



BRIONA SIMONE JONES

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, Michigan State University, 2021

Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, Michigan State University, 2021

M.A. English, Georgia Southern University, 2015

B.A. English, Kennesaw State University, 2012

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

African American Literature since 1895 & Afro-Diaspora Studies and Literature; Queer Theory; Black Feminism and Women of Color Feminisms; Decolonial Feminisms/Decolonial Thought; Gender & Sexuality Studies; Comparative Ethnic Studies; Race, Racism & the Human; Decolonial Literatures; Poetics.

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Current

University of Connecticut, Department of English
Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies

Doctoral Candidate, 2015-2021

Michigan State University, Department of English

University Distinguished Fellow, 2015-2021

Michigan State University, Department of English

Full Time Instructor, 2016-2019

Michigan State University, Department of English

MSU Inter-Group Race Dialogues Facilitator, 2017-2018

Michigan State University, Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives

PUBLICATIONS

"The Black Lesbian Body." *Cambridge UP*, forthcoming.

Mouths of Rain: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Thought. The New Press, 2021

"Black Lesbian Thought: An Interview with Briona Simone Jones." *Black Perspectives*, 2021.

"Celebrating The Power of The Black Lesbian Literary Tradition: A Conversation with Briona Simone Jones." *Black Women Radicals*, 2021.

"Poetry for Me is Queer: Interview with Alexis Pauline Gumbs." blackspaceblog.com, 2017.

ACADEMIC GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2015–2021 Michigan State University Distinguished Fellow
2018-2019 Michigan State University Summer Research Abroad Grant
2018-2019 Michigan State University Arts and Letters Scholar Research Grant
2017-2018 Michigan State University Summer Support Fellowship
2017-2018 Michigan State University Arts and Letters Scholar Research Grant
2016-2017 Michigan State University Summer Support Fellowship

PRESENTATIONS

GUEST LECTURES

“Citizen Scholars 210: Colonial Disasters and Resistance: Puerto Rico’s Present Past 1898-2018.” Michigan State University. April 2019.

“African American and African Studies 390: Land, Love, and The Uses of the Erotic.” Michigan State University. April 2018.

“English 300: Poetics and Prose: Audre Lorde.” Kennesaw State University. June 2017.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Jones, B. “Neither Care Nor Profit: Black Lesbian Poetics and the Erotics of Sovereignty.” Presenting paper at the *National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA)*, San Francisco, CA. 2019.

Jones, B. “Sovereign Erotics and Black Lesbian Poetics: A Gesture Towards Wholeness.” Presenting paper at the *American Studies Association (ASA)*, Honolulu, HI. 2019.

Jones, B. “Decolonial Approaches to Literature, Film, and Visual Arts.” Paper presented at the *North Eastern Modern Language Association (NEMLA)*, Washington, D.C. 2019.

Jones, B. “Disidentification, and *Men on Boats*.” Panelist, Michigan State University, Department of Theatre. 2018.

Jones, B. “Today is Not the Day: Pleasure, Precarity, and The Lorde.” *American Studies Association (ASA)*, Atlanta, Georgia. 2018.

Jones, B. “Cheryl Clarke and The Profundity of the Black Lesbian Body.” Paper presented at the *National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA)*, Atlanta, Georgia. 2018.

Jones, B. “Black Girl Epistemic Landscapes.” Paper presented at the *Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA)*, Dakar, Senegal. 2018.

Jones, B. “Critical Race English Education.” Panelist, Michigan State University. 2018.

Jones, B. "Mute Opposable Evidence," or The Body/Poem as Witness and Opposition: Toward a Counter-Forensic Poetics of Abolition." (Rob Halpern), Panelist, Michigan State University. 2018.

Jones, B. "Queer Conversations: Black Queer Youth, Identity, and Black Lesbian Poetics." Paper presented at *Queer Conversations*, Michigan State University. 2018.

Jones, B. "Multiplicity as Methodology: Black Lesbian Poetics and Prose." *National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)*, Baltimore, Maryland. 2017.

Jones, B. "Writing in Fire: Honoring the Life and Legacy of Michelle Cliff." Paper presented at the *Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA)*, Brooklyn, NY. 2017.

Jones, B. "The Articulation of Multiplicity: A Black Lesbian Poetics Methodology." Paper Presented at the *Southern Eastern Women's Studies Association Conference (SEWSA)*, Atlanta, Georgia, 2017.

Jones, B. "Rooted in Margins: The Survivance Writings of Black Women." Paper presented at the *Celebrating African American Literature Conference (CAAL)*, Penn State University, State College, Pennsylvania. 2016.

Jones, B. "Dimensions of the Erotic: A Textual Analysis of Audre Lorde's 'On a night of the full moon.'" Paper presented at the *Caribbean Philosophical Association Conference (CPA)*, The University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. 2016.

Jones, B. "A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde." Michigan State University Film Collective, 2016.

Jones, B. "Critical Institutions: Machines." Roundtable Participant at Michigan State University. 2016.

Jones, B. "An Exploration of Trauma, Identity Construction, and the Suppression of the Erotic in Edwidge Danticat's *Breath, Eyes, Memory*." Paper Presented at *The Ohio State University Violent Bodies Conference*, Columbus, Ohio. 2015.

Jones, B. "Immanence and Inauthenticity: The Poetics of Lorde and de Beauvoir." Paper Presented at the *Florida State History and Identity Conference*, Tallahassee, Florida. 2014.

Jones, B. "Immanence and Inauthenticity: The Poetics of Lorde and de Beauvoir." Paper presented at the Georgia Southern Research Symposium, Statesboro, Georgia. 2014.

Jones, B. "The New American Poetries in Black and White." Chaired at the American Literature Association Symposium on American Poetry. 2014

COURSES

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

WGSS 3252, *Genders and Sexualities*

Fall 2021

Examination of multifarious formations of gender and sexuality.

Designed course to address the historical and political constructions of gender and sexuality across the African Diaspora.

Centers theories of feminism to provide students with insight about historical discourses of racialized gender and sexuality, from both global and domestic perspectives.

Engage Black and Indigenous theories and praxis through archival, primary, and secondary texts.

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

WS 202, Introduction to Contemporary Feminisms and Gender Theories

Summer 2019

Designed course to address the political formation of feminism.
Centered theories concerning intersectionality, providing students with historical trajectory of interlocking oppressions, beginning in the 19th century.
Unpacked Black and Indigenous theories and praxis through archival, primary, and secondary texts.

WS 492, Advanced Seminar in Women's and Gender's Studies

Summer 2019

Led Black Feminist Theory bootcamp at the University of Amsterdam (UVA).
Introduced students to historical formations of feminism, beginning in the 19th century.
Constructed lesson plans on historical, cultural, artistic, social, and political facets of women led movements (i.e. suffrage, abolition, civil rights).

English 802, Literary Criticism and Theory: Race, Gender, and The Human

Spring 2019

Facilitated graduate seminar that centered Indigeneity and sovereignty.
Examined theory from Indigenous scholars, artists, and writers.
Addressed historical issues of racialized gender, sexuality, class, and citizenship.

English 355, Readings in Sexuality and Literature

Spring 2019

Reading intensive course that addresses historical formations of sexuality.
Interrogates racialized gender and sexuality.
Attends to social, political, and cultural discourses concerning sexuality and literature.

Women's Studies 201: Sexuality and Literature

Fall 2018

Introduced students to the field of Women's Studies through the lens of Women of Color Writers.
Addressed historical and socio-political discourses about gender, sexuality, and race.
Assessed digital media and literary texts, comparing and contrasting the evolution of the field of Women's and Gender Studies.

English 210, Foundations of Literary Studies

Summer 2018

Course constructed on the theme, "Intersectionality."
Provided historical trajectory of interlocking oppressions, beginning in the 17th century.
Writing intensive course that focuses on close reading literary texts.

English 210, Foundations of Literary Studies

2016-2018

Writing intensive course that focused on close reading literary texts.
Interrogated literary genres through the lens of Women of Color Writers.
Explicated texts, providing students a more nuanced and capacious understanding of literature, genre, form, style, and structure.

Integrative Studies 207

2015-2016

Investigated self-representation and culture found in autobiographies and self-portraits.
Questioned the cultural implications found in literature and the arts.
Considered conventions governing self-portraiture and autobiographies across cultures.

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD: GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

World Literature 2112, Graduate Assistant

2014-2015

Assigned texts that allowed students to demonstrate their familiarity with literary language, periods, and genres.

Created lesson plans where students were able to analyze literary texts in their cultural contexts.

Facilitated instruction where students were able to differentiate features of literatures produced by various world cultures.

World Literature 2112, Graduate Assistant

Spring 2014

Kept record of all student assignments, grades, exams, and paper submissions

Constructed lesson plans that covered Contemporary World Literature

Conducted lessons that discuss the relationship between literature and the Modernist and Contemporary Era.

OUTREACH AND FACILITATION

Graduate Assistant for *Women of Color Initiatives*

2018-2020

Coordinated speaker series for Women of Color Scholars, Activists, and Artists.

Facilitated workshops, panels, and events for visiting Scholars and Artists-in-Residence.

Responsible for logistics, event construction, and public relations.

Research Workshop Facilitator for Race, Pedagogy, and Literature

2017-2019

Facilitated speaker series, panels, and content that center race, pedagogy, and literature.

Created content that addresses interlocking oppressions (race, gender, sexuality, class).

Responsible for funding and building relationships across campus with various departments and colleges.

Race Dialogue Facilitator for *MSU Intergroup Dialogues*

2017-2018

Constructed content for special topic, “intersectionality.”

Organized weekly meetings with student attendees and led discussions that centered race, gender, and sexuality.

Facilitated dialogues with co-facilitator that addressed historical and contemporary discourses about race and the efficacy of dialogical engagement.

SERVICE**2018-2021**

Editor, The Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate

2017-2019

Facilitator, Race, Pedagogy, and Literature Research Workshop. MSU Department of English

2016-2017

Search Committee Member. African Americanist Hire, MSU Department of English

2014-2015

Graduate Student Representative. MSU Department of English

MEDIA/DIGITAL CONTRIBUTIONS

2021

Interview with the Stonewall Museum about *Mouths of Rain: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Thought*.

<https://www.artscalendar.com/event/join-the-stonewall-museum-for-a-zoom-conversation-with-author-and-editor-briona-simone-jones/>

2019

MSU English Grad Program: MSU Department of English Graduate Education:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIaXtwdCvuw>

2018

MSU English Grad Program Podcast: "MUSE Scholars Program" <https://soundcloud.com/msugradenglish/muse-scholars-program-1>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association

Modern Languages Association

National Women's Studies Association

Caribbean Philosophical Association

REFERENCES

Yomaira C. Figueroa
Assistant Professor
Department of English
African American & African Studies
yomairaf@msu.edu

Kristie Dotson
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Department of Philosophy
African American & African Studies
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Divya Victor
Assistant Professor
Department of English
Michigan State University
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Cara Cilano
Associate Dean
Professor
College of Arts and Letters
Michigan State University
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Griselda Thomas
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African American & Diaspora Studies
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Ellen McCallum
Professor
Department of English
Michigan State University
emc@msu.edu