



DEPARTMENT OF
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
STUDIES

PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY

Annual Report
2022-2023

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Letter from the Chair

May 12, 2023

This is my last letter to you as chair of the Department of African American Studies. It has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life to work with students, staff, and faculty over these many years. Together, we have built one of the best departments in the country. And I am confident that our best days are ahead of us.

Since 2018, we have graduated 47 students with a concentration and since 1972 1,180 certificate students. Several graduate students have received certificates in the field. And, despite the disruption of Covid-19, we moved from Stanhope Hall to Morrison Hall. We have struggled a bit, but Morrison Hall is finally beginning to feel like home.

In 2022-23, we graduated our sixth class of six concentrators. They were joined by eighteen certificate students. And we had four students who received a graduate certificate. Our courses remain attractive to a large swath of Princeton students. We saw a 23.25% increase in our enrollment, with 1,341 students taking our classes. Fourteen students will be a part of next year's graduating class. And we are delighted that fourteen sophomores declared AAS as their major.

We are saddened by the departure of Professor Imani Perry, who has decided to leave us for Harvard University. Without her, African American Studies would not be the place that it is. She leaves behind a powerful legacy and will be terribly missed. But we are excited that Professor Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor has decided to return to Princeton.

Professor Taylor will rejoin a faculty that continues to amaze me. They are stars in the classroom and on the page. Professor Perry's *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon Line to Understand the Soul of a Nation* received the National Book Award. Professor Ruha Benjamin's *Viral Justice: How We Grow the World We Want* has been celebrated as a pathbreaking book. Professor Chika Okeke-Agulu co-authored a stunning work with Okwui Enwezor entitled, *El Anatsui: The Reinvention of Sculpture*. Professor Autumn Womack was recently promoted to Associate Professor and her book, *The Matter of Black Living: The Aesthetic Experiment of Racial Data, 1880-1930*, was published with wide acclaim. Her recent exhibition at Princeton Library, *Toni Morrison: Sites of Memory*, is simply stunning.

In addition to their scholarship, our faculty continue to work tirelessly on campus and beyond Fitz Randolph Gates to help the country navigate our current crises. They embody the University's informal motto, "In the Nation's Service and the Service of Humanity."

From my days as a graduate student, moving about Dickinson Hall, where the Program in African American Studies was located, to enrolling in the first AAS graduate course taught at Princeton by Cornel West and Nell Painter, to returning as a faculty member, helping to build the Center, and serving as the founding chair of the department, much of my academic life at Princeton has been bound up with African American Studies. I would not have it any other way.



Thank you all for allowing me to serve. Thank you to the staff—to April Peters, Dionne Worthy, Shanda Carmichael, Anthony Gibbons, Jana Johnson, and Elio Lleo. Without you, I would have failed miserably.

I am so excited about what lies ahead for African American Studies at Princeton. Under the leadership of Professor Tera Hunter, with our tremendous faculty, dedicated staff, and extraordinary students, ours will remain the best department of African American Studies in the world. And I am blessed to be part of it all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "E. Glaude".

Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

Department Chair and James S. McDonnell
Distinguished University Professor,
Department of African American Studies

About the Department

We have grown from a program to a center to a department. Today, the Department of African American Studies holds many of the most prolific and notable African American Studies scholars in the world.

Our department provides an exciting and innovative model for teaching and research about African descended people, with a central focus on their experiences in the United States. We embody this mission in a curriculum that reflects the complex interplay between the political, economic, and cultural forces that shape our understanding of the historic achievements and struggles of African descended people in this country and around the world.



Our Staff

Administrative Staff

Shanda Carmichael

Administrative Assistant

Anthony Gibbons Jr.

Communications & Media Specialist

Jana Johnson

Undergraduate/Graduate Administrator

Elio Lleo

Technical Support Specialist

Producer, AAS Podcast

April Peters

Manager, Finance & Administration

Dionne Worthy

Administrative & Events Coordinator

Student Employees

Regina Alufohai

Event Assistant

Alexis Anglade

Student Office Assistant

Leashell Camille

Student Office Assistant

Communications & Media Assistant

JD Copeland

Student Office Assistant

Payton Croskey

Senior Colloquium Coordinator

Tamatoa Falatea

Event Assistant

Khari Franklin

Student Office Assistant

Lauren Harris

Event Assistant

Salwa Halloway

Graduate Coordinator,

Faculty Graduate Seminar

Mélena Laudig

Co-host, AAS Podcast

Collin Riggins

Communications & Media Assistant

Co-host, AAS Podcast

Photographer

Kameron Wolters

Student Office Assistant

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is an external group of experts and advocates who help the Department in the execution of its mission.



Donna Beverly Ford '82

Chair, Hillside Board of Directors



Brent Henry '69

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo, P.C., Partners HealthCare System



Claudia Mitchell-Kernan P'94, 98

*Professor Emerita of Anthropology,
Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences,
UCLA*



Richard J. Powell

*John Spencer Bassett Professor of Art &
Art History, Duke University*



Wes Moore

*Chief Executive Officer,
Robin Hood*



Ruth J. Simmons

*President, Prairie View
A&M University
Honorary Board Member*

Undergraduate Board of Advisers (UBA)

The UBA acts as the voice for students in the Department and plans events each year. We aim to integrate students into the intellectual life of the Department beyond the classroom and offer input on matters related to curriculum and programming activities. Students serve as ambassadors for the Department and provide a support network for all undergraduate students who are concentrators and certificate students as well as students who are enrolled in AAS courses.



Aishah Balogun

Class of 2023



Payton Elyse Croskey

Class of 2023



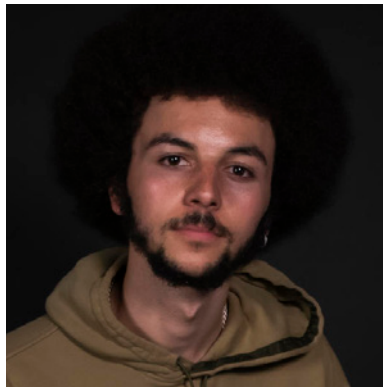
Katrina S. Nix

Class of 2024



Amber Fatima Rahman

Class of 2024



Collin Riggins

Class of 2024

AAS Committees, 2022-2023

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee is tasked with the oversight of issues, concerns, policies and procedures relating to the major and/or certificate in African American Studies. In addition, the committee reviews requests from faculty to teach new courses, reviews and signs off on hiring visiting faculty and lecturers, assigns courses to incoming fellows, and reviews semester to semester coverage of required courses for the concentration and certificate. Finally, this committee is responsible for allocating funding requests for course support, senior thesis and dissertation funding, and conference travel for undergraduate and graduate students. Committee appointments are for a two-year period.

MEMBERS

- Wendy Belcher
- Ruha Benjamin
- Naomi Murakawa
- Kinohi Nishikawa (Chair)

Priorities Committee

The Priorities Committee is the executive committee for AAS. It is tasked with reviewing the yearly budgets proposed by the chair, and with crafting the policies, procedures and guidelines governing faculty roles, expectations and responsibilities. Policies, issues and concerns relating to the process governing tenure and promotion originate with this committee, as well as decisions representing significant changes in the organization, direction, or functioning of the Department. The Priorities Committee is also responsible for selecting postdoctoral and distinguished visiting fellows each year, and for proposing names of faculty to deliver the Toni Morrison and James Baldwin lectures.

MEMBERS

- Ruha Benjamin
- Eddie S. Glaude Jr. (Chair)
- Kinohi Nishikawa
- Autumn Womack

Programming Committee

The Programming Committee responds to requests and allocates funds for co-sponsorship funding from student groups, faculty, and other academic departments. They are also responsible for proposing to the Chair yearly programming that would support the vision, mission, and growth of AAS.

MEMBERS

- Anna Arabindan-Kesson
- Reena Goldthree (Chair)
- Imani Perry



Courses

Fall 2022

AAS 201 / PHI 291 (CD or EC)

African American Studies and the
Philosophy of Race

Eddie S. Glaude Jr., Imani Perry

AAS 244 / ART 262 / LAS 244 (CD or LA)

Introduction to Pre-20th Century Black
Diaspora Art

Anna Arabindan-Kesson

AAS 300 (SA)

Junior Seminar: Research and Writing in
African American Studies

Tera W. Hunter, Naomi Murakawa

AAS 303 / GSS 406 / HUM 314 (HA or SA)

Topics in Global Race and Ethnicity:
Scientific Racism Then and Now

Dannelle Gutarra Cordero

AAS 306 / HUM 329 / JRN 336 (CD or SA)

Topics in Race and Public Policy: Do
Black Lives Matter in the News?

Naomi Murakawa, Zoe Town

AAS 323 / AMS 321 (CD or SA)

Diversity in Black America

Imani Perry

AAS 331 / HIS 382 (CD)

Beyond Tuskegee: Race and Human
Subjects Research in U.S. History

Ayah Nuriddin

AAS 345 / GSS 381 (CD or HA)

Black Radical Tradition

Marcus A. Lee

AAS 353 / ENG 352 (LA)

African American Literature: Origins to
1910

Autumn M. Womack

AAS 365 / REL 362 (LA)

Migration and the Literary Imagination

Wallace D. Best

AAS 372 / ART 374 / AMS 372 (CD or LA)

Postblack - Contemporary African
American Art

Chika O. Okeke-Agulu

AAS 522 / COM 522 / ENG 504 / GSS 503 (HA)

Publishing Articles in Race, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies

Wendy Laura Belcher

Spring 2023

AAS 200 (EC or SA)

Methods of Worldbuilding

Ruha Benjamin

AAS 220 / GSS 229 (CD or LA)

Body Politics: Black Queer Visibility and Representation

Gabriel J. Atchison

AAS 230 / ENG 231 (LA)

Topics in African American Studies:
The Fire This Time - James Baldwin

Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

AAS 306 / HIS 312 (CD OR HA)

Topics in Race and Public Policy: History of
Anti-Black Racism in Medicine

Ayah Nuriddin

AAS 314 / COM 398 / REL 303 / AFS 321 (CD or LA)

Healing & Justice: The Virgin Mary in
African Literature & Art

Wendy Laura Belcher

AAS 319 / LAS 368 / GSS 356 (HA)

Caribbean Women's History

Reena N. Goldthree

AAS 322 / LAS 301 / LAO 322 / AMS 323 (HA)

Afro-Diasporic Dialogues: Black Activism
in Latin America and the United States

Reena N. Goldthree

AAS 326 / ENG 286 (CD or SA)

Topics in African American Culture & Life:
Black Speculative Fiction and The Black
Radical Imagination

Justin Mann

AAS 332 / GSS 333 (HA or SA)

A History of Intellectual Appropriation
of Blackness

Dannelle Gutarra Cordero

AAS 336 / GSS 408 (CD or HA)

Racial Histories of Gender and Sexuality

Marcus A. Lee

AAS 339 / EGR 339 (CD or SA)

Black Mirror: Race, Technology,
and Justice

Ruha Benjamin

AAS 359 / ENG 366 (LA)

African American Literature: Harlem
Renaissance to Present

Kinohi Nishikawa

AAS 367 / HIS 387 (CD or HA)

African American History Since
Emancipation

Michael Regan

AAS 380 / AMS 382 (CD or HA)

Law and Public Policy in African
American History

Naomi Murakawa

AAS 392 / ENG 392 / GSS 341 (LA)

Topics in African American Literature:
Reading Toni Morrison

Autumn M. Womack

AAS 414

'Unsettling Coloniality': Key Concepts in
Black Studies

Bedour S. Alagraa

AAS 500

African American Intellectual Tradition

Imani Perry

AAS 506 / GSS 506 / REL 545

A History of Sex, Sexuality, and Religion in
America

Wallace D. Best

Undergraduate Studies

The Department of African American Studies offers both an Undergraduate Concentration and an Undergraduate Certificate that expand and deepen a student's understanding of race in the United States and in the world. Students who pursue and fulfill all requirements for the major are awarded a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies. The Certificate in African American Studies is equivalent to an academic 'minor.' Undergraduate students in both tracks select from the same course offerings.

The curriculum requirements in the undergraduate program in African American Studies reflect the complex interplay between political, economic, and cultural forces that shape our understanding of the historic achievements and struggles of African descended people in this country and their relation to others around the world. The course of study is defined by three distinct subfields: African American Culture and Life, Race and Public Policy, and Global Race and Ethnicity. We offer a Junior Seminar, Senior Colloquium, Study Abroad Opportunities for our Majors, and an array of courses, public events, and lecture series; open to all students.

Course of Study & Subfields

African American Culture and Life (AACL)

In this subfield, students encounter the theoretical canon and keywords, which shape the contemporary discipline of African American Studies. Accessing a range of interdisciplinary areas, situated primarily in the United States, students learn to take a critical posture in examining the patterns and practices that order and transform Black subjects and Black life.

Race and Public Policy (RPP)

In the Race and Public Policy subfield students use and interrogate social science methodologies in examining the condition of the American state and American institutions and practices. With an analysis of race and ethnicity at the center, students examine the development of institutions and practices, with the growth and formation of racial and ethnic identities, including changing perceptions, measures, and reproduction of inequality.

Global Race and Ethnicity (GRE)

In this subfield, students use the prevailing analytical tools and critical perspectives of African American Studies to consider comparative approaches to groups, broadly defined. Students examine the intellectual traditions, socio-political contexts, expressive forms, and modes of belonging of people who are understood to share common boundaries/experiences as either:

1. Africans and the African Diaspora outside of the United States and/or
2. Non-African descended people of color within the United States.

Undergraduate Certificate Requirements

Undergraduates who opt to pursue a Certificate in African American Studies (AAS) gain access to an extraordinary bibliography that prepares them to think about difference in sophisticated ways.

Earning a Certificate in African American Studies

Students must complete two AAS core survey courses from the list below:

- **AAS 244** Introduction to Pre-20th Century Black Diaspora Art
- **AAS 245** Introduction to 20th Century African American Art
- **AAS 353** African American Literature: Origins to 1910
- **AAS 359** African American Literature: Harlem Renaissance to Present
- **AAS 366** African American History to 1863
- **AAS 367** African American History Since Emancipation

Students must take three additional elective courses in AAS, cross-listed by AAS, or from our approved cognates list, and at least one of these must be in the Global Race and Ethnicity subfield.

Additionally, students are encouraged to make African Americans and/or African American Studies central to their senior thesis topic.

Undergraduate Concentration

Overview and Requirements

Students who declare a Concentration in African American Studies experience a fuller account of the field, preparing them for a range of professions, as well as graduate work in African American Studies.

The steps to complete the concentration:

Students complete two core survey courses listed below. At least one of these must be a Pre-20th century course.

- **AAS 244 *Introduction to Pre-20th Century Black Diaspora Art*** (pre-20th century)
- **AAS 245 *Introduction to 20th Century African American Art***
- **AAS 353 *African American Literature: Origins to 1910*** (pre-20th century)
- **AAS 359 *African American Literature: Harlem Renaissance to Present***
- **AAS 366 *African American History to 1863*** (pre-20th century)
- **AAS 367 *African American History Since Emancipation***

In the fall of their junior year, concentrators take **AAS 300 Junior Seminar: Research and Writing in African American Studies**. This course introduces students to theories and methods of research design in African American Studies in preparation for the junior paper. At the end of their fall semester, juniors declare a subfield to pursue, selecting from:

- **African American Culture and Life (AACL)**
- **Global Race and Ethnicity (GRE)**
- **Race and Public Policy (RPP)**

Additional Requirements

Concentrators must demonstrate proficiency by completing independent writing and research. In the spring of their junior year, students engage in independent research in order to write a junior paper in the field of African American Studies. Seniors complete independent reading and research to develop a senior thesis that reflects their chosen subfield. Seniors also take a comprehensive exam derived from the work of their thesis.

Senior Colloquium

In the Senior Colloquium, Concentrators workshop their thesis for clarity and improvement and also practice becoming conversant about their research by contextualizing their work alongside pertinent contemporary issues and news stories. Workshopping the theses of each student as a group, guided by a member of the core faculty, gives all concentrators a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the field of African American Studies.

Senior Thesis & Exam

As mentioned, during the senior year, each student, with the guidance of a faculty adviser, must complete independent work, which consists of writing a thesis. The senior thesis will then serve as the basis of the senior comprehensive exam.



Left to Right:

Grace Stone, Camryn Stafford Leashell Nancy Camille, Payton Elyse Croskey,
Anecia Henry and Aishah Olabisi Balogun

Class of 2023 Concentrators



Aishah Olabisi Balogun

CLASS OF 2023

Hailing from the great city of Atlanta, Georgia, Aishah is a member of the class of 2023. Since a young age, she has been committed to understanding and interrogating forms of injustice, particularly as it applies to Black people around the world. Along with African American studies, Aishah holds a deep passion for the arts. She was introduced to analog photography at Princeton and has since pursued it independently and presented her work in an all student exhibition entitled *Stitching*. Examining the intersection of art, specifically Black art, and social justice in order to understand its radical function and how it can be further utilized in our current world is at the center of her research.

Outside of academics, Aishah is involved in several performing arts groups on campus, namely the Black Arts Company, of which she is the President Emeritus, and Dorobucci African dance company. She is also a co-host of *The Orange Table* podcast with the *Daily Princetonian*. Aishah explores her sense of fashion through *TigerTrends* fashion magazine. She is a former stylist and current fashion photographer for the publication. Aishah also serves on the Undergraduate Board of Advisers for the Department of African American Studies as a liaison between students and faculty. Heavily involved in fostering Black community on campus, Aishah served as an outreach chair for the Black Student Union. She is also a recipient of the 2022 Streicker International Fellowship.

After Princeton, Aishah intends to pursue a career somewhere in the Art world and continue her work examining the intersections of art and justice.



SUBFIELD

African American Culture and Life (AACL)

SENIOR ADVISER

Autumn M. Womack
Associate Professor,
Department of African
American Studies
& Department of English

SENIOR THESIS TITLE

To be in but not of, instead to craft something wholly their own: Analyzing Contemporary Spoken Word Performance as a Means of Reconstituting the Nigerian British Cultural Identity

In this thesis, I perform close readings of and analyze three spoken word performances by the contemporary Nigerian British poets Caleb Femi, Michelle Tiwo, and Yomi Sode. The purpose of this in depth analysis is to highlight the ways in which these writers are using the poetic medium, specifically spoken word, to contribute to and re-constitute the Nigerian British cultural identity. Illustrating significant aspects of their lives and experiences for listeners in their performance through the African poetic tradition, they offer representation of their shared identity, and it is through this representation that fellow members of the Nigerian British community can conceptualize themselves in new, varied ways.

Leashell N. Camille

CLASS OF 2023



SUBFIELD

**Race and Public Policy
(RPP)**

SENIOR ADVISER

Tera W. Hunter
Edwards Professor of
American History,
Department of African
American Studies &
Department of History

Growing up in Queens, New York City, Leashell has always been involved in education, specifically contributing to the growth and development of NYC public school students. Coming to Princeton, she fostered a new love for policy and how it has affected Black communities in America, which is why she joined the African American Studies department. Pulling from her desire to continue to work with children, and studies in race and public policy, Leashell hopes to have a future in education policy regulation for public schools across the country.

During her time here at Princeton, she's worked with non-profit organization, H.E.A.L.T.H. For Youths, which has helped to continue her hands-on work with NYC public school students, and federal agency, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which introduced her to ways of protecting communities through government policy. Leashell is also currently a member of two dance groups on campus, Black Arts Company (Dance) and BodyHype Dance Company.

SENIOR THESIS TITLE

The East Side Six: A Narrative Inquiry Into How Critical Consciousness Development Works in Tangent with the Black American Experience to Achieve High Educational Attainment

I argue that by understanding the childhood development and lived experiences of the East Side Six, Equilla Banks, Alfreda Brown, Myrna Davis, Shirley Hickman, Sarah E Jordan, and Glenda Wilson, and other "soldiers" all over the US who had the courage to stake a claim in their education, being among the first to desegregate all-white schools in the nation, we can measure high levels of student attainment and implement it to future studies on educational attainment and equity in public schools. In addition to segregated all-Black schools in America, the support of home life, community organizations, and the Church serve as outlets for African Americans to cultivate critically conscious minds.

Payton Elyse Croskey

CLASS OF 2023

Payton Croskey, having bloomed in the sunshine state, is a member of Princeton's class of 2023. She is a visual artist and tech justice scholar writing, coding and designing a liberatory future for all who refuse to submit to technology's watchful eye. Pursuing a degree in African American Studies and a certificate in Applications of Computing, Payton's research uncovers and develops ways of designing digital systems that protect and empower targeted communities.

Beyond her academic life, Payton is the Creative Content Director for the Ida B Wells Just Data Lab, where she extends her studies by collaborating with community members and leading research associates in the exploration and creation of liberatory technology. She also serves on the Undergraduate Board of Advisers for the Department of African American Studies and as a Communications and Social Media Specialist for Princeton's Lewis Center for the Arts.

Following Princeton, Payton seeks to further her education at the graduate level, where she can create systems with liberation in mind and discover what happens when those who technology targets most close the tab, cover the camera and ultimately go dark.

SENIOR THESIS

Fashioning New Worlds: Weaving Alternate Futures through Fashion Technology and Black Ingenuity

Plant-based fabric for waste-free living, digital fashion for a virtual existence and 3D-printed gills for a submerged aquatic society are all futures proposed by today's fashion-tech designers. A sneak peek of a world soon to come, these stylish innovations are rich with the hopes and dreams of their creators. All the while, troubling notions of inequality, power and modernity lie at the center of these fantasies. But is this the only way? In this paper, I adopt a Black studies lens to reckon with fashion's material, social and cultural dimensions— and what it all reveals about our pending future.



SUBFIELD

African American Culture and Life (AACL)

SENIOR ADVISER

Ruha Benjamin

*Alexander Stewart 1886
Professor of African
American Studies and
Director of Graduate Affairs
(DGA), Department of African
American Studies*

Anecia Henry

CLASS OF 2023



SUBFIELD

African American Culture and Life (AACL)

SENIOR ADVISER

Wallace Best

Hughes-Rogers Professor and Director, Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Department of African American Studies & Department of Religion

Representing Brooklyn, NY, Anecia is a member of the class of 2023 proudly concentrating in African American Studies. Though she was initially drawn to psychology, the AAS Department's critical analysis of power and how it operates in history, culture, and language has expanded her lens on mental health advocacy, drawing her to interrogate the structural, social, and emotional impediments to holistic wellness.

Drawing primarily on abolitionist traditions and Black and queer feminist epistemologies, Anecia's academic work has engaged the importance of community as a radical terrain for personal and political transformation, and the role that the psychic, emotional, and spiritual play in our political goals. She intends to bring these interests and values into practice through clinical social work.

Anecia has carried her love of counseling and radical relationship into her work as a Residential College Adviser (RCA) for Forbes College and her facilitation work as a Fields Fellow at the Carl A. Field's Center. Beyond this, Anecia is a proud member and Emeritus President of Ellipses Slam Poetry and a musical theatre lover, expanding on her passion for performance and the arts. She is also a winner of the 2020-21 Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence.

SENIOR THESIS TITLE

Beyond Bread or Oblivion: Reimagining Progressive Moral Languages Through the Political and Spiritual Theorizing of Audre Lorde

Though Black Studies has long worked to disentangle the interests of the powerful from genuine moral insight, conservative white evangelicals still maintain a rhetorical monopoly on morality. In response to this reality, my project attempts to trouble this monopoly by applying Audre Lorde's conceptualization of the erotic to mainstream contestations around moral languages. Lorde frames the erotic as a resource within all of us that, when engaged, allows us to mobilize the fullness of who we are toward progressive action and seek presence in all areas of our life. The erotic is rooted in the sensual and embodied but has implications for the political, spiritual, and individual, paralleling the expansive reach of moral frameworks.

Camryn E. Stafford

CLASS OF 2023

Camryn has a potent dance background, dancing since the age of 3 and having the opportunity to train at various schools, programs, and at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Turning Tables Inc., a nonprofit organization that strives to increase diversity in dance and challenge society's perspective on discriminatory practices in dance.

Through Turning Tables, Camryn has provided students and professional dancers with a platform to choreograph on select topics of diversity and inclusion, allowed student volunteers to give back to the Dallas community by teaching dance classes to underrepresented youth, and given striving dancers opportunities to continue their training through summer programming. Camryn has choreographed multiple evening-length pieces for Turning Tables to inform the audience about issues of underrepresentation, implicit bias, and unfair standards in the dance world.

On campus, she is a dancer with diSiac Dance Company, Princeton University Ballet, and Black Arts Company. Within the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton, Camryn has worked on dance projects with Netta Yerushalmy, Christopher Ralph, Peter Chu, Francesca Harper, Urban Bush Women, and EVIDENCE by Ronald K. Brown. She is Lewis Center Student Adviser and has been granted funding through The Peter B. Lewis Fund, The Mellon Fund, and The Mallach Fund.

SENIOR THESIS TITLE

There She Is: An Exploration of the Black Female Hypervisibility and Invisibility Paradox

Why aren't Black women given the benefit of being seen as multi-varied, through multiple lenses, and containing many qualities and traits? How are Black women both hypervisible and invisible in the social spaces they occupy and how does this preclude them from being seen comprehensively? Throughout this thesis paper, I aim to highlight the ways that Black women are hypervisible subjects, which render other parts of themselves invisible. By using a combination of Princeton student interviews and media examples, Black women's experiences serve as testimony and evidence of the paradoxical experience that impacts Black women in a variety of ways. This thesis aims to put the voices and experiences of Black women forward on their own terms.



SUBFIELD

African American Culture and Life (AACL)

SENIOR ADVISER

Imani Perry

Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies, Department of African American Studies

Grace Stone

CLASS OF 2023



SUBFIELD

African American Culture and Life (AACL)

SENIOR ADVISER

Kinohi Nishikawa

*Associate Professor and
Director of Undergraduate
Studies, Department of
African American Studies &
Department of English*

Born and raised in Glen Cove, New York, Grace is a member of the class of 2023. Throughout her studies, Grace has shown particular interest in African American history and the implications of that history on our society today. After considering concentrations in English, History, and Philosophy, she chose African American Studies because she believed that it existed at the intersection of her various interests.

After taking Professor Eddie S. Glaude Jr's class, African American Studies and the Philosophy of Race, Grace knew that this field of study was one she was incredibly passionate about. In her time in the Department, Grace has explored the creation, production, and reception of Black art in different mediums, particularly music and theater. She is interested in the ability of stories to move through artistic mediums and the resources the respective mediums offer to tell Black stories.

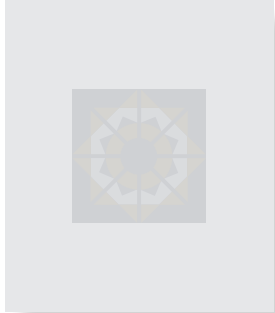
Outside of academics, Grace is on the Varsity Women's Basketball team. She has devoted much of her life to the game of Basketball and has become a well-rounded, vocal leader because of it. Grace is also the President and Co-Founder of the Black Student-Athlete Collective (BSAC). Grace has combined her love of sport with her passion to fight injustice, through BSAC which was formed in 2020 in order to build community among Black Student-Athletes, as well as, work with the Princeton Athletic Department to make it a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable place for Student-Athletes of color. Grace received the PNC Student-Athlete Achiever Award in 2022 for her work with BSAC.

SENIOR THESIS TITLE

Reframing Beloved: Toni Morrison's Philosophy on Love and the Power of Adaptation

Toni Morrison's "Beloved" tells an important story of Black trauma, healing, love, and community building. Simultaneously, Morrison is offering, within the context of her own literary canon, a burgeoning philosophy of love that underpins the story of "Beloved." My thesis explores that philosophy through the lens of adaptation. How can we understand Morrison's efforts through different artistic mediums? How does the communication of this philosophy of love change depending on the resources of a particular medium? Finally, what does the practice of exploring this philosophy through artistic means reveal to us about Black life?

2023 Undergraduate Certificate Recipients



Hilcia Acevedo

*Department of Anthropology
New College West*



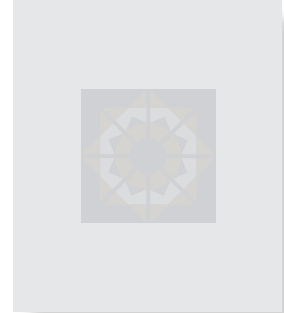
Alexis Anglade

*Princeton School of Public and
International Affairs
Forbes College*



Kadija Benoit

*Princeton School of Public and
International Affairs
Whitman College*



Allen Delgado

*Department of Psychology
Rockefeller College*



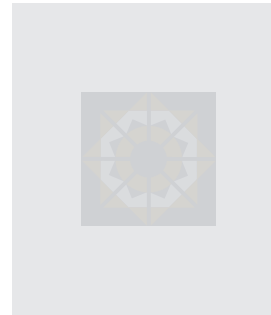
Keyshawn Felton

*Department of Economics
Mathey College*



Alexandra Gjaja

*Department of English
Forbes College*



Samantha Johnson

*Department of History
New College West*



Brandon Jones

*Department of History
Mathey College*



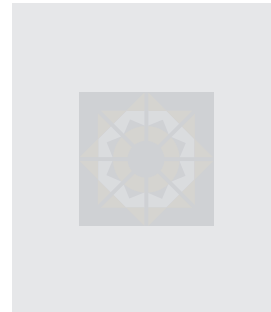
Kamryn B. Loustau

*Department of Religion
New College West*



**Mary Elizabeth
Marquardt**

*Department of History
New College West*



Nicole Martin

*Department of Civil and
Environmental Engineering
Rockefeller College*



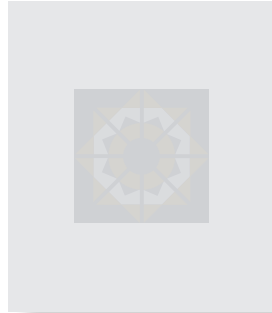
Auhjanae McGee

*Department of English
New College West*



Mikala Parnell

*Princeton School of Public and
International Affairs
Yeh College*



Alexis Rankine

*Department of Anthropology
New College West*



Douglas E. Robins, II

*Princeton School of Public and
International Affairs
New College West*



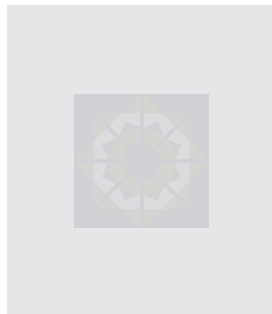
**Omotolani O.
Sangoyomi**

*Department of English
Whitman College*



Jaimee Simwinga

*Department of Anthropology
Whitman College*



James Waltman

*Department of Music
Butler College*





The Experience of Payton Croskey '23

"If they ask you, tell them we were flying. Knowledge of freedom is (in) the invention of escape, stealing away in the confines, in the form of a break. This is held close in the open song of the ones who are supposed to be silent." – Fred Moten and Stefano Harney detailing the undercommons.

The African American Studies Department is where I first encountered the undercommons. Yes, it was here that I first heard of Fred Moten, Stefano Harney and their radical network of maroons challenging the status quo. But prior to that and before sitting in junior seminar dissecting this text, I met the physical manifestation of the undercommons within the AAS Department. I smelled it in the fragrant meals left in the building by staff members reminding us to take care of ourselves. I saw it in the faces of faculty who never let their gaze leave mine as I told them all the ways I wished to change the world and all the ways I felt disempowered to do so. I felt it in the way my peers embraced my dreams and anxieties, letting me know I was never alone, even within this incredibly isolating university.

Long before I had the words to describe it or the thought to unpack it in my independent research, the department had already made me feel at home within the undercommons. And therein lies the beauty of AAS. The faculty, staff and students live and breathe the intellectual concepts they study, continually switching from theoretical to tangible, from critique to practice. And it is all intentional. For three years, I served

on the AAS Undergraduate Board of Advisers and was a part of the deliberate search for students who wished to subvert the destructive ways of this elite, white university. Yet, rather than burdening said students with the unbearable task of saving the world, this Department gave us a place to rest. We received a place to lie our heads down and feel at ease, to eat a meal that reminded us of home and connect with the other skeptics of the world.

Then, with rich courses and a compassion-filled environment, AAS fueled the fires within our bellies by giving us the tools and community to move mountains. Within this undercommons, we laughed and strategized and cried and played. We crafted worlds with our words and love with our hands. We remained critical of the ways of the common and the "standard" while drafting the uncomfortable and the wild. We saw light where there was darkness and darkness where there was light and moaned at the headache that such a double consciousness provided. But we did it all together. Through research over lunch, during office hours and midnight writing sessions, in art studios and Zoom breakout rooms, the AAS Department provided a space within Princeton where I could seek haven with others standing right by my side. And that feeling of warmth and security is what I will both remember and miss most about my time in this place. As time fades and worlds change, I will never forget this beautiful department and the delicate way it made space for me within the undercommons.

2023 Senior Prizes



Ruth J. Simmons Thesis Prize, 2023

This prize is awarded to the African American Studies senior whose senior thesis best exhibits excellence in research and writing within the field of African American Studies. Ruth J. Simmons, Prairie View A&M University President, President Emerita of Brown University, and an honorary member of the Department of African American Studies Advisory Council, generously endowed the prize.

Payton Croskey '23

The Badi Foster Distinguished Senior Prize in African American Studies

Awarded annually to the senior concentrator who has distinguished themselves academically as well as beyond the classroom, reflecting a commitment to the intellectual, political, and artistic traditions in African American Studies.

Anecia Henry '23

Outstanding Junior Paper in African American Studies Prize

This prize is awarded to the senior who submitted the most outstanding Junior Paper.

Payton Croskey '23

AAS Undergraduate Funding Opportunities

Concentrators who require research funding for independent work may apply to the Department of African American Studies for support.

Junior Paper Research Funding

To assist concentrators in building expertise and a library, the Department of African American Studies provides AAS Concentrators funding for books that are essential to their junior independent work.

Senior Thesis Research Funding

The Department of African American Studies (AAS) offers Senior Thesis research grants to Princeton students who plan to research in a subject for their Senior Thesis related to the field of African American Studies.

Concentrators Conference Funding

This opportunity provides funds to AAS Concentrators to attend relevant academic conferences.

Summer Research Funding

Summer awards provide financial support to enable our students to pursue worthy projects that provide important opportunities for research and/or personal growth, foster independence, creativity, and leadership skills, and broaden or deepen their understanding of the subject matter within the field.



Graduate Studies Program

The Graduate Studies program in African American Studies provides an opportunity for students to complement doctoral studies in their home department with coordinated interdisciplinary training in African American Studies. Students entering the program may come from any department in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Graduate engagement with the Department is not limited to students pursuing requirements of the certificate. Participation in the Faculty-Graduate Seminar, with its annually rotating focus area, is open to all Princeton graduate students seeking to engage in the intellectual community of the Department. Recent seminar topics include “Plantation Effects: Visual Ecologies of Race, Place, and Labor,” “Writing the Impossible: Black Studies and Critical Archival Praxis,” “Black Design: History, Theory, and Practice,” and “Surveilling Blackness: Race and the Maximum-Security Society.” The Department also sponsors programming and events throughout the academic year for graduate students at all stages.

Program Requirements

Students wishing to obtain a Graduate Certificate in African American Studies are encouraged to consult, ideally during their first year, with their home department to plan their course of study. Interested students provide an application of their interest to the Department and must complete all requirements listed below.

Earning the Graduate Certificate

The graduate course of study is determined by the graduate student’s home department adviser in consultation with the Curriculum Committee in the Department of African American Studies. Certificate requirements include completion of AAS 500 “African American Intellectual Tradition” and two other courses in the Humanities or Social Sciences:

- a) Whose contents are judged to be devoted primarily to race; or
- b) for which they write research papers devoted to race; or
- c) which are independent study topics tailored to the student’s interests in race.

AAS AY23 Faculty-Graduate Seminar

The Faculty-Graduate Seminar is an intimate intellectual community that comes together to discuss work in progress around a common theme across a wide range of disciplines. Our goal is to establish a small but intellectually diverse and committed group of scholars who will attend all meetings and engage in sustained discourse during the year. Participation in the African American Studies' Faculty-Graduate Seminar for one academic year or the equivalent (two semesters) fulfills one of the requirements for the AAS Graduate Certificate.

Black Speculative Futures

Autumn M. Womack, Faculty Convener

Salwa Halloway, Graduate Coordinator

This seminar investigates the enduring interplay between speculation and Blackness. In recent years, speculation has emerged as a key term in Black and African American Studies with speculation emerging as the site where Blackness gets refracted, refined, and (re)imagined. Speculation, Saidiya Hartman reminds us, activates a methodological approach to reading and writing Black histories that both evade and are erased from the historical record. But speculation is also the economic engine of racial capitalism and a mode of creative dissent and art making. Taking up this capacious understanding of speculation and the speculative, this seminar will explore how writers, scholars, artists, and cultural producers across historic periods mobilize speculation as an analytic, a creative praxis, and an interventionist strategy. Over the course of this year-long seminar, we will investigate various iterations of speculation – creative, financial, economic, methodological – and the forms it takes. We will place questions of speculation at the center of our discussion of public policy, histories of racial capitalism, aesthetics, performance, and literary genre. How, we will ask, do those figures who are made to secure exploitative systems of economic and ideological values forecast alternative civic and social futures? And how has speculation emerged as extractive economic practice and an insurgent praxis? This series will bring together scholars, artists, and writers from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, all of whom think diversely about speculation in their work, their method, and their practice.





Fall 2022 Guest Speakers

SEPTEMBER 21
Information Session

SEPTEMBER 28
Monica Huerta,
Princeton University

OCTOBER 12
Justin Mann,
Northwestern University

NOVEMBER 16
Justin Leroy,
Duke University

DECEMBER 7
Janet Neary,
Hunter College

Spring 2023 Guest Speakers

FEBRUARY 8
Enrolled Student Session Only

FEBRUARY 15
K-Sue Park,
Georgetown University

MARCH 1
Marisa Fuentes,
Rutgers University

MARCH 22
Nadia Nurhussein,
Johns Hopkins University

APRIL 19
Matthew Morrison,
New York University

2023 Graduate Certificate Recipients

Bryan P. LaPointe

Bryan P. LaPointe studies political and social history of the 19th century United States, as well as slavery, abolitionism, and emancipation across the Atlantic world. His dissertation, "A Right to Speak: American Slaves and Antislavery Politics in the 19th Century," explores the relationship between fugitive slave activism and the evolution of formal political abolitionism from the beginning of the century through the Civil War.

Examining the experiences of both prominent and obscure enslaved persons who became involved in the campaigning of antislavery political parties, the project traces their antislavery political world and how they related to those coalitions. Their political histories reveal the deeply personal side of the rise of those formal parties, with their involvement making them pivotal figures in the political quest to destroy American slavery through the ballot box.



DISSERTATION

"Once Enslaved: Formerly Enslaved People and Antislavery Politics in Nineteenth Century America" **Defense Date: May 1, 2023**

Shelby Monet Sinclair

Shelby Sinclair is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History and the Department of African American Studies focusing on nineteenth and twentieth century Black women's history in the United States and Caribbean. Her areas of specialization include U.S. empire in the Caribbean, the history of sexual violence, Black feminist theory, and Black women's labor history. Her dissertation examines Black women's lives and labors during the U.S. military occupation of Haiti (1915-1934). Shelby earned her B.A. with Honors from Stanford University where she was a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow and recipient of the George M. Frederickson Award for Excellence in Honors Research. Before joining the history department, Shelby worked in senior leadership recruiting at Google, Inc.



DISSERTATION

"Gason Konn Bouke, Men Pa Fanm: Black Women Workers and the United States Occupation of Haiti, 1915-1934" **Defense Date: May 5, 2023**

Thembelani Mbatha

Thembelani (Themba) Mbatha is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of English and a postcolonial literary scholar concerned with questions of witnessing and mourning in African and Afro-diasporic literature. Tracing the often-uneasy relationship between African and black literary practices and colonial histories and memories, his work privileges lesser-explored African tragedies to imagine a praxis and ethics of what he calls “belated witnessing.” At Princeton University, Themba has worked with the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies on their summer Global Seminars led by Professor Simon Gikandi (2018) and Dr. Mahiri Mwita (2019). He also served for three years as a Grad Coordinator with the McGraw Center’s undergraduate tutoring program and, in 2020 and 2021, was a Peer Mentor with the Graduate School’s Grad Scholar Program. When not working on his dissertation, Themba can be found either on a run in NYC’s Parks, out on a hike, or enjoying a match of tennis or soccer.



DISSERTATION

“Registers of Black Witnessing: Archives of Twentieth-Century Southern Africa and the Poetics of Testimony” **Defense Date: June 16th, 2023**

Fatima Siwaju

Fatima Siwaju is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Princeton University, with a graduate certificate in African American Studies. Her research and teaching interests center on Islam in the Americas, race and religion in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Afro-American intellectual traditions. Her dissertation, which is based on fieldwork conducted in the Colombian cities of Buenaventura and Cali, explores the intersections of race, religion, and citizenship as they pertain to the historical trajectories, contemporary socialities, and religious practices of Black Shi’i Muslims. Fatima holds a Bachelor of Arts in French and Spanish and a Master of Philosophy in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge. She also received a Master of Arts in Religion from Syracuse University.



DISSERTATION

“Black Muslims in the Colombian Pacific: Race, Religion, and Regimes of Citizenship” **Defense Date: May 11, 2023**

GRADUATE STUDENT REFLECTION

The Experience of Shelby M. Sinclair, Ph.D.

I am a historian of the nineteenth and twentieth century Caribbean and United States who focuses on questions of race, gender, labor, and empire. The fortuitously winding path to my scholarly identity was heavily influenced and made possible by African American Studies at Princeton.

The 2017-2018 Faculty Graduate Seminar “How We Get Free: The Radical Black Imagination” led by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor served as my introduction to the department. The curated series, which assembled a small intellectual community to discuss works-in-progress, modeled scholarly inquiry and critical engagement with a theme. After a few sessions, I could tell that the series—and AAS more broadly—would be the linchpin of my graduate experience. I remember the comforting sound of people gathering on the top floor of Stanhope Hall and the calm that blanketed the room when it was time to begin. The discussions expanded my knowledge of the field, pushed me to think globally, and refashioned my understanding of justice and freedom. The series was transformative and I left the seminar room each week eager to study.

And study I did. Questions about race, gender, empire, and power swirled in my head during that first year. Josh Guild’s “Emancipation, Migration, and Decolonization” course nurtured my interests and deepened my understanding of diasporic roots and routes. An intimate Modern Caribbean History reading course

co-taught by Reena Goldthree and Rob Karl sparked my interest in examining imperial formations, methods for inscribing difference, and the ways that empire entrenches inequality. Major research questions from coursework served as the foundation for what would become my dissertation about Haitian women’s lives during the nineteen year U.S. military occupation in the early twentieth century.

In my third year, the Covid-19 pandemic changed the trajectory of my research plan. Unable to do archival work or travel, I grew worried about how isolation would impact my work. The Department filled the gaps in my pandemic experience. When I needed connection and conversation, Dionne Worthy brought programs to life across digital platforms. When I needed to discuss barely-there ideas, AAS professors met me for outdoor office hours. When I took up Haitian Kreyol to deepen the interdisciplinarity of my research, the Department supported my virtual summer language intensive. And when I just needed a moment to be in community—to laugh, commiserate, and be encouraged—my AAS colleagues held me close. The Department’s resources and support were like deep breaths of fresh air during a moment in my graduate journey when I felt especially fatigued



and vulnerable. I learned a great deal about grace, care, and humanity from the AAS community in the wake of the ongoing global health crisis.



Since then I have been so thankful for small acts of kindness and moments of connection, most especially when I served as an AAS preceptor. In the four semesters I taught, I was deeply inspired by my student's attentiveness, curiosity, and effort. My students and I read closely, drew connections across genres, dug through digital archives, and even role-played together. We worked hard to connect and contemplate through our computer screens. I'll never forget it.

AAS at Princeton has diligently built a soulful, warm, and livable environment for scholars to do their work. What's more, the department recognizes that our work as scholars is not merely about what takes place in classrooms or at publishing houses— it also comprises everything necessary to live a full life and serve our community. I am so grateful to the faculty who poured into me during my journey: Tera Hunter, Josh Guild, Reena Goldthree, Eddie Glaude, Imani Perry, Naomi Murakawa, Anna Arabindan Kesson, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, and many more. Through their example I have come to understand that African American Studies is a profound resource for building a better world. I hope to do the same for my students.

I am, without a doubt, the beneficiary of African American Studies' vibrant intellectual community and robust ethic of care. What sheer good fortune I have to miss the familiarity of Toni Morrison Hall and the brilliant faculty, warm staff, and kind students that made it feel like home while I earned my Ph.D..





Events & Programs

The Department of African American Studies offered a wide variety of virtual events and programs during the 2022-2023 academic year. Through these thought-provoking topics and bold speakers, we aimed to educate and empower students, the Princeton campus, and our local community.

AY23 Featured Events

OCTOBER 11, 2022

James Baldwin Lecture Series:
“The Limits Of The Quantitative
Approach To Discrimination” with
Arvind Narayanan

NOVEMBER 28, 2022

2022 AAS Faculty Book Celebration

DECEMBER 8, 2022

Rehearsals for the Living:
Conversation with Robyn Maynard
and Leanne Simpson, moderated by
Naomi Murakawa

MARCH 23 – 25, 2023

Sites of Memory: A Symposium on
Toni Morrison and the Archive

MARCH 28 – 30, 2023

Toni Morrison Lectures “And You
Thought You Knew Her” with Farah
Jasmine Griffin

MAY 26, 2023

AAS Alumni Mix & Mingle

MAY 29, 2023

AAS 2023 Class Day Ceremony
& Reception







Our Faculty

The Department holds many of the most prolific and notable African American Studies scholars in the world.

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Anna Arabindan-Kesson

**Associate Professor, Department of Art and Archaeology
and Department of African American Studies**

Professor Anna Arabindan-Kesson is an Associate Professor of African American and Black Diasporic art with a joint appointment in the Department of Art and Archaeology. Born in Sri Lanka, she completed undergraduate degrees in New Zealand and Australia, and worked as a Registered Nurse in the UK before completing her Ph.D. in African American Studies and Art History at Yale University.



Professor Arabindan-Kesson's research and teaching focus on Black Diaspora Art, with an emphasis on histories of race, empire, and medicine in the long 19th century. She also has interests in British, South Asian and Australian art. Her first book *Black Bodies, White Gold: Art, Cotton, and Commerce in the Atlantic World*, is available from Duke University Press. She is also writing a book, supported by an ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowship, with Professor Mia Bagneris (Tulane University) called *Beyond Recovery: Reframing the Dialogues of Nineteenth-Century Black Diaspora Art*. Her second monograph is called *An Empire State of Mind: Plantation Imaginaries, Colonial Medicine and Ways of Seeing*. She is the director of Art Hx, a digital humanities project and object database that addresses the intersections of art, race and medicine in the British empire. She is currently a Visiting Fellow in the Center for the Study of Social Difference at Columbia University and a 2021 Center for Digital Humanities Data Fellow at Princeton University. Professor Arabindan-Kesson is a board member of several arts organisations, continues to curate exhibitions and works closely with contemporary artists internationally.

In her teaching, Professor Arabindan-Kesson is committed to expanding and amplifying the spaces, and narratives, of art history. Her courses include survey classes on African American and Caribbean Art, and more specialized undergraduate and graduate seminars such as "Seeing to Remember: Representing Slavery Across the Black Atlantic and Art of the British Empire" and "Pathologies of Difference: Art, Race and Medicine in the British Empire."

Wendy L. Belcher

**Professor, Department of Comparative Literature and
Department of African American Studies**

Professor Wendy Laura Belcher is Professor of African literature with a joint appointment in the Princeton University Department for African American Studies and the Department of Comparative Literature. Working at the intersection of diaspora, postcolonial, medieval, and early modern studies, she has a special interest in the literatures of Ethiopia and Ghana and is working to bring attention to early African literature (written between 1300 and 1900), particularly that in African languages, through her research and translation.



One multi-book comparative project aims to demonstrate how African thought has animated British and European canonical literature. This includes the widely reviewed finalist for the Bethwell A. Ogot Award for best book on East Africa: *Abyssinia's Samuel Johnson: Ethiopian Thought in the Making of an English Author* (Oxford, May 2012), which theorizes the discursive possession of English authors and texts. The next part of the project is a book in progress titled *The Black Queen of Sheba: A Global History of an African Idea*, about the medieval African retelling of the story of Solomon and Sheba. She traces the circulation of this idea in medieval European art and literature through to Rider Haggard's novels, the Indiana Jones films, and the Rastafari.

Another multi-book project aims to bring attention to the existence and value of early written African language. She is the co-translator with Michael Kleiner of perhaps the first book-length biography of an African woman, originally written in Gəʿəz (classical Ethiopic), *The Life and Struggles of Our Mother Walatta Petros: A Seventeenth-Century African Biography of an Ethiopian Woman* (Princeton University Press, 2015; concise edition, 2018), for which she received the Fulbright US Scholars Award.

For this second multi-book project, she has also written books of original research, including her book in progress, an interdisciplinary analysis of a particular body of Gəʿəz literature and art, titled *Ladder of Heaven: The Miracles of the Virgin Mary in Ethiopian Literature and Art* (under contract with Princeton University Press). It consists of interpreting the original Ethiopian miracle stories about the Virgin Mary, written from the 1300s into the 1900s.

Her teaching focuses on how non-Western literature has participated in a global traffic in invention, pairing texts across national and continental boundaries in order to debunk stereotypes of Africans as peoples without history, texts, or influence until the 1950s.

Ruha Benjamin

**Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of African American Studies & Director of Graduate Affairs (DGA),
Department of African American Studies**

Ruha Benjamin is the Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of African American studies at Princeton University where she specializes in the interdisciplinary study of science, medicine, and technology with a focus on the relationship between innovation and social inequity. She is author of three books, including *Viral Justice: How We Grow the World We Want* (Princeton University Press), winner of the 2023 Stowe Prize, *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code* (Polity), winner of the 2020 Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award for antiracist scholarship and the 2020 Brooklyn Public Library Literary Prize for Nonfiction, *People's Science: Bodies and Rights on the Stem Cell Frontier* (Stanford University Press), and editor of *Captivating Technology: Race, Carceral Technoscience, and Liberatory Imagination in Everyday Life* (Duke University Press). Her next book, *Imagination: A Manifesto*, is forthcoming with W. W. Norton & Company.

Professor Benjamin received her BA in sociology and anthropology from Spelman College, MA and Ph.D. in sociology from UC Berkeley, and completed postdoctoral fellowships at UCLA's Institute for Society and Genetics and Harvard University's Science, Technology, and Society Program. She has been awarded fellowships and grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation, California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and Institute for Advanced Study. In 2017, she received the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton and, in 2020, the Marguerite Casey Foundation Inaugural Freedom Scholar Award.



Wallace D. Best

**Hughes Rogers Professor, Department of Religion and
Department of African American Studies**

Director, Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies

Wallace Best specializes in 19th and 20th century African American religious history. His research and teaching focus on the areas of African American religion, religion and literature, Pentecostalism, and Womanist theology. He has held fellowships at Princeton's Center for the Study of Religion and the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University.

He is the author of *Passionately Human, No Less Divine: Religion and Culture in Black Chicago, 1915-1952* (Princeton University Press) and *Langston's Salvation: American Religion and the Bard of Harlem* (New York University Press). He is currently at work on a book entitled *The Spiritual Capital of Black America: Twentieth Century Harlem's World of Religion and Churches*.



Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

**Department Chair and James S. McDonnell Professor,
Department of African American Studies**

One of the nation's most prominent scholars, Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr., is a passionate educator, author, political commentator, and public intellectual who examines the complex dynamics of the American experience. His writings, including *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*, *In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America*, and his most recent, the New York Times bestseller, *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for our Own*, takes an exhaustive look at Black communities, the difficulties of race in the United States and the challenges we face as a democracy. Of Baldwin, Glaude writes, "Baldwin's writing does not bear witness to the glory of America. It reveals the country's sins and the illusion of innocence that blinds us to the reality of others. Baldwin's vision requires a confrontation with our history (with slavery, Jim Crow segregation, with whiteness) to overcome its hold on us. Not to posit the greatness of America, but to establish the ground upon which to imagine the country anew."



A highly accomplished and respected scholar of religion, Glaude is a former president of the American Academy of Religion. His books on religion and philosophy include *An Uncommon Faith: A Pragmatic Approach to the Study of African American Religion*, *African American Religion: A Very Short Introduction*, and *Exodus! Religion, Race and Nation in Early 19th Century Black America*, which was awarded the Modern Language Association's William Sanders Scarborough Book Prize.

Glaude is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and Chair of the Department of African American Studies, a program he first became involved with shaping as a doctoral candidate in Religion at Princeton. He is also on the Morehouse College Board of Trustees. He frequently appears in the media, as a columnist for TIME Magazine and as an MSNBC contributor on programs like Morning Joe and Deadline Whitehouse with Nicolle Wallace. He also regularly appears on Meet the Press on Sundays. Combining a scholar's knowledge of history, a political commentator's take on the latest events, and an activist's passion for social justice, Glaude challenges all of us to examine our collective American conscience.

Reena N. Goldthree

**Assistant Professor,
Department of African American Studies**

Reena Goldthree specializes in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean. Her research and teaching focus on social movements; political theory; labor and migration; and Caribbean feminisms. She earned her bachelor's degree in History-Sociology (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) from Columbia University and her master's degree and doctoral degree in History from Duke University. Her current book project, *Democracy Shall be no Empty Romance: War and the Politics of Empire in the Greater Caribbean*, examines how the crisis of World War I transformed Afro-Caribbeans' understanding of, and engagements with, the British Empire.

Beyond the book manuscript, her work has appeared in *The Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, *The American Historian*, and *Radical Teacher*. She is the co-editor of a special issue of the *Caribbean Review Gender Studies* (December 2018). She has also published essays in *New Perspectives on the Black Intellectual Tradition* (Northwestern University Press, 2018), *Caribbean Military Encounters* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), and *Global Circuits of Blackness: Interrogating the African Diasporas* (University of Illinois Press, 2010). Her research has been supported by fellowships and grants from the American Historical Association, Coordinating Council for Women in History, Ford Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Social Science Research Council, and Fulbright.

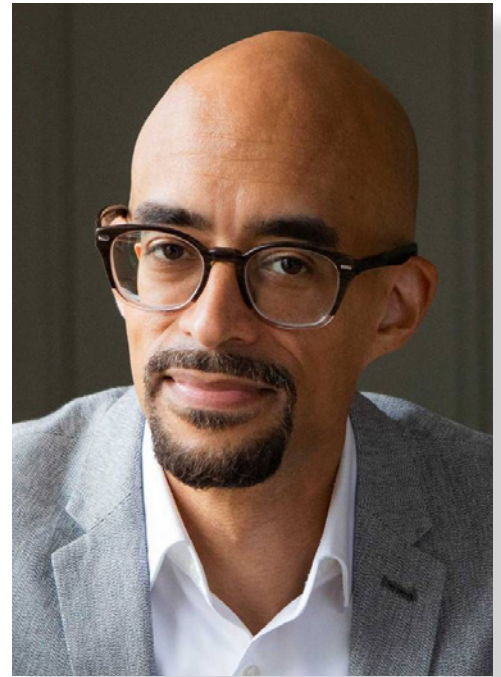
Professor Goldthree is an Associated Faculty Member in the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies and in the Program in Latin American Studies (PLAS).



Joshua B. Guild

**Associate Professor, Department of History and
Department of African American Studies**

Joshua Guild specializes in 20th century African American social and cultural history, urban history, and the making of the modern African Diaspora, with particular interests in migration, Black internationalism, Black popular music, and the Black radical tradition. A graduate of Wesleyan University, where he was a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, he received his doctoral degree in History and African American Studies from Yale. His research has been supported by fellowships and awards from a number of institutions, including the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, and Harvard University's Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History. In 2012, he was a fellow at Harvard's W.E.B. Du Bois Institute of African and African American Research.



Guild is currently completing his book, *In the Shadows of the Metropolis: Cultural Politics and Black Communities in Postwar New York and London*, which will be published by Oxford University Press. The book examines African American and Afro-Caribbean migration and community formation in central Brooklyn and west London from the 1930s through the 1970s. He has published essays on topics ranging from the pioneering Brooklyn politician Shirley Chisholm, the politics of calypso in the age of decolonization and civil rights, and Black Power in diasporic perspective. His next book project, tentatively entitled *The City Lives in You: The Black Freedom Struggle and the Futures of New Orleans*, will focus on struggles for racial and economic justice in New Orleans from the mid 20th century Black freedom movement through the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil disaster. Professor Guild's interests in digital humanities, new media, and public engagement are reflected in the 2014-15 African American Studies Faculty-Graduate Seminar that he organized, "Black Studies in the Digital Age." He serves on the Executive Committee of Princeton's Center for Digital Humanities. He is also an Associated Faculty member in the Program in Urban Studies.

Tera W. Hunter

Edwards Professor of American History, Department of History and Department of African American Studies

Tera W. Hunter is Professor of History and African American Studies at Princeton University. She is a scholar of labor, gender, race, and Southern history in the 19th and 20th centuries.

A native of Miami, Professor Hunter attended Duke University where she graduated with distinction in History. She received a MPhil in History from Yale University and a doctoral degree from Yale. Professor Hunter previously taught at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She joined Princeton faculty in the fall of 2007.



Her first book, *To Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors After the Civil War* (Harvard University Press, 1997), was awarded the H. L. Mitchell Award in 1998 from the Southern Historical Association, the Letitia Brown Memorial Book Prize in 1997 from the Association of Black Women's Historians and the Book of the Year Award in 1997 from the International Labor History Association. Her most recent book, *Bound in Wedlock: Slave and Free Black Marriage in the Nineteenth Century* (Harvard University Press, 2017) was awarded the Stone Book Award, Museum of African American History; Mary Nickliss Prize, Organization of American Historians; Joan Kelly Memorial Prize, American Historical Association; Littleton-Griswold Prize, American Historical Association; and The Deep South Book Prize, Frances S. Sumersell Center for the Study of the South. It was a finalist for the Lincoln Prize, Gettysburg College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute; and the Longman-History Today Book Prize. She is the co-editor of *Dialogues of Dispersal: Gender, Sexuality and African Diasporas* (Blackwell Publishing, 2004) with Sandra Gunning and Michele Mitchell; and *African American Urban Studies: Perspectives from the Colonial Period to the Present* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004) with Joe W. Trotter and Earl Lewis.

Professor Hunter is also co-authoring *The Making of People: A History of African Americans* with Robin D. G. Kelley under contract with W. W. Norton Press.

In 2021-2022, she was the Rogers Distinguished Fellow in 19th-Century American History, Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA.

Naomi Murakawa

**Associate Professor,
Department of African American Studies**

Naomi Murakawa is an associate professor of African American Studies at Princeton University. She studies the reproduction of racial inequality in 20th and 21st century American politics, with specialization in crime policy and the carceral state. She is the author of *The First Civil Right: How Liberals Built Prison America* (Oxford University Press, 2014), and her work has appeared in *Law & Society Review*, *Theoretical Criminology*, *Du Bois Review*, and several edited volumes. She has received fellowships from Columbia Law School's Center for the Study of Law and Culture, as well as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health Policy Research Program.



Prior to joining African American Studies at Princeton, she taught in the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington. Professor Murakawa received her bachelor's degree in women's studies from Columbia University, her master's degree in social policy from the London School of Economics, and her doctoral degree in political science from Yale University.

Kinohi Nishikawa

Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), Department of English and Department of African American Studies

Kinohi Nishikawa specializes in twentieth- and twenty-first-century African American literature, book history, and popular culture. At Princeton he teaches undergraduate courses on African American humor and African American literary history and graduate seminars on Black archive studies and Black aesthetic theory.

Nishikawa's first book, *Street Players: Black Pulp Fiction and the Making of a Literary Underground*, was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2018. His major work in progress is *Black Paratext*, a study of how book design has influenced the production and reception of African American literature from the rise of the modern paperback in the 1940s to the contemporary book arts scene. Nishikawa has published widely on modern African American print culture, with a particular emphasis on newspapers, magazines, and independent presses.

Nishikawa is curator of the Black Independent Film series for the Princeton Garden Theatre and Renew Theaters' Deep Focus seminars. He is also advisor to the Sites of Memory exhibition of the Toni Morrison Papers at the Princeton University Library, which is lead curated by Professor Autumn Womack. Nishikawa is collaborating with Professor Womack on a book that considers how Morrison's archiving practices played a key role in her development as a writer, critic, and multimedia artist.

Recent publications include an essay on Percival Everett's novel *Telephone*, which was issued in three versions simultaneously, in *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* (2022) and an article on the design and redesigns of editions of Ishmael Reed's novel *Mumbo Jumbo* in *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* (2022). Nishikawa has also contributed chapters to the edited collections *Are You Entertained? New Essays on Black Popular Culture in the Twenty-First Century* (Duke, 2020); *Ralph Ellison in Context* (Cambridge, 2021); and *Race in American Literature and Culture* (Cambridge, 2022).



Chika O. Okeke-Agulu

**Robert Schirmer Professor of Art and Archaeology
and African American Studies, Department of African
American Studies & Department of Art and Archaeology**

**Director, Program in African Studies and Director, Africa
World Initiative**

An artist, critic and art historian, Okeke-Agulu specializes in indigenous, modern, and contemporary African and African Diaspora art history and theory. Born in Umuahia, Nigeria, Okeke-Agulu earned an MFA (Painting) from the University of Nigeria, and PhD (Art History) from Emory University. He previously taught at The Pennsylvania State University, and University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Here at Princeton, he is Director of the Program in African Studies, Director of African World Initiative.



His books include *El Anatsui. The Reinvention of Sculpture* (Damiani, 2022); *African Artists: From 1882 to Now* (Phaidon, 2021); *Yusuf Grillo: Painting. Lagos. Life* (Skira, 2020); *Obiora Udechukwu: Line, Image, Text* (Skira, 2016); *Postcolonial Modernism: Art and Decolonization in Twentieth-Century Nigeria* (Duke UP, 2015); and *Contemporary African Art Since 1980* (Damiani, 2010).

As a curator, Okeke-Agulu co-organized *Samuel Fosso: Affirmative Acts, Princeton University Art Museum* (2022); and (with Okwui Enwezor) the travelling survey *El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale, Haus der Kunst, Munich* (2019). His many other art exhibitions, including *Who Knows Tomorrow, Nationalgalerie, Berlin* (2010); *Fifth Gwangju Biennale* (2004); *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945–1994, Museum Villa Stuck, Munich* (2001); *Seven Stories About Modern Art in Africa, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London* (1995) and the Nigerian section, *First Johannesburg Biennale* (1995). He is on the curatorial team of *Sharjah Biennial* (2023).

Okeke-Agulu serves on the advisory boards of the Hyundai Tate Research Centre, Tate Modern, London, The Africa Institute, Sharjah, Bët-bi/Le Korsa Museum Project, Senegal, and Edo Museum of West African Art, Benin City, Nigeria. He is also on the advisory council of Mpala Research Center, Nanyuki, Kenya; serves on the executive board of Princeton in Africa, and on the editorial board of *Journal of Visual Culture*. Previously, he served on the board of directors of College Art Association, and the advisory board of the Center for the Study of Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

Imani Perry

**Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies,
Department of African American Studies**

The Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies and faculty associate in the Program in Law and Public Affairs and Gender and Sexuality Studies at Princeton, Perry has written and taught on a number of topics regarding race and African American culture. Using methods of discussion and analysis from various fields of study—including law, literary and cultural studies, music, and the social sciences—Perry’s work often focuses on multifaceted issues such as the influence of race on law, literature and music.



In her work, Perry has taken on complicated and timely issues. In her 2011 book, *More Beautiful and More Terrible: The Embrace and Transcendence of Racial Inequality in the United States* (New York University Press), Perry discusses the ongoing intersection of race and politics in America. In addition to *More Beautiful, More Terrible*, Perry is the author of *Prophets of the Hood: Politics and Poetics in Hip Hop* (Duke University Press, 2004) and *May We Forever Stand: A History of the Black National Anthem* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2018). Her biography of Lorraine Hansberry, *Looking for Lorraine: The Radiant Life of Lorraine Hansberry* (Beacon Press) was published in September 2018. Her book on patriarchy, *Vexy Thing: On Gender and Liberation* came out later in 2018 as well. Perry’s book *Breathe: A Letter To My Sons* (Beacon Press, 2019) issues an unflinching challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation* (Ecco, 2022) grounds the South as foundational to understanding the nation’s history.

Perry received a bachelor’s degree from Yale University. From there, she went on to obtain a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School and a doctoral degree in the history of American civilization from Harvard University.

Autumn M. Womack

Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies and Department of English

Autumn Womack earned a Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University. Her research and teaching interests are located at the intersection of late nineteenth- and twentieth-century African American literary culture, visual studies, and print culture. She is the author of *The Matter of Black Living: The Aesthetic Experiment of Racial Data, 1880-1930* (The University of Chicago Press, 2022), which explores intimate relationship between black life, aesthetics, and emergent data regimes at the turn of the twentieth century. Most recently, she edited the new Norton Library edition of Charles Chesnutt's 1901 novel, *The Marrow of Tradition*. Her research and writing has been published in *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, *American Literary History*, *Women and Performance*, *J19: A Journal of 19th Century Americanists*, *The Paris Review of Books*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Times Literary Supplement* as well as numerous edited volumes. Womack is currently at work on two projects. The first is an exploration of the long history of Black writers' and novelists' often frustrated relationship to film and the second explores the place of financial speculation in W.E.B. Du Bois's early twentieth century writing.

At Princeton, she teaches classes on 19th and 20th century African American literature and the history of race and media. In keeping with her investment in archival research, her course "Toni Morrison and the Ethics of Reading" makes extensive use of the University's collections.

Autumn is the curator of the Spring 2023 exhibition, *Toni Morrison: Sites of Memory*.



Associated Faculty



Tina M. Campt

Roger S. Berlind '52 Professor in the Humanities. Professor of Art and Archaeology and Visual Arts in the Lewis Center for the Arts, Department of Art & Archeology



Rafael Cesar

Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese



Dannelle Gutarra-Cordero

Lecturer, Department of African American Studies



Jacob S. Dlamini

Assistant Professor, Department of History



Paul Frymer

Professor, Department of Politics



Hanna Garth

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology



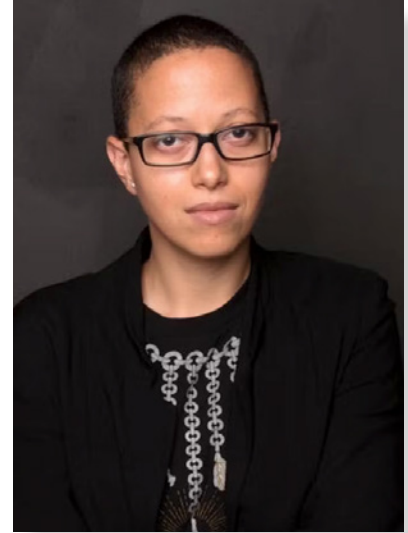
Simon Gikandi

*Robert Schirmer Professor,
Department of English*



William A. Gleason

*Hughes-Rogers Professor,
Department of English*



V. Mitch McEwen

*Assistant Professor,
School of Architecture*



Dan-El Padilla Peralta

*Associate Professor,
Department of Classics*



Laurence Ralph

*Professor of Anthropology and Director of
Center on Transnational Policing,
Department of Anthropology*



John N. Robinson

*Assistant Professor,
Department of Sociology*



J. Nicole Shelton

*Stuart Professor,
Department of Psychology*



Stacey A. Sinclair

*Professor, Department of Psychology and
School of Public and International Affairs*



LaFleur Stephens-Dougan

*Associate Professor,
Department of Politics*



Nicole Myers Turner

*Assistant Professor,
Department of Religion*



Keith A. Wailoo

*Henry Putnam University Professor,
Department of History and Princeton
School of Public and International Affairs
and Chair, Department of History*



Leonard Wantchekon

Professor, Department of Politics



Judith Weisenfeld

*Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor,
Department of Religion*



Frederick Wherry

*Professor of Sociology and Director of the
Dignity and Debt Network, Department of
Sociology*



Ismail White

*Professor, Department of Politics
& Princeton School of Public and
International Affairs*

Faculty Emeritus



Kwame Anthony Appiah

*Laurance S. Rockefeller University
Professor of Philosophy and the
University Center for Human Values,
Emeritus*



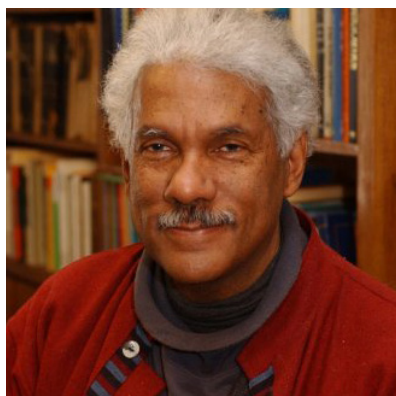
Toni Morrison

*Robert F. Goheen Professor in the
Humanities, Emeritus
*In Memoriam (1931 - 2019)**



Nell Painter

*Edwards Professor of American History,
Emeritus*



Albert Raboteau

*Henry Putnam Professor of Religion,
Emeritus
*In Memoriam (1943 - 2021)**



Valerie Smith

*Woodrow Wilson Professor of Literature,
Emeritus. Professor of English and
African American Studies, Emeritus*



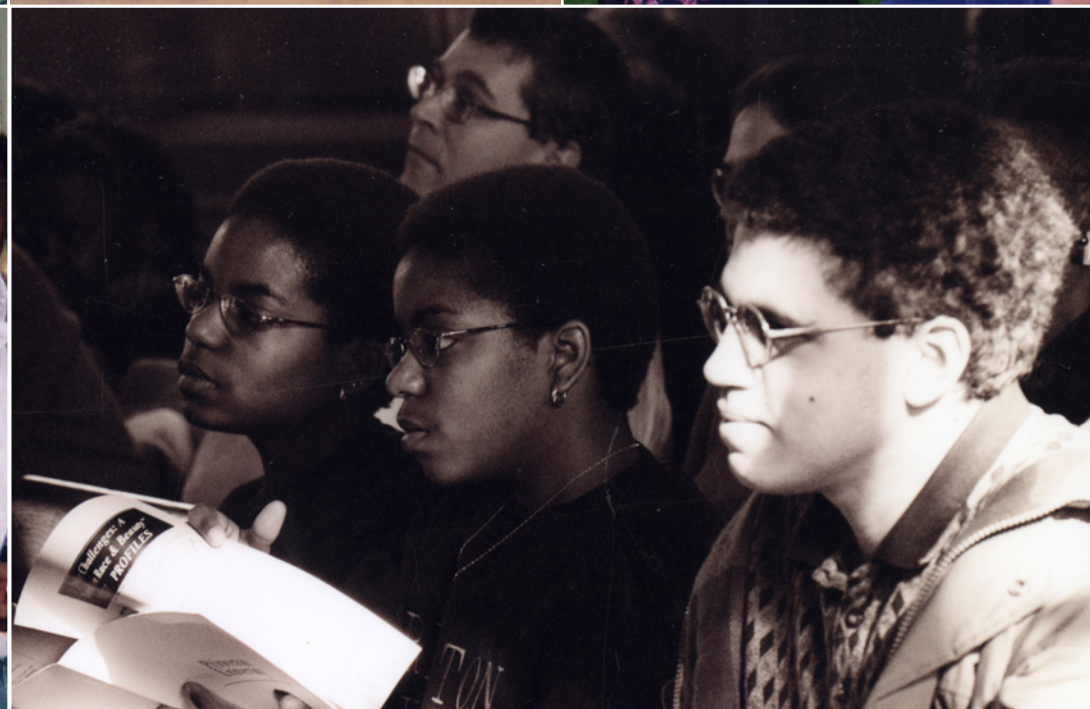
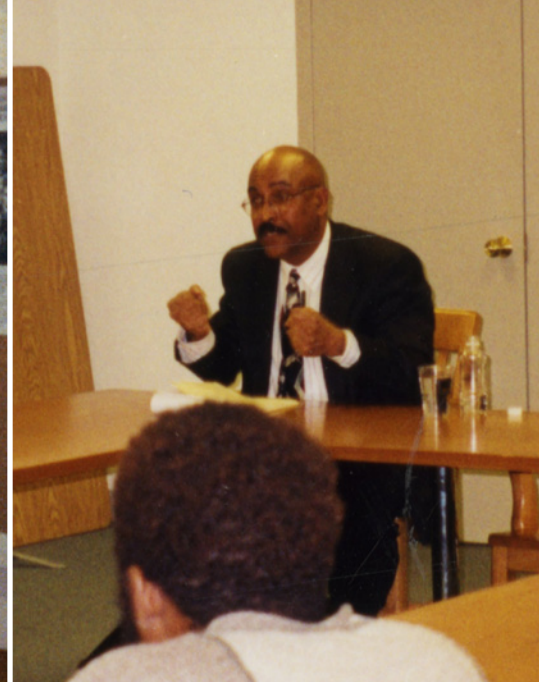
Howard Taylor

*Professor of Sociology, Emeritus
*In Memoriam (1939 - 2023)**



Cornel West

*Class of 1943 University Professor in
the Center for African American Studies,
Emeritus*



Visiting Faculty

Bedour Alagraa

Visiting Research Scholar, Term 2022-2023

A self-described ‘wayward political theorist’, Dr. Bedour Alagraa received her Ph.D. from the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University in the Spring of 2019, where she was an Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Fellow. She also holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Toronto, and a Masters in Race, Ethnicity, and Post-Colonial Studies from the London School of Economics.

More broadly, Dr. Alagraa is interested in Black radical genealogies in political theory, history/ies of political concepts, Caribbean thought, African anti-colonial thought, and Black Marxism(s) (among other topics). She has also studied and written extensively on the works of Sylvia Wynter; she recently completed the archiving of Wynter’s papers alongside a group of 5 other scholars, and is also a member of the editorial team currently working on Wynter’s monograph, *Black Metamorphosis*. Dr. Alagraa is also the co-editor of a volume of Chairman Fred Hampton’s Speeches alongside Chairman Fred Hampton Jr., titled *I Am a Revolutionary!: Speeches by Chairman Fred Hampton*, forthcoming from Pluto Press in early 2023.

Her book manuscript is entitled *The Interminable Catastrophe* (forthcoming from Duke University Press), and charts a conceptual history of catastrophe as a political category/concept (rather than Event), via its inauguration in early modern natural science and empiricist debates, and subsequent crystallization as a concept on the plantation. The *Interminable Catastrophe* also considers how we might interrupt the ‘Bad Infinity’ of the catastrophic, via the work(s) of Sylvia Wynter, Kamau Brathwaite, Clyde Woods, Derek Walcott, and others.

Dr. Alagraa has been published in several journals, including *Critical Ethnic Studies*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *The CLR James Journal of Caribbean Philosophy*, *Small Axe*, and *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*. She is currently co-editor, alongside Anthony Bogues, of the *Black Critique* book series at Pluto Press.



Gabrie'l Janine Atchison

Lecturer, Department of African American Studies

Gabrie'l Janine Atchison is a lecturer in African American Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies at Princeton University. She earned a B.A. in African American Studies from Brown University in 1993, an M.A. from Temple University in 1995, and a Ph.D. in Women's Studies from Clark University in 1999. She also earned an M.A. in Religion, with a concentration in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) from Yale Divinity School in 2013. Before teaching at Princeton, Dr. Atchison was an Adjunct Professor in the Women's Transgender and Queer Studies (WTQS) Program at Wells College in Aurora, NY. Dr. Atchison is the editor of *Environment and Religion in Feminist/Womanist, Queer and Indigenous Perspectives*, a Lexington Books series, and a contributor to the Anti-Racist Devotional. Gabriele Atchison's research and teaching interests include Feminist/Queer Theology, African American Women's Literary Criticism, and Environmental Justice. Her current project, *Weeds*, combines eco-biography with Urban Political Ecology to explore the impact of environmental racism on black girlhood in the South Bronx.



Marcus Lee

Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellow in LGBT Studies in the Society of Fellows

Lecturer in the Council of the Humanities and African American Studies

Term 2022-2025

Marcus Lee is a social scientist and writer, with expertise in Black Studies. He earned a B.A. in Sociology at Morehouse College and a Ph.D. in Political Science, with a certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Chicago.

His research concerns 20th century black political history, social movements, black popular culture, and science and technology. At Princeton, he will pursue a book project that examines the material and discursive conditions under which black gay/lesbian groups attained political “visibility” in the “post-civil rights era.” With particular attention to the early development of HIV/AIDS statistics, the advent of hand-held audiovisual technologies, and the institutionalization of civil rights history, the project details the political effects and historical significance of late 20th century efforts to specify and articulate black sexual difference. His second project will offer an account of the expansion of racialized vigilante violence through a comparative analysis of three cases: the multi-state diffusion of “Shoot First” legislation, the development of abortion bounties, and the promotion of concealed carry weapon insurance products.

Lee is the recipient of a number of awards, including the University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship, the Point Foundation Scholarship, the American Political Science Association Minority Fellowship, and the Predoctoral and Dissertation Fellowships through the Ford Foundation. His research has been supported by grants from the Social Science Research Council, the Mellon Mays Foundation, and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at the University of Chicago. He has published work in the Du Bois Review and The Atlantic.

In fall 2022, Lee taught a course on black political history titled “The Black Radical Tradition.” During his time at Princeton, he also plans to teach a course on “Racial Histories of Gender and Sexuality.”



Justin L. Mann

Visiting Research Scholar, Term 2022-2023

Justin L. Mann earned his Ph.D. in American Studies from George Washington University. His research and teaching are primarily concerned with the worldmaking and breaking relationship between U.S. literature and state policy. His current manuscript in-progress, *Breaking the World*, argues that Black speculative fiction, including works by Octavia E. Butler, N.K. Jemisin, Janelle Monáe, and Colson Whitehead, are an essential but underexamined archive for understanding America's security ambitions since the Reagan administration. Weaving together analysis of such texts with scrutiny of security policy guiding practices like missile defense, peacekeeping, biosecurity, covert operations and drone warfare, and climate security, *Breaking the World* shows that Black speculative works counter securitization—the process of increasing ideologies and infrastructures that allege more safety through increased surveillance and the curtailment of freedom—by imagining alternative modalities of social organization. These imaginaries, which often emerge by rending apart known structures, prompt audiences to reframe their own relationship to the notion of safety and security. Professor Mann's teaching portfolio includes courses in twentieth century black literature and culture, black feminist and queer of color theory, speculative fiction studies, and security studies.

His work has been published in *MELUS*, *Feminist Theory*, *Surveillance & Society*, *American Quarterly*, *Feminist Studies*, and *avidly.com*.



Ayah Nuriddin

**Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellow in the Society of Fellows,
Term 2021-2024**

**Lecturer in the Council of the Humanities and African
American Studies**

Ayah Nuriddin has a Ph.D. in the History of Medicine from Johns Hopkins University. She also holds an M.A. in History and an MLS from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a B.A. in International Relations and History from American University. Her work examines how African Americans navigated questions of racial science, eugenics, and hereditarianism in relation to struggles for racial justice in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She is also interested in how race and scientific racism shaped African American discourses and activism around health inequality.

While at Princeton, Nuriddin will be working on her book manuscript tentatively entitled *Seed and Soil: Black Eugenic Thought in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*. Building from her dissertation, the book manuscript will consider how slavery, emancipation, and empire shape discourses of race, health, and heredity. It examines the complex and often paradoxical ways in which African Americans imagined the utility of racial science and eugenics for challenging scientific racism and advocating for racial equality. It will also trace how the ongoing legacies of racial science continue to shape African American articulations of racial formation and health disparities.

Nuriddin's research has been supported by the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (CHSTM) and the Alexander Grass Humanities Institute (AGHI) at Johns Hopkins University. She was an inaugural inductee of the Johns Hopkins University chapter of the Edward Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. Her work has been published in *Historical Studies of Natural Science*, the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, and *The Lancet*. She has appeared on the *Disability History Association* podcast and *American History TV* on C-Span.



Philip V. McHarris

**Presidential Postdoctoral Research Fellow,
Term 2021-2023**

Dr. Philip V. McHarris is a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University in the Department of African American Studies and the Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab. Philip's main areas of research include racial inequality, housing, and policing. His current research focuses on the experiences of residents of a high-rise public housing development in Brooklyn, NY as they navigate concerns surrounding safety, policing, building conditions, and cycles of poverty.

In another line of research, Philip examines the causes and consequences of the large-scale expansion of policing in the United States since 1965 and the strategies that communities employ to challenge police expansion and end police violence. Philip draws on qualitative and quantitative methods throughout his research.

Philip completed his Ph.D. in Sociology and African American Studies at Yale University in 2021, and was a recipient of the Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship and the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. He received his B.A. in Sociology from Boston College. In addition to his scholarly work, Philip has written for outlets that include *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Slate*, *The Guardian*, *MTV*, and *Nickelodeon*. He has been featured on HBO, CNN, TIME, PBS, and other media outlets. In 2020, Philip was selected as one of the Root 100 Most Influential African Americans.



Michael Beyea Reagan

Lecturer, Department of African American Studies

Michael Beyea Reagan is an historian of racial capitalism and author of “Intersectional Class Struggle: Theory and Practice” published in 2021. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington where his work focused on the material and cultural roots of the 1975 New York City fiscal crisis. His forthcoming work is a cultural history of municipal finance with attention to the changing regimes of racial capitalism in New York City. He teaches at Princeton University in the Department of African American Studies, at Rutgers University in the School of Management and Labor Relations, and the University of Washington.



Zoë Towns

**Old Dominion Visiting Fellow in the Humanities Council
and Department of African American Studies**

Visiting Research Scholar, Term 2022-2023

Zoë Towns is the Vice President for Criminal Justice Reform at FWD.us, a bipartisan political advocacy organization committed to safely and significantly driving down America's incarceration rate. Zoë and her team work in coalition with policymakers and constituencies across the political spectrum to advance sentencing, parole, and pretrial reforms that deliver more freedom, opportunity, and fairness.

Before joining FWD.us, Zoë was the Criminal Justice Project Director at the Pew Charitable Trusts where she collaborated with state leaders, administrators, practitioners and advocates on legislative reforms in Mississippi, Oregon, Utah, Louisiana, and elsewhere. Earlier in her career, Zoë was the inaugural director of The Bronx Freedom Fund, a nonprofit bail fund in the South Bronx. Zoë has a B.A. in ethnic studies and creative writing from Columbia University and a masters in criminal justice policy from Kings College London where she was a Fulbright Scholar.



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