

SHARON D. JOHNSON, PhD, WGAW

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

1998 – Present

California State University, Northridge, Northridge CA (2014 – Present)

Lecturer – Department of Africana Studies (Chair: Marquita Gammage, PhD)

AY 2023-2024 Black Images on the Silver Screen (AFRS 337)
African American Literature Since 1930 (AFRS 245)
Psychological Environment of African Americans (AFRS 220)
Contemporary Black Women Writers (AFRS 346HON)
Popular Culture and the Black World (AFRS 252)

AY 2022-2023 Film, Literature & Society in Africa (AFRS 343)
Black Images on the Silver Screen (AFRS 337)
African American Literature Since 1930 (AFRS 245)

AY 2021-2022 African American Autobiography (AFRS 345)
Black Images on the Silver Screen (AFRS 337)

AY 2017-2018 African American Literature Since 1930 (AFRS 245)
Popular Culture and the Black World (AFRS 252)
Approaches to University Writing (AFRS 115)

AY 2016-2017 African American Literature Since 1930 (AFRS 245)
Popular Culture and the Black World (AFRS 252)

Lecturer – Department of Cinema and Television Arts (Chair: Jon Stahl, MFA)

Fall 2014 Writing Screenplay Comedy (CTVA 428)

Emerson College Los Angeles Center, Los Angeles CA (2018 – 2020)

Adjunct – Department of Visual & Media Arts (Academic Director: Mikhail Gershovich, PhD)

AY 2019-2020 & Race & Gender Representation in Screen Adaptations (VM 402 & VM 300)

AY 2018-2019 [Original course: A critical examination of representations of race and gender
in source texts and their filmed adaptations]

UCLA Extension, Los Angeles CA (1998 – 2000)

Part-Time Faculty – Writers Program (Director: Linda Venis, PhD)

Introduction to Screenwriting I (X 440A)—Spring 2000, Summer 1998

Introduction to Screenwriting II (X 440B)—Summer 1999

California State University, Long Beach CAOffice of Research & Student Success InitiativesParticipant – Equity-Minded Pedagogy Course (Fall 2023)

Supports faculty to utilize institutional data, human-centered design, and equity-mindedness to eliminate equity gaps in students' achievements of learning outcomes and course completion.

Instructional Designer & Facilitator: William G. Hardaway

California State University, Northridge, Northridge CAPeer Reviewer – Inaugural Equity Minded Teaching Peer Reviewer Program (Spring 2022 – Present)

Support ITTL faculty graduates in moving their courses toward equity mindedness by reviewing course syllabi and other teaching artifacts and sharing best practice suggestions.

Program Facilitators: Dr. Marcy De Veaux and Dr. Kristy Michaud

Institute for Transformative Teaching and Learning (ITTL) (Spring 2018)Graduate of Inaugural Cohort

Semester-long Institute where faculty collaborate in multidisciplinary groups to learn and apply evidence-based practices that close gaps in outcomes between students of color and their peers in order to achieve more equitable outcomes for CSUN students.

Institute Facilitators: Dr. Kristy Michaud, Dr. Whitney Scott, and Dr. Marcy De Veaux

Emerson College Los Angeles, Los Angeles CATeaching and Learning in Emerson's Diverse Student Community (January 14, 2020)

Two-hour workshop where faculty explored how socialization and positionality are related to professional work, and how to respond to microaggressions. Additional one-on-one consultation.

Facilitator: Dr. Tuesda Roberts, Director of Faculty Development and Diversity

ACADEMIC SERVICE**2016 – Present****California State University, Northridge, Northridge CA**Black History Month Committee (2016 - 2022)Africana Studies Week Committee (2016 - 2022)

Moderator – Afrofuturism: A Conversation with Dr. Ayana Jamieson (November 1, 2022)

Moderator – Silence Into Language Into Action: A Conversation with Kathy Williamson, N.D. (November 3, 2021)

QPR Certification – Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade, Refer (November 9, 2021)

Facilitators: Dr. Anne Eipe and Dr. Sunil Obediah

Faculty Poetry Reading – University Library presentation for National Poetry Month (April 20, 2018)

“Mater Victoria: For Coretta”

California State University, Northridge, Northridge CAGE Honors Research Fellowship (AY 2023-2024)

Sisters of Sakhu: Revisiting Black Women's Engagement with Dreams, 2016-2024 (Original research project)

*Tamara Sims, CSUN GE Honors Research Fellow

* Follow-up to *Sisters of Sakhu: Does Dream Work Affect Black Women's Mental Well-Being?*

[Original research project, February - April, 2016, successfully crowdfunded on Experiment.com
Myra Whittingham (CSULA), Research Assistant].

Distinguished Visiting Speaker Program Grants

May 2023 – (AFRS 343 Film, Literature & Society in Africa):

Dr. Deborah G. Plant (Editor, *Barracoon*)

Dr. Magueye Seck (Founder, Cheikh Anta Diop Symposium, Curry College)

December 2022 – (AFRS 245 African American Literature Since 1930):

Dr. Kern Jackson, Co-Producer & Co-Writer, *Descendant* (Netflix)

May 2022 – (AFRS 337 Black Images on the Silver Screen):

Jackie Bazan, Publicity Consultant, *One Night in Miami* (Amazon Studios)

Rosa Clemente, Associate Producer, *Judas and the Black Messiah* (Warner Bros.)

December 2021 – (AFRS 337 Black Images on the Silver Screen):

Sadé Clacken Joseph, Independent Filmmaker (Issa Rae Productions, et al)

Pacifica Graduate Institute, Carpinteria CA

Honoree – 2023 *Celebration of Black History* (February 17, 2023)

PUBLICATION**1989 – Present****ACADEMIC**

In Press—*Zora Neale Hurston In Context* (Cambridge University Press, TBD 2025)

(James Mellis, Editor)

-- “Dust Tracks of Her Tears: Lucy, Langston, and the Broken-Hearted Zora Neale Hurston”

-- “Lost In Translation: Race, Gender, Creative Politics, and Hurston’s Sixty-Five Year Odyssey
to See Her Work Adapted Into Film”

“Celestine L. Smith, EdD.” In J. Grahe, M. Ceynar & R. S. Mason (Eds.), *Early Psychological Research
Contributions from Women of Color*. Oxford, UK: Routledge, March 2023

“Conscious daughters: Psychological migration, individuation, and the declaration of Black female identity in *Daughters of the Dust*.” In P. W. Lessane (Ed.), *We Carry These Memories Inside of We: Teaching Julie Dash’s Daughters of the Dust as a Black Feminist Narrative*. New York, NY: Peter Lang, 2020

Associate Editor—*The Compass*

Journal of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations

(Dr. Greg Kimathi Carr [Howard University], Editor-in-Chief)

Volume 3, Issue 1 (2018) | Volume 2, Issue 1 (2017) | Volume 1, Issue 1 (2016)

Editor—*Seeing in the Dark: Wisdom Works by Black Women in Depth Psychology* (The Malibu Press, 2017)

-- “Why are all the Black women depth psychologists sitting together in the cafeteria?:

Choosing the familiar Other as a radical act of love” [Introduction, pp. xiii-xxi]

-- “Race and inferiority: What the Harlem Renaissance can teach us today” (pp. 115-130)

EDITORIAL

Purpose and Passion: In her new role as Spelman College’s 11th president, Dr. Helene Gayle ’76 builds on her success as a leader in global health to nurture the next generation of Black women.”

Barnard Magazine, CXII(1), 28-31. Winter 2023

Reading *Dust Tracks*—What Hurston’s autobiography can and cannot tell us.” *Barnard Magazine*, CI(4), 31, 33, 73. Fall 2012

“Literary lion: Ntozake Shange ’70 weighs in on *For Colored Girls*, why she writes, and her new book.”

Barnard Magazine, C(1), 22-24. Winter 2011

“Off the page: S. Epatha Merkeron goes from buying books for her own pleasure to buying rights to film *Leaving Cecil Street*.” *Black Issues Book Review*, 8(2), 12-14. March/April 2006

“The word workers: Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee shared many things, among them a reverence for seeing language breathed into life.” *Black Issues Book Review*, 7(3), 22-26. May/June 2005

“All eyes on ‘Eyes’: Oprah’s adaptation of Zora’s classic novel is a historical moment for the worlds of television and literature.” *Black Issues Book Review*, 7(2), 42-45. March/April 2005

“Ossie, victorious.” *Emmy*, 28(2), 30. March/April 2005

“Ossie Davis: A prophet with honor.” *Los Angeles Sentinel*, 70(51), B3, B4. March 10, 2005

“Watching Zora: Oprah Winfrey, Halle Berry and others bring novel by Zora Neale Hurston ’28 to life.” *Barnard Magazine*, XCVII(1), 18-21. Winter 2005

“Not just any day: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s martyrdom imitates art on the final season of *Any Day Now*.” *Written By*, 6(1), 50-53. December 2001/January 2002

“Lorraine Toussaint speaks louder than words.” *The Wave E-Scene*, 1(11), 6-7. March 28-April 3, 2001

“An American phenomenon: Tina Andrews might be the hardest working woman in show business.” *Written By*, 4(10), 32-41. November 2000

Counterpunch: “Sitcom writers and the color of funny.” *Los Angeles Times*, F3. June 26, 2000

Backtalk: “Keep the pressure on—African American viewers need to let networks know that we expect to see more people of color behind the camera.” *Essence*, 31(2), 184. June 2000

“Behind closed doors: Black writers rage against racism.” *Written By*, 4(1). December 1999/January 2000

“True colors: TV dramas are doing better at color-blind casting, but sitcoms lag behind.” *Emmy*, 20(5), 38-41. September/October 1998

“Enter Laughing: For Barnard women, comedy is serious business.” *Barnard Magazine*, LXXXIV(3), 13-15. Summer 1995

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

2009 - Present

California State University, Northridge, Northridge CA

Lecturer – GE Honors Program Interdisciplinary Lecture Series

“Black Voices: Hurston and Hughes in the U.S. & Beyond” (October 13, 2022)

[2022 Series theme: *The Rise and Fall of Democracies*]

GE Honors Program Director: Dr. Debbie Ma

C.G. Jung Institute of Los Angeles, Los Angeles CA

Guest Lecture – “The Clinical is Cultural, The Cultural is Clinical: Black Women Depth Psychologists on the Evolution of Clinical Practice” (October 31, 2000)

Presenters: Drs. Sharon D. Johnson, Sherrie Sims Allen, Marcella De Veaux, Kim Howell, & Patricia Taylor

Salome Institute of Jungian Studies, Portland OR

Salon Presentation – “The Beautiful One Has Come: A Discussion with Five Black Women of Depth Psychology” (August 15, 2000)

Presenters: Drs. Sharon D. Johnson, Sherrie Sims Allen, Marcella De Veaux, Kim Howell, & Patricia Taylor

Columbia University Alumni Association, Southern California chapter

Panelist – “Post-Pandemic Hollywood: A Summer without Movies” (June 2, 2020)

Moderator: Dr. Victor P. Corona

Association for Women in Psychology (AWP) 50th Anniversary Conference, Newport RI
Presenter – “Sisters of Sakhu: Dream Work and Black Women’s Psychological Health” (March 3, 2019)
Summary of 2016 original research project crowdfunded on Experiment.com

Pomona College, Claremont CA

Guest Lecturer – Department of Media Studies (Chair: Jennifer Friedlander, PhD)

Introduction to Media Studies: Print Media, Television & Popular Culture (MS49)

“Race-ish: Accepted Narratives about People of Color on Primetime Television” (November 11, 2014)

Black Women for Wellness, Los Angeles CA

Panelist – Sisters@Eight Breakfast –Mental State with Sisters@Eight

“Dream Work and Depth Psychology as Healing Practices for Black Women” (November 7, 2014)

Pomona College, Claremont CA

Guest Lecturer – Department of Art History (Instructor: Phyllis Jackson, PhD)

Black Aesthetics and the Politics of (Re)presentation (ARHI178)

“From Hollywood to High Art: The Representation of Blackness & Why it Matters” (October 31, 2013)

Callie Rose Literary Arts Society, Inglewood CA

Guest Speaker – “Zora vs. America: Gender, Voice, and the 60th Anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education Decision through Hurston’s Eyes” [community talk] (May 18, 2014)

Pacifica Graduate Institute, Carpinteria CA

Concurrent Session Instructor

The Writer’s Journey: Outside In and Back Again conference (April 26-28, 2013)

“Depth of Character: The Phenomenology and Soul of the Screenplay” [original course]

Pan African Film Festival, Los Angeles CA

Panelist— “Slavery on the Big Screen: A Conversation on Film and Race in America,”

February 9, 2014 (Moderator: Dr. Aminah Bakeer Abdul-Jabaar)

Juror—Documentary Feature Category, February 7-18, 2013

Documentary Short Category, February 10-21, 2005

Moderator—Writer’s Forum, February 17, 2002

Pacifica Graduate Institute, Carpinteria CA

Guest Lecturer – M.A. Engaged Humanities & Creative Life program (Instructor: Geoffrey Jacques, PhD)

Passion, Advocacy & the Arts (HMC280)

“Diverse Variations on DaVinci’s *Last Supper*” (July 13, 2012)

Avery Research Center – College of Charleston, Charleston SC

We Carry These Memories Inside of We—*Symposium Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Julie Dash’s*

Film, *Daughters of the Dust* (September 16-17, 2011)

“Conscious Daughters: Psychological Migration, Individuation, and the Declaration of Black Female Identity in *Daughters of the Dust*” [paper]

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

& the **Graduate Center of the City University of New York**, New York NY

The State of African American and African Diaspora Studies Conference (January 6-8, 2011)

“What’s Jung Got to do With It? The Harlem Renaissance, Contemporary African American Arts and Literature, and the Cultural Complex through the Lens of Jungian Psychology” [paper]

Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community (APEC), Eatonville FL

The 21st Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival for the Arts and Humanities (January 23-30, 2010)

“Between Science and Fiction: The Cultural Complex, Tension of Opposites, and Development of Personality in the Life and Work of Zora Neale Hurston” [paper]

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee NC

Distinguished Guest Speaker—*Women Who Dare!* Series, Women’s Center & Women’s Programs (Michele Rivera-Clonch, Center Director)

“Zora Neale Hurston—Provocateur of the Page” (November 18, 2009)

Hollywood Black Film Festival, Beverly Hills CA

Moderator— “Tales from the Writing Trenches” writers panel (June 8, 2007)

Barnard College, New York NY

Panelist—Television Writers Panel, *Great Writers at Barnard* conference (November 6, 2005)

Mark Taper Auditorium, Central Library, Los Angeles CA

Producer, Host & Moderator— “African American Screenwriter-Authors” panel (May 31, 2003)

Panelists: George Alexander, Trey Ellis, Deborah Gregory, and Sherri McGhee

Atlanta Urban Mediamakers Film Festival, Atlanta GA

Instructor— “Writing for Reel” [original two-day intensive screenwriting workshop]

(April 26-27, 2003 | April 6-7, 2002)

Acapulco Black Film Festival, Acapulco Mexico

Moderator— “Telling ALL Our Stories” panel hosted by the Writers Guild of America, West, Inc., (June 11, 1999)

Charlie Chaplain Theatre, Raleigh Studios, Hollywood CA

Symposium Producer & Host— “Reclaiming Our Voices: For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When Hollywood Gets Rough” (November 23, 1996)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mary E. Hargrow, Association of Black Psychologists

TELEVISIONStory/Script Consultant (December 2020 – Present)

PBS Masterpiece – WGBH (Susanne Simpson, Executive Producer)

Advise Executive Producer on race and diversity elements of television series scripts and episodes slated for the acclaimed branded program, MASTERPIECE, now in its 53rd yearRound Two Semi-Finalist, October 2018

MACRO Episodic Lab

Television development competition juried by Charles King (MACRO), Lena Waithe, Eva Longoria, and Franklin Leonard (The Black List)

Co-Producer, 2016-2017Research and Development: *An American Conspiracy?—The Trial of the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.*
TAO Entertainment in association with Escape Artists Productions (CBS)Story Editor, 1996 – 1997*Goode Behavior*, Paramount Television (UPN)

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|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Produced Credits: | “Goode Daddy” | Aired February 24, 1997 |
| | “Goode Cause” | Aired September 23, 1996 |

Staff Writer, 1995 – 1996*Buddies*, Wind Dancer Productions/Touchstone Television (ABC)

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|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Produced Credits: | “Regarding Henry” | Aired March 20, 1996 |
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Staff Writer, 1993 – 1994*The Sinbad Show*, Touchstone Television (FOX)

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|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Produced Credits: | “Can We Talk” | Aired March 24, 1994 |
| | “Breaking the Pattern” | Aired January 6, 1994 |
| | “My Daughter’s Keeper” | Aired October 14, 1993 |

THEATER

Hudson Theatre, Los Angeles CA

Acting Out INK FEST! Festival of plays by women (April 25-27, 2014)

(Los Angeles Women’s Theatre Project, Producers)

Playwright—*Legacy* [one-act short]**FILM**Screenwriter—*The Sinbad Devlin Soul Project* [working title, unproduced]

Story by Sinbad and Sharon D. Johnson. Screenplay by Sharon D. Johnson

Afros & Bellbottoms Productions, Inc., Studio City CA (2007-2008)

VIDEO

Speechwriter— “The Power of Diversity in Television” welcome address for Senator Barack Obama
Television’s Challenges in Black, White . . . and Multicolor (Diversity Summit)
Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, North Hollywood CA (October 23, 2004)

MEDIA APPEARANCES & INTERVIEWS

1993 - Present

JEDI (Justice | Equity | Diversity | Inclusion) Podcast
(Britney Galacia, Host)
Northeast Valley Health Corporation, San Fernando CA
“Black History Month – Emerging Icons” (February 8, 2023)

Historical Drama with the Boston Sisters Podcast
(Michon Boston & Taquiena Boston, Hosts)
“Sanditon Wrap-Up” – Episode 32 (April 25, 2023)
“Searching for Healing in *The Woman King*” – Episode 21 (October 11, 2022)
“Sanditon: Regency Fiction and Racial History” – Episode 13 (April 26, 2022)

Masterpiece | PBS – Special Feature (online)
“Telling Georgiana Lambe’s Story in *Sanditon* Season 2” (April 12, 2022)

CHANGE AGENTS (Host & Moderator), 2019 – 2022
Original interview series on The Emerald Rock – Dr. Sharon D. Johnson YouTube Channel
(<https://bit.ly/3LqyJ5W>)

African Americans in Television: Behind the Scenes
(Gregory Adamo, Author). New York, NY: Peter Lang, 2010

Los Angeles Cityview Channel 35
Featured Interview – “Black Hollywood 2000” (Emma E. Pullen, Producer/Director)

KCET Los Angeles *Life and Times Tonight*, Entertainment Report
“Diversity and TV’s Fall Lineup,” July 26, 1999

Color by FOX: The FOX Network and the Revolution of Black Television, Part 1, Chapter 2
(Kristal Brent Zook, Author). New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1999

ABC-7 Eyewitness News Los Angeles, Entertainment Report
(George Pennachio, Segment Host)
Featured Interview – “Diversity in Fall TV Season” (5 p.m. & 11 p.m. broadcasts), May 28, 1999

America's Black Forum, KCAL Los Angeles, CA
(Julian Bond & Juan Williams, Hosts)
Panelist – “Diversity in TV,” October 3, 1999

Black Entertainment Television – *Screen Scene*
Featured Interview – March 4, 1996 (Traci Carter, Segment Producer);
Featured Interview – December 30, 1993 (Paula Bond, Segment Producer)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

1993 - Present

Board of Directors, Associate Alumnae of Barnard College, New York NY

Director at Large (2021 – 2024)

Elected by Barnard alumnae to advise and guide the Alumnae Association in working with the Office of Alumnae Relations to spearhead initiatives and programs that support and advance the College

American Psychological Association (APA) (2017 – 2023)

- Division 35 – Society for the Psychology of Women
- Division 35, Section 1 – The Psychology of Black Women

Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (2011 – Present)

(Dr. Mario Beatty [Howard University], President)

Writers Guild of America, West, Inc. (WGAW) (1993 – Present)

The labor union of professional writers of scripted television, film, news programs, and other content

- **Chair**, Committee of Black Writers, 1999 – 2003
- **Candidate**, WGAW Board of Directors, 1999
- **Award Acceptor** (appointed by WGAW Executive Director John McLean):
EPIC (Exemplary Public Interest Contribution) **Award** presented by Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman, for the WGAW's efforts toward greater representational and employment diversity and equal opportunity. United States Department of Labor, Washington DC, September 2000

EDUCATION

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| B.A. | Program in the Arts—Writing | Barnard College |
| M.A. | Media Studies | New School for Social Research |
| Ph.D. | Depth Psychology | Pacifica Graduate Institute |

Doctoral Dissertation

The Fire that Genius Brings: Creativity and the Unhealed Companionship Between Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes
Ann Arbor, MI: ProQuest, 2011 (UMI No. 3597028)