

CHERYL L. THOMPSON, PH.D.
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Education

Ph.D. 2015, Communication Studies, McGill University.
M.A. 2007, Communication and Culture, Ryerson University & York University.
B.A. 2001, Honours Criminology, University of Windsor.

Positions

Ryerson University

Assistant Professor, School of Creative Industries, 2018 –

University of Toronto

Instructor, Canadian Studies Program, 2015-18

University of Toronto Mississauga

Instructor, Department of Visual Studies, 2015-18

McGill University

Instructor, Department of Art History & Communication Studies, 2014

Teaching Assistant, Art History & Communication Studies, 2010-13

Teaching Assistant, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, 2010-12

Grants

Co-applicant, SSHRC Connection Grant (\$47,625), “White Skin, Black Masks: Canada's Blackface Secret,” 2020-22.

Primary Investigator, SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$48,072), “Newspapers, Minstrelsy and Black Performance at the Theatre: Mapping the Spaces of Nation-Building in Toronto, 1870s to 1930s,” 2019-22.

SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Publishing Program Grant (\$8,000), *Beauty in a Box: Detangling the Roots of Canada's Black Beauty Culture*, 2019.

Primary Investigator, SSHRC-Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$140,000), University of Toronto and the University of Toronto Mississauga, “Visualizing Blackface Minstrelsy in Canada: Seeing Race, Negotiating Identities, 1890-1959,” 2016-18.

Scholarly Research Creation (SRC) Seed Grant (\$6880), Faculty of Communication and Design, “Newspapers, Theatres, and the Spaces of Black Performance in Toronto,” 2018-19.

Max Stern-McCord Museum Fellowship (\$20,000), Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas. 2012-13.

Charles Bronfman and Alex Paterson Top Up Award (\$10,000), McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, 2012-12.

Margaret Gillett Graduate Research Award (\$500), Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies, 2012-13.
Fred and Betty Price Award (\$7,500), Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas-McCord Museum, 2012.
Media@McGill Research Fellowship (\$11,000), 2011-12.

Awards and Honours

Canadian Association for American Studies (CAAS) Ernest Redekop Prize Honourable Mention for “Locating ‘Dixie’ in Newspaper Discourse and Theatrical Performance in Toronto, 1880s to 1920s” (*CRAS* 49.2), 2019.
Linda F. Dietz Graduate Essay Prize (\$500), *Canadian Journal of History*, 2014.
Graduate Best Paper Prize in Gender and Women’s Studies, Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies, McGill University, 2012.
Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Teaching Award, McGill University, 2010-11.
Graduate Student Article Competition, Communication & Culture, Ryerson University, 2nd Prize, 2006.

Publications (single-authored, unless otherwise noted)

Books

Uncle: Race, Nostalgia, and the Politics of Loyalty. Toronto: Coach House Books, 2021.
Beauty in a Box: Detangling the Roots of Canada’s Black Beauty Culture. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier Press, 2019.

Edited Books and Journals

Co-editor (with Dr. Miranda Campbell), *Creative Industries in Canada: An Interdisciplinary Reader*. Canadian Scholars Press: Vancouver, in progress.
Guest editor, “Black Canadian Creativity, Expressive Cultures, and Narratives of Space and Place.” Special Issue, *The Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d'histoire*, in progress.

Journal Articles

(Accepted with revisions) Co-authored with Emilie Jabouin. “Black dance and jazz clubs: performance and resistance in Canada, 1920s to 1950s.” *Journal of Communication Inquiry*.
(Under review). “Black Canadians in the *Journal of Canadian Communication*: Is there a Problem with Speaking for Others?” *Canadian Journal of Communication* Special

Issue,” On the Margins of the Margins: Racism and Colonialism in Canadian Communication Studies.” Faiza Hirji, Yasmin Jiwani, Kirsten McAllister, Eds.

(Under review). “Visualizing the Presence of Blackness in Canada’s West.” *Journal of Critical Race Inquiry*.

(Under review). “Race, Nostalgia, and Canadian Theatre: Black Actors in Blackface in the 19th and 20th Centuries.” *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*.

“From Venus to ‘Black Venus’: Beyoncé’s *I Have Three Hearts*, Fashion and the Limits of Visual Culture.” *Fashion Studies* (3) 1 (2020): 1-24.

“Black Canada and Why the Archival Logic of Memory Needs Reform.” [*Les Ateliers de l'éthique/Ethics Forum, special issue The Ethical Challenges of Recovering Historical Memory*](#) (14) 2 (2020): 76-106.

“Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site and Creolization: The Material and Visual Culture of Archival Memory,” *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal* (2019), DOI: 10.1080/17528631.2019.1611325.

“Locating ‘Dixie’ in Newspaper Discourse and Theatrical Performance in Toronto, 1880s to 1920s.” *Canadian Review of American Studies* (49) 2 (2019): 205-25. DOI: 10.3138/cras.2017-032.

“Rethinking the Archive in the Public Sphere.” Roundtable on History for Non-Historians, *Canadian Journal of History / Annales canadiennes d’histoire* 54 1-2 (2019): 32-8, DOI: 10.3138/cjh.ach.54.1-2.04.

“I’s in Town, Honey’: Reading Aunt Jemima Advertising in Canadian Print Media, 1919 to 1962.” *Journal of Canadian Studies* 49 1 (Winter 2015): 205-37. DOI: 10.3138/jcs.49.1.205.

“Cultivating Narratives of Race, Faith, and Community: *The Dawn of Tomorrow*, 1923–1971.” *Canadian Journal of History / Annales canadiennes d’histoire* 50 1 (2015): 30-67.

“Neoliberalism, Soul Food, and the Weight of Black Women.” *Feminist Media Studies* 15 5 (2015), 794-812. DOI: 10.1080/14680777.2014.1003390.

“Contesting the Aunt Jemima Trademark through Feminist Art: Why is she still smiling?” *n.paradoxa: international feminist art journal*, 31 (2013): 65–72.

“The Visual Culture of Slavery in 18th-Century Halifax: ‘Just Imported...Both Ran Away.’” *Genre: A Thematic Journal for Comparative Literature and Classics, Visual Studies*. California State University, Long Beach, 31 (2011): 95–135.

“Black Women and Hair as a Matter of *Being*.” *Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 38 8 (2009): 831-856. DOI: 10.1080/00497870903238463.

“Black Women and Identity: What’s Hair Got to Do With It?” *Michigan Feminist Studies*, 22 (2009): 78–90.

“Standing in the Shadows of America: Afro-Diasporic Oral Culture, and the Emancipation of Canadian Hip-Hop.” *Canadian Theatre Review*, 130 (2007): 113–15.

Book Chapters

(Anticipated, Nov. 2021) Co-authored with Julie Crooks. “Race, Community, and the Picturing of Identities: Photography and the Black Subject in Ontario, 1860 to 1900.” In *Unsettling the Great White North: African Canadian History*. Michele A. Johnson and Funké Aladejebi, Eds. Toronto: Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and Its Diasporas.

(Under review). “How Photojournalism Challenged Anti-Black Racism in 1970s Toronto.” In *Call and Response-ability: Black Canadian Works of Art and the Politics of Relation*. Karina Vernon and Winfried Siemerling, Eds. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s.

(Under review) “Brand Advertising in Contrast in the 1970s: Selling Race and Culture Through Beer.” In *Canada’s 19th Century Black Press: Roots and Trajectories of Exceptional Communication and Intellectual Activism*. Claudine Bonner, Nina Reid-Maroney, and Boulou Ebanda de B’béri, Eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

(Writing; July 2021 submission). Co-authored with Lucy Wowk. “*The Globe* and *Daily Star* Report on Spanish Flu, 1918-19: Reading Toronto’s Response to the Pandemic’s Second Wave.” In *Pandemics & Epidemics in Cultural Representation*. Sathyaraj Venkatesan, et al., Eds. London: Springer Nature.

“Representing *Misogynoir* in Canadian News Media: From BLMTO to Marci Ien.” In *Women in Popular Culture in Canada*. Laine Zisman Newman, Ed, 26-41. Toronto: Canadian Scholar/Women’s Press, 2020.

“My Ten-Year Dreadlock Journey: Why I Love the ‘kink’ in My Hair... Today.” In *Body Battlegrounds: Transgressions, Tensions, and Transformations*. Samantha Kwan and Chris Bobel, Eds., pp. 54-55. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2019.

“An Intersectional Analysis of Controlling Images and Neoliberal Meritocracy on *Scandal* and *Empire*.” In *Neoliberalism and the U.S. Media*. Marian Joanne Meyers, Ed., pp. 176-91. New York: Routledge, 2019.

“Come One, Come All’: Blackface Minstrelsy as a Canadian Tradition and Early Form of Popular Culture.” In *Towards an African-Canadian Art History: Art, Memory, and*

Resistance. Charmaine Nelson, Ed., pp. 95-121. Concord, Ontario: Captus Press, 2018.

“The *New Afro* in a Postfeminist Media Culture: Rachel Dolezal, Beyoncé’s ‘Formation,’ and the Politics of Choice.” In *Emergent Feminisms: Challenging a Post-Feminist Media Culture*. Jessalynn Keller and Maureen Ryan, Eds., 161-175. New York: Routledge, 2018.

“Searching for Black Voices in Canada’s Archives: The Invisibility of a ‘Visible’ Minority.” *PUBLIC: Art/Culture/Ideas*, Special Issue on [Archive/Anarchive/Counter-Archive](#). May Chew, Susan Lord, Janine Marchessault, Eds., pp. 82-89. Toronto: York University, 2018.

“Remembering *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.” In *The Ward Uncovered: The Archeology of Everyday Life*. Michael McClelland, Holly Martelle, Tatum Taylor and John Lorinc, (Eds.), pp. 156-162. Toronto: Coach House Books/Alana Wilcox, 2018.

Creative Non-Fiction and Commissioned Works

(Forthcoming). “The Show Did Go On: How Theatre Changed After the Last Pandemic.” *Canadian Theatre Review* (Spring 2021).

(Under consideration). “Dismantling the Myth of the Hero.” *Geist Magazine*.

“Moving Beyond Representation.” *Herizons*, 35.1 (Spring 2021): 15.

“On Being a Black Canadian Woman Writer.” *Write! Magazine* (Winter, 2021): 11-13.

“Hashtags and Memes are the New Black Power Salute.” *Room Magazine*, 44.1 (2021): 34-43.

“Making Room for Life: Multi-talented artist Aisha Sasha John Combines Words with Movement.” *Herizons*, 32.2 (Summer, 2018): 29-31.

“Misogynoir in Canada: Robyn Maynard Documents the Policing of Black Lives in Canada.” *Herizons*, 32.1 (Spring, 2018): 21-23.

“The Sweet Taste of Lemonade: Beyoncé Serves Up Feminist History.” *Herizons*, 30.2 (Summer 2016): 40-42.

“Living Thru Race: Althea Prince on Black Beauty, Pop Culture, and the Canadian Race Politics.” *Herizons* (Summer 2015): 44-46.

“Black Beauty Products: Why Women’s Hair Needs Safer Care.” *Herizons* (Summer 2014): 20-23.

Book Reviews

The Selfie Generation: How Our Self Images are Changing Our Notions of Privacy, Sex, Consent, and Culture by Alicia Eler in *Herizons*, 34 1 (Spring, 2020): 34.

The Rise and Fall of the Associated Negro Press: Claude Barnett's Pan-African News and the Jim Crow Paradox by Gerald Horne in *Canadian Journal of History* 53 3 (Fall, 2018): 576-78. DOI: 10.3138/cjh.ach.53.3.br31.

Scarborough by Catherine Hernandez in *Herizons*, 32 2 (Summer, 2018): 34.

Griffintown by Marie Hélène Poitras (translated by Sheila Fischman) in *Herizons*, 31 2 (Fall, 2017): 38.

de book of Mary by Pamela Mordecai in *Herizons*, 31 2 (Fall, 2017): 38.

Viola Desmond's Canada: A History of Blacks and Racial Segregation in the Promised Land by Graham Reynolds with Wanda Robson in *Canadian Journal of History* 52 1 (Spring– Summer/printemps–été 2017): 145-47.

Black Women's Portrayals on Reality Television: The New Sapphire, edited by Donnetrice C. Allison in *Journal of Communication*, 66 (Dec., 2016): E5–E7.

Online Publications

Zoomer

“What Canadians Can Do to Support Black Communities and Causes During and After Black History Month” (Feb. 2, 2021).

“What the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Can Teach Us About Combating Racism in Modern Times” (Jan.18, 2021).

“The Anti-Racism Movement: Was 2020 the Year of the Great Awakening?” (Dec. 22, 2020).

“Tired of Giving In: How the Actions of Rosa Parks and Viola Desmond Still Resonate Today” (Dec. 1, 2020)

The Conversation

“How ‘Uncle Tom’ still impacts racial politics” (Feb. 3, 2021).

“Trump has made America nostalgic again for a past that never existed” (Nov. 4, 2020).

“Cardi B says ‘shit is gettin’ real’ as coronavirus pandemic reveals cracks in celebrity capitalism” (April 19, 2020).

“Harriet Tubman film does not deserve the Twitter hate” (Nov. 28, 2019).

“Ancestry ad Gets it Wrong: Canada Was Never Slave-Free” (May 2, 2019).

“I Am Not Your Nice ‘Mammy’: How Racist Stereotypes Still Impact Women” (Feb. 19, 2019).

“Black Canadian Women Artists Detangle the Roots of Black Beauty” (Jan. 17, 2019).

Spacing

“EXCERPT FROM ‘UNCLE’: Aunt Jemima in Chicago” (Feb. 17, 2021).

“The ‘bashment’ parties of my childhood are Black history” (Feb. 16, 2021).

“THOMPSON: What if the Caribana Carnival went back to its roots?” (Aug. 5, 2020).

“THOMPSON: Saunders’ departure won’t fix the problem of policing in Toronto” (June 19, 2020).

“THOMPSON: Policing the boundaries of space and race during COVID-19” (June 2, 2020).

“Beverly Mascoll, a trailblazing Black entrepreneur” (Feb. 26, 2020).

“The Complicated History of Canadian Blackface” (Oct. 29, 2018).

“Janice Reid’s ‘Real Love’ Intersects Race and Space” (Oct. 3, 2018).

“Marcus Garvey's Place in Toronto's History” (Aug. 17, 2018).

“The Roots of Doug Ford’s White Saviour Complex” (Apr. 28, 2018).

“Black History Month: Aunt Jemima Kitchens and a History of Southern Nostalgia in Toronto” (Feb. 9, 2018).

“Revisited ‘To Kill A Mockingbird’ at Buddies Shines a Spotlight on Racialized Labour” (Jan. 29, 2018).

“Scarborough’s Gun Violence a Symptom of Larger Issues” (Aug. 15, 2017).

“Caribana and the Meaning of Ordered Chaos” (July 31, 2017).

Toronto Star

“In Cheryl Thompson’s new book ‘Uncle,’ a look at what happened when ‘Uncle Tom’s Cabin’ became a minstrel show” (Feb. 12, 2021).

“Why Trudeau’s ‘brownface’ photo is not shocking” (Sept. 19, 2019).

“It’s Important to Put Viola Desmond into Historical Context” (Dec. 13, 2016).

“New FLOW Morphing Into the Mainstream” (May 9, 2008).

“Why do Black Women Fear the ‘Fro?’” (Jan. 31, 2008).

Other Online Publications

“The Wealth Gap Existed Long Before COVID-19,” *Social Justice the Curve* (May 25, 2020).

“Trudeau Survived. Now Stop Pretending Canada Is a Diverse Paradise,” *New York Times* (Oct. 23, 2019).

“Why Blackface Persists and What Historians Can Do to Change It,” *Archivehistory.ca* (Oct. 7, 2019).

“Trudeau and blackface: it's time to stop a practice that's as Canadian as hockey,” *The National* (Sept. 26, 2019).

“Hair We Are will ignite conversations,” *Gardiner Museum blog* (July 11, 2019).

“Being Black and a Tourist in Halifax,” *The Halifax Coast* (June 21, 2018).

“Canada’s Black Beauty Culture is More than a Politics,” *GUTS Magazine* (Feb. 26, 2018).

“White Populist Feminism Makes Intersectionality Nearly Impossible,” *Rabble.ca* (Feb. 21, 2017).

“Removing Monuments and Renaming Schools is a Step in the Right Direction,” *Rabble.ca* (Sept. 14, 2017).

“For Colored Girls Hits the Right Tone,” *ByBlacks.ca* (May 14, 2017).

“Bee Nation - More Than Words,” *ByBlacks.ca* (May 3, 2017).

“Black to the Promised Land at TJFF 25 Years Later,” *ByBlacks.ca* (Apr. 24, 2017).

“Hot Docs Film Review: Babe, I Hate To Go,” *ByBlacks.ca* (Apr. 18, 2017).

- “Here’s Why Book Of Mormon Isn’t Funny At All,” *ByBlacks.ca* (Apr. 9, 2017).
- “We Need a Frank Conversation about Race, Not another Racism ‘test’,” *Rabble.ca* (Apr. 8, 2016).
- “Blacks Lives Matter. Tweets Don’t,” *Rabble.ca* (Apr. 7, 2016).
- “Why We Need to Rethink Black History Month,” *Rabble.ca* (Feb. 21, 2014).
- “St-Hubert’s Use of Racial Stereotypes Reflects Wider Diversity Issue on Canadian Television,” *Rabble.ca*, co-written with Lalai Manjikian (Jun. 27, 2014).
- “A Hollywood Choice that Betrays the Legacy of Nina Simone,” *Montreal Gazette* (Nov. 15, 2012).

Invited Presentations

- Online Panelist. (6 May 2021). “Big Ideas presented by Scotia Wealth Management: Subjects of Desire. Hot Docs, Toronto, ON.
- Online Panelist. (3 May 2021). “MOOD SERIES: Writers on Hope and History.” The Festival of Literary Diversity (FOLD), Hamilton, ON.
- Online Workshop Lead. (6 May 2021). “How to Merge Creativity and Innovation with Equity and Inclusion.” Wattpad, Toronto, ON.
- Online Workshop Lead. (20 April 2021). “Embracing Discomfort and Tips for Creating an Equity-Based Inclusive Culture.” EnsembleIQ, Toronto, ON.
- Online Workshop Lead. (17 February 2021). “Behind the Gold Series Campaign: Why Black Hair is More than Hair.” Foote, Cone & Belding, Toronto, ON.
- Online Panelist. (16 February 2021). “Understanding the Plight of Black Women Educators in Academia.” Top Hat. Toronto, ON.
- Online Panelist. (5 February 2021). “Canadian Blackface Culture: Confronting Racist Materials in Canadian Archives.” Ontario Library Association Conference. Toronto, ON.
- Online Speaker. (4 February 2021). “[Author Visit at Aurora Public Library.](#)” Aurora, ON.
- Online Keynote. (3 February 2021). “A Conversation with Dr. Cheryl Thompson.” Teacher Candidates of Colour (TCC) and the Indigeneity, Equity and Inclusion Lecture Series, Faculty of Education, Queen’s University.
- Online Panelist. (27 November 2020). “[Fashion Studies Volume 3, Issue 1 Panel Discussion.](#)”

Ryerson University, Toronto, ON.

Online Panelist. (26 November 2020). “2020 Canada’s History Forum.” Canada’s History, Toronto, ON.

Online Panelist. (14 November 2020). “Beyond the Mighty Pen: Women Writers / Activists of the America | Hope to Remember.” Metropolis bleu / Blue Metropolis and Salon du livre de Montréal, Montreal, QC.

Online Panelist. (3 November 2020). “Mpoë Mogale and Cheryl Thompson: Blackness, Beauty Standards and Performances.” MacEwen University, *It’s About Time*. Edmonton, AB.

Online Workshop Lead. (27 October 2020). “Publishing Tips for Emerging Scholars.” The Catalyst at FCAD. Toronto, ON.

Online Speaker. (25 October 2020). “The Politics of Black Lives.” 41st Edition of the Toronto International Festival of Authors. Toronto, ON.

Online Keynote. (15 October 2020). “Uncle Tom and the Politics of Loyalty: The Mutation of a Literary Character into a Racial Epithet, 1852 to present.” Studies in National and International Development, Queen’s University. Kingston, ON.

Online Speaker. (29 September 2020). “How to Navigate Archives with Missing and/or Incomplete Information.” The Free School: Rethinking Archives. Office of Social Innovation, Ryerson University. Toronto, ON.

Online Speaker. (4 September 2020). “Black Beauty Entrepreneurship in Southwestern Ontario, 1890s to 1920s.” Virtual Buxton History and Genealogy Conference. Buxton, ON.

Online Panelist. (13 August 2020). “Edgar Arceneaux’s *Until, Until, Until...*” Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal. Montréal, QC.

Online Speaker. (5 August 2020). “Emancipation Day, Caribana and the Caribbean Carnival.” ROM CONNECTS: Emancipation Day – Canada’s Past, Present & Future. Toronto, ON.

Online Speaker. (20 July 2020). “A History of Styling Black Hair in Canada: Past & Present.” Habitus Collective. Calgary, AB.

Moderator. (27 February 2020). “Black Arts, Culture and Heritage.” The Catalyst at FCAD. Ryerson University. Toronto, ON.

Speaker with Emilie Jabouin. (20 February 2020). “What can we do with blackface and other racist materials in Canadian archives?” Toronto Reference Library. Toronto, ON.

Panelist. (7 February 2020). “Soup and Substance.” Office of the Vice President Equity and Community Inclusion. Ryerson Office of Social Innovation. Toronto, ON.

Moderator. (3 February 2020). “Creatives Under 30.” Creative Industries Course Union. Ryerson University. Toronto, ON.

Panelist. (21 January 2020). “Networking in Arts and Culture.” Ryerson Career & Co-op Centre. Toronto, ON.

Moderator. (30 November 2019). “Black Northern Touch – Shaping Arts, Culture and Music.” Toronto Black Policy Conference. Toronto, ON.

Workshop Lead. (28 November 2019). “Catalyst Talks: Visual Culture and the Creative Industry.” The Catalyst at FCAD. Toronto, ON.

Panelist. (10 November 2019). “From BLMTQ to Marci Ien: The Misrepresentation of Police Violence Against Black Women.” Toronto Queer Film Festival. Toronto, ON.

Guest Speaker. (20 November 2019). “Cheryl Thompson on Blackface in Hollywood: Past and Present.” TIFF. Toronto, ON.

Panelist with Natasha Henry. (4 February 2019). “Black History in The Ward.” Bram & Blum Appel Salon, Toronto Reference Library. Toronto, ON.

Workshop Lead. (17 January 2019). “Race, Equity, and the Politics of Beauty: Why Difference is Not the Same as Diversity.” Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board’s Equity Leads Conference. Apollo Convention Centre, Mississauga, ON.

Speaker. (27 November 2018). Human Library Project at UTSC — Mentorship & Community (Building). Presented at The University of Toronto Scarborough, Toronto.

Speaker. (30 October 2018). “Doug Ford, White Saviorism and the Racial Politics of Un-naming in Canadian Media.” Presented at #NotMyPremier: Media Activism in Ford’s Ontario, The Studio for Media Activism & Critical Thought, Ryerson RTA. Toronto.

Performer. (29 September 2018). “Identity Politics of Place and Memory.” Presented at Dream Time: We All Have Stories curated by Karen Alexander, *Transmutations: Dubmorphology*, Nuit Blanche. Toronto.

Panelist. (19 August 2018). “Black Hair Panel Discussion.” Presented at Hamilton’s First Black Hair Brunch. Hamilton.

Moderator. (16 August 2018). “Lost & Found Discussions: The Stories of Our City.” Presented at Campbell House Museum. Toronto.

Speaker with Public Historian Kathy Grant. (1 August 2018). “An Evening to Celebrate Emancipation Day.” Presented at A Different Booklist. Toronto.

Panelist. The Ward Uncovered. (19 June 2018). Presented at Toronto Reference Library. Toronto.

Workshop Lead. (10 March 2018). “Black Feminist Thought.” Presented at the 4th Annual Women’s & Trans Centre Conference, “Blossom.” University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC), Toronto.

Speaker with Journalist John Lorinc and Public Historian Kathy Grant. (7 March 2018). Presented at Myseum x Henderson Pint Sized Conversations: The Ward Uncovered. Henderson Brewery, Toronto.

Speaker with Performance Artist Camille Turner. (1 March 2018). “Memory, Monuments, and Public Space as Archive.” Presented at Indelible Refusal: Bodies, Performance and Walking Resistance, The Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto.

Panelist (26 February 2018). “The Politics of Black Beauty: Colorism/Shadeism in the Black Beauty Industry.” Presented at Scarborough Campus Students’ Union’s Black History Month Event, UTSC.

Panelist (12 September 2017). “Deconstructing Racial Discomfort in Education,” Presented at Decentering Whiteness in Academia Panel Discussion, UTSC.

Speaker (30 August 2017). “Critical Thinking and Finding Your Path,” Presented at The First Lecture: UTM Talks, University of Toronto Mississauga.

TEDxUTSC Talk (4 February 2017). “Why Positive Thinking is Not Enough,” Presented at University of Toronto Scarborough.

Speaker (26 January 2017). “How Toronto’s Newspapers Re-invented ‘Dixie’ in the Promotion of Local Blackface Minstrelsy, 1880s - 1920s,” Presented at the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies Colloquium Series (2016-17).

Speaker (6 February 2014). “Locating Race: Mediating the Boundaries of Mimicry in the Notman Photographic Archives,” Presented at Institute for Public Life of Arts and Ideas Graduate and Postgraduate Symposium, McGill University, Montreal.

Keynote (18 March 2014). “Race-ing’ the McCord’s Collections: Nineteenth-Century Photographs and Lithographs,” Presented at Tea at the McCord Museum, Montreal.

Keynote (25 October 2012). “Popular Culture, Women, and the Colour of Beauty in Canada,” Presented at Social Science Festival, Cégep Vanier College, Montreal.

Guest Lectures

“Beauty Politics: Power and Privilege,” presented in FSN504: Suffragettes to CEOs, 5 April 2021. Instructor: Kimberly Wahl

“From Cornrows to ‘Bo Braids’: Contemporary Media and the Retwisting of Black Hair Aesthetics,” presented in RTA310: Media Aesthetics and Culture, 9 February 2021. Instructor: Cintia Cristiá.

“From Aunt Jemima to Miss America,” presented in History of Design, Rhode Island School of Design, Illustration Department, 16 November 2020. Instructor: Jaleen Grove.

“A Brief History of Black Beauty Culture,” presented in Innovations in the Development of the Beauty Industry, Fashion Institute of Technology-SUNY, Cosmetics and Fragrance Marketing and Management Program, 15 October 2020. Instructors: Denise H. Sutton and Leslie Harris.

“Hair Politics and the Intersections of Race and Gender in the Beauty Culture Industry,” presented in Gender Matters, Dawson College, 8 September 2020. Instructor: Emma Doubt

“Black Women, Beauty, and the Politics of the Runway,” presented in Diversity in Fashion, Ryerson University, 1 November 2019. Instructor: Ben Barry.

“Public Sphere and the Public Space,” presented in Communication in Place, School of Professional Communication, Ryerson University, 6 November 2018. Instructor: Guang Ying Mo.

“Discussing the Ward Uncovered,” presented in The City in History, Department of History, Ryerson University, 25 October 2018. Instructor: Katherine Zubovich.

“Discussing the June Clark Exhibition at the AGO,” presented in Special Topics in Curriculum: Master’s Level Desire and Change: Difficult Dialogues in Contemporary Art and Art Education, University of Toronto Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 24 October 2018. Instructor: Stephanie Springgay.

“Montreal’s Blackface History,” presented via Skype in History of Montreal, History and Classical Studies, McGill University, 28 February 2018. Instructor: Max Hamon.

“We don’t need another black woman at Fatburger: Weight, Beauty, and African American films,” presented in The Black Subject in Historical and Contemporary Popular Culture, Department of Art History & Communication Studies, McGill University, 27 February 2015. Instructor: Charmaine Nelson.

“Photographic Portraits of Black Women and Their Hair,” presented in Anthropology of the

Body, Anthropology Department, McGill University, 20 March 2013. Instructor: Sandra Hyde.

“Overview of Research and its Link to Feminism,” presented in Feminist Theories and Methods, Institute for Feminist and Gender Studies, McGill University, 3 December 2012. Instructor: Ada Sinacore.

“Exploring Halifax in the Eighteenth Century and its Print Culture,” presented via Skype in Mass Media and Society in Canada, Department of Communication and Culture, University of Calgary, 3 October 2012. Instructor: Delia Dumitrica.

Conference Presentations and Panels

Online Keynote (12 March 2021). “Towards a Black Futurity: Moving Beyond Aesthetics in Media Culture.” Intersections Cross-Sections Graduate Conference & Art Exhibition, Ryerson and York University’s Joint Program in Communication & Culture, Toronto, Ontario.

Paper (6 June 2019). “Digital Blackface: Exploring the Boundaries of Meme Culture, Black Women, and Social Media.” Canadian Communication Association Annual Conference, Congress, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia

Paper (4 June 2019). “Finding Blackface in the Community: The Role of Racialized Performance during Canada’s Modern Period, 1880s to 1930s.” Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, Congress, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Keynote (7 December 2018). “Reading Black Canadian Newspapers in the 1970s and 1980s: How Black Beauty Culture Entered Department Stores and Drugstores.” Future of Communication Graduate Conference, Communication & Culture, Ryerson University, Toronto.

Co-Presenter with Lisa Small (10 November 2018). “Intersecting Narratives of Race and Place: Minstrel Shows, Objects, and the Archaeology of Blackness in 19th Century Southern Ontario” Ontario Archaeological Society Symposium, Connections, and Pathways through the Past, November 9-11, Chatham, Ontario.

Paper (1 October 2018). “Stories of Migration from the Archives.” Integrating Our Voices: Centering Stories of Migration Conference. Newcomer Students’ Association of Ryerson (NSAR), Ryerson University, Toronto.

Paper (18 November 2017). “From The Book of Negroes to Uncle Tom’s Cabin: De-mythologizing the Underground Railroad and Canada as a Land of Freedom.” Reckoning with Slavery: New Directions in the History, Memory, Legacy, and Popular Representations of Enslavement. The Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of

Transatlantic Slavery, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York.

Chair and Panelist (2 June 2017). “Commemorating Canada’s Segregated Past: The Media’s Role in Nostalgic Myth-Making.” Canadian Communication Association (CCA) Annual Conference, Ryerson University, Toronto.

Paper and Panelist (29 May 2017). “Neoliberalism and the Media: Toward an Intersectional, Feminist Theory, and Praxis.” The International Communication Association Conference (ICA), Hilton San Diego, San Diego.

Paper (11 March 2016). “Southern Hospitality in Postmodern Food Advertising: The Case of Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen and the (Re)Turn of Mammy.” Intersections Cross-sections 2016 Graduate Conference, Communication and Culture Program, Ryerson University and York University, Toronto.

Paper (18 April 2014). “From the Barbershop to the Front Page: Canada’s Black Beauty Innovators and the Community Newspapers that Made Them.” Innovation and Its Contestants Emerging Scholars Conference, Department of Art History & Communication Studies, McGill University, Montreal.

Paper (8 November 2013). “Locating Absence, Interpreting Presence in the McCord’s Collections.” Collecting Knowledge: New Dialogues on McCord Museum Collections, McCord Museum, Montreal.

Paper (21 September 2013). “The Flight of the Stakeholder: Encountering Blackface in a Public Archive and Personal Collection.” Ethnocultural Art Histories Research Group (EAHR)’s Cultural Convergences I: Testify Conference, Department of Art History, Concordia University, Montreal.

Paper and Panelist (2 November 2012). “Down in Dixie’ in ‘Old Kentucky’: Blackface Minstrelsy and Southern Nostalgia in Nineteenth-Century Montreal.” Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC) Conference, Concordia University, Montreal.

Paper (1 June 2012). “The Rise of Western Beauty Culture, Black Women, and Canada’s Ladies’ Magazine, *Chatelaine*.” Canadian Communication Association (CCA) Annual Conference, Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Waterloo, Waterloo.

Paper (9 December 2011). “From Mammy to Oprah: An Historical Analysis of the ‘Fat’ Black Female Body as Cultural Product.” Radical Aesthetics and Politics: Intersections in Music, Art, and Critical Social Theory Conference, Hunter College, New York.

Paper (4 November 2011). “Desiring Through Identification: An Historical Analysis of the Icon Aunt Jemima, and Her Legacy.” Canadian Association of Cultural Studies (CACS) Biennial Conference, McGill University, Montreal.

Teaching

Ryerson University

Undergraduate

CRI 100: Creative Industries Overview (Fall 2018, 2019, 2020)
CRI 630: Advertising Theory and Practice (Winter 2019, 2020)
CRI 560: Special Topics: Global Visual Cultures in the Creative Industries (Winter, 2021)
CRI 680: Celebrity (Winter 2020, 2021)
CRI 810: Studies in Creative Collaboration (Winter 2019)
CRI 710: Research Methodology (Fall 2018)

Graduate

CC8836 (CMCT6135 3.0): Selected Topics in Media and Culture: Race, Gender and Technology (Fall, 2020)

University of Toronto

Undergraduate

VCC390: Topics in Visual Culture: Celebrity and Promotional Culture (Fall 2016, 2017)
VCC304: Visual Culture and the Politics of Identity (Fall 2015, 2017, 2018)
VCC236: North American Consumer Culture, 1890 to Present (Fall 2015, Winter 2017, 2018)
CDN335: Black Canadian Studies (Winter 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)
SMC387: Advertising and Media (Fall, 2015)
MDOSC02: Topics in Media, Identities and Politics (Winter, 2016)

McGill University

Undergraduate

COMS310: Media and Feminist Studies (Winter, 2014)

Current Graduate Supervisees

Ph.D. Dissertations

Emilie Jabouin (PhD, Communication & Culture – co-supervisor) – Black Women Writers: Expressive Cultures and Activism, 1880s-1940s in Canada (ongoing).

Erika Chung (PhD, Communication & Culture – co-supervisor) – Women of Colour Comic Book Fans: Online and Offline Spaces of Community and Harassment (ongoing).

Shanice Wolters (PhD, Communication & Culture – supervisor) – ongoing.

Mary Ann Boateng. (PhD, Communication & Culture – comprehensive exam and dissertation committee member) – ongoing.

M.A. Theses and MRPs

Supervisor

Micha Powell (MA, Digital Media) – STORYTELLING AND SISTERHOOD: How Podcasts Foster an Immersive Virtual Community for Black Women (ongoing).

Stedman Tabiri (MA, Communication & Culture) – Fandom, Fashion, & the Black Canon: A “Postmodern” Film (ongoing).

Christine Ramkeesson (MA, Fashion) – Struttin’ through the industry: A cultural perspective on Missy Elliott, hip-hop and beauty politics (2018-2020).

Erin Nantais (MA, Digital Media) – Am I pretty?: Commercial media influence on beauty ideals and aesthetics (2019-2020).

Lisa Afriyie (MA, Digital Media), “It’s Not “Just Hair”: Examining the Need for a Black Hair Care Mobile App” (2018-2019)

Undergraduate Research Assistants

Carianne Shakes (Creative Industries), Undergraduate Research Opportunity (URO), Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation, Ryerson University, May-August 2020 (\$10,266.00).

Academic Service

Departmental

Contract Lecturer Appointment Committee (CLAC), 2020-2021.
Curriculum Committee, 2020 – 2021.
Rosemary Reid Memorial Award Committee, 2018.

University

External & Internal Committees:

Faculty Member, Senate, 2020-ongoing
Member, Board of Directors, Jackson Park Project, 2020-ongoing
Member-at-Large, Canadian Communication Association (ACC-CCA), 2020-ongoing
Member, Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee with Dr. Melanie Knight (Sociology) and Dr. Anne-Marie Lee-Loy (English), 2020-ongoing
Working Group Member, FCAD's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative, 2020-ongoing.
Member, AAC-CCA Gertrude J. Robinson Book Prize Selection Committee, 2021.
DG8009: Directed Reading, Student: Dorcas Marfo, Master of Digital Media, Winter 2021.
Co-Director, The Studio for Media Activism & Critical Thought (SMACT), 2020-2021.
Co-organizer, The 2nd Annual Black History Month, The Catalyst at FCAD in collaboration with SMACT: Black in Motion," Ryerson University, February 23 and 26, 2021.
Co-organizer, The Inaugural "Black Arts, Culture and Heritage: Panel and Discussion," Ryerson University, The Catalyst at FCAD, February 27, 2020.
Faculty Member, SMACT, 2018 – 2020.

McGill University

Graduate Representative, Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminism Advisory Committee and Research Committee, McGill University, 2012–2014.

External & Internal Grants:

Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Awards to Scholarly Publications Program (ASPP) Committee, 2020-2023
Ryerson SSHRC Explore Grant competition, 2020.
Ryerson Innovation Circle Discovery Prize program, 2020.
Communication & Culture SSHRC CGS-D Application Review & Rankings Committee, 2019.
Canada Research Chair nomination, 2019.
Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence (ORF-RE) program, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities (SSAH), 2019.

Professional

Journal Reviewer:

Archivaria

Oxford Bibliographies

Social Identities: Journal for the Study of Race, Nation and Culture

Journal of Radio and Audio Media

Feminist Review

African Identities

Critical Studies in Media Communication

Canadian Journal of History

Broadview Press
Feminist Media Studies
Photography and Culture
Television and New Media

Professional Memberships

Canadian Historical Association
Canadian Studies Network
Canadian Communication Association
Canadian Association for Theatre Research (2018-19)
International Communication Association (2016-18)
Universities Art Association of Canada (2012-13)

Industry Collaborations

[Gold Series](#), a Procter & Gamble hair care product line designed for afro-textured hair. In partnership with [MLS Group](#), a Toronto-based PR-led creative communications agency, and in collaboration with [Black Women in Motion](#), a Toronto-based, youth-led organization we co-created the #MyHairMyStory campaign (launched January 21, 2021).

Creative Production

Feature Documentary (production), in collaboration with Pink Moon Studio, Toronto.
21st Century Black Podcast (June 10, 2020 – ongoing), co-created/hosted with Emilie Jabouin, <https://soundcloud.com/21stcenturyblack>.

Media Appearances

Podcasts

What She Said (Vancouver, BC). “[Triumph from Turmoil, Heart Matters, Uncle Tom, Deidentification](#),” February 13, 2021.

The Conversation: Don’t Call Me Resilient (Toronto, ON). “[What’s in a word? How to confront 150 years of racial stereotypes, episode 1](#),” February 3, 2021.

PODCAST: Spacing Radio 047 (Toronto, ON). “[The problem with police](#),” July 8, 2020.

CBC Podcasts (Toronto, ON). The Secret Life of Canada, “[S3: What’s the deal with blackface?](#),” June 10, 2020.

CBC Podcasts (Toronto, ON). The Secret Life of Canada, “[S3: Crash Course on Uncle Tom](#),” April 14, 2020.

CanadaLand (Toronto, ON). Jesse Brown interview, [“#296 Two Centuries of Blackface in Canada,”](#) September 29, 2019.

CJSW 90.9FM (Calgary, AB). Interview on Georgia Jones’s “Yeah, What She Said” show on the representation of race and gender in popular culture, August 19, 2019.

Hyperallergic (Toronto, ON). Hrag Vartanian interview, [“The Largely Unknown History of Blackface in Canada,”](#) August 7, 2019.

Television

CBC News Network With John Northcott (Toronto, ON). [Oscar’s and the Lack of Diversity, Inclusivity Hurting its Credibility,](#) April 25, 2021.

CITY TV (Montreal, QC): [Digital Blackface: Are Certain Memes Problematic When Used by non-Black People?,](#) March 28, 2021.

CITYLINE (Toronto, ON). [“My hair matters”: Why Embracing Natural Black hair in the Media is Critical,](#) March 10, 2021.

Breakfast Television (Toronto, ON). [#MyHairMyStory Celebrates the Stories of Black Women and Their Hair,](#) February 26, 2021.

The National (Toronto, ON). [Black Lives Matter movement a boost for Black-owned businesses,](#) February 8, 2021.

The National (Toronto, ON). [Walmart faces outrage for ‘All Lives Matter’ products,](#) June 23, 2020.

The Social (Toronto, ON). [Black Beauty Culture Segment,](#) February 21, 2020.

CTV News Channel (Toronto, ON). [Canadians react to racist Trudeau images,](#) September 19, 2019.

CBC National News (Toronto, ON). [The history of blackface in Canada,](#) September 19, 2019.

Global National News (Toronto, ON). [Blackface’s long, dismal history and why it’s racist, demeaning and hurtful,](#) September 19, 2019.

CBC Toronto (Toronto, ON). Makda Ghebreslassie segment on Black hair, March 6, 2016.

Canada AM (Toronto, ON). Roundtable on black women and the politics of hair, February 25, 2014.

Radio

The Weekend Morning Show (Manitoba) with Nadia Kidwai (Winnipeg, MB), [Is BIPOC a Problematic Acronym?](#), March 14, 2021.

The Weekend Morning Show with Nadia Kidwai (Winnipeg, MB), [New social media movement celebrates natural Black hair](#), February 20, 2021.

All in a Weekend with Ainslie MacLellan (Montreal, QC), [Social media campaign celebrates Black hair and Afrocentric hairstyles](#), February 14, 2021.

Saskatchewan Weekend with Shauna Powers (Saskatoon, SK), [#MyHairMyStory: a new campaign celebrates the beauty and diversity of Black women's hair](#), February 14, 2021.

CBC News (Charlottetown, PEI), [Interview on the impact of COVID-19 on Superbowl](#), December 16, 2020.

CBC Radio 1 Gander CBG AM, [Interview with Prof. Cheryl Thompson, School of Creative Industries at FCAD, on the history of blackface](#), July 13, 2020.

Global News Radio 980 CFPL (London, ON), [The Afternoon Show with Jess Brady](#), June 24, 2020.

610 CKTB (Niagara Region), The Matt Holmes Show. [Interview about Aunt Jemima Name Change/Racist Brand](#), June 18, 2020.

770 CHQR (Calgary, AB), The Morning News with Sue and Andrew. Interview on how celebrity will change after Covid-19, April 28, 2020.

CBC Radio Cross Country Checkup. (Toronto, ON), [Reaction to Trudeau blackface photos shows the black experience is 'an unknown thing to most,' prof says](#), September 23, 2019.

580 CFRA. (Ottawa, ON), The Evan Solomon Show. Interview in response to Trudeau blackface photos, September 20, 2019.

790 KABC TalkRadio (Los Angeles, CA), The Morning Drive with John Phillips and Jillian Barberie. Interview in response to Trudeau blackface photos, September 19, 2019.

AM640. (Toronto, ON), ON Point with Alex Pierson. Interview in response to Trudeau blackface photos, September 19, 2019.

CFRB 1010. (Toronto, ON), Jerry Agar Show. Interview regarding *Toronto Star* article, December 14, 2016.

CFOX 1070 (Victoria, BC), Terry Moore discussion on Ferguson, Missouri shooting and race relations in Canada, August 20, 2014.

CBC Radio Voyage North (Thunder Bay, ON), Radio West (Kelowna, BC), Airplay (Whitehorse, NWT), Homestretch (Calgary, AB), Radio Active (Edmonton, AB), discussion on why we need to rethink Black History Month, February 28, 2014.

Print / Online

Ryerson Today (Toronto, ON). Antoinette Mercurio, “[Celebrity deaths: Why are we so affected by their passing?](#)” Posted on December 15, 2020.

WWD (Paris, FR). Jennifer Weil, “[Untangling Hair’s Cultural Appropriation and Racism Problem.](#)” Posted on November 3, 2020.

France24.com (New York, NY). “[Pandemic-era celebrities struggle to strike appropriate tone.](#)” Posted on May 2, 2020.

Horizon’s Magazine (Winnipeg, MB). Cicely-Belle Blain, “[Combing Through Black Beauty Culture,](#)” pp. 12-15.

Room Magazine. Tamara Jong, “Hair Origins: Dr. Cheryl Thompson on Connecting the Past & Present Roots Through Narrative,” Spring Issue, 43:1.

Medium.com (Online). Raven Smith-Grange, “[The importance of Black Female Representation within Canada’s Film and Television Industry.](#)” Posted on April 17, 2020.

Spa Inc. (Toronto, ON). Jana Manolakos, “[Q&A with Cheryl Thompson.](#)” Posted on February 7, 2020.

Now Magazine (Toronto, ON). Rea McNamara, “[How movies use Blackface to create nostalgia for the past.](#)” Posted on November 18, 2019.

TIME Magazine (New York, NY). Anna Purna Kambhampaty, “The Story Behind a Photo That Roiled an Election.” October 7, 2019, p. 34.

National Post (Toronto, ON). Vanmala Subramaniam, “[‘Being ignorant is dangerous’: Understanding the outrage over Justin Trudeau's blackface.](#)” Posted on September 20,

2019.

Globe & Mail (Toronto, ON). Dakshana Bascaramurty, “[‘It never went away’: Canada’s troubling history with blackface.](#)” Posted on September 20, 2019.

CFCJ (Kamloops, BC). “[Justin Trudeau’s painful blackface past a teachable moment: observers.](#)” Posted on September 19, 2019.

Reuters (Ottawa, ON). David Ljunggren, “[Weird jokes, objectionable attire trip up Canada's Trudeau again.](#)” Posted on September 19, 2019.

Maclean’s (Ottawa, ON). John Geddes, “[The fallout from Justin Trudeau’s brownface photo.](#)” Posted on September 18, 2019.

Realtor.com. Adriana Velez, “[The Terrible Truth About Amazon Prime Day—and 6 Perilous Pitfalls to Avoid.](#)” Posted on July 15, 2019.

Open Book (Toronto, ON). “[Cheryl Thompson on the Complicated History of the Black Beauty Industry in Canada.](#)” Posted on June 5, 2019.

Now Magazine (Toronto, ON). Chaka V. Grier, “[The Untold Story of Canada's Black Beauty Industry.](#)” Posted on April 10, 2019 | “Tangled Roots,” p. 26.

Clin d'Oeil Magazine (Montreal, QC). Marie-Ange Zibi, “Les Tresses: Héritage Culturel Vivant, pp. 44-48, Avril 2019.

Global News (National). Jane Gerster, National Online Journalist, “[One-third of Americans are OK with blackface on Halloween: Pew survey.](#)” Posted on February 11, 2019.

The Eyeopener (Toronto, ON). Kieona George, “Black Faculty (Mis)Representation.” Posted on February 6, 2019.

Halifax Examiner. (Halifax, NS). El Jones, “[Racist, Full Stop.](#)” Posted on January 26, 2019.

CBC National News (Toronto, ON). “[I Can Talk About My Troubles”: Why Chats With Barbers Can Promote Health For Black Men.](#)” Posted on December 24, 2018.

CBC News (Montreal, QC). Ainslie MacLellan story on Blackface in Montreal. “[Real Talk On Race: Blackface Performances A Hit In Bygone Montreal.](#)” Posted on March 23, 2016.

The Blok. Interviewed for a story about local Blackface minstrelsy in Toronto. “[Blackface In Brockton](#).” | Posted on March 11, 2015.