

P. KIMBERLEIGH JORDAN, PhD

Curriculum Vitae

Drew University
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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Assistant Professor of Religion, Arts, & Black Studies

Drew University, Madison, New Jersey

2018-present

EDUCATION

ACADEMIC

Ph.D.

Performance Studies Department – New York University
Tisch School of the Arts. Dissertation Director: Dr. José Muñoz

Dissertation Title: “My Flesh Shall Live in Hope”: Power and the Black Body Moving in Sacred Space
Concentrations: African Diaspora, Religion, and Dance

M.Div.

Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY
Concentration: the Arts and Theology.

A.B.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Major: Public Policy Analysis; Minor: Arts Administration

JOURNAL ARTICLES and BOOK CHAPTER

“ ‘Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around:’ Spirituals as Embodied Acts of Resistance,” *The Black Scholar* – Winter 2016.

“Revolutionary Love:” An Autoethnography of My Body in #BlackLivesMatter Protests (in process - received the Coolidge Fellowship and participated in the Crosscurrents Research Colloquium in support of the project)

“The Body as Reader: African-Americans, Freedom, and the American Myth” in Vincent Wimbush, ed. *The Bible and the American Myth: A Symposium on the Bible and Constructions of Meaning*. (Macon, GA: Mercer University, 1999).

BOOK MANUSCRIPT (in process)

The Spiritual Life of Black Flesh: Movement & Dance in Sacred Spaces claims that it is through Black dance in sacred spaces that Black people in the Diaspora have been able to employ resistance to oppression, experience evanescent moments of liberation, and strive toward hopeful survival. Beginning in the antebellum United States, the manuscript engages the ring shout, and congregational and concert spirituals as sacred dance. It moves through the postbellum to the 20th century and to the present, examining Black concert dance, kinesthetics of the civil rights movement, gesture, and liturgical dance.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Performance Studies; Black/Africana Studies; Religion and Culture; Ritual; Dance History/Critical Dance Studies; Women and Gender Studies; Womanist Thought, Theory and Praxis; and, Ethnography.

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Director of the Chapel/Professor in the Practice of Religion & the Arts **2016 – 2018**
Drew University Theological School

Ford Foundation – National Academy of Sciences Postdoctoral Fellow
Appointment to Union Theological Seminary **2014 – 2015**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

DREW UNIVERSITY (jointly appointed to Theological School & the College)

African Americans & the Bible: Sites of Formation and Performance - Godtalk for Black Thinkers - Fall, 2016
(Co-taught with Dr. Vincent L. Wimbush).

The Body in Religious Practice – Jan. Term, 2019.

Chapel Practicum, Fall, 2016; Spring & Fall, 2017; Spring, 2018.

Introduction to Preaching, Summer 2017 & 2018.

Introduction to Pan-African Studies - Spring, 2019. (upcoming)

Sacred Dance & the Liturgical Arts – Fall, 2018.

Women and Gender Studies Seminar (co-taught in the Graduate Division of Religion) - Spring, 2018.

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (Postdoctoral Fellow & Lecturer)

Womanist Performance - Guided Reading, Spring 2015.

Womanist Thought, Theory and Praxis - (co-taught) – Fall, 2013.

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY (LINCOLN CENTER)/ ALVIN AILEY (Lecturer)

Black Traditions in American Dance (BFA) - Fall, 2015 and 2016.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE CENTER (Dance History Faculty)

Histories of Black Dance (certificate program) - Spring 2013, 2014, 2015.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (Teaching Assistant to Prof. Munõz)

Introduction to Performance Studies – Summer, 2006.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS/PANELS

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO– Wabash Center –Presentation: “Transferable Course Design” – Nov, 2018.

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO– ARTS Committee - Moderating a Panel in Response to Katherine Dunham’s Southland (excerpts), performed by the Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble– Nov, 2018.

Consultation on Ecstatic Dance and Religion – Radcliffe College/Harvard University – Convened by Dr. Kimerer L. LaMothe – June 1-3, 2016.

Association of Practical Theology – Fordham University (Rose Hill Campus)/United Nations , NYC- Plenary Panel on #BlackLivesMatter and Practical Theology - April 8, 2016.

Collegium on Dance in the African Diaspora — Duke University, Durham, NC - Plenary Presentation – Convener and Moderator: “Dance Theatre of Harlem and Black Ballerinas Disrupting History.” February, 2016.

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Charleston, SC – Performing the Diaspora: Black Dance, Resistance, and the Complexity of Black Bodies Panel – Presentation: “Run to the City of Refuge:” Performing the Ring Shout as An Embodied Act of Resistance. Nov. 4-7, 2015.

Montclair Public Library, Montclair, NJ, Panelist: From the Mountaintop: Dance Theatre of Harlem and the Civil Rights Movement – Jan. 13, 2015.

Ford Fellows Conference, Irvine, CA – Research Poster Presentation on Women in the African Diaspora, Religion, and the Body. September 25-26, 2014.

Collegium on Dance in the African Diaspora — Duke University, Durham, NC - Theories of Black Performance– Presentation: “Moving and Performing the Spirituals as Private and Public Power.” February, 2014.

Trinity Institute (NYC) 43rd National Theological Conference, Theme of Conference - The Good News Now: Evolving with the Gospel of Jesus. <http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/file/trinity-institute-2013-kimberleigh-jordan> Performance Presentation: “What is the Good News about Abundance?” November, 2013.

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, MI – Consultation on *Readings in African American Church Music & Worship*, October, 2012.

New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Panel: “The Belhar Confession & the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,” <https://www.rca.org/Page.aspx?pid=7668>. March 2011.

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, Canada–Religion and Cities Consultation/ Black Theology Group – Paper presented: “Moving Bodies in the Intersection: Dance, Hip Hop, and Black Religiosity” – Nov, 2009

New York University – Tisch School of the Arts - Dance Department Annual Research Colloquium: Paper presented: “Moving the Ring Shout” – May 2009

Society for Dance History Scholars Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY, Plenary II- Paper presented: “Intersections and Intersectionality” - June 2008

Performance Studies International #13: *Happening, Performance, Event* - NYC- Paper presented: “Dancing in the Spirit”- Nov. 2007

New York University – Tisch School of the Arts - Invited Lecture for Prof. José Muñoz’ Introduction to Performance Studies class, “Religion, Ritual and Performance” –Summer Session, 2006

“Songs We Thought We Knew”: A Conference Celebrating the Work and Thought of Delores Williams – New York City, Union Theological Seminary– Future Directions Panel – Paper presented: “The Body as a Starting Point for Womanist Thought” - Spring, 2004

The Collegium on African American Research, Sardinia, Italy - Expanding Boundaries of African American Dance Research Panel – Paper presented: “Tracing the Trajectories of Black Sacred and Liturgical Dance” - March, 2001.

SERVICE TO DREW UNIVERSITY

Pan-African Studies Committee, 2017 - present

Advisor/Portfolio Mentor for 1st year M.Div students, 2018 - present

First Year Experience Faculty Team, 2018 - present

Co-advisor – Black Caucus, 2018 - present

The Dean’s Building and Space Committee, 2016-present

M.A/S.T.M Curriculum Transformation Committee, 2017-18

Tipple-Vosbugh Annual Convocation Workshop Leader – Title: “Black Bodies Matter: Then and Now,” Fall 2018

Tipple-Vosbugh Annual Convocation Panelist on *America’s Original Sin* by Jim Wallis with the author, Fall 2016

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professional Dance Performances, in choreography by: John Lehman (Ballet Theatre of Raleigh – *Nutcracker*, *By this River*, et al.); Dance Theatre of Harlem Workshop Ensemble - Arthur Mitchell (*The Metropolitan Opera – Porgy & Bess*); Sal Aiello (NC Dance Theatre – *Coppelia*); Frank Martin (American Contemporary Dance Company); RoseAnn Elmer; Gina Buntz, etc.

Consultant **The Equity Project: Increasing the Presence of Blacks in Ballet** **currently**
Collaborate with a team of three others to produce and deliver the content of a multi-year educational experience for Artistic and Executive Directors of the twenty-one top organizations in professional ballet for the purpose of transforming them into more diverse organizations and specifically, increasing the presence of Black people in the industry.

Director of Chapel/Assoc. Professor in the Practice of Religion & Arts **Drew University Theological Sch.**
2016-18
Served as administrative and liturgical director for three community-wide worship services/week – trained students to lead worship in informal and formal classroom settings; taught worship practicum courses each semester; frequently liased with faculty and staff to create dynamic and creative rituals and liturgies.

Facilitator **Princeton Black Theology & Leadership Institute** **summer, 2017**
Served as facilitator-in-residence for weeklong intensive continuing education event for clergy and laity for training, worship, and fellowship at Princeton Theological Seminary. The institute is designed to deepen the thinking and preaching of emergent leaders as they learn from scholars of theology and religion.

Consultant **Auburn Theological Seminary, NYC** **2010 – 2016**
Worked with the Director of Women’s Multi-Faith Programs to create the Sojourner Truth Leadership Circle, a womanist leadership development program for women of color faith leaders from diverse faiths. The program’s goal is to nurture activism, while encouraging theological reflection, wholeness and wellness.

Consultant **Avery Institute for Social Change (NYC)** **2004**
Worked with Avery Institute founder, Byllye Avery, to create and carry out a multi-faceted program of health and wellness in four Harlem faith communities. The work included design and implementation of program in written and spoken and interpersonal interfaces, as well as plant seeds to advocate for universal healthcare policy.

African Americans and the Bible: an Interdisciplinary Research Project

Assistant Director

Assisted Professor Vincent Wimbush, the Director, in all facets of establishing research project funded by the Lilly and Ford Foundations & housed at Union Theological Seminary, including surveying multidisciplinary scholarship, maintaining communication with board of interdisciplinary scholars, supporting the growth of the project from vision stage through its first conference.

Union Theological Seminary

1996-97

Social Science Project Coordinator

1998

Laid groundwork for nationwide ethnographic assessment of the ways that sacred text is shaped by/shapes the worlds of people of African descent in the U.S. Included facilitating & supporting a team of social scientists and researching potential sites of observation.

Arts Education Specialist

Gantt Center for African American Arts & Culture

(Charlotte)

Envisioned & shaped arts education program for children using the visual and performance arts resources of the Center; created arts day camp & supervised after-school arts education program; designed adult education programs related to gallery exhibitions, theatre & music performances; collaborated with other arts institutions, such as Mint Museum Film Festival and the Children's Theatre.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Wabash Center Fellowship Grant for the "Art and Science of Teaching Religion and the Arts" – pedagogical research project – (current)

Wabash Teaching Workshop for Early Career Theological Faculty – 2017-18

Ford Fellow - Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship – Union Theological Seminary - 2014 – 15

Coolidge Fellow – Crosscurrents Research Colloquium – Crosscurrents: The Center for Religion and Intellectual Life - Summer 2015

Paulette Goddard Scholarship - Tisch School of the Arts scholarship awarded to young artists – 2001-05

Honorable Mention - Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship - 2007

North Carolina Fellow – for exemplary leadership qualities and potential - UNC – Chapel Hill

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The American Academy of Religion

Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Steering Committee (2016-present)

Women and Religion Steering Committee (2004-07)

The Association for the Worldwide Study of the African Diaspora (ASWAD)

The Collegium on African Diaspora Dance (CADD)

Dance Studies Association

Society for the Study of Black Religion

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Media Training – Auburn Theological Seminary
National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity
Center For Teaching Excellence – New York University