

# JASMINE E. JOHNSON, PH.D.

## Curriculum Vitae

Brown University  
Theater Arts and Performance Studies Department  
83 Waterman Street  
Providence, RI 02912

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### EDUCATION

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PhD University of California – Berkeley, African Diaspora Studies, 2012  
Qualifying Fields: Diaspora Theory; Black Performance and Dance Theory; Black Feminisms;  
Ethnography

*Exchange Scholar:*

Princeton University – Center for African American Studies, 2012  
Columbia University – English and Comparative Literature, 2011  
New York University – Performance Studies, 2010

MA University of California – Berkeley, African American Studies, 2008

BA University of California – Berkeley, African American Studies, 2006

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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Brown University, Providence, RI  
Assistant Professor. 2017 – present  
Department of Theater Arts and Performance Studies

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA  
Assistant Professor. 2014 – 2017  
Department of African & Afro-American Studies and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program

Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA  
Newhouse Center for the Humanities Fellow. 2016

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL  
Postdoctoral Fellow. 2012 – 2014  
Department of African American Studies

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Manuscripts

Johnson, J. *Rhythm Nation: West African Dance and the Politics of Diaspora* (Under contract with Oxford University Press).

Johnson, J. *Black Dance: A Reader*. (In Progress)

## Journal Articles

- Johnson, J. 2017. "Casualties". "Reproduction and Performance." *The Drama Review*. (Forthcoming)
- Johnson, J. 2015. "Queens' Diaspora." "Sounds of Freedom: Music and Performance Across the Black Atlantic." *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal*.
- Johnson, J with Shaun Ossei-Owusu. 2013. "From Fillmore to No-More: Black-Owned Business in a Transforming San Francisco." *Black California Dreamin': Social Vision and the Crisis of California's African American Communities*. University of California Santa Barbara's Center for Black Studies Research.
- Johnson, J. "What is this 'African' in African Dance?" (Under review)
- Johnson, J. "African Diasporic Feminism: Toward an Ethnography of Grace" (Under review)

## Book Chapters

- Johnson, J. "Sorrow's Swing." *The Future in the Present: The Transtemporalities of Minoritarian Performance* edited by Soyica Colbert, Douglas Jones, and Shane Vogel. (Under review)
- Johnson, J. "A Politics of Tenderness: Camille A. Brown and Dancers *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*." *Dancing the African Diaspora* edited by Thomas DeFrantz. (Forthcoming)
- Johnson, J. "Flesh Dance: Black Women from Behind." *Futures of Dance Studies*. (Commissioned by Susan Manning, Janice Ross and Rebecca Schneider)

## Encyclopedia Entries

- Johnson, J. "Black Dance." 2016. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*.

## Web-based Publications

- Johnson, J. 2016. "Solange and Her Dance" in *Aster(ix)*
- Johnson, J. 2013. "Autobiography of Gentrification" in *Gawker*
- Johnson, J. 2012. "Harlem's Hue-Man Hopes Past is Prologue for Black Booksellers" in *Colorlines*

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

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### National Competitions

- Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (Alternate), 2017
- Newhouse Center for the Humanities Fellowship, Wellesley College, 2016
- Mellon Summer Seminar in Dance Studies, Brown University, 2016, 2013
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 2015
- African American Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2012
- Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship, Duke University (Declined), 2012
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship "Cultures in Transnational Perspective," UCLA (Declined), 2012
- Northwestern Summer Institute in Performance Studies, 2012
- Black Studies Dissertation Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara (Declined), 2010
- Africana Studies Pre/Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Lehigh University (Declined), 2010
- Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Diversity Fellowship, 2009

### Internal Competitions

- Michael L. Walzer '56 Award for Teaching, Brandeis University, 2016
- Inspiring and Creating Change Award, Brandeis University, 2016
- Provost's Research Award, Brandeis University, 2016
- Perlmutter Award, Brandeis University, 2016
- Mandel Faculty Grant for the Humanities, Brandeis University, 2015

African Diaspora Research Grant, Northwestern University, 2012  
Alice Baker Research Grant, UC Berkeley, 2009  
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley, 2009  
Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2009  
Andrew and Mary Thompson ROCCA Pre-dissertation Fellowship, African Studies Research Institute, UC Berkeley, 2008  
Graduate Opportunity Grant, UC Berkeley, 2007  
Una Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2006  
W.E.B. Du Bois Highest Academic Achievement Award, UC Berkeley, 2006  
Valedictorian, African American Studies, UC Berkeley, 2006

#### INVITED TALKS AND SELECTED CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

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##### 2017 –

"Ethnographic Poetics". Invited Talk. "'I, Too, Am the Afterlife of Slavery': A Symposium on Saidiya Hartman's *Lose Your Mother*". Northwestern University | Evanston, IL 6/3

"Agency as Movement". Invited Talk. "Black Agency: Expressions of Life and Movement" Africana Studies Graduate Student Colloquium. University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA 3/2

##### 2016 –

"African Dance Tourism". Newhouse Center for the Humanities Atelier. Wellesley College | Wellesley, MA 12/10

"Sorrow's Swing." "The Future in the Present: The Transtemporalities of Minoritarian Performance" (Inaugural José Esteban Muñoz Working Group). *American Society for Theater Research Annual Conference* | Minneapolis, MN 11/5

"Dust Dance". *Society of Dance History Scholars/Congress on Research in Dance Annual Conference*. Pomona, CA 11/4

"Possession, Racial Transcendence and Haitian Dance Classes in the US". *Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference* | Port-au-Prince, Haiti 6/8

"Dancing Africa". Invited Talk. Colorado College | Colorado Springs, CO 3/31

"Body as Passport: Flight and Borders". Invited Talk. Brown University | Providence, RI 2/26

"Feminist Collaboration and Fela Kuti". Invited Critical Dance Workshop. Brown University | Providence, RI 2/26

"Rhythm Nation: West African Dance and the Politics of Diaspora". Invited Talk. Studies in Dance Seminar. Columbia University. | New York, NY 2/22

"African Dance". Panel Moderator. "Dancing the African Diaspora". Duke University. | Durham, NC 2/20

"Sorrow's Swing". Invited Talk. *Black Portraiture[s] II ReVisited: Imaging the Black Body and Re-staging Histories*. New York University | New York, NY 2/19

"Homemaking". Invited Talk. "New Terms in Feminist Studies" Speaker Series. MIT | Boston, MA 2/10

##### 2015 –

"Black Woman from Behind: Reading the Black Female Body". Invited Talk. Wellesley College | Wellesley, MA

West African Dance Workshop. *Society of Dance History Scholars/Congress on Research in Dance Annual Conference* | Athens, Greece 6/1

"Sorrow's Swing". *Black Portraiture[s] II: Imaging the Black Body and Re-staging Histories* | Florence, Italy 5/31

"Black Feminist THOT: Black Dance as Visual Culture". Invited Talk. *Third Exposure: Race and Visual Culture* Symposium. Wellesley College | Wellesley, MA 4/11

"Caught a Body: Hip Hop, Instructional Dance, and Black Sexuality". *Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association* Annual Conference | New Orleans, LA 4/4

"When the Stars Begin to Fall". Invited Lecture. The Institute of Contemporary Art | Boston, MA 2/22

#### 2014 –

"Keyword: African Dance". *Society of Dance History Scholars* Annual Conference. University of Iowa | Iowa City, IA 11/13-11/15.

"Soul, Clap". *American Studies Association* Annual Conference. Los Angeles, CA 11/6-11/9.

*The Black Body as Archive: Writing Black Dance*. Symposium Chair and Organizer. Northwestern University | Evanston, IL 4/16-17.

"Diasporic Elsewheres: Notes on Dance Travel". Plenary Panelist. Duke University's *Dancing the African Diaspora* Conference | Durham, NC 2/14.

#### 2013 –

"Choreographing Return: African Dance Tourism". *American Anthropological Association* Annual Conference | Chicago, IL 11/22.

"Seven Challenges in Black Feminist Dance Ethnography". Plenary Panelist. *Congress on Research in Dance* Annual Conference. UC Riverside | Riverside, CA 11/15.

"The Changing Face of African Dance". Invited Panelist. CounterPULSE *Performing Diaspora* Symposium | San Francisco, CA 8/10.

State of the Field Panel and Conference Closing Session. Invited Respondent; Co-designer/facilitator. *Mellon Summer Seminar in Dance Studies*. Brown University | Providence, RI 6/16-22.

"African Dance Tourism and Diaspora as Time". *Performance Studies International* Annual Conference. Stanford University | Stanford, CA 6/28.

"Homecoming, Going: West African Dance Tourism". DePual University's *Remapping the Black Atlantic* Conference | Chicago, IL 4/14.

#### 2011 –

"Dancing Africa in Oakland: Race, Performance, Belonging". *Producing Race: Technologies of the African Diaspora* symposium. Columbia University | NY, NY 10/28.

"Fela!: Diaspora, Movement, and the Making African Authenticity". Plenary Session Panelist. *Ford Foundation Diversity Fellows* Annual Conference | Irvine, CA 10/14.

"Dancing 'African': Race, Representation, and the Moving Body". Working Session Co-Chair. *Congress on Research in Dance* Annual Conference | Seattle, WA 11/18.

"Fela, Exclamation". UC Berkeley *St Clair Drake* Symposium. | Berkeley, CA 5/11.

*Remembering Manning and Malcolm*. Panel Organizer and Moderator. Marcus Book Store | Oakland, CA 5/22.

#### 2010 –

"African Diasporic Cultural Studies". *Ford Foundation Diversity Fellows* Annual Conference. | Irvine, CA 10/10.

"What the Balance Held: Negotiations of Black Motherhood in the Public Sphere". New York University's conference on *Show and Prove: The Tensions, Contradictions, and Possibilities of Hip Hop Studies in Practice* | NY, NY 9/18.

"Why Africa Makes Us Giggle: Comedic Performance and the Black Imaginary". Columbia University's *Institute for Research in African American Studies*' Speaker Series | NY, NY 3/22.

**2009 –**

"What Eddie Murphy Taught Us about Africa: 'Coming to America' and More of the Ethnographic Same". UC Berkeley's *Transnational American Studies Working Group* on "Race, Performance, and Meaning of America" | Berkeley, CA 12/3.

"Dancing Diaspora, An Ethnographic Approach". *Ford Foundation Diversity Fellow Annual Conference* | Irvine, CA 9/22.

"African Diaspora Methods: Black Feminist Ethnography", *Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Conference* | Cincinnati, OH 4/11.

"Black Performativity and the Making of Diaspora". *Society of Dance History Scholars Annual Conference*. Stanford University | Stanford, CA 10/3.

"Performing Africa on the Dance Floor". UC Irvine's *African Performance Conference* | Irvine, CA 3/16.

## CONVENINGS ORGANIZED

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*The Black Body as Archive: Writing Black Dance*, Northwestern University, Symposium Chair and Organizer (2014)

Queering Black Theater with Sharon Bridgforth and Lauren Whitehead. Brandeis University, Event organizer and moderator (2014)

## CAMPUS TALKS

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**2016 –**

"Janet Mock and Jasmine Johnson: A Conversation". Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Lubin Symposium. Brandeis University 3/22

"A Mobile History of Black Social Dance." Arts Council, Division of Creative Arts. Brandeis University 3/18

"A Conversation with Margo Jefferson". Brandeis University 3/10

**2015 –**

"Creating African Americans: An Embodied Lecture". Brandeis University 2/25

"Zora Neal Hurston's Folk: DEIS Impact Lecture". Brandeis University 2/6

"Death and Diaspora". Brandeis University 2/11

"Selma and Beyond: A Discussion on Race and Civil Rights" Panelist. Brandeis University 1/22

"Mini-Guineas and Other Dance Retreats". Mandel Faculty Series. Brandeis University 10/8

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Brown University**, Providence, RI  
Critical Ethnography, Fall 2017

**Brandeis University**, Waltham, MA  
Performance and The Politics of Black Authenticity, Fall 2014, Spring 2016  
Black Feminist Thought, Spring 2015, Spring 2016  
Introduction to African and Afro-American Studies, Fall 2015

Graduate Foundational Course in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Fall 2015  
Dancing the African Diaspora, Spring 2015

**Northwestern University, Evanston, IL**

Introduction to African American Studies, Spring 2014  
Black Dance: Keyterms, Grammars, Spring 2014  
Race, Class, and Gender, Spring 2013  
Black Is, Black Ain't: Black Performance Theory, Spring 2013

**University of California – Berkeley, Berkeley, CA**

The Drama of American Cultures, Fall 2009, Graduate Student Instructor  
Slavery and African American Life before 1865, Fall 2007 - Fall 2008, Graduate Student Instructor  
African Americans in the Industrial Age, Spring 2008, Graduate Student Instructor

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

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*Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* Editorial Board (2016-Present)  
Collegium for African Diaspora Dance, Founding Board Member (2012-Present)  
Society of Dance History Scholars, Board Member (2015-2018)  
Society of Dance History Scholars, Conference and Travel Awards Committee (2014-Present)

Peer Reviewer  
*The Black Scholar*  
*Dance Research Journal*  
*Signs*

**MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Anthropological Association (Sections: Cultural Anthropology, Association of Black Anthropologists, Africanist Anthropology), American Studies Association, American Society for Theater Research, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Caribbean Studies Association, Congress on Research in Dance, Performance Studies International, Popular Culture Association, Society of Dance History Scholars

**PROFESSIONAL DANCE AND PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

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**Ensemble Member**

Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago (Chicago), Wula Dance and Drum Company (NYC, Guinea), Ballet Merveilles du Guinee (Guinea), Sharon Bridgforth's "River See" (Chicago)