

Jessica S. Samuel
jssamuel@bu.edu

Education

Boston University, Expected 2021

Ph.D., American & New England Studies

Dissertation: *From Virgin Land to Virgin Islands: Conserving “America’s Paradise”*

Advisor: Julian Go

University of Missouri—St. Louis, 2015

M.Ed., Secondary Education

Capstone: *The Impact of Constructivist Teaching on Student Learning and Engagement*

Advisor: Leslie McEntire

Wesleyan University, 2013

B.A. w/ distinction, African American Studies & Anthropology

Honors Thesis: *“Unalterably Opposed”: Constituting Decolonization in the U.S. Virgin Islands*

Advisor: Gina A. Ulysse

Professional Experience

Curriculum Consultant, Commonwealth Corporation, Summer 2019-Summer 2020

- Developed over 20 units for the revised Empower Your Future curriculum jointly produced between Massachusetts Department of Youth Services and Commonwealth Corporation
- Advised DYS and CommCorp on DEI-focused teacher training for revised curriculum
- Applied culturally-responsive pedagogy, anti-racist lens, and decolonial frameworks in construction of units and lessons
- Aligned lessons with Bloom’s Taxonomy to appropriately scaffold varying cognitive competencies

LEE Policy & Advocacy Fellow, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Summer 2018

- Served as a policy fellow through Leadership for Educational Equity
- Advised Senior Associate Commissioner for Educational Options on diversity, equity and inclusion pipeline initiative
- Researched and reported on nation-wide models for diversifying senior leadership in education
- Developed and facilitated site-wide professional development on mission-building and DEI policy implementation
- Networked and interviewed with leaders from various leadership diversity organizations including EdLoc, Color Magazine, and Moonshot edVentures
- Co-authored *Influence 100* policy research report on the state of diverse leadership across school districts in Massachusetts

Community Surveyor, The American City Coalition, Summer 2018

- Conducted needs and asset assessment of low-income residents in Cambridge, MA
- Evaluate the effectiveness of Cambridge Housing Authority’s Section-8 program
- Recommended steps for improving research process

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Community Surveyor, *The American City Coalition*, Summer 2017

- Interviewed Section 8/voucher choice holders to assess the effectiveness of Boston Housing Authority's voucher program in order to make recommendations for improvement

Curriculum Planner, *St. Louis Public School District & St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department*, Summer 2015

- Planned and developed curriculum to foster positive and anti-oppressive relationships between marginalized students and local law enforcement
- Created program plan and presented to the chief of police and school district superintendent for approval
- Launched pilot program to test the intervention curriculum

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, *Giffit Hill School*, Spring 2020

- Co-constructed course lesson plans for Social Studies and College Counseling
- Planned and led discussions on Caribbean, Virgin Islands and Black History
- Advised on USVI Public Safety Support Foundation's plan to provide "safe and secure futures for St. John youth"

Guest Lecturer, *University of the Virgin Islands*, Fall 2019

- Social Work 224: Introduction to Social Welfare, taught by Dr. Gail-Ann Guy-Cupid
 - Co-constructed course lesson plans
 - Co-led discussions

Substitute Lecturer, *Boston University*, Spring 2018

- Sociology/African American Studies 408/808: Racial and Ethnic Relations, taught by Dr. Saida Grundy
 - Substitute-taught graduate course per request of instructor
 - Facilitated class activities and discussion

Teaching Fellow, *Boston University*, Fall 2017- Spring 2019

- History 299: History of the Civil Rights Movement, taught by Dr. Andrew David
 - Co-constructed course lesson plans
 - Planned and led discussions
 - Delivered culminating civil rights movement lecture on the Black Lives Matter Movement
 - Coordinated visit from Boston Latin School and prepared integrated lesson plan on activism for high school and undergraduate students
 - Formulated student assignments (exams, projects, papers, etc.) as well as attendant rubrics
 - Graded all student work
- Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies 101: Gender & Sexuality I—An Interdisciplinary Introduction, co-taught by Dr. Karen Warkentin, Dr. Sarah Frederick and Dr. Sarah Miller
 - Managed and directed two discussion sections containing a total of 40+ students
 - Developed lesson plans for weekly discussion meetings meant to synthesize cross-disciplinary class lectures (i.e. biological, humanistic and sociological approaches to gender, sex and sexuality)
 - Curated list of feminist events for student attendance
 - Implemented intersectional frameworks into gender discourse

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- Graded all student work
- History 334/International Relations 350: History of International Relations, 1945-Present, taught by Dr. Jayita Sarkar
 - Managed and directed three discussion sections containing a total of 50+ students
 - Developed syllabus and lesson plans for weekly discussion meetings
 - Formulated student assignments (exams, projects, papers, etc.) as well as attendant rubrics
 - Graded all student work
- African American Studies 371/History 298: African American History, taught by Dr. Ashley D. Farmer
 - Co-constructed course lesson plans
 - Led weekly practicums
 - Formulated student assignments (exams, projects, papers, etc.) as well as attendant rubrics
 - Graded all student work

Writing Instructor, *Wyman-Inspire.STL*, Summer 2016

- Developed classroom management plan and unit plans for middle school students entering high school
- Constructed culturally responsive curriculum that emphasized the mechanics of writing in the context of their life experiences and backgrounds

English Instructor—Teach for America, *St. Louis Public Schools*, Fall 2013- Spring 2016

- Developed classroom management plan and unit plans for Freshman Literature and African American Literature courses
- Achieved thirty percent growth on ninth grade standardized testing
- Created all-girls mentorship group
- Organized and hosted school's second annual Black History Month program
- Arranged first purchase of ACT Prep curriculum for school and trained colleagues on use of program
- TFA alumna

SAT/ACT Instructor, *Summit Educational Group*, Spring 2017- Spring 2019

- Plan customized educational programs for clients
- Teach strategies and best-practices for standardized test-taking
- Increased student ACT scores by 80 points

Publications

Environmental History Now, Spring 2020

“Human Fragility: The Condition We Fight to Escape”

Moko, Spring 2020

“Place of No Escape”

IRT Blog, Fall 2019

“Teaching Beyond a Colonial Blackness or The Costs of being Black and *not really* American”

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Summer 2018

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Co-authors: Cheryl Camacho, Stacey Muanya, Caitlyn Phung, and Rikka Shrestha
"Influence 100"

ForHarriet, Summer 2015

"White Gaze Runs Deep, from U.S. Virgin Islands to McKinney"

ProudFlesh, Summer 2013

"Call It by Its Name" & "Unforgotten"

Forthcoming

Vesey at 200: Black Anti-Slavery in the Atlantic World, *South Carolina Press*, (Submitted for Initial Review)

"Jonin' and the Fugitivity of Black Speech in American Public Education, from Slavery to Present"

Caribbean Without Borders: Voices of Change and Resistance, *Cambridge Scholars Publishing*, (Submitted for Initial Review)

"Conserving America's Paradise: Where the Fight for Land and Learning Meet"

Fellowships/Grants

Gilder Lehrman Scholarly Fellowship, Summer 2019

Boston University's Graduate Student Organization Research Grant, Summer 2019

Boston University Dean's Award Fellowship, Fall 2016

Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers, Fall 2015

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow Dissertation Grant, Fall 2018

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow Pre-Doctoral Research Grant, Spring 2017

Award/Honors

Outstanding Teaching Fellow, *American & New England Studies, Boston University*, Fall 2018- Spring 2019

Awarded to exceptional contribution to Boston University's teaching mission through my teaching work for the American & New England Studies Program

Erness Brody Prize, *African American Studies, Wesleyan University*, Spring 2013

Awarded to a student from Weswho has demonstrated exceptional skills in writing

QuestBridge College Match Scholarship Recipient, *Wesleyan University*, Spring 2009- Spring 2013

Awarded to top 5% of applicants for admission to one of QuestBridge's college partners with a full, four-year scholarship worth over \$200,000

Conferences/ Presentations

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Caribbean without Borders Graduate Student Conference, Spring 2020
“Education for Resistance: The Fight for Land and Learning on St. John”

Eastern Caribbean Island Culture Conference, Fall 2019
“Minding Land: Consumption and Education on the Island of St. John”

Southeastern American Studies Association, Spring 2019
“Backchattin’ into Existence: Rebellious Black Speech”

Carolina Lowcountry in the Atlantic World Program, Spring 2019
“Joanin’: Fugitive Black Speech in the American Public School”

Caribbean Studies Association, Summer 2018
“Minding Land: Consumption and Education on the Island of St. John”

Boston University Art Galleries, Spring 2018
“They Were Always Marching: African-American Women and the Civil Rights Movement”
Moderator

American Studies Association, Fall 2017
“Teaching While Loving Blackness”
Panel Organizer—*Radical Self Love as Decolonial Education*

New England American Studies Association, Fall 2017
“Navigating Academia from the Margins”

Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers, Summer 2017
“Self-Care and Other Ways to Remain Decolonized: A Survival Plan for Graduate School”
Workshop Facilitator

University of the Virgin Islands, *Virgin Islands Caribbean Cultural Center*, Fall 2017
“United States Virgin Islands Centennial Commemoration”
Invited Radio Guest

Leadership & Service

Racial Imbalance Advisory Council, *Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*,
Fall 2018- Spring 2020

- **Board Member**

Graduate Student Advisory Committee, *Office of the Provost, Boston University*, Fall 2016– Spring
2019

- **Board Member**

American & New England Studies Graduate Student Organization, *Boston University*, Fall 2016-
Spring 2019

- **Graduate Student Organization Liaison**

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- **Americanist Forum Co-Chair**
American Educational Research Journal, Spring 2018
- **Peer Reviewer**

- New England American Studies Association**, Spring 2018- Spring 2019
- **Council Member**

- Boston Education Action Network**, Spring 2017- Fall 2018
- **Regional Strategy Team**

- Leadership for Educational Equity**, Summer 2017- Summer 2018
- **National Organizing Workshop, nominated participant**
 - **Regional Strategy Team Summit**
 - **African American Leadership Program**

- Graduate Student Organization**, *Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Boston University*, Fall 2016- Fall 2018
- **Vice President**
 - **Treasurer**

References

Dr. Julian Go, Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago, jgo34@uchicago.edu

Dr. William Moore, Associate Professor of Material Culture and Director of American & New England Studies Program, Boston University moorewd@bu.edu

Dr. Brooke Blower, Associate Professor of History, Boston University, bblower@bu.edu

Dr. Cheryl Camacho, Chief of South Bend Empowerment Zone, ccamacho@sbez.org