

**DIANNE MARIE STEWART**

Department of Religion  
Department of African American Studies  
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**EDUCATION**

- 1997    **Ph.D. Systematic Theology**    **Specialization: Post-Enlightenment Christian Thought & African Diaspora Religious Thought & Cultures**  
Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY
- 1993    **M.Div. Theology & Culture**    **Specialization: African American Religious Thought**  
Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
- 1990    **B.A. English & AAS**    Colgate University, Hamilton, NY

**ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

- 2022    Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Religion and African American Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- 2021    Professor of Religion and African American Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- 2021    Core Faculty, Institute of African Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- 2005    Associate Professor of Religion and African American Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- 2001    Assistant Professor of Religion and African American Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- 2001-    Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department, Associated Faculty, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- 98-01    Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA
- 97-98    Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

**TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:** Africana Religious Studies; African North American and Anglophone Caribbean Christian Thought; Religion in Africa and the African Atlantic World/Diaspora; Womanist Thought; Gender and Religion; Religious Studies Theory/Method & Decolonial Perspectives

**ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP**

Interim Chair, Department of African American Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2022-2023

- 2023 National Council of Black Studies Sankore Institute Award (received on behalf of Emory University/African American Studies Department) This award recognizes Emory's efforts to "promote the study of African descended people" through the creation of the newly launched African American Studies Ph.D. program.

Interim Chair, Department of African American Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2018-2019

Faculty Coordinator & PI, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2008—

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

### Authored Books

- 2022 *Obeah, Orisa, and Religious Identity in Trinidad, Volume II, Orisa: Africana Nations and the Power of Black Sacred Imagination*, [Duke University Press](#) (340 pages)
- 2020 *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage*, [Seal Press](#), (326 pages)
- 2005 *Three Eyes for the Journey: African Dimensions of the Jamaican Religious Experience*. New York: [Oxford University Press](#) (332 pages)

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2016 "Rethinking Indigenous Africana Sources of Womanist-Feminist Activisms in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion* Vol. 7, Issue 1.4 (July 2016): 1-29
- 2013 "Matricentric Foundations of Africana Women's Religious Practices of Peacemaking, Sustainability, and Social Change," *Bulletin of Ecumenical Theology* Vol. 25 (2013): 61-79
- 2013 "Africana Religious Studies: Toward a Transdisciplinary Agenda in an Emerging Field," co-authored with Tracey E. Hucks in *Journal of Africana Religions* Vol. 1, no. 1 (January 2013): 28-77
- 2007 "Collecting on Their Investments One Woman at a Time: Economic Partnerships Among Caribbean Immigrant Women in the United States," *International Journal of African Renaissance Studies* Vol. 2, no. 1 (July 2007): 35-57
- 2005 "African-Derived Religions in Jamaica: Polyvalent Repertoires of Culture and Identity in the Black Atlantic," *Contours: A Journal of the African Diaspora* Vol. 3, no. 2 (Fall 2005): 74-112
- 2004 "Womanist God-Talk on the Cutting-Edge of Theology and Black Religious Studies: Assessing the Contribution of Delores Williams," in *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* Vol. 58, nos. 3-4 (Fall 2004): 65-83
- 2004 "Womanist Theology in the Caribbean Context: Critiquing Culture, Rethinking Doctrine and Expanding Boundaries," in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* Vol. 20, no.1 (Spring 2004): 61-82
- 2003 "Authenticity and Authority in the Shaping of Trinidad Orisha Identity: Toward an African-Derived Religious Theory," co-authored with Tracey E. Hucks in *Western Journal of Black Studies*, Vol. 27, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 176-185

### Peer-Reviewed Invited Articles

- 2023 "African Archives in the Caribbean: The Yoruba Tradition, Cultural Experts and the Unmaking of Religious Knowledge in Twentieth-Century Trinidad," *History and Anthropology*, Special Issue on "Sites, Knowledge Exchange and the Making of Religion in Southeast Asia and the Caribbean," Revised and Resubmitted, October 2022, 36 ms pages
- 2013 "Las religiones heredadas del África central en el contexto jamaicano: Del Myal al Kúmina" *Del Caribe* Vol. 60 (2013): 44-54 (Translated by Dr. Carlos Lloga)

- 2000 “Rethinking Gospel and Culture: A Womanist Theological Assessment of Methodist Evangelism in the Colonial British West Indies,” in *Quarterly Review* Vol. 20, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 140-154

### Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- 2019 “The Orisa House that Afro-Catholics Built: Africana Antecedents to Yoruba Religious Formation in Trinidad,” *Afro-Catholic Festivals in the Americas: Performance, Representation, and the Making of Black Atlantic Tradition*, edited by Cécile Fromont, 140-162. Africana Religions Book Series, The Pennsylvania State University Press
- 2018 “Kumina: A Spiritual Vocabulary of Nationhood in Victorian Jamaica,” *Victorian Jamaica*, edited by Wayne Modest and Tim Barringer, 632-659. Durham, NC: Duke University Press
- 2015 “Orisha Traditions in the West,” *African Indigenous Religious Traditions in Local and Global Contexts: Perspectives on Nigeria, A Festschrift in Honour of Jacob K. Olupona*, edited by David O. Ogungbile, 333-352. Lagos: Malthouse Press (reprinted from *The Hope of Liberation in World Religions*, edited by Miguel A. De La Torre, 239-256. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2008)
- 2014 “Religious Pluralism and African American Theology,” *The Oxford Handbook of African American Theology*, edited by Katie Cannon and Anthony Pinn, 331-350. New York, NY: Oxford University Press
- 2013 “Visitation: The Legacy of African-Derived Religions in Jamaica,” *Caribbean Cultural Thought: From Plantation to Diaspora*, edited by Yanique Hume and Aaron Kamugisha, 509-553. Kingston: Ian Randle Press (reprinted from Dianne M. Stewart, *Three Eyes for the Journey*, chapter four, 139-187)
- 2008 “Orisha Traditions in the West,” *The Hope of Liberation in World Religions*, edited by Miguel A. De La Torre, 239-256. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press
- 2006 “Dancing Limbo: Black Passages Through the Boundaries of Place, Race, Class, and Religion” in *Deeper Shades of Purple: Womanist Approaches in Religion and Society*, edited by Stacey Floyd-Thomas, 82-97. New York: NYU Press
- 2006 “Indigenous Wisdom at Work in Jamaica: The Power of Kumina,” *Indigenous Peoples’ Wisdom and Power: Affirming Our Knowledge Through Narratives*, edited by Ivy Goduka and Julian Kunnie, 127-142. London: Ashgate Publishers
- 2001 “Christian Doctrines of Humanity and the African Experience of Evil and Suffering: Toward a Black Theological Anthropology,” in *The Ties that Bind: African American and Hispanic American/Latino/a Theologies in Dialogue*, edited by Anthony Pinn and Benjamin Valentin, 169-183; “Response,” 200-202. New York: Continuum Publishing Group

### Encyclopedic Essays, Entries

- 2018 Entry for George Baxter Print, “The Ordinance of Baptism as administered by the missionaries connected with the Baptist Missionary Society to 135 persons near Brown’s Town, in Jamaica, 1843,” *Victorian Jamaica*, edited by Wayne Modest and Tim Barringer, 71-74. Durham, NC: Duke University Press

- 2006 “Women in African Caribbean Religious Traditions,” in *Encyclopedia of Women and Religion in North America*, edited by Rosemary Skinner Kellar and Rosemary Radford Ruether, 116-126. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press
- 2005 “African American Religion: History of Study” co-authored with Tracey E. Hucks in *Encyclopedia of Religion*, Volume 1, 2nd edition, edited by Lindsay Jones, 73-83. Detroit, MI: Macmillan
- 2001 “African-Derived Religions,” in *Encyclopedia of African & African-American Religion*, edited by Stephen D. Glazier, 21-22. Great Barrington, MA: Berkshire Reference Works/Routledge
- 2001 “African-Derived Religions in Jamaica,” in *Encyclopedia of African & African-American Religion*, edited by Stephen D. Glazier, 165-169. Great Barrington, MA: Berkshire Reference Works/Routledge

### Works in Progress

#### -BOOKS

Under Preparation, “Local and Transnational Legacies of African Christianity in West-Central Africa and the Black Atlantic World,” (Book Manuscript requested by Cambridge University Press)

#### -ARTICLES

Accepted/under revision, “She Never Had Time to Sing Spirituals: Discretion, Opacity and the Fallacy of the Christian Slave Past in African American Religious Studies Discourse,” *Black Theology: An International Journal*, 39 ms pages

Accepted/under revision “Kimpa Vita and Kimbangu’s Children: The Legacy of Resistance in Revealed Religions of the Lower Congo,” *Journal of Religious Thought*, 36 ms pages

Under Preparation, “Parting with the ‘Burden of Black Religion:’ Cognitive Science and the Study of Africana Religious Cultures,” 31 ms pages

### Roundtables

- 2019 “The Matri-archive: A New Portal to Knowledge Production in African Studies,” *Journal of Africana Religions*, Roundtable on Laura Grillo’s Book: *An Intimate Rebuke: Female Genital Power in Ritual and Politics in West Africa*, In Press, Vol. 7, no. 2 (2019): 310-315
- 2010 “The Limits of Theology: Notes from a Theographer,” Roundtable Discussion on Anthropology and Theology, *Practical Matters: A Transdisciplinary and Multimedia Journal of Religious Practices and Practical Theology*, Issue 3: (Spring 2010): 7-9
- 2006 Roundtable Respondent to Andrea Smith, “Dismantling the Master’s Tools with the Master’s House: Native Feminist Liberation Theologies,” in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* Vol. 22, no. 2 (Fall 2006): 103-107

## Book Reviews

- 2008 Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, ed: “*Fragments of Bone: Neo-African Religions in a New World*,” in *New West Indian Guide*, Vol. 82, no. 1 & 2 (2008): 118-121
- 2000 “Wallace W. Zane: *Journeys to the Spiritual Lands: The Natural History of a West Indian Religion*,” in *Reviews in Religion and Theology*, Vol. 7 no. 5 (November 2000): 502-504
- 2000 “Nathaniel Samuel Murrell, William David Spencer and Adrian Anthony McFarlane: *Chanting Down Babylon: The Rastafari Reader*,” in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol. 68 no. 2 (Summer 2000): 433-436
- 1999 “Roger Sawtelle: *The God Who Relates*,” in *The African Methodist Episcopal Church Review* CXIV #373 (January-March 1999): 46-50

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, HONORS

- 2023 Faculty Award for Inclusive Excellence in the Humanities, Laney Graduate School, Emory University
- 2022 Black Interfaith Fellowship Program, Interfaith Youth Core/Funded by the Henry Luce Foundation
- 2021 Chronos Faculty Fellowship
- 2021 [Kirkus, Best Books of 2020: Black Life in America](#)
- 2021 Morehouse College’s Collegium of Scholars
- 2021 Longlisted, History Category, Georgia Writers Association Author of the Year Award, *Black Women, Black Love: America’s War on African American*
- 2020 [Kirkus Star](#), *Black Women, Black Love: America’s War on African American Marriage*
- 2020 [Library Journal Star](#), *Black Women, Black Love: America’s War on African American Marriage*
- 2020 [KQED Forum – Favorite Books of 2020](#) (*Black Women, Black Love*)
- 2019 Emory CFDE, The OpEd Project Workshop – Write to Change the World
- 2019 Emory Williams Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award
- 2017 The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry Senior Fellowship, Emory University
- 2016 PERS Grant, Emory College of Arts and Sciences (archival research Gullah Religious Traditions)
- 2016 Eleanor Main Graduate Faculty Mentor Award, Emory University Laney Graduate School
- 2016 CFDE Engaged Learning Program Grant
- 2016 Center for Creative Arts Grant
- 2013 Distinguished Advising Award, Emory College of Arts and Sciences
- 2012 American Academy of Religion, Collaborative Research Assistance Grant (Trinidad & England)
- 2011 Woodruff Presidential Faculty Research & Travel Grant (DR Congo & England), Emory College
- 2009 Woodruff Faculty Resource Grant, Emory College
- 2008 ICIS Faculty International Travel Grant (England), Emory College
- 2006 Fulbright Scholar, Democratic Republic of Congo (17 months)
- 2006 ICIS Faculty International Research Grant, Emory College
- 2005 Masee-Martin Teaching Consultation Grant (with Dr. Regine Jackson), Emory College
- 2005 ICIS Faculty International Travel Grant, Emory University (Jamaica & Trinidad)
- 2003 ICIS Faculty International Travel Grant, Emory University (Trinidad)
- 2002 Masee-Martin Teaching Consultation Grant (with Dr. Frances Foster), Emory College
- 2001 University Teaching Fund, Emory University (Collaborative Gullah Project with Dr. Tracy Rone)
- 1999 American Academy of Religion, Collaborative Research Assistance Grant (Jamaica)
- 1999 Hewlett Mellon Grant, Holy Cross College (Trinidad & Tobago)
- 1999 Hewlett Mellon Grant, Holy Cross College, Educational Technology Web Site SETA Program
- 1998 Research and Publication Faculty Fellowship, College of the Holy Cross (Trinidad & Tobago)
- 1998 Wallace Faculty Research Grant, Macalester College (Nigeria)

## Union Theological Seminary

- 1997-98 Robert Wood Lynn Fellowship
- 1996-97 Daniel Day Williams Fellowship
- 1994-97 The Roothbert Fund Fellowship
- 1994-95 The Fund for Theological Education Black North American Doctoral Fellowship: *A Troubling In My Soul* Womanist Award
- 1995-97 The Fund for Theological Education Black North American Doctoral Fellowship
- 1994-97 The United Methodist Women of Color Doctoral Fellowship

## SELECT SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

### Plenary Addresses (Invited)

- 2016 “Whispers of Obeah and the Intellectual Habit of *Listening*. One Scholar’s Path to Rethinking African Heritage Religions in the Diaspora,” National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, NC, April 7-9
- 2015 “From Syncretism to Social Belonging: Retheorizing Tradition and Innovation in African Heritage Religious Cultures of the Caribbean and the Americas,” XXI World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Erfurt, Germany, August 23-29
- 2012 “Rethinking Indigenous Africana Sources of Womanist-Feminist Activisms in the Twenty-First Century,” African and Diasporic African Women in Religion and Theology Conference, Legon, Ghana, July 8-12

### Keynote Addresses (Invited)

- 2022 “What’s Black Love Got to Do with It? Expanding the Terrain of Social Justice Activism, Howard University Social Justice Consortium,” Social Justice Week, Howard University, October 21
- 2017 “‘The *Nationality* There is Methodist:’ The Black Church and Other Africana Religious Structures of *Nation-building*,” W. E. B. Du Bois Lecture, Africana and Latin American Studies Program, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY October 26
- 2017 “The Varieties of Black Women’s Spirituality: Africana Matricentric Consciousness and Practice,” James A. Gray Lecture, Winston-Salem State University, Winston Salem, NC, March 9
- 2001 “Many in One/Many and One,” Emory University, Candler School of Theology, Women’s Week Plenary Seminar, Atlanta, GA, October
- 1998 “From Africa to America and We are Not Saved,” 22nd Pan-African Student Leadership Conference, Mankato State University, Mankato, MN, February

### Featured Scholar/Dedicated Scholarly Panels

- 2022 Respondent, “*Honoring the Scholarship, Sisterhood, and Scholastic Legacy of Dianne M. Stewart and Tracey E. Hucks*,” Sponsored by the African Diaspora Religions Unit and Cosponsored by the Women’s Caucus, the Critical Theory and Discourse on Religion Unit, the Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit, the Black Theology Unit, the Liberation Theologies Unit, the North American Religions Unit, the Women and Religion Unit, the

Afro-American Religious History Unit, the African Religions Unit, and the Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching and Activism Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 21

### Invited Lectures

- 2023 “Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage,” Center for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto, March 9
- 2023 “Sensational Pedagogy: Lessons from the African Religious Studies Classroom,” Twentieth Annual Religion Graduate Student Symposium, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, February 17-18
- 2023 “‘The Nationality There is Methodist’: Africana Nations and the Power of Black Religious Imagination,” Distinguished Faculty Speaker, Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry Response Forum, January 25
- 2017 “I Am Not a Race or Color: Africana Religious Cultures and the Reconstitution of Humanity,” Oblate School of Theology Sankofa Institute for African American Pastoral Leadership Lecture, San Antonio, TX, September 23
- 2015 “It’s a Family Affair: The Logic of Kinship and the Legacy of ‘Syncretism’ in Trinidad’s Yoruba-Orisa Religion,” *The Dark Tower*, African American Studies Department Colloquium, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, April 14
- 2015 “Crossing the Color Line: Tracing Burdens of Religious ‘Difference’ from Africa to Appalachia,” *Sam Hill Lecture Series*, University of North Carolina at Asheville, Asheville, NC, March 19 (co-presented with Meredith Doster)
- 2014 “Central African Influences upon African Diaspora Religious Formation during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries,” Universidade Metodista de São Paulo (UMESP), São Paulo, Brazil, September 30
- 2013 “‘Matricentric’ Foundations of Africana Women’s Religious Practices of Peacebuilding, Sustainability, & Social Change,” Center for Africana Studies Lecture Series: Duquesne University, Pittsburg, PA, March 13
- 2013 “The Matricentric Factor in Africana Religious Cultures & Praxes of Public Engagement,” Ashland Theological Seminary Lecture Series: Created in God's Image: Voices from Africa, Part I: Detroit, MI, February 11
- 2013 “Landscapes and Legacies of Africana Spirituality: Re-membering Transatlantic Resources for Interreligious Dialogue,” Ashland Theological Seminary Lecture Series: Created in God's Image, Part II: Voices from Africa: Detroit, MI, February 10
- 2012 “From *Myal* to *Kumina*: The Central African Dynamic in Jamaican Religious Cultures” and “Women in the *Orisha* Religion of Trinidad: Prestige, Power and Performance in the Public Domain,” Distinguished Guest Lecturer, 2011-2012 International Studies Lecture Series, Albany State University, Albany, GA April 23-24
- 2012 “African Religious Cultures in the Caribbean: Obeah, Myal, Rastafari, Kumina, Orisa and Vodou,” *Annual Reggae Week Community Lecture*, Auburn Avenue Research Library, Atlanta GA, February
- 2011 “Seeing and Reading in the World of Spirits: Divination Practices in the African Diaspora,” Michael C. Carlos Museum Educational Program for the *Divine Intervention: African Art & Religion* exhibit, Atlanta, GA

- 2010 “Kimpa Vita’s Visible and Invisible Legacies in Prophetic Christianities of Africa and the African Diaspora,” New Directions in African Diaspora Studies Lecture Series, Boston College, Boston, MA, November
- 2009 “Parting with the ‘Burden of Black Religion’: A Cognitive Scientific Approach to the Study of African-Derived Religious Cultures,” Spelman College, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Colloquium, Atlanta, GA, October
- 2009 “What Has Kimpa Vita to Do with James Cone? African Antecedents of the Black Church Movement and Black Liberation Theology,” Nannie Helen Burroughs Lecture Series, Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC, March
- 2008 “Before Christianity and Beyond Theology: African Foundations of Religious Imagination and Praxis in Jamaica,” Distinguished Guest Lecture Series in Comparative Religion, Haverford College, Haverford, PA, April
- 2007 “African-Derived Religious Traditions in the Caribbean and the Americas: Theoretical and Methodological Approaches,” Université Chrétienne de Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, November
- 2007 “The Image of Africa in Black Religious Thought and Activism,” Université Protestante de Kinshasa & Université Chrétienne de Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, February
- 2006 “Racism and Religious Conflict in the U.S. African American Experience,” University of Pretoria, African Political Science Department and Center for International Political Studies, Pretoria, South Africa, October (Fulbright Program)
- 2006 “Christian Doctrines of Humanity and the African Experience of Evil and Suffering,” University of Fort Hare, Alice Campus, South Africa, October (Fulbright Program)
- 2006 Charles B. Copher Distinguished Lecture Series, Respondent to Professor Riggins Earl, “Jesus-Spirit Possession Consciousness: Its Genesis and Development in African American Christianity” Interdenominational Theological Seminary, Atlanta, GA, April
- 2005 “When and Where They Enter...the Whole Race Enters with Them: Economic Partnerships among Caribbean Immigrant Women,” Anna Julia Cooper Lecture Series at Candler School of Theology, Program in Black Church Studies, Atlanta, GA, February
- 2003 “Igbo Religious Thought and Practice,” Haverford College, Haverford, PA, Spring
- 1999 “African Religion as Resistance Culture in the Caribbean,” La Tercera Reunión Continental, Asamblea Del Pueblo de Dios, Havana, Cuba, November
- 1999 “African-Derived Religions and the African American Christian Denominations,” Black Scholars in Religion Consultation, American Academy of Religion, Cambridge, MA, November
- 1999 “Religious Symbolism in the Spiritual and Shouter Baptist Traditions of Trinidad,” CUFU Conference on Caribbean Religion and Emancipation, Port of Spain, Trinidad, July
- 1999 “Caribbean Theology and African-Derived Religions,” National Council of Orisha Elders Annual Meeting, Port of Spain, Trinidad, March



- 1999 “Collective Memory and Caribbean Religions, Obeah and Other Jamaican Experiences,” Colby College, Waterville, ME, February
- 1998 “Black Cultural Nationalism and Kawaïda Theory,” Haverford College, Haverford, PA, December
- 1997 “Christian Missionaries and African-Derived Religions in the Early British Colonial Period: A Documentary Analysis,” Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA, November
- 1997 “Notions of the Trinity in African Jamaican Religious Thought,” Tenth Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Somerville College, Oxford, Great Britain, August

### **Conference Papers/Panels/Colloquia/Symposia (Invited)**

- 2023 Presenter, “Africana Religion and the Critical Study of Religion,” *What Does the Study of Black Religion Mean for the Critical Study of Religion*, American Society for the Study of Religion (ASSR) Annual Meeting, Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 28-30
- 2023 Presenter, “Theologies Opaque and the Study of Black Religion: A Tribute to Dr. Charles H. Long,” Inaugural Symposium for the Codex Charles H. Long Papers Project, Harvard Divinity School, April 14
- 2022 Presenter, “Making Mother God: African Heritage Religions and the Human-Divine Continuum” *Black Superhumanism*, Center for Theory & Research Symposium, Esalen Institute, December 4-9
- 2022 Presenter, “Is Self-Promotion Selfish: Writing, Marketing and Selling Your Research,” *STEAM as a Possibility: Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Multidisciplinary Approaches*, Annual Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) 2022, December 3
- 2021 Presenter, “Dreams, Visions and Other Modes of Knowing in Africana Religious Contexts” *Blackness and the Human*, Center for Theory & Research Symposium, Esalen Institute, December 5-10
- 2021 Presenter, “Fusions and Diffusions of African Religions in the Americas and the Caribbean: Wyatt MacGaffey’s ‘Organic Cultural Integrity’ and the Transformation of African Religious Studies,” Kongo Academy, October 30, 2021
- 2021 Panelist, “Black Marriage and Black Love,” KEY Session, Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Annual Conference, September 23
- 2021 Presenter, “African Archives in the Caribbean: Transdisciplinary and Comparative Methods in Africana Religious Studies” Decolonial Collaborative Research Group (DCRG), Stanford University, March 4
- 2019 Panelist, “Piecing Together the Broken Calabashes of African Heritage Religions in the African Atlantic World: Comparative and Collaborative Approaches,” Southern Historical Society, Louisville, KY, November 7-10
- 2019 “Systems for Which We Have No Name: African Religious Cultures in African American Memory, Ritual and Material Culture,” *Faith Journeys in the Black Experience: The Religious Context of Virginia 1619 and Its Implications: for 2019 and Beyond*, Richmond, Virginia March 20-22
- 2019 Scholar in Residence, Colgate University, Alumni in Residence Program, February 17-March 2 (delivered three public lectures in addition to a host of other scholarly activities)

- 2018 Panelist, “The Kongo Cross and James Cone’s ‘Cross and the Lynching Tree:’ A Roundtable Celebrating the Grawemeyer Award in Religion,” Black Theology Unit and Grawemeyer Award in Religion, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 19
- 2018 Panelist/Reviewer, African Religions Group “Roundtable on Laura Grillo’s, *An Intimate Rebuke: Female Genital Power in Ritual and Politics in West Africa*,” African Religions Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 19
- 2018 Workshop Leader, “Beyond the Temple Door There is No Promised Land: Black Women and the Challenge of God Talk in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Trailblazers Conference Marking the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Publication of Delores Williams’ *Sisters in the Wilderness*, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY February 24
- 2017 “The Yoruba-Orisa *Palais* in Trinidad and Other Symbols of Sovereignty in the Afro-Caribbean Religious Imagination,” [Recovering the Bones: African American Material Religion and Religious Memory](#), The Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC, October 27-28
- 2017 “‘Giving Allegiance to a God Possessed of One Cheek:’ Resistance Politics and Knowledges in the Study and Practice of Trinidad’s Yoruba-Orisa Religion Since the Era of Black Power,” *Unsettling Encounters and Difficult Histories*, KITLV - Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands, September 11-12
- 2017 “Undoing Race, Restoring Humanity: Insights from the Study of Global Africana Religions,” *Cultivating Humanity on the Global Stage*, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, March 17-18
- 2017 Panelist, “‘We Had the Women that Were Powerful:’ Matricentric Consciousness and Practice in Yoruba-Orisa Religious Culture,” Black Feminist Methods and Methodologies Working Conference, Vanderbilt University, February 23-24
- 2016 Panelist, “Africana Spiritual Themes in Nina Angela Mercer’s choreopoem, *Itagua Meji: A Road and A Prayer*,” National Black Arts Festival Symposium, “Call and Response: Contextualizing African American Presence in the American Theater,” Atlanta, GA, September 17
- 2016 “Confronting Challenges to the Study of African Religions in the Americas and the Caribbean: The Case of Trinidad,” *African Religions in the Americas* Workshop, co-presented with Dr. Tracey Hucks, University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL, May 20-21
- 2015 “Afro-Catholic Ceremonies and Ritual Vocabularies of Sovereignty in Post-Emancipation Trinidad: Rethinking the Orisa Religious Heritage,” *Afro-Christian Festivals of the Americas: Bridging Methodologies and Crossing Frontiers*, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University, New Haven, CT, February 21
- 2014 “Women of Color Scholars: Exposing Theological ‘Untouchables’ and Producing Knowledge for the Academy and Community,” *25th Anniversary of The UMC Women of Color Scholars Program*, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 21
- 2014 “Rethorizing Approaches to Spiritual Power in the African Diaspora,” *Religião & Poder: A Propósito Dos 50 Anos Do Golpe Militar*, Universidade Metodista de São Paulo (UMESP), São Paulo, Brazil, September 23-25
- 2014 “Africana Mothers: Symbolism and Social Activism,” *Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race: Social Struggle and Faith-Based Activism in ‘Black Empowerment Times,’* UNISA, Pretoria, SA, July 10-16

- 2014 “Retention of West African Traditions in African Diasporic Cultures: Epistemological & Matricentric Foundations,” Emory University NEH Black Aesthetics Summer Institute, July 21 (co-presented with Dr. Marcus Harvey)
- 2014 “Can Custodians of African Heritage Religions Speak? Reading Ellipses in Colonial Archives of the Caribbean,” *Can the Native Christian Speak: Discerning the Voices of Indigenous Christians in Missionary and Colonial Archives*, Emory University, Candler School of Theology, May 28
- 2013 “Beyond the Trope of Black Magic: Retheorizing Opaque Repertoires of African Heritage Religious Cultures in the Anglophone Diaspora,” *Magic & Mysticism in Indigenous Traditions*, The Ohio State University, Center for the Study of Religion, Columbus Ohio, February 28-March 1
- 2012 “African Grammars of the Spirit and ‘Daddy’ Sharpe’s Unarchived Religious Culture,” *Sam Sharpe on the Praxis of Religion: Revolt, Resistance & the Re-Ordering of Society*, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston, Jamaica, October 12-14
- 2012 Panelist, Book Discussion and Signing of *Three Eyes for the Journey: African Dimensions of the Jamaican Religious Experience*, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA, August 25
- 2012 *In Absentia*: “Central African Heritage Religions in the Jamaican Context: from Myal to Kumina,” (paper read by Professor Carlos Lloga), *XXXII Festival del Caribe*, Casa del Caribe, Santiago de Cuba, July 3-9
- 2012 Presenter, “Black Religious Studies and the Problem of Africa: Retheorizing African Spirituality in the Anglophone Diaspora,” *XII International Scientific Conference on African and Afro-American Culture*, (sponsored by the Fernando Ortiz African Cultural Center, the Provincial Direction in Santiago de Cuba, the UNESCO Chair of Afro-Iberian-American Studies from Alcalá de Henares University, the Afro-Caribbean Studies Chair Rómulo Lachatañeré, the Heredia Theater, the Applied-Linguistics Center in Santiago de Cuba City, and Oriente University), Santiago de Cuba, April 12-16
- 2011 Chair, Black Theology Panel, *Working the Spirits: Black Theology, the Holy Spirit, and Spirits in Dialogue*, Black Theology Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November
- 2011 Respondent, Global Christianity Series: “African Prophetic (Independent) Churches,” Keynote Speaker: Simon Kimbangu Kisolokele, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN, September 20
- 2011 Panelist, “Connecting Central African Prophetic Movements to Religious Cultures in the Anglophone African Diaspora: The United States and the Caribbean,” *Conference Internationale sur Simon Kimbangu (1887-1951): l’homme, son oeuvre et sa contribution au processus de liberation de l’homme noir*, Kinshasa, DRC, July 24-30
- 2010 Respondent, African Association for the Study of Religions Panel on *African Biblical Exegesis* Central Paper by Musa W. Dube, University of Botswana, “Exegeting the Darkness: The Botswana Colonial Bible,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November
- 2010 Chair, Black Theology Panel: African-Centered Thought and African Religions in Black Theology, Black Theology Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November
- 2010 Colloquium Presenter, African and African Diaspora Religious Studies: Current and Future Theoretical and Methodological Trends, Harvard University Department of African and African American Studies, Cambridge MA, November

- 2009 Paper/Panelist, “Some Plausible African Antecedents of the Zombie Phenomenon in Haiti,” Panel Theme: *The Zombie Perceived: Religion, Media, and Society*, The Atlanta Zombie Symposium, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, September
- 2009 Respondent, “Emma Cohen’s ‘Savage Thinkers and Soulless Psychology: The Cognitive Anthropology of Religious Experience,’” Panel Theme: *New Scientific Approaches to the Study of Religious Experience*, Emory Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture & American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, May
- 2009 Panelist, “Past and Present Methodological Issues in Black Theological Studies,” *Black Theology: Past and Present*,” Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, April
- 2009 Panelist, “Tribute to Pioneering Womanist Theological Scholars: Jacquelyn Grant, Katie Cannon, and Delores Williams,” The Fifth Annual Trailblazers Celebration, Union Theological Seminary, February
- 2008 “How to be Collegial,” Panel Theme: *Making Room, Making Sense: Re-Visioning Our Fields, Re-Bordering Scholarship*, Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession & Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November
- 2008 Panelist, “Middle Passages Conversations on Black Religion in the African Diaspora: An Interdisciplinary Conference at Yale University,” *The Role of History and Memory in the Shaping of Identity in the African Diaspora*, New Haven, CT, April
- 2008 Respondent, “Religious Pluralism and Dialogue” in the African Diaspora, Panel Respondent, Society for the Study of Black Religion (SSBR) Annual Meeting, Charleston, SC, March
- 2007 Distinguished Participant/Presenter, “African Spirituality Transplanted and Translated: Another Look at Invisible Institutions within Empires of Christianity,” at the *International Conference on Global African Spirituality, Social Capital and Self-Reliance in Africa*, sponsored by the Centre for Black and African Arts Civilization (CBAAC), Ouida, Republic of Benin, November
- 2006 Panelist, “Theorizing African Diasporic Religions: An Aesthetic Approach,” *Workshop on African and African Diaspora Knowledges*, Collaboratively Sponsored by Brown University, University of Cape Town and University of the West Indies, Cape Town, South Africa, October
- 2006 Book Discussion, *Three Eyes for the Journey: African Dimensions of the Jamaican Religious Experience*, University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria, South Africa, and University of Fort Hare, East London Campus, October (Fulbright Program)
- 2006 Book Discussion, *Three Eyes for the Journey: African Dimensions of the Jamaican Religious Experience*, Center for African and Amerindian Arts and Studies, Hamilton, Bermuda, July
- 2006 Panelist, Book Discussion and Signing of *Three Eyes for the Journey: African Dimensions of the Jamaican Religious Experience*, (with three other authors who discussed their recently released books), Broward Community College/Broward County Library Pan-African Bookfest and Culture Conference: African Americans and the Rhetoric of Identity, Fort Lauderdale, FL, April

#### Conference Papers/Panels/Colloquia/Symposia

- 2022 “The Intellectual Contributions of Rachel Harding to Africana Religious Studies,” African Diaspora Religions Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 21

- 2021 Panelist, “Did Black Religious Studies ‘Throw the Baby Out with the Baptismal Water’? Moving Beyond Reductive Readings of Melville J. Herskovits’s Scholarship, African Diaspora Religions Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20
- 2019 Chair and Panelist, *Orixás and Hemispheric Syncretism: The Yoruba Diaspora in the Americas* Panel, “The Logic of Kinship and the Legacy of Syncretism in Trinidad’s Yoruba-Orisa Religion,” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Williamsburg, VA, November 5-9
- 2018 Presenter, “The Orisa House that Afro-Catholics Built: Africana Antecedents of Yoruba Religious Formation in Trinidad” The Bill and Carol A. Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry Response Forum, Emory University, January 31
- 2018 Presenter, “The Orisa House that Afro-Catholics Built: Africana Antecedents of Yoruba Religious Formation in Trinidad” The Bill and Carol A. Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry Fellows’ Colloquium, January 24
- 2013 Panelist, Critical Examination of Tracey Hucks’ *Yoruba Traditions and African American Religious Nationalism*, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore
- 2013 Panelist, “Womanist Theory and the Study of African Heritage Religious Cultures,” Womanist In-Gathering, Preconsultation Meeting, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore
- 2012 “Theorizing *Matricentricity* and *Motherhood* in Africana Women’s Religious Practices of Peacemaking, Sustainability, Community Building & Social Change,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2010 Critical Reviewer/Panelist, “Samuel Murrell’s *Afro-Caribbean Religion*,” American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting: Bible and Modern Culture IV Theme: *Caribbean Religions: The Historical, Cultural, and Sacred Traditions*, Atlanta, GA, March
- 2009 “Invisible Institutions in African Christianity,” African Association for the Study of Religions in conjunction with the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, LA, November
- 2009 “Sacred Incarnations and Embodied Revelations: Womanist Motifs in the Life and Legacy of Kimpa Vita, Kongo’s Female St. Anthony,” Panel Theme: *Decoding Embodiment: Womanist Thought, Identity and Engagement of Culture*, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montreal, November
- 2008 “Weapons of the Spirit: Distilling the “Science” of *Obeah* and Other Powers of Engagement,” *Obeah and Other Powers: The Politics of Caribbean Religion and Healing* at Newcastle University, Newcastle, England, July
- 2006 “Dynamics of African Religion, Gender and Christianity in the Caribbean,” Africa Institute of South Africa: Panel on Human Security and African Renaissance from a Gender Perspective, Pretoria, South Africa, October
- 2005 “Room Enough to Pray: A Somatic Theology and Aesthetic Theory of African American Expressive Religion in the Nineteenth Century,” The Society for Ethnomusicology, Atlanta, GA November
- 2005 “*Exchanging our Country Marks* and Exchanging Cultural Knowledge: Making the Case for Intersectional Research Agendas in African Diaspora Studies,” Collegium for African American Research, Tours,

France, April

- 2003 “The Preservation of African-Derived Religion in the Caribbean: Toward a Theory of Masquerading,” at Taller Puertorriqueno, Inc. & Grupo Encuentro, Inc., Seventh Annual Arturo A. Schomburg Symposium, *Carnival: From the Religious to the Secular*, Philadelphia, PA, March
- 2002 “Sisters in the Wilderness: Grappling with Delores Williams’ Womanist God-Talk,” American Academy of Religion Womanist Panel Organizer and Panel Respondent with Delores Williams; Panel Presenters were six Emory University Graduate Division of Religion Students, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, November
- 2001 “Dancing Limbo: Black Passages Through the Boundaries of Place, Race and Class,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November
- 2001 “Eldership, Conflict and Change in African Trinidadian Religions,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November
- 1999 “Between Theology and Anthropology: Rethinking Theoretical Models, Approaches and Patterns in Scholarship Pertaining to the Study of African-Derived Religions,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November
- 1999 “Potential Directions in Womanist Theological Methodology: The Case of Women in African Jamaican Religions,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November
- 1998 “The Kumina Religion in Jamaica: Women and the Cross of Recurring Incarnation,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, November
- 1998 “Reinterpreting and Representing African-Derived Religious Traditions in Jamaica,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, November
- 1998 “Beyond the Question of Origins and Authenticity: Toward a New Theory of African Diasporic Religions,” American Academy of Religion, Upper Midwest Region, St. Paul, MN, April

### **EMORY UNIVERSITY, COURSES TAUGHT (2005—)**

Cross-School - Laney Graduate School & Theology: African Religious Traditions and Healing

Undergraduate: Introduction to Religion: African Religions and African American Christianity; Introduction to Religion: African Religions and Buddhism; Black Love; African American Religion: African Religious Cultures in the Caribbean and the Americas (crosslisted with African American Studies); African American Religion: The Black Church in the African American Experience (crosslisted with African American Studies); African American Religion: Black Religions of Protest (crosslisted with African American Studies); Spiritual Dynamics of Afro-America (crosslisted with African American Studies); Black Christian Thought (crosslisted with African American Studies); Gender and Religion: Global Black Feminisms & Womanisms: Epistemology, Spirituality and the Politics of Representation (crosslisted with African Studies, African American Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies); Black Women, Black Love and the Pursuit of Happiness (crosslisted with African American Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)

Graduate: African American Women: Religious Thought and Practice (crosslisted with Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies); Theoretical Issues in the Study of Black Religion; The Phenomenological Method: Charles Long and His Interlocutors; African Religions in the Americas: Knowledge, Place and Performance; Global Feminisms

and the Study of Women and Religion in America (crosslisted with Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies); Theoretical Issues in the Study of Black Religion: African Atlantic Religious Studies; Global Feminisms and the Study of Women and Religion in the Americas: Theological Perspectives (crosslisted with Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies); Comparative Africana Womanisms (crosslisted with Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies); New Directions in Africana Religious Studies

### **SELECT CLASS PRESENTATIONS (EXTERNAL)**

- 2023 Pomona College, *Obeah, Orisa, and Religious Identity in Trinidad, Volume II, Orisa: Africana Nations and the Power of Black Sacred Imagination*, (via Skype), Claremont, CA, March 23
- 2020 Guest Lecturer, "African-Heritage Religions in the Anglophone Caribbean: Womanist Legacies in Trinidad's Yoruba-Orisa Tradition," Harvard University, Department of African and African American Studies/Harvard Divinity School, Professor Jacob Olupona's *African Religion in the Diaspora, AFRAMER 181X/HDS 3689* course, September 24
- 2013 Haverford College, *Three Eyes for the Journey: African Dimensions of the Jamaican Religious Experience*, (via Skype), Haverford, PA, November
- 2013 UNC, Asheville, *Three Eyes for the Journey: African Dimensions of the Jamaican Religious Experience*, (via Skype), Asheville, NC, October

### **DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS DIRECTED**

Marcelitte Failla (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree expected 2024)  
 Elaine Penagos (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned 2023)  
 Timothy Rainey (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned 2021)  
 Abidemi Fasanmi (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Ph.D. degree earned, 2019)  
 Meredith Coleman-Tobias (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2017)  
 Alphonso Saville (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2017)  
 Alexis Wells (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2015)  
 Shani Settles (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Ph.D. degree earned, 2014)  
 Susannah Laramee Kidd\* (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2013)  
 Marcus Harvey (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2012)  
 Veronica Miles\* (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2010)  
 Jawanza Clark (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2008)  
 Lerhonda Manigault (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2007)

### **DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS CO-DIRECTED**

Andrew Kaplan (Comparative Literature, Ph.D. degree expected 2024)  
 Christina Désert (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree expected 2026)  
 Shari Madkins (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2023)  
 Georgette Ledgister (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2018)  
 Elana Jefferson-Tatum (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2016)  
 Carlton Waterhouse (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2006)

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\* Directorship assumed after departure of doctoral candidate's original advisor.

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS, COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Isabelle Meyer-Ensass (Comparative Literature, Ph.D. degree expected 2024)  
 Tala AlRaheb, (Graduate Division of Religion, degree expected, 2024)  
 Alexis Mayfield (English, degree expected, 2024)  
 Nick Peterson (Graduate Division of Religion, degree expected, 2024)  
 Lahronda Little, (Graduate Division of Religion, degree earned, 2022)  
 Jennifer Aycock (Graduate Division of Religion, degree earned, 2023)  
 Michelle Ledder (Graduate Division of Religion, degree earned, 2022)  
 Joi Orr, (Graduate Division of Religion, degree earned, 2021)  
 Kelly Gannon (Graduate Division of Religion, degree earned, 2020)  
 Charles Barber, (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2019)  
 Asha French (English, Ph.D. degree earned, 2019)  
 Joshua Cohen (English, Ph.D. degree earned, 2019)  
 James Worthy (English, Ph.D. degree earned, 2018)  
 Nicole Morris (English, Ph.D. degree earned, 2018)  
 Kenneth Smith (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2017)  
 Meredith Doster (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2017)  
 Ashley Coleman (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2016)  
 Jermaine McDonald (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2015)  
 AnneMarie Mingo (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2013)  
 Tiffany Pogue (Educational Studies, Ph.D. degree earned, 2013)  
 Darryl Roberts (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2012)  
 Keme Hawkins (English, Ph.D. degree earned, 2012)  
 Lerone Martin (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2011)  
 Kristine Suna-Kora (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2010)  
 Mari Kim (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2010)  
 Emily Holmes (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2008)  
 Yanique Hume (ILA, Ph.D. degree earned, 2008)  
 Stephanie Sears Louder (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2007)  
 Meghan Sweeney (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2007)  
 Stacy Boyd (ILA, Ph.D. degree earned, 2007)  
 Robert Patterson (ILA, Ph.D. degree earned, 2007)  
 Renee Harrison (Graduate Division of Religion, Ph.D. degree earned, 2006)  
 Keith McNeal (Anthropology, Ph.D. degree, earned, 2004)  
 Elizabeth Morton (Art History, Ph.D. degree earned, 2003)

**DOCTORAL THESES, EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Khytie Brown, (Harvard University, Graduate Department of African and African American Studies, degree earned, 2020)  
 Kyrach Daniels, (Harvard University, Committee on the Study of Religion & Graduate Department of African and African American Studies, degree earned, 2017)  
 Gerard Reid, (Graduate Theological Union, Theological Studies, degree earned, 2008)



## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Scholarly Presentations:

**The Netherlands 2017** (KITLV - Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies);  
**Germany 2015** (International Association for the History of Religions)  
**Brazil 2014** (Universidade Metodista de São Paulo, Brazil)  
**Nigeria 2013** (Tenth Orisa World Congress, The Orisa Tradition and Poverty Eradication)  
**Jamaica 2012** (Samuel Sharpe on the Praxis of Religion, Revolt, Resistance & the Re-ordering of Society)  
**Ghana 2012** (African and Diasporic African Women in Religion and Theology Conference, Legon, Ghana)  
**Cuba 2012** (XII Conferencia Internacional Cultura Africana y Afroamericana)  
**Democratic Republic of Congo 2011** (Université Protestante au Congo)  
**Canada, 2009** (American Academy of Religion)  
**England, 2008** (Newcastle University)  
**Benin 2007** (Centre for Black and African Arts Civilization)  
**Democratic Republic of Congo 2007** (Université Protestante au Congo & Université Chrétienne de Kinshasa)  
**South Africa 2006** (University of Cape Town, and other institutions)  
**Bermuda 2006** (Center for African and Amerindian Arts and Studies)  
**Trinidad 2005** (CUFU Conference on African Religion and Emancipation)  
**France 2005** (Collegium for African American Research)  
**Canada 2002** (American Academy of Religion)  
**Cuba 1999** (Asamblea Del Pueblo de Dios)  
**England 1998** (Oxford Institute, Trinity College)

### Facilitator/Coordinator of Study Abroad Programs:

**South Africa 2020** (Faculty Coordinator Team Member with the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program)  
**Ghana 2008** (Co-Director, Emory University Graduate Division of Religion Travel Seminar “African Religious Traditions and Healing”)  
**South Africa 2005** (Co-Director, Undergraduate Summer Internship Program, Emory University)  
**Jamaica 2000** (Organizer/Faculty Supervisor, Semester Study Abroad at University of the West Indies for College of the Holy Cross student, Jeanine Broadnax)

### Study Abroad Programs/Internships:

**Panama, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico 1995** (Union Theological Seminary Travel Seminar)  
**Nigeria 1991** (Intern, Human Rights Africa International & Harvard M.Div. Self-initiated Fieldwork Placement: Catholic Secretariat, Lagos)  
**Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua 1990** (Undergraduate Study Abroad Program, Colgate University)  
**Nigeria 1988** (Undergraduate Study Abroad Program, Colgate University)

## EMORY UNDERGRADUATE SERVICE

### College Departmental Service - Religion

Member, Religion Department Executive Committee, 2018-2019  
 Chair, Religion Department Lecture Series/Search Committee: “Africana Approaches to African American Religious History,” 2018-2019  
 Member, Religion Department/ECAS Latinx Cluster Hire Search, 2018-2019

Member, Religion Department Annual Review Committee, Spring 2017  
 Member, Latin American/Latinx Christianity Search Committee, Religion Department, 2016-2017  
 Member, Advisory Committee to the Religion Department Chair 2008-2012, 2014-2015  
 Member, Curriculum Committee, Religion Department, 2012-2014  
 Faculty Host, Religion Department, Visiting Fulbright Scholar (Dr. Modeste Malu, DR Congo), 2008-2009  
 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Religion Department, 2003-2006  
 Chair, Curriculum Committee, Religion Department 2003-2006,  
 Secretary, Religion Department Business Meetings, 2001-2003  
 African American Religion Initiatives in Atlanta, Religion Department 2001-2002  
 Presenter, "Examining Racism as a Religious Conflict," Religion and Conflict Group, Religion Department  
 Committee on Intellectual Life, Fall 2002  
 Convener, "Teaching Writing Summer Workshop," Departments of Religion and African American Studies,  
 Summer 2004  
 Committee on Intellectual Life, Religion Department 2000-2003  
 Presenter, "The Orisa Religion in Trinidad: The African Dynamic in a Southern Caribbean Religion," Religion  
 Department Colloquium, Spring 2003

### **College Departmental Service - African American Studies**

Interim Chair, Department of African American Studies, 2022-2023  
 Member, 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Civil Rights History Search Committee, 2019-2020  
 Member, Ph.D. Proposal Development Committee, 2019-2020  
 Interim Chair, Department of African American Studies, 2018-2019  
 Co-chair, African American Studies/ECAS Latinx Cluster Hire Search, 2018-2019  
 Interviewer, Oxford/ECAS Asa Griggs Candler African American Studies Professor Search  
 Department Representative, Emory Expo, Emory Orientation, Fall 2018  
 Member, African American Studies Department, Leadership Team, Fall 2016-2018  
 Member, African American Studies Department Lecture Series/Search Committee: "Diaspora, Gender and Identity:  
 New Perspectives on the 18th and 19th Century Black Experience," 2016-2017  
 Member, Graduate Studies Committee, African American Studies Department, 2014-2015  
 African American Studies Department Review Committee, 2005-2006  
 Member, Advisory Committee to Chair, African American Studies Department, Fall 2004-2006  
 Presenter, "Probing the Intersections between African American Studies and Religious Studies," African American  
 Studies Department Retreat, Summer 2004  
 African American Studies, Committee on Caribbean Studies and the Diaspora, 2001—2004

### **EMORY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (Wider Service)**

Participant, External Review, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Spring 2023  
 Tenure and Promotion Department Review Committee, Film and Media Studies, Fall 2022—  
 Mellon Sawyer Seminar Proposal Working Group, Spring 2021  
 Mentor, ECAS Mentorship Program for Underrepresented Minority Faculty, 2020-2021

### **EMORY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (Faculty Initiatives)**

Invited Participant, Art Circles Virtual Summer Seminar, Hosted by Dr. Susan Gagliardi, June 2-11, 2021  
 Invited Participant, Academic Learning Community, "Wellbeing," Hosted by Dr. Susan Gagliardi, Fall 2022

## EMORY GRADUATE SERVICE

### Graduate Division of Religion Service (GDR-Laney Graduate School)

Member, Personnel and Curriculum Committee, 2019-2021

Member, Graduate Division of Religion Admissions Committee, 2004-2005, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2016-2017, 2020-2021

Presenter, Between Facts and Norms: Description and Prescription in the Study of Religion, Graduate Division of Religion's Jones Program in Ethics, March 2017

TATOO Teaching Conversation, "Navigating Race, Class and Power in the Classroom." Spring 2016

Moderator, Ethnographic Forum, *Pentecostalism across Borders: Religion, Migration and Conversion in and beyond Brazil*, Fall 2015

Guest Lecture, "Africana Religions and Ecology/Environmental Systems," in Religion and Ecology Collaborative Graduate Seminar, Professors Bobbi Patterson and Lance Gunderson, Fall 2015

Laney Colloquium in Religion (with CST & Department of Religion), Co-organizer/Panelist, *Yemanjá: Wisdom from the African Heart of Brazil*, Film Screening and Panel Discussion, Fall 2015

Pedagogy Colloquy, Presenter, "Assessment and Writing Intensive Course Development," Fall 2013

Admissions Subcommittee on Interdisciplinary Applications, Spring 2013—

Admissions Committee, Spring 2005, 2008, 2009, 2011

First-Year Colloquy, Presenter, "Preparing for a Career in the Academy," April 2009, 2010

First-Year Colloquy, Presenter, "Interdisciplinarity in the Study of Religion," March 2009, 2010

Ethnography and Theology Colloquium, Panelist, "The Implications of Ethnography and Ethnographic Practice," March 2009

Chair, Fourth Session, "Religious Experience: A Special Case?" *What's At Stake in the Ethnography of Human Experience: Phenomenological and Psychoanalytic Perspectives*, September 2008

Faculty Panel on Research Practices, Pitts Theological Library, February 2009

Respondent, Seminar Series in Jewish Studies, January 2009

Chair, Program in American Religious Cultures, 2003-2004

Advisory Committee to GDR Chair, 2003-2005

*Sankofa*, screening and discussion facilitator, (GDR Film Series), Spring 2003

"Some Dos and Don'ts in Preparing for Your First Professional Scholarly Presentation," (GDR Workshop for Students Presenting at the American Academy of Religion), Fall 2002

"Reflections on How to Prepare for a Successful Interview," (GDR Student Workshop, Fall 2001)

### Department of African American Studies (Graduate Program in AAS-Laney Graduate School)

Member, African American Studies Department, Graduate Studies Committee, 2022—

### Laney Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Wider Service)

Participant, External Review, Department of Environmental Sciences, Proposed Doctoral Program, Spring 2023

Faculty Mentor to Audra Davison, Laney Graduate School Summer Opportunity for Academic Research Program, 2020

Black Graduate Student Association Presentation, "Developing My Undergraduate Course: *Black Love*," Spring 2016

Chair, "What Saith the Church? Clerical Perspectives and Responses to Local and Global Alienation the African Diaspora," *Alien Bodies: Race, Space and Sexuality in the African Diaspora* Conference (hosted by the African American Studies Collective—GSAS cross-disciplinary graduate student organization), Spring 2013

Faculty Co-Facilitator, Intensive Grant Writing Workshop, Spring 2012, Fall 2013

Mock Interviewer, Graduate Department of English, Fall 2011

Language Examiner, Jamaican Creole, Claudette Anderson, Ph.D. program, Institute of Liberal Arts, Fall 2004;

Veerle Poupey, Ph.D. program, Institute of Liberal Arts, Fall 2002; Eldon Birthwright, Ph.D. program, Institute of Liberal Arts, Spring 2002; Brenton Boyd, Graduate Department of English, 2019

### **EMORY UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Member, Provost's Search Advisory Committee for the ECAS Dean, 2022-2023  
 Co-chair, Hosting Committee, College Language Association 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention, 2022-2023  
 Reviewer, University Research Committee (URC), Interdisciplinary Intramural Funding Competition, 2023  
 Invited Guest, President Greg Fenves's Hosting Dinner for South African activist Dr. Mamphela Ramphele, Fall 2022  
 Emory Impact Committee (Office of the Provost), 2018-2020  
 Emory University Partnership with the King Center, 2019-2020  
 Member, Faculty Staff Assistance Program (FSAP) Advisory Committee, 2016-2021  
 President's Ad-hoc Diversity Advisory Committee, 2013-2016  
 Emory Graduate Diversity Fellowship Selection Committee 2005, 2006  
 President's Commission on the Status of Minorities, 2002-2003

### **OTHER SERVICE AT EMORY UNIVERSITY**

Keynote Speaker, Emory NAACP, Image Awards Ceremony, April 18, 2021  
 Preacher, Beloved Community Christian Worship, Office of Spiritual and Religious Life, August 23, 2020  
 Chair, "Individual Lives and the Problem of Experience," *Archival Lives: The Violence of History and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade*, Emory University, December 5-7, 2019  
 Faculty Mentor, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program 2003-2006 (Daniel Green, Elana Jefferson, Marcus Jerkins); 2008-2012 (Khytie Brown, Henry Love); 2019-2021 (Vanessa Pérez); 2020-2022 (Gisell Rondón)  
 Faculty Mentor, for Lindsey Burton-Anderson, Undergraduate Research Partners Program/SIRE, 2019-20  
 Faculty Mentor, for Liz Rivera, Undergraduate Research Partners Program/SIRE, 2018-19  
 Co-Facilitator, "Difficult Conversations in the Classroom: Black Faculty in Conversation with Black Students about Race and Other Challenging Topics in Classroom Settings," April 18, 2019  
 Mock Interview Panelist for Rhodes Scholar Finalist, Camilla Reed-Guevara, Fall 2018  
 Keynote Speaker, Modupe Dayo Commencement Ceremony, Emory University, May 6, 2017  
 Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Faculty Response Forum, "Contesting the Nation: The Humanities Engage," Co-host of Roundtable on "Uncivil Religion," January 25, 2017  
 Judge, Emory NAACP, "Amateur Night at the Apollo," November 4, 2016  
 Presenter, "Africana Womanist Thought," for Feminists in Action/African Students Association, October 26, 2016  
 Featured Presenter, *Prof Chat*: "Spiritual Conversations of Meaning-Making, Career, and Spirituality," Office of Religious Life, March 23, 2016  
 Writing Across Emory Roundtable, "Writing in Undergraduate Research," Spring 2016  
 Faculty Participant, OMPS & Men of Distinction at Emory (MODE), "Black Ties," October 27, 2015  
 Panelist, NAACP's "Meet the Black Professors," (presented my research and upcoming African American Studies/Religion courses, October 26, 2015  
 Augustus Baldwin Longstreet Chair Search Committee, English Department, 2014-15  
 Teaching Consultant, Center for Faculty Development and Excellence Teaching Consultation Program (Mentor to Dr. Andrea White, Candler School of Theology) 2009-2010  
 Presenter, "Understanding African Religions from a Diasporic Perspective" SANKOFA (Emory's Ghana Immersion Student Group) Spring 2002  
 Presenter, "African Religious Traditions in the Caribbean," ACES (Emory's Association of Caribbean Educators and Students), Spring 2002  
 Presenter, "Religious Themes and Womanist Ideas in *The Color Purple*," screening and discussion, Harlan Cinema, Spring 2002

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

African American Intellectual History Society (2022—)  
 Southern Conference on African American Studies, Incorporated (2022)  
 Association for the Study of African American Life and History (2021—)  
 Black Women's Studies Association (2020)  
 Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (2018—)  
 Caribbean Studies Association (2018—)  
 Caribbean Philosophical Association (2020—)  
 African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association, Board Member (2012—)  
 American Academy of Religion (1995—)  
 Black Theology Group, Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion (2008-2011)  
 African Religions Group, Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion (2002-2008)  
 Indigenous Religions Group, Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion (1998-2001)  
 Society of Biblical Literature, (1995-1999)  
 Society for the Study of Black Religion (1999—)  
 African Association for the Study of Religions (2002-2012)  
 African Studies Association (2005-2009)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Book Series

Co-founding Series Editor with Jacob Olupona & Terrence Johnson, *Religious Cultures of African and African Diaspora People*, Duke University Press, 2012—

### Titles Released:

*Cachita's Streets: The Virgin of Charity, Race and Revolution in Cuba*  
 by Jalane Schmidt, 2015

*Gesture and Power: Religion, Nationalism, and Everyday Performance in Congo*  
 by Yolanda Covington-Ward, 2015

*Hope Draped in Black: Race, Melancholy and the Agony of Progress*  
 by Joseph Winters, 2016

*Religion and the Making of Nigeria,*  
 by Olufemi Vaughan, 2016

*Passages and Afterworlds: Anthropological Perspectives on Death in the Caribbean,*  
 by Maarit Forde and Yanique Hume eds., 2018

*An Intimate Rebuke: Female Genital Power in Ritual and Politics in West Africa*  
 by Laura Grillo, 2018

*Spirit on the Move: Black Women and Pentecostalism in Africa and the Diaspora*  
 by Judith Casselberry and Elizabeth Pritchard eds., 2019

*Queering Black Atlantic Religions: Transcorporeality in Candomblé, Santería and Vodou*  
 by Roberto Strongman, 2019

*Affective Trajectories: Religion and Emotion in African Cityscapes*

by Hansjörg Dilger, Astrid Bochow, Marian Buchardt and Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon, 2020

*Kincraft: The Making of Black Evangelical Sociality*

by Todne Thomas, 2021

*Chosen Peoples: Christianity and Political Imagination in South Sudan*

by Christopher Tounsel, 2021

*Embodying Black Religions in Africa and Its Diasporas*

by Yolanda Covington-Ward and Jeanette Jouili, eds.

*Rage and Carnage in the Name of God*

By Abiodun Alao, 2022

*Obeah, Orisa, and Religious Identity in Trinidad, Volume I, Obeah: Africans in the White Colonial Imagination*

By Tracey Hucks, 2022

*Obeah, Orisa, and Religious Identity in Trinidad, Volume II, Orisa: Africana Nations and the Power of Black Sacred Imagination*

By Dianne Stewart, 2022

*In and Out of This World: Material and Extraterrestrial Bodies in the Nation of Islam*

By Stephen Finley, 2022

*Black Square and Then to Where: Theories of Justice and Black Sexual Ethics*

By Jennifer Susanne Leath, 2023

### **Scholarly Journals**

Editorial Advisory Board Member, The Emory University Rose Library's UGA Press Imprint 2022—

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Theta Alpha Kappa (JTAK)* 2022—

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 2019—

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 2017—

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Africana Religions* 2011—

Faculty Advisory Board, *Practical Matters: A Transdisciplinary and Multimedia Journal of Religious Practices and Practical Theology*, Issue 3, Spring 2010

Advisory Committee, *Bulletin of African Theology* 2007—

### **Scholarly Peer Reviewer For**

#### Presses

Oxford University Press, 2023

University of North Carolina Press, 2019, 2020, 2022

Cambridge University Press, 2009, 2014

Duke University Press, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2023

Temple University Press, 2008

Blackwell Publishing, Oxford UK, 2006

Palgrave Macmillan, 2005, 2008, 2014

University Press of Florida, 2004

### Journals

*Journal of Africana Religions*, 2020

[Religions](#), 2020

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2022

*Journal of Law and Religion*, 2007

*Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 2000, 2011

*The North Star*, 1999

### **External Reviewer**

Harvard University, Tenure and Promotion Review

University of Chicago, Tenure and Promotion Review

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Tenure and Promotion Review

Brown University, Tenure and Promotion Review

Colorado College, Third-Year Review

Haverford College, Promotion Review

Kenyon College, Promotion Review

University of Colorado Denver, Fourth-Year Review

University of West Georgia, Tenure and Promotion Review

Florida International University, Tenure and Promotion Review

Saint Paul School of Theology, Tenure and Promotion Review

Kenyon College, Tenure and Promotion Review

San Francisco Theological Seminary, Promotion Review

Haverford College, Tenure and Promotion Review

Haverford College, Fourth-Year Review

### **National Fellowships Reviewer**

American Council of Learned Societies, 2019

National Humanities Center, 2013

### **Book Award Juries**

Jurist, American Academy of Religion, Best First Book in the History of Religions, 2021

Jurist, *Journal of Africana Religions*, Albert J. Raboteau Book Prize, 2021

### **Program Unit Reviewer**

African Diaspora Religions Group, American Academy of Religion, 2014

### **Outside Examiner**

Harvard University, Graduate Department of African and African American Studies, Khytie Brown, December 2017

Harvard University, Committee on the Study of Religion & Graduate Department of African and African American Studies, Kyrah Daniels, November 2013

Graduate Theological Union, Theological Studies Comprehensive Exam, Gerard Reid, April 2003

### **International Service to the Professoriate (Invited)**

Member of the Jury, University of Simon Kimbangu, Doctorate Degree, Honoris Causa, conferred upon Dr. Martial Sinda, Kinshasa, DRC, July 28, 2011

### **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

#### **Articles/Op-eds**

2021 [“We’ve Finally begun to Confront White Christian Nationalism; But What about Its Source Text?”](#) Religion Dispatches, August 2, 2021

2021 [“The Wedding Tradition of Jumping the Broom Didn’t Actually Derive from Africa,”](#) *Oprah Daily*, June 25

2019 [“2019 Marked 400 Years of ‘Forbidden Black Love’ in America,”](#) *The Washington Post*, “Made by History,” December 26

2010 [“The Myth of ‘Voodoo:’ A Caribbean American Response to Representations of Haiti,”](#) *Religion Dispatches*, January 21

2010 [“Le Vodou N’est Pas Responsable du Tremblement de Terre à Haïti,”](#) *Africultures: Les Mondes en Relation*, January 26 (Translated by Dr. Didier Gondola)

2004 “My Reflections on the Current Racial Climate at Emory,” *Update: A Newsletter of Emory’s Department of Religion* (Spring 2004): 11-13

#### **Courses/Instruction**

2022 Instructor, *Black Love*, Ire Ase Communiversy, February

2021 Guest Panelist, “Loving While Black,” *Black Mobility and Safety*, taught locally and virtually by Professor Ekene Ijeoma, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 9

2019 Instructor, Great Works Seminar: *African American Thinkers on Black Love and Learning to Love Blackness*, Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, March-April

2015 Volunteer Teacher, “African Heritage Religions: Part III,” Lee Arrendale State Prison for Women, Georgia Department of Corrections, Alto, GA, December 4

2015 Volunteer Teacher, “African Heritage Religions: Part II,” Lee Arrendale State Prison for Women, Georgia Department of Corrections, Alto, GA, January 30

2013 Volunteer Teacher, “African and African Diaspora Religions: A Seminar,” Lee Arrendale State Prison for Women, Georgia Department of Corrections, Alto, GA, June 21



**Lectures/Speeches/Panels**

- 2023 Keynote Address, “Forbidden Black Love: My Quest to Understand America’s Unrecognized Civil Rights Issue,” Research Week, Howard University, April 11
- 2023 Presenter/Co-panelist, “De-stigmatizing African Beliefs: Understanding the Origins of Black Faith and Beliefs,” Black Employee Resource Group, Lululemon Apparel Company, February 27
- 2022 Guest Speaker and Book Signing, “Elevating and Celebrating Black Women...Black Love,” Shrine of the Black Madonna of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church, Women’s Day Program, Detroit, MI, October 16
- 2022 Featured Panelist with Tiffanie Drayton, in Conversation with Melanie F. Hart, “Visions of a Post-Neoliberal Future,” Henry Cohen Lecture Series, The New School, New York, NY, March 3
- 2021 Panelist, “Stabilizing and Advancing Community: A National Convening on Equity-Based Revitalization” NeighborWorks, June 17 (Virtual)
- 2021 Featured Panelist, “Black Women, Black Love: A Conversation on Marriage, Religion, and Black Families,” Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, April 29 (Aired on C-SPAN, June 19, 2021)
- 2021 Presenter, “Black Women, Black Love,” Black Power Book Club, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA, Virtual, April 15
- 2021 Presenter, “Black Women, Black Love,” Black Women’s Caucus, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY, Virtual, April 8
- 2021 Presenter, “Forbidden Black Love: America’s Hidden Civil Rights Issue,” *Minds Matter*, Emory University Emeritus College, Atlanta, GA, Virtual, March 15
- 2021 Presenter, “Black Women, Black Love: America’s War on African American Marriage,” Rubi Read Book Club, Rubidoux SDA Church, Riverside, CA, Virtual, February 27
- 2021 Featured Speaker, “Forbidden Black Love: America’s Hidden Civil Rights Issue,” in Conversation with Dr. Andrea White, Riverside Church, New York, NY, Virtual, February 4
- 2020 Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance, Reader Meet Writer Series, *Black Women, Black Love: America’s War on African American Marriage*, Virtual, October 8
- 2020 Panelist, Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference: Hosted by Senator Cory Booker, Topic: “Baby Bonds,” Virtual, August 27
- 2019 A Conversation with Jacquelyn J. Holness, Author of *Destination Wedding*, and Dianne M. Stewart, author of *Black Women, Black Love: America’s War on African American Marriage*, Auburn Avenue Research Library, Atlanta, GA, December 11
- 2017 Panelist, “The History of Forbidden Black Love,” *LISTEN. ideas that resonate*, Auburn Avenue Research Library, Atlanta, GA, November 15
- 2015 Panelist, United Negro College Fund (UNCF)/Mellon Programs Conference, “Graduate School Admissions and Experiences of Students of Color,” Atlanta, GA, October 9

- 2015 Volunteer Teacher, "African Heritage Religions: Part III," Lee Arrendale State Prison for Women, Georgia Department of Corrections, Alto, GA, December 4
- 2015 Volunteer Teacher, "African Heritage Religions: Part II," Lee Arrendale State Prison for Women, Georgia Department of Corrections, Alto, GA, January 30
- 2013 Volunteer Teacher, "African and African Diaspora Religions: A Seminar," Lee Arrendale State Prison for Women, Georgia Department of Corrections, Alto, GA, June 21
- 2013 Workshop Leader, "Preparing for the Ministry of Scholarship" The National Black Women in Ministry & Leadership Conference, Interdenominational Theological Center/Black Women in Church and Society Office, Atlanta, GA, May 24
- 2012 Colloquium Facilitator, Howard Thurman Day, "*Is the Howard Thurman Legacy of Interfaith Cooperation Flexible Enough to Include African Spiritual Tradition?*" A discussion between the Queen Mothers of Ghana and the Morehouse College Community, Atlanta, GA, November
- 2012 Career Day General Assembly Keynote Address, Fountain Elementary School, Atlanta, GA, April
- 2011 Panelist & Workshop Leader, "Preparing for Doctoral Studies: Researching Institutional Options" *The Ministry of Scholarship*, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA, March
- 2011 Presenter/Workshop Leader, Educational Lectures and Workshops, *Bumuntu* Peace Institute, University of Kamina, University of Kabongo, Democratic Republic of Congo, June
- 2011 Lecturer, *Women at the Cross Easter Week Series*, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA, April 13
- 2010 "The Disaster in Haiti and the Image of African Spirituality," Invited Lecturer, Ile Ori Temple, Atlanta, Georgia, March
- 2008 "Was Reverend Jeremiah A. Wright *Wrong?* An Examination of Black Liberation Theology, Race, and Politics in America," Invited Panelist, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta GA, April 21
- 2004 "The Challenges of Diversity in the Classroom," and "From the Front Lines: Theory and Praxis in the Academy, Church and Society," Fund for Theological Education Mentorship Weekend, Presenter and Mentor, South Bend, IN, June 11-14
- 2004 "Crafting a Scholarly Identity: The Importance of Thinking about What and How We Write," Fund for Theological Education Dissertation Fellows Workshop, Atlanta, GA, August
- 2004 "Deconstructing Black Nationalist Essentialisms through Black Feminist Theory and Praxis," Pan-African Orthodox Church/Shrine of the Black Madonna, Atlanta, GA, Summer
- 2004 Workshop Leader, "Womanist Theology for the Healthy City," Annual Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Metro-Urban Institute, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, April
- 2004 Guest Speaker, Black History Month Service, "SANKOFA: A Celebration of the Religious Expression and Souls of Black Folks" at Trinity African Baptist Church, Mableton, GA, February
- 2003 Guest Speaker, "Caribbean Independence Service," First African Presbyterian Church, Lithonia, GA, August

- 2002 Workshop Leader, “Strategies for Pursuing Higher Education,” Community Workshop for Women of Color, Americorps, New York, NY, September
- 2002 Keynote Speaker, “Womanist Theology: A Resource for ‘Addressing the Needs of the Total Woman Spiritually, Emotionally and Physically,’” First Baptist Institutional Church, First Annual Women’s Conference, Detroit, MI, August
- 2001 Lecturer, African Liberation Day Celebration, Aranguez Junior Secondary School, Aranguez, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, May
- 2000 Lecturer, “Black Religion and Constructive Theological Reflection: Resources for Positive Spiritual Development,” Osborn Correctional Institute, Somers, CT, June and July

### Think Tanks

Member, [Closing the Women’s Wealth Gap](#) (CWWG), a national initiative to advance policies and strategies that build wealth for low-wealth women and women of color, 2020-2021

### Consulting, Mentoring & Public Intellectual Forums

Consultant, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/The New York Public Library Lilly Planning Grant, “How the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Can Engage the Idea of Black Religious and Spiritual Practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” April 25, 2023

Conversation/Interview, with Christina Joy, Sankofa Books and Café, Book Discussion: *Black Women, Black Love: America’s War on African American Marriage*, April 10, 2023

Participant, *Blackspace*, an annual public intellectual form hosted by Dr. Erna Brodber, Woodside, St. Mary, Jamaica, July 28-30, 2022

Moderator, Keynote Session with Author Beverly Jenkins, Black Readers Conference, October 30, 2021

Panelist, *The Divestment Movement*, Black America Summit II, August 6, 2021

Facilitator, Table for Thirteen, Colgate University Alumni Discussion of *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Virtual, July 20, 2021

Reader Meets Writer, Eat and Read at Melba’s, Community Literacy Program featuring *Black Women, Black Love: America’s War on African American Marriage*, Melba’s PoBoys, New Orleans, LA, June 25, 2021

Interview, Dean Carla Freeman, “Black Women, Black Love with Author Dianne Stewart,” Emory Alumni Book Club, Emory College of Arts and Sciences, Virtual, February 21, 2022

Mentor, “Doctoral Forum,” Forum for Theological Exploration, Fall 2021

Member, Black Interfaith Working Group, Interfaith Youth Core, 2021-2022

Presenter, “Black Women, Black Love,” Americorps, Miami Conference of Christians and Jews, February 25, 2021

Expert Witness, Hill MacDonald, LLC Divorce and Family Law (for expertise in Yoruba religion and cosmology), March 23, 2017

The Carter Center, Human Rights Defenders Forum, Planning Team:  
-Consultant & Participant, *Beyond Violence: Women Leading for Peaceful Societies*, Atlanta, GA, February 7-10, 2015

Scholarly Consultant, Interdenominational Theological Center Presidential Committee on the Religious Heritage of the African World, 2011-2013

The Carter Center, Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum, Planning Team: Participant, “Family Laws and Norms” Group, *The Role of Religion in Protecting and Advancing Women’s Rights*, Atlanta, GA, June 27-30, 2013

The Carter Center, Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum, Planning Team, Workshop Facilitator and Moderator: -Facilitator, “The Power of Sacred Literatures in Advancing Human Dignity” & Moderator, “Shifting Dogma and Tradition: Affirming Human Dignity through Sacred Literatures,” *Daughters of Heaven and Earth: A Forum on Faith, Belief, and the Advancement of Women’s Human Rights*, Atlanta, GA, April 3-6, 2011

The Carter Center, Consultant for ongoing projects concerning women’s rights and religion, 2011—

Workshop Leader, “The Ministry of Teaching and Scholarship,” *Living Stones in Sacred Waters: A National Black Women in Ministry Leadership Conference*, Black Women in Church and Society Program of the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA, May 23-25, 2013

Advisory Board Member, *Bumuntu* Peace Institute for Education and Development in Africa, (Headquarters in Los Angeles (USA), Kinshasa, and Kamina (DRC)), November 2010—

Featured Scholar, [\*Living Thinkers: An Autobiography of Black Women in the Ivory Tower\*](#) (documentary about the intersection of race, gender, and class in the lives of African American women in American colleges and universities, produced by Dr. Roxanne Walker-Canton, Fairfield University, CT) August 10, 2010

Faculty Resource Consultant, Black Women in Ministerial Leadership Fellowship Program, Interdenominational Theological Center/Black Women in Church and Society, 2008-2011

“Black Religious Studies and the Black Church,” Kelly Miller Institute, Scholarly Think Tank, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN, September 9-11, 2004

Consultant, Canadian Department of Immigration and Naturalization, Deliberating a Case for Canadian Asylum (consulted for expert knowledge on the phenomenon of Obeah in Trinidad), Summer 2003

United Methodist Church, Women of Color Doctoral Scholarship Program, Mentor and Selection Committee Member, Spring 2003—2006

Mellon Scholar Consultant, Haverford College, Summer 2002, 2005, 2007

Member, Education for Liberation: an association of educators of African descent with a focus on improving the quality of education for Black children in the American public school system, 1999—2001

Member and Participant, Benjamin E. Mays Institute: a boys’ academy at Lewis Fox Middle School, Hartford, CT, 1999-2001

### Scholarly Interviews (Host)

“[Dispossession: The Price of Progress](#),” First Fridays at 4, *Emory Scholars on Race: A Conversation with Tayari Jones*, Emory College of Arts and Sciences/James Weldon Johnson Institute, March 16, 2021

“[Candomblé Reconsidered: A Sacred Matters Interview](#),” (with Dr. Rachel Harding and Donna Roberts (filmmaker/producer – *Yemanjá: Wisdom from the African Heart of Brazil*) for *Sacred Matters*, October 9, 2015

### Media Consultations/Interviews: Print & Online

Bria Overs, “[Married Black Women Are More Likely to Be Breadwinners. That's Not a Bad Thing](#),” *WordinBlack*, April 28, 2023.

Jonquilyn Hill, Vox Media, for developing story on “Real Housewives of Potomac and How Marriage Serves as a Status Marker for Black Women,” March 3, 2023

Meagan Jordan, “[Black Women’s ‘Sex and the City’ Is Back to Make Us Feel Seen](#),” *Rolling Stone*, February 8, 2023

Minda Honey, “[Single Black Women and the Lies about Our Love Lives](#),” *ANDscape*, February 14, 2022

Tracy Thompson, “[Meet the Entrepreneurs Using African Spirituality to Create Businesses](#)” CNBC, January 31, 2022

Meredith Landry, “[Family Reboot: Q&A - Black Women, Black Love](#)” Family Story, January 12, 2021

Eartha Hopkins, “[Black Love or War? A Comprehensive Look into the Impact of Racism on Dating Relationships](#),” *Ebony*, November 10, 2021

Eartha Hopkins, “[Black Love or War](#),” *The Grio*, August 1, 2021

John Blake, “[Kamala Harris’ Marriage Could Challenge a Racial Taboo](#),” CNN, February 15, 2021

Interview, James Bruggers, “[In Georgia Senate Race, Warnock Brings a History of Black Faith Leaders’ Environmental Activism](#),” *Inside Climate News*, December 31, 2020

Janelle Harris Dixon, “[New Book Claims the Destruction of Black Relationships Is America’s Unrecognized Civil Rights Issue](#),” *The Root*, November 17, 2020

Charlene Muhammad, “[Black Marriage Day 2020: A Celebration of Love and Commitment](#),” *The Final Call*, March 18, 2020

Shari Rudavsky, *Indianapolis Star*, “[DNA Test Can Break Down ‘Brick Wall’ of Slavery for African Americans Tracing Their Roots](#),” October 29, 2019,

Nneka Okona, *The Highlight by Vox*, “[‘Heritage Travel’ is Surging in the Era of DNA Testing. It Has a Special Significance for Black Americans](#),” September 25, 2019,

Bouchra Ouatik, *Canadian Broadcast Corporation/Radio-Canada*, “[Voici pourquoi des manifestants s’opposent à une exposition sur Toutankhamon](#),” April 23, 2019

Meagan Jordan, *Broadly*, “[Nipsey Hussle’s Memorial Was a Celebration of African Spirituality](#),” April 12, 2019

Richard Schapiro, *New York Daily News*, "[Brooklyn Religious Store Owners' Mysterious Murders Leaves Hole in the Lives of Those the Couple Counseled](#)," May 18, 2018,

Pauline Dolle, *A Journey Through NYC Religions*, "[Powerful Pulpit Women of the Caribbean in NYC](#)," November 5, 2014

Mashaun Simon, *The Grio*, "Black Americans Lament the Commercialization of Christmas," December 25, 2012 (<http://thegrio.com/2012/12/25/black-americans-lament-the-commercialization-of-christmas/>)

Alexis Shaw, ABCNews.com, "West African Spiritual Traditions," June 8, 2012

Chica Oduah, "[Are Blacks Abandoning Christianity for African Faiths](#)," *The Grio*, NBC News, October 19, 2011

### **Media Interviews/Consultations: Television & Social Media**

Interview, Anietie Antia Obong, Shaken World Screenworks, for documentary that will be based on my book, *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on Africa American Marriage*, May 3, 2023

Marcie L. Thomas, "Live Well Sister!" (a weekly broadcast of Brown Girl Collective), Book Discussion: *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on Africa American Marriage*, May 10, 2023

Interview, "Not Your Mammy" Clubhouse Room, Book Discussion: *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on Africa American Marriage*, April 16, 2023

Interview, Book Discussion: *Obeah, Orisa, and Religious Identity in Trinidad, Vol II, Orisa: Africana Nations and the Power of Black Sacred Imagination, The Sisterhood*, Urban Information Network, January 27, 2023

Guest Speaker/Discussant, with Ijeoma Opara, MD, Antiracism in Medicine Action Roundtable (AIMART), "Praise the Lord & Pass the Violence: The Role of Religion in Perpetuating AntiBlackness in Healthcare," October 22, 2022

Aaleah McConnell, "The Significance and Veneration of the Deceased in African Diasporic Cultures," October 13, 2022

Interview, "Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage," *Black in the Day in the 313*, hosted by Kefentse Chike, Detroit MI, October 8, 2022

Interview, "Black Women, Black Love," *The Sisterhood*, Urban Information Network, September 30, 2022

Instagram Live, Atlanta Black World, "Bridging the Gap Between Black Immigrants and African Americans," March 10, and March 24, 2022

Interview, Taylor Musgrave and Val Warner, "Jumping the Broom," *Our Chicago: Building Black*, February 26, 2022

Interview, Audrey Galex, *Exploring Ifa*, AIB Network, August 16, 2022

Interview, Dr. Andra Gillespie, "Black Women, Black Love," *JWJI Faculty Spotlight: Emory Faculty Publishing on Race and Difference*, James Weldon Johnson Institute, February 14, 2022

Consultant, Expertise on African Heritage Religions in the Diaspora, Walt Disney Animation Studios, September 3, 2021

Interview, Areva Martin, *The Special Report*, July 14, 2021

Guest, *Black Love*, FaceBook Live Audio Room with Deray McKesson, July 26, 2021

Guest Appearance, Lauren Johnson, "[Could Vice President Kamala Harris' Marriage Affect views on Interracial Relationships](#)," *Good Day Philadelphia*, Fox 29 Philadelphia, February 28, 2021

Interview, Jayla Whitfield, "[Coronavirus Pandemic Forces Black Churches to Adapt to New Ways of Worship](#)," Fox News Atlanta, February 19, 2021

Guest Panelist, "Black Love," *Basic Black*, WGBH, February 9, 2021

Interview, "Let's Chat with the Author of *Black Women, Black Love*," Mocha Girls Read & Black Men Read, December 13, 2020

Interview, Aiyla Williamson, "[Black Women, Black Love: An Interview with Dianne M. Stewart](#)," November 29, 2020

Interview, Dr. Sean MacMillan, *The Book of Sean: Black Women and Love*, Fox Soul, October 19, 2020

*A Seat at the Table*, Georgia Public Broadcasting television program, hosted by Monica Pearson, Denene Millner, and Christine White (produced by Keocia Howard) - Consultant for show theme: "African Americans and Christianity," March 2018

*Black Sails* (Television Series, Starz Television Network), Consulted on Season 3, Episodes 6 and 9, for expertise in 18th-century Obeah religious practices in the Caribbean, Fall 2015

## Podcasts

Mikell Carter, New Books Network, Book Discussion: *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on Africa American Marriage*, February 2, 2023

Roman Johnson, The Freedom Doctor, "Obeah and other African Sacred Healing Traditions in the Diaspora," January 23, 2023

Shantae Charles, Black Table Talk, *Daring Dialogues* series, Book Discussion: *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage*, February 28, 2023

Julian Walker, PushBlack, Book Discussion: *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on Africa American Marriage*, June 24, 2022

Drs. La Drea Ingram and Langston Clark, Entrepreneurial Appetite, Black Book Discussion: *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on Africa American Marriage*, February 17, 2022

Marc Sims, "Black Women, Black Love," *400 Plus*, June 20, 2021

Marc Sims, "America's War on African American Marriage," *Just a Few Questions*, June 20, 2021

Dr. Joy Harden Bradford, "Exploring African Traditional Religions," *Therapy for Black Girls*, June 2, 2021

Kiana and Jasmine Brooks, "We Had the Talk about Black Love," *We Had the Talk*, May 30, 2021

JR, "Theologian or Savior: Social Technology or Religion," *Bandwidth Coast to Coast*, May 14, 2021

JR, "A Uniquely American Love Story," *Bandwidth Coast to Coast*, February 4, 2021

Tulaine Montgomery, "Black Women and Black Love," *Say More*, November 18, 2020

Deray Mckesson, "Ask All the Questions," *Pod Save the People*, November 16, 2020

### **Media Interviews/Consultations: Radio**

#### *Married Black Women Lead as Breadwinners*

- The WVON Afternoon Show with Kimberley Egonmwan and Atiba Buchanan, WVON 1690 AM Radio, May 11, 2023

#### *The Challenges and Triumphs of Black Love*

-[KBLA Talk](#), *Areva Martin In Real Time*, February 14, 2023

#### *Debt, Marriage, and Divorce in the Black Community*

- The WVON Afternoon Show with Kimberley Egonmwan and Atiba Buchanan, WVON 1690 AM Radio, March 25, 2022

#### *Can a Relationship Work When a Woman Makes More Money Than her Male Partner?*

-The WVON Afternoon Show with Kimberley Egonmwan and Atiba Buchanan, WVON 1690 AM Radio, October 6, 2022

#### *Debt, Marriage, and Divorce in the Black Community*

- The WVON Afternoon Show with Kimberley Egonmwan and Atiba Buchanan, WVON 1690 AM Radio, March 25, 2022

#### *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage*

-[KBLA Talk](#), *Tavis Smiley*, February 14, 2022

#### *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage*

-The Buchanan and Seaton Show, Atiba Buchannan and Kimberly Egonmwan, WVON 1690 AM Radio, January 23, 2022

#### *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage*

-What's the 411 with Sharon Kay, February 2, 2022

#### *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage*

-The Buchanan and Seaton Show, Atiba Buchanan, WVON 1690 AM Radio, December 16, 2021

#### *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage*

-[KBLA Talk](#), *Areva Martin Out Loud*, October 9, 2021

#### *Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage*

-WPFW 89.3 FM Radio, *On the Margins* with Ethelbert Miller, June 24, 2021



*Black Love, Black Men and Marriage*

-Africa 400 Radio, June 16, 2021

*The Roadblocks to Love for Black Women*

-[KERA Think](#), Courtney Collins, April 9, 2021

*Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage*

-Africa 400 Radio, June 16, 2021

*Marriage and Marital Opportunities for African American Women*

-Blue Ridge Public Radio, *The Waters and Harvey Show* with Drs. Darryl Waters and Marcus Harvey, November 25, 2020

*Black Women, Black Love: America's War on African American Marriage*

-NPR, [Marketplace](#), from American Public Media, with Kai Ryssdal, October 6, 2020

*The History of Forbidden Black Love*

-WAOK, 1380 AM Radio, Morning Show: *The Movement*, with Dr. F. Keith Slaughter, November 15, 2017

*Teaching The Power of Black Self-Love – discussion with Donna Troka & Gretel Nabeta*

-GPB News/NPR 88.5 FM Radio, *On Second Thought* with Celeste Headlee, January 11, 2017

*Between and Beyond Colonial Imaginations: Obeah, Orisa and Religious Identity in Trinidad – book project discussion*

-WRES 100.7, FM Radio, *The Waters and Harvey Show* with Drs. Darryl Waters and Marcus Harvey, April 8, 2015

*Teaching “Crossing the Color Line: African and Appalachian Religious Others in the American Imagination”*

-WRES 100.7 FM Radio, *The Waters and Harvey Show* with Drs. Darryl Waters and Marcus Harvey, March 19, 2015

*Parliamentary Debates about Decriminalizing Obeah in Jamaica*

-BBC London, 94.9 FM Radio, *Dotun Adebayo Show*, London, July 14, 2013

*African Religious Cultures in the Caribbean*

-IRIE 105.5 FM Radio, *Running Africa* with Andrea Williams, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, October 7, 2012

-IRIE 107.5 FM Radio, *The Cutting Edge* with Mutabaruka, Kingston, Jamaica, October 10, 2012

-WRFG, 89.3 FM Radio, *Caribbean Runnings*, Atlanta, GA, February 3, 2013

-WRFG, 89.3 FM Radio, *African Experience Worldwide*, Atlanta, GA, February 4, 2013

-WRFG, 89.3 FM Radio, *Sunday Night Fire*, Atlanta, GA, February 5, 2013

-WAOK, 1380 AM Radio, *Too Much Truth*, Atlanta, GA, February 6, 2013

-WRFG, 89.3 FM Radio, *Night Watch Expressions*, Atlanta, GA, February 7, 2013

*The January 2010 Earthquake in Haiti & Public Conceptions about Vodou*

-Scholarly Consultant, “Misconceptions of Vodou/Voodoo” in the wake of the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, *National Public Radio*, January 20, 2010

*Black Theology and the Barack Obama/Jeremiah Wright Presidential Election Controversy*

-WAOK, 1380 AM Radio, *Shelley Wynter Talk Show*, April 18, 2008

## **LANGUAGES**

French: (proficient) reading, speaking, (elementary), writing  
Spanish: (competent) reading, (elementary) speaking, writing  
Kikongo: (novice) reading, speaking, writing  
Jamaican Creole: (fluent) reading, speaking