

AKILAH FAVORS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology University of California Berkeley Dissertation Title: Against All Odds: Black Nonprofits, Gentrification, and the Politics of Liberation in Modern Atlanta Committee: Tianna Paschel, Kim Voss, Courtney Desiree Morris	2027 (exp.)
Master of Arts, Sociology University of California, Berkeley	2022
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology Spelman College Summa Cum Laude Major: Sociology and Minor: Spanish	2012-2016
School for International Training (SIT): Social Movements and Human Rights Program, Argentina	2014

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Urban Sociology	Racial Inequality	Gender	Social Movements	Political Economy
Black Feminist Theory	Nonprofits	Culture	Social Mobility	Qualitative Methods

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Jenna, Dublin; Lindberg, Jim; Powe, Michael; **Favors, Akilah**;Theodore Wilhite. 2020. "Preserving African American Places: Growing Preservation's Potential as a Path for Equity Report." National Trust for Historic Preservation: African American Heritage Action Fund

Favors, Akilah. 2016. "Invisible Citizen: An Exploration of Youth Participation in a Movement to Reclaim and Protect Afro-descendant Identity in Contemporary Argentina." *Mellon Mays Undergraduate Journal*

Articles in Preparation

Favors, Akilah. "Reconciled Respectability: Black Interclass Solidarity and Racial Displacement Resistance in Atlanta." *R&R, Journal of Social Problems*

Favors, Akilah. "From the Background to the Forefront: How Familial Class Environments Shape Black Middle-class Perceptions and Responses to Gentrification."

Favors, Akilah. “The Art of Resistance: Fortifying Black Healing and Creativity in Urban Structures of Economic Insecurity.”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

<i>Principal Investigator, “Against All Odds: Black Nonprofits, Gentrification, and the Politics of Liberation in Modern Atlanta”</i> Faculty Sponsor: Tianna Paschel Berkeley, California	2024-Present
<i>Qualitative Analyst, Center Focus International, Inc. Strategic Consultant Firm’s International Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officers Social Impact Study</i> Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts	2023
<i>Principal Investigator, “Gatekeeping the Black Mecca: Race, Class, and Curtailing Displacement in Atlanta”</i> Faculty Sponsor: Kim Voss Berkeley, California	2018-2022
<i>Qualitative Analyst, Center Focus International, Inc. Strategic Consultant Firm: Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report for Docusign</i> San Francisco, California	2022
<i>Qualitative Analyst, Albireo Financial Consultant Company’s TransFormation Alliance Urban Development Strategic Fundraising Report</i> Atlanta, Georgia	2019
<i>Atlanta Research Fellow, National Trust for Historic Preservation: African American American Cultural Heritage Action Fund</i>	2018-2019
<i>Qualitative Researcher, “Rhodes Must Fall Student Protests at Afrikaans Universities in South Africa”</i> Johannesburg/Pretoria, South Africa; Los Angeles, California	2015
<i>Qualitative Researcher, “Youth Participation in the Argentine Afro-descendant Movement to Gain Cultural Visibility and Claim Civil Rights”</i> Buenos Aires, Argentina	2014-2016

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC ROLES

<i>Program Director, Berkeley Connect Course in African American Studies and Ethnic Studies</i>	2022-2023
<i>Community Builder, The UC Berkeley Department of Sociology’s Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative Team</i>	2022-2023
<i>Associate Grant Writer, Berkeley Social Sciences Division- HBCU Summer Research Internship and Mentorship Program</i>	2023

Workshop Series Director, Underrepresented Minority Professional Development Workshops in UC Berkeley Department of Sociology 2020-2021

Associate Director, UC Berkeley: Department of Sociology's Summer Scholars of Race Research Program 2019-2022

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

UC Berkeley, Graduate Division Doctoral Completion Fellowship, \$34,000	2025
Berkeley Transfer and First Year Summer Connect Fellowship, \$21,000	2023-2025
Department of Sociology Traveling Grant, \$5,000	2023
Black Studies Collaboratory Small Grants Program, \$5,000	2022-2023
Berkeley Department of Sociology's Equity Diversity, and Inclusion Community Builder Fellowship, \$5,000	2022-2023
Berkeley Connect African American and Ethnic Studies Fellowship, \$35,000	2022-2023
Institute for the Study of Societal Issues: Graduate Fellowship Program, \$28,000	2021-2023
Berkeley Sociology Summer Scholars of Race Associate Director Fellowship, \$21,000	2019-2022
UNCF Mellon Mays Research Completion Grant, \$5,000	2021
Black Graduate Collective Development Fellowship, \$1,000	2021
National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity Write Now Access Program	2021
National Trust for Historic Preservation: African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Fellowship, \$5,000	2018
UC Berkeley, Chancellor's Fellowship for Graduate Study, \$48,000	2017
Phillips Academy: Institute for Recruitment of Teachers Fellowship	2016
Phi Beta Kappa, Spelman College:	2016
Alpha Kappa Delta: International Sociology Honor Society	2016
1 st Place, Research Day, Spelman College	2016
Outstanding Senior Thesis in Sociology, Spelman College:	2016
UCLA-HBCU Summer Fellowship for South Africa and UCLA Research, \$4,000	2015
UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, \$10,000	2014-2016

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

“Disrupting Inequality: A Quest to Understand Black Resistance to Displacement in Southwest Atlanta.” **Quest Community Development Corporation.** (August 2025)

“Gatekeeping the Black Mecca: Race, Class, and Curtailing Displacement in the Atlanta.” **Southeastern American Studies Association Conference: Undiscovered Country: Inhabiting the Edge of Catastrophe and Possibility.** (October 2023)

“Filming Hope: A Visual Collage of Black Resistance to Displacement in Atlanta.” **Black Studies Collaboratory 2023 Small Grantee Symposium.** (September 2023)

“From Exclusion to Inclusion: The Politics of Inter-class Solidarity Amid Black Anti-displacement Strategies in the City.” **American Sociological Association Conference** (August 2023)

“Transcending Respectability: How Race and Class Shapes Black Agency in Neoliberal Structures of Gentrification.” **Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, UC Berkeley** (May 2022)

“Into The Future: How Black Resistance to Displacement in Atlanta Reflects Afrofuturism.” **UC Berkeley Black Geography Graduate Student Conference: Black Futures Presentations Panel** (March 2023)

“Gatekeeping the Black Mecca: Race, Class, and Curtailing Displacement in the Atlanta.” **Association of Black Sociologists Conference** (Oct 2022)

“Revitalization in the Black Mecca: Politicking with the Atlanta Beltline from the Bottom Up.” **PastForward National Preservation Conference** (Nov 2019).

“Revitalization in the Black Mecca: Politicking with the Atlanta Beltline from the Bottom Up.” **Affordability and the Risk of Displacement in African American Neighborhoods Research Summit** (Nov 2018)

“Interrogating the Call to Transform the Academy: The Responsibility of Mentors, Scholars and the Higher Education Community.” **UNCF Mellon Mays Programs Conference** (Sept 2015)

“Invisible Citizen: The Emergence of ‘Black’ Youth Activism in Contemporary Argentina.” **MMUF Southeastern Regional Conference at Rice University** (Oct 2015)

“Invisible Citizen: The Emergence of “Black” Youth Activism in Contemporary Argentina.” **Spelman College Research Day** (April 2016)

“Trick or Treat: What Really Lies at the End of Rainbow Nation Ideology?” **HBCU Research Showcase, UC Los Angeles** (August 2015)

“The Recovery of Afro-descendants: Exploring the Participation of Youth in a Movement to Recover and Protect Afro-descendant Identity in Contemporary Argentina.” **School for International Training (SIT) Social Movements and Human Rights Program in Argentina** (Nov 2014)

“Making Sense of Charles Cooley’s Looking-glass Self Concept: Understanding Black Women Experiences at Predominantly White Institutions.” **UNCF Mellon Mays Presentations Emory University** (July 2014)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UC Berkeley Courses

Graduate Student Instructor:

- First Year and Transfer Summer Connect Course Summer 2023-2025
- Berkeley Connect: African American Studies and Ethnic Studies Course Fall 2022 and Spring 2023
- Introduction to Sociology Fall 2019 and Spring 2020

Graduate Student Reader:

- Sociology of Culture Fall 2023, 2024, and Spring 2026
- Sociology of Gender Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2025
- Sociology of Entrepreneurship Spring 2022
- Sociology of Sexual Cultures Spring 2021

Atlanta School System: K-12

5th Grade Math, Thomasville Heights Elementary School Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

Assistant Instructor, Kipp Strive Academy Elementary Spring 2016

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Program Mentor, First Year and Transfer Student Summer Connect Program 2022-2025

Program Mentor, UC Berkeley: Department of Sociology’s Summer Scholars of Race Research Program 2019-2023

Graduate Student Mentor, UC Berkeley Sociology Honor’s Thesis Mentorship Program 2021-2022

Graduate Student Mentor, UC Berkeley UNCF Mellon Mays 2018-2019

WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIPS

Race and Inequality Workshop. UC Berkeley
Sociologists of Color and Allies, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley

Sister Circle, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley

MEMBERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association (ASA)
Association of Black Sociologists (ABS)
Institute for the Study of Societal Issues (ISSI)
Cohort Sistas
UNCF Mellon Mays Programs
Institute of Recruitment of Teachers (IRT)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Technical: Proficient in Microsoft Office, including Excel, PowerPoint, Internet Search, MAXQDA (qualitative coding software), and MS Excel

Qualitative: Participant Observation, Semi-structured/Focus group interviewing, Historical Archival Research, Content Analysis, Surveys

REFERENCES

Associate Professor Tianna Paschel
University of California, Berkeley
Department of African American Studies

Professor Kim Voss
University of California, Berkeley
Department of Sociology

Associate Professor Courtney Desiree Morris
University of California, Berkeley
Department of Gender and Women's Studies

Professor Cihan Tugal
University of California, Berkeley
Department of Sociology