

Joy L. Hightower
Ph.D. Candidate
410 Barrows Hall
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-1980

EDUCATION

Present Ph.D., Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
Committee: Raka Ray (Chair), Sandra Smith, Victoria Bonnell

2012 M.A Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

2009 B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, Sociology & Comparative Women's Studies, Spelman College, Phi Beta Kappa
**Winner of the Best Sociology Honors Thesis, 2009*

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Race, Gender, Sexuality, Black middle-class, Culture, Interview Methods

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Hightower, Joy L. 2015. "Producing Desirable Bodies: Boundary Work in a Lesbian Niche Dating Site." *Sexualities*, Vol. 18(1/2) 20–36.
**Winner of the ASA Sex and Gender Section, Sally Hacker Graduate Student Paper Award, 2015*

Hightower, Joy L. 2016. "Where Are the Brothas? How the Continued Erasure of Black Men's Voices on the Marriage Question Perpetuates the Black Male Deficit." Opinion Piece. *Harvard Journal of African American Policy*.

Works In-Progress

"Beyond Class Status: Black Heterogeneity and The Complexity of Black Middle-Class Men's Interracial Relationship Decisions." *Under Review*.

"Love Jones Men and the Marriage Question." *Manuscript in Progress*.

AWARDS & HONORS

Spelman College Institutional Raking #4 out of 550 graduating students, 2009
Highest GPA Sociology Departmental Award, Spelman College, 2009
Best Senior Thesis, Spelman College, Department of Sociology Award, 2009
Elected into Phi Beta Kappa, Spelman College, 2009

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

UC Berkeley, Sociology Department, Lowenthal Chair's Normative Time Fellowship, 2016

UC Berkeley, Sociology Department, Conference Travel Funding, 2015
SSRC-Mellon, Travel and Research Grant, 2015
UC Berkeley, Graduate Division Summer Grant, 2014
UC Berkeley, Graduate Division Summer Grant, 2013
SSRC-Mellon, Travel and Research Grant, 2013
UC Berkeley, Sociology Departmental Grant, Fall 2013
Eugene Cota-Robles Graduate Fellowship, 2010-2012
National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, Honorable Mention, 2011
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, 2006-2009

PRESENTATIONS

Invited talks

Sociological Imagination Course, Invited Guest Speaker, “Beyond a Focus on Class Status: Why and How Black Middle-Class Men Date Out,” Spelman College, April 2016.

AUC-UNCF MELLON Senior Luncheon and Lecture, Invited Keynote Speaker, “Beyond a Focus on Class Status: Why and How Black Middle-Class Men Date Out,” Spelman College, April 2016.

Sociology Honors Thesis Seminar Course, Invited Panelist. “Conducting Interviews as Ethnography.” October 2015.

Scholarly conferences and other presenting roles

“Love Jones Men & The Marriage Question”, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2016.

“Between Class Lines: The (In)compatibility of Racial Authenticity and Class Performance in the Intimate Lives of Black Middle-Class Men”, Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting and American Sociological Association, Chicago, Illinois, August 2015.

“Producing Desirable Bodies: Boundary Work in a Lesbian Niche Dating Site”, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, New York, August 2013.

“The Self-Soliciting Quest: An Ethnographic Analysis of Embodied Selves and Doing Gender in Lesbian Niche Dating Sites”, Crossing Boundaries, Workshopping Sexualities, Denver, CO, August, 2012.

“Circumventing Institutional Surveillance: An Analysis of Female Same-Sex Bonds in a D.C. Women’s Shelter”, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Micro-Teaching Session, Atlanta, Georgia, 2008.

WORKSHOPS

2016 UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Sexual Culture/Center for Race and Gender Dissertation Writing Retreat, Sonoma, California, February 26-28, 2016.

2015 Summer Institute For Preparing Future Faculty, Graduate Division, University of California, Berkeley, May 20-June 24, 2015.

7th Annual Summer School on Black Europe: Interrogating Citizenship, Race and Ethnic Relations held at International Institute for Research and Education (IIRE) in Amsterdam, Netherlands - June 23 - July 4, 2014

Invited Participant, Summer Social Webshop funded by the National Science Foundation at the University of Maryland, College Park, August 20-24, 2012

TEACHING EXPERINCE

Instructor

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology: "The Black Middle-Class" Fall 2015.

Graduate Student Instructor (GSI)

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology: "Introduction to Sociology" Spring 2015 with Tom Gold.

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology: "Methods".

*Head GSI, Fall 2014 with Samuel Lucas.

*Guest Lecturer on In-Depth Interviewing

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology: "Introduction to Sociology." Spring 2014 with Jill Bakehorn.

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology: "Methods."

Fall 2013 with Kristin Luker.

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology: "Introduction to Sociology." Fall 2012 with Ann Swidler

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology: "Sociology of Gender."

Spring 2013 with Raka Ray.

San Quentin State Prison University Project, "Introduction to Sociology," Spring 2011 with Kitty

Calavita.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Graduate Student Representative for Admissions Committee, UC Berkeley, AY 2014-2015

Editorial Board Member, *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, 2010-2011.

Co-Editor, *Emerald Studies in Media & Communication*, CITASA sponsored.

Ad-Hoc Reviewer, *American Journal of Sociology*

Mentor, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, UC Berkeley

Mentor, Getting into Graduate School Undergraduate Program, UC Berkeley

Professional Organizations

American Sociological Association

Sociologists for Women in Society

Association for Black Sociologists

Pacific Sociological Association

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request.