

# MICHAEL RALPH

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022-present *Cameron Schrier Professor*  
Department of Afro-American Studies, Howard University
- 2022-present *Founding Director*  
Center for Equitable Economy and Sustainable Society
- 2021-present *Chair and Professor*  
Department of Afro-American Studies, Howard University
- 2015-2021 *Tenured Associate Professor*  
Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University
- 2018-present *Affiliate Professor*  
New York University School of Medicine
- 2018-2021 *Co-President*  
Ballet Tech PTA
- 2018-2020 *Director*  
Program in Africana Studies, Department of Social & Cultural Analysis,  
New York University
- 2016-2018 *Director*  
Undergraduate Studies, Department of Social & Cultural Analysis,  
New York University
- 2007-2014 *Tenure-track Assistant Professor*  
Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University
- 2006-2007 *Tenure-track Assistant Professor*  
Department of Anthropology, Cornell University

## EDUCATION

- University of Chicago*, Chicago, IL  
Ph.D. Anthropology 2007  
MA Anthropology 2002
- Morris Brown College*, Atlanta, GA  
BA Africana Studies (major), History (minor) 2000
- Morehouse College* (Atlanta, GA)  
BA Computer Science (Center of Excellence full four-year Scholarship)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Data Visualization

*Treasury of Weary Souls*, [www.treasuryofwearysouls.com](http://www.treasuryofwearysouls.com), the world's most comprehensive ledger of insured slaves.

## Books

### *Co-edited*

Under Review Hamilton, Darrick, and Michael Ralph, eds. *The Economics of Structural Violence*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

2007 Eastman, Benjamin, Michael Ralph, & Sean Brown, eds. *America's Game(s): A Critical Anthropology of Sport*. London: Routledge.

### *Single-authored manuscripts*

In development *Failed Experiments: Drugs & Incarceration in Kentucky*. Verso.  
Traces Kentucky's historic legacy of pioneering approaches to drugs and incarceration, demonstrating the optimism and sense of adventure that shows up in earnest attempts at liberal reform and creative schemes for generating profit. The story of Kentucky is the story of these two impulses, producing contradictory projects for fiscal growth and moral reform from the eighteenth century to the present.

In development *Body & Soul: A history of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance*. Verso.  
It is well known that the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance company is the most successful African American business, amassing more than \$1 billion in revenue and lasting nearly 125 years, from time the idea was hatched in 1898 until it was liquidated in 2022. Less well known is that it started in the aftermath of the Wilmington Race Riot when its founders sought to create a source of community empowerment and an asset base for a vulnerable community. This book explores what it means that the business model of the most successful African American business in US history rested on the impossible task of deciding how much life is worth. It also examines how and why a life insurance company was envisioned as a solution to the problem of economic and political vulnerability.

2026 *Fishing*. Algonquin Books  
Based on years of ethnographic and historical research concerning prison labor and artistry, *Fishing* argues that ingenuity cannot be incarcerated using images of inmates "fishing" to share objects with each other.

2024 *Before 13<sup>th</sup>*. HarperCollins Amistad.  
Drawing upon original archival research to challenge the widespread notion that leasing prison inmates to private corporations begins with the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment, *Before 13<sup>th</sup>* demonstrates instead that it began several decades prior, with an experiment to have inmates farm hemp, at the Kentucky penitentiary.

- 2015 *Forensics of Capital*. University of Chicago Press.  
Demonstrates that the profile of an individual or country is always a forensic profile as well as a credit profile.

### Refereed Journal Articles

- In press. "AI as a Social Science." Editor's Introduction. Special Issue. *Current Anthropology*.
- 2025 "The Problem of liquidity: Sovereignty, Insurance, and Slavery in the antebellum US." *Current Anthropology*. June.
- 2023 "Slavery and Incarceration in the Frontier: The Origin of Convict Leasing." *Journal of Cultural Economy* 16(3): 337-349. Special Issue: Andrea Ballastero and Andrea Muelebach, eds. "What is a Financial Frontier?"
- 2022 with Arjun Appadurai, Vijanthi Rao, and Erica Robles-Anderson, "Conjectures: Who Counts, What Circulates, and the Politics of Children." *Public Culture* 94 (Volume 33, Number 2): 129-133.
- 2019 with Maya Singhal. "Racial Capitalism" *Theory and Society* 48: 851-881. Special issue on *Slavery and Social Death* featuring Orlando Patterson.
- 2019 "Higher: The Life and Legacy of Nipsey Hussle." *Transforming Anthropology* 27(2): 81-84.
- 2019 "Forensics." 'Secular and Capital' special issue. *Journal of American Academy of Religion* 87(3): 649-654.
- 2017 with Aisha Beliso-De Jesús and Stephan Palmié. "Saint Tupac." *Transforming Anthropology* 26(1): 90-102.
- 2017 "The Price of Life: From Slavery to Corporate Life Insurance." *Dissent* (Spring 2017): 63-67. Special issue on Capitalism. Timothy Shenk, ed.
- 2015 "The concept of *capital*." *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 5(1): 501-508.
- 2015 "Architecture of the Unconscious." *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* 25(1): 163-175.
- 2015 "To Be a Butterfly on the Wall of this Mansion: In Place of a Response." *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* 25(1).
- 2015 "Theoretical Ramifications of *Django Unchained*." *American Anthropologist* 117(1): 154-161.
- 2012 "'Life...in the midst of death': Notes on the historical relationship between life insurance, slave insurance and disability." *Disability Studies Quarterly* 32(3). Access at: <http://dsq-sds.org/article/view/3267/3100>

- 2011 “Manning Marable and the Value of Leadership.” *Souls* 13(4): 402-408
- 2011 “The Security of Justice.” *Souls* 13(1): 17-28.
- 2009 “Barack Obama is (not) who you think he is.” *The Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics, and Culture.* 2(2): 76-77.
- 2009 “Thief’s Theme.” *South Atlantic Quarterly* 108(8): 541-562.
- 2009 “Commodity.” *Social Text* 100 27(3): 78-84.
- 2009 “Diaspora.” *Social Text* 100 27(3): 94-101.
- 2009 “Hip Hop.” *Social Text* 100 27(3): 141-146.
- 2009 “‘It’s hard out here for a pimp...with...a whole lot of bitches jumpin’ ship’: Navigating black politics in the wake of Katrina.” *Public Culture* 21(2): 341-374.
- 2008 “Killing Time.” *Social Text* 26(4): 1-29.
- 2007 “‘Crimes of History’: Senegalese Soccer and the Forensics of Slavery.” *Souls* 9(3): 193-222. [Reprinted in Manning Marable, ed. *Transnational blackness: Navigating the Global Color Line*. New York: Palgrave, 2008.]
- 2007 “Epilogue: It was all a dream.” *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 24(2): 238-263. [Reprinted in Benjamin Eastman, Michael Ralph, and Sean Brown, eds. *America’s Game(s): A Critical Anthropology of Sport*. London: Routledge, 2008.]
- 2007 “Prototype: In Search of the Perfect Senegalese Basketball Physique.” *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 24(2): 311-316. [Reprinted in Benjamin Eastman, Michael Ralph, and Sean Brown, eds. *America’s Game(s): A Critical Anthropology of Sport*. London: Routledge, 2008.]
- 2006 “‘Flirt[ing] with death’ but ‘still alive’: The sexual dimensions of surplus time in hip hop fantasy.” *Cultural Dynamics* 18(1): 61-88.
- 2003 “What’s Beef?: One Rap Feud as Meta For Competing Postindustrial Political Ideologies.” *Words.Beats.Life: Global Journal of Hip Hop Culture* 1(1):1-7.

#### Refereed Book Chapters

- Under Review “Beyond Transaction Costs: Coercion as a Causal Factor in Relations of Production and Exchange.” In Darrick Hamilton, Michael Ralph, Tanishia Willians, and Suparna Bhaskaran, eds. *The Economics of Structural Violence*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.
- Under Review “Structural Violence in Education: The Systemic Exclusion of Black

Students from Computational Learning with implications for Economic Mobility.” In Darrick Hamilton, Michael Ralph, Tanishia Williams, and Suparna Bhaskaran, eds. *The Economics of Structural Violence*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

- 2023 “Debt and political possibility in Eritrea” in *As if Already Free: Anthropology and Activism after David Graeber*. New York: Pluto Press.
- 2023 “Risk.” In *Disability History Handbook*. Kathleen Brian, ed. Indianapolis, IN: National Council on Public History (NCPH).
- 2022 “Afterword.” Joseph Masco and Deborah Thomas, eds. *Sovereignty Unbinged: An Illustrated Primer for the Study of Present Intensities, Disavowals, and Temporal Derangements*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- 2023 “Racial Capitalism.” Jennifer Nash and Samantha Pinto, eds. *Routledge Companion to Intersectionality*. London: Routledge.
- 2018 “Value of Life: Insurance, Slavery, and Expertise,” Sven Beckert and Chris Desan, eds. *The New History of American Capitalism*. Columbia University Press, pp. 257-281.
- 2015 “Forensics of Liability.” In Charlie Piot and Brian Goldstone, eds. *African Futures: Essays on Crisis, Emergence, and Possibility*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 2015 “Impairment.” In *Keywords in Disability Studies*. Rachel Adams, Benjamin Reiss, and David Serlin, eds. New York: New York University Press.
- 2005 “Oppressive Impressions, Architectural Expressions: The poetics of French colonial (ad)vantage, regarding Africa.” In Toyin Falola and Steve Salm, eds. *Africa in Urban Spaces*. Rochester: University of Rochester Press, pp. 22-47.

#### Refereed Journal Issues Edited and Introduced

- 2012 *Movement Politics*. Special issue of *Disability Studies Quarterly* 32(3) on Disability Studies and social movement politics.  
Access at: <http://dsq-sds.org/article/view/3266/3102>
- 2011 *Law & Order, Crime & Capital in the 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century U.S.* Special issue of *Souls* 13(1).
- 2010 *Ayiti kraze/Haiti in Fragments*. Web forum about the political history of Haiti produced in the wake of the 2010 earthquake.  
Access at: [www.socialtextjournal.org/periscope](http://www.socialtextjournal.org/periscope).
- 2007 *America’s Game(s): A Critical Anthropology of Sport*. Special issue of *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 24(2). [Published in 2008 as Benjamin Eastman,

Michael Ralph, and Sean Brown, eds., *America's Game(s): A Critical Anthropology of Sport*. London: Routledge].

### Unrefereed Articles

- 2020 "Finance and Violence." *Just Money*. Roundtable 3: Race and Money. July 2020. Available at <https://justmoney.org/m-ralph-finance-and-violence/>, accessed on 27 March 2021.
- 2020 "Started from the Bottoms." *hack\_curio*. December 2020. Available at <https://hackcur.io/started-from-the-bottoms/>, accessed on 27 March 2021.
- 2017 (with Bill Rankin) "The Slave Insurance Market"  
Access at: <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/01/16/decoder-slave-insurance-market-aetna-aig-new-york-life/>
- 2011 "'Season of Arab Revolt' is also a Season of African Revolt."  
Access at: <http://www.socialtextjournal.org/blog/2011/04/season-of-arab-revolt-is-also-a-season-of-african-revolt.php>
- 2010 "The prospect of democracy in Haiti," published in *Haiti, Now and Next: A Virtual Teach-In*, Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK).  
Access at: <http://www.ssrc.org/features/view/haiti-now-and-next/>

### Unrefereed Book Chapters

- 2018 Response 3. "Imperialism and its Limits." *Race and Capitalism: Global Territories, Transnational Histories*. Published by Institute on Inequality and Democracy. UCLA.

### Unrefereed Maps

- 2016 (with Bill Rankin) "Slave Insurance."  
Access at: [http://www.radicalcartography.net/index.html?slave\\_insurance](http://www.radicalcartography.net/index.html?slave_insurance)

### Referred Reviews

- 2025 co-authored with Kathryn Wiley. "Through Lines: Punishment, Discipline, and Oppression in American Schools Past and Present." *Journal of Urban History* 00(0): 1-5.
- 2013 "The Problem of Citizenship, the Question of Crime, and the Origins of the Civil Rights Movement." *Transition* 111: 177-187.
- 2012 with Lauren Coyle. "Resource Curse? A Review of *Elmina*." *Transition* 107: 150-159.
- 2009 "The Forensics of Capital: A Review of Michael Moore's *Capitalism: A Love Story*."  
Access at <http://www.socialtextjournal.org/reviews/2009/11/the-forensics-of-capital.php>

2005 Review of Wilson J. Moses' *Afrotopia*, *Transforming Anthropology* 13(2): 166-68.

### Published Photographs

- 2011 "Southern Gent." *Transforming Anthropology* 19(1): cover photo.  
2011 "World Social Forum, Dakar" *Social Text* Blog <http://tinyurl.com/4hprfcg>  
2011 "Protest in Egypt." *Social Text* Blog <http://tinyurl.com/4hprfcg>  
2009 "Jacques pours tea for friends and family." *Social Text* 26(4): 2.  
2009 "Mousse in the bottom of a glass after *renversé*." *Social Text* 26(4): 4.  
2009 "Baba adds mint leaves to *attaya*." *Social Text* 26(4): 5.  
2009 "Ali pours *attaya*." *Social Text* 26(4): 8.  
2009 "Muhammad, the young *attayeur*." *Social Text* 26(4): 21.  
2009 "Bienvenue à Gorée." *Souls* 9(3): 208.

### Published designs

2021 *Public Culture* 94 (Volume 33, Number 2) cover design.

### PROJECTS

[NSF NDSA Curriculum Development Workgroup](#)

### GRANTS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION FOR RESEARCH

#### *Grants & Awards*

- 2025 Principal Investigator  
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)  
Institutional Grant  
\$266,000
- 2024 Principal Investigator  
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)  
Institutional Grant  
\$267,000
- 2023 Co-PI, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, "Heirs Property Legal Clinic"  
\$500,000
- Principal Investigator, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
"Heirs Property Legal Clinic"  
\$400,000
- Principal Investigator  
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) Institutional Grant  
\$227,000
- 2022 Cameron Schrier Endowment for Research in Afro-American Studies  
\$2.5m

- Principal Investigator  
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) Institutional Grant  
\$231,000
- 2020 Principal Investigator  
National Science Fellowship Award 2043209  
“Insuring Slavery: Actuarial Science and the Underwriting of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in the Eighteenth Century”  
\$533,292
- 2020 Principal Investigator  
Digital Humanities Seed Grant, “Underwriting Risk in the 18<sup>th</sup> century,”  
NYU Humanities Center  
\$20,000
- 2018 Principal Investigator  
National Science Foundation Award BCS- 1756768  
\$10,230
- Recognition for Research*
- 2022 National Endowment for the Humanities *Born-Digital Scholarly Publishing*  
Summer Institute, Brown University
- 2022 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation *Public Humanities* Summer Institute  
University of New Hampshire
- 2018 MITx award for Innovation and Creativity (*Treasury of Weary Souls*)
- 2018 Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellow, Hutchins Center for African and African  
American Studies, Harvard University
- 2016 Annual *Michel-Rolph Trouillot Lecture*, Department of Anthropology, University of  
Chicago
- 2014 Charles Warren Center Fellowship, Harvard University (Multimedia History & Lit.)
- 2014 ACLS Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship
- 2013-present Board Member, New York Academy of Sciences (Anthropology Section)
- 2013 *Nominee*, Of the Month (OTM) Award, National Residence Hall Honorary  
(NRHH), October 2013, NYU
- 2012 James Wolfensohn Fellowship, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
- 2012 Cornell University *Society of Humanities* Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)
- 2010 Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship
- 2007 NYU *Humanities Initiative* Faculty Working Group Fellowship
- 2005 EHESS (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales) Dissertation Fellowship
- 2004 Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Research Grant (Social Science Research Council)
- 2004 Overseas Dissertation Research Fellowship (Soc. Sci. Division, Univ. of Chicago)
- 2004 Travel Grant (Center for the Study of Race, Culture and Politics, Univ. of Chicago)
- 2004 Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
- 2003 Marion R. and Adolph J. Lichstern Fund (Dept. of Anthro., Univ. of Chicago)
- 2003 Doolittle-Harrison Research Grant (Univ. of Chicago)
- 2003 Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Research Grant (Social Science Research Council)
- 2002 Marion R. and Adolph J. Lichstern Fund (Dept. of Anthro., Univ. of Chicago)
- 2002 Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Research Grant (Social Science Research Council)

- 2002 Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Competition
- 2001 François Furet Travel Grant for Summer Research in France
- 2001 African Language Fund (Department of Anthropology, The University of Chicago)
- 2001 Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Research Grant (Social Science Research Council)
- 2001 Foreign Lang. Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (Center for African Studies, UCLA)
- 2001 Foreign Lang. Enrichment Program (FLEP) Scholarship (CIC)
- 2001 CIC Traveling Scholars Program (Committee on Institutional Cooperation)
- 2001 François Furet Travel Grant (Chicago Group on Modern France)
- 2000 African Language Fund (Department of Anthropology, The University of Chicago)
- 2000 Trustee Fellowship (Department of Anthropology, The University of Chicago)
- 1998 United Negro College Fund/Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship Program

*Residence Life*

- 2018 Of the Month (OTM) Award, National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH). *Awarded monthly to individuals, organizations, and/or programs that went above and beyond to make a positive impact in the community.* December.
- 2016 *Nominee*, Of the Month (OTM) Award, National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), March 2016, NYU
- 2016 *Nominee*, Of the Month (OTM) Award, National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), February 2016, NYU

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

*Documentary Film*

“\$12 Shoes”

*Print*

New York Times  
TechCrunch

*Radio*

NPR Marketplace  
Africa Talks  
Black Agenda Report

*Podcasts*

Driven Society

*Television*

MSNBC  
CSPAN

PRESENTATIONS

*Invited Lectures*

- 2025 “The Weight of Numbers: Accounting and the Origins of GDP.” *Forensic Histories.* New York University. March 21.

- 2024 “Life Insurance, slavery, and the problem of monetary valuation.” *Complex Systems Summer School*. Bogota, Colombia. July 26.
- 2024 “Insurance, slavery, and expertise.” *Santa Fe Institute Seminar*. Santa Fe Institute. June 27.
- 2024 “The value of life.” *Complex Systems Summer School*. Santa Fe Institute. June 24.
- 2024 “The origin of convict leasing.” *Complex Systems Summer School*. Santa Fe Institute. June 25.
- 2024 “The question of finance: Insurance and the Transatlantic slave trade.” Brown University. March 14.
- 2022 “The origin of convict leasing.” *Excavating the Present: Symposium inspired by the research of Michael Ralph*. George Washington University. April 8.
- 2022 “Ethnography of Sport.” Classroom lecture. Notre Dame. Feb 8.
- 2021 “Value of Life,” Andrew W. Mellon HSI Pathways to the Professoriate, Rutgers University, November 10<sup>th</sup>.
- 2021 “Re-thinking Expertise and Ingenuity in Africa.” The African Studies Institute and Department of African and African American Studies. University of Oklahoma. March 23.
- 2021 “Value of Life: Race, Ability, and Expertise.” *Colloquium*. Department of Anthropology. University of Pennsylvania. March 1.
- 2021 “Black Lives Matters in Global and Financial Context.” *History in the Headlines* speakers series. NYU-Abu Dhabi. February 23.
- 2020 “Insurance, Slavery, and the Forensics of Capital.” *Narrating Debt*. Pembroke Center Seminar Series. Brown University. November 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.
- 2020 “Racialized Bodies and Postcolonial Legacies in the Sports Industry.” Department of Anthropology. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. October 15.
- 2020 “Abolitionist futures.” *The Black Beyond: Afronowism, Writing Abolitionist Futures*. August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2020 “Before 13<sup>th</sup>: The Origin of Convict Leasing.” *Diversity and Justice Speakers Series*. Criminology, Law and Society. University of California, Irvine. January 27.
- 2019 “Insurance and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.” *History of Global Capitalism*. Harvard University. November 18.
- 2019 “Anthropology: The Stakes.” Department of Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora. Tufts

- University. Boston. November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 2019 “Anthropology of Eritrea.” College of Social Science. Harvard University. Cambridge. November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 2019 “The Academy, part II.” HSI-Andrew W. Mellon Fellows 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer Institute. June 12.
- 2019 “The Academy, part I.” HSI-Andrew W. Mellon Fellows 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer Institute. June 11.
- 2019 “Racial Capitalism.” Race & Capitalism Brown Bag. University of Chicago. May 13.
- 2019 “Slavery, Incarceration, and Human Rights, in the Long Eighteenth Century.” Faculty Seminar in Eighteenth Century European Culture. Columbia University. April 25.
- 2019 “Before 13<sup>th</sup>: The Origin of Convict Leasing.” Department of American Studies & Ethnicity. USC. March 21.
- 2019 “Before 13<sup>th</sup>.” Department of American Studies. University of Texas, Austin. March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 2018 “The Price of Life: From Slavery to Corporate Life Insurance.” Departments of Adult, Child, and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Population Health. NYU Medical School. February 12.
- 2017 “The *Treasury of Weary Souls*: On the world’s most comprehensive ledger of insured slaves.” *Digital Research Cluster*. Harriet Tubman Institute. York University. Toronto. November 9.
- 2017 “The Origin of Convict Leasing.” *Historical Capitalisms* workshop. University of Chicago. November 2.
- 2017 Keynote Address: “Racial Capitalism.” *Global Histories of Capital: New Perspectives on the Global South*. New York University. October 6-7.
- 2017 Book Discussion. *Forensics of Capital*. University of California, Berkeley. February 28.
- 2017 “The Origin of Convict Leasing.” University of California, Berkeley. February 27.
- 2016 “‘A Nigger Crop’: Hemp, Slavery, and Incarceration in Kentucky.” Legal History Colloquium. University of California, Berkeley School of Law. October 18.
- 2016 “Swimming in Leadership.” Broome Residential College Convocation. Office of Residence Life and Housing Services. September 1.

- 2016 “Life and Death, etc.” *Annual Michel-Rolph Trouillot Lecture*. Department of Anthropology. University of Chicago. May 16.
- 2016 “The Monetary Value of a Human Life.” *Culture, Power, Social Change*. Department of Anthropology. UCLA. March 14.
- 2016 *Forensics of Capital* Book Talk. Ralph J. Bunche Center of African American Studies UCLA. March 13.
- 2015 “Intricacy: Insurance, Hemp, and Slavery in 19<sup>th</sup> century Kentucky,” Department of Social and Cultural Analysis Colloquium, October 23.
- 2015 “Insurance and Slavery in the 19<sup>th</sup> century US.” Guest Lecture. “Value” course by Caitlin Zaloom and Mary Poovey. NYU.
- 2015 “Slavery, Insurance, and Industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> century US: A Database and Mapping Project.” Charles Warren Center for the Study of American History. Harvard University. April 16.
- 2015 “The Monetary Value of a Human Life.” *Scholars Lecture Series*. NYU. March 3.
- 2014 “The Monetary Value of a Human Life.” Columbia University School of Law. Dec 4.
- 2014 “Race and the Geography of Risk.” Department of Geography and Anthropology. Louisiana State University. March 14.
- 2014 “The Actuarial Logic of Race.” Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. January 23.
- 2013 “‘Unless he has an insurable interest...’: A brief history of the relationship between slave insurance and life insurance.” Political Economy of Modern Capitalism Workshop. Program on the Study of Capitalism. Harvard University. Cambridge. Date TBA.
- 2013 “The Monetary Value of a Human Life, 1808+.” Department of African and African American Studies. Duke University. Durham. November 12.
- 2013 “The Afterlife of Slave Insurance.” Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History. Harvard University. Cambridge. April 30.
- 2013 “Debt, Force, and Accountability in Senegal.” Harvard African Studies Workshop. Harvard University. Cambridge. April 29.
- 2013 “The Question of Liability.” *Colloquium*. Institute for Advanced Study. Princeton. April 4.
- 2013 “Forensics of Capital.” *Friends of the Institute* breakfast. Institute for Advanced Study. Princeton. January 24.

- 2012 “Militarism and Modern-Credit Debt in *Afrique Occidentale Française*.” *Law, Justice and Global Political Futures*. CUNY Graduate Center. New York. February 3.
- 2011 “Forensics of Capital.” Department of Anthropology. Louisiana State University. Baton Rouge. April 27.
- 2011 “Abraham Lincoln and the Value of a Human Life.” *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*. Sims Library Lecture Series. Southeastern Louisiana State University. Hammond. February 23.
- 2011 “Detention and Diplomacy in a Gorée Island Soccer Field.” Department of Anthropology. Stanford University. Palo Alto. January 24.
- 2010 “Sovereign Power, Crisis and Recovery in Post-Earthquake Haiti and Post-Katrina New Orleans.” Haiti Working Group. University of Virginia. Charlottesville. August 25.
- 2010 “Injury, Sacrifice, and Debt in UN Peacekeeping Missions involving Senegal.” *Scheps Memorial Library Lecture Series*. Columbia University. March 5.
- 2010 “Forensics of Debt.” Departments of Anthropology and African and African American Studies. Harvard University. February 23.
- 2010 “‘Blood Tax’: Debt, Sacrifice, and Democracy.” *Colloquium*. Department of Anthropology. New York University. February 11.
- 2010 “The Afterlife of French Colonial Militarism.” *Colloquium*. Department of Social and Cultural Analysis. New York University. January 29.
- 2009 “Forensics of Debt.” Council on African Studies. Yale University. New Haven. December 10.
- 2009 “Ins and Outs of Thesis Writing.” Program in Africana Studies. Department of Social and Cultural Analysis. New York University. March.
- 2008 “Thief’s Theme.” *Racial Formations: Thinking at the Limit*. Initiative on Race, Gender and Globalization (IRGG). Yale University. New Haven. Dec 12.
- 2008 “Killing Time.” *Global Café* colloquium series. Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK). New York University. December 2.
- 2008 “Killing Time.” *Colloquium*. City University of New York Graduate Center Department of Anthropology. October 24.
- 2008 “Democracy, 2008.” Dorothy Day After School Program. New York. April 28.

- 2007 “Thief’s Paradise: Hip hop and post-civil rights politics.” Department of Africana Studies. Queens College. Queens. October 17.
- 2007 “Tracking a rural-to-urban, transatlantic, dialectic of race.” Department of Social and Cultural Analysis. New York University. April.
- 2007 “Anthropological Methods: A Critique.” Invited lecture, ASRC 602: Africana Studies Research Methodology and Theory. Cornell University. Ithaca. April 2.
- 2007 “The commodification of Senegalese basketball.” Guest Lecture. Introduction to Anthropology. Cornell University. Ithaca. April 9.
- 2007 “The Violence of Neoliberalism.” Guest Lecture. Anthropology of Sport. Cornell University, April 16.
- 2006 “‘Crimes of History’: Senegalese Soccer and the Forensics of Soccer.” Center for Contemporary Black History. Columbia University. October 3.
- 2006 “Le Sénégal qui Gagne.” *Colloquium*. Department of Cultural Anthropology. Duke University. Durham. October.
- 2006 “‘Crimes of History’: Senegalese Soccer and the Forensics of Soccer.” African Studies Workshop. University of Chicago. April.
- 2006 “Barefoot with a Shoe Fetish: New Footing for Theories of the Commodity in Postcolonial Senegal and the postindustrial United States.” University of Massachusetts. Amherst. March.
- 2006 “Barefoot with a Shoe Fetish: New Footing for Theories of the Commodity in Postcolonial Senegal.” Department of Anthropology. Cornell University. February.
- 2006 “‘Crimes of History’: Senegalese Soccer and the Forensics of Soccer.” Department of African and African American Studies. Ohio State University. February.
- 2006 “Five Strategies for Gaining Admission to the Graduate School of Your Choice.” Andrew W. Mellon/Benjamin Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, University of Cape Town. Cape Town. July 21.
- 2004 “Youth in Africa.” Institute on Sub-Saharan Africa. Illinois Valley Community College. Oglesby. June 17.
- 2004 “African Poverty: Causes and Consequences.” Institute on Sub-Saharan Africa. Illinois Valley Community College. Oglesby. June 15.
- 2003 “Race, Sex, and Political Economy, Intersectionally: The Subject’s Situatedness.”

- Opening Remarks. Tenth Annual “Eyes on the Mosaic.” Graduate Student Conference. *The Racialized Body: Race as Lived and Theorized*. University of Chicago. April 26.
- 2003 “Pastime Paradise: The Work of Play for Youth in Dakar Today.” *African Studies Workshop*. University of Chicago. January.
- 2002 “The French Colonial *Disorder*: Representing Africa, Imagining Reality.” *Theory and Insurgency Workshop*. University of Chicago. Chicago. May.
- Invited Panel and Workshop Presentations*
- 2025 Discussant. *Slavery and Finance Workshop*. Brown University. May 9.
- 2025 Panel Discussion. “Policing Project.” Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights, Harvard University. January 13-14.
- 2024 Panel Discussion Fundraising and Collaborations. Hewlett Foundation “Economy & Society Initiative” annual meeting. CDMX. Mexico City, Mexico. June 18-20.
- 2024 Panel, Policing Symposium, Carr Center for Human Rights, Harvard University. November 17.
- 2021 *Panelist*, “Do you have questions About Covid-19? The Covid vaccine and histories of medical mistrust in BIPOC communities. Red Hook Initiative. April 15.
- 2021 *Panelist*, “End the War on Black People: The Urgency of Reparations.” Center for the Study of Africa and the African Diaspora (CSAAD). NYU. February 23.
- 2020 “Prison Industrial Complex.” Panel. Peace and Social Justice Conference. Northampton Community College. October 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2020 Talkback. Film Screening. *John Lewis: Good Trouble*. Magnolia Pictures. September 23.
- 2020 *19*. Film Screening. *Seeing Beyond the Bars* Collaborative Art Project. Reflct Media. September 9.
- 2020 “*Worse than Slavery*” Book Panel with author David Oshinsky and Jawara Smith. August 9.
- 2019 *Moderator*. Theaster Gates’ exhibit, *Amalgam*. Opening Night Panel. Tate Liverpool Art Gallery. Liverpool. December 12.
- 2019 *Panelist*. Tenth Anniversary Celebration. 19 Washington Square North. NYU. November 20.
- 2019 *Panelist*. Andrew W. Mellon-Sawyer Seminar. Tufts University. November 14.

- 2019 Theaster Gates' *Post-Black Artists Retreat* Retreat. Lunder Institute for American Art. Waterville, Maine. November 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 2019 Theaster Gates' *Black Artists Retreat*. Park Avenue Armory. October 11-13<sup>th</sup>.
- 2019 *Panelist*. United Nations *Human Rights Special Procedures*. Expert workshop convened by UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. New York. May 29.
- 2019 *Panelist*. Reparations Symposium. University of Chicago. April 26.
- 2019 *Panelist*. Human Rights and the Eighteenth Century. *Columbia Faculty Seminar in Eighteenth-Century European Culture*. April 25.
- 2019 *Roundtable*. Conversation with Kyle Abraham, choreographer. NYU Skirball. April 3.
- 2019 *Discussant*. Lecture by Marybeth Gassman on Mellon-HSI programs. March 28.
- 2019 *Roundtable*. "Human Origins" Smithsonian Exhibit. Paine Theological Seminary. March 26 [livestream].
- 2019 "Fishing, the Blueprint: Why ingenuity cannot be incarcerated." *South by Southwest.EDU*. March 5.
- 2019 "Forensics." Secular + Capital Working Group. UC-Riverside. Feb 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 2018 "'A Nigga Crop': Slavery, Incarceration, and Hemp." Science Studies Working Group. Department of Anthropology. NYU. February 23.
- 2018 *Panelist*. *Publishing*. PhD Professional Development Conference. SSRC-Mellon Mays program. Kimpton. New York. February 19.
- 2017 *Panelist*. "Making Connections: The FFIR program at NYU." *Association of College and University Housing Officers-International* Annual Conference. Sheraton-Peachtree Center. Atlanta. October 29.
- 2017 *Discussant*. *Race & Capitalism* Symposium. UCLA. Oct. 20.
- 2017 "The Cycle." The Soviet Union and Africa. New York University. Oct. 13.
- 2017 *Unnatural Catastrophe: Environmental Disasters and Colonialism in the Contemporary Caribbean*. Columbia University. October 4.
- 2017 *Discussant*. "Black Radical(human)ism: Dubois' Cooperative Commonwealth" by Gary Wilder. *Freedom: A Mellon-Sanyer Symposium*. New York Public Library. May 5.
- 2017 *Panelist*. *Post-Incarceration: A Panel on Reentry, Education, and Empowerment*. NYU

- April 25.
- 2017 “Commercial Affiliations.” *Narratives of Debt*. Institute for Public Knowledge. *Oikos*. April 21.
- 2017 Discussant. “Elements.” *Eighteen Hundred and More: Mourning the Needy Dead in the Chaos of Protest*. Department of African American Studies. Princeton. April 20.
- 2017 Discussant. “Salvage Operations and City-Making.” Paper by AbdouMaliq Simone. April 19.
- 2017 “Archaeology of the *Forensics of Capital*.” University of California, Berkeley. February 28.
- 2016 “Hemp, Slavery, and Incarceration in Kentucky.” Stanford Approaches to Capitalism. Stanford University. Palo Alto. October 20.
- 2016 Panelist. “It’s the Political Will.” *Evidence of What? A Conference Challenging Everything We Know About Development in Africa*. Department of Anthropology. Princeton. October 13-14.
- 2016 Roundtable Participant. *Symbioses: A Biosocial Network*, NYU Medical Center, May 31.
- 2016 “Historicizing Anthropology.” The Work of Michel-Rolph Trouillot. Department of Anthropology. University of Chicago. May 17.
- 2016 Panelist. “The Predicament of Sovereignty.” *Maroons in World History*. University of California, Berkeley. May 5.
- 2016 Panelist. “Risk at the Margins of Liberalism.” *Critical Studies of Derivative Capitalism. Cultures of Finance* Working Group. IPK. Stern School of Business. NYU. April 22.
- 2016 Discussant. “Insights into Housing New York: A Five-Borough, Ten-Year Plan,” by David Quart, Deputy Commissioner for Strategy, Research, and Communications. NYU. April 19.
- 2016 Moderator. *Electric Santèria*. Book Talk by Aisha Beliso-De Jesús. Race and Public Space Workshop. IPK. NYU. April 18.
- 2016 Discussant. “A Sea of Protection: Piracy, Trade, and Regulation in the western Indian Ocean,” by Jatin Dua. Asian- and Pacific-American Studies. Institute for Public Knowledge. NYU. April 6.
- 2016 Roundtable Participant, *Symbioses: A Biosocial Network*, Rutgers Institute for Health, January 29.
- 2015 Panelist. Gil Fellows symposium. Tufts University. October 21.

- 2015 Panelist. *Keywords in Disability Studies* edited volume kickoff celebration. Columbia University. October 2.
- 2015 “Weapons of Theory: The Revolutionary Potential of Anthropological Inquiry.” *Conference in Honor of George Bond*. Columbia University. April 10.
- 2015 Panelist. *New Orleans through Primary Documents*. Tulane University. January 24.
- 2014 “Actuarial Logic of Slavery.” *The Scope of Slavery* conference. Charles Warren Center for the Studies in American History. November 7-8.
- 2014 Discussant. Session 2. Department of Social and Cultural Analysis Honors Conference. NYU. May 2.
- 2014 Panelist. “Pop Goes the Academy: Critical Approaches to the Study of Popular Culture.” Department of Comparative Literature. NYU. April 11.
- 2014 Moderator. Film Screening and Discussion: *Tey* (“Aujourd’hui”). *Remember Slavery* event. Part of a series organized in honor of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic slave trade. United Nations. New York. March 18.
- 2014 Panelist. “Slaves on Screen: Atlantic Slavery in Contemporary Cinema.” Gallatin. NYU. February 5.
- 2013 “Forensics of Liability.” Paper delivered on panel, “Sovereignty, Citizenship, Techno-politics,” *Re-thinking Politics in Africa: Media, Knowledge Production, Techno-Politics*, New School for Social Research, NY, April 26.
- 2013 “Risk and Liability in *Camp de Thiaroye* (1987).” Paper delivered on panel, “Black Optics: Visuality, The Cinematic Frame, and the Black Body.” *Black Portraiture(s): The Black Body in the West*. Paris. January 19.
- 2012 “Bastards of the Promised Land.” Paper delivered at conference, *A New Vision of Black Freedom: The Manning Memorial Conference*. Institute for Research in African-American Studies. Columbia University. New York. April 28.
- 2011 “Forensics of Debt.” Paper delivered on panel, “Time, Place and the Problem of Uncertainty in Africa.” *African Studies Workshop*. University of Chicago. Chicago. May 28.
- 2010 Roundtable participant, “Refining your Research Question.” Andrew W. Mellon | Benjamin E. Mays Fellowship Program summer conference. Oberlin University. Oberlin. June 18.

- 2010 Discussant on panel, "Geographies of Postcoloniality." Andrew W. Mellon | Benjamin E. Mays Fellowship Program summer conference. Oberlin University. Oberlin. June 19.
- 2010 Remarks on Stephanie Smallwood's *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to America* delivered at the conference, *Middle Passages: Histories & Poetics*, CUNY Graduate Center. New York. May 6.
- 2010 "Finance Capital and the Politics of Disaster in Haiti." Paper delivered on panel. *Relief in Haiti*. Humanitarian Action Initiative. Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK). New York University. January 26.
- 2009 Discussant on panel, "Who Were the Protestors in the 'Student Protests'? The US, West Germany, and Poland in the 1960s-70s." American Historical Association. New York. January 4.
- 2008 "Theorizing Senegalese Secularism." Paper delivered at 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater New York Area Historians of Africa Workshop. Hofstra University. Hempstead. March.
- 2008 Roundtable participant, "Hip Hop in Africa: Global Currents." *New Perspectives on Contemporary and Traditional African Art*, exhibit organized by the Museum for African Art and the Institute for African American Affairs. New York University. March 28.
- 2007 Roundtable participant, "Democracy in Dakar." Institute of African Studies. Columbia University. New York. October.
- 2007 "Treason as a Political Technology: Revisiting the literature on 'Corruption' in Africa." Paper delivered at conference in honor of Ralph Austen, "Of fetishes and fakes: History, authenticity and counterfeit modernities in postcolonial Africa." University of Chicago. May.
- 2007 "'Thief's Theme': Deceptive Democracy's Diasporic (Dis)placement(s)." Paper delivered at conference, *Race and the Post-Civil Rights South*. Hosted by Scholars in Critical Race Studies. University of Memphis. March 30.
- 2006 "Tales from Academia." Paper delivered at United Negro College Fund/Andrew W. Mellon Annual Mentors and Coordinators' Conference. Omni Hotel & Resort. Atlanta. October.
- 2006 Roundtable participant, "Academic Hiring, Promotion, and Tenure." United Negro College Fund/Mellon Mays Fellowship Summer Institute. Emory University. Atlanta. June.
- 2005 Roundtable participant, "Workshop: Preparing for Graduate School." Social Science Research Council Mellon Mays Fellowship Program Annual Regional Conference. Houston. October.

- 2005 Discussant on panel, "Anthropology/Cultural Studies." Ronald McNair Scholars/Summer Research Opportunities Program Symposium. University of Chicago. August.
- 2005 Roundtable participant, "Workshop: Preparing for Field Research." *Affirming Continuity, Transforming Community*. Social Science Research Council-Mellon Mays Fellowship Program. Barnard College. New York. June.
- 2004 Rapporteur, plenary session, "Working in and Responding to Volatile Times." *Speaking Up and Reaching Out: Empowering Voices*. SSRC/MMUF Fellowship Annual Conference. Washington University. St. Louis. June.
- 2002 Discussant, "The Anti-Development Machine: Cultural Politics and National Struggle in Urban South Africa." Paper given by Ann-Maria Makhulu. *African Studies Workshop*. University of Chicago. Chicago. October.
- 2002 Roundtable participant, "Being Socialized Into Your Department." *Building our Own Legacies: Spaces of Community, Spaces of Scholarship*. SSRC-Mellon Minority Fellowship Recipients' Summer Conference. Dillard University. Louisiana. June.
- 2001 Roundtable Participant. SSRC-Mellon Minority Fellowship Mentors' Conference. Nashville. October.
- 2001 Discussant. Plenary Session. *Jarring the Floor:[En]Countering Traditions and Innovations*, SSRC-Mellon Minority Fellowship Recipients' Summer Conference. Duke University. Durham. June.

*Panel and Workshop Presentations*

- 2019 Panelist. "Lose Your Father." "Organized Crime in US Visual Culture." *Black Portraitures*. NYU. October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 2018 Roundtable Participant. "Cruel Manipulations: Fraud in a Post-Neoliberal World Order." *American Anthropological Association*. San Jose. November 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.
- 2018 Discussant. "Crafting the Past: Histories as Anthropological Objects and (Post)colonial Media." *American Anthropological Association*. San Jose. November 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.
- 2018 Panelist. 'Insuring Freedom.' "Postcolonial capital: Global finance from the 'periphery.'" *American Anthropological Association*. San Jose. November 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.
- 2018 Organizer. "Unsettling Racial Logics of Dispossession in Contemporary Colonial Societies." *American Anthropological Association*. San Jose. November 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.
- 2018 Panelist. "Academic Publishing." Mellon-HSI Pathways Program annual conference. March.

- 2017 Discussant. Book Talk. Elizabeth Hinton. *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America*. IPK. NYU. April 24.
- 2016 Panelist. *Graduate Students of Color Faculty Dinner*. Center for Multicultural Education and Programs. NYU. November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 2016 Guest of Honor, Panel on *Forensics of Capital*. Joint conference held by American Anthropological Association and African Studies Association. Dakar, Senegal. June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2015 “Slavery, Insurance, and Industry: An Anthropological Inquiry.” Paper delivered on panel, “Risky Business: Ethnographies of Insurance.” *American Anthropological Association*. Denver. November 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2015 Discussant on panel entitled, “What Sovereignty Feels Like.” *American Anthropological Association*. Denver. November 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2013 Organizer and roundtable participant, “After the Atlantic Revolution: Rethinking an Anthropological Tradition.” Executive Session. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago. November 22.
- 2013 “Slave Insurance and the Problem of Freedom.” Paper delivered on panel, “Mobility in the Age of Freedom.” Panel Organizer. *American Historical Association*. New Orleans. January 4.
- 2012 “Revolutionary Suicide.” Paper delivered on panel, “Civil Disobedience: Geographies of Insurrection.” Panel Organizer. *American Anthropological Association*. San Francisco, CA, November 17.
- 2012 Discussant on panel, “Structural Competency: New Medicine for the Institutional Inequalities that Make Us Sick.” *American Anthropological Association*. San Francisco, CA, November 16.
- 2012 “Forensics of Capital: Debt, Sacrifice and Democracy in Senegal.” *Crime and its Fictions in Africa*. Yale University. New Haven. March 23.
- 2011 “Militarism and Credit-Debt in the French Atlantic World.” Stanford Forum on African Studies. Stanford University. Palo Alto. October 29.
- 2011 “Blood Debt.” Paper delivered at conference, *Debt: Interdisciplinary Considerations of an Enduring Human Passion*. Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and the Humanities (CRASSH). Cambridge University. May 14.
- 2010 “Debt, Sacrifice, and Democracy in Senegal.” Paper delivered on panel, “African Futures in Crisis.” *American Anthropological Association*. New Orleans. November 19.

- 2010 "1804." Paper delivered at conference, *Racial Capitalism*. Department of Social and Cultural Analysis. New York University. April 30.
- 2010 "Ethnographic Aporias." Remarks delivered at roundtable on ethnographic fieldwork. Department of Social and Cultural Analysis. NYU. January.
- 2009 Discussant. "Intimate Transfigurations: Masculinities in Africa's Global Cities." *End(s) of Anthropology*. 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Philadelphia. December 6.
- 2009 "Toward a theory of 'fractal sovereignty' in Senegal." Paper delivered on panel, "End(s) of Postcolonial Sovereignty." Panel Organizer. *End(s) of Anthropology*. 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Philadelphia. December 3.
- 2009 "Where I'm From, Gay People Were Like Aliens: The Queer Vicissitudes of Hip Hop Lyricism." *LA Queer Studies Conference*. University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). October 10.
- 2009 "Hope as the future of democracy in a time of uncertain sovereignty." Paper delivered as part of panel, "Hope, Fantasy, and the Future, I." *Africa at a Crossroads*. 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. New Orleans. November 21.
- 2009 "As if the pirates inhabited a different dimension from that of the governments confronting them?: Re-thinking sovereignty in Somalia." *Symposium on Piracy*. Department of Social and Cultural Analysis. New York University. April 10.
- 2009 "Ins and Outs of Thesis Writing." Program in Africana Studies. Department of Social and Cultural Analysis. New York University. March.
- 2008 "The Rhythm of Blackness in a Basketball Industry." Paper delivered on panel, "Revisiting the Beauty/Justice Debate and Anthropology's Place In It: New Ethnographies of Aesthetic Practices and Industries." *Inclusion, Collaboration, and Engagement*. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. San Francisco. November 22.
- 2008 "Hip Hop's Postindustrial Politics." Paper delivered at conference, "In Search of the Postfordist City: Concepts and the Meaning of Urban Space and Society." Center for Metropolitan Studies. *Transatlantisches Graduiertenkolleg* of the *Technische Universität* (Berlin). New York. September.
- 2007 "Slavery's cruelties." Paper delivered on panel, "Epistemologies of Slavery: Categories of Difference, Inequality, and Justice in the Atlantic World." Invited Session. *Difference, (In)equality, and Justice*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. November 29.

- 2007 Discussant, "Big issues, small teams: Football and politics beyond second league soccer in Africa." *Evolving Conceptions of Human Rights*. African Studies Association Annual Meeting. New York. October.
- 2007 "O que sobrou do ceu." Paper delivered on panel, "The poverty of theory: The problem of law(lessness) and order in Brazilian rap music." *Alternative Interpretations of the Circum-Caribbean: Interrogating Connections across History, Society, Culture, and Performance*. Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference. Bahia. May 29.
- 2007 "Ties that bind a Trans-Atlantic transaction." Paper delivered on panel, "Slavery in the Atlantic Imagination." Panel Organizer. *Alternative Interpretations of the Circum-Caribbean: Interrogating Connections across History, Society, Culture, and Performance.* Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference. Bahia. May 29.
- 2006 Discussant, "Critical Intersections of Race, Place, and Gender: Conflict, Representation, and Racisms." *Critical Intersections, Dangerous Issues*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Jose. November 17.
- 2006 "The fetish power of commodities structured by a Trans-Atlantic dialectic of race." Paper delivered on panel. "Reassessing the Black Atlantic." *Europe and the World: European Association of Social Anthropology 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference*. Bristol. September 19.
- 2006 "The Assassination of Walter Rodney and the Production of the Present." Paper delivered on panel, "The Caribbean in the Age of Modernity: The Role of the Academy in Responding to the Challenges of the Region." *Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference*. Trinidad. May 30.
- 2005 Discussant, "Re-thinking Africanist Anthropology." *Bringing the Past Into the Present*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC, December 3.
- 2005 "Hungry for the Truth?: Senegalese Rap Resistance and the Romance of Revolution." Paper delivered on panel, "Subversive Sounds?: Musical Movement(s) in the Afro-Atlantic World." Panel Organizer. *Bringing the Past Into the Present*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. November 30.
- 2005 "Prototype: 'On the Trail of' the Perfect Senegalese Basketball Physique." Paper delivered on panel, "Re-Thinking Race in Africa." *Health, Knowledge, and the Body/Politic in Africa and the African Diaspora*. African Studies Association Annual Conference. Washington, D.C. November 29.
- 2005 "Basketball beyond the Baobabs: Recreating Diaspora amidst Corporate Schemes and Postcolonial Hoop Dreams." *Diasporic Encounters and Collaborations*. Association for the Study of Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). Rio de Janeiro. October 5.
- 2005 "Flirting with death: The Social Logic of Surplus Time, the Sexual Dimension of

- Hip Hop Fantasy.” Paper delivered on panel, “Masculinity and Hip Hop.” *Hip Hop and Feminism Conference*. Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. University of Chicago. Chicago. April 8.
- 2005 “An Oppositional Option: Rapping to Unravel Postcolonial Fantasy.” Paper delivered on panel, “Contemporary Sounds of the Black Atlantic: Circum-Atlantic Connections.” *Rhythms of the Atlantic World: Rituals and Remembrances*. Atlantic Studies Initiative. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor. March.
- 2004 “Magic, the King, the Wizard, the Fetish: Black Basketball Player as Commodity in Postindustrial America.” Society for Anthropology of North America. Atlanta. April.
- 2003 “A Hole New World: Basketball and the paradox of play in postcolonial Senegal.” Paper delivered on panel, “City Ways and Youth” (Chair: Karen Hansen), *Youthful Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Boston. November.
- 2003 “Perfectability’s Promise: Basketball and the Poetics of Play in Postcolonial Senegal.” Paper delivered on panel, “Extra-curricular selves: Healing, History, and Historical Consciousness.” *Academic Selves: Under Construction*, SSRC-Andrew W. Mellon Minority Fellowship Program Summer Conference. University of Pennsylvania. June.
- 2001 “Know Justice, Know Peace: The Theoretical Legacy of Malcolm X.” Paper delivered at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual “*Eyes on the Mosaic*” *Minority Graduate Student Association Conference*. University of Chicago. Chicago. April.

## SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

### *Howard University*

- 2025 Scholar-Coach, *Junior Faculty Writing and Creative Works Summer Academy*
- 2025 Interviewer, Humanities & Social Science Scholars Full Scholarship Program (H3SP)
- 2024 Scholar-Coach, *Junior Faculty Writing and Creative Works Summer Academy*
- 2024 *Chair*, Search Committee to find Chair of Philosophy Department
- 2023 Scholar-Coach, *Junior Faculty Writing and Creative Works Summer Academy*
- 2022 Search Committee Member, W. Montague Cobb Research Laboratory Director

### *New York University*

- 2021 *Co-Chair*, Faculty, Engagement, Research, and Scholarship Subcommittee, MLK Working Group
- 2020-present *Research Consultant*, Faculty Resource Network (FRN)
- 2020 *Member*, Dean’s Undergraduate Research Fund (DURF), Social Sciences Selection Committee
- 2020 *Mentor*, CMEP FOCUS Mentoring Program
- 2020 *Faculty Facilitator*, RADical Health: Building a Health Relationship to Self, Others, and the World
- 2020 *Member*, MLK Scholars Working Group

2020 *Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Council*, College of Arts and Science (CAS)

2020 *Faculty Mentor*, Rudin Fellowship in Medical Ethics and Humanities, NYU Medical School

Summer 2020 *Research Consultant*, Faculty Resource Network

2020-present *Reviewer*, NYU Africa House Fellowship Awards

2019 *Faculty Mentor*, Rudin Fellowship in Medical Ethics and Humanities, NYU Medical School

2019-present *Member*, Program in Experimental Humanities (XE) Advisory Board

2019-present *Member*, Medical Humanities Working Group

2019-present *Member*, Dean's Core Curriculum Review Implementation Committee

2019-present *Member*, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

2019-present *Member*, Dean's Core Curriculum Review Implementation Committee

2018-present *Mentor*, "Proud to be First" mentorship program for 1<sup>st</sup>-generation students

2017-present *Member*, Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Selection Committee

2017-2018 *Member*, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Honors and Awards Committee

2017-2018 *Member*, Search Committee, Media, Culture, and Communication (MCC)

2017 *Leader*, First-Year Dialogue Book Discussion (*Americanah*)

2016-present *Member*, Faculty of Color Caucus, Steering Committee

2016-present, *Member*, Faculty of Color Caucus

2016-present *Member*, Teaching Technology Committee, Advisory Committee

2016 *Leader*, First-Year Dialogue Book Discussion (*Between the World & Me*)

2015-present *Member*, Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Senators Council

2015-present *Member*, Faculty Assembly, Faculty of Arts & Sciences

2015-2018 *Faculty Advisor*, "Race & Public Space" working group  
Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK)

2014-present *Advisory Committee Member*, Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship "Urban Humanities" Search Committee

2013-2015 *Faculty Advisor*, "Conflict, Armed Groups, and Peace" working group  
Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK)

2013-2014 Foundations of Contemporary Culture Steering Committee

2013-2014 Humanities and Technology Committee

2012-2019 Faculty Fellow-in-Residence

2012-present *Member*, Working Group: Structural Competency  
NYU Langone School of Medicine

2009-10 *Convenor*, Global Café Colloquium  
Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK)

2009 *Faculty Advisor*  
Global Dissertation Seminar, NYU/University of Amsterdam  
Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK)

2008 *Member*, Working Group: Technics of Liberalism  
Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK)

#### SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT

*Howard University*

2021 *Chair*, Department of Afro-American Studies

*New York University*

- 2020 *Member, Honors Thesis Committee*  
2020 *Member, Curriculum Committee*  
2020 *Member, Ad Hoc Graduate Student Funding Committee*  
2019-2020 *Director, Africana Studies Program*  
2017 *Chair, Search Committee, Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Programs of Metropolitan and Africana Studies*  
2017 *Member, American Studies PhD Admissions Committee*  
2016-2019 *Director, Undergraduate Studies*  
2016 *Chair, Visiting Assistant Professor in Metropolitan Studies Search Committee*  
2016 *Member, Postdoctoral Fellow in SCA Search Committee*  
2016 *Member, American Studies PhD Admissions Committee*  
2015-2020 *Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee*  
2015 *Member, Latino Studies Search Committee*  
2015 *Member, American Studies PhD Admissions Committee*  
2013-4 *Convenor, "Question of Method" colloquium series*  
*Sponsored by the Program in Metropolitan Studies*  
2013-2016 *Director, Program in Metropolitan Studies*  
2012-13 *Consultant, Search Committee, Africana AP/FF*  
2012-2013 *Member, Search Committee, Visiting Assistant Professor, Metropolitan Studies*  
2011-12 *Member, SCA Curriculum Committee*  
*Member, SCA Book Series Committee*  
*Consultant, APA Tenure-track position Search Committee*  
2010-11 *Member, SCA Curriculum Committee*  
2008-9 *Convenor*  
*Critical Seminar Series in Africana Studies, SCA, NYU*  
2008 *Convenor, Symposium on Sports & Migration, SCA, NYU.*  
2007-8 *Member, Search Committee, 20<sup>th</sup> Century African American History*

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

*Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers*

- 2024-present *Statement of Purpose Advisor* (assists students in IRT's doctoral pipeline program with in drafting, revising, and finalizing their respective SoPs for graduate programs , in addition to providing support with other written application materials such as the writing sample, resume/CV, and personal statement).

*Prison to PhDs (P2P)*

- 2024-present *Mentor, P2P* seeks to reach, touch, and change the lives of people with criminal convictions through advocacy, mentoring, and policy change. P2P helps inspire people with criminal convictions to excel BEYOND what society and life circumstances have set to be THE NORM. We Invest In Potential. More specifically, we provide support to justice-impacted people for graduate school applications and matriculation.

*Howard University*

- 2022 *Founding Director*, Center for Equitable Economy and Sustainable Society (\$10 million center funded by the Hewlett Foundation as part of a broader initiative to re-think neoliberalism)
- 2022 *Co-Chair*, Haitian Studies Association Conference
- 2022-present *Steering Committee*, National Racial Policy Tracker (collaboration with Boston University)
- 2020-present *Editorial Board*, Cultural Economy
- 2019-present *Parole Preparation Project*
- 2019-present *Editorial Board*, Public Culture
- 2017-present *Editorial Board*, Cultural Anthropology

*New York University*

- 2020-present *Editorial Board*, Cultural Economy
- 2020-2021 *Institutional Reviewer*, Harriet Tubman Institute, York University (CA)
- 2020 *Reviewer*, Stanford University Press
- 2019-present *Parole Preparation Project*
- 2019-present *Editorial Board*, Public Culture
- 2019-2020 *Program Committee*, American Anthropological Association
- 2017-present *Editorial Board*, Cultural Anthropology
- 2017-2020 Majority-Serving Institution (MSI) Faculty Mentor, Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)
- 2017-2018 *Director*, **THE REPARATIONS PROJECT**  
Race and Public Space (RAPS) workshop series dedicated to exploring the legal, historical, and actuarial implications of reparations for atrocities committed during the Transatlantic slave trade and its attendant era of colonial rule, as well as a range of contemporary crimes and injustices.
- 2017 *Founding Member*, Board of Directors, **Kids Freedom Fund**, a charitable organization dedicated to the problem of \$1 bail in NYC, created and run by kids.
- 2017-present *Member*, Blackout for Human Rights, a network of concerned artists, activists, filmmakers, musicians and citizens created by Ryan Coogler (*Black Panther*, *CREED*, *Fruitvale Station*) who have committed their energy and resources to immediately address the staggering level of human rights violations against underrepresented peoples in the United States.
- 2016-17 *Faculty Mentor*, Leadership Alliance Mellon Initiative (LAMI)
- 2016-present *Member*, **Symbioses: A Biosocial Network**  
*Symbioses is an interdisciplinary research network that connects life sciences, social scientists, and humanities scholars working at the nexus of biology and social life.*
- 2012-present *Board Member*, The New York Academy of Sciences, Anthropology Section
- 2011-present *Member*, **STRUCTURAL COMPETENCY** working group (founded by Jonathan Metzl, MD, PhD, Vanderbilt University Center for Medicine, Health and Society, and Helena Hansen, MD, PhD, NYU Dept. of Anthropology and Langone Medical Center)  
*Structural competency explores a new clinical politics for understanding the relationships among race, class, and symptom expression under clinical conditions and within diverse social arenas. Rather than “cultural competency,” an approach that emphasizes the*

*divergent sociocultural backgrounds of patients and doctors, and the cultural aspects of patients' illnesses, "structural competency" calls attention to the oft-invisible structural level determinates, biases, inequities, and blind spots shape definitions of health and illness long before doctors or patients enter examination rooms. This evolving collaboration amongst physicians, public health experts, anthropologists, sociologists, and historians, suggests that conditions that appear from a biomedical framework to result from actions or attitudes of culturally distinct groups need also be understood as resulting from the pathologies of social systems. Structural competency converses with a broad range of models to demonstrate how institutional, political, and economic forces generating stigma are invisible to actors on the ground with the ultimate aim of developing new platforms, practices, and agendas that address health issues.*

- 2010-11 Member, Lora Romero, 1<sup>st</sup> Book Prize Committee  
American Studies Association
- 2010-13 Member, Planning and Advisory Committee  
Andrew W. Mellon/United Negro College Fund Mellon Mays  
Undergraduate Fellowship Program
- 2013-2019 Editor-in-Chief, *Transforming Anthropology*
- 2011-2013 Associate Editor, *Transforming Anthropology*
- 2011-2016 Editorial Board, *Disability Studies Quarterly*
- 2012-2017 Editorial Board, *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*
- 2008-15 Editorial Collective, *Social Text*
- 2008-15 Editorial Working Group, *Souls*
- 2008-15 Editorial Board, *Sport in Society*

#### REFEREED JOURNALS, BOOK SERIES, AND FELLOWSHIP COMPETITIONS

*ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship*

*Africa Today*

*American Anthropologist*

*American Ethnologist*

*Anthropological Quarterly*

*Companions in Cultural Studies*, Blackwell Publishing

*Conseil pour le développement de la recherche en sciences sociale en Afrique, or Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)*

*Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*

Cornell University *Society for the Humanities*

*Crime, Media, Culture*

*Cultural Anthropology*

*Cultural Dynamics*

*DuBois Review*

*Feminist Review*

*History & Memory*

*Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*

*Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*

Oxford University Press

*Political and Legal Anthropology Review*

*Public Culture*

*Social Dynamics*

*Social Text*

*Souls*  
*Sport in Society*  
*Transforming Anthropology*  
*Transatlantic Slavery*  
*Ukweli, Howard University Undergraduate History Journal*  
 University of Chicago *ARETE Initiative*  
*University of Toronto Press*  
*Western Journal of Black Studies*  
*Words.Beats.Life: Global Journal of Hip Hop Culture*

COURSES

<i>Howard University</i>	
Directed Readings	Spring 2025
Research Practicum	Fall 2024
Directed Readings	Spring 2024
“Race & Capitalism”	Spring 2024
Research Practicum	Fall 2023
Directed Readings	Spring 2023
Research Practicum	Fall 2022
Directed Readings	Spring 2022
Research Practicum	Fall 2021
<i>New York University School of Medicine</i>	
Value of Life	Fall 2021
Value of Life	Fall 2020
Value of Life	Fall 2018
<i>New York University Prison Education Program (Wallkill Correctional Facility)</i>	
Value of Life	Spring 2017
<i>New School for Social Research</i>	
Forensics of Capital	Spring 2022
<i>New York University</i>	
Black Urban Studies	Spring 2021
Hip Hop & Politics	Spring 2021
Armed Resistance	Fall 2020
Proseminar in Africana Studies	Fall 2020
Hip Hop & Politics	Fall 2019
Disability & Sexuality in American Culture	Fall 2019
Armed Resistance	Fall 2017
Digital Humanities	Fall 2017
Social Justice Lab	Spring 2017
Hip Hop & Politics	Summer 2016
Histories of Capitalism	Spring 2016
Modern Metropolis	Spring 2016
Disability & Sexuality in American Culture	January 2016

Postcolonial City	Fall 2015
Hip Hop & Politics	Fall 2015
Senior Research Seminar	Spring 2014
Concepts in Social and Cultural Analysis	Spring 2014
The Commodity	Fall 2013
Hip Hop and Politics	Fall 2013
Insurgency in Africa (reading course)	Summer 2012
Hip Hop and Politics	Spring 2012
Senior Research Seminar	Spring 2012
MAP Black Atlantic	Fall 2011
Forensics of Capital	Fall 2011
Modern Metropolis	Spring 2010
Intro to Black Urban Studies	Spring 2010
Hip Hop and Politics	Summer 2009
Forensics of Capital	Fall 2009
Postcolonial City	Fall 2009
Extractive Economies in Africa	Fall 2009
Postcolonial City	Fall 2008
The Commodity (that is Nostalgia)	Fall 2008
Hip Hop and Politics	Summer 2008
Research Methods in Metropolitan Studies	Spring 2008
Intro to Black Urban Studies	Spring 2008
<i>Cornell University</i>	
Problem of Youth in Postcolonial Africa	Spring 2007
Hip Hop & Politics	Spring 2007

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association (AAA)  
 American Studies Association (ASA)  
 American Political Science Association (APSA)  
 Society of Medical Anthropology (SMA)

African Studies Association (ASA)  
 Modern Language Association (MLA)  
 American Historical Association (AHA)

REFERENCES

(available by request)