

RUTH NICOLE BROWN, PH.D.

The Department of African American and African Studies
Inaugural Chair & Professor
Michigan State University

Contact

The Department of African American and African Studies
Michigan State University
C-629 Wells Hall
619 Red Cedar Road
East Lansing, IL 48824-1036

Office Phone: (517) 432-0869
Email: rnbrown@msu.edu

Educational Background

PhD., Political Science, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, 2005

Certificate in Gender and Women's Studies

Certificate in World Performance Studies

M.A, Political Science, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, 2000

B.A., Honors in Political Science, University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign, 1998

Academic Appointments

Inaugural Chairperson and Professor, Michigan State University, 2020- present

The Department of African American & African Studies

Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2014-2020

Department of Gender and Women's Studies (50%), Department of Education Policy,

Organization & Leadership (50%), Department of Theatre (0%), The Center for African Studies (0%),

Art + Design (0%)

Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2007- 2014

Department of Gender and Women's Studies (50%) Department of Education Policy, Organization &

Leadership (50%), Department of Theatre (0%), The Center for African Studies (0%)

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2006- 2007

Department of Gender and Women's Studies

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2005-2006

Department of African American Studies

Publications

Books

Ruth Nicole Brown, *Hear Our Truths: Performance and The Creative Potential of Black Girlhood*.
Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2013.

Ruth Nicole Brown, *Black Girlhood Celebration: Toward A Hip-Hop Feminist Pedagogy*. New York, NY: Peter Lang, 2009.

Edited Volumes

Ruth Nicole Brown, Rozana Carducci, & Candace Kuby, (Eds.), *Disrupting Qualitative Inquiry: Possibilities & Tensions in Education Research*. New York, NY: Peter Lang, 2014.

Ruth Nicole Brown, & Chamara Kwakye, (Eds.), *Wish To Live: The Hip-Hop Feminist Pedagogy Reader*. New York, NY: Peter Lang, 2012.

Referred Articles

Brown, R.N. and M. Rhoades. "conversations on the fringes of art + education (a found poem)." *Visual Arts Research*, vol, 45 no, 1, 2019, p. 61-63.

Brown, R.N., (2019) Pleasure Verses: A Five Element Set. *American Quarterly*, vol. 71, no. 1, pp. 179-189.

Brown, R.N., B. Smith, J. Robinson, P. Garner, (2018). Doing digital wrongly. *American Quarterly*, vol. 70 no. 3, pp. 395-416.

Denmead, T. and R. N. Brown, (2014). Ride or die: An instructional resource. *Art Education*, Vol. 67 Issue 6, 47-53.

Brown, R.N., (October 2014). Teaching love: Teaching the power of the word. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*. 27: 7, 943-945.

Brown, R. N., & Peters, M. (2010). Political philosophy of theatre: The experience of Avant-garde and Black Theatre. *Linguistic and Philosophical Investigations*, 9, 17-35.

Brown, R. N. (2007). Speaking free and fully: The political significance of Black girls' way with words. *International Journal of Africana Studies*, 13(1), 83-98.

Brown, R. N. (2006). Persephone's triumph: Reflections of a young Black woman becoming a real political scientist. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 13(5), 650-659.

Brown, R. N. (2006). Mentoring on the borderlands: Creating empowering connections between adolescent girls and young women volunteers. *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge*, IV, 105-122.

Feldman, M. S., Sköldbberg, K., Brown, R. N., & Horner, D. (2004). Making sense of stories: A rhetorical approach to narrative analysis. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 14(2), 147-170.

Invited Book Chapters

Brown, R.N. (2015). A performative account of Black girlhood. In, T. Gosa and E. Nielson (Eds.), *The Hip Hop & Obama Reader*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Brown, R.N. (2015). A praise song for Johnnie. In, V.E. Evans-Winters and B. Love (Eds.),

Black Feminism in Education: Black Women Speak Back, Up, & Out. New York, NY: Peter Lang Press.

Brown, R.N. (2014). She came at me wreckless! Wreckless theatrics as disruptive methodology. In, R.N. Brown, R. Carducci & C. Kuby (Eds.), *Disrupting Qualitative Inquiry: Possibilities and Tensions in Educational Research* (pp. 35-52). New York, NY: Peter Lang Press.

Brown, R.N. (2012). For Oya: I love myself dancing...and then again when I am boxed in and overwhelmed. In R.N. Brown and C.J. Kwakye (Eds.), *Wish to Live: The Hip-hop Feminism Pedagogy Reader* (pp. 47-50). New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Reprints

Brown, R.N. Theorizing narrative discrepancies of Black girlhood from *Black Girlhood Celebration, Toward A Hip-Hop Feminist Pedagogy*. Reprinted in Sharon Mazzarella (Ed.), *Mediated Youth Reader*. New York, NY: Peter Lang Press. 2016.

Creative Works

Black Girl Genius Week (#BGGW19)

A Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship project, #BGGW19 celebrates Black girlhood with Black girl publics via a series of creative public engagements organized in collaboration with internationally known artist-scholars in Columbia, SC and Champaign, IL.

Black Girl Genius Week (#BGGW16)

#BGGW16 was a week-long public campaign that made the celebration of Black girlhood visible and felt in our local community in collaboration with internationally known artist-scholars who are also invested in Black girls and the theorization of Black girlhood. Urbana-Champaign, IL. October 2016, February 2016, and November 2014.

Black Girlhood: The Mixtape Remix

A hip-hop inspired choreopoem that documents the everyday struggles and joys of Black girls. Lexington, KY. March 2011.

A Black Girl's Song and Black Gurls Hold It Down

These two theatrical performances were primarily created, written, and performed by Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths (SOLHOT) middle and high school participants. The performances were held at their respective public schools. Urbana-Champaign, IL. May 2011

Check-In!

Building on Shange's concept of the choreopoem, this performance engages reflective moments of doing and living Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths (SOLHOT) through song, poetry, and dance by SOLHOT participants. Independent Media Center. Urbana, IL. April 2010.

Necessary Truths: Reflections of African American Girlhood

Photography exhibit created in collaboration with Claudine Taaffe and African American middle school girls. Krannert Art Museum. Champaign, IL. February 2009.

The Rhythm, The Rhyme, and The Reason

Performance piece co-written and performed with Claudine Taaffe and Chamara J. Kwayke, first

conceptualized at the 2008 National Women’s Studies Association and later premiered at the University of Illinois Krannert Center for the Performance Arts (September 2008). A staged version of this performance piece was performed at Southern Connecticut State University. October 2008.

Endangered Black Girls

Play premiered at the University of Illinois Armory Theatre (March 2008) and was also staged at the University of Southern California, and Cornerstone Theatre in Los Angeles, CA. (October 2008). A revised version of the play was produced at the East African Theatre Festival in Addis Abba, Ethiopia. November 2008.

Grants (abbreviated)

- 2018 Black Girl Genius Week, The Whiting Foundation \$50,000.00
- 2018 Black Girl Nature, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Training in Digital Methods for Humanists Fellowship, UIUC, \$24,000.00
- 2018 Social Practice as Pedagogy, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Research Cluster grant (with Jennifer Bergmark and Jorge Lucero). UIUC \$2,500.00
- 2016 Black Girl Genius Week. Student Cultural Programming Fee (with Pasha Trotter). UIUC \$11,500.00
- 2016 Black Girl Genius Week. Student Cultural Programming Fee (with Porshe Garner and Jessica Robinson). UIUC \$10,000.00
- 2014 Black (Girl) Genius. Funding Initiative for Multiracial Democracy Program. UIUC \$18,350.00
- 2014 More Than Words: Engaging in Collective Training and Application of Social Justice (with Soo Ah Kwon, Tiffany Harris, and Lisa Ortiz). Focal Point, UIUC. \$18,760.00
- 2013 Hip-hop and Punk Feminisms: Genealogy, Theory, Performance (with Mimi Nguyen, Karen Flynn, Fiona Ngô). Campus Research Board. UIUC \$23,330.00
- 2013 Hip-hop and Punk Feminisms (with Mimi Nguyen, Karen Flynn, Fiona Ngô). Student Cultural Programs. UIUC \$6,440.00
- 2010-2011 Civic Commitment Task Force Office of the Chancellor. “Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths,” \$15,000.00

Honors, Recognitions, and Outstanding Achievements (abbreviated)

- 2018-23 Conrad Humanities Scholar, Liberal Arts and Sciences, UIUC
- 2017 Hardie Conference Travel Award, College of Education, UIUC.
- 2016 International Women’s Day Award, Women’s Resource Center, UIUC.
- 2016 Black Women Rock! Award, Black Women Rock at UIUC.
- 2015 Award for Outstanding Faculty Award for Service In Education Policy, Organization and Leadership.
- 2013-2014 Mrs. Helen Corley Petit Award, UIUC
- 2013-2014 Illinois Program Research Humanities Fellowship, UIUC
- 2013 Invited to White House for White House Research Conference on Girls
- 2012 Award for Outstanding Faculty in Gender and Women’s Studies, UIUC
- 2011 Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement, UIUC
- 2012 Award for Faculty Service in Education Policy, Organization and

Leadership, UIUC

University Teaching (abbreviated)

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2005-2020

Graduate Seminars:

Critical Arts-Based Methodology
Revolutionary Acts Part I and II
First Year Proseminar
Black Feminisms
Black Girlhood Studies

Undergraduate Courses:

Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies
Race, Gender, Power
Identity and Difference
Hip-Hop Feminisms
Arts and Creativity (co-taught with Jorge Lucero)
Time Travel As Creative Practice
Black Women and Popular Culture

Student Advising and Mentoring (abbreviated)

Completed students

Adrienne Pickett	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2019, member
Blair Smith	Education Policy, Syracuse	Completed 2019, Co-Chair
Saturnino Rodriguez	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2019, member
Shana Riddick	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2019, member
Sheri Lewis	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2019, Co-Chair
Tanisha King	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2019, Chair
Aja Reynolds	Education Policy, UIC	Completed 2019, member
Porshe Garner	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed, 2018, Chair
Angela Williams	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed, 2017, member
Terry Vaughan	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed, 2017, member
Gabriel Rodriguez	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed, 2017, member
Carolyn Randolph	Communications, UIUC	Completed 2016, member
Tammy Owens	American Studies, Minnesota	Completed 2016, member
Durell Callier	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2014, Chair
Claudine Taaffe	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2014, Chair
Michelle Flowers	Education, Loyola Marymount	Completed 2014, member
Elka Kazmierczak	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2014, member
Grenita Hall	Kinesiology, UIUC	Completed 2014, member
Dominique Hill	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2014, Chair
Cecilia Suarez	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2013, Co-chair
April Warren-Grice	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2013, Co-chair
Ivory Berry	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2013, Co-chair
Chamara Kwakye	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2010, Chair
Laura Galicia	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2009; member

Invited Keynote Lectures (abbreviated)

- 2019 “Showing you how I heard us: resounding radical Black girlhood and listening, *differently*”. Youngsters 2 Association for Research in Cultures of Young People Conference. Ryerson University. Toronto, Canada.
- 2019 “Lakes & Edges: Miscreations Of A Radical Blackgirl'cene”. International Girls' Studies Association, University of Notre Dame, IN.
- 2018 “Black Girl Genius: A Genealogy of Levitation”. Brown University, Providence, RI.
- 2018 “I Want You To Know and Remember: Praise Play Rituals of Black Girlhood and the Life-Affirming Promises of Black Girl Forever”, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2017 “Pleasure... in Nine Verses”, Black Studies Conference, University of Missouri Columbia, MO.
- 2017 “Doing Digital Wrongly: Alternative Sonic Registers of Black Girlhood” and “The Asylum: A Performance Lecture featuring We Levitate”. University of California San Diego, CA.
- 2017 Global History of Black Girlhood Keynote Lecture. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
- 2017 Telephones, Our Land, and Black Girl Forever: A Public Lecture About SOLHOT. Brown University, Providence, RI.
- 2016 Producers of Knowledge and Agents of Change: Black Girls and Women in U.S. Society Conference Keynote Lecture. Providence College, Providence, RI.
- 2016 Winton Cornerstone Keynote Lecture. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2016 “Black Girl Genius: Thoughts on Creativity, Community Engagement, and (In) Justice.”. International Women’s Day Speaker. Hollins University. Roanoke, VA.

Invited Panelist (abbreviated)

- 2017 “Geographies of Justice” Sawyer Seminar. University of Illinois at Chicago. Chicago, IL.
- 2016 “Conversation Circles on Hip-Hop Literacies” and Plenary Artist Workshop. Hip-Hop Literacies Conference, Black Women and Girls Lives Matter. The Ohio State University. Columbus, Ohio.
- 2016 “University of Kentucky Black Women’s Conference”. Lexington, KY.
- 2016 “Black Girl Movement: A National Conference”. Columbia University. New York, NY.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Service and Committees

- 2018 50th anniversary of Public Broadcasting Laboratory: 1968 University of Illinois Broadcast Screening event at the University of Illinois. Featured Performer.
- 2018 Campus Research Board Proposal Reviewer.
- 2018 Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Emerging Areas Task Force Committee.
- 2017 Women’s Resource Center Assistant Director Search Committee
- 2017-2018 Krannert Art Museum Director Search Committee.
- 2014-2016 Public Engagement Advisory Committee.
- 2016 Tenure and Promotion Review Committee member, University of Oklahoma.
- 2016 Tenure and Promotion Review Committee member, Syracuse University.
- 2009-11 FLAS Award Committee, Center for African Studies.
- 2009 Women’s Resource Center Opening, Invited Speaker, University of Illinois.

- 2009 Faculty Liaison for AP Summer Scholars Academy & AP Summer Institute Program. Collaboration between UIUC and Champaign Community Schools Unit District #4 consisting of 12-week summer academic and job placement academies that employed 175 minority and low-income students who met state and federal income criteria.
- 2009 Innvoices Theatre Program. Search Committee.
- 2008 Member of delegation responsible for creating memorandum of understanding between UIUC and Addis Ababa University.
- 2008-2010 Women's Resource Center Advisory Committee.
- 2008 "Endangered Black Girls," Invited Performance, University of Illinois, Women of Color Conference.
- 2008 "Black Girls and Women: Gender Roles," Invited Speaker, University of Illinois, Women of Color Conference.
- 2007-2008 Mentor, McNair Scholars Program, Office of Minority Student Affairs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Professional Affiliations

ASAP/9 The Association For the Study of the Arts of the Present
 American Educational Research Association
 American Studies Association
 National Women's Studies Association
 National Communications Association
 Imaging America