

LAKESIA D. JOHNSON, J.D., Ph.D.
GRINNELL COLLEGE
Gender, Women's, & Sexuality Studies Program & Department of English
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Women's Studies, August 2008, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
J.D., M.A. in Women's Studies, June 1995, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
A.B. in Government, Minor Afro-Am Studies, May 1991, Smith College, Northampton, MA

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Black Women's Studies
Chicana Feminist Thought
Critical Race Feminisms

Feminist Legal Theory
Popular Culture Studies
Visual and Narrative Culture

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies and English, Grinnell College
(May 2014-Present): Promoted and awarded tenure in May 2014. Served as Chair of the GWSS Program (August 2013 -June 2017, July 2020-June 2022, July 2024-December 2024).

Assistant Professor of Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies and English, Grinnell College (Autumn 2008 -May 2014)

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, Denison University, (1997- 2002)
Lecturer, The Ohio State University Department of Women's Studies, (Autumn 2001)
Assistant Professor of Black Studies and Women's Studies, Denison University, (1996-1997)
Graduate Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University Department of Women's Studies, (1994-1995)

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Vice-President & Chief Diversity Officer, Grinnell College, (July 2016- June 2020)
Associate Dean & Chief Diversity Officer, Grinnell College, (July 2015- June 2016)
Director of Women's Programs and Affirmative Action, Denison University, (1997- 2002)

ACADEMIC HONORS

National Honors

Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship, Honorable Mention Recognition, 2011
Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies, 2006
Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society, 2004
Alpha Kappa Mu National Honors Society, 1995

The Ohio State University

Dean's Fellowship, 1993
The Ohio State University Scholarship for the Study of Law, 1991
Semi-finalist in Moot Court Best Brief Contest, 1991

PUBLICATIONS

Iconic: Decoding Images of the Revolutionary Black Woman, Baylor University Press, 2012.

Othermothers, Amazons, and Strategies of Leadership in the Public and Private Spheres in *Black Womanist Leadership: Tracing the Motherline*, ed. by Toni C. King and S. Alease Ferguson, SUNY Press, 2011.

Calvert v. Johnson in *Historical and Multicultural Encyclopedia of Women's Reproductive Rights in the United States* ed. by Judith A. Baer, Greenwood Publishing Group, 2002.

Co-authored with T. King et al, *Andrea's Third Shift: The Invisible Work of African American Women in Higher Education* in *This Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation* ed. by Gloria Anzaldua & AnaLouise Keating, Routledge, Inc., 2002.

Reviewed *Seeing Through Race: A Reinterpretation of Civil Rights Photography* by Martin A. Berger. *American Studies*, 52.3 (Summer 2013), 96-7.

The Angry Black Woman: Why are D.L. Hughley and Other Men Perpetuating the Stereotype. November 2012, <http://www.loop21.com/life/angry-black-woman>.

Reviewed *The Color of Privilege: Three Blasphemies on Race and Feminism* by Aida Hurtado and *The Politics of Affirmative Action: 'Women', Equality & Category Politics* by Carol Lee Bachi. *National Women's Studies Association Journal*, 10.3 (Fall 1998), 221.

Reviewed *Psychological Perspectives on Lesbian and Gay Issues: Vol. 3. Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Among Lesbians and Gay Men* ed. by Beverly Greene. *The Lesbian Review of Books*, 4.4 (Summer 1998), 29.

Reviewed with E. Buker *Posthuman Bodies* ed. by Judith Halberstam and Ira Livingston. *The Lesbian Review of Books*, 3.3 (Spring 1997), 9.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Middle-Aged Musings: Black Female Neo-Soul Artists in Mid-Life, Popular Culture Association Annual Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, March 30, 2018: Presented on panel titled *Music, Musical Cultures, and Gendered Expression*.

Mentoring Matters: How Institutions Can Better Support Fellows, Consortium for Faculty Diversity Annual Fellows Conference at Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, September 15-16, 2017: Organized conference and co-presented with Shanna Benjamin.

Representing for Justice: Reflections on Patricia J. Williams' The Alchemy of Race and Rights, Critical Race Theory and Empirical Methods Symposium, Iowa City, Iowa, April 26, 2013: Presented on panel titled *Race and Identity*.

Wielding Mama's Gun: Black Feminism, Baduizm, and Revolutionary Soul, National Women's Studies Association Conference, Oakland, California, November 10, 2012: Presented on panel titled *Baduizm, Black Girlhood and Women of Color Feminism: Revolutionary Soul, Sexuality and Belonging*.

Red, White and Blues: Black Women, Politics, and Neo-Soul, Midwest Popular Culture Association Area Conference, Columbus, Ohio, October 13, 2012: Chaired and presented on a panel on Black women, music and popular culture.

The Nueva Latina Consciousness: Three Critical, Performative Perspectives on Latina Identity
National Women's Studies Association Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 11-13, 2010: Moderated panel featuring Professor Michelle Nasser and Grinnell students.

Black Queer Embodiment and Desire in the Music Videos of Me 'shell Ndegeocello, Sarah-Lawrence College, March 6, 2010: Paper presented at the 12th Annual Women's History Month Conference: The Message is in the Music: Hip Hop Feminism, Riot Grrrl, Latina Music, and More.

Small Campus, Small Program, Big Responsibilities: The Challenges of Keeping Women's Studies Programs Afloat at Liberal Arts Schools
National Women's Studies Association Conference, November 15, 2009: Panelist on panel discussing curricular and administrative issues.

Critical Race Theory, Gender, and Sexual Orientation
CRT: Honoring Our Past, Charting Our Future, University of Iowa College of Law, April 4, 2009: Discussant in roundtable with legal scholars in the field.

The Construction of the Black Female Legal Subject in the Novels of Derrick Bell
National Women's Studies Association Conference, June 18, 2004: Paper presented in session titled *Representations of Black Women in Visual and Narrative Culture: Stereotypes, Erasure and Agency*.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Talk of Iowa Book Club, Iowa Public Radio, February 21, 2024: Expert guest panelist for *Alice Walker's The Color Purple*. <https://www.iowapublicradio.org/podcast/talk-of-iowa/2024-02-21/friendship-family-and-faith-in-alice-walkers-the-color-purple>.

Talk of Iowa Book Club, Iowa Public Radio, June 16, 2021: Expert guest panelist for *Octavia Butler's Kindred*. <https://www.iowapublicradio.org/podcast/talk-of-iowa/2021-06-16/kindred-reads-and-feels-incredibly-relevant-right-now>.

Denison University, March 4, 2019: Invited to discuss my work on iconography, popular culture, and Black women's social justice activism with Dr. Toni King's *Black Women and Organizational Leadership Course* (BLST/WGST 265).

Ohio Wesleyan University, January 17, 2018: Presented *Moving Beyond Diversity Recruitment to Meaningful Inclusion: Strategies for Welcoming and Retaining Faculty of Color*.

Talk of Iowa, Iowa Public Radio, August 24, 2017: Featured guest on panel, *Resisting Hate*. <http://iowapublicradio.org/post/resisting-hate#stream/0>.

ACM Equity Literacy and Diversity Workshop, June 28, 2017: Served as breakout facilitator for small group conversation about best practices in diversity hiring and mentoring.

The University of Iowa, ACM-CIC Diversifying the Professoriate: Pathways, Processes, and Practical Strategies for a Changing Academy, May 24-25, 2016: Featured panelist on *Being Smart and Proactive: Some Hiring Best Practices* and co-facilitator of conference debrief.

The Ohio State University, Council of Graduate Students, April 14, 2016: Featured panelist on panel, *Diversity in the Academic Workplace*.

The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture & History, March 14, 2013: Invited to participate with other scholars via Skype on women's history panel, *Let's Talk About It: Black Women and Stereotypes*.

The Ohio State University, Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, February 28, 2013: Invited to read and discuss *Iconic*.

***Iconic* makes Kam Williams' 10 Best Black Books of 2012, December 12, 2012:** <http://www.kamwilliams.com/2012/12/the-top-ten-black-books-of-2012-feature.html>.

HuffPost Live, December 12, 2012: Participated in conversation hosted by Ahmed Shihab-Eldin about Serena Williams and representations of Black women. <http://live.huffingtonpost.com/#r/segment/spotlight-on-black/50c6985bfe3444210a0000fd>.

African American Writers Forum, Des Moines WOW (Wonder of Words) Festival, October 24, 2012: Read from *Iconic*, along with other African American writers, including Grinnell faculty, students, and internationally known poet, Jessica Care Moore.

The Bev Smith Show, Syndicated Radio, October 11, 2012: Pre-taped interview with Bev Smith about *Iconic*.

The John Hope Franklin Center of International and Interdisciplinary Studies at Duke University, Left of Black, Season 3, Episode 4, October 8, 2012: Interview about *Iconic* on weekly webcast hosted by Duke University Professor Mark Anthony Neal.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMwVMypejIQ>.

The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture & History, September 20, 2012: Skype interview and discussion of *Iconic*.

The Daily Drum, September 11, 2012: Radio interview with Harold Fischer about *Iconic*.

The Perri Small Show, Talk of Chicago, August 22, 2012: Radio interview with Perri Small about *Iconic*.

Talk of Iowa, Iowa Public Radio, August 8, 2012: Radio interview with Charity Nebbe about *Iconic*. <http://news.iowapublicradio.org/post/iconic-black-women>.

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest Committee on Minority Concerns Meeting, September 25, 2010: Presented keynote address on the recruitment and retention of faculty of color.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE

Consortium for Faculty Diversity (CFD) Steering Committee (2016-2020)

Organized and Hosted CFD Annual Conference, September 2017

National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education, Member (2015-2020)

National Women's Studies Association, Current Member

Popular Culture Association, Past Member

COMMITTEES AND CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Grinnell College (2008-Present)

Ad Hoc Campus Climate Survey Committee (2 years)
BCC/BSU/UMOJA Black Women's Book Club (Co-Chair Spring 2024- Spring 2025)
Campus Coordinator ACM-CIC Graduate School Exploration Fellowship (2015-2016)
Center for the Humanities Advisory Board (2 years)
Chair of Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies Committee (2013-2017, 2020-2022, Fall 2024)
Co-Convener of the Council (Committee) on Diversity & Inclusion (2015-2020)
Committee on Academic Standing (2015-2016)
Committee on Diversity & Inclusion UMOJA Representative (2021-2025)
Divisional Personnel Representative (2021-2022)
Faculty and Staff of Color Caucus (2 terms as Co-Chair)
First-Year Experience Course Leadership Team/Instructor (2019-2022)
Gender Equity Taskforce (2016-2020)
Grinnell Equity Advocates (Trained & Supervised 2015 -2020, Served several times thereafter)
Instructional Support Committee
Laurel Scholars Cohort 1 Faculty Adviser (2021-2025)
Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize Selection Committee (2016-2020)
Mellon/Mays Administrative Liaison (2015-2020)
Mellon/Mays Mentor (2018, Currently mentoring 2026 Scholar)
Mellon/Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Selection Committee (2015-2021)
Umoja Black Faculty & Staff Group (Co-Chair 2020-2021)
Umoja Employee Resource Group (Black Faculty & Staff) (2021-2025)

The Ohio State University (2003-2006)

College of Arts & Sciences Diversity Enhancement Council
Women's Studies Undergraduate Committee
Women's Student Services Search Committee

Denison University (1996-2002)

Advisor to Black Student Union
Advisor to Women's Emphasis
Black Faculty and Staff Caucus
Black Studies Committee
Campus Environment Team
Great Lakes College Association Women's Studies Committee
Judicial Appeals Board
Personnel Committee
Women's Studies Committee

REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST