

# Ree (Brittany) Botts

## Curriculum Vitae

University of California, Berkeley: African American and African Diaspora Studies  
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Research merges diasporic poetics, visual culture, and narrative-based ethnography to center marginalized women's intimate lives. Eight years of experience teaching at the intersection of African Diaspora studies, gender and women's studies, and expressive culture. Academic service in creative humanities bridges scholarship and community work to enhance undergraduate student experience.

### EDUCATION

**University of California, Berkeley** - Spring 2021

PhD: African American and African Diaspora Studies

Designated Emphasis: Gender, Women, and Sexuality

Certificate: Global Urban Humanities

Dissertation: *Curations of Herself: Black Women's Healing Spaces in Oakland*

Fields: Black Women & Diasporic Longing;

Poetics of Black Women's Artistry, Interiority, and Spirituality;

Black Geographies in the Wake of Displacement

**University of California, Los Angeles** - 2017

MA: African American Studies

Specialization: Anthropology

**Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia** - 2015

BA: Sociology and Anthropology, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

**New York University, Accra, Ghana** - Fall 2013

Certificate of Program Completion: NYU International Semester Exchange

### PUBLICATIONS

#### **Under Contract**

Botts, Ree. *Mourning My Inner Black Girlchild*.

Nomadic Press. Oakland, CA. 2020.

Book

#### **Revising to Resubmit**

(Invited Submission)

"Interviewing Ms. Ernestine Walton Brazael:

Expanding an Analysis of Race, Class, Gender & Age."

*They Saw The Sun First*. Spelman Independent Scholars' Inaugural Journal.

Article

#### **Under Review**

(Peer Review)

- “Legacies of Intergenerational Trauma and Healing:  
Exploring Matrilineal Wounds of Black Mother and Daughters”  
Black Women’s Mental Health Histories: Contexts for Illness and Wellness Article
- “Diasporic Dis/belonging: Black Women & Impossibilities  
of Longing in Slavery’s Afterlife.”  
Mapping Black Women’s Lives  
Special Issue of *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies* 36.2 Spring 2021 Article
- “Writing for My Mother: on Tone, Form, and the  
Slippages of Linguistic Refusal.”  
*Women, Gender and Families of Color* Article

### Published Creative Work

- “Misuse of the Sacred:  
Centering Black Feminist Care, Creativity, and Critique in the Museum Space.”  
*On Blackness and Belonging: Mellon Curatorial Exhibition Archive*.  
University of California, Berkeley. 2019. Poetic Essay
- “Unprotected Innocence: Recy Taylor and Racialized Violence  
in the Lives of Black Women,” *Fight Evil With Poetry*.  
An Anthology on Justice, Poetics, Truth and Love. 2018. Poetic Essay
- “Beyond Curves: Meditations on the Trope of Sara Baartman.”  
*The Diaspora*, University of California, Berkeley Diaspora Journal. 2018. Poetic Essay
- “I Can’t Breathe: Reflections on the Global Afterlife of Enslavement.”  
*Black Space*, Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy. 2016. Poetic Essay
- “African Amnesia: Diasporic Dis/Belonging and the Politics of Memory.”  
*Kaleido[scopes]: Diaspora Reimagined*. Williams College Africana Studies Journal. 2014. Poetic Essay

### Published Public Scholarship

- “Black Women Healing at Home:  
a Radical Methodology for the Study of Our Intimate Lives.”  
A Virtual Essay Published via StoryMap  
(UC Berkeley’s Digitized Scholarship Platform) 2019. Virtual Essay
- “Seeing & Being Black Woman in Oakland:  
Reflections on Creative Storytelling as Method.”  
A Virtual Essay Published via StoryMap  
(UC Berkeley’s Digitized Scholarship Platform) 2019. Virtual Essay
- “Spirituality and the Use of Everyday Artistry Among Women in Lagos”

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Selected Invited Talks**

"Poetic Video Narrative as an Autoethnographic Methodology." Panelist. Textual Healing in the Humanities. Tougaloo College, English Department. Spring 2020.

"Diasporic Research and the Politics of Positionality." Guest Lecturer. Why African Diaspora Studies? Graduate Student Perspectives. Spelman College, African Diaspora and the World. Fall 2019.

"Using Narrative & Vulnerability as a Method to Explore Long Term Effects of Childhood Trauma on Black Women who Serve Black Girls." Keynote Speaker. Justice for Black Girls National Conference. New York, New York. Fall 2019.

"On *Harriet* & Gendered Representations of Black Women Sheros in the Media." Panelist. *Harriet: A Biopic of Contradiction*. African American Library and Museum of Oakland. Fall 2019.

"Becoming Fuller Versions of Ourselves: Trauma & Resilience Among Women of Color." Keynote Speaker. Young Women's Health & Leadership Summit. University of California, San Francisco. Spring 2019.

"A Mental Health Framework for Social Justice Activists." Guest Lecturer. NAACP National Convention. Baltimore, Maryland. Summer 2017.

"Art, Activism & Healing: The Power of the Creative." Guest Lecturer. Research Perspectives on Art and Activism. Project Row Houses Arts and Activism Collective. Houston, Texas. Summer 2017.

"Radical Research Tools for Undergraduate Social Justice Scholars." Guest Lecturer. Labor Studies Undergraduate Course. University of California, Los Angeles. Spring 2017.

"Unapologetic Representations of Black Girlhood: My Feminism Cannot Exist Without My Blackness." Panelist. Supporting Black Girls Summit. Drexel University. Fall 2016.

### **Selected Conference and Symposium Presentations**

"Digital Narrative, Intersectional Positionality & Creative Story Telling: An Investigation of Radical Black Feminist Research Methodologies." National Women's Studies Association Conference. San Francisco, California. Fall 2019.

"Curating Safe Spaces for Undergraduate Women of Color on College Campuses." American Educational Research Association International Conference. Toronto, Canada. Spring 2019.

"Digital Representations of Black Women Healing at Home: Merging the Creative & the Scholastic in Black Feminist Research." Women, Gender, and Sexuality Graduate Symposium. Rutgers University. Fall 2018.

“Taking Up Space as a Healing Praxis: Black Women’s Embodied Movement Through the City.” African American Studies at Fifty Years Symposium. Purdue University. Fall 2018.

“Radical Spatial Imaginaries: Black Feminist Creative Place-Making in Oakland.” American Association of Geographers Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana. Spring 2018.

“Diasporic Dis/Belonging: Gendered Racialization Among Women of Color in the United States & South Africa.” Graduate Anthropology Conference. University of California, Irvine. Spring 2016.

“Skin Color Politics & the Global Impact of Colorism on Black Women.” National Association of African American Studies. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Spring 2016.

### **Selected Campus Presentations**

“I Can’t Breathe: Reflections on the Global Afterlife of Enslavement.” 400 Years of Resistance to Slavery and Oppression Symposium. Haas Institute for a Fair & Inclusive Society, History Department, African American Studies. Fall 2019.

“If We Must Die: Conversations About Multicultural Social Justice, Art and Healing.” Collaborative Guest Lecturer with Professor Kenyatta Hinkle. Arts Research Center Fellows. Spring 2019.

“Virtual Essays & Academic Accessibility: Collecting & Displaying Narrative-Based Research With Black Women.” African Diaspora Studies’ St. Clair Drake Symposium. Spring 2019.

“Spirituality & the Use of Everyday Artistry Among Women in Lagos: Merging Diasporic Visual Culture and Virtual Narrative as Method.” Global Urban Humanities Symposium. Spring 2019.

“Narratives of Seeing and Being Black Woman in Oakland: A Critical Analysis of Virtual Essays in Community-Based Research.” The City, Arts and Public Space Symposium. Spring 2019.

“Radical Spaces of Healing for Black Women Who Serve Black Girls : Narrative Based Approaches and Interventions.” Panel. Black Girlhood & Radical Imaginings for Liberatory Spaces. Center for Race and Gender. Spring 2019.

### **TEACHING & MENTORSHIP**

**Instructor of Record,** African American Studies

*University of California, Berkeley*

Reading and Writing a Black Feminist Ethic of Care - Summer 2020

**Graduate Student Instructor,** African American Studies

*University of California, Berkeley*

History of the Modern Civil Rights Movement - Summer 2019

Dr. Ula Taylor - History Department

June Jordan’s Poetry for the People - Spring 2019

Professor Aya De’ Leon - African American Studies

African American Life and Culture - Fall 2018  
Dr. Brandi Catanese - Performance Studies

*University of California, Los Angeles*  
Black Intellectual Thought - Winter 2017  
Dr. Caroline Streeter - English Department

**Graduate Student Reader, African American Studies**

*University of California, Berkeley*  
Race, Space and Inequality - Spring 2018  
Dr. Jovan Lewis - Geography Department

**Graduate Student Mentor**

*University of California, Berkeley*  
Black Women's Wellness Mentorship Coordinator, Gender Equity Center - 2018-Present  
Mellon Mays Research Mentor, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program - 2018  
*Emory University*  
UNCF Mellon Mays Summer Research Institute - Summer 2016  
*University of California, Los Angeles*  
Mellon Mays Research Mentor, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program - Fall 2016

**SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS**

Social Science Research Council Graduate Enhancement Grant - Fall 2019  
Ford Foundation Fellowship, Alternate - Spring 2019  
College of Environmental Design Diversity Platform Award, UC Berkeley - Spring 2019  
Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities Scholar, University of Michigan - Fall 2018  
African Diaspora Studies International Research Grant, UC Berkeley - Summer 2018  
UC-HBCU Office of the President Fellowship - Spring 2017  
Goldshield Fellowship, UCLA - Spring 2016  
UCLA Graduate Opportunities Fellowship - Fall 2015  
Ford Foundation Fellowship, Honorable Mention - Spring 2015  
Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society - Spring 2015  
Mellon Mays Fellowship - Spring 2013-Present

**WORKING GROUPS**

*University of California, Berkeley*

**Founding Member, Berkeley Black Geographies Research Collective - 2017-Present**

-Worked with colleagues to establish intellectual trajectory of departmental program, developed syllabus on racialized geographies of violence and care which helped establish collaborative theoretical interventions

**Fellow, Arts Research Center - Spring 2019**

-Envisioned creative research project to enhance Black art on campus in collaboration with Professor Kenyatta Hinkle, assisted with departmental campus lecture series on art, activism, and healing

**Lead Researcher and Curator, Arcus Endowment Curatorial Collective** - Spring 2019

-Curated exhibition based in visual culture theory and ethnographic data collection, recruited Black women artists within and beyond the campus community, hosted week of events on art, wellness, and space making

**Researcher and Curator, Mellon Curatorial Graduate Exhibition Collective** - Fall 2018

-Co-curated exhibition of African diasporic art at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, led colleagues in research-based approaches to diasporic care ethics within curatorial studies

*The Federal University of Recôncavo da Bahia, Brazil*

**Community Organizer, Decolonial Black Feminism Summer School** - Summer 2018

-Facilitated embodied experiences of decolonial method at summer course on Black feminism with Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw, engaged narrative-based ethnographic research on diasporic belonging

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

*University of California, Berkeley*

Search Committee, Berkeley Art Museum and Film Archive Director - Fall 2019

Lead Curator, California Hall's Black Student Art Exhibition - Fall 2019

Chancellor's Committee for Black Arts - June 2019-Present

Black Graduate Wellness Coordinator - Aug. 2017-Present

Coordinator, Gender Equity's Black Women's Wellness Mentorship Program - Aug. 2017-Present

*University of California, Los Angeles*

Selection Committee, UC-HBCU Undergraduate Summer Research Program - Spring 2016

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

**Secondary/ College Preparatory Education**

Lead Instructor, UC Berkeley Upward Bound - Summer 2019

Curriculum Development Consultant, Oakland Unified School District's African American Female Excellence Initiative - Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Mentor, Passports for Change: Guiding Oakland-Based Black Girls Through South Africa - Summer 2018

Fellow, Oakland's Flourish Agenda Teaching Fellowship - Summer 2018

Poetry Instructor, Oakland Technical High School - Fall 2016-Spring 2018

Curriculum Development, Youth Speaks Teaching Artists, CA - Fall 2016

College Preparatory Assistant Instructor, Booker T. Washington High School, GA - Spring 2014-Fall 2015

Interdisciplinary Methods Instructor, Harlem Children's Zone, NY - Summer 2013

Poetry Instructor, KIPP Strive Academy, GA - Fall 2011-Spring 2012

Ethnic Studies Instructor, Philadelphia Freedom School, PA - Summer 2011, Summer 2012

**REFERENCES**

Dr. Chiyuma Elliott: Dissertation Chair  
Professor of African Diaspora Studies  
University of California, Berkeley  
660 Barrows Hall, Berkeley, California  
chiyuma@berkeley.edu

Dr. Nadia Ellis: Dissertation Committee Member  
Professor of English  
University of California, Berkeley  
452 Wheeler Hall, Berkeley, California  
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Dr. Brandi Catanese: Teaching Supervisor  
Professor of Performance Studies &  
African Diaspora Studies  
University of California, Berkeley  
660 Barrows Hall, Berkeley, California  
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510-642-7084

Dr. Gloria Wade-Gayles: Research Mentor  
Founding Director of SIS Oral History Project  
Spelman College, Cosby Hall 341  
350 Spelman Lane, Atlanta, Georgia  
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404-270-5565

510-642-3467

Dr. Tianna Paschel: Qualifying Exam  
Committee Member  
Professor of African Diaspora Studies  
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