

LaCharles Ward
Northwestern University
Department of Communication Studies, School of Communication
1815 Chicago Ave, Evanston IL, 60208
Lacharlesward2017@u.northwestern.edu

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

PhD, Rhetoric and Public Culture, expected June 2019.

Dissertation: “They Left Us Dead”: Visual Culture, Anti-Black State Violence, and the Continued Disregard for Black Life

Committee: Profs. Jasmine Cobb (Chair, Duke University), E. Patrick Johnson, Janice Radway, Alexander Weheliye

Certificate in African American and Diaspora Studies, Department of African American Studies

Southern Illinois University—Carbondale, Carbondale, IL

MA, Intercultural Communication, May 2013.

Thesis: “Oh, You Are An Exception!: Narratives of Academic Success and Black Males Resistance to Systemic Racism”

Committee: Profs. Rachel A. Griffin (Chair, Univ. of Utah), Sandra Pensoneau-Conway, Nilanjana Bardhan

BS, Speech Communication, McNair Scholar, May 2011.

Advisor: Professor Rachel Griffin

PUBLICATIONS

Ward, L. “‘Keep Runnin’ Bro’: Carrie Mae Weems and the Visual Act of Refusal.” *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, vol. 9, no. 2 (Spring 2018), 82-109.

Griffin, R., **Ward**, L., & Phillips, A. “Still Flies in the Buttermilk: Black Male Faculty, Critical Race Theory, and Composite Counterstorytelling.” *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, vol. 27, no. 10, 2014, pp. 1354-1375.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Instructor at Northwestern University, 2014-2016

GEN CMN 102: Introduction to Public Speaking, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

GEN CMN 102: Introduction to Public Speaking, Fall 2015-Spring 2016

CMST 394: Junior Writing Seminar: On the Question of the Visual: Blackness and the Historical Present, Spring 2018

Graduate Teaching Assistant at Northwestern for Prof. Dilip Gaonkar

Globalization and Strategic Organization, School of Communication

Graduate Instructor at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (Fall 2011-2013)

SPCM 101: Introduction to Oral Communication: Speech, Self, and Society, Fall 2011-Spring 2012

SPCM 101: Introduction to Oral Communication: Speech, Self, and Society, Fall 2012-Spring 2013

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

“At the Visual Crossroads: Blackness and the Matter of Life or Death.” *New Black Man*: <http://newblackman.blogspot.com/2014/12/at-visual-crossroads-blackness-and.html?q=Black+Death>

“Twitter, Frank Ocean and the “violence of heteronormativity.” *New Black Man*: <http://newblackman.blogspot.com/2012/07/twitter-frank-ocean-and-violence-of.html>

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

Futures of American Studies Summer Institute on *Questions Worth Asking*, June 19-25, 2017. Dartmouth College. Selected Participant.

Graduate Research Grant, The Graduate School (TGS), Northwestern University, December 2016. Amount: \$3,000.00

University of Southern California’s Annenberg Summer Institute on *Difference in Media and Culture*, June 20-25, 2016, Participating Graduate Student.

PROMPT Fellowship for Graduate Studies, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Fall 2011-Spring 2013

25 Most Distinguished Senior Award, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Spring 2011.

Seymour & Marjorie Bryson Endowed Graduating Senior Scholarship, Spring 2011.

Ronald E. McNair Scholar Award, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Summer 2009-2013.

Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity Award Grant (REACH) Recipient, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, July 2010-May 2011. (\$1,000.00 + monthly stipend).

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP) Fellow, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, May-July, 2010 (Intensive Summer Research).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Blurred Frames: A Critical Reading of the “Blur” in Carrie Mae Weems’s All the Boys. Paper presented at American Studies Association (ASA), Chicago IL, November 9, 2017.

On the Pain of Black Bodies: Racialized Violence and Contemporary Protest Images. Paper presented at Society of Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Atlanta, GA, March 30, 2016.

Accept, Articulate, Mis(ue): What’s Afro-Pessimism Without Misery? Co-Presenter on Panel at American Studies Association (ASA), Toronto, CA, October 2015.

Reconsidering “Chicago’s Violence Epidemic”: Race, Media, and the Disregard for the Black Body. Paper presented at Western States Communication Association (WSCA), Spokane, WA, February 2015.

“Am I Next?”: Visuality, Blackness, and the Illegibility of Innocence. Paper presented at the Colloquium on Ethnicity and Diaspora’s Graduate Student Seminar, Northwestern University, January 2015.

“#BlackTwitter” as a Social Public: Its Possibilities and Limitations. Paper presented at International Communication Association (ICA), Seattle, WA, May 2014.

Tweeting, (Re)Tweeting, and Racist Discourse: Virtualized Racism and Post-Racial Ideology on Twitter. Paper presented at Rhetoric Society of America (RSA), San Antonio, TX, May 2014.

Tweeting and (Re)Tweeting: Deconstructing Racism on Twitter and Challenging Post-Racial Ideology. Paper presented at 19th Annual Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program Academic Conference, Chapel Hill, NC, July 2013.

Critical Perspectives on Feminism and Activism in the Third World. Presenter on Roundtable at National Communication Association (NCA), Orlando, FL, November 2012.

Still Flies in the Buttermilk: Black Male Faculty, Critical Race Theory, and Composite Counterstorytelling (Co-Presenter). Paper presented at National Communication Association (NCA), Orlando, FL, November 2012.

INVITED TALKS

“Chicago’s Violence Epidemic”: Race, Media, and a Biopolitics of Disposability. Talk delivered at The University of Chicago, August 12th and September 2nd 2016.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant, Black Arts Initiative, directed by E. Patrick Johnson (Chair of African American Studies and Carlos Montezuma Professor of African American Studies and Performance Studies). 2017-2018—*As the GA, I assist Prof. Johnson in organizing events related to Black arts, community engagement, and scholarship. The aim of BAI is to engage myriad perspectives and strengthen Northwestern’s involvement in black arts and the research and pedagogy of it.*

Co-Chair (with Patricia Nguyen, Performance Studies), Colloquium on Ethnicity and Diaspora (CED) in Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, advised by Shalini Shankar (Professor, Anthropology), 2016-2017 —*As a co-chair, I help organize a year-long series that provides a vibrant interdisciplinary and intellectual community for students and faculty to foster active research interests in areas of race, diaspora, and ethnicity. Events range from faculty and student panels to lectures by visiting scholars.*

Rhetoric and Public Culture Graduate Student Liaison, Department of Communication Studies, Northwestern University, 2015-2016—*In this position, I serve as the voice of graduate students*

in the Rhetoric and Public Culture program during meetings with faculty and departmental administrators in the School of Communication.

Outreach Coordinator, Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA), Northwestern University, 2014-2015 –*In this position, I organized events with other student organizations at Northwestern (undergraduate and graduate) as well as events with community organizations in Evanston.*

Graduate Student Associate, *Center for Global Culture and Communication (CGCC)*, an Initiative of Northwestern University's School of Communication, Directed by Dilip Gaonkar (Professor, Communication Studies), 2014-current –*As an associate in the CGCC, I am primarily responsible for organizing and executing major events for the center. These events range from multi-day conferences, one-day seminars, lectures, and summer institutes.*

SERVICE

Institutional Involvement:

Graduate Student Representative, The Police Advisory Board, Northwestern University, 2016-present

Graduate Student Representative, Norris Center Advisory Board, Northwestern University, 2016-2017

Graduate Student Member, Graduate Leadership and Advocacy (GLAC), Northwestern University 2016-2017

Conference Planning:

Black Arts Initiative's Biennial Conference: *Black Arts International: Temporalities and Territories*, Northwestern University, Oct. 9-14, 2017.

Scholars in Attendance: Homi Bhabha, Haile Gerima, Michael Boyce Gillespie, Amma Y. Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin, Tukufu Zuberi, Fumi Okiji, Omi Osun Joni Jones, Meta Jones, Caryl Phillips, Chris Abani, Nelisiwe Xaba, Tarell McCraney, Hershini Young, Reggie Wilson, Brent Hayes Edwards, Aimee Cox, Aymar Christian, Michael Hanchard, Gina Athena Ulysse, Romi Crawford

Sponsor: Black Arts Initiative | Co-Sponsors: Office of the Provost, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, The Graduate School, Bienen School of Music, School of Communication, Mellon Dance Studies, The Dance Center for Columbia College Chicago, Goethe Institut, Links Hall, Program in American Studies, Department of African American Studies, Department of Art History, Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Department of Performance Studies, Department of Art, Theory, and Practice, Program in African Studies, Center for Global Culture and Communication, Department of English, Department of Radio, Television, and Film, Department of Theatre, Kaplan Institute for the Humanities

Third Annual Conference on Globalizing Race Studies: *Global Perspectives on Race, Knowledge and Institutions in the 21st Century*, Northwestern University, February 18-19, 2016.

Scholars in Attendance: Erin Pineda, David Theo Goldberg, Alvin Tillery, Jr., Juliet Hooker, Melvin Rogers, Shatema Threadcraft, Michael Dawson, Achille Mbembe, Dilip Gaonkar

Sponsor: Center for Global Culture and Communication and Buffett Institute for Global Studies | Co-Sponsors: WITS Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER), South Africa, University of California Humanities Research Institute, Northwestern Depts. of Political Science and African American Studies

Second Annual Conference on Globalizing Race: *Race and the New Order of Theory: a workshop*, Northwestern University, December 4-5, 2014.

Scholars in Attendance: David Theo Goldberg, Achille Mbembe, Charles Mills, Sarah Nuttal, Dilip Gaonkar

Sponsor: Center for Global Culture and Communication | Co-Sponsors: WITS Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER), South Africa

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association (ASA)
Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA)
National Communication Association (NCA)
Rhetoric Society of America (RSA)
Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)

REFERENCES

Dr. Jasmine Nichole Cobb
Bacca Foundation Associate Professor
African and African American Studies
Art, Art History, and Visual Studies
Duke University
1316 Campus Drive
Campus Box 90252
Durham, NC, 27708
Email: jasmine.cobb@duke.edu

Dr. E. Patrick Johnson
Carlos Montezuma Professor
Performance Studies
Chair of African American Studies
Northwestern University
70 Arts Circle Drive
Room 5-155
Evanston, IL 60208
Email: e-johnson10@northwestern.edu

Dr. Janice Radway
Walter Dill Scott Professor
Communication Studies
American Studies
Director of Gender Studies
Northwestern University
Annie May Swift Hall
1920 Campus Drive, 3rd Fl.
Evanston, IL 60208
Email: j-radway@northwestern.edu

Dr. Alexander Weheliye
Professor
African American Studies
Northwestern University

1860 S. Campus Drive
Crowe Hall, 5-121
Evanston, IL 60208
a-weheliye@northwestern.edu

Dr. Dilip Gaonkar
Professor
Communication Studies
Director of Center for Global Culture
and Communication

Frances Searle Building
2240 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
d-gaonkar@northwestern.edu