

EDUCATION

Boston University, 2021

Ph.D., American & New England Studies

Dissertation: *Consuming the U.S. Virgin Islands: Conservation and Education in “America’s Paradise”*

Advisor: Julian Go

University of Missouri—St. Louis, 2015

M.Ed., Secondary Education

Capstone: *The Impact of Constructivist Teaching on Student Learning and Engagement*

Advisor: Leslie McEntire

Wesleyan University, 2013

B.A. w/ distinction, African American Studies & Anthropology

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow

Honors Thesis: *“Unalterably Opposed”: Constituting Decolonization in the U.S. Virgin Islands*

Advisor: Gina A. Ulysse

RESEARCH/TEACHING EXPERTISE

Race & Ethnicity, Education Studies/History, Environmental History/Justice, Black Ecologies, Decolonial Studies, Caribbean Studies, Critical Race Theory, Critical Research Methods, African-American History, Civil Rights History

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Fellow—Department of African & African American Studies, Washington University-St. Louis, Fall 2024-

- o Develop book manuscript entitled “From Virgin Land to Virgin Islands: The Colonial History of Environmentalism in the American Caribbean” which situates the establishment and administration of the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John within the longer history of U.S. expansionism by exploring connections between the pastoral and paternal.
- o Teach “Free the Land”: Black Lives and Environmental (in)Justice to undergraduate students where we examine the relationship between race, social movements and environmental sustainability across the African Diaspora

Founder & CEO, Radical Education & Advocacy League, Spring 2022-

- o Advise government agencies, private companies, academic institutions, and various other education stakeholders with an average budget of \$4 million on best practices and strategies for improving their internal systems and learning environments
- o Conduct DEIA policy research, strategic landscape analysis, and donor outreach plans for mission-based organizations
- o Develop and facilitate professional and personal development workshops focused on critical pedagogy, radical self-care, decolonial practices, and community-centered projects for educators, nonprofit leaders, and 9th- doctoral students
- o Design K-University curriculum and programs
- o Manage and develop teams of assistants, interns, and subcontractors
- o Organize and host community-based panels featuring industry leaders and scholars on the topics of racial equity, decolonial pedagogy, inclusion, etc.

Policy & Advocacy Fellow, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Summer 2018

- o Served as a policy fellow through Leadership for Educational Equity
- o Advised Senior Associate Commissioner for Educational Options on diversity, equity and inclusion pipeline initiative

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- o Researched and analyzed nation-wide models for diversifying senior leadership in education
- o Developed and facilitated site-wide professional development on mission-building and DEI policy implementation
- o Engaged and interviewed senior leaders from various leadership diversity organizations including EdLoc, Color Magazine, and Moonshot edVentures
- o Co-authored and co-founded the Influence 100 policy research report and superintendent diversity pipeline program for the state of Massachusetts

Community Surveyor, *The American City Coalition*, Summer 2017 & 2018

- o Conducted needs and asset assessment of low-income residents and Section 8/voucher choice in Boston and Cambridge, MA
- o Analyzed and evaluated the effectiveness of Cambridge Housing Authority's Section-8 and Boston Housing Authority's voucher programs
- o Recommended actions for improving welfare program and evaluation process

Curriculum Planner, *St. Louis Public School District & St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department*, Summer 2015

- o Designed and developed culturally-responsive curriculum to foster positive and anti-oppressive relationships between St. Louis BIPOC students and local law enforcement
- o Created and delivered program plan to the chief of police and school district superintendent
- o Launched pilot program to test the intervention curriculum

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer, UC- San Diego, Spring 2024

- o Delivered "Placing School: Land, Learning & Self-determination on St. John" to Race, Neighborhoods, and Cities undergraduate course taught by Dr. Christiane Assefa
- o Discussed the

Guest Lecturer, *University of San Diego*, Fall 2022

- o Delivered "Overturning Roe v. Wade: Race, Reproductive Justice & the Revolt against Civil Rights" to American Women in History undergraduate course taught by Dr. Channon Miller
- o Discussed the racial history of reproductive justice in the United States and its connection to the larger Civil Rights Movement.

Guest Lecturer, *University of San Diego*, Fall 2021

- o Delivered "Reparative Historical Methods" to The Historian's Craft undergraduate course taught by Dr. Channon Miller
- o Taught about the ways in which historical research can be used to repair societal harm and to empower historically marginalized subjects

Lecturer, *Giffit Hill School*, Spring 2020

- o Co-constructed course lesson plans for 12th grade Social Studies and College Counseling
- o Planned and led discussions on Caribbean, Virgin Islands and Black History
- o Advised on USVI Public Safety Support Foundation's plan to provide "safe and secure futures for St. John youth"

Guest Lecturer, *University of the Virgin Islands*, Fall 2019

- o Social Work 224: Introduction to Social Welfare, taught by Dr. Gail-Ann Guy-Cupid
 - Co-constructed course lesson plans

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- Co-led discussions

Substitute Lecturer, Boston University, Spring 2018

- Sociology/African American Studies 408/808: Racial and Ethnic Relations, taught by Dr. Saida Grundy
 - Substitute-taught graduate course per request of instructor
 - Facilitated class activities and discussion

Teaching Fellow, Boston University, Fall 2017- Spring 2019

- History 299: History of the Civil Rights Movement, taught by Dr. Andrew David
 - Co-constructed course lesson plans
 - Planned and led discussions
 - Delivered culminating civil rights movement lecture on the Black Lives Matter Movement
 - Coordinated visit from Boston Latin School and prepared integrated lesson plan on activism for high school and undergraduate students
 - Formulated student assignments (exams, projects, papers, etc.) as well as attendant rubrics
 - Graded all student work
- Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies 101: Gender & Sexuality I—An Interdisciplinary Introduction, co-taught by Dr. Karen Warkentin, Dr. Sarah Frederick and Dr. Sarah Miller
 - Managed and directed two discussion sections containing a total of 40+ students
 - Developed lesson plans for weekly discussion meetings meant to synthesize cross-disciplinary class lectures (i.e. biological, humanistic and sociological approaches to gender, sex and sexuality)
 - Curated list of feminist events for student attendance
 - Implemented intersectional frameworks into gender discourse
 - Graded all student work
- History 334/International Relations 350: History of International Relations, 1945-Present, taught by Dr. Jayita Sarkar
 - Managed and directed three discussion sections containing a total of 50+ students
 - Developed syllabus and lesson plans for weekly discussion meetings
 - Formulated student assignments (exams, projects, papers, etc.) as well as attendant rubrics
 - Graded all student work
- African American Studies 371/History 298: African American History, taught by Dr. Ashley D. Farmer
 - Co-constructed course lesson plans
 - Led weekly practicums
 - Formulated student assignments (exams, projects, papers, etc.) as well as attendant rubrics
 - Graded all student work

SAT/ACT Instructor, Summit Educational Group, Spring 2017- Spring 2019

- Plan customized educational programs for clients
- Teach strategies and best-practices for standardized test-taking
- Increased student ACT scores by 80 points

Writing Instructor, Wyman-Inspire.STL, Summer 2016

- Developed classroom management plan and unit plans for middle school students entering high school
- Constructed culturally responsive curriculum that emphasized the mechanics of writing in the context of their life experiences and backgrounds

English Instructor—Teach for America, St. Louis Public Schools, Fall 2013- Spring 2016

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- o Developed student-centered classroom management plan and unit plans for Freshman Literature, African American Literature and ACT Prep courses
- o Achieved 30% percent growth on 9th grade standardized testing
- o Facilitated first-ever purchase of ACT Prep curriculum for school and trained colleagues on use of program
- o Planned school's second annual Black History Month program

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed/Peer-Reviewed

“Towards a New Understanding of Conservation: Colonialism, National Parks, and St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands,” *Environment and Planning F-Sage Journals*, Special Issue (In Progress)

“Without Bounds: Colonialism and Disaster,” *Environment & History*, Special Issues (In Progress)

“Disrupting Whiteness: Jonin’ and the Fugitivity of Black Speech in the American Public School,” *Ampersand: An American Studies Journal*, 1 (1): September 2021,
<https://sites.bu.edu/ampersandjournal/2021/09/02/volume-1-issue-1/>.

“Conserving America’s Paradise: Where the Fight for Land and Learning Meet,” Faraclas, N., R. Severing, S. Delgado, E. Echteld, F. Gonzalez, E. Diaz, and J. Jiang. eds. 2021. *Trans-linguality, Trans-culturality and Trans-identification in the Greater Caribbean*. Willemstad, Curaçao: University of Curaçao.

“Consuming the U.S. Virgin Islands: Conservation and Education in America’s Paradise.” PhD diss., Boston University, 2021. ProQuest.

Invited

“Precarious Learners: Race, Status and the Making of Virgin Islands Education from 1917-1970,” *Social Welfare History Project*, Virginia Commonwealth University, February 2023,
<https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/programs/education/>.

“The Problems of Possession: The Colonial History of Eco-Tourism in the Virgin Islands,” *History Workshop Online*, November 2021, <https://www.historyworkshop.org.uk/problems-of-possession/>.

“The Wait/Weight of Disaster: Emergency, Volcanoes, and the Impossibilities of Colonialism in St. Vincent,” *Environmental History Now*, July 2021, <https://envhistnow.com/2021/07/08/the-wait-weight-of-disaster-emergency-volcanoes-and-colonial-impossibilities-in-st-vincent/>.

Review of *Thick*, by Tressie McMillan Cottom, *E3W Review of Books*, 21(Spring 2021): 16-17.

“Human Fragility: The Condition We Fight to Escape,” *Environmental History Now*, Spring 2020.

“Place of No Escape,” *Moko*, 16, January 2020.

“Teaching Beyond a Colonial Blackness or The Costs of being Black and *not really* American,” *IRT Blog*, Fall 2019.

Op-Eds & Creative Writing

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“It’s Time to Stop Minimizing St. Johnians and Their Issues,” St. Thomas Source, July 14, 2023, <https://stthomassource.com/content/2023/07/14/opinion-we-keep-minimizing-st-johnians-contention-with-the-v-i-national-park-and-its-time-we-stop/>

“Jumbie Man” and “Like You, Mommy” *The Caribbean Writer*, ed. Alscess Lewis Brown, 36 (April 2022).

"White Gaze Runs Deep, from U.S. Virgin Islands to McKinney," *ForHarriet*, Summer 2015

"Call It by Its Name" & "Unforgotten," *ProudFlesh: New Afrikan Journal of Culture, Politics and Consciousness*, ed. Opal Palmer Adisa, 8 (2013): 56-58.

Policy Papers

Cheryl Camacho, Stacey Muanya, Caitlyn Phung, and Rikka Shrestha, “Influence 100,” Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, August 2018.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Postdoctoral Fellowship at Washington University-St. Louis, Fall 2024-
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Publishing Research Award, Spring 2023
Gilder Lehrman Scholarly Fellowship, Summer 2019
Boston University’s Graduate Student Organization Research Grant, Summer 2019
Boston University Dean’s Award Fellowship, Fall 2016
Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers, Fall 2015
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow Dissertation Grant, Fall 2018
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow Pre-Doctoral Research Grant, Spring 2017

AWARDS & PRIZES

Outstanding Teaching Fellow, *American & New England Studies*, Boston University, Fall 2018- Spring 2019
Awarded to graduate students in the Graduate School of Arts& Sciences for their exceptional contribution to Boston University’s teaching mission

Erness Brody Prize, *African American Studies*, Wesleyan University, Spring 2013
Awarded to a student from Wesleyan who has demonstrated exceptional skills in writing

QuestBridge College Match Scholarship Recipient, *Wesleyan University*, Spring 2009- Spring 2013
Awarded to top 5% of applicants for admission to one of QuestBridge's college partners with a full, four-year scholarship worth over \$200,000

PANELS & PRESENTATIONS

“Finding Support through the ‘Next Level,’” *Caribbean Studies Association-- Roundtable*, Summer 2024
Panel Organizer

Now, What?: Navigating Education in the US Virgin Islands, *Webinar Panel hosted by Radical Education & Advocacy League*, Fall 2023
Moderator

Regional Conference on Youth (RCOY) Caribbean- Barbados 2023, *hosted by Conservation Institute Bahamas*, Fall 2023
Delegate for the U.S. Virgin Islands

Summit on U.S. Colonialism, *hosted by Right to Democracy & Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice*, Fall 2023
Invited Guest

Now, What?: Navigating Education in the Wake of Affirmative Action, *Webinar Panel hosted by Radical Education & Advocacy League*, Summer 2023
Moderator

CSA Dialogue Series: Inaugural Panel, *Caribbean Studies Association*, Fall 2023
Guest Panelist

Learning from Our Past, Living in our Present, Looking toward our Future, *175th Virgin Islands Emancipation Panel hosted by Office of Delegate Stacey E. Plaskett*, Summer 2023
Guest Panelist

University of Minnesota, *Environmental Justice Guest Speaker Series*, Spring 2023
Talk: “Saving America’s Paradise: The Colonial Nature of Disaster Relief in the U.S. Virgin Islands”

Boston University, *Careers for Humanities Majors Series*, Spring 2023

American Society of Environmental History, Spring 2023
Paper: “Disaster in America’s Paradise”
Panel Co-Organizer: *Caribbean Conflicts: Dispossession, Colonialism & the Environment*

Placing School: Land, Learning and Self-Determination on St. John, Bajo El Sol Gallery ([Community Talk](#)), Spring 2023

Pursuing Education Equity: From St. Louis to St. John, *TEDx-St. Thomas*, Spring 2022

Virgin Islands Studies Collective Conference, *University of the Virgin Islands*, Spring 2022
Paper: “Locating the Virgin Islander in Environmental Justice”

American Studies Association, Fall 2021
Paper: “Saving America’s Paradise: The Disasters of U.S. Empire on the Island of St. John”
Panel Co-Organizer: *The Imperial in Unexpected Places: Creative Resistance and Ambiguous Power across the U.S. Empire*

Caribbean without Borders Graduate Student Conference, Spring 2020
Paper: “Education for Resistance: The Fight for Land and Learning on St. John”

Eastern Caribbean Island Culture Conference, Fall 2019
Paper: “Minding Land: Consumption and Education on the Island of St. John”

Southeastern American Studies Association, Spring 2019
Paper: “Backchattin’ into Existence: Rebellious Black Speech”

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Carolina Lowcountry in the Atlantic World Program, Spring 2019
Paper: “Joanin’: Fugitive Black Speech in the American Public School”

Caribbean Studies Association, Summer 2018
Paper: “Minding Land: Consumption and Education on the Island of St. John”

Boston University Art Galleries, Spring 2018
Panel: “They Were Always Marching: African-American Women and the Civil Rights Movement”
Moderator

American Studies Association, Fall 2017
Paper: “Teaching While Loving Blackness”
Panel Organizer—*Radical Self Love as Decolonial Education*

New England American Studies Association, Fall 2017
Panel: “Navigating Academia from the Margins”

Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers, Summer 2017
Workshop: “Self-Care and Other Ways to Remain Decolonized: A Survival Plan for Graduate School”
Workshop Facilitator

University of the Virgin Islands, *Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center*, Fall 2017
Talk Show: “United States Virgin Islands Centennial Commemoration”
Invited Radio Guest

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Peer Reviewer, **Environment & History Journal**, Fall 2023-

Member, **EdLoC (Education Leaders of Color)**, Fall 2022 –

Founder & President, **The Village Activists**, *Disaster Nonprofit*, Spring 2021-

Board Member, **Racial Imbalance Advisory Council**, *Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*, Fall 2018-Spring 2024

Member, **Provost’s Faculty Teaching Awards Committee**, *Office of the Provost, Boston University*, Fall 2018–
Spring 2019

Peer Reviewer, **American Educational Research Journal**, Spring 2018

Council Member, **New England American Studies Association**, Spring 2018- Spring 2019

Regional Strategy Team Leader, **Boston Education Action Network**, Spring 2017- Fall 2018

Leadership for Educational Equity, Summer 2017- Summer 2018

- National Organizing Workshop, nominated participant
- Regional Strategy Team Summit

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- African American Leadership Program

Graduate Student Member, **Graduate Student Advisory Committee**, *Office of the Provost, Boston University*, Fall 2016– Spring 2019

American & New England Studies Graduate Student Organization, *Boston University*, Fall 2016- Spring 2019

- Graduate Student Organization Liaison
- Americanist Forum Co-Chair

Graduate Student Organization, *Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Boston University*, Fall 2016- Fall 2018

- Vice President
- Treasurer