

Nikki Lane

Curriculum Vitae

Forthcoming Academic Appointment

Beginning July 2022
Assistant Professor of Black Feminist Theory
Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
Duke University

Current Academic Appointment

August 2020-JUNE 2022
Assistant Professor of Black Queer Studies
Comparative Women's Studies Program
Spelman College

Education

- 2015 **Ph.D, Anthropology with a Concentration in Race, Gender, and Social Justice**
American University
- Doctoral Fellowship
 - Graduate Teaching Assistantship
 - Dissertation: *In the Life, On the Scene: The Spatial and Discursive Production of Black Queer Women's Scene Space in Washington, D.C.*
- 2013 **M.A., Public Anthropology**
American University
- 2009 **B.A., Women's Studies**
George Washington University
- Magna Cum Laude
 - Presidential Scholarship Recipient for Academic Excellence
 - Honors Thesis: *The New Black Woman: Neoliberalism, Neo-Racism, and a New Controlling Image of Black Women.*
- 2008 **Full-Immersion Study Abroad Program**
University of Cape Town
- Independent ethnographic research project investigating feminist advocacy in South Africa
 - Volunteer at Rape Crisis Center Trust in Cape Town, ZA

Teaching and Research Interests

Primary: Black Feminist Theory, Black Queer Theory, Black Women's Sexuality, American Popular Culture, Issues of sexuality in the African Diaspora, Ethnography, Linguistic Anthropology

Secondary: Critical Pedagogies, Urban spatial politics, Washington, DC

Publications

Book

- 2019 The Black Queer Work of Ratchet: Race, Gender, Sexuality and the (Anti)Politics of Respectability. Palgrave MacMillan.

Book Chapters

- In review* Megan Thee Stallion Sings the Blues: Black Queer Theorizing and Black Women's Sexuality. Routledge Companion to Intersectionality. Jennifer Nash and Samantha Pinto, eds. Routledge.
- 2015 All the Lesbians are White, All the Villages are Gay, but Some of Us are Brave: Intersectionality, Modernity, and Black Queer Women's Scene Space in Washington, D.C. In *Lesbian Geographies: Gender, Place, and Power*. Kath Browne and Eduarda Ferreira, eds. Ashgate.

Journal Articles

- 2018 Narratives of Affect: Language and Feeling in Black Queer Space. *Journal of Language and Sexuality* 7 (1): 55-76.
- 2011 Black Women Queering the Mic: Missy Elliott Disturbing the Boundaries of Racialized Sexuality and Gender. *Journal of Homosexuality* 58(6-7): 775-792.

Review Essays

- 2016 Bringing Flesh to Theory: Ethnography, Black Queer Theory, and Studying Black Sexualities. *Feminist Studies*. 42 (3): 632-648.

Forums

- 2021 Ratchet Black Lives Matter: Megan Thee Stallion, Intra-Racial Violence, and the Elusion of Grief, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 31(2): 293-297.
- 2020 Open Letter to the Editors. *Journal of Language and Sexuality* 10(1): 59-62.

Works-in-Progress

Searching for the Im/possible: Black Lesbian Life in the Military Before and During “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” Journal article.

How to Find a Black Lesbian: Social Practice, Cultural Formations, and New Approaches for Black Queer Studies. Monograph.

Black Feminist Pedagogies of Black Popular Culture: A Doing-the-Work Book. Monograph. Co-authored with Lydia Kelow-Bennett.

Honors, Awards, and Distinctions

- 2021 Carnegie-Rockefeller Grant, Spelman College (\$2,500)
- 2020 Mellon Mini Research Grant for Institute Gender & Sexuality, Spelman College (\$1,500)
- 2018 CAS Faculty Mellon Fund, College of Arts and Sciences, American University. (\$2,500)
- 2014 Dissertation Writing Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, American University (\$15,000)
- 2009-13 Greenberg Seminars for Effective Teaching, American University. Optional 3-year professional development series for doctoral candidates preparing to teach in higher-education.
- 2013 Dissertation Research Grant, Office of the Vice Provost, American University (\$5,000)
- 2013 M. Estelle Smith Graduate Paper Prize, Northeastern Anthropological Association, National Conference, Paper: “Paid on the First, Played on the Last”: The Devaluation of Black American and the Cruel Optimism of the American Dream (or Nightmare).
- 2011 Professional Development Grant, Greenberg Seminars for Effective Teaching (\$600)
- 2009 Professional Conference Grant, Greenberg Seminars for Effective Teaching (\$750)
- 2009 Undergraduate Feminist Scholarship Award, Women’s Studies Department, George Washington University, Thesis: The New Black Woman: Neoliberalism, Neo-Racism, and a New Controlling Image of Black Women.
- 2009 Outstanding African American Student, Multicultural Student Services Center, George Washington University.
- 2009 Columbian College of Arts and Science Alumni Association Prize, GW Alumni Association.
- 2007 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award, George Washington University.

Select Conference Panels Organized

- 2018 “Teaching Popular Culture in the Age of the Think Piece,” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA.
- 2017 “In the Trenches, On the Street”: Theory, Activism, and Justice, , National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meetings, Baltimore, MD.
- 2016 De/Colonizing Sex on Screen, National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meetings, Montréal, Canada
- 2014 Take it to the Web: Feminist/Queer Ethnographies of Digital Transgressions, National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meetings, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2014 Queer Approaches to Hip-hop, Lavender Languages and Linguistics 21, Washington, D.C.

Selected Conference Presentations

- 2018 Guiding Questions for Teaching Popular Culture: In the Age of the “Think-Piece.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 Real Sex for Real: Producing and Screening Sex in Black Lesbian Web-Series. National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meetings, Montréal, CA.
- 2016 Feeling at Home: Black Queer Women’s Narratives and Geographies of Intimacy. Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference 23, Washington, D.C.
- 2015 “Where are all the black lesbians?”: The Queer Ecology of Black Queer Women’s Scene Space in D.C. Public Anthropology Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 2014 Combating Black Lesbian Exclusion in the Web: The Case of Two Black Lesbian Web-series. National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meetings, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2014 The (Un)spoken and (In)visible: Black Queer Women in Washington, D.C. American Ethnological Society Annual Conference, Boston, MA.
- 2014 Ratchet: Class, Distinction, and Black Queer Women’s Scene Space. Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference 21, Washington, D.C.
- 2013 “Paid on the First, Played on the Last”: The Devaluation of Black America and the Cruel Attachment to the American Dream (and Nightmare). Northeastern Anthropological Association Conference, College Park, MD.

Research Experience

- 2020-PRE **Principle Investigator, “How to Find a Black Lesbian”.** Collection of original ethnographic and oral history data among black queer women. Funded by Carnegie-Rockefeller Grant.
- 2019-PRE **Co-Principle Investigator. “Black Feminist Pedagogies of Black Popular Culture”** - Collaborative, collection of interview data with “Master Teachers” who use Black feminist pedagogies; creation and testing of Black feminist pedagogical toolkits for higher education. Co-investigator, Lydia Kelow-Bennett, University of Michigan. Funded by Mellon Mini Research Grant for Institute Gender & Sexuality.
- 2015-18 **Principle Investigator, “The Black Queer Work of Ratchet”.** Collection of original ethnographic data for project analyzing the contemporary usage of the word “ratchet” among black queer women.
- 2011-15 **Principle Investigator, “In the Life, On the Scene”.** Designed and conducted an ethnographic research project investigating the space-making and discursive practices of black queer women in Washington, D.C. Funded by AU College of Arts and Sciences.
- 2013-14 **Data Collector, Randi Korn & Associates, Arlington, VA.** Collected survey and interview data of patrons of the United States Botanical Gardens to evaluate visitors’ experiences.
- 2013 **Independent Research Consultant, Sabiyha Prince.** Conducted research about race, demography, and gentrification in Washington, D.C. and its suburbs for Dr. Prince’s book project.
- 2010 **Research Assistant, CNMR, Bethesda, MD.** Managed on-site data procurement for national study dealing with adolescence health behaviors. Organized hard copy instruments, data collection devices, and statistical data sets.
- 2008 **Data Analyst, Center for Naval Analysis, Arlington, VA.** Provided data entry for a national survey of military service members and their families. Performed quality assurance checks on statistical data. Maintained participant database.
- 2008 **Research Consultant, Rape Crisis Center Trust, Cape Town South Africa.** Produced an in-depth literature review regarding the treatment of South African women within the legal system for the Trust’s “Court Watch” advocacy annual report.
- 2008 **Researcher, University of Cape Town, African Gender Institute, Cape Town, South Africa.** Conducted independent qualitative research about how race and gender shaped rape advocacy in South Africa.

Teaching Experience

Spelman College, Comparative Women's Studies

- Spring 2022** Black Women's Memoir
Introduction to Comparative Women's Studies (2 sections)
- Fall 2021** Black Queer Studies
Introduction to Comparative Women's Studies (2 sections)
- Spring 2021** Black Queer Studies
Introduction to Comparative Women's Studies (2 sections)
- Fall 2020** Black Queer Studies
Introduction to Comparative Women's Studies (2 sections)

American University, Washington, DC

Critical Race, Gender & Cultural Studies Collaborative

- Spring 2020** I Love the 90s
Women's Voices Thru Time (2 sections)
- Fall 2019** Intro to Black Queer Studies
Gender, Politics, and Power (2 sections)
- Spring 2019** Women's Voices Thru Time (2 sections)
Beyoncé: Race, Gender, and Sex
- Fall 2018** Black Popular Culture in D.C.
Gender, Politics, and Power (2 sections)
- Spring 2018** Kendrick: Black Men & Hip-Hop
#BlackLivesMatter & Beyond
- Spring 2017** Beyoncé: Race, Gender, and Sex
Black Popular Culture in D.C.
- Fall 2014** Black Popular Culture in D.C.

Department of Anthropology

- Spring 2016** Discourse, Text, and Voice
- Fall 2013** Language and Human Experience

George Washington University, Washington, DC

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

- Spring 2018** Introduction to Black Queer Studies

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Department of Anthropology

- Win 2020** Sexuality and Culture (3-Week, Online)
- Sum 2020** Sexuality and Culture (6-Week, Online)
- Win 2019** Sexuality and Culture (3-Week, Online)
- Sum 2018** Sexuality and Culture (6-Week, Online)
- Win 2018** Sexuality and Culture (3-Week, Online)
- Sum 2017** Sexuality and Culture (6-Week, Online)
- Win 2017** Sexuality and Culture (3-Week, Online)
- Fall 2016** Sexuality and Culture
- Sum 2016** Sexuality and Culture (6-Week, Online)
- Win 2016** Sexuality and Culture (3-Week, Online)
- Fall 2015** Sexuality and Culture

Teaching Assistantships 2009-2013

- Roots of Racism
- Critical Whiteness in the U.S.
- Language and Culture
- Sex, Gender, and Culture
- Living in a Multicultural Society
- Women in the African Diaspora

Select Invited Talks

- 2020 Being an Ally in the Age of #BlackLivesMatter: Demystifying Allyship in the Struggle Against Anti-Blackness. Diageo, New York City.
- 2019 Throwing Shade on Pride: A Brief History of DC's Black Pride, Keynote Address, De-Centering Stonewall. Hosted by Mid-South LGBTQ+ Archive, University of Memphis.
- 2018 Beyond #Woke: A Practical Guide for Conscious Culture Consumption. Delta Phi Epsilon American University, Washington, DC
- 2017 Putting Stories to Work in Sexual Health and Social Justice: Pro Tips from an Ethnographer. Closing Plenary, Annual Meeting, National Coalition of STD Directors, Arlington, VA.
- 2017 "Art and Ideas: Black Women Queering the Mic" Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, FL
- 2017 "Beyoncé and Black Feminist Thought" Whitman College, Women's Studies Program, Walla Walla, WA.
- 2016 "Hey Girl, You Back From Vacation?": Belonging, Being, and Living in *Tangerine*. University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg School for Communications. Discourses in Action Conference.

Service

Manuscript Reviewer

- 2020 Journal of Language and Sexuality
- 2019 Women, Gender & Families of Color
- 2018 Feminist Studies
- 2016 Radical Pedagogy

Service to the Profession

- 2018-PRE Faculty, Lavendar Languages Institute, Florida Atlantic University
- 2017-PRE Program Committee, Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference
- 2014 Hosting Committee, American Anthropological Association Annual Conference
- 2013 Program Committee, Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference

Department and Campus Service

- 2021-PRE Spelman College representative to the Library Advisory Council, AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library
- 2021-PRE Faculty Advisor, Afreketete Student Organization
- 2020-PRE Faculty Mentor, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
- 2019 Teaching Resource and Research Center, Staff Search Committee
- 2019 Faculty Search Committee, Comparative Women's Studies
- 2018-20 Mentor, College of Arts and Sciences
- 2018- Center for Diversity and Inclusion Intergroup Dialogue Faculty Mentor
- 2011-13 Planning Committee, Public Anthropology Conference
- 2009-12 Rainbow Speakers Bureau, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, American University.

Relevant Community Service

- 2010-13 Instructor, Cultural Studies Seminar. Upward Bound, George Washington University Medical Center

Select Relevant Professional Experience

2016-PRE Independent Consultant for issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion serving small businesses, cooperations, and non-profit organizations.

- Entrepreneurial strategist, and solutions-oriented industry expert with demonstrated success repositioning organizations for on-going improvement and cultural competency. Thinker and change leader who challenges status quo, cultivates and drives innovation, and engages and inspires team members to increase social and cultural awareness. Researcher specializing in practical application of theory. Expert communicator with an ability to cultivate strategic alliances, and leverage relationships to expand and maintain competitive advantage in a world of increasingly diverse workforces.

2015-17 Event Coordinator and Advanced Learning Technologies Consultant • Center for Teaching, Research, and Learning, American University

- With a high-apptitude for customer service—I used my knowledge of advanced pedagogies and instructional design to consult faculty on how to use cutting edge educational technology to meet their research and teaching goals.
- Authored and led high-impact professional development trainings and seminars about the latest trends in emergeing educational technology.

2009-12 Program Coordinator • Multicultural Student Services Center, George Washington University

- Planned and implemented comprehensive programming, relying on internal and external partnerships, to provide strategic student support to enhance retention outcomes.
- Designed and facilitated a monthly professional development series for students of color as a proactive retention measure.
- Earned the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the George Washington University for my work in coalition building for student retention efforts.
- Project managed a year-long process for producing a cultural heritage celebration month which resulted in a five-fold increase of student capacity and greater attendee satisfaction.
- Responsible for developing and coordinating an effective coalition of over 30 student, faculty, and staff stakeholders for a period of 3 years.
- Managed budgets in excess of \$40,000 ensuring on-time and on-budget deliverables for student-related retention efforts.