SALAMISHAH TILLET



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**Rutgers University-Newark**, **Henry Rutgers Professor of African American Studies and Creative Writing** (September 2018 to Present)

Director, Express Newark, a center for socially engaged design and art

Faculty Founder, New Arts Justice, an initiative for feminist approaches to public art

**New York Times, Contributing Critic-at-Large**

Culture and Arts & Leisure, October 2020 to Present

**University of Pennsylvania**, **Robert S. Blank Presidential Associate Professor**

Department of English, July 2007 – June 2018.

Department of Africana Studies, 2015 – June 2018.

Core Faculty of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, 2013-2018.

**Princeton University, Associate Fellow**

Center for African-American Studies, 2010–2011.

**University of Michigan, Du Bois-Mandela-Rodney Postdoctoral Fellow**

Center for Afro-American and African Studies, September 2006–June 2007.

**EDUCATION**

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA. 2007.

**Ph.D. in the History of American Civilization**

Dissertation Committee: Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Co-Chair), Werner Sollors (Co-Chair), and Farah Jasmine Griffin

**Harvard University,** Cambridge, MA. 2002.

## A.M. in English and American Literature.

**Brown University**, Providence, RI. 1997.

**M.A.T. in Secondary English Education.**

**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA. 1996.

**B.A. in English and Afro-American Studies**

*Magna Cum Laude.* Phi Beta Kappa

**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Criticism, 2022.

Andrew Carnegie Fellow, Carnegie Corporation of New York for the project, “In Lieu of the Law: “Me Too’ and The Politics of Justice,” a cultural history of the world’s largest social media movement.

The Whiting Foundation Creative Nonfiction Grant for “All The Rage” 2020-2021.

Public Arts Grant, Four Corners Public Arts, (New Arts Justice), Fall 2020.

Victoria Foundation, Social Justice Grant (New Arts Justice) Fall 2020.

The Creative Catalyst Fund, City of Newark (New Arts Justice), Summer 2020.

Third Space Grant, Express Newark, (New Arts Justice), 2018-2019, 2019-2020.

Badass Art Woman Awards, Project for Empty Space (2019)

Penn Humanities Fellow, 2017-2018.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Scholars-in-Residence Fellowship, 2013-2014.

James Brister Society’s Dr. Gloria Twine Chisum Award for Distinguished Faculty, 2013.

“50 Global Heroes Ending Violence Against Children” Recipient, *Safe Magazine*, United Nations (2013)

Woodrow Wilson Foundation Career Enhancement Fellowship, 2010–2011. (mentor Valerie Smith)

Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Award for Distinguished Teaching by an Assistant Professor, 2009–2010.

Lindback Career Enhancement Minority Junior Faculty Grant, Lindback Foundation, 2008–2010.

“Women of the Year,” Finalist, *Glamour Magazine* (2010)

Harvard University Graduate Society Fellowship for Dissertation Completion for the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2005–2006.

Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History Summer Research Grant, 2002, 2004.

Harvard University Derek Bok Center Distinction of Teaching Award, 2002–2003.

“Top 30 Leaders 30,” Recipient, *Ebony Magazine* (2003)

Women of Color Caucus of National Women’s Studies Association Graduate Student Writing Award Winner, 2001.

Harvard Graduate Student Prize, 2001–2004.

Andrew Mellon Fellowship for Humanistic Studies, 1999–2000.

Mortar Board Honor Society, 1996.

University of Pennsylvania Dean’s List, 1994–1996.

# **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

# **A Long Walk Home, Inc.,** Co-Founder and President**,** Chicago, IL. 2003–Present

# Founded in 2003, A Long Walk Home, Inc. (ALWH) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit that uses art to empower young people to end violence against girls and women.

# **Black Girl Freedom Fund**, Founding Member,September 2020 to Present.

Black Girl Freedom Fund is a 10-year philanthropic initiative designed to invest in the brain trust, innovation, health, safety, education, artistic visions, research, and joy of Black girls and their families.

**Critical Minded**, Advisory Board, July 2019 to present.

A granting and learning initiative to support cultural critics of color in the United States, where they are underrepresented in the coverage of all artistic disciplines.

**Continuum of Violence Project,** Co-organizer, NoVo Foundation, 2016-2018.

The Continuum of Violence Project is an incubator for policyholders, activists, and academics who are working on ending violence – gun control, community and gang violence, and gender-based violence. Rather than focus on these as discrete phenomena or traumas, this project was focused on uprooting systemic origins of violence, finding the points at which these overlaps, or developing predictors.

**Black Girl Movement: A National Conference,** Planning Committee Member, Columbia University, 2014-2016.

“Black Girl Movement: A National Conference” was a three-day gathering at Columbia University to focus on the experiences and realities of all Black girls, cis, queer, and trans, in the United States. Bringing together artists, activists, educators, policymakers, and black girl leaders themselves, the aim of this historic conference was to address the paucity of attention, resources, and research paid to address the disadvantages that Black girls in the United States face and create the political will to publicly acknowledge their achievements, contributions, and leadership.

**PUBLICATIONS/PROJECTS**

***Books***

*All The Rage: The World Nina Simone Made* (*Ecco*, forthcoming)

*In Search of the Color Purple: The Story of Alice Walker’s Masterpiece* (Abrams Press, 2021) (256pps.)

Reviewed in *The New Republic, Vice, Elle, Publisher’s Weekly, The Root* (January 2021); *Ms. Magazine* (June 2021).

*Sites of Slavery: Citizenship and Racial Democracy in the Post–Civil Rights Imagination* (Duke University Press, 2012)(248pps.)

Reviewed in *Journal of American* History, March 2013; *Spectrum,* Spring 2013; *Black Scholar,* September 2013; *Journal of Southern History,* November 2013; *The Journal of American Culture,* December 2013; *College Literature*, Summer 2014; *Callaloo*, Summer 2014 and Winter 2015; *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Fall 2014; E*motion, Space and Society,* November 2014; *Journal of African American History,* Spring 2015; *American Literature,* June 2015; *American Literary History Online Review* Series I, 2015.

***E-Books***

*Gloria Steinem: The Kindle Singles Interview by Salamishah Tillet* (2013)

***Podcast***

“Because of Anita,” a podcast about the legacy of Professor Anita Hill's testimony in the 1991 Supreme Court confirmation hearings of Clarence Thomas. Co-Host and Co-Producer (Pineapple Studios, September to October 2021)

***Edited Journals***

“Special Issue: Ethiopia: Literature, Art and Culture” for the peer-reviewed journal *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters,* co-edited with Dagmawi Woubshet and Elizabeth Wolde Giorgis 33 (1), Spring 2010: 1-277.

***Chapters and Articles***

“Anita Hill, Aug. 20, 1989-Aug. 19, 1994” in edited Ibram X. Kendo and Keisha N. Blain’s *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019* (One World/Random House, February 2021)

# “Introduction,” I Never Called It Rape: The Ms. Report on Recognizing, Fighting, and Surviving Date and Acquaintance Rape (Harper Collins, March 2019).

“Lauryn Hill,” *An Illustrated History of Women Who Rock* (Black Dog & Leventhal, Fall 2018)

“‘You Want to Be Well?’: Self-Care as a Black Feminist Intervention in Art Therapy" in ed. Savneet Talwar *Art Therapy for Social Justice: Radical Intersections* (Routledge, March 2018)

"Campus Sexual Assault Reform" in ed. Aimee Cox, *Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks: Gender* (Macmillan, February 2018), 189-198.

“’I Got No Comfort in This Life’: The Increasing Importance of Patsey in *12 Years a Slave”* (reprint) in ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Kevin Burke in *Twelve Years A Slave: Authoritative Text, Contexts, 2013 film Adaptation* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2017)

“Reconstruction in Public History and Memory at the Sesquicentennial: A Roundtable Discussion” Journal of Civil War History (February 2017)

“Elle Perez: On Feminism” Special Issue *Aperture* 225: Winter 2016

“Around the Kitchen Table: Vision and Justice” Special Issue *Aperture* 223: Summer 2016

“Make Revolution Irresistible: The Role of the Cultural Worker in the Twenty-First Century,” *PMLA* 130 (2), March 2015: 481–487

“Mother Tongues & Masters of Words: Callaloo Across the Atlantic,” *Callaloo* 37(3), Summer 2014: 557-562

“‘I Got No Comfort in This Life’: The Increasing Importance of Patsey in *12 Years a Slave*,” *American Literary History* 26(2), Summer 2014: 354-362.

“Strange Sampling: Nina Simone and Her Hip Hop Children,” *American Quarterly* 66(1), March 2014: 119-137. (refereed)

***The New York Times***

“The Multi-Layered Movie of American Fashion” (May 6, 2022)

“The power of Sidney Poitier’s ‘slap heard around the world’ in ‘In the Heat of the Night.’ (January 7, 2022)

“What Three Broadway Shows Tell Us About Racial Progress” (December 27, 2021)

“In 2021, Black Boyhood Got More Complex on TV” (December 21, 2021)

“The Real Surprise of ‘Passing’: A Focus on Black Women’s Inner Lives” (November 19, 2021)

“Afrofuturist Room at the Met Redresses a Racial Trauma” (November 17, 2021)

‘Insecure’ Broke Ground by Embracing Imperfection” (October 15, 2021)

“Finding Redemption and Rebirth on the Road to Broadway (September 23, 2021)

“Halle Berry’s Fight for the Director’s Chair” (September 15, 2021)

“Michael K. Williams Brought His Whole Life to His Characters” (September 7, 2021)

“Aretha Franklin and the Futility of Trying to Portray Her Onscreen” (August 25, 2021)

“Nina Simone Saved Ledisi’s Life. Now She’s Paying Tribute on an Album” (July 20, 2021)

“With ‘Summer of Soul,’ Questlove Wants to Fill a Cultural Void” (June 30, 2021)

“In ‘Master of None,’ Naomi Ackie Tells a Story ‘I’ve Never Really Seen’” (June 2, 2021)

“A Writer’s One-Act Plays Debut, Continuing Her Resurrection” (May 27, 2018)

“It’s My Job to Watch. With George Floyd’s Death, I Had to Look Away” (May 20, 2018)

“Why Is It So Hard to Show Black Women’s Musical Genius Onscreen?” (April 20, 2018)

“Prince Harry Finally Takes On White Privilege: His Own” (March 8, 2021)

“Black History Month Is a Good Excuse for Delving Into Our Art” (February 18, 2021)

“Why Idris Elba Chose Comedy to Tell His Most Personal Story” (February 9, 2021)

“Can an Abuser Make Amends? ‘The Color Purple’ Points the Way” (February 5, 2021)

“Regina King: Speaking Truth to Power Through Her Art” (January 15, 2021)

“‘Bridgerton’ Takes On Race. But Its Core Is Escapism.” (January 5, 2021)

“When Culture Really Began to Reckon With White Privilege” (December 9, 2020)

“Black Women’s Hair and Horror Movies: What Could Go Wrong?” (October 28, 2020)

“‘The Good Lord Bird’ Is a New Entry in the John Brown Canon” (October 13, 2020)

“What the ‘Cuties’ Critics Can’t See: The Complexities of Black Girlhood” (October 2, 2020)

“The School That Camille A. Brown Built” (September 2, 2020)

“I May Destroy You’ Imagines a Path Back From Sexual Assault” (August 25, 2020)

“Living While Black in ‘Lovecraft Country’” (August. 7, 2020)

“Beyoncé’s ‘Black Is King’: Let’s Discuss” (July 31, 2020)

“We Asked Four Documentarians: How Does Film Shape the Fight for Racial Justice?” (June 30, 2020)

“It’s Time to End Racism in the Fashion Industry. But How?” (June 24, 2020)

“Endless Grief: The Spectacle of ‘Black Bodies in Pain’” (June 19, 2020)

“Four Black Artists on How Racism Corrodes the Theater World” (June 10, 2020)

“Art That Confronts and Challenges Racism: Start Here” (June 4, 2020)

“A Documentary for the #MeToo Era “On the Record” (June 3, 2020)

“Interracial Romance, With Black Women as the Stars” (May 22, 2020)

“How We Spend Tells Us Whose Lives Matter” (May 21, 2020)

“Claudia Rankine Looks at White Privilege From 35,000 Feet” (February 26, 2020)

“Why Harvey Weinstein’s Guilt Matters to Black Women” (February 26, 2020)

“Romances That Let Black Women Be Ambitious for a Change” (February 19, 2020)

“‘Beautiful Project’ at the Met: Stories of Southern Black Girlhood” (February 13, 2020)

“Charles Fuller Never Expected Broadway. At 80, He’s Arrived.” (February 11, 2020)

“He Took Her Parts in ‘Fires in the Mirror.’ All 25 of Them.” (November 1, 2019)

“‘David Makes Man’ Is a Complex Portrait of Black Boyhood” (August 14, 2019)

“‘Fairview’: Watching a Play in Black and White” (August 7, 2019)

“‘When They See Us’ Transforms Its Victims Into Heroes” (May 30, 2019)

“One Fateful Night With Donny Hathaway” (May 27, 2019)

“Black Women in Chicago, Getting Things Done” (May 18, 2019)

“A ‘Native Son’ Reimagined, With James Baldwin in Mind” (April 4, 2019)

“‘Boomerang’ Returns, as a BET Comedy” (February 7, 2019)

“After the ‘Surviving R. Kelly’ Documentary, #MeToo Has Finally Returned to Black Girls” (January 10, 2019)

“Serena Williams’s Gift to Naomi Osaka, and Women, at the U.S. Open” (September 10, 2018)

“Spike Lee Takes on the Klan” (August 2, 2018)

“Meghan Markle Left ‘Suits.’ Here’s What She Took With Her”(April 25, 2018)

“The Gladiators of ‘Scandal’ Leave the Arena”(April 12, 2018)

“Seeing Martin Luther King Jr. in a New Light” (April 1, 2018)

“I Saw Myself in ‘A Wrinkle in Time.’ But I Had to Work Hard” (March 9, 2018)

“‘Black Panther’ Brings Hope, Hype and Pride” (February 9, 2018)

“For Lorraine Hansberry, ‘A Raisin in the Sun’ Was Just the Start” (January 14, 2018)

“A New ‘She’s Gotta Have It’: Spike Lee’s Feminist Breakthrough” (November 17, 2017)

“Rap Disrupted Music First. Now It’s TV and Film.: A Conversation with Questlove, Salamishah Tillet and Jon Caramanica (November 9, 2017)

“A Police Bombing, Homes on Fire and an Opera That Grapples with It All” (September 15, 2017)

“A ‘Queen Sugar’ Rush Heralds a ‘Silver Age’ for African-American TV” (June 15, 2017)

“Oprah Winfrey on ‘The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks’” (April 12, 2017)

“Finally, a Screenplay by James Baldwin” (February 09, 2017)

“Inciting a Conversation About Diversity: 6 Ways ‘Girls’ Changed Television. Or Didn’t.” (February 3, 2017)

“What TV Says About Race and Money” (January 06, 2017)

“How ‘The Birth of a Nation’ Silences Black Women” (October 12, 2016)

‘Miles Ahead’ and ‘Nina’ Try to Hit the Beat on the Offbeat” (April 22, 2016)

“Jesse Owens, a Film Hero Once Again” (February 14, 2016)

“In Spike Lee’s ‘Chi-Raq,’ It's Women vs. Men, With a Vengeance” (December 3, 2015)

“The Panthers’ Revolutionary Feminism” (October 2, 2015)

“Female Visibility Matters,” Magazine (August 7, 2015)

“Nina Simone's Time Is Now, Again,” Arts and Leisure (June 19, 2015)

“To Stop Violence, Start at Home,” The Opinion Pages (February 3, 2015)

***Exhibition Catalogs and Art Journals and Magazines***

“Love for a Common Way of Life: Tyler Mitchell’s vision of Black utopia” *Aperture* 241: Winter 2021

“It’s A New Dawn: The Renovations of Nina’s Simone History” *Elle Décor* (October 2020)

“Spindles” in Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle for (Peabody Essex Museum/University of Washington Press, 2019)

“Mickalene Thomas” *Foam Magazine* #54: Play (Fall 2019)

“Nina Simone: Our National Treasure” *Gagosian Quarterly* (Spring 2019)

“Elle Perez: On Feminism” Special Issue *Aperture* 225: Winter 2016

“Around the Kitchen Table: Vision and Justice” Special Issue *Aperture* 223: Summer 2016

***Book Reviews***

“First He Imagined a Town Founded by Rebel Slaves. Now He’s Exploring the Lives There” In *NY Times* (August 20, 2019)

The Thrill of the Marching Band. Review of Jules Allen’s *Marching Bands* In *New York Review of Books* (February 15, 2017)

Free is and Free Ain’t. Review Essay of Natashia Deón’s *Grace*, Yaa Gyasi’s Homegoing, Colson Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad*, and Ben Winters’s *The Underground Airlines* In *Public Books* (January 10 2017)

What We Can Learn From Women Who Break the Rules. Review of Sadie Doyle’s *Trainwreck: The Women We Love to Hate, Mock, and Fear . . . and Why* In *NY Times* (September 20, 2016)

Why Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Gloria Steinem Still Matter. Review of *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* and *My Life on the Road: Gloria Steinem* IN *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* (42) 3: 2017

Art and Activism. Review of Ruth Feldstein’s *How It Feels to Be Free: Black Women Entertainers and the Civil Rights Movement* In *Women's Review of Books* 31(6), November-December 2014: 24-27

Race and Campus Rape: Equal Under The Law? Review of Estelle Freedman’s *Redefining Rape: Sexual Violence in the Era of Suffrage and Segregation* In *Public Books* (October 1, 2014)

Review of Nadine Cohodas’s *Princess Noire: The Tumultuous Reign of Nina Simone.* In *Women’s Review of Books* 27(5): 19–21, September/October 2010.

***Media Publications***

**The Atlantic/The Weekly**

“The Return of the Protest Song,” (January 20, 2015)

**The Chicago Tribune**

“Chris Brown and Rihanna: A ‘Teachable Moment’ Wasted” 1:17 (February 26, 2012)

**CNN: In America**

“Quentin Tarantino’s Exceptional Slave: ‘Django Unchained’” (December 25, 2012)

**Elle Magazine**

“Solange: The Messenger” (Cover, March 2017)

“I'm with her―finally! Hillary Clinton’s Race Politics from the 1990s to the Present” (October 2016)

**Harper’s Bazaar**

“Reframing Basquiat” (March 2022)

“How the Studio Museum in Harlem Transformed the Art World Forever” (February 2021)

**Hollywood Reporter**

“‘Black 14’ and the Forgotten College Football Protest From the 1960s” (April 9, 2018)

“‘Black Panther’: Why Not Queen Shuri?” (February 19, 2015)

**National Public Radio: The Record**

“'Nina Revisited... A Tribute To Nina Simone’” (July 6, 2015)

“Two Women: Meshell Ndegeocello's Praise Song To Nina Simone” (October 24, 2012)

“My American Dream Sounds Like Nina Simone” (July 2, 2012)

**The Nation** (Guest Contributor)

## “Becoming a Witness at Suzanne Lacy’s ‘Between the Door and the Street’“ (October 23, 2013)

## “It's So Not 'Oz': Netflix's 'Orange Is the New Black'” (July 23, 2013)

“Domestic Violence and George Zimmerman’s Defense” (July 15, 2013)

## “In 'Scandal' and 'Veep', Can Female Politicos Be Powerful—and Sexy, Too?” (May 22, 2012)

## “Why the Friendship Segregation on HBO's 'Girls' Speaks to a Bigger Problem” (May 10, 2012)

“What to Wear to a SlutWalk” (September 28, 2011)

**Public Books**

“Interview with former Black Panther Lynn French” *Public Books* (April 2016)

**The Root**

“Bill Cosby: We’ve Reached a Tipping Point—So What’s Next?” (November 24, 2014)

### “12 Years a Slave: Hollywood Finally Catches Up With History” (October 15, 2013)

### “Black Lesbian Films: Before Pariah” (January 2, 2012)

“Spike Lee’s ‘She’s Gotta Have It Turns 25’” (August 4, 2011)

“The Root Review: ‘Night Catches Us’” (Dec 3, 2010)

“Black Feminism, Tyler Perry Style” (November 11, 2010)

“Mad at ‘Mad Men’” (October 17, 2010)

“Ethiopian Jazz: Thrilling Music That You Should Hear” (August 14, 2010)

“August Wilson's Leading Lady: An Ode to Viola Davis” (June 12, 2010)

“Requiem for Martin” (January 23, 2010)

**Time**

“How ‘Selma’ Reclaims Hollywood’s Sanitized Versions of Martin Luther King, Jr.” (December 24, 2014)

“Privacy or Poster Child: Janay Rice and the Painful Spotlight of Domestic Violence” (December 5, 2015)

**Time/The Weekly**

“The Rhetoric of the Past is Still Present” (July 02, 2015)

***Public Art Exhibitions***

*“Pulling Together”* Co-curator with Paul Farber of Monument Lab for the first national exhibition on the National Mall, Washington, D.C. (August 2023)

*“Will You Be My Monument?”* Photo Mural, Curator, Four Corners Murals Project, City of Newark, NJ (October 2020)

*“All Black Lives Matter” Social Justice Mural*, Curator, City of Newark, NJ (August 2020)

*A Call To Peace*, Curator, Military Park, Newark, NJ(October and November 2019)

***Films/Theater***

“Between the World and Me” at The Apollo Theater, Assistant Dramaturg (2018) dir. by Kamilah Forbes.

“Miasia: The Nature of Experience, “Executive Producer (2017) dir. Yvonne Shirley.

***Liner Notes***

“Nina Simone: The Voice of A People,” *Nina Simone Sings The Blues*, Sony/EMG Music Group, November 2016.

“Freedom Then, Freedom Now,” *Wake Up!* by John Legend and The Roots, Sony/EMG Music Group, October 2010.

**SELECT PANEL PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

“The Duty of An Artist: A Conversation with John Legend and Salamishah Tillet,” Apollo Theater, September 2020.

“Audre Lorde: Radical Care and Political Warfare with Roxane Gay, Tracy K. Smith, Mahogany L. Browne, and Salamishah Tillet,” Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, September 2020.

“#FromNO2Love: Black Feminist Forum on Disrupting Sexual Violence,” Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania, November 2019.

“On Inheritance and Dissident Genealogies,” The Legacy of 1619, *Callaloo* conference, University of Pennsylvania, October 2019.

“On Art and Activism,” Poetry Foundation, Emerging Poets Incubator, Chicago, July 2019.

“Self-Care as an Act of Political Warfare,” #SayHerName: Intersectionality and Violence Against Black Women Symposium, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., July 2019.

“Won’t You Celebrate With Me: Poetry and Prose from the Director's Chair,” Cave Canem/Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, Pittsburgh, June 2019.

“Activism Is My Rent for Living on the Planet: The Urgency of Late Alice Walker,” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

“Give My Consent Never: Black Women and Girls Revolutionizing the Anti Rape Movement," The National Women's Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

“‘We Would Have To Fight The World’: The Global Influence & Afterlife of the Combahee River Collective,” Presidential Session, National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 2017.

“The Futures of Memory,” Monument Lab Keynote, Philadelphia, PA, November 2017.

“'Don't Expect Me to Be Nice': Nina Simone and the Poetics of Anger,” Conference Panel, American Studies Association, Chicago, November 2017.

“Ghosts, Zombies, and the Afterlives of Slavery: A Conversation with Colson Whitehead” Wolf Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, September 2017.

“Performance and the Politics of Style,” Invited Speaker, Women of the World Festival, Apollo Theater, New York, May 2017.

“This Is What Protest Sounds Like,” Invited Speaker, CNN, The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, April 2017.

“Toward a New Remembering of the Black Freedom Movement: A State-of-the-Field Conversation,” Invited Participant, Organization of American Historians, New Orleans, April 2017.

MAKERS Conference, Invited Speaker, AOL, Los Angeles, February 2017.

“Beyond Campus Rape: Coalitions, Collaborations, and Crafting an Intersectional Movement to End Sexual Violence,” Invited Speaker, Changing The Climate: Campus Sexual Violence, USC, October 2016.

“I’m Awfully Bitter These Days’: Nina Simone and The Outing of Black Rage,” Invited Speaker, Center for Feminist Research and Department of American Studies and Ethnicity, USC, October 2016.

“Black America Since MLK with Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.,” WHYY and Center for Africana Studies, October 2016.

Black Male Re-imagined III at Kennedy Center, Invited Speaker, Washington, D.C., October 2016.

We Won’t Wait Conference, National Domestic Workers Alliance, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, MD. September 2016.

JHU Forum on Race in America, Invited Keynote Speaker, John Hopkins University, September 2016.

Black Rage and Its Many Lives, Invited Speaker, American Studies Workshop, American Studies, Harvard University, May 2016.

“The Past, Present, and Future State of Black Girls,” Moderator and Discussant, Black Girl Movement: A National Conference, Columbia University, Institute for Research in African-American Studies, April 2016.

"A Lovely Surging: Nina Simone and The Outing of Black Rage," Invited Speaker, The 1900 Americanist Colloquium and the 20/21 Americanists, English Department, Columbia University, April 2016

“Real Talk: On Black Girlhood and The Future of Feminism,” Keynote Speaker, Toni Cade Bambara Scholar-Activism Conference, Spelman College, April 2016.

“From the Margins to the Mainstream: Nina Simone’s Mississippi Goddam and The Politics of Refusal,” Keynote Speaker, Translating Memory and Remembrance Across the Disciplines Conference, SUNY-New Paltz, March 2016.

“Slavery and Memory Panel,” Invited Speaker, Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, February 2016.

“The Hallowed Grounds: The Underground Railroad in the American Imagination,” Black History Month, The White House Office of Public Engagement, February 2016.

“From Selma to Ferguson: Grassroots Activism from the Meredith March to Black Lives Matter," Invited Speaker, Race, Democracy and Public Policy in America: From LBJ's Great Society to Barack Obama and Black Lives Matter, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, the University of Texas at Austin, February 2016.

“No Revolution Without Us: Feminists of the Black Panther Party Featuring Lynn C. French and Salamishah Tillet in Conversation,” Invited Speaker, Urban Democracy Lab, NYU, February 2016.

“Spike Lee’s *Chi-Raq*,” Invited Speaker, African American Studies Program, the University of Illinois at Chicago, January 2016.

“Just Say Her Name: Race and Gender in Social Practice,” Invited Speaker, NYU, Institute of African American Affairs, December 2015.

“What Happened, Miss Simone,” Invited Moderator for Liz Garbus and Ambassador Shabazz, Netflix, New York City, October 2015.

“My Ghost Is Holding On': Nina Simone, Freedom and the Art of the Contemporary,” Keynote, Post-Race? Interrogations, Provocations & Disruptions Lecture Series, The Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis, April 2015.

“Nobody’s Business: Gender, Privacy, and a History of a Song” and “On Michael Jackson’s Thriller Video” EMP Pop Music Conference, Seattle, WA, April 2015.

“The Invisibility Crisis and the Radical Potential of Black Girlhood,” Keynote, Race and the University Conference, Clemson University April 2015.

“Slavery, Dissent, Reconciliation: Harvard Histories,” Invited Panelist, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard University, April 2015.

“The Long Aftermath of Slavery: From Emancipation to Reparations in the United States and the Caribbean,” Invited Speaker, The Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University, April 2015.

“Nina Simone and the History of a New America,” Keynote Speaker, Kenyetta Jazz Festival, Spelman College, March 2015.

“Amy Evan’s The Champion: Inspired By Nina Simone,” Invited Speaker, BRICLab, Brooklyn, NY, March 2015.

“'Her Voice Wasn't Was (What Is?)': Nina Simone, Nostalgia and the Post-9/11 Politics of Freedom” Invited Speaker, American Rubble Cultural Production and Historical Memory After 1989 Conference, Haverford College, December 2014.

“Black Girls in Search of Justice: The Bluest Eye, Brown v. Board, and The Fate of Black Girlhood” Keynote Speaker, Common Text, Loyola University Maryland, November 2014.

“*Scandal* and the Politics of Self-Recognition,” Invited Speaker, Writing About TV: Girls, Kelly’s Writers House, University of Pennsylvania, November 2014.

“Barbara Chase-Riboud On Making of Art - The Woman Who Began at The End,” Invited Speaker, *Callaloo* Conference, Emory, October 2014.

“Feminism at a Crossroads: A Conversation with Judith Judith Shulevitz, Salamishah Tillet, and Rebecca Traister moderated by Anna Holmes.” Invited Speaker, New American Foundation/The New Republic, October 2014.

“Black Girls in Search of Freedom: Narrative, Data, and the Future of Black Feminism,” Keynote Speaker, Legacies of Black Feminisms: A Black Queer Sexuality Studies Graduate Student Conference, Princeton University, October 2014.

“The End of Time: Beyoncé, Memory, and the Power of Messy Feminism,” Invited Speaker for Professor Michael Eric Dyson, Sociology of Hip-Hop: Urban Theodicy of Jay-Z, Georgetown University, October 2014.

“VIDA Roundtable on Literary Biography: A conversation with Jill Lepore, Rebecca Mead, Salamishah Tillet, and Ruth Franklin, moderated by Diane Mehta.” Invited Speaker, Housing Works Books. June 2014

“Passionate Present, Protecting Black Girlhood: Conversation between bell hooks and Salamishah Tillet,” Invited Speaker, The New School. May 2014. Invited Speaker, The New School. May 2014.

“Queen Bey and Her Court” EMP Pop Music Conference, Seattle, WA. (roundtable panelists: Aimee Cox, Daphne Brooks, Emily Lordi, and Ann Powers) April 2014.

“MoMA Presents Conversations Among Friends: Lyle Ashton Harris, Deana Lawson, and SalamishahTillet,” Invited Speaker, Museum of Modern Art, New York. April 2014.

“The Reinvention of a Literary Critic: Listening to Nina Simone,” Invited Speaker, Tatlock Endowed Lecture for Multidisciplinary Studies, Vassar College. March 2014.

“Inventing Nina,” Keynote Lecture, 2014 Rheney Lecture, English Department, Vanderbilt University. February 2014.

“New Directions in Black Cultural Studies,” Invited Speaker, Critical Feminist Thought and the African Diaspora Conference, UMass Amherst. February 2014.

“Remixing Nina Simone: Myth, Meme, and Icon of a Movement,” Invited Speaker, Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Brooklyn College. February 2014.

“Listening to Nina Simone: Myth, Meme, and Icon of a Movement,” Invited Speaker, The Humanities Institute, Scripps College. February 2014.

**TEACHING**

**Rutgers University, Newark, NJ**

Graduate Course (**Department of English, MFA in Creative Writing Program)**

∙ The Art of Writing About Death (Spring 2020)

∙ The Art of Cultural Criticism (Spring 2019)

Undergraduate Courses **(Department of African and African American Studies)**

∙ From Lady Day to Lizzo: A Century of Black Women Entertainers (Fall 2020)

# **The University of Pennsylvania,** Philadelphia, PA.

**Department of English and Africana Studies,** Present

Graduate Courses

∙ Black Rage: Race, Affect, and the Politics of Emotions (Spring 2017)

∙ Bessie, Beyoncé, and 20th Century Black Women Performers (Spring 2016)

∙ Civil Rights Art and Its Afterlife (Spring 2015)

∙ Graduate Independent Study: Black Cultural Studies (Spring 2015)

∙ Changing the Country: Civil Rights Aesthetics and American Memory (Fall 2011)

∙ Songs of the Underground: African American Literature and Music (Spring 2010)

∙ Graduate Independent Study: Race, Gender, and Alterity (Fall 2008)

∙ Postmodernism and African American Literature (Fall 2008)

Undergraduate Courses

∙ No Bench by the Road: Monuments, Memory, and the Afterlife of Slavery (Spring 2018)

∙ Family Feuds: Beyoncé, Jay-Z, and Solange and the Meaning of American Music (Spring 2018)

∙ Where My Girls At?: 20th Century Black Women Performers (Spring 2017)

∙ Introduction to Africana Studies (Fall 2016)

∙ English Honors Thesis Course (Fall 2016)

∙ What Is African American Literature? (Spring 2016)

∙ Feminism and Contemporary Black Women Writers (Spring 2015)

∙ Independent Study: Race, Gender, and American Sports Culture (Spring 2015)

∙ Songs of the Underground: Introduction of African American Literature (Fall 2014)

∙ Nina Simone: Myth, Meme, and the Icon of a Movement (Fall 2014)

∙ The Memoir, The Essay, and The Blog: African American Creative Non-Fiction (Spring 2013)

∙ Freedom Writers: Introduction to African American Literature (Spring 2013)

∙ Jazz: Style and History, Jazz Is a Woman (Spring 2012; co-taught with Guthrie Ramsey) (Spring 2012)

∙ I, Too, Sing America: Introduction to African American Literature (Spring 2012)

∙ Freshman Seminar: 20th-Century Black Women Writers (Fall 2011)

∙ The Black Woman: Post–Civil Rights African American Women’s Literature (Spring 2010)

∙ English Honors Thesis Course (Fall 2009)

∙ Signifying Readings: Introduction to African American Literature (Fall 2009)

∙ Undergraduate Independent Study: Gender, Race and HBO’s *The Wire* (Fall 2009)

∙ The Making of the Black Atlantic: African Diasporic Representations of Slavery (Spring 2009)

∙ Introduction to African American Literature (Spring 2009)

∙ Undergraduate Independent Study: Race and Television News (Spring 2009)

∙ Race Films: Spike Lee and His Interlocutors (Fall 2008; co-taught with John L. Jackson)

∙ Samplin’ and Signifyin’: Introduction to African American Literature (Spring 2008)

∙ Twentieth Century African American Women Writers and Filmmakers (Fall 2007)

**Africana Studies Summer Institute**

∙ “Simple Stories: The Short Story in African American Literature” (July 2011)

∙ “The Love of My Life: Hip Hop, Gender, and Sexuality” (July 2008)

**Columbia University**, New York, NY

**Institute for Research in African-American Studies,** 2016-2017.

∙ Bessie Smith to Beyoncé: The Century of African American Women Performers (Spring 2017)

∙ We Insist!: Civil Rights Aesthetics and Their After-Lives (Fall 2016)

**SERVICE**

**Rutgers University, Newark, Newark, NJ** (2018 – 2022)

Co-Organizer, Black Portraiture: Play and Performance Conference, Express Newark, 2020 – 2022.

Responsible for designing, planning, and implementing three-day citywide symposium on art and music.

Senior Faculty Fellor, Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice (2021-2022)

Member, Chancellor’s Executive Committee (2020-2022)

Appointment and Promotions Committee, School of Arts and Sciences, Newark (2020-2021)

Writers/Champion,Big Idea: Art Matters, Express Newark, 2018 to present.

Responsible for writing, presenting, strategic planning, curriculum designing, and fundraising for Express Newark’s Big Idea proposal: Art Matters: A Free School Model.

Curator/Commissioner:A Call to Peace exhibition, New Arts Justice (Fall 2019)

Secured funding for, convened artists, directed public programming, and coordinated publicity, for a month-long public arts exhibition on race, history, and public space exhibition in Military Park and Express Newark from Oct 3 to Nov 12.

Co-Organizer, Marion Thomas Wright Annual Lecture Series, Price Institute

Black Futures: What Seems To Be, Need Not Be: Saidiya Hartman, Ruha Benjamin, Ytasha Womack, and Jason King (February 2020)

The Erotic as Power: Sexuality and the Black Experience: E. Patrick Johnson, Cheryl Dunye, Marcus Hunters, and Alexis Pauline Gumbs (February 2019)

Co-Chair, Tanner Lectures on Human Values Festival Planning Committee, “Flowing: Human Migrations and Human Values,” January 2019-April 25, 2019.

Responsible for designing, planning, and implementing a week-long campus symposium for the Tanner Lectures on Human Values.

Organizer, L + M Lecture Series,Express Newark and Price Institute(December 2018)

“I See Myself in You”: A Conversation with Deborah Willis and Hank Willis Thomas

**University of Pennsylvania**

Faculty Advisory Committee for Sachs Program for Arts Innovation (2017-2018)

SAS Dean’s Council on Diversity (2016-2018)

SAS Public Policy and Social Impact Committee (2016-2017)

Africana Studies Graduate Executive Committee (2016-2017)

English Department Search Committee for African American Literature (Chair; 2016-2017)

Black Cultural Studies Collective Graduate Group (English and Africana Studies; 2016-2017)

In Residence: Activist and Artists Workshop Series (Africana Studies, Co-Coordinator; Spring 2017)

Third-Year Reappointment Committee: Jean-Christophe Cloutier (English, 2016-2017)

Provost’s Annenberg Center of Performing Arts Consultative Committee (2016)

English Department Graduate Executive Committee (2014-2015; 2011–2012)

Core Research and Teaching Faculty, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program (2012-present)

Faculty Advisory Board, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program (2011–present)

English Post-1945 American Literature Assistant Professor Job Search Committee (2012-2013)

English Department Dissertation Workshop Faculty Advisor (2013, 2009, 2016)

English Department Executive Committee (2009–2010)

Faculty Advisor for Americanist Graduate Group (2009–2010)

Director of the English Honors Program (2009–10)

Faculty Advisor for Undergraduate Advisory Board: *Esu Review* (2009–2010)

English Undergraduate Executive Committee (2007–2008)

Dissertation Committees:

Julia Cox (Chair, English)

Keyana Parks (Chair, English)

Melanie Hill (English)

SaraEllen Strongman (Africana)

Ben DuPriest (Music)

Evelyn Owens (Music)

Aundeah Kearney (English): Completed 2015

Sarah Mantilla (English): Completed 2012

Mecca Sullivan (English): Completed 2012

Matthew Valnes (Music): Completed 2012

Omari Weekes (English)

Field Exam Committee:

Dana Cyrpress (English 2016)

Tajah Ebran (English 2016)

Julia Cox (English (2015)

Keyana Parks (2015)

SarahEllen Strongman (Africana, 2015)

Melanie Hill (English, 2015)

Julius Fleming (English, 2012)

Ashley Freeman (Africana, 2012)

Aundeah Kearney (English, 2010)

Sarah Mantilla (English, 2009)

Undergraduate Advisees (2013-2016)

Ashley Beard

Chevahn Brown

Victoria Ford

Marjorie L Grabmeier

Abrina Hyatt

Mereb Russom

Meagan Scott

Shakele Seaton

Christina Volcy

Senior Thesis

Katie Antonsson (2014-2015)

Victoria Ford (2014-2015)

Joshua Bennett (2009-2010)

John Howard (2009-2010)

**Callaloo: A Journal Of African Diaspora Arts and Letters**. Associate Editor, Present.

**EMP Pop Music Conference,** Steering Committee. 2013-2014.

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Language Association, 2005-Present

American Studies Association, 2006-Present.