

Kendra N. Calhoun, Ph.D.

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Department of Anthropology 109 Davenport Hall 607 S. Mathews Ave. Urbana IL, 61801	 kendrac@illinois.edu https://kendrancalhoun.com/ https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1773-7338
---	--

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 – present **Assistant Professor of Linguistic Anthropology**
Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign,
- 2021-2023 **University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellow**
Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles

EDUCATION

- 2021 **Ph.D. Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara**
Dissertation: “Competing Discourses of Diversity and Inclusion: Institutional Rhetoric and Graduate Student Narratives at Two Minority Serving Institutions”
- Dissertation committee: Mary Bucholtz (chair), Anne Charity Hudley (Linguistics), George Lipsitz (Black Studies), Özlem Sensoy (Education, Simon Fraser University)
 - Interdisciplinary emphases and certificates: Black Studies; Language, Interaction, and Social Organization; Certificate in College and University Teaching
- 2016 **M.A. Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara**
Thesis: “‘What, a Black Man Can’t Have a TV?’: Vine Racial Comedy as a Sociopolitical Discourse Genre”
- Thesis committee: Mary Bucholtz (chair), Stephanie Batiste (English), John W. Du Bois (Linguistics)
- 2013 **B.A. English Language and Literature, Experimental Psychology, University of South Carolina**
Honors thesis: “‘Literally’ Speaking: Language, Prescriptivism, and Ideology”
- Thesis advisor: Elaine W. Chun (English and Linguistics)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Linguistic anthropology, sociocultural linguistics, sociolinguistics, race, gender, identity, power, multimodality, embodiment, humor, online discourse, African American language and culture, diversity discourse in higher education

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

National

- 2023-2024 ACLS Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies
- 2021 Dissertation Fellowship, Ford Foundation (declined)
- 2020 Honorable Mention, Dissertation Fellowship Program, Ford Foundation
- 2016 Honorable Mention, Predoctoral Fellowship Program, Ford Foundation
- 2015 Honorable Mention, Predoctoral Fellowship Program, Ford Foundation

University

- 2026 Humanities Teaching Release Time Award, Campus Research Board, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (\$3k)
- 2025 Research Support Award, Campus Research Board, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (\$11.8k)
- 2023 Chancellor's Award for Postdoctoral Research, UCLA (\$7.5k)
- 2019 President's Dissertation Year Fellowship, University of California
- 2017 Kennedy/Graves Research Fund Award, Black Resource Committee, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2014-2018 Doctoral Scholars Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara

Conference

- 2020 Best student paper, American Dialect Society
- 2019 Student Travel Award, New Ways of Analyzing Variation 48
- 2018 Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics Travel Grant, Linguistic Society of America
- 2016 Conference Travel Scholarship, Association of Internet Researchers
- 2016 Heldrich-Dvorak Travel Fellowship, Southwest Popular/American Culture Association
- 2015 Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2015 Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics Travel Grant, Linguistic Society of America

Teaching

- 2019-2020 Excellence in Teaching Award nominee, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2018-2019 Excellence in Teaching Award nominee, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2016-2017 Excellence in Teaching Award, University of California, Santa Barbara

Publication

- 2021 Best Paper in *Language*, Linguistic Society of America

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- In prep **Calhoun, Kendra.** *#BlackPeopleBeLike: Language, Identity, and Black Digital Culture on TikTok* [monograph]

In prep Benesch, Montreal, Bucholtz, Mary, **Calhoun, Kendra** & Hall, Kira (eds.) *Parsing the Body: Language and the Social Life of Embodiment*

Forthcoming **Calhoun, Kendra**, Clemons, Aris, Peltier, Joy P.G., Martin, Kahdeidra, and Charity Hudley, Anne. *Lifting as We Climb: How Black Faculty Make Professional and Linguistic Choices to Thrive in Higher Education*. Teacher's College Press (Expected May 2026)

Articles

2026 **Calhoun, Kendra**. "This is so Vine coded": Genre, nostalgia, and strategies of multimodal intertextuality on TikTok. *Internet Pragmatics*.
<https://doi.org/10.1075/ip.00143.cal>

2024 **Calhoun, Kendra** and Yoo, Joyhanna. African American English, racialized femininities, and Asian American identity in Ali Wong's *Baby Cobra*. *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 28, 64-84 <https://doi.org/10.1111/josl.12673>

2023 **Calhoun, Kendra** and Fawcett, Alexia. "They edited out her nip nops": Linguistic innovation as textual censorship avoidance on TikTok. *Language@Internet* 21, Article 1
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/li/article/view/37371>

2023 **Calhoun, Kendra**. Social media. In Mark Aldenderfer (ed.), *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, Oxford University Press (Invited)
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190854584.013.602>

2022 Franz, Hannah, Charity Hudley, Anne, Scarborough King, Rachael, **Calhoun, Kendra**, miles-hercules, deandre, Muwwakkil, Jamaal, Edwards, Jeremy, Duffie, Cecily A., Knox, Danielle, Lawton, Bishop, and Merritt, John Henry. The role of the graduate student in inclusive undergraduate research experiences. *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition, and Culture* 22(1): 121–141. Special issue: Undergraduate Research as a Future of English Studies (Invited) <https://doi.org/10.1215/15314200-9385522>

2021 **Calhoun, Kendra**, Charity Hudley, Anne H., Bucholtz, Mary, Exford, Jazmine, and Johnson, Brittney. Attracting Black students to linguistics through a Black-centered introduction to linguistics course. *Language* 97(1), e12-e38
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/785545>

2019 **Calhoun, Kendra**. (2019). Vine racial comedy as anti-hegemonic humor: Linguistic performance and generic innovation. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 29(1), 27-49 <https://doi.org/10.1111/jola.12206>

Book chapters

In prep **Calhoun, Kendra**. Melanin. In Montreal Benesch, Mary Bucholtz, Kendra Calhoun & Kira Hall (eds.), *Parsing the Body*

2024 Charity Hudley, Anne H., Mallinson, Christine, Clemons, Aris, Randolph Jr., L. J., Bucholtz, Mary, **Calhoun, Kendra**, Hankerson, Shenika, Peltier, Joy, Thomas, Jamie,

and Seidel, Kara. Solidarity and collectivity in decolonizing “theoretical” and “applied” linguistics: A Black diasporic perspective. In Anne H. Charity Hudley, Christine Mallinson, and Mary Bucholtz (eds.), *Decolonizing Linguistics*, Oxford University Press, 323–360

- 2020 **Calhoun, Kendra.** Blackout, Black excellence, Black power: Strategies of everyday online activism on Black Tumblr. In Allison McCracken, Alexander Cho, Louisa Stein and Indira Neill Hoch (eds.), *a tumblr book: platform and cultures*, University of Michigan Press, 48-62

Conference proceedings

- 2016 **Calhoun, Kendra.** Six seconds to talk back: The emergence of racial comedy as a sociopolitical discourse genre on Vine. *Selected Papers of Internet Research 2016: The 17th Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*
<https://spir.aoir.org/ojs/index.php/spir/issue/view/581>
- 2015 **Calhoun, Kendra.** ‘It is the worst of our time’: Youth language, language attitudes, and arguments about “literally.” *Texas Linguistic Forum* 58, 1-10
<http://salsa.ling.utexas.edu/proceedings/2015/Calhoun.pdf>

Non-peer-reviewed publications

Contributions to edited works

- 2024 Hughes, Brianne, **Calhoun, Kendra**, Fawcett, Alexia, Wright, Kelly E., Zimmer, Benjamin, Brewster, Emily, McLean, Jaidan and Zhang, Lynn. Among the New Words [algospeak edition]. *American Speech* 99(1), 78-90
<https://doi.org/10.1215/00031283-11186920>
- 2023 **Calhoun, Kendra.** Legbooty. In Kelly Wright, Ben Zimmer, Charles E. Carson, Brianne Hughes, Jaidan McLean, and Lynn Zhang (eds.), “Among the New Words,” *American Speech* 98(3), 296-317 <https://doi.org/10.1215/00031283-10887733>
- 2022 **Calhoun, Kendra.** Perspectives on college website diversity discourse by graduate students of color (research vignette). In Anne Charity Hudley, Christine Mallinson, and Mary Bucholtz (eds.), *Talking College: Making Space for Black Language Practices in Higher Education*. Teachers College Press, 139-141

Invited book reviews

- 2022 **Calhoun, Kendra.** Review of *tumblr* by Katrin Tiidenberg, Natalie Ann Hendry, and Crystal Abidin, *Visual Communication*
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1470357222110989>
- 2021 **Calhoun, Kendra.** Review of *The Digital Lives of Black Women in Britain* by Francesca Sobande, *Feminist Media Studies* 21(2), 334-335
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2021.1875162>

- 2020 **Calhoun, Kendra.** Review of *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code* by Ruha Benjamin, *Black Perspectives*, African American Intellectual History Society
<https://www.aaihs.org/race-after-technology/>

Other research publications

- 2023 **Calhoun, Kendra.** What can TikTok comments teach us about the English language? *emgazine: The magazine for advanced level English*, Issue 101 (September), 13-14 (Invited)
- 2022 **Calhoun, Kendra.** Conducting digital ethnography on social media [Video]. *SAGE Research Methods*. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781529604566> (Invited)

RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

- Jan 2022-
Dec 2024 **Research collaborator**, “Linguistic production, perception, and identity in the career mobility of Black faculty in linguistics and the language sciences,” National Science Foundation Build and Broaden 2.0 Program
PIs: [Anne Charity Hudley \(Stanford University\)](#) and [Christine Mallinson \(University of Maryland, Baltimore County\)](#)
- 2020 **Research fellow**, “[Disciplining Diversity](#)” Residential Research Group, University of California Humanities Research Institute
- 2017-2021 **Graduate research assistant**, UCSB-HBCU Scholars in Linguistics Program ([UC-HBCU Initiative](#))/ “Increasing diversity in the linguistic sciences through research on language and social mobility” ([National Science Foundation REU Site](#))
PIs: Anne Charity Hudley and Mary Bucholtz (UC Santa Barbara)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Papers

- 2026 Multimodality and digital affordances in representations of Blackness on TikTok. Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2026 Innovation, interdisciplinarity, and practicality: The case for digital linguistics as a subfield. Georgetown University Roundtable on Linguistics. Washington, DC
- 2026 “Say _____, but Black”: African American English memes on Black TikTok. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 2025 Researching African American language and culture as an African American scholar. Society for Linguistic Anthropology, Chicago, IL

- 2024 Race-making and identity construction on Black TikTok. American Studies Association Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD
- 2023 “Checking the diversity box”: Race, capitalism, and (neo)liberalism in U.S. higher education. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada
- 2023 **Calhoun, Kendra**, Peltier, Joy P. G., Sedlacek, Quentin, Seidel, Kara, Grey, Ian, Charity Hudley, Anne, and Mallinson, Christine. A mixed-methods examination of Black language pedagogy and how linguistic practices shape Black faculty experiences. American Dialect Society Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 2023 **Calhoun, Kendra**, Muwwakkil, Jamaal, Namboodiripad, Savithry, Weissler, Rachel, and Yoo, Joyhanna. Linguists’ reflections on responses to the 'Racial Reckoning' of 2020 in U.S. higher education: A collective conversation on lessons learned and next steps. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 2022 Reconceptualizing DEI through the perspectives of graduate students of color at two Minority Serving Institutions. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
- 2021 **Calhoun, Kendra**, Charity Hudley, Anne, Clemons, Aris, Mallinson, Christine, miles-hercules, deandre, Muwwakkil, Jamaal, and Willis, Chloe. Scholarly communication in pursuit of publication justice. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 49, University of Texas at Austin, October 19
- 2021 Diversity discourse on university websites: How it can uphold the racial status quo. National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education Annual Meeting (online)
- 2021 **Calhoun, Kendra** and Yoo, Joyhanna. ‘Oh [mɑ] god’: Appropriation of African American English and the construction of Asian American identity in Ali Wong’s “Baby Cobra.” Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (online)
- 2020 Attracting Black undergraduate students to linguistics through a Black-centered introduction to linguistics course.” American Dialect Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 2020 Centering Black language and culture in introductory linguistics: a model for improving racial equity in linguistics pedagogy. Advancing African American Linguist(ic)s Symposium, UC Santa Barbara (online)
- 2018 “Diversity and inclusion are pretty empty words”: Understanding systematic discrimination in academia from the perspectives of graduate students of color and women graduate students.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA
- 2018 Using everyday technology as tools for racially inclusive classrooms. Graduate Student Teaching Symposium, Instructional Development, UC Santa Barbara

- 2017 Reversing the racializing gaze through the linguistic construction of the “straight white boy” on Tumblr and Twitter. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2017 “I am 420% heterosexual so I know EVERYTHING about being straight and sports”: How Tumblr and Twitter constructed (and dragged) the “straight white boy.” Popular/American Culture Association National Conference, San Diego, CA
- 2016 Stereotypes, affordances, and social critique: Vine racial comedy as a sociopolitical discourse genre. Association of Internet Researchers Annual Meeting, Berlin, Germany
- 2016 We gon be alright: Black Tumblr as an online social support group. Conference on Language, Interaction, and Culture, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2016 Blackout, Black Excellence, Black Power: Strategies of everyday online activism on Black Tumblr. National Council for Black Studies, Charlotte, NC
- 2016 “Always reblog,” #staywoke: Strategies of everyday online activism on Tumblr. Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM
- 2015 Racial performance and the hierarchy of Americanness on social media.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 2015 “It is the worst of our time”: Youth language, language attitudes, and arguments about “literally.” Symposium About Language and Society – Austin (SALSA), University of Texas at Austin

Posters

- 2022 **Calhoun, Kendra** and Fawcett, Alexia. “They edited out her nip nops”: Linguistic innovation as textual censorship avoidance on TikTok. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- 2018 “Okay but like” as a discourse marker collocation on Twitter. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT

Panels, roundtables, and organized sessions

- 2025 The debut of JBLAC: *The Journal of Black Language and Culture* (organized session). Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 2024 Talking liberation: Decolonization and inclusion in linguistics research, teaching, and faculty life (organized session). Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, New York City
- 2024 **Calhoun, Kendra**, Conner, Tracy, and Charity Hudley, Anne. HBCU partnerships in linguistics. Organized session: Linguistics in Higher Education: The Next 100 Years. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, New York City

- 2024 21st-century PhD training meets 21st-century job market: Reflections from recent linguistics PhD graduates working in academia and industry. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, New York City
- 2023 Sedlacek, Quentin, Clemons, Aris, **Calhoun, Kendra**, Seidel, Kara, Charity Hudley, Anne, Mallinson, Christine. Findings and implications for ADIST from a multi-site, interdisciplinary survey of college instructors who teach about African American Language. American Association of Applied Linguistics Annual Meeting, Portland, OR
- 2021 The semiotic terrain of raciogender: A dialogue. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- 2018 Race & Racism in Internet Research: Fishbowl with the Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies. Association of Internet Researchers Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada

Panel discussant

- 2025 Personhood, platforms, and power: Imagination as political praxis. Society for Linguistic Anthropology, Chicago, IL

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Keynotes and campus lectures

- 2026 Racialized language 101. Blackburn College, February 13
- 2019 Researching language, race, and culture on social media. Black History Month Conference of Undergraduate Writing and Research, Virginia State University, February 21

Department lectures and colloquia

- 2025 Linguistic diversity and ideologies of “Black language” on TikTok: Black discursive practice, digital representation, and raciolinguistic ideologies. Linguistics Seminar Series, Department of Linguistics, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2025 Algorithmic influences on everyday digital discourse: Linguistic (self) censorship and innovation on TikTok. Human-Computer Interaction Seminar, Siebel School of Computing and Data Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2025 Race-making and identity construction on Black TikTok. AGUA Distinguished Lecture, Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona
- 2024 Researching language, culture, and power on TikTok. Doctoral colloquium series, Department of Information Studies, UCLA

- 2023 Representations of Black linguistic diversity on TikTok: Intersections of language, race, and technology. Department of Linguistics, UC Davis
- 2023 African American English: Exemplifying the intersections of language, power, and race in the U.S. Community Psychology speaker series, Department of Psychology, University of Virginia
- 2023 Expanding notions of “Black language” through representations of Black linguistic diversity on TikTok. Department of Anthropology & Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
- 2022 **Calhoun, Kendra** and Charity Hudley, Anne. A roadmap for inclusion in linguistics. Anti-racist pedagogy series, Department of Linguistics, UC San Diego
- 2022 “The more you say it without action the less it means”: Black graduate students’ interrogation of diversity discourse and practice at two Minority Serving Institutions.” Department of Anthropology, UCLA
- 2022 Narrative critiques of DEI by graduate students of color at a historically white Minority Serving Institution. Winter speaker series, Department of Hispanic Studies, UC Riverside
- 2022 “We been through it and we still here”: Sociocultural linguistic analyses of Black discursive resistance in the U.S. Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan
- 2021 (De)constructing ideologies of whiteness through linguistic performance of the ‘straight white boy’ on social media. Language, Ideology, and Power research group, Lancaster University, United Kingdom
- 2021 “That’s no shade, that’s the truth”: Linguistic anthropological approaches to the study of Black discursive resistance in the U.S. Department of Anthropology, UCLA
- 2021 Language and race in higher education: Discourses of diversity in the U.S. academy.” Language, Race, and Ethnicity lecture series, Department of English, Boise State University
- 2021 Centering Black language and culture in introductory linguistics: A model for improving racial equity in linguistics pedagogy. Inclusive Pedagogy in Linguistics series, Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago
- 2021 “They talk about it as if it’s a thing that they did”: Discursive challenges to institutional diversity discourse by graduate students of color at a Historically White Institution. Doctoral colloquium, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2020 Calhoun, Kendra, Charity Hudley, Anne, Conner, Tracy, Keshav, Aris, miles-hercules, deandre, Muwakkil, Jamaal, Yoo, Joyhanna, Zimman, Lal. A roadmap for inclusion in sociocultural linguistics. Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara
- 2020 The discursive construction of “straight white boys” on social media as social critique. Department of English, West Chester University

- 2020 “Black people online are undefeated”: African American Language, culture, and activism on social media. Black History Month speaker series, School of English, University of Nottingham
- 2020 Analyzing race, humor, and activism online through the lens of Black digital culture. Inspirational Speaker Series, SECL Student Success Project, University of Kent
- 2020 The linguistic construction of “straight white boys” on Tumblr and Twitter as social critique. Graduate Recruitment Week colloquium, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2019 **Calhoun, Kendra**, Charity Hudley, Anne, Conner, Tracy, Keshav, Aris, miles-hercules, deandre, Muwwakkil, Jamaal, Yoo, Joyhanna, Zimman, Lal. A roadmap for inclusion in sociocultural linguistics. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 48, University of Oregon
- 2018 “I’m here for all you Black girls”: Black women’s Tumblr discourse as Black Feminist activism.” Sneak Peek Graduate Research Showcase, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara, May 31

Invited webinars and panels

- 2025 What does free speech discourse do? SLA Online, Society for Linguistic Anthropology
- 2020 miles-hercules, deandre, **Calhoun, Kendra**, and Muwwakkil, Jamaal. This IS Linguistics: Scope, positionality, and graduate apprenticeship when diversifying the linguistics curriculum. Racial Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Linguistics Curriculum webinar series, Linguistic Society of America
- 2020 Going virtual: Linguistic anthropological methods in online contexts. Raising Our Voices event series, American Anthropological Association

Classroom lectures

- 2025 Language and social media. Anthropology 109: Language, Culture, and Power, Carleton College
- 2024 **Calhoun, Kendra** and Yoo, Joyhanna. African American English, racialized femininities, and Asian American identity in Ali Wong’s *Baby Cobra*. *Linguistics* 227: African American English, Stanford University
- 2023 Ethnographic approaches to (social) media. Media and Cinema Studies 351: Social Aspects of Media, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2023 Linguistic autobiography. *Linguistics* 442: African American English, University of South Carolina

- 2022 Analyzing race, gender, and sexuality, through the “straight white boy” persona online. Anthropology 4: Culture and Communication, UCLA
- 2022 Representation of the “straight white boy” on social media. Anthropology 340: Languaging Race and the Politics of Difference, Emory University
- 2022 Conducting research on audiovisual social media platforms. Anthropology 1898: Digital Ethnographic Methods, Harvard University
- 2021 Linguistic approaches to analyzing TikTok discourse. Marketing 568: Social Media Marketing & Brand Storytelling, Loyola University Chicago
- 2020 Memes as social critique and stance-taking: “Straight white boys” on social media. Linguistics 135: Memes: When Language and Culture Go Viral, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2019 Identity and community on social media. Linguistics 50: Language and Power, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2017 Language, race, and activism on social media. Linguistics 50: Language and Power, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2016 Vine videos as multimodal memes. Linguistics 135: Memes: When Language and Culture Go Viral, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2016 African American discourse online. Linguistics 136: African American Language and Culture, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2016 Hegemonic and subversive performances of gender and sexuality on Vine. LING 132: Language, Gender, and Sexuality, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2016 Racial humor. Linguistics 180: Language, Race, and Ethnicity, University of California, Santa Barbara

TEACHING

while at University of Illinois

Undergraduate

ANTH 270: Language in Culture
 ANTH 372: Talking Politics
 ANTH 399: Digital Cultures and Communication

Graduate

ANTH 515: Discourse Transcription
 ANTH 515: Digital Qualitative Methods

while at University of California, Santa Barbara***Instructor of Record***

LING 20: Language and Linguistics, UCSB-HBCU Scholars in Linguistics Program (synchronous online)

LING 50: Language and Power

LING 101: Basic Elements of Linguistic Analysis, UCSB-HBCU Scholars in Linguistics Program

Teaching Assistant

BLST 1: Introduction to African American Studies

BLST 5: Blacks in Western Civilization

LING 50: Language and Power

LING 70: Language in Society

LING 136: African American Language and Culture

LING 180: Language, Race, and Ethnicity

LING/CHST 187: Language, Power, and Learning

Teaching at other institutions***Co-Instructor***

ENGL 422: History of the English Language, Department of English, Virginia State University

ANTH 104: Language and Culture, Santa Barbara City College/Dos Pueblos High School (dual enrollment)

ADVISING AND MENTORING

while at University of Illinois***Undergraduate***

ANTH 498: Anthropology Capstone

- Rebecca Peters (second reader), 2025-26

Honors thesis (Anthropology)

- Layla Eygabroad (second reader), 2025-26

Graduate

Doctoral (co)advisor

- Johnson Adegbola (Linguistic & Sociocultural Anthropology)
- Hannah Lee (Linguistic Anthropology)

Intellectual Committee member

- Yasmine Adams (Sociocultural Anthropology)
- Houry Pilibossian (Sociocultural Anthropology)

Research assistant supervisor

- 2025-2026 Supervisor of two research assistants
- Coding and organizing Black TikTok video data: Yasmine Adams (graduate), Addison Musick (undergraduate)

while at University of California, Santa Barbara

- 2019-2020 Supervisor of five research assistants
- Dissertation interview data transcription and coding: Emiria Henry, Maria Linares, Christine Nguyen, Laura Thach
 - Literature review and data coding for conference presentation on “okay but like” on Twitter: Alex Pigeon
- 2018-2019 Graduate student mentor, UCSB-HBCU Scholars in Linguistics Program
- 2017 Undergraduate research project supervisor, School Kids Investigating Language in Life and Society (SKILLS)
- 2016 Supervisor of program’s undergraduate research assistants, School Kids Investigating Language in Life and Society (SKILLS)
- 2016 Supervisor of four research assistants
- Coding multimodal social media data for project on “vine racial comedy”: Lyiam Galo, Milan Granillo, Westin Vuong, Samantha Wilcoxson
- 2015-2016 Supervisor of program’s undergraduate mentors to high school participants, School Kids Investigating Language in Life and Society (SKILLS)
- 2015 Project supervisor, School Kids Investigating Language in Life and Society (SKILLS)

SERVICE

while at University of Illinois***Reviewing and editing***

- 2024- present Assistant editor, *Journal of Black Language and Culture* (JBLAC)
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-black-language-and-culture>
- 2023- present Reviewer, Conference abstracts and papers
 Association of Internet Researchers
 Linguistic Society of America

Social Media & Society
Society for Linguistic Anthropology

2023-
present Reviewer, Journal manuscripts
American Anthropologist
Feminist Anthropology
Gender & Language
Journal of Linguistic Anthropology
Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute
Language and Discrimination
Sociology Compass
Studia Neophilologica

Professional society/association service

2026-2030 Member-at-Large, Executive Committee, American Dialect Society

Departmental service (Anthropology)

2026 Graduate professional development workshop on CVs & websites

2025-2026 Courses and Curriculum committee
Colloquia and Intellectual Community committee

2024 “Ethics across the fields” panelist

2024-2025 Graduate admissions committee

Public engagement

2025 “From gr*pists to nip nops, how self-censorship shapes the language of TikTok.” NPR
Code Switch podcast
<https://www.npr.org/2025/07/09/1255376135/code-switch-self-censorship-tiktok-07-09-2025>

2023 “Is ‘Algospeak’ dangerous?” Slate *ICYMI* podcast
<https://slate.com/podcasts/icymi/2023/09/algospeak-explained>

Other service (selected)

2025 Informational webinar for prospective graduate applicants (panelist), Department of
Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2024 New faculty research introductions, LEAD Scholars Program, Department of
Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2023 Doctoral alumni panel, Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara

while at University of California, Los Angeles and University of California, Santa Barbara

Reviewing and editing

Past service Reviewer, Conference abstracts and papers
 Advancing African American Linguist(ic)s Symposium
 Association for Computing Machinery FAccT Conference
 Association of Internet Researchers
 Linguistic Society of America

Past service Reviewer, Journal manuscripts
 American Anthropologist
 Journal of Linguistic Anthropology
 Language and Communication
 Language and Discrimination
 Linguistics Vanguard
 Popular Culture Review

Professional society/association service

2021-2022 Social media committee, Linguistic Society of America

2018-2021 Awards subcommittee, Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics,
 Linguistic Society of America

2015-2016 Awards subcommittee, Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics,
 Linguistic Society of America

Conference organizing

2016-2017 Conference organizing committee, Language, Interaction, and Social Organization
 (LISO) Research Group, UC Santa Barbara

Departmental service

2019-2020 Search Committee: Assistant Professor of Psycholinguistics, Department of Linguistics,
 UC Santa Barbara

2015-2016 Search Committee: North Hall Endowed Chair in the Linguistics of African America,
 Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara

Public engagement

2022 “Content moderation is changing how we speak– and dictating who gets heard,” *Mashable*
<https://mashable.com/article/content-moderation-changing-language-fast>

2022 “A Karen by any other name still Karens,” *Race Unwrapped* podcast
<https://wfpl.org/race-unwrapped-a-karen-by-any-other-name-still-karens/>

2022 “From access to degree completion: Creating space for graduate students of color,”
 Twitter Chat hosted by The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute

2022 Interview about my research and education background, *Lexis* podcast
<https://anchor.fm/lexispodcast/episodes/Episode-28---Kendra-Calhoun-e1ke4fi>

- 2022 “‘Algospeak’ and the pitfalls of content moderation via algorithm on social media,” *AirTalk*
<https://www.kpcc.org/show/airtalk/2022-04-20/proposals-by-california-lawmakers-look-to-strengthen-kindergarten-offerings>
- 2021 “Language and Culture with Dr. Kendra Calhoun,” *That Anthro Podcast*,
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/language-and-culture-with-dr-kendra-calhoun/id1518833495?i=1000545082411>
- 2020 “An Oral History of LOL,” *Nerdist* <https://nerdist.com/article/lol-oral-history/>
- 2020 “How ‘Karen’ Became a Symbol of Racism,” *Vox*
<https://www.vox.com/21317728/karen-meaning-meme-racist-coronavirus>
- 2020 “Read Between the Vines,” *The Vocal Fries* podcast
<https://radiopublic.com/the-vocal-fries-GOoXdO/s1!a44bb>

Other service (selected)

- 2022 Organizer, Virtual information session for prospective applicants to the University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
- 2021 Post-fieldwork: Navigating Dissertation Writing and the Academic Job Search in Anthropology, Linguistics, and Area Studies panelist, Department of Anthropology, UCLA
- 2021 Audit of university website discourse, Institutional Marketing and Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, University of Wyoming
- 2020-2021 Graduate student expert, Inclusive Curriculum Initiative, Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara
- 2020 Panelist, Townhall on race and anti-blackness in linguistics and academia, Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara
- 2019 Inclusive Communication in Teaching and Research panelist, Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara
- 2019 Graduate school Q&A panelist, Faculty-in-Residence Undergraduate Event, UC Santa Barbara
- 2019 Women’s and Gender Studies faculty working group, Virginia State University
- 2017-2018 Executive Board member, Black Graduate Student Association, UC Santa Barbara
- 2017-2018 Graduate student coordinator and graduate student mentor, Black Student Engagement Program, Academic Initiatives, UC Santa Barbara
- 2017 Graduate teaching assistant Q&A panelist, Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara

- 2016 New graduate student orientation Q&A panelist, Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara
- 2015-2016 Site coordinator, School Kids Investigating Language in Life and Society (SKILLS), Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara
- 2015-2016 Graduate student representative, Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara
- 2015 Graduate student experience Q&A panelist, graduate diversity recruitment event, Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association, American Studies Association, Association of Black Anthropologists, Association of Internet Researchers, Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies, Linguistic Society of America, Phi Beta Kappa Society, Society for Linguistic Anthropology, Stanford Black Academic Development (BAD) Lab