

Curriculum Vitae
CASARAE L. ABDUL-GHANI, PhD
Department of English

Temple University
1114 W. Polett Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19122

casarae.abdul-ghani@temple.edu
916-889-6072

EDUCATION

Certificate of Advanced Study, Syracuse University, expected May 2022

Instructional Design, Development, and Evaluation

Specialization: Designing Digital Instruction

Ph.D. English, Purdue University, May 2015

Dissertation: *“There’s A Riot Going On!” Race and Rebellion in African American Culture*

Advisor: Venetria K. Patton, PhD

M.A. English, Purdue University, December 2009

B.A. English, Johnson C. Smith University, May 2007

FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

African American literature and studies (1790-present), The Black Arts Movement, Africana Womanism, Pan-Africanism, Afrofuturism, Black Popular Culture, Hip Hop Studies, and the Africana Digital Humanities.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021-Present **Temple University-Assistant Professor**
Department of English

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

Interpreting Literature

The Harlem Renaissance

2021 **Syracuse University-Undergraduate Studies Director for the Department of African American Studies**

Administrative Duties:

Preside over undergraduate department meetings in African American Studies once a month

Participate in the College of Arts and Sciences undergraduate studies meetings once a month with fellow directors in other departments

Make recommendations for revising and improving curricula

Make recommendations for increasing selections of majors and minors

Coordinate Teaching Assistant assignments for the academic school year

2021 **Syracuse University- Paris Noir Study Abroad Program Transition Team Member**

Administrative Duties:

Make recommendations for revising and improving curricula

Select students to participate in Paris Noir Study Abroad Program

Preside over the daily operations of Paris Noir which include attracting students to the program

2015-2021 **Syracuse University-Assistant Professor
Department of African American Studies**

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

First-Year Freshman Forum: Diversity and Inclusion

Introduction to African American Studies

Protest Movements and African American Art and Literature (1790-present)

African American Literature 20th and 21st Centuries

African American Popular Culture

Harlem Renaissance: Literature and Ideology

Black Women Writers

Graduate Courses Taught:

Arts, Literature, and Culture of the Pan-African World

2016-2021 **Syracuse University-Affiliated Faculty, Department of Women's and Gender Studies**

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

Black Women Writers

2007-2015 **Purdue University-Instructor of Record-Teaching Assistant
Department of English**

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

Composing Through American Literature

Introductory Rhetoric and Composition

Introduction to African American Studies

African American Popular Culture

The Black Athlete

2013 & 2014 **Purdue University—African American Studies and Research Center Study Abroad Program**

Ghana, West Africa; Course Taught: Pan-Africanism and Black Power Ideology

I taught a four-week intensive undergraduate course that focused on the comparative studies of Pan-Africanism and Black Power Ideology found within works by African American and Ghanaian authors. Some of the authors covered ranged from W.E.B. Du Bois to Kwame Nkrumah to Ayi Kwei Armah to Lorraine Hansberry. In addition to teaching, I performed the following duties:

Corresponded with study abroad director Dr. Venetria Patton on a regular basis about my pedagogical materials including writing prompts, lectures, and lesson plans.

Participated Purdue University's study abroad orientation.

Served as chaperon to Purdue University undergraduate students in Accra, Ghana.

Led a teaching discussion for Purdue University undergraduate and graduate students in Accra regarding Pan-African ideology in Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah's leadership, and W.E.B. Du Bois' influence on Ghanaian culture and politics.

2010-2013 **Purdue University—Scholar-in-Residence of the Black Thought Collective at Purdue University's Black Cultural Center**

For three years, I served as Scholar-in-Residence for the Black Thought Collective (BTC). BTC is a group comprised of undergraduate and graduate students who discuss topics relative to the African and African American experiences in Africa, the United States, the Caribbean, and South America. I advised a dialogue-centered and service-learning group that engaged in intellectual discussion pertaining to literature and theory centered in Africana Studies. Each year, BTC held an annual Symposium at Purdue University in which members of the collective presented panel papers on a chosen topic related to the African Diaspora. We also presented and submitted proposals at national conferences. As scholar-in-residence, I performed the following duties:

Copy-edited undergraduate and graduate student paper submissions for the annual BTC symposium and for annual conferences such as the *National Council for Black Studies* and the *National Association for Black Culture Centers*.

Led research tours examining the geographical and spatial locations of African descended peoples in Loíza, Puerto Rico, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, Rio de Janerio and Bahia da Salvador, Brazil, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Coordinated an annual book reading series from leading scholars in Africana Studies. Also, secured academic experts junior and tenured Ph.D.'s and Ed. D.'s that have an interest in Africana Studies as guest speakers, selecting books that are pertinent to topics relating to the African Diaspora in conjunction with the Black Cultural Center Library.

Publicized annual BTC events through Purdue University's listserv and social media.

Coordinated participation of undergraduate, graduate students and faculty.

Coordinated participation of West Lafayette community members and teachers.

Created a Scholar-in-Residence training guide to help future scholars learn about the duties and procedures of the scholar-in-residence position.

2010-2011 **Ivy Tech Community College-Adjunct Professor**
Community College Courses Taught:
Introductory Rhetoric and Composition

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

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

Syracuse University, Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, 2020, \$1,200

Collaboration for Unprecedented Success and Excellence (CUSE) Grant Program, 2019, \$5,000

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

Purdue University Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Most Outstanding Award, 2014, \$500

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

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Education Advancement Foundation Merit Award, 2012,
\$4,000

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

National Council for Black Studies Essay Contest: 3rd Place Winner of an essay titled: "We Still
Conscious: Hip Hop Activism in the 21st Century," 2012, \$250

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Start A Riot! Racial Unrest in Black Arts Movement Drama, Fiction, and Poetry.

(University Press of Mississippi, August 2022).

BAM! Chicago and the Black Arts Movement co-edited with Thabiti Lewis and Pavithra

Narayanan (under contract, Northwestern University Press).

Peer-Reviewed Essays

Abdul-Ghani, Casarae L., "The Politics of Revolt in Ann Petry's *In Darkness and Confusion*."
"Language of the Unheard": Riot in American Literature and Culture, edited by Susan
Gilmore, Lexington Books, (under review).

Gibson, Casarae L. "Black Lives Matter in Henry Dumas' *Riot or Revolt?*" *Modern Language*

Studies, vol. 48, no. 2, 2019, pp. 38-54. Special Issue: "Riot on the American Cultural Stage."

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.

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.

Gibson, Casarae and Venetria K. Patton, Ph.D. "Teaching Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight* through a Critical Race Theory Lens." *The National Journal of Urban Education and Practice*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2012, pp. 69-83.

e-Learning Annotation

Abdul-Ghani, Casarae Lavada. "Spike Lee." *Contemporary Literary Criticism Online*. Gale Cengage (forthcoming 2022)

BOOK REVIEWS

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

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

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

DIGITAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH

"The Social Justice #Hashtag Project: A Digital Humanities Study" examines viral hashtags on social media platforms Instagram and Twitter that garner discussions about race, gender, popular culture, and diversity in the United States and Latin America. As faculty fellow with the Lender Center for Social Justice, I led a cohort of undergraduate and graduate students culminating with a research symposium that featured keynote remarks by Dr. Mark Anthony Neal. Together, our team collected using computational software "Node XL Pro" from the Social Media Research Foundation over 50,000 hashtags. In our research we seek to answer the following questions: 1) What makes social media a valuable space for racial and gender awareness? 2) What are the possible limits that make Instagram and Twitter an ineffective space of reform? 3) Utilizing Instagram and Twitter, overall, what significant aims can push the national or international conversation about racism and gender inequality, particularly as it relates to underrepresented minorities, to fit a diverse, global, and inclusive framework for all to understand? Our research was featured in the September 2020 issue of *Syracuse University Today News* titled, "[Exploring Social Consciousness and Promoting Advocacy.](#)"

For more information about "The Social Justice #Hashtag Project," visit:

<https://socialjusticehashtagprojectag.omeka.net/>

ONGOING RESEARCH**Works in Progress:**

Abdul-Ghani, Casarae L., “Reading the Past and Interpreting BIPOC’s Feminist Futures: A Return to *Lionheart Gal, Life Stories of Jamaican Women*” (preparing submission for *Meridians*).

INVITED KEYNOTE ADDRESSES AND TALKS

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

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

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

Whose Streets: Film Review and Discussion. Community Folk Art Center, Syracuse, New York, February 26, 2018. **Lead Facilitator.**

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

“Reflecting on Martin Luther King Jr.’s Legacy in this #BlackLivesMatter Moment.” **Keynote Address:** Martin Luther King Commemoration, Department of Agriculture, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, January 9, 2016.

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

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

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Instagram that Writer: Likeness and Wellness Through the Images of Toni Cade Bambara.” *Northeastern Modern Language Association*, Buffalo, New York, March 11-14, 2021. **Virtual Panel:** “Public Facing (Social) Media Literature Projects.”

“The Plays of Sonia Sanchez during the Black Arts Movement: Writing Resistance, Writing Liberation.” *National Women’s Studies Association*, San Francisco, California, November 14-17, 2019. **Panel Creator.**

“Civil Unrest, Lineage, and Racial Awakening in Amiri Baraka’s *The Slave*.” *College Language Association*, Raleigh, North Carolina, April 11-14, 2019. **Panel Creator.**

- “The Right to Perform Resistance: Black Protest Aesthetics in Post-Black Arts Movement Drama and Music.” *Modern Language Association*, New York, New York, January 4-8, 2018. **Panel.**
- “Teaching African American Literature and Protest in the Digital Era.” *College Language Association*, Columbia, Missouri, April 5-8, 2017. **Panel.**
- “Black Lives Matter in Henry Dumas’ Riot or Revolt?” *Northeastern Modern Language Association*, Baltimore, Maryland, March 23-26, 2017. **Panel.**
- “The Struggle Continues: Examining African American Protest Movements of the 21st Century.” *National Council for Black Studies*, Houston, Texas, March 8-12, 2017. **Chair and Creator** of the undergraduate panel.
- “Rereading Sonia Sanchez.” *Modern Language Association*, Austin, Texas, January 7-10, 2016. **Panel.**
- “The Message: A Conversation on Ferguson and its Implications.” *African American Studies and Research Center*, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, September 25, 2014.
- “(De)coding the Intellectualism of Tupac Amaru Shakur in a Demising Pop Culture.” *National Council for Black Studies*, Indianapolis, Indiana, March 13-16, 2013. **Panel.**
- “We Still Conscious: Hip Hop Activism in the 21st Century.” *National Council for Black Studies*, Atlanta, Georgia, March 7-10, 2012. 3rd Place Winner of the National Council for Black Studies Essay Contest. **Panel.**
- “Liberation is Power in Lionheart Gal: Life Stories of Jamaican Women by *Sistren*.” *National Council of Black Studies*, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 16-19, 2011. **Panel.**
- “Loss and Testimony as Urban Narrative in John Edgar Wideman’s *Philadelphia Fire*.” *African American Studies and Research Center Symposium*, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, November 22-26, 2010, **Respondent: Dr. Trudier Harris.**

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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*

SERVICE

College of Arts and Sciences

Syracuse University Liberal Arts Core Revising Committee, Faculty Leader, 2021

Syracuse University First-Year Forum, Faculty Leader, 2018

Syracuse University Humanities Center, Faculty Advisory Board, 2016-2017

Digital Humanities Faculty Working Group, 2017-2021

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

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

Syracuse University-Department of African American Studies

Undergraduate Studies Director, 2021

Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2015-2021

AAS Speaker Series Coordinator, 2018-2019 (**host and organize colloquia, John L. Johnson Lecture, and Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Lecture for the academic school year**).

AAS Annual Awards Ceremony, 2016 and 2017 (**co-organizer**)

John L. Johnson Lecture, 2017, Marlo David was the featured speaker (**host of campus visit**)

Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Lecture, 2016, Treva Lindsey was the featured speaker (**host of campus visit**)

National Council for Black Studies Conference, 2017: “The Struggle Continues: A Conversation about Black Protest in History, Film, and Music in 20th and 21st Century U.S. Discourse,” (**organizer** of undergraduate panel of AAS students)

Black Lives Matter in Art, History, and Literature colloquium, 2016 (**organizer and presenter**)

Supervisory Committees: M.A. Program in Pan African Studies

Master’s Thesis

Nardia Lipman, reader (expected, May 2022)

Tyriana Evans, chair (May 2021)

Kyla Murray, chair (2019)

Huntly Brown, reader (2018)

Samrawit Alemayehu, reader (2018)

Syracuse Community & Syracuse University Programs

Banned Books Week: Autobiography of Malcolm X facilitated by Dr. Joan Bryant, October 1, 2015.

“Reel Feminisms” facilitated by Dr. Gwendolyn D. Pough, October 6, 2015.

Multicultural Student Mixer, **volunteered at this event**, October 8, 2015 and October 12, 2016.

(In) Justice for All post-discussion with Syracuse University Students, sponsored by the National Pan-Hellenic Council and Office of Multicultural Affairs, October 28, 2015.

OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Purdue University, Library Night Manager and the Sara Rounds Price Archivist, 2011-2015

MEMBERSHIPS

College Language Association

Modern Language Association

National Women's Studies Association

National Council for Black Studies

Northeastern Modern Language Association

