

EDUCATION

Boston University, 2021

Ph.D., American & New England Studies

Deans Fellow

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

Major Fields: African American History, Sociology of Education, Sociology of Race, Ethnicity, Class & Gender

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 AREAS

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-2025 Postdoctoral Fellow—Department of African & African American Studies,

Washington University-St. Louis, Fall 2024-

- o Develop book manuscript entitled “Virgin Island: The Colonial History of Conservation in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands” 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 as well as “The Art of Black Healing,” which examines the various frameworks of healing Black people have deployed in the face of racialized oppression.
- o Lectured for Environmental Studies workshop, Introduction to Africana Studies, Introduction to Race, and Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Colloquium and moderated food justice panel
- o Served as liaison between Washington University’s Postdoctoral Society (WUPS) and Black Postdoctoral Association

Conference Chair, Black Women Studies Association, Fall 2024-

- Designed and executed vision for the 2nd Annual BWSA Symposium, a virtual convening for scholars studying Black women, their histories, politics and experiences
- Designed Standard Operating Process for symposium planning
- Procured vendors, exhibitors, keynote, and workshop facilitators
- Secured financial and in-kind sponsorships and funding for the symposium
- Managed a planning committee team of five

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

- 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
- Conduct DEIA policy research, strategic landscape analysis, and donor outreach plans for mission-based organizations
- 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
- Design K-University curriculum and programs
- Manage and develop teams of assistants, interns, and subcontractors
- 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

- Served as a policy fellow through Leadership for Educational Equity
- Advised Senior Associate Commissioner for Educational Options on diversity, equity and inclusion pipeline initiative
- Researched and analyzed nation-wide models for diversifying senior leadership in education
- Developed and facilitated site-wide professional development on mission-building and DEI policy implementation
- Engaged and interviewed senior leaders from various leadership diversity organizations including EdLoc, Color Magazine, and Moonshot edVentures
- Co-authored and co-founded the Influence 100 policy research report and superintendent diversity pipeline program for the state of Massachusetts

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Higher Ed

Washington University-St. Louis, *Postdoctoral Fellow*, Fall 2024- Spring 2025

- AFAS 288: “Free the Land”: Black Lives and Environmental (in)Justice
- AFAS 3235: The Art of Black Healing: Repair, Justice and Radical Restoration

Boston University, *Teaching Fellow*, Fall 2017- Spring 2019

- History 299: History of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Andrew David
- Sociology/African American Studies 408/808: Racial and Ethnic Relations, Dr. Sayida Grundy

- o Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies 101: Gender & Sexuality I—An Interdisciplinary Introduction, Dr. Karen Warkentin, Dr. Sarah Frederick and Dr. Sarah Miller
- o History 334/International Relations 350: History of International Relations, 1945-Present, Dr. Jayita Sarkar
- o African American Studies 371/History 298: African American History, taught by Dr. Ashley Farmer

K-12

Giffit Hill School, *Lecturer*, Spring 2020

- o Virgin Islands History
- o College Counseling

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

- o ACT College Entrance Exam
- o SAT College Entrance Exam

Wyman-InspireSTL, *Writing Instructor*, Summer 2016

- o Middle School Writing Instructor

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

- o African American Literature
- o Freshmen Literature
- o ACT College Entrance Exam

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 (Under Review)

“Without Bounds: Colonialism and Disaster in St. Vincent and the U.S. Virgin Islands,” *Environment & History*, 30(4): November 2024.

“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/>.

“Consuming St. John: The Fight for a Public School on America’s Playground,” Faraclas, N., R. Severing, S. Delgado, E. Echteld, F. Gonzalez, E. Diaz, and J. Jiang. eds. *Distancing as Infinite Entanglement: Healing, Intersectionality and Interstices in the Languages, Literatures and Cultures of the Greater Caribbean and Beyond*. Willemstad, Curaçao: University of Curaçao, 2021.

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

Public Scholarship

“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.

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

Op-Eds & Creative Writing

“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).

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

"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 & AWARDS

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| 2025 | Maya Angelou Award for Postdoctoral Excellence in Leadership, WUSTL |
| 2025 | Washington University-St. Louis Black Postdoctoral Association Conference Scholarship |
| 2024 | Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity (CRE ²) Small Grant, WUSTL |
| 2024 | Travel Grant, Caribbean Studies Association |
| 2024 | AFAS Postdoctoral Fellowship at Washington University-St. Louis |
| 2023 | Travel Grant, American Society for Environmental History |

- 2023 Virginia Commonwealth University Publishing Research Award
- 2019 Gilder Lehrman Scholarly Fellowship
- 2019 Outstanding Teaching Fellow, Arts & Sciences, Boston University
- 2019 Research Grant, Graduate Student Organization, Boston University
- 2018 Dissertation Grant, Mellon Foundation
- 2017 Pre-doctoral Research Grant, Mellon Foundation
- 2016 Dean's Fellowship, Boston University
- 2013 Erness Brody Prize, African American Studies, Wesleyan University
- 2009 National College Match Recipient, Questbridge

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY

- 2025 **Reviewer**, WUSTL-Center for Race, Ethnicity & Equity Graduate Student Fellowship
- 2024- **Conference Chair**, Black Women's Studies Association
- 2023 **Peer Reviewer**, Environment & History Journal
- 2019 **Americanist Forum Co-Chair**, American Studies Graduate Student Organization, Boston University
- 2018-2019 **Council Member**, New England American Studies Association
- 2016-2019 **Member**, Graduate Student Advisory Committee, *Office of the Provost*, Boston University
- 2016-2019 **GSO Liaison**, American Studies Graduate Student Organization, Boston University
- 2018 **Peer Reviewer**, American Educational Research Journal
- 2018 **Member**, Provost's Faculty Teaching Awards Committee, *Office of the Provost*, Boston University
- 2016-2018 **Vice President**, Graduate Student Organization, *Graduate School of Arts & Sciences*, Boston University
- 2016-2018 **Treasurer**, Graduate Student Organization, *Graduate School of Arts & Sciences*, Boston University
- 2011-2013 **Member**, African American Studies Major Committee, Wesleyan University

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

- 2025- **Board Member**, Ujima (St. Louis)
- 2023- **Chair of Education Committee**, Right to Democracy
- 2023- **Member**, Our Town Frederiksted (Virgin Islands)
- 2018-2024 **Board Member**, Racial Imbalance Advisory Council, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- 2021 **Founder & President**, The Village Activists
- 2017-2018 **Regional Strategy Team Leader**, Boston Education Action Network
- 2011-2017 **Vice President of Public Relations**, Virgin Islands Youth Advocacy Coalition
- 2014-2016 **Board Member**, Strength Through Awareness & Inclusion (S.T.A.I.), Teach for America-St. Louis
- 2011-2013 **Board Member**, Women of Color Collective, Wesleyan University

2007-2010 **Co-founder & Vice Chair**, St. John Youth Committee

INVITED TALKS & PANELS

- 2025 “American Madness: Virgin Lands, National Parks and Colonial Myths,” **Stanford University, Center for Latin American Studies**
- 2025 “Humanities Politicized,” **WUSTL, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs & Wash U Postdoc Society**
- 2025 Alpha Eta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, African American Health Panel, **Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL)**
- 2025 Moderator, “Nourishing Roots: Addressing Food Apartheid in Black Communities,” **Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL), Department of AFAS**
- 2025 “Placing School: Land, Learning and Self-determination on St. John, **California State University—San Marco**
- 2024 “From Colonialism to Self-Determination: Realizing the Promise of Democracy in the US Territories,” **PolicyLink Equity Summit (Atlanta)**
Participants: Yarimar Bonilla, Ken Kuper, Deepak Lamba-Nieves, Adi Martinez-Roman
- 2024 “Disaster in America’s Paradise: Situating U.S. Empire in the Aftermath of Irmaria in the U.S. Virgin Islands,” **WUSTL, Center for the Environment**
- 2024 “Disaster in America’s Paradise: Situating U.S. Empire in the Aftermath of Irmaria in the U.S. Virgin Islands,” *The Ethical Challenges of the Global Climate Crisis Seminar*, **Stanford University**
- 2024 “Placing School: Land, Learning & Self-determination on St. John,” **California State University- San Marco**
- 2023 CSA Dialogue Series: Inaugural Panel, **Caribbean Studies Association**
Participants: Okama Brook-Ekpe, Geneve Phillip, Guido Rojer, Jr., Godfrey St. Bernard
- 2023 “Learning from Our Past, Living in our Present, Looking toward our Future,” 175th Virgin Islands Emancipation Panel, **Office of Congresswoman Stacey E. Plaskett**
Participants: Stephanie Chalana Brown, Johanna Bermudez-Ruiz, Gerard Emanuel, Monica Marin, Tarik McMillan, Hadiya Sewer, Ashley Scotland, Sommer Sibilly, Tiphonie Yanique
- 2023 “Saving America’s Paradise: The Colonial Nature of Disaster Relief in the U.S. Virgin Islands,” *Environmental Justice Guest Speaker Series*, **University of Minnesota**
- 2023 “Placing School: Land, Learning and Self-Determination on St. John,” Bajo El Sol Gallery ([Community Talk](#))
- 2022 “Overturning Roe v. Wade: Race, Reproductive Justice & the Revolt against Civil Rights,” **University of San Diego**
- 2022 “Locating the Virgin Islander in Environmental Justice,” **Virgin Islands Studies Collective Conference**, University of the Virgin Islands
- 2021 “Reparative Historical Methods,” The Historian’s Craft Seminar, **University of San Diego**
- 2019 “Understanding Race & the Virgin Islands Environment,” Introduction to Social Welfare, **University of the Virgin Islands**

- 2018 “They Were Always Marching: African-American Women and the Civil Rights Movement,” **Boston University Art Galleries** (Moderator)
Participants:
- 2017-2018 “Careers in Social and Environmental Justice” *Careers for Humanities Majors Series*, **Boston University**
Participants: Jennifer Tolman Schwartzman, Ellen Shenette, Sabine Tesson
- 2017 “United States Virgin Islands Centennial Commemoration,” **Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center**, Radio Show, University of the Virgin Islands
Participants: Dr. Chenzira Davis Kahina, Senator Genevieve Whitaker

SPECIAL CONVENINGS

- 2025 **Summit: Intersections**, Right to Democracy
- 2023 **Summit on U.S. Colonialism**, Right to Democracy & Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice
- 2023 **Regional Conference on Youth (RCOY) Caribbean- Barbados 2023**, Conservation Institute Bahamas
- 2022 **TEDx Talk-** “Pursuing Education Equity: From St. Louis to St. John, TEDx-St. Thomas
- 2018 **African American Leadership Program**, Leadership for Educational Equity
- 2017 **Regional Strategy Team Summit**, Leadership for Educational Equity
- 2017 **National Organizing Workshop**, Leadership for Educational Equity

PANELS & WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

- 2024 “Finding Support through the ‘Next Level,’” Roundtable, Caribbean Studies Association
Participants: Nneka Dennie, Jallicia Jolly, Khnuma Simmonds
- 2024 “Decolonizing Higher Ed: How to Take Care of Yourself While in School,” Virtual Workshop
- 2023 “Disaster in America’s Paradise,” *Caribbean Conflicts: Dispossession, Colonialism & the Environment*, American Society of Environmental History Annual Meeting
Co-Organizer: Matthew Johnson | Participants: Sharika Crawford, Matthew Johnson, John McNeil, Megan Raby
- 2023 “Now, What?: Navigating Education in the US Virgin Islands,” Webinar, Radical Education & Advocacy League (Moderator)
- 2022 “Now, What?: Navigating Education in the Wake of Affirmative Action,” Webinar, Radical Education & Advocacy League (Moderator)
- 2022 Early Scholar Development Workshop, Amherst College
- 2018 “Saving America’s Paradise: The Disasters of U.S. Empire on the Island of St. John” *The Imperial in Unexpected Places: Creative Resistance and Ambiguous Power across the U.S. Empire*, American Studies Association Annual Meeting
Co-Organizer: Amelia Flood | Participants: Alvita Akiboh, Maria Diaz, Christine Peralta, Jessica Schwartz

- 2017 “Teaching While Loving Blackness,” *Radical Self Love as Decolonial Education*, American Studies Association Annual Meeting
Co-Organizer: Meredith McCoy | Participants: Yamil Avivi Garcia, Justin Clarel
- 2017 “Navigating Academia from the Margins,” New England American Studies Association Fall Colloquium
Participants: Walter Suarez
- 2017 “Self-Care and Other Ways to Remain Decolonized: A Survival Plan for Graduate School,” Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY & PAPERS

- 2024 Facing Race by Race Forward (St. Louis)
- 2020 “Education for Resistance: The Fight for Land and Learning on St. John,” Caribbean without Borders Graduate Student Conference (Puerto Rico)
- 2019 “Minding Land: Consumption and Education on the Island of St. John,” Eastern Caribbean Island Culture Conference
- 2019 “Backchattin’ into Existence: Rebellious Black Speech,” Southeastern American Studies Association
- 2019 “Joanin’: Fugitive Black Speech in the American Public School,” Carolina Lowcountry in the Atlantic World Program
- 2018 “Minding Land: Consumption and Education on the Island of St. John,” Caribbean Studies Association

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Studies Association
- American Society for Environmental History
- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- Black Women’s Studies Association
- Caribbean Studies Association
- EdLoC- Education Leaders of Color
- Organization for Historians