

Jessica Kenyatta Walker

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Education

Ph.D. Department of American Studies The University of Maryland, College Park	August 2016
Women's Studies Graduate Certificate The University of Maryland, College Park	August 2016
B.A., Anthropology and Gender and Women's Studies Bowdoin College	May 2009
General Course in Social Anthropology London School of Economics and Political Science	October 2007-June 2008

Appointments

The University of Michigan. Assistant Professor, Department of American Culture and Department of Afro American and African Studies. 2020-

The University of Michigan. The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Collegiate Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of American Culture. 2018-2020.

The University of California Berkeley. Lecturer, American Studies Program. 2017-2018

The University of California Davis. Lecturer, American Studies and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. Spring 2017.

The University of Maryland. Lecturer, American Studies. Fall 2017.

Kenyon College. Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation/Teaching Fellow, Visiting Instructor, American Studies and Gender and Women's Studies. 2016-17

Fellowships

Lecturer Teaching Fellow, Center for Learning and Teaching, The University of California, Berkeley, 2017-2018

Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation/Teaching Fellow, Programs in Women's and Gender Studies, American Studies, and African Diaspora Studies, Kenyon College, 2015-2016

Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Honorable Mention, 2015-2016

University of Maryland, College Park Department of American Studies Teaching Fellowship, 2010-2015

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Bowdoin College, 2007-2009

Boston College's African & African Diaspora Studies Program Dissertation Fellowship, 2015-2016 (declined)

Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Dissertation Grant 2015-2016 (declined)

New York University Food Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship. 2018 (declined)

Career Enhancement Adjunct Faculty Fellowship. Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation 2018 (declined)

Grants and Awards

2017 Best Edited Volume, Association for The Study of Food and Society, contributor to Dethroning the Deceitful Pork chop: African-American Foodways from Slavery to Obama. Ed. Jennifer Wallach and Lindsey Swindall. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2015.

American Library Association Choice Outstanding Academic Title, contributor to Dethroning the Deceitful Pork chop: African-American Foodways from Slavery to Obama. Ed. Jennifer Wallach and Lindsey Swindall. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2015.

University of Maryland Center for Teaching Excellence Graduate Student Teaching Award, 2014

Department of American Studies Graduate Student Merit Award, University of Maryland, College Park, 2013

Future of Information Alliance Deutsch Seed Grant, University of Maryland, College Park, 2013

University of Maryland, College Park College of Arts and Humanities Travel Grant, 2011-2012

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship/Social Science Research Council Graduate School Enhancement Grant 2012

Most Valuable Professor Award, Academic Support and Career Development, Athletics Department, University of Maryland, College, Park 2016

Publications

Articles

Co-author with Kimberly Nettles-Barcelón, Gillian Clark, Courtney Thorsson, and Psyche Williams-Forsen. "Black Women's Food Work as Critical Space." *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies*, 15, no. 4 (2016): 34-49.

Book Chapters

"Nervous Kitchens: Consuming Sentimentality Narratives and Black/White Intimacy at a Chicago Hot Dog Stand." *Devouring Cultures: Perspectives on Food, Power, and Identity from the Zombie Apocalypse to Downton Abbey*. Ed. Came M. Sublette and Jennifer Martin. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2016.

"Mighty Matriarchs Kill it with a Skillet: Critically Reading Representations of Black Womanhood and Food." *Dethroning the Deceitful Pork chop: African-American Foodways from Slavery to Obama*. Ed. Jennifer Wallach and Lindsey Swindall. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2015.

Magazines, Book Reviews, Encyclopedia Entries

"Black Kitchen Culture," *MacGuffin No 4: The Sink*, April 2017, 103.

Co-Author with Psyche Williams-Forsen. "Food and Race" *Routledge International Handbook of Food Studies*. Ed. Ken Albala. London: Routledge, 2012.

Book Review: *The Suffering Will Not Be Televised* by Rebecca Wanzo. *PowerLines: The Online Journal for The Department of American Studies at The University of Maryland* 1, no. 1 (2014). <http://amst.umd.edu/powerlines/>

Co-author with Cristina Jo. Perez. "Women of Color and The Politics of Self-Care in the Academy." *PowerLines: The Online Journal for The Department of American Studies at The University of Maryland*. 3, no. 1 (2015). <http://amst.umd.edu/powerlines/volume3-issue-1/digital-roundtable/cristina-jo-perez-jessica-walker-provocateurs/>

Invited Talks

"Teaching Race and Digital Food Literacy." *Showcase of Teaching Innovation and Reinvention*. The Center for Learning and Teaching, The University of California, Berkeley.

"The Invention of Soul Food: Politics of Cuisine in the Soul Aesthetic." *The Invention of Food*. Institute for Historical Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. Austin, Texas. April 27-28, 2017.

Moderator. *Divergent Perspectives: Foodways*. School of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies Festival of Subversive Artists and Minds. The University of Maryland, College Park. Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. March 2015.

Panelist. Who Am I? Race, Identity, and Material Culture in Cherokee. Woolly Mammoth Post-play discussion of Cherokee by Lisa D'Amour. February 22, 2015.

"Soul Food Kitchens: African-American Foodways and the Environment." Northeast Regional Mellon Conference "This Land is Our Land: Sustainability, Social Justice, Survival." Wesleyan University. November 2014.

Panelist. Fast Food, Slow Food and Food Justice: Global Policies Creating Global Hunger. Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The University of Maryland, College Park. April 2014.

"Creole to Soul: The Journey of African-American Cooking Traditions." Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African-American History and Culture, Generation Series Lecture. Baltimore, Maryland. August 2012.

"Post-Racial and The Academy: Lessons Learned in Graduate School." Keynote response for the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Northeast Regional Conference. Brunswick, Maine. October 2011.

Conference Presentations

"Her Kitchen is The World: Vertamae Grosvenor's Black Kitchen Politics." Black Geographies Symposium. The University of California Berkeley. Berkeley, California. October 2017.

"Soul Food, Domesticity, and Excess in The Beulah Show." American Studies Association Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado. November 2016.

"A Culinary Killjoy in The Soul Food Imaginary." National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. November 2015.

"Accept, Articulate, Mis (use): What's Afro-pessimism Without Misery." Roundtable participant, chair. Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association. Toronto, Canada. October 2015.

"Please Whitewash your Cornbread, Mrs. Browne: Negro Home Demonstration Work, Citizenship, and Soul Food." Chesapeake Area Food Studies Working Group. December 2014.

"Three Scenes of Afro-Pessimistic Eating." Afro-Pessimism Graduate Student Working Group Paper Session. University of Maryland, College Park. May 2014

"The Good, The Bad, The Unforgivable: Black Women's Food Work as Creative Spaces of Dissent and Strategic Acquiescence." Annual meeting of the American Studies Association. Washington, DC. November 2013.

"The Main Ingredient is Love:" Difference, Dives, and the Imaginary at Oohh's and Aahh's Soul Food Restaurant in Washington, DC." Cultural Landscapes Working Group at The University of Maryland, College Park. March 2013.

"Mighty Matriarchs Kill it with a Skillet": Reading Popular Representations of Black Women and Food." National Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. Washington, DC. March 2013.

"Kitchen, Spaces, and Everyday Soul: Black Women's Conceptions of Space and Identity in the Kitchen." Chesapeake American Studies Association Regional Conference. College Park, Maryland. April 2013.

"Catfish, Crystal Light, and Couscous: Or My Journey Through Food, Black Womanhood and Identity" Department of American Studies Mini-Research Showcase. February 2013.

"Look How Sweetie Pie Throws Down! Finding a Critical Language for Reading Popular Representations of Black Women and Food." Midwest Popular Culture Association and Midwest American Culture Association. Columbus, Ohio. October 2012.

"Nervous Kitchens: Racialized Sexualities in a Fast Food Service Space." Global Gateways and Local Connections: Cities, Agriculture, and the Future of Food Systems. New York, New York. June 2012

"The Soul of Soul Food: Toward a Dis-identified Soul Food Politic." Food Networks: Gender and Foodways, Notre Dame, Indiana. January 2012.

Teaching Experience

University of California, Berkeley

Lecturer, Program in American Studies

Amerstd 191 Senior Thesis Seminar, Fall and Spring 2017-2018

Amerstd 101: Race, Class and Nutrition in The Progressive Era, Spring 2018.

University of California, Davis

Lecturer, Department of American Studies

AMS140 The Lives of Men in America, Spring 2017.

Lecturer, Department Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

WMS180 Women of Color Writing in The United States, Spring 2017.

University of Maryland, College Park

Lecturer, Department of American Studies

Amst429T Perspectives in Popular Culture; Race in Popular Music, Fall 2016.

Amst450 Seminar in American Studies, Fall 2016.

Graduate Instructor, Department of American Studies
Amst205 Material Aspects of American Life, Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Winter 2012,
Winter 2013, Fall 2013, Summer 2014, Winter 2015.
Amst289A: Shifting Sands: Constructing Cultural Margins and Mainstreams in The
U.S., Spring 2013.

Process Tutor
Academic Support and Career Development Unit
University of Maryland Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. Fall 2011-Spring
2011.

Kenyon College

Visiting Instructor, Program in Women's and Gender Studies, American Studies, and
African Diaspora Studies
WGS291 Gender and Domesticity in the United States, Fall 2105
Amst291Special Topics African American Material Culture, Spring 2016

Bowdoin College

Lead Faculty Instructor
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Summer Research Program, June –July
2016.

Co-Instructor/Senior Program Assistant
Interrogating The Academy, Summer 2012.
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Summer Research Program.

Writing Group Facilitator/ Summer Research Assistant
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Summer Research Program, June –July
2009.

Guest Lectures

“The Racialization of Food”
Charlotte Biltekoff, The University of California Davis
American Studies: Eating in America

“People, Power, and Place: Why We Study Food”
Jennie Chaplin, The University of Maryland, College Park
American Studies: “Cultural Difference of Everyday” Life Spring 2014, Fall 2015

“How Does Food Become American Food?”
Izetta Mobley, The University of Maryland, College Park
American Studies: “Cultural Difference of Everyday Life” Fall 2014

Co-Instructor. Food Insecurity Simulation.
Psyche Williams-Forson, The University of Maryland, College Park
American Studies: 418G: Food, Trauma, and Sustainability. Spring 2014.

“From Creole to Soul: Migration and Foodways in America”
Dr. Michelle Lamprakos, The University of Maryland, College Park
HISP “The Everyday and The American Environment.” Fall 2012.

“Food, Culture, and The African Diaspora”
Dr. Sheila Wise of the University of District of Columbia
Anthropology 101. February 2012.

“Materialism, Consumption, and Black Friday”
Darius Bost, The University of Maryland, College Park. Amst101. Fall 2012.

Research Experience

Research Consultant for American Suburbia: The Artifacts Museum.
Woolly Mammoth Theater’s production of Detroit.
Summer 2013.

Oral Historian
The Post-War African-American Kitchen. Sandy Spring Museum.
Silver Spring, Maryland.
Fall 2015.

Sound/Narrative Editor
Approach: a mobile storytelling application
Deutsch Foundation Fellow for the Future of Information Alliance
Spring 2013.

Research Assistant
The University of Maryland and The Smithsonian Institution
Excavation, Accumulation, and Preservation in the African Landscape: An
Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Symposium of Working Papers
Spring 2012.

Research Fellow
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Summer Research Training Program
The University of Chicago. Summer 2008.
Bowdoin College. Summer 2006.

Professional Activities

Mentor

Bowdoin Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program
Fall 2015-Spring 2016

Participant

University of Maryland, College Park Department of Women's Studies Summer Technology Institute, Summer 2014.

Peer Reviewer

Food and Foodways. Fall 2014.

African Literatures. Fall 2017.

Editorial Board Member

Powerlines: The Online Journal for The Department of American Studies at University of Maryland, College Park. 2013-2015.

Session Organizer

Chesapeake American Studies Association annual conference.
April 2013.

American Studies Graduate Student Representative

ARHU Graduate Student Advisory Committee
Jan 2011-May 2011.

Career Exploration Coordinator

Hard Hatted Women
Cleveland, Ohio.

September 2009- July 2010.

Membership in Professional Organizations

American Studies Association

National Women's Studies Association

Association for The Study of Food and Society