

RIKKI BYRD

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University

Ph.D. in African American Studies, 2018-Present

The New School

Parsons School of Design

Master of Arts in Fashion Studies, May 2016

Thesis: *Black, the Color We Wear: Representing Blackness in American Fashion*

University of Missouri-Columbia

School of Journalism

Bachelor of Journalism, May 2013

Minor in Black Studies

ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

Northwestern University	<i>Teacher's Assistant for Dr. Alexander G. Webeliye Associate Professor of African American Studies</i>	2020
Northwestern University	<i>Research Assistant for Dr. Celeste Watkins-Hayes Associate Professor of African American Studies and Sociology</i>	2019-2020
Washington University in St. Louis	<i>Lecturer Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts; African and African-American Studies Department</i>	2016-2018

The New School *Assistant to Professor (TA)* 2015-2016
(Parsons School of Design) The School of Art, Design, History and
Theory

*Research Assistant for
Dr. Christina Moon
Director of Master of Arts in Fashion Studies
Program (2015)*

*Research Assistant for
Nadia Williams
Director of Parsons Scholars Program*

COURSES

Fall 2020: The Black Diaspora and Transnationality: Britain and Germany (TA)

Fall 2018: Fashion History and Research Methods

Fall 2017: Fashion and Race; “Black is Beautiful:” Race and Representation in American Fashion

Fall 2016: Fashion History and Research Methods

Spring 2016: Fashion Cultures (TA); Introduction to Fashion Studies (TA)

Fall 2015: Introduction to Fashion Studies (TA)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-review

“We Were What No One Else Had:’ How Black Fashion Models Constructed a New Wave of Performativity and Visibility.” *The Routledge Companion to African American Theatre and Performance (CAATP)*. (Winter 2018). Eds. Kathy A. Perkins, Sandra L. Richards, Renée Alexander Craft, Thomas F. DeFrantz.

“In Search of the Good Life: Toward a Discourse on Reading the Black Body in Hip Hop and Luxury Fashion.” *QED: A Journal of GLBTQ Worldmaking*. (Special Issue: Sartorial Politics, Intersectionality, and Queer World Making). (Fall 2017). Ed. Eric Pritchard.

“Open Space: Black Fashion Studies.” *International Journal of Fashion Studies* 4, no. 1 (April 2017): 103-139. Ed. Rikki Byrd.

“On the ‘Black Designer.’” *The Fashion Studies Journal*, 1, no. 1 (September 2016). Eds. Kimberly Jenkins, Lauren Downing-Peters.
<http://www.fashionstudiesjournal.org/essays/2016/9/11/on-the-black-designer>.

“Looking the Part: The Liberation and Criminalization of Black Men Through Style and Adornment.” *BLAS Journal of Dress Practice* 4, no. 1 (May 2016).
https://issuu.com/dresspracticecollective/docs/bias_issue_4_fashion_and_violence.

Book review

“Dandy Lion: The Black Dandy and Street Style.” *College Art Association Reviews* (*caa.reviews*). (April 2018). Eds. Edward Chambers, Alan Gilbert.
<http://caareviews.org/reviews/3310#.XZyveudKj-Y>.

Book Chapters

“Designing Our Freedom: Toward a New Discourse on Fashion as a Strategy for Self-Liberation.” *African-American Arts: Activism and Aesthetics*. (2019). Ed. Sharrell D. Luckett.

Exhibitions

“Untitled (Nomso with Earrings).” In *Who Says, Who Shows, Who Counts: Thinking about History with The Block’s Collection* exhibition catalog. (Forthcoming (2021)). Eds. Kate Hadley Toftness and Essi Ronko.

“Afterword.” In *Abstractions in Black Citizenship: African American Art from St. Louis* exhibition catalog. (Forthcoming 2021). Ed. Jasmine Jamillah Mahmoud.

“How We Endure: A Conversation on Blackness with Esmaa Mohamoud.” In *Cry of Victory and Short Walks to Freedom* exhibition catalog. (October 2018). Ed. Modou Dieng and Jesse Siegl.

“Taking Care.” In *Amongst Friends* exhibition catalog. (February 2018). Ed. Dario Calmese.

“New Feelings.” In *New Feelings* exhibition catalog. (February 2018). Ed. Modou Dieng.

“Amy Sherald on Her ‘Gentle Presentation of Black Identity’ and More (interview).” *Hyperallergic*. (May 2018)
<https://hyperallergic.com/443819/amy-sherald-contemporary-art-museum-st-louis/>

“Mickalene Thomas: Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities (review).” *Hyperallergic*. (November 2017).
<https://hyperallergic.com/413543/mickalene-thomas-makes-black-women-the-protagonists-of-their-own-stories/>

“The Fashion and Race Syllabus,” (*under*)*REPRESENT(ed)*, Parsons School of Design. (October 2017).

“The Matriarch: Rosa Parks.” In *A Queen Within: Adorned Archetypes* exhibition catalog. Art Basel: Miami. (December 2016). Ed. Lauren Downing-Peters.

New Media

The Fashion and Race Syllabus. (Fall 2016). Eds. Rikki Byrd, Kimberly Jenkins.
<https://fashionandrace.wordpress.com>.

HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

Block Museum of Art	Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellow	2020-2021
Northwestern University SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program	Research Award	2020
Northwestern University Mellon Interdisciplinary Cluster Fellowship in Critical Studies in Theater and Performance	Fellow	2018
The New School Office of Student Development and Activities	Outstanding Student Program of the Year Award (Fashion and Diversity Event Series)	2016

GRANTS AND FUNDING

The Graduate School – Northwestern University	Conference Travel Grant	2019
The Graduate School – Northwestern University	Summer Research Grant	2019
Department of African American Studies – Northwestern University	Summer Small Grant	2019
Washington University in St. Louis Vice Provost Office	Travel Grant	2016
Parsons School of Design	Travel Grant	2015
Support Creativity	Graduate Scholarship	2014-2015
Parsons School of Design	Dean's Award	2014-2016
Parsons School of Design	University Merit Award	2014-2016

Parsons School of Design University Scholars 2014-2016
Award

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- “In Loving Memory: Performance of Black Mourning Through Adornment.” College Art Association. 2020
- “Black the Color We Wear: Representing Blackness in American Fashion,” The New School – Parsons School of Design. 2016
- “Looking the Part: The Liberation and Criminalization of Masculinity via Style and Adornment,” Popular Culture/American Culture Association. (Accepted, was not able to attend) 2016
- “Black the Color We Wear: The Temporality of Blackness in American Fashion,” Popular Culture/American Culture Association. 2015

Invited Lectures

- “Luxury Fashion and the Black Diaspora,” School of the Art Institute of Chicago. 2019
- “‘But What of Black Women?:’ Fashioning Black Women’s Liberation,” Fashion and Feminism, Barnes Foundation. 2018
- “Where Fashion Meets Activism,” Missouri History Museum. 2017
- “Gallery Talks: Reflections on the African American Experience Through Everyday Dress,” Saint Louis Art Museum. 2017
- Dress and Culture (course), Fontbonne University. 2017
- “I’m A Slave to It – Kanye West versus the Fashion Industry,” in The Politics of Kanye West: Black Genius and Sonic Aesthetics (course), Washington University in St. Louis. 2017
- Black History Month Industry Expert Talk, Lindenwood University. 2017
- Department of African and African American Studies Brown Bag Lunch, Washington University in St. Louis. 2017

Panels

- “*Abstractions in Black Citizenship: African American Art from St. Louis*,” Hedreen Gallery at Seattle University, in conversation with Dominic Chambers. 2020

- “Kavi Gupta Artist Talk,” Expo Chicago, (delayed due to COVID-19), with Mickalene Thomas and Salimishah Tillet. 2020
- “Visual Culture Caucus: Teaching Fashion: Theory and Practice,” American Studies Association Conference (delayed due to COVID-19), with Jonathan Michael Square, Sarah Pickman, Rachel Gross, Victoria Pass. 2020
- “Fashion, Anxiety, and Society: Justice,” Bard Graduate Center, with Tanisha Ford and Eric Pritchard, moderated by Rhea Combs. 2019
- “On Black Death,” Black Portraitsures, with Anna-Lisa Cox, De Angela Duff, Chiyuma Elliott, Kia Melchor Hall, Nataleah Hunter-Young, Michele Prettyman, moderated by Rikki Byrd. 2019
- “Fashioning the Black Body,” projects+gallery, with Dario Calmese, Kenturah Davis and Basil Kincaid, moderated by Rikki Byrd. 2019
- “Fashion and Diversity,” Columbia College Chicago, with Autumn and Brian Merritt, Barbara Bates, Delvin McCray and Robin Harris, moderated by Rikki Byrd. 2018
- “Amongst Friends,” projects+gallery, with Dario Calmese and Lana Turner, moderated by Rikki Byrd. 2018
- “The Politics of Clothing: Critical Perspectives on Race and Fashion,” Washington University in St. Louis American Culture Studies Dinner Series, with Yvonne Osei and Kedron Thomas. 2017
- “Community Curating: Stitching Together the History of a People,” Weeksville Heritage Center, with Tanisha Ford, Kimberly Jenkins, moderated by Jonathan Michael Square. 2017
- “Hip Hop and Fashion: From the Streets to the Runway,” Saint Louis Art Museum, with Genevieve Cortinovic, Basil Kincaid, Jeffrey McCune, moderated by Rikki Byrd. 2017
- “Black Style Matters,” The New School, with Dario Calmese, Marquelle Turner-Gilchrist, moderated by Mikaila Brown. 2017

MEMBERSHIP

Chicago Fashion Lyceum	Steering Committee	2019-2020
– “Fashion at the Periphery” Conference	Member	
College Art Association	Member	2018-Present
College Art Association	College Ambassador	2018-2019

Women and the Kemper Member 2018-2019
– Kemper Art Museum at
Washington University in
St. Louis

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Northwestern University	Department of African American Studies Graduate Student Association	Interim Co-President	2020-2021
Northwestern University	Department of African American Studies Graduate Student Association	Social Chair	2019-2021
Northwestern University	Black Arts Initiative Graduate Working Group	Co-Founder and Co-Director	2020-2021
Northwestern University	Colloquium on Ethnicity and Diversity	Co-Coordinator	2019-2021
The New School	Fashion and Diversity Event Series	Co-Founder and Co-Organizer	2016
The New School	Afrofuturism Conference	External Communications Coordinator	2015

