

AJ Rice, Ph.D.

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EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

2022 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

2021-Present University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

EDUCATION

2020 **Ph.D.**, African American and African Studies
Michigan State University

Dissertation Title: *Encountering Reform: Race, Power, and the Unmaking of Detroit Public Schools*

Committee: Pero G. Dagbovie (Co-Chair), Geneva Smitherman (Co-Chair), Curtis Stokes, Rita Kiki Edozie, Najib Hourani, Louise Jezierski

Comprehensive Examination Fields:

Major Fields: Race, Colonialism, and Black Political Economy

Specialization Fields: Global Urban Studies (Neoliberalism; Language and Development; Race and Urban Geography)

2010 **Master of Arts**, Politics
The New School for Social Research

Thesis Title: *Undermining Haiti's Democracy: Good Governance and the New International System*

2008 **B.A.**, International Relations (with Honors)
James Madison College, Michigan State University

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Rice, A. (2021). "Political Economy and the Tradition of Radical Black Study." *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*. (22)1, 44-55.

Rice, A. & Mays, K. (2020). "The Boondocks, Black History, and Black Lives Matter: Or, Why Black Popular Culture Matters for Black Millennials." *The Popular Culture Studies Journal*. (8)2, 49-67.

Rice, A. & Rice, P. (2015). "Two Brothers Reflect on 'Spirit of Detroit'." *Text and Performance Quarterly*. (35)1, 83-86.

Book Reviews

Rice, A. (2021). "Black Landscapes Matter." *Journal of Cultural Geography*.

GRANTS

2018 National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Grant (\$20,000)
National Park Service and Association for the Study of African American Life & History (ASALH) Underground Railroad Living Museum: Detroit, MI

FELLOWSHIPS

2019 Transdisciplinary Graduate Fellows Program (TGFP)
Center for Interdisciplinarity, Michigan State University

2017 The Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Michigan State University

2016 Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF) Fellow, Ithaca College,
Ithaca, New York

2015 Summer Support Fellowship
Michigan State University

2014 Research Enhancement Award
Michigan State University

2014 College of Arts and Letters Summer Support Fellowship
Michigan State University

2014 Research and Action in the New South Africa Fellowship
Michigan State University

2014 Field Research Fellowship
Michigan State University

2012-2013 Academic Achievement Graduate Assistantship
Michigan State University

2011-2012 Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020 *Faculty Instructor*, "African American Politics,"
James Madison College, Michigan State University (Spring).

2020 *Faculty Instructor*, "Intro to the Study of Public Affairs II: Citizenship & Development

in Urban America,”
James Madison College, Michigan State University (Spring).

- 2019 *Faculty Co-Instructor*, “Race, Radicalism and Socialism: Similarities and Differences,”
James Madison College, Michigan State University (Fall).
- 2019 *Faculty Instructor*, “Intro to the Study of Public Affairs I,”
James Madison College, Michigan State University (Fall).
- 2019 *Faculty Instructor*, “Intro to the Study of Public Affairs II: Race, Citizenship and
Development in Urban America,”
James Madison College, Michigan State University (Spring).
- 2017 *Faculty Instructor*, “Intro to the Study of Public Affairs II,”
James Madison College, Michigan State University (Spring).
- 2016 *Faculty Instructor*, “Intro to the Study of Public Affairs I,”
James Madison College, Michigan State University (Fall).
- 2016 *Faculty Instructor*, “Intro to the Study of Public Affairs II,”
James Madison College, Michigan State University (Spring).
- 2015 *Teaching Assistant*, “Race & Community in Local/Global Perspectives,”
African American and African Studies Program, Michigan State University (Fall).
- 2015 *Instructor*, “My Brother’s Keeper African-Centered Mentoring Internship” Hybrid Course,
African American and African Studies Program, Michigan State University (Spring).
- 2014 *Teaching Assistant*, “African American Language,”
African American and African Studies Program, Michigan State University (Fall).
- 2014 *Freshman Writing Instructor*, “WRA 125: American Ethnic & Racial Experience,”
Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Culture, Michigan State University
(Spring).
- 2013 *Freshman Writing Instructor*, “WRA 150: Evolution of American Thought,”
Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Culture, Michigan State University (Fall).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2018 Barriers and Facilitators of Effective Health Communication for Older African American
Men with Multi-Morbidity Project
University of Michigan
Research Assistant, (Dr. Jamie A. Mitchell, Supervisor)
This emancipatory/action research is designed to develop primary care interventions for
improving health outcomes of older African American men with chronic health diseases.
Conducted an exhaustive review of the relevant literature and drafted federal grants with
Dr. Mitchell.
- 2016-2018 Detroit After Bankruptcy Project
Michigan State University

Research Assistant, (Dr. Joe T. Darden, Supervisor)

This research deploys qualitative and quantitative methods to examine the socio-economic characteristics of Detroit after bankruptcy. Conducted archival research, created GIS maps of City of Detroit, performed statistical analyses of student test scores across metropolitan Detroit, and collected and analyzed all development contracts approved by the city council in 2015 and 2016.

2008 - 2014

Charney Research
New York, NY

Research Consultant

Collected and analyzed data on international public opinion. Conducted qualitative and quantitative research for governments, international development agencies, and NGOs on issues of democratization, economic development, civic participation, health, education, and market and investor attitudes. Devised mixed-method research projects on Middle Eastern, African, and Asian countries such as Palestine, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Libya, Mali, and China, and was responsible for producing reports for the United Nations, the United States Agency for International Development, the World Bank, and the Pentagon. I was responsible for conducting statistical analysis of international public opinion data in these regions using SPSS.

2013

African American Language Course Development
Michigan State University

Research Assistant, (Dr. Geneva Smitherman, Supervisor)

This interdisciplinary sociolinguistic research project was designed to identify, organize, and make accessible language data for advanced courses in African American Language. Collected and digitized 30 years-worth of audio, visual, and written language data of and by African American Language speakers. Digital language data are currently being used to create the International Black Language Data Bank, a repository of digitized recordings of speakers of African American Language in the United States; Creole speakers in Afro-Diasporic Speech Communities; and South African speakers, housed at the Vincent Voice Library at Michigan State University.

2012-2013

Pathways to Readiness Project
Michigan State University

Research Assistant (Dr. David E. Kirkland, Supervisor)

This critical pedagogy-based research was designed to introduce youth to critical and broad perspectives related to college literacies, focusing on critical reading and college writing through socially and culturally relevant interactive pedagogical experiences. Created a high school-level curriculum that centered on socio-emotional development and enhancing student's critical literacies and test-taking skills.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017-2018

Manager of Research & Special Projects, The Underground Railroad Living Museum at the First Congregational Church of Detroit
Detroit, MI

Responsible for providing transformational educational experience to Museum visitors and for devising research and special events to raise awareness of the Museum and increase overall revenue. Designed and implemented a mixed-methods data collection protocol for the Museum to capture and analyze the opinions and experiences of visitors, conducted archival research to identify previously unknown connections between the First

Congregational Church of Detroit and its members and the Underground Railroad between 1844-1860, co-organized a community forum with filmmaker Michael Moore to explore the political views of Detroit's non-voting population, expanded the Museum bookstore and increased sales three-fold, expanded the Museum's online presence and community outreach using social and print-based media, and successfully secured over \$20,000 in external grants for the Museum.

- 2010 - 2011 *Special Project Assistant*, African American and African Studies Program
Michigan State University
Raised the visibility of the African American and African Studies Program by developing and editing the Program's first newsletter, organized the first and only statewide Black Studies Conference, which brought together more than five Black Studies programs, faculty, students, and administrators from across the state. Co-authored key institutional documents, including the Program's Graduate Student Reading List, and helped found and organize the Program's first speaker series.
- 2011 *Urban Education Consultant*, Detroit Parent Network
Detroit, MI
Organized, developed, and administered mentoring sessions with Detroit Public School high school students who expressed an interest in pursuing a career in the legal field or public service. Collaborated with retired Michigan Supreme Court Justice Conrad Mallett, Jr. and other local lawyers to mentor and prepare students for college and law school. Designed projects and activities where students explored famous Michigan legal cases, researched the decisions behind them, and fostered critical development skills through courtroom role-play, where students had to argue their cases and serve as judges, evaluating arguments and supporting evidence.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 *"The System is Broken!": Elite Discourse, 'Reform,' and Detroit Public Schools.* University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Virtual Academic Spring Retreat. April 17 -18.
- 2020 *Internationalism, Racial Capitalism, and the Coloniality of State Power.* Annual meeting of the American Studies Association. Baltimore, MD. November 12-15. (Canceled, COVID-19).
- 2020 *"Reform" and Racial Dispossession: Detroit Public Schools and the Production of Austerity Urbanism.* Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Denver, CO. April 6-10. (Canceled, COVID-19).
- 2020 *Saving the White State: The Case of Emergency Management and Black Dispossession in Detroit Public Schools.* Annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association. Washington, D.C. April 2-4. (Canceled, COVID-19).
- 2019 *The Poetics of Economies of Dispossession.* Annual meeting of the American Studies Association. Honolulu, HI. November 7-10.
- 2019 *Manufacturing Failure: Race, Revitalization, and the Takeover of Detroit Public Schools.* Annual meeting of the National Conference for Black Political Scientists. Baton Rouge, LA. March 13-17.

- 2019 *Encountering Reform: Race, Language, and the “Failure” of Detroit Public Schools.* Annual meeting of the National Council for Black Studies. New Orleans, LA. March 6-9.
- 2018 *Welcome to Detroit 2.0: Neoliberalizing the Black City.* Annual meeting of the Critical Ethnic Studies Association. Vancouver, CA. June 21-24.
- 2018 *Detroit and the Neoliberal Racial Order.* Annual meeting of the National Council for Black Studies. Atlanta GA. March 15-17.
- 2018 *“Responsibility to Protect”: Detroit Public Schools and the Politics of State Intervention.* Annual meeting of the National Conference for Black Political Scientists. Chicago, IL. March 14-17.
- 2017 *Racial Capitalism and Public Education in the Black Metropolis.* Annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association. Minneapolis, MN. April 19-22.
- 2017 *Detroit, Neoliberalism, and White Elites.* Annual meeting of the National Conference for Black Political Scientists. San Diego, CA. March 15-18.
- 2016 *The Political Economy of Black Education in Detroit.* Annual meeting of the National Council for Black Studies. Charlotte, NC. March 16-19.
- 2016 *Race and Power in an Urban School District: The Political Economy of Black Education in Detroit.* Annual meeting of the National Conference for Black Political Scientists. Jackson, MS. March 16-20.
- 2015 *Languaging Detroit: Neoliberalism and Black Politics.* Annual meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Atlanta, GA. September 23-27.
- 2015 *Revisiting the Black Internal Colony: Racial Capitalism and Citizenship in Detroit.* Annual meeting of the National Council for Black Studies. Los Angeles, CA. March 11-14.
- 2014 *True to The Game: Continuing the Tradition of Community Engagement and Social Responsibility in the 21st Century at Michigan State University.* Annual meeting of the National Council for Black Studies. Miami, FL. March 5-8.
- 2014 *“Urban Renewal is Black Removal”: The Language of Whiter Transformation.* Annual meeting of the National Council for Black Studies. Miami, FL. March 5-8.
- 2013 *The Neocolonial City: Detroit and Black Political Power.* Annual meeting of the National Council for Black Studies. Indianapolis, IN. March 13-16.
- 2011 *(E)Racing the Past, Righting the Future: Examining the Intersection of Race and Gender in New English Education.* Annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English. Chicago, IL. November 17-22.

GUEST LECTURES AND INVITED TALKS

- 2021 University of California, Los Angeles; Department of African American Studies
AF AMER 188A: Black Celebrities, Activism, and Social Change

Guest Lecture Title: The Political Economy and Black Celebrity Activism

- 2019 University of California, Los Angeles; Ralph Bunche Center for African American Studies
Book Release: *Hip Hop Beats, Indigenous Rhymes: Modernity and Hip Hop in Indigenous North America*. (Invited Panelist).
- 2019 Michigan State University; James Madison College
Course Title: MC 202, Introduction to Public Affairs
Guest Lecture Title: Encountering Reform: Discourse & The “Failure” of Detroit Public Schools
- 2019 Michigan State University; James Madison College
Course Title: MC 348, Education Policy
Guest Lecture Title: Manufacturing Crisis: Rethinking the “Failure” of Detroit Public Schools
- 2017 Michigan State University; Department of African American & African Studies
Course Title: AAAS 300, Survey in Africana Studies
Guest Lecture Title: Detroit 2.0: Black Politics and Urban America
- 2017 “Abolitionism and the Founding of the First Congregational Church of Detroit.” *3rd Pastoral Anniversary*. (Speaker). Detroit, MI. November 4.
- 2017 “Detroit and the Black Studies Discipline.” *Disciplinary Approaches to the Study of Detroit*. (Invited Panelist). University of Michigan: The Detroit School Series. Ann Arbor, MI. April 7.
- 2015 *#LEARNINGWHILEBLACK: A Talkback on Race & Education*. (Invited Panelist). Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI. April 7.
- 2014 *#NEWBLACK: A Talkback on Race in 2014*. (Invited Panelist). Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI. November 11.
- 2014 “Don’t Believe the Hype!: A Political Economy Analysis of Detroit.” *Undoing the Destruction of Black Education in Detroit: A Midwestern Strategic Planning Forum*. (Invited Speaker). A Black Education Network. Detroit, MI. November 1.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2021 Reviewer: University of Georgetown Press
- 2019 Reviewer for *National Review of Black Politics*
- 2019 Reviewer for *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*.

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2015-2017 *Sankofa Graduate Student Union President*
Elected by graduate students in the African American and African Studies Program, I designed and implemented community-based programming in Black neighborhoods throughout Michigan; organizing mentoring opportunities in urban schools; created campus

events and social activities to raise knowledge about African American and African Studies and contemporary issues in Black America; successfully lobbied for substantial increase in funding for the African American and African Studies Program at Michigan State University.

2015 *Program Director Search Committee Member*

Selected by African American and African Studies Program faculty to be the graduate student representative on the Search Committee for a new Director of the African American and African Studies Program at Michigan State University.

2013-2014 *Graduate Student Union Steward*

Represented the interests of Teaching Assistants (TAs) in the African American and African Studies Program by successfully advocating and securing office space for TAs, and ensuring all TAs received needed office supplies and other resources needed to effectively teach undergraduate students.

2013-2014 *Council of Graduate Students Representative*

Served as the elected representative for the African American and African Studies Program student body in Michigan State University's graduate student government. In this position, I successfully advocated for the creation of a diversity committee within the Council of Graduate Students and successfully lobbied the Council to endorse a public statement identifying the need for MSU to increase the enrollment of African American students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

OTHER SERVICE

2018 *Growing Detroit's Young Talent, Mentor*

Volunteered to designing a summer internship with the City of Detroit for three high school students from Detroit Public Schools. These students worked at the Underground Railroad Living Museum in Detroit, MI, and learned basic research and accounting skills, including archival research, survey analysis, data entry, bookkeeping, and inventory maintenance.

2012-2015 *My Brother's Keeper, Manager & Program Coordinator*

Responsible for designing, organizing, and executing an interactive African-centered mentoring program that trains undergraduate students from Michigan State University to mentor middle school youth from the Paul Robeson Malcolm X Academy in Detroit, Michigan.

2013-2014 *Sankofa Graduate Student Union Vice-President*

Responsible for designing community outreach programs for Sankofa Graduate Student Union and created an annual barbeque to welcome all incoming African American and African Studies graduate students.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association of Geographers
American Political Science Association
American Studies Association
National Conference for Black Political Scientists
Urban Affairs Association

REFERENCES

Dr. Lorrie Frasure, Associate Professor of Political Science and Acting Director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies. 4289 Bunche Hall, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095. Office: 310-825-4331; Email: lfrasure@polisci.ucla.edu.

Dr. Marcus A. Hunter, Professor of Sociology. 266 Haines Hall, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095. Office: 310-825-7865; Email: hunter@soc.ucla.edu

Dr. Pero G. Dagbovie, University Distinguished Professor of History. 208C Old Horticulture, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824. Office: 517-884-4887; Email: dagbovie@msu.edu.

Dr. Geneva Smitherman, University Distinguished Professor Emerita of English. Founder, My Brother's Keeper Program; 631 Wells Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48825. Email: smither4@msu.edu. Web: www.msu.edu/~smither4.