

CASARAE LAVADA ABDUL-GHANI

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2021-present Assistant Professor, English, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
- 2015-2021 Assistant Professor, African American Studies, Syracuse University,
Syracuse, NY
- 2016-2021 Affiliated Faculty, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Syracuse University,
Syracuse, NY
- 2021 Undergraduate Studies Director, African American Studies, Syracuse University,
Syracuse, NY
- 2010-2013 Scholar-in-Residence, Purdue University-Black Cultural Center, West Lafayette,
IN
- 2010-2011 Adjunct Professor, English, Ivy Tech Community College, Lafayette, IN

EDUCATION

- 2015 Ph.D. | English | Purdue University | West Lafayette, IN
Dissertation: “There’s A Riot Going On! Race and Rebellion in African American Culture”
Committee: Venetria K. Patton, Bill V. Mullen, Marlo D. David, Aparajita Sagar
- 2009 M.A. | English | Purdue University | West Lafayette, IN
Thesis: Race and Trauma as Urban Narrative in Henry Dumas’s “Harlem” and Riot or Revolt?” John Edgar Wideman’s *Philadelphia Fire*, Anna Deavere Smith’s *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*
Advisor: Venetria K. Patton

2007 B.A. | English | Johnson C. Smith University | Charlotte, NC
Magna Cum Laude | Honors College

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

The Black Arts Movement (1965-1975), civil unrest and riot iconography read in African American Literature (1940-1975), social justice and activism in 20th century American Literature, Africana Studies: Pre-colonial Africa to the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements, African American Literature: its beginnings to the Black Arts Movement (1746-1975), Black Digital Humanities, and Black Women Writers.

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph:

Start A Riot! Civil Unrest in Black Arts Movement Drama, Fiction, and Poetry. UP of Mississippi, 2022, pp.1-175. <https://www.upress.state.ms.us/Books/S/Start-a-Riot>

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

Gibson, Casarae L. “Black Lives Matter in Henry Dumas’s ‘Riot or Revolt?’: The Past is Prologue” *Modern Language Studies*, vol. 48, no. 2, 2019, pp. 38-54, word count: 8,000 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45387694>

Gibson, Casarae L. “Social Media in Teaching African American Literature and Protest.” *The Midwest Quarterly: A Journal of Contemporary Thought*, vol. 59, no.4, 2018, pp. 386-409, word count: 6,500 [URL: Click Here](#)

Gibson, Casarae L. “‘Fight the Power’: Hip Hop and Civil Unrest in Spike Lee’s *Do the Right Thing.*” *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, vol. 8, no. 2, 2017, pp. 183-207, word count: 8,500 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/blackcamera.8.2.11>

Gibson, Casarae L., and Venetria K. Patton. "Teaching Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight* through a Critical Race Theory Lens." *National Journal of Urban Education and Practice*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2012, 69-83, word count: 7,000

Edited Collection:

Lewis, Thabiti, **Casarae Lavada Abdul-Ghani**, and Pavithra Narayanan, *BAM! Chicago and the Black Arts Movement*, Northwestern UP, (**under-contract**), Spring 2024

Non-Peer Reviewed Article:

Abdul-Ghani, Casarae Lavada. "Racial Uplift, the Divine Nine, and the Legacy of Norma E. Boyd." *The Ohio State University's Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective, A Digital Humanities Research Project* in collaboration with Getty Images, (**in-press**) April 2023, word count: 1,575

Book Reviews:

Cheryl Higashida. *Black Internationalist Feminism: Women Writers of the Black Left, 1955-1995*. Urbana: U of Illinois P, 2011. pp. 1-121, *Modern Fiction Studies*, 2014 (60.1)

Vanessa K. Valdés. *Diasporic Blackness: The Life and Times of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg*. New York: SUNY P, 2017. pp.41-42, *Publication of the Afro-Latin Research Association*, 2018 (22)

Tayari Jones's *Silver Sparrow: A Novel*. Lafayette, IN: *Sycamore Review*, 2011, (23.2)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Non-Peer Review Articles:

Abdul-Ghani, Casarae Lavada. "Waging Revolt in Ann Petry's *In Darkness and Confusion*."

Language of the Unheard: Riot in American Literature and Culture edited by

Susan Gilmore, Lexington Press (**under review**), word count: 9,000

Abdul-Ghani, Casarae Lavada. "The Black Female Dandy Personified: Teaching the Erotic

Lyricism of Mae V. Cowdery." *Modern Language Association Teaching Options: The*

Harlem Renaissance edited by Venetria K. Patton, Modern Language Association,

(**under review**), word count: 3,500

Edited Anthology:

David, Marlo D., and **Casarae Lavada Abdul-Ghani**, *African American Literature in*

Transition: 1970-1980, Cambridge UP, general co-editors are Joycelyn Moody and

Cassander L. Smith (**under review**)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Temple University, Summer Research Award, 2023, \$7,000

Temple University, Loretta C. Duckworth Scholars Studio Faculty Fellowship, 2023, \$1,000

(**declined**)

Temple University, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Award, Faculty Mentor, 2022, \$500

Syracuse University, Lender Center for Social Justice Faculty Fellowship, 2019-2021, \$15,000

Syracuse University, Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, 2021, \$1,200

Syracuse University, Collaboration for Unprecedented Success and Excellence Grant, 2019,
\$5,000

Purdue University, Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Most Outstanding Award, 2014, \$1,000

Purdue University, Cheryl Oreovicz Dissertation Scholarship, 2014, \$1,200

Educational Advancement Foundation, Graduate Merit Award, 2012, \$4,000

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend, 2011, \$1,200

Schomburg-Mellon Summer Research Institute Fellowship, 2006, \$1,200

AWARDS

Purdue University, Black Cultural Center's Howard G. McCall Service Award, 2015, \$1,000

Purdue University, Introductory Composition Instructor's Reflection Award, 2011

National Council for Black Studies, Essay Contest, Third Place Winner: "We Still Conscious:
Hip Hop Activism in the Twenty-First Century," 2012, \$250

INVITED LECTURES

March 20, 2023, "The Black Arts Movement," BCC Alumni Speaker Series at Purdue

University, West Lafayette, Indiana, **In-person**

February 8, 2023, “The Oral Technique of Protest in Black Arts Movement Drama, Fiction, and Poetry,” Croll Lecture at Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, **In-person**

October 18, 2023, “Reading Civil Unrest in Black Arts Movement Drama, Fiction, and Poetry,” Race, Equity, and Justice Lecture Series at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, **Virtual**

February 24, 2022, “Chicago’s Black Arts Movement: A Film Screening and Panel Discussion,” College Language Association’s Member’s Circle, Guest co-lecture with Thabiti Lewis and Pavithra Narayanan, Jackson, Mississippi, **Virtual**

February 21, 2022, Keynote Address: “Social Movements and Black Excellence,” Black Student Union SUNY-ESF, Syracuse, New York, **Virtual**

February 13, 2022, “Civil Unrest in Black Arts Movement Literature,” Philadelphia Ethical Society, Guest Lecture, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, **Virtual**

October 25, 2020, “Hashtag Activism and the Black Campus Movement,” Renee Crown Honors Program Guest Lecture, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, **Virtual**

October 7, 2020, “The Social Justice #Hashtag Project: A Digital Humanities Study,” William P. Tolley Faculty Lecture, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, **Virtual**

September 29, 2020, “Racial Unrest in Black Arts Movement Literature,” Jornada de Estudos de Literatures em Inglês, Universidade Estadual de Monte Claros—Unimontes, Monte

Claros, Brazil, **Virtual**

October 23, 2016, “The Black Arts Movement.” Arts, Literature, and Culture of the Pan-African World, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York

January 9, 2016, “Reflecting on Martin Luther King Jr.’s Legacy in this #BlackLivesMatter Moment,” Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Lecture, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

November 12, 2012, “Black Female Heroines in Action Films,” Purdue University Center for Diversity and Inclusion: Lecture Series, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

January 27, 2012, “Sula by Toni Morrison: A Book Talk,” Butler Center for Leadership Excellence and the Purdue University Black Cultural Center, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

PRESENTATIONS

March 25, 2022, “Waging Revolt in Ann Petry’s In Darkness and Confusion,” The Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature in the United States, sole presenter, New Orleans, Louisiana,

In-person Panel

March 13, 2021, “Instagram that Writer: Likeness and Wellness through the Images of Toni Cade Bambara,” Northeastern Modern Language Association, sole-presenter, Buffalo, New York, **Virtual Panel**

November 15, 2019, “The Plays of Sonia Sanchez during the Black Arts Movement: Writing Resistance, Writing Liberation,” National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, California, **Panel Organizer and Presenter**

April 12, 2019, “Civil Unrest, Lineage, and Racial Awakening in Amiri Baraka’s *The Slave*,” College Language Association, Raleigh, North Carolina, **Panel Organizer and Presenter**

January 5, 2018, “The Right to Perform Resistance: Black Protest Aesthetics in Post-Black Arts Movement Drama and Music,” Modern Language Association, New York, New York, **Presenter**

April 6, 2017, “Teaching African American Literature and Protest in the Digital Era,” College Language Association, Columbia Missouri, **Presenter**

March 26, 2017, “Black Lives Matter in Henry Dumas’s *Riot or Revolt?*” Northeastern Modern Language Association, Baltimore, Maryland, **Presenter**

January 8, 2016, “Rereading Sonia Sanchez,” Modern Language Association, Austin, Texas, **Presenter**

September 25, 2014, “The Message: A Conversation on Ferguson and its Implications,” Purdue University’s African American Studies and Research Center, West Lafayette, Indiana, **Presenter**

March 17, 2011, “Liberation is Power in *Lionheart Gal: Life Stories of Jamaican Women by Sistren*,” National Council for Black Studies, Cincinnati, Ohio, **Presenter**

November 25, 2010, “Loss and Testimony as Urban Narrative in John Edgar Wideman’s
Philadelphia Fire,” Purdue University’s African American Studies and Research Center,
West Lafayette, Indiana, **Presenter**, Respondent: Dr. Trudier Harris

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2007, 2008, 2009, Rhetoric and Composition, English, Purdue University, West Lafayette,
IN

Spring 2008, 2009, & 2010, Composing Through Literature, English, Purdue University, West
Lafayette, IN

Fall 2010, Rhetoric and Composition, English, Ivy Tech Community College, Lafayette, IN

Spring 2011, Rhetoric and Composition, English, Ivy Tech Community College, Lafayette, IN

Fall 2012, 2013, & 2014, African American Popular Culture, African American Studies,
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Spring 2013, 2014, & 2015, The Black Athlete, African American Studies, Purdue University,
West Lafayette, IN

Summer 2013, Pan-Africanism and Black Power Ideology, Ghana, West Africa Study Abroad,
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Fall 2015, 2016, & 2017, Protest Movements and African American Art and Literature,
African American Studies, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Spring 2016, 2017, 2018, & 2019, African American Literature: 20th and 21st Centuries,
African American Studies, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Fall 2016, 2017, & 2018, African American Popular Culture, African American Studies,
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Fall 2017, 2018, & 2020, Arts, Literature, and Culture of the Pan-African World,
African American Studies, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Spring 2018, Harlem Renaissance Literature and Ideology, African American Studies, Syracuse
University, Syracuse, NY

Fall 2018, First-Year Freshman Forum, College of Arts and Sciences, Syracuse University,
Syracuse, NY

Fall 2020, Introduction to African American Studies, African American Studies, Syracuse
University, Syracuse, NY

Spring 2021, Black Women Writer's, African American Studies and Women's, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Fall 2021 & 2022, Interpreting Literature, English, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Fall 2021, African American Literature I, English, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Fall 2022, Representing Race, English, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Spring 2022 & 2023, The Harlem Renaissance, English, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Spring 2023, Topics in Literature and Culture: Black Women Writers, English, Temple
University, Philadelphia, PA

TRAINING, MENTORING, AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Committees at Temple University

Bailey Snapp, Doctoral Student, Department of English (reader)

Riley Thomas, Doctoral Student, Department of English (reader)

Richard Porten, Doctoral Student, Department of English (reader)

Master Theses Supervised at Syracuse University

Nardia Lipman, “The Black Lives Matter Movement & Literary Imagination: Contesting
Anti-Blackness with/in African American Fiction,” 2022.

Tyriana Evans, “Police Brutality and Black Lives Matter Protests: Portrayal in Mainstream
Media and the Effects on Audience Perception,” 2022.

Kyla I. Murray, “The Negation of Historic Exclusivity: Rewriting and Legitimizing Blackness
through Neo-Slave Portraiture,” 2019. *Distinction*.

Huntly Brown, “A State of Violence: Jamaica Anti-Queer Posture,” 2018. *Distinction*.

Samrawit Alemayehu, “The Setawet Way: An Articulation of Ethiopian Feminism,” 2018.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Peer Reviewer: *Humanities*

Peer Reviewer: *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*

Peer Reviewer: *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies: A Journal of Criticism and Theory*

Peer Reviewer: *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*

Mentor: Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Schomburg-Mellon Summer
Research Institute, 2018 and 2019

Service: Temple University—College of Liberal Arts

Board of Visitors Dinner, Faculty Presenter, March 30, 2023

Humanities Task Force, Faculty Committee Member, 2021-2022

Artistic Activism Art Exhibition and Panel, Organizing Committee Member, 2022

Service: Syracuse University—College of Arts and Sciences

Liberal Arts Core Revising Committee, Faculty Leader, 2021

First-Year Forum, Faculty Leader, 2018

Humanities Center, Faculty Advisory Board, 2016-2017

Digital Humanities Faculty Working Group, 2017-2021

Inaugural Digital Humanities Symposium, 2018-2020 (co-organizer)

Service: Temple University—English Department

Digital Humanities Committee, 2021-present

Second Year Review Committee, 2022-present

Service: Syracuse University—African American Studies

Undergraduate Studies Director, 2021

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, 2017-2021 (alumna, speaker,

mentor at Syracuse University)

Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2015-2021

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONALLY AFFILIATIONS

Black Studies Committee, College Language Association, 2020-present

Modern Language Association

National Women's Studies Association

National Council for Black Studies

Northeastern Modern Language Association

MEDIA APPERANCES

“Civil Unrest and the Black Arts Movement.” *Left of Black*, Digital Podcast—John Hope

Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke University, March 8, 2023. Host: Dr. Mark

Anthony Neal. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_NLjcMCz6E

“Relationship Between Art and Political Movements.” *All Sides with Ann Fisher*, WOSU Radio

January 17, 2022. Host: Ann Fisher. January 17, 2022. Host: Ann Fisher

<https://news.wosu.org/show/all-sides-with-ann-fisher/2022-01-17/relationship-between-art-and-political-movements>

Featured in NY City News Service's article “A Celebration of Color” by Reem Farhat,

December 21, 2022

Featured in *USA Today's* article “George Floyd's Murder Generated Tears, Outrage, and

Commitment—and lots of Soulful Art,” May 22, 2021

“Blackface: This is How We See You.” 94.1 KPFA Radio with Prema Jackson, February 6, 2021

Featured in *Syracuse University News* article “Exploring Social Justice and Promoting Advocacy,” September 15, 2020

<https://www.syracuse.edu/stories/student-fellows-social-justice-advocacy/>

Featured in *Artnet News*'s article “How Have Artists Shaped Previous Protest Movements? 7 Historians on How the Past Can help Us Understand the Present,” June 16, 2020

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/art-and-protest-historian-response-1882494>