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

(716) 752-9657 ✦ drshayakil@gmail.com

EDUCATION:

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

Ecology, Evolution, & Conservation Biology, Ph.D. – GPA 3.9/4.0 (Dec 2021)
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; Evolutionary Biology; Human Evolutionary Genetics; Theoretical Population Genetics; Ecology & Human Health; Public Health; Epidemiology; Health Demography; Sociological & Biological Statistics (SPSS, SAS, STATA, R); Comparative Historical & Urban Sociology; History, Anthropology, Science, Technology & Society (HASTS); Bio/Medical Ethics; Ethics of Technology & Society; Philosophies of Biology & Science; Politics of Knowledge Production

EXPERIENCE:

National Birth Equity Collaborative, New Orleans, Louisiana (09/20-Present)
Chief Informaticist & Vice President of Research & Strategy

- Provide historically grounded analysis, scientific expertise, & other technical assistance
- Design workshop & training materials for healthcare & public health workers
- Design training guides for developing anticolonial practices in biomedicine & medical education
- Design & conduct research, data entry, analysis & evaluation; report & grant writing

New York University, Tandon School of Engineering, Brooklyn, New York (08/22-01/23)
Adjunct Professor, Technology, Culture & Society Dept.

- Developed syllabus, learning materials & taught two sections of Ethics & Technology for the Fall 2022 Semester
- Provided instruction to undergraduate students for developing ethical expertise that is integral to the careers & responsibilities of engineering professionals to society

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois (01/17-12/21)
Instructor, African American Studies Dept.|(08/20-12/21)

- Designed syllabus, learning materials & taught two sections of Intro to Health & Wellness in the Black Community for the Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021 & Fall 2021 Semesters
- Provided instruction to undergrad & graduate students on understanding human health status throughout the lifecourse, social & environmental challenges, lifestyle behaviors, interventions, & the socio-political & economic distribution of disease, morbidity, & mortality

Lab Member, Malhi Modern Human Genetics Lab, Anthropology Dept.|(09/18-12/21)

- Assist with lab work & research projects
- Provide technical expertise & advisement to fellow graduate & undergraduate lab member

Lab Supervisor, Roseman Evolutionary Genetics Lab, Animal Biology Dept.|(07/17-12/20)

- Assist with lab work, organize & facilitate group research projects & publications
- Provide technical expertise & advisement to fellow graduate & undergraduate lab members

Shabazz Center for Intellectual Inquiry, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH (05/17-07/17)

Consultant

- 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 (09/15-10/15)

Consultant

- Creating accessible online learning tools & content
- Collaborate with academics, activists, & 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 & 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, & 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 Tandon) (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) (Sum 2021)
POLI189 – "Libidinal Economy & the Psychopolitics of Race" Guest Lecture at Pomona College (Spr 2021)
Instructor for AFRO 250 – Intro to Health & Wellness in the Black Community (UIUC) (Spr 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) (Spr 2019)
Teaching Assistant for SOC 100 – *Illinois Scholars Program* (UIUC) (Sum 2018)
Teaching Assistant for SOC 275 – Criminology (UIUC) (Spr 2018)
ESEM 150 – "The Perfect Human, The Promise & Perils of Genetic Engineering" Guest Lecture at Earlham College (October 20th, 2017)
SOAN 215 – "Identities & Social Movements" Guest Lecture 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) (Spr 2017)
Teaching Assistant for SOC 100 – Introduction to Sociology (UIUC) (Fall 2016)
Teaching Assistant for SOC 488/596 – Demographic Methods (UIUC) (Spr 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", "Biopower & Necropolitics" Guest Lecture (UB) (November 11th, 2014)
APY 494 BAC – "The Politics of Death", "Biopolitics & Organ Donating" Guest Lecture (UB) (November 13th, 2014)
GGS 228 SEM – "Intro to Feminist Theory", "A Short Introduction to Black Feminism & Intersectionality" Guest Lecture (UB) (September 29th, 2014)
AAS 117 SEM – "Hip Hop & Social Issues", "Black Feminism & Hip Hop" Guest Lecture (UB) (March 6th, 2014)
AAS 280 LEC – "Survey of African Studies", "Pan Africanism & African Liberation Movements" Guest Lecture (UB) (March 3rd, 2014)
AAS 117 SEM – "Hip Hop & Social Issues", "Intersectionality & Controlling Images in Hip Hop" Guest Lecture (UB) (September 20th, 2013)
Graduate Teaching Assistant for APY 651 – Comparative Primate Anatomy (UB) (Spr 2013)
Graduate Teaching Assistant for APY 348 – Forensic Anthropological Osteology (UB) (Fall 2011)

AWARDS & HONORS:

Ford Foundation Fellows Honorable Mentions for Dissertation Competition (Spr 2020)
The Program in Ecology, Evolution, & Conservation Biology, UIUC Summer Research Award (Sum 2019)
University of Illinois Graduate College Dewson Fellowship (Fall 2018)
IDEAS Scholar Award from the *American Association of Biological Anthropology* (AABA) (Spr 2018)

Recipient of Research Grant from UIUC Department of Sociology (Spr 2017)
On the UIUC's "List of Teachers Ranked As Excellent By Their Students" (Spr 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– Spr 2015)
Association for Equality & Excellence in Education, Inc. Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Scholarship (Spr 2011)
William R. Greiner Leadership Award (October 1st, 2010)
Colonial Athletic Association Chancellor's Award (Spr 2010)
National College Athlete Honor Society Chi Alpha Sigma (April 27th, 2010)
Undergraduate Research & 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:

"Challenges & opportunities for clear communication about sex, gender, & genomics" at the National Institute of Health (NIH) *National Human Genome Research Institute* public symposium titled "Exploring the many dimensions of sex & gender in the genomics era: Clarifying complexities in light of social & genomic advances & their histories" (July 18th, 2024)
"Decolonizing Biology & Medicine: Towards Achieving Health Equity"; Jane Wilson Smith Lectureship presented by the *Mary Amelia Center for Women's Health Equity Research* & the Tulane Program to Advance Representation in Minority Health Research (ARMHR) at *Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine* (October 23rd, 2023)
"Race/ism: A Human Ecological System" Keynote at the Public Affairs Conference at *Missouri State University* (September 27th, 2023)
Presented "Unsettling Science: Positive Actions & Good Ecological Relations" at the 2021 *Society for the Social Studies of Science* (4S) 46th Annual Meeting (October 7th, 2021)
"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, Dr. Rick Smith, Dr. Agustin Fuentes, & Dr. Susan Anton 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 the *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 Conference (February 20th – 23rd, 2014)
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:

Designed & Facilitated *NPR Scicommer* "Anti-Racism in Science Communication" Workshop (September 24th, 2020)
Attended the "Loh Down on Science Communication Workshop" at the *Beckman Institute for Advanced Science & Technology* at UIUC (April 12-14th, 2019)
Designed & Facilitated "Best Practices for Democratizing Research Workshop" at the "Ethics, Expertise & Experience Convening" held by the *Drug Policy Alliance* & the NYU *Silver School of Social Work* (February 10th,2018)
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 & Asset Based Community Development" hosted by *Civic Engagement & Public Policy* at UB; Speaker: Deborah Puntenney (May 17th, 2013)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

"Myth: Ancestry DNA Test Determines Race" Part 2 with Dr. Shay-Akil McLean on *The Black Myths Podcast* (February 23rd, 2022)
Black Agenda Radio Interview with Glen Ford (November 9th, 2020)
"Health Justice & Black Liberation: Shay-Akil McLean" interview for *Black Agenda Report* (October 7th, 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 "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 the African American Studies Department at UIUC (September 18th, 2017)
Organizer & 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 the African American Studies Department at UIUC (February 28th, 2017)
Panel Speaker at "Freedom Forum: Forging Politics of Solidarity & Intergenerational Dialogue" hosted by the African American Studies Department at UIUC (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 DecolonizeAllTheThings.com (March 2014 – Present)
Founder of DecolonizeAllTheScience.com (June 2017 – Present)
Director of African Community Health Initiative of African United Front, Buffalo, NY (2013 – 2015)
President of Fight the Power UB (Spr 2011 – Sum 2013)
Coordinator for the Uhuru Saturday School (July – August, 2013)
Fight the Power UB Student Association Graduate Advisor (Fall 2012 – Spr 2013)
Member of the Marcus Garvey & Malcolm X Committee, Buffalo, NY (May 2012 – 2016)
Founding member of Fight the Power UB (Spr 2011 – Spr 2016)

References available upon request