

curriculum vitae

KRYSTAL A. SMALLS

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, PhD in Africana Studies and Educational Linguistics (2015)
Dissertation Advisors: John L. Jackson and Betsy Rymes

Cornell University, B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations (2000)
Africana Studies Minor, Cornell National Scholar

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2017-present **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**, Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology; Department of Linguistics
- 2015-2017 **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**, Postdoctoral Research Associate and Lecturer
Department of Anthropology
- 2014-2015 **University of California, Santa Barbara**, Dissertation Fellow and Lecturer
Department of Black Studies

TEACHING

- 2014 **University of Pennsylvania**, Instructor
Graduate School of Education
- 2013-2014 **Philadelphia University**, Adjunct Professor
College of Science, Health and Liberal Arts
- 2011-2014 **Arcadia University**, Adjunct Professor
School of Education
- 2007-2008 **Henrico County School District** -VA, 10th Grade English (Special Education)
Highland Springs High School

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

The Pot and the Kettle: Liberian Transnational Youth and the Semiotics of Anti/blackness in a Digital Age. (In progress)

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES:

"Fighting Words: Antiracism and Discursive Violence in an American High School." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 28, no 3 (2018): 356-383.

"We had lighter tongues': Making and mediating Gullah/Geechee personhood in the South Carolina Lowcountry," *Language and Communication* 32, no. 20 (2012): 147-159.

"Flipping the Script: (Re)constructing Personhood through Hip Hop Language in a U.S. High School," *Working Papers in Educational Linguistics* 25, no. 2 (2010): 35-54.

BOOK CHAPTERS:

"Languages of Liberation: Making Black Lives Matter Through Digital Discourse" In *Language and Social Justice: Case Studies on Communication and the Creation of Just Societies*, edited by Netta Avineri, Robin Conley Riner, Laura Graham, Eric Johnson, and Jonathan Rosa. Routledge. (In press)

"Race, Language, and the Body: Towards a Theory of Racial Semiotics" in the *Oxford Handbook of Language and Race*, edited by H. Samy Alim, Paul Kroskrity, Angela Reyes, and Jonathan Rosa. Oxford University Press. (In press).

"Racialized Masculinity in Digital Space" in *Gender: Space*, edited by Aimee Meredith Cox. Macmillan Reference USA, (2018): 301-315.

"Fat." In *Parsing the Body: Language and the Social Life of Embodiment*, edited by Mary Bucholtz and Kira Hall. (Forthcoming).

"The Proverbial Monkey on Our Backs: Exploring the Politics of Belonging among Transnational African High School Students in the US." In *US Education in a World of Migration*, edited by Jill Koyama and Mathangi Subramanian, New York: Routledge, (2014): 19-37.

BOOK REVIEWS:

Review of *Real Black: Adventures in Racial Sincerity*, by John L. Jackson, *Transforming Anthropology* 21, no. 2 (2013): 205-207.

Review of *The Real Hip-hop: Battling for Knowledge, Power, and Respect in the LA Underground*, by Marcyliena Morgan, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 22, no. 3 (2013): 247-250.

(with Catrice Barrett) Review of *Languages of Global Hip Hop*, edited by Marina Terkourafi, *Anthropology & Education Quarterly* 43, no. 4 (2012): 446-448.

NON-ACADEMIC:

"Daughters of the Dust and the Place of the Gullah/Geechee" *Public I* (April 2017).

<http://publici.ucimc.org/daughters-of-the-dust-and-the-place-of-the-gullahgeechee/>

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2018-19	Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Faculty Fellow
2014	Black Studies Dissertation Fellowship (University of California, Santa Barbara)
2013	Anthropology and Africana Studies Research Assistantship (University of Pennsylvania)
2013	Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
2012	University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology Summer Research Grant
2008-2013	William D. Fontaine Fellowship (University of Pennsylvania)
2008-2012	Carmen T. Middleberg Fellowship (University of Pennsylvania)
2009	Stephen Peck Award (Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics)
1996-2000	Cornell National Scholar (Cornell University)

INVITED TALKS

May 2019	"TBD." Northwestern Anthropology Colloquium Series Northwestern Department of Anthropology
Mar 2019	"TBD." Plenary Speaker: Ethnographic Futures Conference American Ethnological Society, Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists, Association of Black Anthropologists – St. Louis, MO
Feb 2018	"Say it Loud: Language and Race in Digital Space." Invited Speaker for Science for All Series at Orpheum Children's Museum - Champaign, IL

CAMPUS TALKS

Apr 2018	"Ain't No Stopping Us Now:" Reflections on a Musical Journey through Collaborative Diaspora and African Infinity." Keynote Speaker: Re-Affirming Our Value: Africa's Contributions to the World, African Student Organization Annual Spring Forum , University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Feb 2018	"Digital Diaspora and Blackness," Black History Month & Beyond Brown Bag Series Department of African American Studies , University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Apr 2017	"Familiar Strangers: Belonging and Dissonance in Contemporary African Diaspora" Invited Speaker: Africa: Next Generation of Leadership for Tomorrow's Change, Growth and Innovation African Student Organization Annual Spring Forum , University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
May 2015	"Exploring the Semiotics of Digital Personhood: Emphatic Blackness in Selfies and Memes" Language, Interaction, and Social Organization (LISO) , University of California, Santa Barbara

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2018 "The Future is Black: Transnational Liberian Youth and the Making of Black Modernities"
Liberian Studies Association 2018 Annual Conference, Rochester, NY

- 2017 “#BlackHumanity: Digital Space as a New Terrain of Black Resistance”
 Panel: Re-envisioning Social Spaces of Resistance and Collective Identities in the African Diaspora
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Sevilla, Spain
- 2016 “Black and Multilingual: Language Education Scholarship and Black Students”
 Panel: Society for Linguistic Anthropology Presidential Conversation on Multilingual Education & Social Justice
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Society of Linguistic Anthropology), Minneapolis, MN
- 2016 “Black Semiosis: Theorizing Black “Ways of Speaking” As Survival Codes”
 Panel: (Organizer) Talkin' and Testifyin' to Black Humanity: Producing Black Linguistic Anthropology Then and Now
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Association of Black Anthropologists), Minneapolis, MN
- 2016 “Discourses of Black Unintelligibility”
 Panel: Toward a Raciolinguistic Perspective on the Study of Language and Society
Sociolinguistics Symposium 21, Murcia, Spain
- 2015 “Mediatizing Anti-Anti-Blackness: Emphatic Blackness and Conscious “Unrespectability” in the Digital Sociality of Young Transnational Liberians”
 Panel: Transnational Processes of Mediatization Within a Digital Moment
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Society of Linguistic Anthropology), Denver, CO
- 2015 “Geechee Gyals: “Femixing” the Dirty South and Annexing Caribbean Femininities in Diasporic Self-Making
 Panel: Taking Her Place: The Spatial Politics of Black Womanhood
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Charleston, SC
- 2014 “Real Niggas and Authentic Africans: Semiotic Productions of Blackness and Belonging in the New Liberian Diaspora”
 Panel: Citizenship Otherwise: More Lessons from the Savage Slot
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Association of Black Anthropologists), Washington, DC
- 2013 “Savages/Settlers/Slaves: Mashing Up Black Subjectivities in Liberia and the Metropole”
 Panel: Black Mirrors: Emergent Ethnoracial Configurations and Afro-indigenous Futures
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Association of Black Anthropologists), Chicago, IL
- 2013 (with Diana Burnett) “Wading in the Waters: Black Immortality, Memory, and Transnational Black Intersubjectivity”
 Panel: Leaning Towards An Afrofuture: Black Thought and Aesthetics as Praxis
Critical Ethnic Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2013 (with Chike McLoyd) “New Visions: Black-Identified Transnational Youth Theorizing about Race and Justice”
 Panel: Epistemic Privilege and Poverty: Conceptualizing Transnational Youth as Social Theorists
American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2011 “Sheng Nation: Constructing Sheng Diaspora and Transforming Language Ideology Online”
 Panel: Tracing Mobile Language Practices Across Digital Territories.
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Society of Linguistic Anthropology), Montreal, Canada
- 2011 “Sheng Nation: Transforming Ideology and Constructing Sheng Literacy Online”
Georgetown University Round Table on Language and Linguistics, Washington DC
- 2011 “Flipping the Performative Script: (Re)Constructing Models of Identity Through Hip Hop Languageing and Liberian Englishes in a US High School”
Society of Pidgin and Creole Linguistics (at the Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting), Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2010 (with Chike McLoyd) “It’s Bigger than Hip Hop: Translocal African Youth and Identity in the United States”
 Panel: Mobilizing Media: Constructing Social Identities in Youth Diaspora.
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Society for Urban, National and Transnational/Global Anthropology), New Orleans, LA
- 2010 “The Signifyin’ Monkey and Lil Wayne: Co-Constructing Models of Identity Through Hip Hop Languageing in a US High School”
Multilingualism and Education: Global Practices, Challenges and the Way Forward Conference, Kenyatta University-Nairobi, Kenya
- 2009 “Lighter Tongues: A Look at Gullah Language Ideology in Two Historic Schools”
Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics and Associação de Crioulos de Base Lexical Portuguesa e Espanhola (ACBPLE), Köln, Germany

2009 “We Had Lighter Tongues: Language Teaching and Self-conceptualization in Two Gullah Communities”
 Panel: Tongue-Tied Territories and the End(s) of Nationhood: Language Purism and Language Politics in Stateless Nations
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Society for Linguistic Anthropology), Philadelphia, PA

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Member of Society for Linguistic Anthropology Committee on Language & Social Justice, 2015 – present
 American Anthropology Association

Interim Chair, Committee on Minority Issues in Anthropology, 2017 – 2018
 American Anthropology Association

Member, Committee on Minority Issues in Anthropology, 2013 – 2017
 American Anthropology Association

Editorial Team Member, 2008 – 2012; 2017 – 2018
Anthropology and Education Quarterly

External Reviewer, 2014 – present
Anthropology and Education Quarterly

Co-Editor-in-Chief, 2010 – 2011
Working Papers in Educational Linguistics

External Reviewer, 2012 – 2014
Working Papers in Educational Linguistics

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

2018 Conducted teacher training, 2012; Brewerville, Liberia

2016 – present Member of Sanctuary for the People at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

2017 Panelist, Affirmation & Resistance: Black World Film Series at The Art Theater; Urbana, IL

2014 Organized toiletries drive for fire survivors; Philadelphia, PA

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant/Ethnographer, 2009 – 2014
 Project: The New Latino Diaspora in Marshall (Stanton Wortham)

Research Assistant/Ethnographer, 2008 – 2012
 Project: Communicative Repertoires and Mass Media (Betsy Rymes)

OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Co-Coordinator, 2009 – 2010
 Educational Linguistics Forum, University of Pennsylvania

Graduate Fellow, 2009 – 2012
 Center for Africana Studies Summer Institute, University of Pennsylvania

Cornell University Alumni Ambassador, 2008 – Present

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Anthropological Association, Society for Linguistic Anthropology, Association of Black Anthropologists, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Society for Pidgin & Creole Linguistics, Linguistic Society of America, Liberian Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Spanish: moderate proficiency **Gullah/Geechee:** high proficiency
African American English: fluent **Kiswahili:** novice

COMMUNITY & POLICY WORK

2005-07 **Program Coordinator**, Ifetayo Cultural Arts Academy; Brooklyn, New York

2003-06 **Outreach & Communications Assistant**, The Parent-Child Home Program; Port Washington, NY

2001-03 **Legislative Assistant**, Education/Social Services: US Congress, Office of Rep. José E. Serrano (NY16); Washington, D.C.