

# MYESHIA C. BABERS, PH.D.

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## EDUCATOR | INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST | PROGRAM DEVELOPER

Educator, filmmaker, and interdisciplinary artist working across film, narrative, and public programming. My work explores Black life through memory, space, and perception, with a focus on how systems shape visibility, belonging, and lived experience. My teaching practice is grounded in student-centered, feminist, and experiential learning, where participants generate knowledge through making, reflection, and engagement with everyday materials.

### Education

Ph.D., Anthropology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 2017.

Dissertation: "A Way of Life: Knowledge Production among Black Cowboys"

M.A., Anthropology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 2014.

Thesis: "Black Cowboys and Black Masculinity: African American Ranchers, Rodeo Cowboys, and Trail Riders."

Graduate Certificate, Africana Studies, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 2013.

B.A., Sociology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 2009.

### Teaching Experience

#### Adjunct Assistant Professor – York College, Jamaica, NY

2025 – Present

- ANTH 101 (Web): Introduction to Anthropology (Asynchronous)
- ANTH 101: Introduction to Anthropology (Hybrid)
- BLST 103: Black Women in the Atlantic World

#### Assistant Professor – Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

2024 – 2025

- Introduction to Ethnic Studies
- Introduction to Black Studies
- Designed and implemented courses grounded in experiential, student-centered pedagogy
- Integrated assignments including digital portfolios, oral history, and media-based work
- Guided students in analyzing how systems of power shape perception, space, and lived experience
- Contributed to development of Black Studies curriculum pathways supporting a proposed minor
- Participated in departmental development and interdisciplinary program integration

#### Adjunct Assistant Professor – CUNY – Queens College, Flushing, NY

2021 – Present

- AFST 100: Introduction to Africana Studies
- HIST 278 / AFST 278: African American History Since the Reconstruction

#### Lecturer – Department of Sociology CUNY – Queens College, Queens, NY

Fall 2022

- AFST 246: Sociology of Human Sexuality
- AFST 381W: Senior Seminar: The Black Family

#### Lecturer – Africana Studies Program, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

2020 – 2024

- AFST 201: Introduction to Africana Studies
- AFST 326 / ANTH 440: Africana Popular Culture / Topics in Globalization
- AFST 324 / WGST 289: African and African Diaspora Masculinities
- AFST 326 / WGST 491: Africana Feminism

#### Adjunct Instructor – California State University – Northridge, Northridge, CA

Spring 2020

- AFRS 324: The Black Woman in Contemporary Times

**Adjunct Instructor– Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, OH**

2019 – 2020

- ANTH 1010 (Online): Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- ANTH 1010 (Blended): Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

**Perry-Williams Post-Doctoral Fellow – The College of Wooster, Wooster, OH**

2018 – 2020

- ANTH 11000: Introduction to Anthropology (Fall 2019)
- SOC 21600: Masculinities (Spring 2019, Spring 2020)

**Adjunct Professor – General Education Dept. Columbia College Hollywood, Tarzana, CA**

Spring 2018

- SOC 105: Introduction to Social Anthropology

**Research, Program Development & Leadership****Principal Investigator**

“Supporting Underserved Student Populations Across the College of Arts and Sciences”

Africana Studies Program, Texas A&amp;M University | 2023 – 2024

- Led multi-year initiative focused on improving engagement and support structures for underserved students
- Designed and implemented programming connecting academic learning with applied experience
- Coordinated across faculty, departments, and institutional stakeholders
- Developed tracking, reporting, and evaluation processes to assess program effectiveness

**Principal Investigator**

“Preserving the Legacy of Rosenwald Schools: A Collaborative Effort to Protect the Calvert Colored/W.D. Spigner School” | 2020 – 2024

- Led historical research and application resulting in official State Historical Marker designation
- Conducted archival research and documentation of Black educational history
- Coordinated preservation strategy and institutional collaboration

**Graduate Researcher**

“A Way of Life: Knowledge Production among Black Cowboys”

Texas A&amp;M University | 2013 – 2017

**Graduate Researcher**

“Black Cowboys and Black Masculinity”

Texas A&amp;M University | 2012 – 2013

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Texas A&amp;M University | 2012

- Project Words of Oral Reading and Language Development
- Project Promoting Adolescents’ Comprehension of Text

**Archival, Community-Based, & Educational Programming Work****Director of Education (Appointed)– Calvert Colored / W.D. Spigner Alumni Association, Calvert, Texas 2026 - Present**

- Leading development of a digital archive initiative to preserve and provide public access to alumni and institutional materials
- Designing archival workflows, digitization processes, and systems for long-term accessibility
- Writing and submitting grant proposals to secure funding for equipment and implementation

- Building partnerships with community stakeholders and organizations
- Developing educational programming connecting historical preservation, public memory, and community engagement
- Supporting program sustainability through strategic planning and resource development

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**Consultant – Calvert Colored / W.D. Spigner Alumni Association, Calvert, Texas**

2020 - 2024

- Led research and application process resulting in State Historical Marker designation
- Supported archival documentation, preservation planning, and community engagement

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**Community Archive Development (Early-Stage Contribution) – Whatcom County NAACP**

2024

- Contributed to development of a community-based digital archive initiative
- Supported planning for digitization, organization, and public accessibility
- Collaborated with stakeholders on archival preservation and engagement strategies

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**Registrar Specialist – Antioch University, Los Angeles, CA**

2016 - 2018

- Managed student records, registration processes, and academic documentation
- Maintained compliance and accuracy within student information systems
- Coordinated with academic departments to support registration and student services operations

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**Senior Administrative Assistant – Office of Admissions & Recruitment, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX**

2015

- Supported admissions and recruitment operations, including application processing and student communication
- Assisted prospective students with admissions procedures and enrollment requirements
- Coordinated administrative processes for recruitment events and outreach initiatives

## Creative Scholarship

**Director/Producer, *Beyond the Schoolyard* (feature documentary, in production)**

- Focus: Rosenwald Schools, Black education, public memory

**Writer/Director, *Fowl Play: A Game Day Love Story* (2024–2025)**

- Semi-Finalist — Fade In Awards
- Official Selection — Best Shorts Competition

**Writer, *Quieted* (short screenplay, 2024–2025)**

- Award Winner — Hollywood Just4Shorts Film & Screenplay Competition
- Finalist (2nd Place) — Urban Mediamakers Film Festival
- Nominee — Cannes Independent Shorts
- Official Selection — ETHOS Film Awards

## Exhibitions & Curatorial Projects

**Curator**
*DEVOTION: A Black Love Archive*

apexart, New York, NY | 2026 – 2027

- Curating multi-artist exhibition exploring memory, documentation, and everyday forms of Black life
- Designing participatory programming and audience engagement strategies
- Developing interpretive frameworks grounded in Black feminist theory and archival practice

## Publications

Babers, Myeshia C. (2024). "Reclaiming Space and Memory: Black Cowboys and the Right to the City." *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*.

Babers, Myeshia C. (2023). "Alternate Histories of the Cowboy Myth." In *Cowboy*, ed. Isabel Venero, pp. 31–39. New York: Rizzoli.

Babers, Myeshia (2023). "Controlling the Reins." *Anthropology News*, March 14, 2023.

Babers, M.C. (2022). "Cowboy Cool: A Professional Black Cowboy's Perspective." *Transforming Anthropology*, 30: 150–164.

Babers, Myeshia C. (2014). "Charisma and the Fictions Black Leadership (A Review)." *Journal of African American History*, p. 341.

## Public Scholarship ([www.BlackPast.org](http://www.BlackPast.org))

Babers, Myeshia C. (2021). "James L. Conyers Jr. (1961–2021)."

Babers, Myeshia C. (2021). "Audrey Smedley (1930–2020)."

Babers, Myeshia C. (2020). "Adelaide McGuinn Cromwell (1919–2019)."

Babers, Myeshia C. (2020). "Arthur Paul Davis (1904–1996)."

Babers, Myeshia C. (2019). "Hattie Mae White (1916–1993)."

Babers, Myeshia C. (2019). "Johnnetta Betsch Cole (1936– )."

Babers, Myeshia C. (2019). "Lee D. Baker (1966– )."

Babers, Myeshia C. (2019). "Leith P. Mullings (1945– )."

Babers, Myeshia C. (2019). "Niara Sudarkasa (1938–2019)."

## Presentations

### Space, Mobility, and Black Spatial Practice

- "The Right (of Way) to the City: African American Trail Riders Remembering and Reclaiming the Past." American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Vancouver, BC, Canada, Nov 20–24, 2019
- "The Right (of Way) to the City: African American Trail Riders Remembering and Reclaiming the Past." ALLA/AES/ABA Joint Spring Meeting on Ethnographic Futures, St. Louis, MO, Mar 14–16, 2019

### Memory, Education, and Public Life

- "Beyond the Schoolyard: Rosenwald Schools, Public Memory, and the Ongoing Fight for Black Educational Futures." American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, Nov 19–23, 2025
- "Preserving the Legacy of Rosenwald Schools: A Collaborative Effort to Protect the Calvert Colored/W.D. Spigner School." Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL, Sept 20–24, 2023

## Culture, Identity, and Representation

- “The Future is Cool: The Transformative Power of Blackness in Country Western Culture.” SANA + SUNTA Joint Spring Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 2–4, 2019
- “Queer Theory and the Interaction of Black Cowboys in the Individual and Collective Negotiations of Masculinity and Manhood.” American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Denver, CO, Nov 2015

## Media, Space, and Identity Formation

- “Rap Music and Regional Identities in Houston.” Race, Gender & Class Conference, New Orleans, LA, Mar 2013
- “Genre, Masculinity, and Place in Houston Hip Hop.” Rice University Conference: The Past and Present of Race and Place in Houston, Houston, TX, Feb 2013
- “The Imagined Urban: Hip-Hop Spaces and the Integration of Black American Models of Self and Other.” American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Montreal, QC, Canada, Nov 2011

## Methods and Disciplinary Intervention

- “Reimagining Anthropology through Radical Inclusion and Collaborative Transformation.” Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM, Mar 26–30, 2024
- “A Way of Life: Knowledge Production among Black Cowboys.” (Poster) American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, Nov 29 – Dec 1, 2017

## Awards

“Quieted” (Short Screenplay): Award Winner – Hollywood Just4Shorts (2025); Finalist (2nd Place) – Urban Mediamakers Film Festival (2024); Nominee – Cannes Independent Shorts (2024); Official Selection – ETHOS Film Awards (2024)

“Fowl Play: A Game Day Love Story”: Semi-Finalist – Fade In Awards (2025); Official Selection – Best Shorts Competition (2025)

“Saddle Standouts”: Finalist – Urban Mediamakers Film Festival Photo Competition (2024)

Elite Award of Excellence, Houston, TX (2022)

MAXQDA “Picture Your Research” Photo Contest Winner, Berlin, Germany (2017)

## Grants

Faculty Development Grant, The College of Wooster, 2019 – 2020

Department of Anthropology Travel Grant, Texas A&M University, 2013 – 2017

Department of Anthropology Thesis Research Grant, Texas A&M University, 2013

Women & Gender Studies Thesis Fellowship for Research, Texas A&M University, 2012 – 2013

## Service

Archivist, Association of Black Anthropologists, 2024 – Present

Africana Studies Program, Texas A&M University, 2020 – 2024

- Recruitment of Minors Committee
- Interdisciplinary Course Development Committee
- Internship Partnerships Committee
- Curriculum Updates

Volunteer, Association of Black Anthropologists Graduate Student Committee, 2019 – 2020

Co-Creator, The Mindful Educators Working Group, The College of Wooster, 2019 – 2020

Sophomore Research Advisor, The College of Wooster, 2019 – 2020

Informal Independent Study Advising, Africana Studies, The College of Wooster, 2019

Member of Voting Faculty on governance issues, The College of Wooster, 2018 – 2020

## Professional Activities

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), 2023

Society for North American Anthropology, 2018 – 2020

American Studies Association, 2017

Society for Cultural Anthropology, 2012

Association of Black Anthropologists, 2011 – Present

American Anthropological Association, 2011 – Present