
HYACINTH MILLER

Department of Africana Studies & Department of Political Science
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
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Academic Employment

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey – Newark Campus

Assistant Teaching Professor (2015 – *present*)

Department of Africana Studies

Department of Political Science – Internship and Study Abroad Director

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey – New Brunswick Campus

Lecturer (2012 – *present*) - Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey – New Brunswick Campus

Lecturer (2018 – *present*) - Department of Political Science

Education

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey

PhD Candidate, Joint PhD Program in Global Urban Studies and Urban Systems

Anticipated date of graduation: May 2026

Fields: Women in Politics, Urban Politics

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey

M.A. Political Science Field: American Politics

Certificate: Women and Gender Studies

Thesis: “Black and Foreign Born: West Indians in New Jersey’s Political Offices”

The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Graduate Studies in Political Science

Brooklyn College, City University of New York – CUNY, Brooklyn, New York

Bachelor of Arts: Political Science and Africana Studies, *Cum Laude*

Academic Fellowships

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow - 1994

American Political Science Fellow - Honorable Mention - 1993

Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers Fellow (IRT) - 1992

Research and Teaching Interests

Black Women in Elected Office | Black Immigrant Political Incorporation | Caribbean and African Political Development | Race/Ethnicity/Identity Politics | Comparative Politics

Publication

Refereed Journal Article

Miller, Hyacinth. (2018). “Black, Foreign-Born and Elected: West Indians in New Jersey’s Political Offices.” *National Political Science Review*, 19(1), 79-96.

Research Projects

Made in America, Made in New Jersey – collect data on Black women elected officials in New Jersey and collect data on African and Caribbean community organizations, December 2024

San Basilio de Palenque - interviewed locals about their Afro-Caribbean and African identity in Colombia, June 2019

Colón Province, Panama- interviewed locals about the 30th anniversary of the U.S. intervention/invasion in Panama, June 2019

United States Virgin Islands - [100th Commemoration of the transition of the Danish West Indies to the United States Virgin Islands]- interviewed stakeholders about challenges and opportunities, March 2017

Seoul, South Korea - observed urban governance, management, civic participation, and the policies and programs adopted to serve residents in the areas of transportation, housing, technology, and environmental services. In addition, it assessed the role of women in government. May 2017

Courses Taught

“Introduction to Africana Studies I,” “Introduction to Africana Studies II,” “Introduction to Comparative Politics,” “Introduction to Caribbean Studies,” “Caribbean Politics,” “Caribbean People in the Diaspora,” “West Indians in the United States,” “Caribbean Politics & Development,” “The Other Caribbean” forthcoming “*Black Women in Politics*,” and “*Caribbean Tourism*.”

Undergraduate Mentoring

Price Humanities Research Supervisor (2024, 2025)

Grants, Honors, Awards

Rutgers University

- 2023 Center for Politics and Race in America Research Grant - \$29,853
- 2023 Rutgers Global Faculty Innovation in Global Learning - \$5,000
- 2022 Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program [Waitlist] - Norway
- 2020 Nomination, Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching
- 2019 Nomination, Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching
- 2019 Center for Latin American Studies Grant, \$1,000
- 2018 Faculty Travel Grant Recipient, \$2,200
- 2018 Rutgers Global International Travel Grant - Faculty - \$750
- 2017 Graduate Student Travel Grant Recipient, \$1,000

Conference Papers, Panels, Invited Talks

Panelist and moderator, “Decoloniality as Pedagogy” Roundtable, defying inequalities and coloniality, an interdisciplinary perspective, Musée d’ethnographie de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland (October 2024)

Presenter, So you think you know civics: “What is Civic Participation” Morven Museum and Garden, Princeton Public Library and New Jersey Council for the Humanities (September 2024)

Panelist, “Approaches to Reparative Justice” Glasgow Rutgers Symposium, University of Glasgow (March 2024)

Panelist and co-creator, “The Reparatory Justice Global Learning Lab: Emerging Models of Transatlantic Collaboration in Search of Repair, Restoration, & Beloved Community” Lubumbashi, Congo (October 2023)

Presenter, “Understanding Vodun, Santeria, and Obeah” Benin Study Abroad Program (May 2023)

Presenter, “Global African Women Leaders: Antiquity to the Present,” New Jersey City University Women’s History Month Talk (March 2023)

Moderator, “Black Citizenship Panel: Explore the African Diaspora as Both Immigrants and US Citizens” Sawyer Seminar (March 2022)

“Blacks and Criminal Justice in the U.S.” Panelist, Rutgers Newark Criminal Justice Club. (February 2022)

Guest Lecturer, American National Government - The Constitution, Federalism, and Slavery (September 2021)

“Election 2020 and West Indians.” Panelist, Rutgers University Honors College. October 2020

“Made in America: An Exploration of Black and Latina Women in Local Elected Office in the U.S.” Paper presented at the Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference, Santa Marta, Colombia. (June 2019)

“Mint Tea and Rum: Current Health Challenges of Caribbean-born and Caribbean Descended Students.” Speaker, Rutgers University – Newark Campus, Student Health Services Annual Staff Retreat. (January 2019)

Panel Chair, Moving In and Standing Out: How Caribbean Nationals Acclimate to New, But Familiar Surroundings.” Conducted at the Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference, Havana, Cuba. (June 2018)

“Transnational Migration and Haitians in the United States: A Demographic Report.” Paper presented at the Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. (June 2016)

“Transcending Political Boundaries: West Indians in New Jersey's Political Offices.” Paper presented at the Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. (May 2015)

“Black, Foreign-born, and Elected: West Indians in New Jersey’s Elected Offices.” Paper presented at the Critical Caribbean Studies Symposium: Radicalism, Revolution, and Freedom in the Caribbean. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. (April 2015)

“Multiple Citizenship Policies of the Caribbean.” Paper presented at the Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference, Curaçao, Netherland Antilles. (May 2011)

Media Appearances

“Did unconscious racial bias contribute to Harris’ defeat?” NJ Spotlight News, Brianna Vinnuzzi (November 7, 2024)

“Race, Gender, Haitian immigrants” Live Election Night Coverage, Bridging Philly, KYW Newsradio 103.9 FM, Racquel Williams (November 5, 2024)

“Rutgers-Newark Expert on Black Women Leaders Weighs in on Presidential Debate” Rutgers University - Newark, Faculty Excellence Profile (September 11, 2024)

Departmental Service

21st Century Africana Studies Strategic Planning Committee, 2025

Faculty-lead, The Caribbean in the 21st Century, Challenges and Opportunities – Barbados School of Arts and Sciences, Newark Campus, Department of Africana Studies, May 2023, May 2025

Co-Faculty, Study Abroad Program, *History, Memory and Culture in Benin*, Benin, West Africa. School of Arts and Sciences, Department of History and Center for African Studies. (May 2022 – June 2022)

Study Abroad and Internship Director, School of Arts and Sciences, Newark Campus, Department of Political Science (July 2017 – *present*)

Faculty-lead, “Liberté, Égalité, Beyonce” France study-abroad program, *anticipated launch*, May 2026 School of Arts and Sciences, Newark Campus, Department of Africana Studies

Undergraduate Program Director, Department of Political Science – Newark Campus (July 2018 – July 2021)

Pi Sigma Alpha Beta Omicron Chapter Faculty Advisor, National Honor Society for Political Science (July 2020 – July 2021)

Member, Fundraising Committee, Department of Political Science (Spring 2019, 2020)

Co-Faculty, School of Arts and Sciences Honors College and Honors Program, New Brunswick Campus, Winter Embedded Program, Dominican Republic. (January 2019)

Faculty Advisor, Association of International Relations – AIR, Newark Campus student organization, (Fall 2018 – Spring 2019)

Co-Faculty, School of Arts and Sciences, Center for Latino Arts and Culture & Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies, Alternative Spring Break Program, Dominican Republic. (March 2018)

Member, Faculty Travel Grant Committee, Department of African American and African Studies, Newark Campus (May 2017)

Member, Peer Evaluation Committee, Department of Political Science, Newark Campus (March 2017)

Member, Peer Evaluation Committee, Department of Political Science, Newark Campus (March 2016)

College and University Service

Panel Organizer, Sawyer Seminar on Reparations – *forthcoming February 2025*

Co-faculty, Middle Passages: Journeys to, from, and within Ghana Study Abroad Program, Accra, Ghana (May 2024, January 2026)

Thought Partner, Dakar Translation Symposium – Theme: Africa and her Diaspora, Accra, Ghana (2024 - 2025)

Co-Director, Sheila Y. Oliver Center for Politics and Race in America

Director, Public Service Leadership Program, Sheila Y. Oliver Center for Politics and Race in America
(2023 - present)

Co-founder and Executive Committee Member, RU Atlantic Reparatory Justice Research Lab
(2023 - present)

Faculty, Rutgers Summer Service Internship [RSSI] Program (2022, 2023)

Member, Student Selection Committee, Rutgers Summer Service [RSS-DC] Washington DC Program
(2023, 2024)

Member, Student Selection Committee, Rutgers Summer Service Internship [RSSI] Initiative
(2022, 2023)

Member and Thought Partner, Student Selection Committee, Racial Justice [RaJu] Fellows Program,
ISGRJ (2023)

Member, Program on Learning and Teaching Committee, Office of the Provost, Newark Campus
(Spring 2022-*present*)

Member, Selection Committee, Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award Program (Spring 2022,
Spring 2023)

Judge, Undergraduate Research Week, Honors College. (April 2021, April 2022)

Admissions Interviewer, Honors Learning Living Community, Rutgers-Newark. (Spring 2018)

Professional Service

Braven National Faculty Council – Inaugural Member (2024 – 2025 Academic Year)

International Social Service – USA (ISS-USA), Board Member

New Jersey Conference Committee Member: New Jersey and Histories of Immigration/Migration
(November 2022)

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association (APSA)

National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS)

Urban Affairs Association (UAA)

Caribbean Studies Association (CSA)

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)

African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA)

Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA) Political Science Honor Society

Certifications

Certificate of Participation - 23rd Seoul Metropolitan Government Policy Case Study Program, Seoul,
Korea (March 2017)

Rutgers University Active Learning Veteran Certificate (August 2017)

Quality Online Course Initiative Participant (August 2016)

Relevant Work Experience

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey – New Jersey December 2011 to July 2012

Researcher, Program on Immigration and Democracy & Center for American Women and Politics – Douglass Campus

As a researcher for the Program on Immigration and Democracy and the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), I conducted research on women and elective office for the 2012 Project, a non-partisan national campaign to identify and engage women to run for Congress and state legislatures as a result of redistricting. I researched immigrants in New Jersey to help develop an information clearinghouse on New Jersey immigrants. I assisted in creating content development for the Web site and researched opportunities to provide ESL and civics education.

Select Highlights

- ◆ Reviewed working papers, journal articles, and thought pieces geared to support the 2012 Project's women and politics research and education mission.
- ◆ Worked with CAWP's NEW Leadership Program as a facilitator to encourage young women to pursue political and public leadership careers.

Assistant Director of Development, Faculty of Arts & Sciences – Newark Campus

As assistant development director, I identified, cultivated, solicited, and stewarded 250 alum donors and prospects. I promoted the school's achievements to prospective students, advertisers, and alumni as co-editors for the newspaper. Additionally, I identified and created 20 new internship/employment opportunities between alumni and students.

Select Highlights

- ◆ Attained 25% increase in first-time gifts of \$1K.
- ◆ Generated an additional \$50K in peer solicitations by educating and training high-profile alumni.

Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) – New York December 2008 – October 2009

Interim Executive Director

While with the APAI, I oversaw daily operations, strategic planning, compliance, budget management, and communications. I organized the annual international membership and chairs' meeting. I applied for and secured grant funding to strengthen financial stability, aggressively recruited new members, and built relationships with members to boost retention. I also helped to maintain the organization's web presence.

Select Highlights

- ◆ Increased international membership by 75% and domestic membership by 20%.
- ◆ Published a quarterly newsletter to increase conference participation and membership engagement.

JEHT Foundation – New York

April 2005 to December 2008

Program Associate, Criminal Justice Program

At the JEHT Foundation, I traveled across the country to help identify problems, trends, and potential projects within specific issue areas that would advance criminal justice reform in probation, parole, sentencing, criminal immigration, and the death penalty. I co-developed a systemic change grantmaking portfolio by defining a vision and funding strategy focused on advocacy and reform.

To fulfill grant requirements surrounding program support, issue-based campaigns, and organizational development, I partnered with grantees to monitor progress and discuss potential challenges. I wrote grant recommendations, web summaries, and evaluative grant assessments for quarterly board meetings.

Further, I conducted frequent site visits to observe initiatives and actively participated in strategic planning sessions.

Select Highlights

- ◆ Proactively generated opportunities to support organizations looking to reform policies severely impacting immigrants with criminal convictions.
- ◆ Together with advocates, stakeholders, and funder colleagues, successfully abolished the juvenile death penalty [Roper vs Simmons].
- ◆ Partnered with OSI, Atlantic, Ford, Fund for Non-Violence, Wallace Global, Butler, and Tides to work on multi-foundation efforts to end the death penalty in the U.S. by 2025.

New Yorkers for Yvette D. Clarke - New York

June 2004 – March 2005

Finance Director

I assessed donor prospect lists evaluated key targets and, solicited campaign funding and facilitated fundraisers.

New York Life Insurance Company - Office of Governmental Affairs, New York

November 2000 – June 2004

Governmental Affairs Analyst

I served as treasurer of the federal and state political action committees to monitor revenue and expenditures. I collaborated with counsel to ensure compliance with multiple state and federal campaign finance regulations. I prepared quarterly reports, analyzed campaign and PAC data, and presented findings and insights to the senior executive steering committee. I also assisted with managing the Company's signature-matching charitable gift program.

Select Highlights

- ◆ successfully raised millions of dollars for state and federal corporate PACs by increasing membership by +2,000.
- ◆ Established and fostered relationships between agents, employees, and elected representatives by preparing talking points, organizing grassroots projects, and representing the NYL at fundraisers in New York and Washington, D.C.

United States House of Representatives, Office of Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, New York

March 1998 – November 2000

Congressional Liaison

Advising the Member on proposed immigration legislation, I researched, surveyed, and prepared talking points regarding developing new legislation. I communicated with the Departments of Justice and Department of State officials in embassies worldwide concerning immigration policies on behalf of individual constituents seeking humanitarian relief or visitor visas. Responds to casework correspondence and verbal requests from constituents.

Select Highlights

- ◆ Served as the Members' Census 2000 representative on the New York State Census Initiative
- ◆ Strengthened Member's relationships with members of the Caribbean communities in southeast Queens and across NYC

New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, NY March 1997 – February 1998

Deputy Director, Citizenship New York City

As deputy director, I managed a team 20 overseeing casework and client services for N-400 citizenship applications. I administered the department supplies and personnel budget. I analyzed and strengthened

policies and procedures to improve service and operations, evaluated and coached staff, and conducted budget and financial reviews.

Select Highlights

- ◆ Fostered better client relationships by clearly establishing roles of staff and projects to clarify and manage expectations.
- ◆ Reduced errors and increased accuracy by instituting an internal review of documents before submitting them to the central office and delivering staff training to uphold federal immigration laws.