

TIMEKA N. TOUNSEL, Ph.D.
(formerly Timeka N. Williams)

Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Media Studies
The Pennsylvania State University
325 Willard Building
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-865-5239
Email: tnt14@psu.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Media Studies 2018-
Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow of African American Studies and Media Studies 2016-18

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications
Associate Director of Recruitment and Diversity 2015

EDUCATION

Counseling and Positive Psychology Institute (CaPP) Atlanta, GA
Personal and Executive Coaching Certificate 2016
Personal Development Coaching Certificate 2015

University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI
Ph.D. Communication Studies 2015
Graduate Teaching Certificate 2013
African American and Diaspora Studies Graduate Certificate 2013

Dissertation: "The Black Woman That Media Built: Content Creation,
Interpretation, and the Making of the Black Female Self"

Syracuse University Syracuse, NY
B.A. Magazine Journalism and International Relations 2010
Magna cum laude

INTERESTS

•Black (digital) Popular Culture •Audience Studies •Womanism •Feminist Media Studies
•Qualitative Methodology •Inclusive Pedagogies •Personal and Executive Coaching

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Tounsel, T.N. (Under contract). *Branding Black Womanhood: Media Citizenship from Black Power to Black Girl Magic*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Articles

Davis, S.M. & **Tounsel, T.N.** (Accepted). “Transfiguring theaters for disrespectable leisure: An ethnography of Black womxn’s ratchet performances in moving showings of *Girls Trip*.” *Journal of Communication*.

Tounsel, T.N. (2019 Jan.). “Productive Vulnerability: Black Women Writers and Narratives of Humanity in Contemporary Cable Television.” *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*.

Tounsel, T.N. (2018 Dec.). “#WaitingforBoaz: Expressions of Romantic Aspiration and Black Christian Femininities on Social Media.” *Journal of Media and Religion*.

Book Chapters

Tounsel, T.N. (2019 June). “Nimble Readings: Black Women, Meaning Making, and Negotiating Womanhood through ‘Scandal’.” In S. Adams, K. R. Moffitt, & R. L. Jackson (Eds.) *Gladiators in Suits: Race, Gender, and the Politics of Representation in Scandal*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.

Coleman R.M. & **Williams, T.N.** (2013). “The Future of the Past: Religion and Womanhood in the Films of Tyler Perry, Eloyce Gist, and Spencer Williams, Jr.” (pp.152-65). In Ronald Jackson and James Bell (Eds.) *Interpreting Tyler Perry: Perspectives on Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality*. New York: Routledge.

Digital Academic Publications

Means Coleman, R., Ngu, K., & **Tounsel, T.N.** (2015 Feb.). “African American Stars.” *Oxford Bibliographies*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Williams, T.N. & Sobze, D. (2013 Dec.). “‘#LuvYourMane’: Black Female Body Politics and Self-Care in Social Media Spaces.” *Media Fields Journal* 7.

Williams, T.N. (2012 Oct.) “The Cost of a Home Outside of Hollywood: Tyler Perry and Oscar Micheaux.” *In Media Res*.

Williams, T. N. (2012 Oct.) “Exploring Iyanla Vanzant’s Toolkit for *Iyanla Fix My Life*.”
Antenna (University of Wisconsin-Madison).

Williams, T.N. (2012 Oct.) “Steve Harvey and the Enterprise of Black Female Discipline.”
Antenna (University of Wisconsin-Madison).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Faculty Resident Scholar (The Humanities Institute, Pennsylvania State University)	2021
Black Girls Rock Faculty Award (Black Student Union, Pennsylvania State University)	2019
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Grant “Racial Disposability and Cultures of Resistance” (Co-investigator)	2017-19
Donald H. Wulff Diversity Fellowship (Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education)	2014
Institute for Research on Women and Gender Com. of Scholars Fellowship	2014
Payne Research Fellowship for Pre-Candidates	2013
South African Initiative Office Research Grant	2012
Visual and Popular Culture Pre-Doctoral Award	2012
Mary Gardner Award for Graduate Research (Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication)	2012
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant	2012; 2014
International Scholarship in Action Travel Grant, Syracuse University	2010
Rackham Merit Fellowship	2010-15
Newhouse Scholar Award, Syracuse University	2010
Senior Class Marshal, Syracuse University	2010
Walter P. Rodney Academic Achievement Award, Syracuse University	2010

Remembrance Scholar Award, Syracuse University	2009
WellsLink Exceptional Scholar Award, Syracuse University	2007
Dean's Scholarship, Syracuse University	2006-10
Forester's Scholarship	2006-10
United Negro College Fund Scholarship	2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Pennsylvania State University

AFAM/WMNST 101: African American Women

AFAM 126: The History of Hip-Hop

AFAM/WMNST 364: Black and White Sexualities

COMM 411: Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media

University of Michigan

Department of Communication Studies

COMM 371: Media, Culture, and Society

COMM 478: Visual Culture and Visual Literacy

COMM 993: Communication Studies Pedagogy Seminar

Center for Research on Learning and Teaching

Diversity and Inclusion Graduate Teaching Consultant

Graduate Teaching Consultant

English Language Institute

Graduate Teaching Consultant

ELI 994: College Teaching at the UM

Syracuse University

Paris Noir Study Abroad Program

AAS/WGS/FLL/LIT 400: Paris Noir: Literature, Art and Contemporary Life in Diaspora

AAS/WGS/FLL/LIT 490: Independent Study

Student Committees

- Ashley Smalls. (Mass Communication Ph.D. Program, anticipated completion, 2023).
- Lori Johnson-Vegas (Workforce Education and Development, Ph.D. Program, anticipated completion, 2022).
- Janelle Bullock. (Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program Thesis, 2019).
“An Autoethnography of Queer Black Feminist Expression.”

- Markova Casseus. (Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program Thesis, 2016). “Soil for Your Soul: African American Women & Social Entrepreneurship.”
- Dora Z. Sobze. (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, 2013). “The Third Wave Afro: How the Black Beauty Blogosphere has Mobilized New Meaning and Movement.”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Tounsel, T.N. (May 2021). Presenter and Panel Chair. “Trending Justice: #BreonnaCon, Black Women, and Media Citizenship.” Paper accepted for the International Communication Association Annual Meeting. Virtual Conference.

Tounsel, T.N. (April 2020). Presenter. “Black Women and the Twenty-First Century Image Economy.” Paper accepted for the Society of Cinema and Media Studies Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic).

Tounsel, T.N. (Oct. 2019). Presenter. “Black Girl Magic and the Invisibility of Pain.” Paper presented at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Meeting. Charleston, SC.

Tounsel, T.N. (May 2019). Panel Chair and Presenter. “Magical Black Women and the Spectacle of Pain.” Paper presented at the International Communication Association Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.

Tounsel, T.N. (November 2018). Discussant. Roundtable for *Postracial Resistance: Black Women, Media, and the Uses of Strategic Ambiguity* (NYU Press, 2018). National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA.

Tounsel, T.N. (October 2018). Presenter. *Monetized Resistance: Black Women Digital Entrepreneurs and the Dual Labor of Content Creation*. Paper presented at the University of Maryland African American History, Culture, and Digital Humanities Conference. College Park, MD.

Tounsel, T.N. (November 2017). Presenter. *#WaitingforBoaz: Black Women and the Religious Vernacular of Romance and Longing*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Conference. Dallas, TX.

Tounsel, T.N. (November 2014). Presenter. *Introducing New Graduate Student Instructors to Inclusive Teaching Principles and Practices*. Poster presented at the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education Annual Conference. Dallas, TX.

Tounsel, T.N. (November 2014). Presenter. *Content Creation as Self-Creation: Womanist Ways of Scripting Black Womanhood*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Tounsel, T. N. (August 2014). Presenter. *Black Womanhood, Desire, and Single-doom in Television News*. Paper presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference. Montreal, Canada.

Williams, T.N. (November 2013). Presenter. *Watching (“Django”) While Black: Black Female Spectatorship and Postraciality*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.

Williams, T.N. (November 2013). Presenter. *Sister Codes: Self-Care and Transnational Feminisms in Black Women’s Magazines*. Paper presented at the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference. Cincinnati, OH.

Williams, T.N. (October 2013). Presenter. *Reading as Worship: Exploring the Juanita Bynum Domestic Abuse Trial in Black Women’s Digital and Print Texts*. Paper presented at the Gender, Race, and Representations in Magazines and New Media Conference. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Williams, T.N. (June 2013). Presenter. *Blogging Like a Natural Woman: Black Women, Self-Care, and Online Hair Communities*. Paper presented at the Console-ing Passions Annual Conference. De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.

Williams, T.N. (March 2013). Presenter. *“We Love Them and They Love Us”: Reimagining American Race Relations through Cinematic Black History Narratives*. Paper presented at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.

Williams, T.N. (February 2012). Presenter. *She That Findeth a Good Black Man: Tracing intersections of religion and romance in transnational Black media*. Paper presented at the Beyond Normative Approaches: Everyday Media Culture in Africa Conference. Department of Media Studies—University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Means Coleman, R. & **Williams, T.N.** (October 2011). Presenter (Williams). *The Future of the Past: Historicizing Tyler Perry and the Evolution of Black Cultural Production in Film*. Paper presented to the Midwest Popular Culture/American Culture Association Annual Conference. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Williams, T.N. (September 2011). Presenter. *Love as a Yoke: Young Black Women, Romance, and Mediated Gender Roles*. Paper presented at the Global Conference on Gender and Love. Mansfield College, Oxford University, Oxford, England.

Williams, T. N. (November 2010). Moderator. Scholars Panel: “New Geographies of Knowledge.” Sixth Biennial Toni Morrison Conference: Circuits of the Imagination, Paris, France.

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS & INVITED TALKS

Tounsel, T.N. (March 2021). Presenter. “Marketing Dignity: The Commercial Grammar of Black Women’s Empowerment.” Humanities Institute, Pennsylvania State University.

Moorman, J.D. & **Tounsel, T.N.** (March 2021). Presenter. “Single, Not Alone: Shifting the Narrative on Single Black Women's Representation.” *Let’s Talk About Race Dialogue Series*, United Nations-Women.

Tounsel, T.N. (December 2020). Guest Lecturer. “College of Liberal Arts Discovery Series.” Pennsylvania State University.

Tounsel, T.N., McAllister, M., Myrick, J., Martin, B. (June 2020). Facilitator. “Alt-Academic Career Workshop.” College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University.

Tounsel, T.N. (June 2020). Presenter. “Building your Toolkit to Sustain Anti-racist Work.” Council of Chief State School Officers (Washington, D.C.).

Davis, A.R., Merisier, S. Okafor, C., **Tounsel, T.N.** (March 2019). Panelist. “Breaking Through Stereotypes: Women of Color Empowerment Panel.” Presidential Leadership Academy, Pennsylvania State University.

Tounsel, T.N. (March 2018). Guest Lecturer. “Proliferating Racial Identities: The Visual Rhetoric of Blackness.” Talk presented to The World of 1968 (HIST 197).

Wolfram, Walt and **Tounsel, T.N.** (February 2018). Discussant. “Talking Black in America.” Film Screening and Discussion. Center for Language Science, Pennsylvania State University.

Tounsel, T.N. (June 2017). Panelist. “Career Exploration for Students in the Social Sciences and Humanities.” Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan.

Tounsel, T.N. (July 2015). Panelist. “What to Expect in Graduate School.” McNair Scholars Community Forum, Syracuse University.

Tounsel, C. & **Tounsel, T.N.** (February 2015). Invited Workshop. “Maintaining Work-Life Balance in Graduate School.” McNair Scholars Community Forum, Syracuse University.

Gibson, M. & **Tounsel, T.N.** (August 2014). Invited Workshop. “Managing Office Hours.” Engineering Graduate Student Instructor Teaching Orientation, University of Michigan.

Tounsel, T.N. & Suhadolnik, S. (August 2014). Invited Workshop. “Identity and Authority in the Classroom.” Graduate Student Instructor Teaching Orientation, University of Michigan.

Tounsel, T.N. (August 2014). Invited Workshop. “Inclusive Teaching for the First Day and Beyond.” Graduate Student Instructor Teaching Orientation, University of Michigan.

Tounsel, T.N. (Summer 2013; 2014). Presenter. “Understanding the Role of the Graduate Student Instructor in Undergraduate Education.” Recurring New Student Orientation Program, University of Michigan.

Williams, T.N. (October 2013). Presenter. “Performances of Blackness in Ratchet Religiosity Media.” Sponsored by the Black Humanities Collective, University of Michigan.

Williams, T.N. & Hill, J. (August 2013). Invited Workshop. “Identity and Authority in the Classroom.” Graduate Student Instructor Teaching Orientation, University of Michigan.

Williams, T.N. (August 2013). Panelist. “Experiences in Teaching.” Graduate Student Instructor Teaching Orientation, University of Michigan.

Williams, T.N. (November 2012; 2013; 2014). Guest Lecturer. “Sister Codes: Transnational Ideas of Black Womanhood in Media.” Talk presented to Intro to International Studies (CICS 101).

Williams, T.N. (January 2012). Respondent. Panel: “Black *Hair*story: Tracing Black Beauty Aesthetics in Popular Culture.” Sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Gamma Delta Chapter. University of Michigan.

Williams, T.N. (October 2011). Respondent. Panel: “That Awkward Moment: The Role of Minorities in Media.” Sponsored by the Black Student Union, University of Michigan.

Williams, T.N. (January 2010). Respondent. “Make it Rain: An Exploration of Female Exploitation in Today’s Music Industry.” Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Nu Chapter.

MEDIA INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

B.L.A.C. Detroit Magazine Ferndale, MI
Freelance Writer

2010-12

ESSENCE Magazine New York, NY
Editorial Intern

Summer 2009

B.L.A.C. Detroit Magazine Ferndale, MI
Editorial Intern

Summer 2008

WAER-NPR Syracuse, NY
News Intern

Fall 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Wayne State University
Office of Academic Pathways for Excellence (APEX)
Assessment Coordinator

Summer 2011

SERVICE

Reviewer

Communication Review
Routledge
Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion
Canadian Scholars-Women's Press
Sex Education Journal

Other Academic

African American Studies Graduate Studies Committee	2018-
College of Communications Associate Dean Search Committee	2020
Film-Video and Media Studies Faculty Life Committee	2019-2020
African American Studies Senior Scholar Search Committee	2018-19
Sawyer Seminar Working Group:	2017-19
-Film Series Coordinator	
-Digital Humanities Committee	
-Postdoctoral Fellow Search Committee	
Black Leadership Network – Syracuse University	2015-16
-Advisory Council Member	
Black Humanities Collective	2012-13
-Co-chair	
Graduate Employees Organization	2011-12
-Communication Studies Department Steward	

Community

Centre Foundation	2021-
-Board Member	

Unity Church of Jesus Christ, State College	2018-
-Vacation Bible School Teacher	
-Women's Conference Coordinator	
-Volunteer Coordinator	
Adult Basic Education Instructional Aid — St. Paul Public Schools	2015-16
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter	2012-14
-Delta GEMS Teen Mentoring Committee	
Kappa Lambda Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	2009-10
-Chapter President	
-Chancellor's Gold Cup: Sorority of the Year Award	
-Outstanding Educational Forum Award	
DIMENSIONS Undergraduate Mentoring Group	2007-10
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Day Planning Committee	2006-8
Gospel Against AIDS, Inc.	2004-11
-Sexual Health Educator	

AFFILIATIONS

International Communication Association
National Communication Association
National Women's Studies Association
Society of Cinema and Media Studies
National Association of Black Journalists
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.