

Dr. AK Wright

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Education

University of Minnesota Twin Cities Minneapolis, Minnesota

Doctor of Philosophy, Feminist Studies, June 2022

Minor in the Study of Africa & the African Diaspora

Dissertation: *The Body is Where Freedom Begins: Black Feminist Embodiments of Carceral Abolition*

Committee Members: Dr. Zenzele Isoke, Dr. Terrion Williamson, Dr. Juliana Hu Pegues, Dr. Catherine Squires

University of Minnesota Twin Cities Minneapolis, Minnesota

Master of Arts in Feminist Studies, April 2020

Bates College Lewiston, Maine

Bachelor of Arts in Women and Gender Studies, May 2017

Senior Thesis: *Policing the (Loo)wd: A Thesis on House Bill Two of North Carolina and Racial Advocacy Groups*

Publications

Wright, AK. "We Heal To Rebuild: Healing Justice and Resistance in Minneapolis." *American Studies*, Special Issue: Unsettling Global Midwests, eds. Bianet Castellanos, Tom Sarmiento, Jessica Lopez Lyman, and Chris Perreira, 2023. (Expected 2024)

Wright, AK. "Resurrection at the Fractured Locus: Incarcerated Black Trans Embodiment and Decolonial Abolition Praxis." *Spirituality and Abolition*, eds. Ashon Crawley and Roberto Sirvent. *Abolition: A Journal of Insurgent Politics*. Brooklyn, NY: Common Notions, 2023.

Wright, AK. "Embodied Digital Ecologies: A Healing Justice Analysis of *How to Survive the End of the World*." *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking* 9, no. 3 (2022): 173-180. muse.jhu.edu/article/885058.

Wright, AK. "The Carceral Apocalypse: Intimacy, Community, and Embodied Abolition in Autumn Brown and Adrienne Maree Brown's *How to Survive the End of the World*." *Review of Communication* 22, no. 2 (April 3, 2022): 93–109. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15358593.2022.2063698>.

Awards and Honors

Black Feminist Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, Recipient, Northeastern University, 2022-2024 (\$65,000)

Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies' Award for Pedagogy and Teaching Excellence in Feminist Studies, 2021

Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Recipient, 2021-2022 (\$28,000)

Diversity Predoctoral Teaching Fellowship, University of Minnesota, Duluth, Recipient 2021-2022 (\$25,000) (Declined)

The Leadership in Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (LEID) Fellowship, Recipient, 2020-2021(\$33,000)

University of Minnesota-Social Science Research Council Interdisciplinary Dissertation Proposal Development Program, 2019 (\$3,000)

Race, Indigeneity, Gender and Sexuality Studies Dissertation Proposal Fellowship, 2019 (\$1,000)
University of California: Los Angeles, Center for the Study of Women Travel Grant, 2019 (\$1,000)
Community of Scholars Program Travel and Research Grant, 2019 (\$1,000)
Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Graduate Research Partnership Program, 2018 (\$4,000)
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention, 2018
Benjamin E Mays Award, Bates College, 2017
Fulbright Grant Semi-Finalist, Denmark, 2017
Dean's List, Bates College, 2014-2017
Creating Connections Consortium Fellowship, 2016 (\$5,000)

Teaching Experience

Postdoctoral Fellow, Spring 2023-Spring 2024

Northeastern University, Africana Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies
AFRS 2325/WMNS 2325: Black Feminist Studies, Spring 2023 and Fall 2023
AFCS 3210: Black Abolition Studies, Spring 2024

Adjunct Professor, Spring 2022

Minneapolis College, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
WGSS 2213 Engaging Justice: Women's and LGBTQ Social Movements

Graduate Instructor, Summer 2020

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies
GWSS 3306 Pop Culture Women: Dirty Feminism: Afrofuturism and Black Feminist Thought in
Janelle Monáe's *Dirty Computer*

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Fall 2017- Fall 2019

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies GWSS 3012 Feminist
Thought and Theory, Fall 2019 (Discussion Section Leader) and Fall 2017
GWSS 3306 Pop Culture Women, Fall 2019
GWSS 1002 Politics of Sex, Spring 2019 (Discussion Section Leader)
GWSS 1006 Sex, Skin and Genes, Fall 2018 (Discussion Section Leader)
GWSS 3002 Race, Class and Gender, Spring 2018

Conference Presentations

Roundtable: "Community Knowledges and Solidarity Work as Public Scholarship and Collective
Healing: A Roundtable Discussion", American Studies Association, Montreal, November 2023

Paper Presentation: "Hauntingly Healing: The Abolitionist Possibilities of Maryse Condé's *I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem*", College Language Association Convention, Atlanta, April 2023

Roundtable: "Embodiment as Strategy: Reclaiming Our Work for Transformation", National Women's
Studies Association Conference, Minneapolis, November 2022

Roundtable: "Teaching in Abolitionist Ways: Infusing Abolitionist Praxis Into Pedagogical Practice",
National Women's Studies Association Conference, Minneapolis, November 2022

Paper Presentation: "'Dirty Futures and Queered Freedom Dreams: Digital Race Memory in Janelle
Monáe's *Dirty Computer*", BlackCrit Research Conference, New York City, August 2022

Paper Presentation, Panel: “Deconstructing Feminist Theorizing: Manifestations of Black, Brown and Indigenous Feminisms Across Moving Borders”, National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Online, November 2021

Roundtable: “Within and Beyond Borders: Decolonial & Abolitionist Approaches to the ‘Transnational’”, National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Online, October 2021

Paper Presentation, Ethnic Studies, “Embodied Digital Ecologies: A Podcast Ethnographic Study of adrienne maree brown and Autumn Brown’s How to Survive the End of the World”, Ford Foundation Fellows Conference, Online, October 2021

Paper Presentation, Panel: Black Intellectualism and Decolonialization, “Spiritual Warfare: Soul Lessons and Songs of Freedom for Abolition”, Advancing Black Intellectualism: Commemorating 100 Years of Black Women with PhDs, Common Ground Consortium at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Online, May 2021

Paper Presentation, Panel: “Ashley’s Seeds: The Ginfication of Black Trans Embodiment and Digital Countermythologies”, University of California: Los Angeles, Center for the Study of Women’s Annual Thinking Gender Conference, Los Angeles, February 2019

Paper Presentation, Panel: “Decolonial Poltergeists: State Violences, (Re)defining the Human, and Afterliving Praxes”, National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, November 2018

Roundtable: “Speaking into Existence a New World: A Critical Conversation on Black Radical Thought and Carceral Abolition Praxis”, University of Carolina Asheville, Queer Studies Conference, Asheville, April 2018

Paper Presentation, “Bathroom policing: A Future Thesis on Moral Panic and Transgender Discrimination”, University of Michigan Summer Research Opportunity Program Symposium, Ann Arbor, August 2016

Invited Presentations

Guest Speaker: “Freedom & Solidarity: Black Queer and Trans Feminism”, Sisters in Solidarity, Northeastern University, Boston, November 2023

Public Lecture: “Holding Space to Heal: Black Queer and Trans Practices for a New World”, Africana Studies Program, Northeastern University, Boston, October 2023

Discussant: “Book Friday featuring *White Reconstruction: Domestic Warfare and the Logics of Genocide*”, Caribbean Philosophical Association, Online, March 2023

Guest Speaker: “Beauty, Desire and Power: a Guided Community Conversation”, Sisters in Solidarity, Northeastern University, Boston, March 2023

Panelist: bell hooks symposium, Africana Studies Program, Northeastern University, Boston, February 2023

Workshop Facilitation: “Holding Space for Healing Justice Pedagogy”, Gender and Sexuality Studies Faculty Development, Bates College, Lewiston, November 2022

Guest Speaker Public Presentation: “Black Queer and Trans Care Practices For a New World: Black Feminist Practices of Embodied Abolition”, Bates College, Lewiston, November 2022

Panelist: “Healing and Resistance: Rest as Rebellion, Care as Liberation”, The Second Biennial Black Midwest Symposium, The Black Midwest Initiative, Detroit, October 2022

Moderator, Teach-In: “Envisioning New Futures: Protest, Politics, and Public Safety beyond Policing”, University of Minnesota, Interdisciplinary Collaborative Workshop, May 2021

Guest Lecturer: “Black Queer Feminism and Its Legacies”, INDS 301, Race and US Women's Movements, Bates College, Lewiston, March 2021

Guest Lecturer: Black Trans Studies, First Year Seminar 177: Sex and Sexualities, Bates College, Lewiston, September 2020

Panelist: “Abolition, Police and Prisons: Issues in Queer & Trans Communities”, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, September 2020

Guest Lecturer: Prison Abolition, GWSS 1006 Politics of Sex, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, April 2019

Panelist: “Critical Black Feminisms Within and Beyond the Classroom”, University of Minnesota, African American and African Studies Black Studies and Protest at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, April 2019

Guest Speaker Public Presentation: “Prisons Will not Save Us: Incarcerated Black Trans Folks and Decolonial Abolition Praxis”, Bates College, Lewiston, MLK Day Observance, January 2019

Paper Presentation: “Resurrection at the Fractured Locus: Incarcerated Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People of Color and Decolonial Abolition Praxis”, University of Minnesota, Stephen J. Schochet Endowment Graduate Queer and Trans Colloquium Series, April 2018

Research Experience

Minnesota Transform Research Assistant, Minneapolis Minnesota, Spring 2021-Fall 2021

Social Science Research Council Interdisciplinary Dissertation Proposal Development Program, Minneapolis Minnesota, Summer 2019

Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Graduate Research Partnership Program, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Summer 2018

Summer Research Opportunity Program, Ann Arbor, Michigan Summer 2016

Selected Professional Experience and Service

Faculty Affiliate, LGBTQA Resource Center, Northeastern University, AY 2023-2024

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota, History Department, Summer 2020

Graduate Research Assistant University of Minnesota, Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies Spring 2019

Writing Tutor Bates College, Winter and Spring 2017

Library Public Service Specialist Bates College, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Bates College, Fall 2016

Diversity Outreach Coordinator Bates College, Fall 2015-Fall 2016

GLBT Minor Committee, University of Minnesota

Black Graduate Students Association, University of Minnesota

Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Writing Group, University of Minnesota

Abolition Feminist Reading Group, University of Minnesota

References

Dr. Terrion Williamson

Associate Professor, The University of Illinois Chicago
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Dr. Juliana Hu Pegues

Associate Professor, Cornell University
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