

Shay-Akil McLean, MA, MA, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION:

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL – GPA 3.9/4.0 (Dec 2021)

Ecology, Evolution, & Conservation Biology, Ph.D. (School of Integrative Biology)

Dissertation – “Du Bois Meets Darwin”

Sociology, MA – GPA 3.94/4.0 (May 2017)

MA Thesis – “The Coloniality of Philosophies of Biology”

SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Biological Anthropology, MA – GPA 3.606/4.0 (May 2013)

MA Thesis – “Theorizing A Biology of Oppression: Investigating Markers of Social, Political, & Economic Inequality in the Dental Health of Poor Blacks”

SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY – GPA 3.631/4.0 – *Magna Cum Laude*

Biological Anthropology, BA – GPA 3.8/4.0 – *Honors in Anthropology* (May 2011)

Sociology, BA – GPA 3.972/4.0 – *Highest Honors in Sociology* (May 2011)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: Race(ism), HASTS, Bio/Medical Ethics, Evolutionary Biology, Darwinian Evolutionary Theory, Human Ecology, Health Demography, Statistics (SPSS, SAS, STATA, R), Theoretical Population Genetics, Human Evolutionary Genetics, Du Boisian Comparative Historical Sociology, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Science, Politics of Knowledge, Urban Sociology, Medical Anthropology

EXPERIENCE:

National Birth Equity Collaborative (NBEC), Washington, DC

Scientific Consultant

(09/20 – Present)

- Provide a decolonial lens & human evolutionary genetics & health expertise
- Design workshop & training materials for staff, physicians, clinicians, birth workers & the public
- Design training guides for developing inclusive practices in biomedicine & medical education

Malhi Modern Human Genetics Lab (UIUC), Anthropology Department, Urbana, IL

Lab Member

(09/18 – 05/21)

- Assist with lab work & research projects
- Supervise advise graduate & undergraduate lab members
- Give research support & feedback to lab-mates

- Roseman Evolutionary Genetics Lab (UIUC), Animal Biology Department, Urbana, IL
Lab Supervisor (07/17 – 12/2020)
- Organize and facilitate group research projects and publications
 - Supervise & give advisement to graduate & undergraduate researchers in the lab
 - Give research support & feedback to lab-mates
- Shabazz Center for Intellectual Inquiry, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Consultant (05/17 – 07/17)
- Designed course curriculum for incoming students
 - Designed project based political education program for African American undergraduates
- African American Policy Forum, Columbia University, New York, NY
Consultant (09/15 – 10/15)
- Creating accessible online learning tools and content
 - Collaborate with academics, activists, and policy makers in efforts to design projects that focus on dismantling structural inequality

PUBLICATIONS:

- “Social Constructions, Historical Grounds” (Published Summer 2020 in *Practicing Anthropology*)
 “Isolation by Distance & The Problem of the 21st Century” (Published Spring 2020 & Spring 2021 in *Human Biology*)
 “American Association of Biological Anthropology (AABA) Statement on Race and Racism”
 (Published Spring 2019 by *American Association of Biological Anthropology*)
 “Social Problems, Structural Issues, & Unsettling Science”
 (Published Spring 2018 in *American Anthropologist*)
 “Valuing Black lives: Pentecostalism, charismatic gifts, and human economies in a U.S. inner city”
 (Published Fall 2015 in *American Ethnologist*)
 “Food Deserts As Necropolitical Formations: Investigating Markers of Social, Political, & Economic Inequality in the Dental Health of Low-Income Black Americans”
 (Forthcoming in *Sociology Without Borders*)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- Instructor for STS-UY 2144 – Ethics & Technology (NYU) (Fall 2022)
 Instructor for AFRO 250 – Intro to Health & Wellness in the Black Community (UIUC) (Fall 2021)
 Instructor for AFRO 250 – Intro to Health & Wellness in the Black Community (UIUC) (Summer 2021)
 Guest Lecture in POLI189 – “Libidinal Economy & the Psychopolitics of Race” at Pomona College
 (Spring 2021)
 Instructor for AFRO 250 – Intro to Health & Wellness in the Black Community (UIUC) (Spring 2021)
 Instructor for AFRO 250 – Intro to Health & Wellness in the Black Community (UIUC) (Fall 2020)
 Teaching Assistant for IB 100 – Biology in Today’s World (UIUC) (Fall 2019)
 Teaching Assistant for IB 108 – Biology of Dinosaurs (UIUC) (Spring 2019)
 Teaching Assistant for SOC 100 – Illinois Scholars Program (UIUC) (Summer 2018)
 Teaching Assistant for SOC 275 – Criminology (UIUC) (Spring 2018)
 Guest Lecture in ESEM 150 – “The Perfect Human, The Promise & Perils of Genetic Engineering” at
 Earlham College (October 20th, 2017)
 Guest Lecture in SOAN 215 – “Identities & Social Movements” at Earlham College
 (October 19th, 2017)
 Teaching Assistant for SOC 350 – Technology & Society (UIUC) (Fall 2017)
 Teaching Assistant for SOC 380 – Social Research Methods (UIUC) (Spring 2017)

Teaching Assistant for SOC 100 – Introduction to Sociology (UIUC) (Fall 2016)
 Teaching Assistant for SOC 488/596 – Demographic Methods (UIUC) (Spring 2016)
 Women & Gender Studies Department at Canisius College talk titled “Intersectionality & the Herstory of the Black Lives Matter Movement” (April 10th, 2015)
 APY 494 BAC – “The Politics of Death” Guest Lecture on “Biopower & Necropolitics” (UB) (November 11th, 2014)
 APY 494 BAC – “The Politics of Death” Guest Lecture on “Biopolitics & Organ Donating” (UB) (November 13th, 2014)
 GGS 228 SEM – “Intro to Feminist Theory” Guest Lecture on “A Short Introduction to Black Feminism & Intersectionality” (UB) (September 29th, 2014)
 AAS 117 SEM – “Hip Hop & Social Issues” Guest Lecture on “Black Feminism & Hip Hop” (UB) (March 6th, 2014)
 AAS 280 LEC – “Survey of African Studies” Guest Lecture on “Pan Africanism & African Liberation Movements” (UB) (March 3rd, 2014)
 AAS 117 SEM – “Hip Hop & Social Issues” Guest Lecture on “Intersectionality & Controlling Images in Hip Hop” (UB) (September 20th, 2013)
 Graduate Teaching Assistant for APY 651 – Comparative Primate Anatomy (UB) (Spring 2013)
 Graduate Teaching Assistant for APY 348 – Forensic Anthropological Osteology (UB) (Fall 2011)

AWARDS & HONORS:

Ford Foundation Fellows Honorable Mentions for Dissertation Competition (Spring 2020)
 The Program in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Summer Research Award (Summer 2019)
 University of Illinois Graduate College Dewson Fellowship (Fall 2018)
 IDEAS Scholar Award from the *American Association of Biological Anthropology* (AABA) (Spring 2018)
 Recipient of Research Grant from UIUC Department of Sociology (Spring 2017)
 On the UIUC’s “List of Teachers Ranked As Excellent By Their Students” (Spring 2017)
 On the UIUC’s “List of Teachers Ranked As Excellent By Their Students” (Fall 2016)
 Arturo Schomburg Fellow at SUNY at Buffalo (UB) (Fall 2011 – Spring 2015)
Association for Equality and Excellence in Education, Inc. Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Scholarship (Spring 2011)
 William R. Greiner Leadership Award (October 1st, 2010)
 Colonial Athletic Association Chancellor’s Award (Spring 2010)
 National College Athlete Honor Society Chi Alpha Sigma (April 27th, 2010)
 Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Award of Distinction (April 1st, 2010)
 UB Certificate of Excellence in Research (April 1st, 2010)
 McNair Scholars Program Executive Board Member (09/09 – 05/11)
 McNair Scholar (05/09 – Present)
 High Academic Achievement Award (01/09 – 05/11)
 EOP Chi Alpha Sigma (08/08 – 05/11)
 Statewide Academic Achievement Award (08/08 – 05/11)

INTERNSHIPS:

SUNY Buffalo’s 2011 Summer Archaeological Field School (07/11 – 08/11)
 McNair Scholars Program Summer Research Internship, Buffalo, NY (05/11 – 07/11)
 McNair Scholars Program Summer Research Internship, Buffalo, NY (05/10 – 07/10)
 McNair Scholars Program Summer Research Internship, Buffalo, NY (05/09 – 07/09)

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS:

- “Pursuing Science that Unsettles” Pride Symposium Keynote at Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai
(June 30th, 2021)
- Speaker on the “Race & Anthropology: A Four-Field Conversation” Panel with Dr. Christina Leza, Dr. Agustín Fuentes, & Dr. Sanchita Balachandran at Arizona University
(March 26th, 2021)
- “Race/ism & the Definitional Dilemma” talk for the Race & Anthropology Lecture Series at Arizona University
(March 18th, 2021)
- “Beyond An Anti-Racist Biology” talk for the Biology Department at Middlebury College
(March 12th, 2021)
- “On the Racialization of Biology” public talk at Middlebury College
(March 11th, 2021)
- “Race/ism: A Human Ecological System” talk in the Queering Research series at Western Washington University
(January 28th, 2021)
- Speaker on the “Beyond Visibility” Panel with Dr. Deborah Bolnick (UConn), Dr. Rick Smith (Dartmouth), Dr. Agustin Fuentes (Norte Dame), & Dr. Susan Anton (NYU) at the 87th annual *American Association of Physical Anthropology* Conference
(April 12th, 2018)
- Speaker on the “Getting Elsewhere: Shared Futures on Selfsame Land” Panel at University of Toronto as part of *Indigenous Education Week*
(November 3rd, 2017)
- “Taking Social Constructivism Seriously” talk given at Earlham College Center for Social Justice hosted by the Tong Research Group
(October 19th, 2017)
- “The Coloniality of Philosophies of Biology” Presented at the 2017 *Society for the Social Studies of Science* (4S) 42nd Annual Meeting
(August 30th – September 2nd, 2017)
- “The Coloniality of Philosophies of Biology” Presented at the 2017 *American Association of Physical Anthropology* 86th Annual Meeting
(April 19th – 22nd, 2017)
- “Decolonizing Biology: An Alternative Analysis of Disease Risk” Presented at the 2016 *Midwestern Sociological Society & North Central Sociological Association* Joint Annual Meeting
(March 23rd – March 25th, 2016)
- “Biology of Oppression As Theory & Method: Intersectional & Dialectical Human Biology & Medicine” Presented at the *Eastern Sociological Society*’s 85th Annual Meeting
(February 26th – March 1st, 2015)
- “Proposing A Human Economy of Pain: Investigating the Social Reproduction of Pain among Athletes in Collegiate Athleticism” Presented at the *Eastern Sociological Society*’s 85th Annual Meeting
(February 26th – March 1st, 2015)
- “Biology of Oppression: Investigating Markers of Social, Political, & Economic Inequality” Presented at Bioarchaeologists’ Northeast Regional Dialogue (BNRD) Conference’s 4th Annual Meeting
(October 5th, 2014)
- “Biology of Oppression: A Preliminary Study Of The Impact Of Structural Inequality On The Dental Health Of Poor African Americans In Buffalo, NY” Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society’s 84th Annual Meeting
(February 20th – 23rd, 2014)
- Guest Speaker on “Graduate School Information Panel” at the 18th National McNair Scholar Research Conference
(July 2012)
- 15th, 16th, & 17th *National Ronald E. McNair Scholar Research Conferences* (July 2009, July 2010 & July 2011)
- Presented Research at the *North Central Sociological Association* 2011 Annual Meeting
(March 31st – April 2nd, 2011)

WORKSHOPS:

- Attended the “Loh Down on Science Communication Workshop” at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science & Technology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
(April 12-14th, 2019)

Presented “The Coloniality of Philosophies of Biology” at the MidweSTS Workshop hosted by the Indiana University Bloomington School of Informatics & Computing

(September 29th – October 1st, 2017)

Presented at the Infrastructural Worlds Workshop at Duke University

(March 28th – 29th, 2014)

Attended the Race, Space, & Exclusion Workshop at the Baldy Law Center at UB; Participants: Nancy Denton, Christopher Mele, Robert Adelman, Kris Marsh, Leela Viswanathan, Mary Fisher, David Wilson, Deirdre Oakley, Bradley Gardner

(September 19th – 20th, 2013)

Attended Qualitative Interview Methods Workshop hosted by Civic Engagement & Public Policy at UB

(June 2013)

Attended the Public Research Workshop: Community Based Participatory Research and Asset Based Community Development hosted by Civic Engagement & Public Policy at UB; Speaker: Deborah Punttenney

(May 17th, 2013)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Black Agenda Radio Interview with Glen Ford

(November 9th, 2020)

Health Justice & Black Liberation: Shay-Akil McLean profile & interview for *Black Agenda Report*

(October 7th, 2020)

Facilitated *NPR Scicommer* Anti-Racism in Science Communication Workshop

(September 24th, 2020)

Deathnography Podcast, Interview #3, “The Gang Solves Racism”

(June 13th, 2019)

NPR Worldview Interview with Julian Hayda

(February 13th, 2019)

The *Human Biology Association – Sausage of Science Podcast Interview #30, “Yes, Anthropology Is Racist”* – A Chat with Shay-Akil McLean with Cara Ocobock & Chris Lynn

(January 1st, 2019)

Member of the *American Biological Anthropology Association’s* (AABA) Committee on Diversity (COD)

subcommittee

(June 2018 – 2020)

Speaker at the “Science & Social Change” show hosted by *StarTalk Radio* host Natalia Reagan & Actor Malcom Barrett at *The Caveat* in NY, NY

(June, 4th, 2018)

Facilitated Democratizing Research workshop at the *Drug Policy Forum’s* “Ethics, Expertise, & Experience Meeting” held at NYU

(February, 10th 2018)

Facilitated “Decolonizing Gender Relations: Unlearning Everyday Patriarchy” Community Workshop

hosted by *Hella Gay* (Charlottesville, VA)

(October 28th, 2017)

Panel Speaker at “Freedom Forum: Towards Social Justice in the Aftermath of Charlottesville” hosted by

UIUC African American Studies Department

(September 18th, 2017)

Organizer and Panel Speaker at “The People’s Science” Panel at UIUC

(April 10th, 2017)

Panel Speaker at “Freedom Forum: Toward Black Liberation in the Era of Trump” hosted by UIUC

African American Studies Department

(February 28th, 2017)

Panel Speaker at “Freedom Forum: Forging Politics of Solidarity and Intergenerational Dialogue” hosted by

UIUC African American Studies Department

(May 5th, 2016)

“Tweets For Liberation: The Promise of Digital Popular Education” Published in *Conditionally Accepted on Inside Higher Education*

(December 8th, 2015)

Founder of D.A.T.T. Freedom School

(June 2015 – Present)

Director of African Community Health Initiative of African United Front, Buffalo, NY

(August 2013 – August 2015)

President of Fight the Power UB

(Spring 2011 – Summer 2013)

Coordinator for the Uhuru Saturday School

(July – August, 2013)

Fight the Power UB Student Association Graduate Advisor

(Fall 2012 – Spring 2013)

Member of the Marcus Garvey and Malcolm X Committee, Buffalo, NY

(May 2012 – 2016)

Founding member of Fight the Power UB

(Spring 2011 – 2016)

References Are Available Upon Request