughout the country, but led to little action from an unsympathetic school board. Four years later, black student-led protests called improved conditions within their own schools, leading to some immediate and successful results. This paper endeavors to explain the relative success of the much smaller but more focused student-led protests in 1968 and the thwarted efforts of the CCCO. To widen the scope of attitudes and opinions surrounding these events, this paper employs both Chicago Tribune and Chicago Defender articles. The evolution of the demands of protestors in Chicago’s schools correlates with the expansion of calls for black community control in the latter half of the 1960s. The black students organized to demand improvements to their schools rather than the full integration of schools that the CCCO demanded in 1963. By inciting trouble, black students’ focused demands led to small but vital gains that highlighted the importance of context and agency in direct action.



Abstracts

Tony Laing
University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign
Educational Policy Studies & African-American Studies

“A Dream Deferred: Addressing the All-Black Male School Debate in Virtual Spaces”

The debate over how best to maximize the learning potential of underrepresented students of color in K-12 public schools remains highly contentious. In the last few years, the role of virtual learning known interchangeably as distance learning, online learning, e-learning, or web-based learning has increasingly permeated that debate. Specifically in the last 10 years, the role of virtual learning has increasingly entered the debate on how best to educate all students. Scholars (Gladieux and Watson, Everett, Wallings) point to virtual learning’s ability to equalize opportunities and its capacity for all students to transcend the geographic and other structural barriers that have hitherto limited their educational attainment. However, in spite of the widespread hope that virtual learning can connect disadvantaged students to communities and opportunities otherwise out of their reach, there is little agreement on the precise type of virtual learning that holds most promise. My dissertation therefore aims to contribute to that conversation by introducing a virtual learning classroom in several New England schools that cater to all-black students from disadvantaged backgrounds. I also seek to (1) describe the debate and social and legal issues (2) propose a virtual learning model to address the academic challenges of black boys and (3) discover areas of success and improvement while introducing qualitative program evaluation data to the debate over which modes of virtual learning works best. Additionally, little work has been written exclusively on the role of virtual learning for black boys, as a remedy to curtailing graduating rates in public schools.

Angela M. Slates
University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign
Department of Educational Policy Studies

“STEM: Community Inquiry as a Tool for Emancipatory Scholarship”

One of the most urgent educational issues on top of the nation’s agenda for the 21st century is the disproportionate amount of students of color in science, technology, engineering and mathematics [STEM] fields. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, STEM fields are expected to add 2.7 million new jobs by 2018, yet women and African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans are vastly underrepresented in those fields. This research will examine Community inquiry as emancipatory scholarship. Utilizing an interdisciplinary curriculum design that includes social studies, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Each of these academic disciplines will be combined throughout technology driven inquiry curriculum in ways that will allow students to investigate issues relevant to them, while learning how to connect these disciplines to their everyday lives and experiences. Through the use of community partners and interdepartmental university partnerships, this research will seek to understand the ways that science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines can be synthesized into community inquiry models that introduce students K-12 to STEM education in innovative ways that are relevant to their lives.



Abstracts

**Valencia Moses
Michigan State University
Curriculum, Teaching and Educational Policy**

**“E Pluribus Unum: The 1960’s Birth of State-Wide Accountability as an
Educational Reform Agenda in Michigan”**

Long before the Obama and Bush administrations, politicians have called for the need to hold schools more accountable. The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) was given for the first time in the 1969-1970 school year during the William Milliken’s administration as Michigan’s 44th Governor. Pressing issues like school consolidation in Michigan in the 1950’s, national 1950’s-1960’s Civil Rights legislation, as well as federal funding to schools to help the poor and disadvantaged (1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act) created a political climate that brought about the triumph of proposals by Milliken to herald educational reform that included the creation of the MEAP within less than a year of his taking office. Using data from qualitative interviews, evidence from 1960’s-1970’s artifacts, supporting scholarship from books on political theory, and research literature on accountability, this presentation demonstrates that the MEAP is much more than another assessment, it is a case for understanding the process by which politicians successfully initiate agendas (Kingdon, 1984). Through a better understanding of past examples of successful political agenda setting, the educators of today can become more equipped to help shape political agendas in ways that truly leave no child behind.



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