

**Kinitra D. Brooks**

Michigan State University, Department of English  
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**EDUCATION**

- 2008 Ph.D., Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2001 M.P.H., International Health and Development, Tulane University
- 2000 B.A., English Literature, Xavier University of Louisiana

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- 2018-Present Audrey and John Leslie Endowed Chair of Literary Studies, Michigan State University
- 2018-2019 Advancing Equity Through Research Fellow, Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University
- 2016-2018 Ricardo K. Romo Endowed Professor, Honors College, University of Texas at San Antonio
- 2016-2018 Associate Professor of English, University of Texas at San Antonio
- 2009-2016 Assistant Professor of English, University of Texas at San Antonio
- 2008-2009 Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Texas at San Antonio

**RESEARCH**

Black Feminist Theory; Black Women in Horror, Science Fiction and Fantasy; Black Women in Popular Culture; 20th-21st c. African American and Afro-Caribbean literature and culture; Conjure Studies; Beyoncé Studies; Black Speculative Studies and Afrofuturism.

**GRANTS AND AWARDS (select)**

- 2018-2019 Advancing Equity Through Research Fellowship, The Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University
- 2018 Technology Grant, Office of Information Technology (OIT), UTSA.
- 2017-2018 Feminist Research Seminar Grant, *Beyoncé's Lemonade Lexicon: Black Feminism and Spirituality in Theory and Praxis*, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan
- 2016-2018 Ricardo Romo Endowed Professorship of the Honors College
- 2016 Fellow, Women of Color Leadership Project, National Women's Studies Association

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Monograph**

*Searching for Sycorax: Black Women's Hauntings of Contemporary Horror* (2017). Rutgers University Press. \*Bram Stoker Award Nominee\*

### **Edited Collection (Scholarly)**

*The Lemonade Reader: Beyoncé, Black Feminism, and Spirituality* (2019) with Kameelah L. Martin. Routledge Press.

"Conjure Feminism: Tracing the Genealogy of a Black Woman's Intellectual Tradition" with Kameelah L. Martin and LaKisha Simmons. *Hypatia Special Issue*. Volume 36, Issue 1, Winter 2021 (*forthcoming*)

### **Edited Collection (Creative)**

*Sycorax's Daughters* (2017) with Susana M. Morris, and Linda D. Addison. Cedar Grove Publishing. \*Bram Stoker Award Nominee\*

### **Articles**

"I Used to Be Your Sweet Mama: Beyoncé at the Crossroads of Blues and Conjure in Lemonade." w Kameelah L. Martin. *The Lemonade Reader*. Edited by Kinitra D. Brooks and Kameelah L. Martin. Routledge Press

"The Potential for Black Art at the San Antonio Museum of Art." *The International Review of African American Art*. 27:1 (2017) 13-17.

"Speculative Sankofarration: Haunting Black Women in Contemporary Horror Fiction." with Stephanie Schoellman & Alexis McGee. Special Issue: Speculating Futures: Black Imagination & the Arts. *Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora* 42:1-2 (2016) 237-248.

"The Importance of Neglected Intersections: Race and Gender in Contemporary Zombie Texts and Theories." *African American Review* 47: 4 (Winter 2014) 461-475.

"Maternal Inheritances: Trinity Formations and Constructing Self-Identities in *Stigmata* and *Louisiana*." *FEMSPEC* 12:2 (2012). 17-46, 199.

"Finding the Humanity in Horror: Black Women's Sexual Identity in Fighting the Supernatural." *POROI* 7: 2 (June 2011) 1-14.

### **Notes & Short Essays**

"The Root of The Matter: Rootwork and Conjure in Black Popular Culture." *Bitter Root* Issue #2 2018.

"Ontologies of Orisha Technology: West African Spirituality in Afrofuturistic Visions." *Unveiling Visions: The Alchemy of the Black Imagination*. Art + Design Exhibition. September 2015 – January 2016. The Schomburg Center of Harlem. New York, NY.

### **Book Reviews/Encyclopedia Entries**

"The Multiple Pasts, Presents, and Futures of Nnedi Okorafor's Literary Nigeria." Rev. of *Lagoon* (2014) and *Book of Phoenix* (2015) by Nnedi Okorafor. *Los Angeles Review of Books*. 13 April 2016.

Rev. of *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage* by Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas. *Journal for International Women's Studies*. 2009. 234-235.

### **Public Writing**

"How to Be a Strong Black Family Man: The World According to Gabriel Wilson in Jordan Peele's *Us*." *The Root: Very Smart Brothas* Blog. March 2019.

"*Us* Makes Us Look in the Mirror—What If We Don't Like What We See?" *Elle* Magazine March 2019.

"Myrtle's Medicines." *Emergence* Magazine. Issue #4: Faith. February 2019.

"What Becky Gotta Do to Get Murked? White Womanhood in Jordan Peele's *Get Out*" *Very Smart Brothas* Blog. March 2017.

### **EDITORIAL**

Editor. with Susana M. Morris. Book Series. *New Suns: Race, Gender, Sexuality & the Speculative* at Ohio State University Press.

Advisory Board Member. Graphic Novel Imprint. *Megascope*.

Board Member and Peer Reviewer. *Journal of Research on Women and Gender*.

### **PRESENTATIONS (select)**

#### **Invited**

"Myrtle's Medicine: Conjure & Rootwork as Intellectual Traditions of Black Women in the United States." Keynote. Philosophy Beyond the Now. Massey University. Auckland, New Zealand. June 2019.

"The Conjure Woman's Garden: Black Women's Rootworking Traditions." Colloquium. Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. February 2019.

"Emerging Scholars: Publishing Your First Book." Panelist. American Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. November 2018.

"Black Panther: Blackness Through a Comic Book Lens." Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. February 2018.

"Black Panther: A Hero and A Movement." Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. 6th Annual Black Comic Book Festival. New York, NY. January 2018.

"Religions of the African Diaspora: Beyond Zombies, Ancestors, and Giant Apes." World Fantasy Conference. San Antonio, TX. November 2017.

"Strange Fruit & Lemonade: Music, Race, Gender, Class, Place." Texas State University, San Marcos, TX. October 2017.

"Technology to Enhance the Learning Experience." University of Texas at San Antonio. San Antonio, TX. Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars. October 2017.

"Translation, Contemplating, and Speculating: Black Radical Imagination through Digital Transmedia." Elektrik Revival: Remixing the Black Speculative South. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. May 2017.

"'I Used to Be Your Sweet Mama': Beyoncé at the Crossroads of Blues and Conjure in *Lemonade*." Keynote. Intersections: Identity and Ideology. Texas A&M University-San Antonio. February 2017.

*Big Talk on Race and Hollywood*. Panelist. Valenti School of Communication. University of Houston, Houston, TX. February 2017.

"Towards a Black Women's Horror Film Aesthetic." *Terror on Tape*. Panelist. Yale University, New Haven, CT. May 2016.

- “Feelin Ourselves: The Evolution of Black Women in Entertainment.” Co-presented with Autumn Knight. Lecture for Art Installation. She Works Flexible Museum. Houston, TX. June 2015.
- “The Hoodoo Experience: Literature, Spirituality, and Identity.” Panelist. Astroblackness 2: The Surreal, The Speculative, and The Spooky. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA. March 2015.

### **Refereed**

- “Building Joy from Rubble?: A Conversation on Black Feminist Worldmaking in the Academy and Beyond.” Panelist. American Studies Association. Honolulu, Hawaii. November 2019.
- “Wakanda Forever: Afro-Feminist Futures and the Black Cinematic Imagination.” Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. November 2018.
- “Imagining Black Feminist Futures: Afrofuturisms, Black Utopias, and Sonic Rhetorics.” Moderator. National Women’s Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. November 2018.
- “Marooning with the Ancestors in Beyoncé’s Lemonade” Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. Baltimore, MD. November 2017.
- “Race and Gender on TV: Viewing as Resistance.” Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. Baltimore, MD. November 2017.
- “The (Corpo)Real Monstrosity of Black Women: Finding Agency in Revising the Grotesque.” The Kristeva Circle Meeting. University of Pittsburgh. October 2017.
- “Decolonizing Genre in Nnedi Okorafor’s *Lagoon*, Nalo Hopkinson’s *Sister Mine*, and NK Jemisin’s *The Fifth Season*.” Session Creator/Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. Montreal, Canada. November 2016.
- “Tuning In/Playing Out: Race, Gender, TV, and Decoloniality.” Invited Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. Montreal, Canada. November 2016
- “Leading Ladies: Black Women, Fantasy, Reality, Precarity and Made for TV?” Round Table Discussion. National Women’s Studies Association. Milwaukee, WI. November 2015.
- “Black Women Writing Fluid Fiction: An Open Challenge to Genre Normativity.” Session Creator/Panelist. National Women’s Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico. November 2014

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

### ***Book Projects***

*Divine Conjurers: Recovering Black Women’s Intellectual Histories of Spirit Work* explores the cosmological importance of the conjure woman in the U.S. South and Caribbean. I am especially interested in reading these women as philosophers willfully excluded due to the epistemic exclusion and oppression of black women.

### **Fieldwork In Progress**

#### **Book Proposal December 2019**

*The Gender & Horror Handbook* is an interdisciplinary guide to the multiple intersections of gender and horror from folklore to gothic literature to contemporary film and media.

### **Solicited by Routledge Press**

#### **Book Proposal October 2020**

*The Nalo Hopkinson Reader* is a critical companion to the work of fantastical Afrofuturist writer, Nalo Hopkinson. Hailed as a literary heir to Octavia Butler, Hopkinson defies genre dictates by steeping her works in the shape-shifting traditions of the Caribbean. This text provides black feminist analytical frameworks for her seven novels: *Brown Girl in the Ring* (1998), *Midnight Robber* (2000), *The Salt*

*Roads* (2003), *The New Moon's Arms* (2007), *The Chaos* (2012), *Sister Mine* (2013) and two short story collections: *Skin Folk* (2001) and *Falling in Love with Hominids* (2015).

**Book Proposal June 2020**

**Articles:**

“The Conjure Woman’s Garden.” This paper uses black women’s tradition of gardening to explore the cosmologies of Conjure Feminism.

**Planned Submission, Fall 2019**

**Graphic Novels:**

*Red Dirt Witch* (adapted by Kinitra D. Brooks, visualized by Ashley A. Woods) is a short story by NK Jemisin that centers on a meeting of two different magic traditions—Southern Conjure and European Fairy Magic.

**Book Proposal Under Review**

**COURSES TAUGHT**

*University of Texas at San Antonio, 2008-2018:*

Undergraduate Courses – Black & Brown Futures; Black Women, Beyoncé & Popular Culture; The African American Novel; Black Women in Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror; The Supernatural in African American Literature; Race and Gender in Film; Mothering in American Literature; From Text to Film; Horror Text and Theory; Vodou in the African American Novel; Caribbean Women Writers; Black Speculative Fiction.

Graduate Courses – Afrofuturism; Speculative Black Women; Deconstructing Destructive Mothers: “Bad” Mothers in the Literature of Women of Color; African American Women’s Writing; Black Women in Science Fictions, Fantasy, and Horror; Topics in American Literature: Horror Text & Theory; Introduction to Graduate Studies; African American Literature; Zora Neale Hurston and the Harlem Renaissance.

**In The News**

“The Lemonade Reader: Black Feminists Read Beyoncé” (June 2019)

<https://thefeministwire.com/2019/06/the-lemonade-reader-black-feminists-read-beyonce/>

“‘The Lemonade Reader’ Adds Beyoncé to the Black Feminist Canon.” (June 2019)

<https://msmagazine.com/2019/06/11/kinitra-brooks-and-kameelah-martins-lemonade-reader-adds-beyonce-to-the-black-feminist-canon/>

“The Bitter, the Sweet, and the Book: Beyoncé’s Seminal Work Enters the Literary Canon With The Lemonade Reader” (June 2019)

<https://theglowup.theroot.com/the-bitter-the-sweet-and-the-book-beyonces-seminal-w-1835382108>

“Beyoncé et Jay-Z, l'empire à 1 milliard” (July 2018)

<https://www.lesechos.fr/week-end/culture/musiques/0301960519828-beyonce-et-jay-z-lempire-a-1-milliard-2191773.php>

“A la Une: la presse française rêve de victoire ce matin” (July 2018)

<http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20180715-une-presse-francaise-reve-victoire-matin>

“‘Get Out’ isn’t typical black Oscar bait. That’s one reason so many people think it deserves to win.” (March 2018)

<https://mic.com/articles/188045/get-out-isnt-typical-black-oscar-bait-thats-one-reason-so-many-people-think-it-deserves-to-win#.FYcb7ZU03>

“Superheroes movies are really white. Here are 6 diverse heroes who deserve their own film” (Jan 2018)  
<https://mic.com/articles/187496/superheroes-movies-are-really-white-here-are-6-diverse-heroes-who-deserve-their-own-film#.WCEaCV5E9>

“Beyoncé Is the Leonardo da Vinci of Instagram” (Nov 2017)  
<http://www.thecut.com/2017/11/beyonce-is-instagrams-leonardo-da-vinci.html>

“Beyoncé 101: The Rise of Teaching Queen Bey in College” (Sept 2017)  
<http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/lifestyle/7973629/beyonce-college-classes-now-exist>

“See the Far-reaching Impact of Beyoncé’s *Lemonade*” (Feb 2017)  
<http://time.com/4631309/beyonce-lemonade-impact/>

“Beyoncé’s ‘Lemonade’ album but a sip of her evolving feminist story” (Feb 2017)  
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/nation-now/2017/02/20/beyoncs-lemonade-album-but-sip-her-evolving-feminist-story/96472706/>

“UTSA’s Beyoncé Class Creates Safe Space for Students” (Oct 2016) <http://www.sacurrent.com/ArtSlut/archives/2016/10/03/utsas-beyonce-class-creates-safe-space-for-students>

“An Interview with Dr. Kinitra Brooks, Who Teaches a Class On Beyoncé” (Oct 2016)  
<http://verysmartbrothas.com/intvw-with-dr-kinitra-brooks/>

“UTSA’s New Course of Black Feminism” (Oct 2016)  
<http://texasweek.blogspot.com/2016/10/utsas-new-course-of-black-feminism.html>

“Texas University’s Class on Beyoncé’s *Lemonade* Will Explore Black Feminism in the US” (Sep 2016)  
<https://mic.com/articles/155338/texas-university-s-class-on-beyonc-s-lemonade-will-explore-black-feminism-in-the-us#.MNGz3dDXn>

“This University Is Teaching an Entire Course Based on Beyoncé’s *Lemonade*” (Sep 2016)  
<http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/university-teaching-entire-based-beyonces-lemonade/story?id=42445886>

## SERVICE

(UTSA unless otherwise indicated)

### Dissertations:

*English Department Dissertation, Chair*

Stephanie Schoellman, Spring 2018. *Dis(curse)ive Discourses of Empire: Hinterland Gothics*  
*Decolonizing Contemporary Young Adult and New Adult Literature and Performance.*

*English Department Dissertation, Member*

Chesya Burke, *Black Girl Magic: Reimagining Black Women Speculative Fiction Artists*  
*Within the Spirituality of Womanism.* University of Florida. In Progress.

Megan Nieto, Spring 2019 *Forging Emancipatory Pasts, Presents, and Futures: Reproductive*  
*(In)Justices, Premature Deaths, and Decolonial Families in Feminist Black and*  
*Brown Reproductive Dystopias.*

Alexis McGee, Summer 2018. *Legacies of Black Womanhood in Blues and Hip Hop:*  
*A Critique of Feminism, Sonic Rhetoric, and Language.*

Elizabeth Cali, PhD. Spring 2014. *Unexpected Revolutionaries: Troubling Nineteenth-*  
*Century African American Feminist and Masculinist Nationalisms.*

**CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION AND VISITING SCHOLAR HOSTING**

Planet Deep South Presents: Black & Brown Futures Conference	2018
Co-chair, Jackson State University	
Black Kirby	2017
Coordinator, Host	
Jewelle Gomez	2016
Coordinator, Host	
Trudier Harris, Brackenridge Visiting Professor	2015
Coordinator, Host	
Erna Brodber	2014
Coordinator, Host	

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Provost Search Committee	2017 – 2018
Presidential Task Force on Sexual Assault	2017
The Graduate Council	2014 – 2016

**DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

PhD Graduate Advisor of Record	2017 – 2018
Merit Committee	2016 – 2018

**EXTRAMURAL SERVICE**

Astroblackness 3: Planet Deep South Symposium, Planning Committee	2016
SAMLA, Program Committee, Chair	2014
NWSA, Proposal Reviewer	2014

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Studies Association (ASA)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)

## References

*Kristie Dotson*

Professor

Philosophy

Michigan State University

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*John Jennings*

Professor

Media and Cultural Studies

University of California-Riverside

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*Michael Ralph*

Associate Professor

Social and Cultural Analysis

New York University

michael.ralph@nyu.edu

*Robert Reid-Pharr*

Professor

Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Harvard University

rpharr@fas.harvard.edu