

**BRIONA SI MONE JONES**

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, Michigan State University, 2021

Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies, Michigan State University, 2021

M.A. English, Georgia Southern University, 2015

B.A. English, Kennesaw State University, 2012

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

African American Literature since 1895 & Afro-Diaspora Studies and Literature; Queer Theory; Black Feminism and Women of Color Feminisms; Decolonial Feminisms/Decolonial Thought; Gender & Sexuality Studies; Comparative Ethnic Studies; Race, Racism & the Human; Decolonial Literatures; Poetics.

## EXPERIENCE

##### Assistant Professor, Current

University of Connecticut, Department of English Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

##### Doctoral Student, 2015-2021

Michigan State University, Department of English

##### University Distinguished Fellow, 2015-2021

Michigan State University, Department of English

##### Full Time Instructor, 2016-2019

Michigan State University, Department of English

##### MSU Inter-Group Race Dialogues Facilitator, 2017-2018

Michigan State University, Oﬃce for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

## BOOKS

*Mouths of Rain: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Thought.* The New Press, 2021. (Reviewed by The Atlantic, Publisher’s Weekly, Literary Hub, Library Journal, Elle, Refinery 29, The Root, Ms. Magazine). Winner of the Lambda Literary Award Best LGBTQ Anthology and the Publishing Triangle Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Non-Fiction (2022).

## PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“The Black Lesbian Body.” *Black Bodies in American Literature*, ed. Cherene Sherrard-Johnson, *Cambridge UP*, forthcoming January 2023.

“Black Vestibules.” *The Black Scholar*, in progress, November 2022.

“Black Lesbian Socialists and the intimacies of empire,” in progress.

“Cheryl Clarke, Decolonization, and the lesbian body,” in progress.

## PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL WORK

## INTERVIEWS & PODCASTS

Interview with “Queer Lit” podcast (UK), May 2022.

“Celebrating the Power of the Black Lesbian Literary Tradition,” interview with *Black Women Radicals*, 2021.

“Black Lesbian Thought,” interview with *Black Perspectives* (AAIHS), 2021.

Interview with Stonewall Museum about Mouths of Rain: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Thought*,* 2021. https://[www.artscalendar.com/event/join-the-stonewall-museum-for-a-zoom-](http://www.artscalendar.com/event/join-the-stonewall-museum-for-a-zoom-)conversation-with-author-and-editor-briona-simone-jones/

“Poetry for Me is Queer: Blackspace Interview with Alexis Pauline Gumbs.” blackspaceblog.com, 2017.

## BOOK AWARDS, ACADEMIC GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

**June 2022-2024** The Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Development (SIPTA) Scholar

**June 2022** The Lambda Literary Award Winner of the Best LGBTQ Anthology

**May 2022** The Publishing Triangle Winner of the Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Nonfiction

**2015–2021** Michigan State University Distinguished Fellow, $135,000

**2020-2021** Dissertation Completion Fellowship, $20,000

**2018-2019** Michigan State University Summer Research Abroad Grant, $12,000

**2018-2019** Michigan State University Scholar Research Grant, $5,000

**2017-2018** Michigan State University Summer Support Fellowship, $7,000

**2017-2018** Michigan State University Research Grant, $5,000

**2016-2017** Michigan State University Summer Support Fellowship, $7,000

## PRESENTATIONS

#### GUEST LECTURES

“Mouths of Rain: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Thought.” New York University. November 2022.

“Black Archive.” Michigan State University. November 2022.

“Black Lesbian Bodies.” Georgia Tech University. April 2022.

“Afro-Diasporic Afterlives: The Archive, Refusal, and the Disappeared.” Cornell University. March 2022.

“Black Lesbian Aesthetics.” Michigan State University. February 2022.”

“Black Lesbian Radical Tradition.” University of California at Santa Barbara. April 2021.

“Wholly Earth, Black Feminist Ecologies and Sustainable Futures.” Albright College. April 2021.

“Mouths of Rain: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Thought.” Electric Marronage. March 2021.

“Citizen Scholars 210: Colonial Disasters and Resistance: Puerto Rico’s Present Past 1898-2018.”

Michigan State University. April 2019.

“African American and African Studies 390: Land, Love, and The Uses of the Erotic.” Michigan State University. April 2018.

“English 300: Poetics and Prose: Audre Lorde.” Kennesaw State University. June 2017.

#### PANEL AND ROUNTABLE PRESENTATIONS

Jones, B. “Black Lesbian Bodies.” Presenting paper at the *American Studies Association* (ASA), New Orleans, LA. 2022.

Jones, B. “Neither Care Nor Profit: Black Lesbian Poetics and the Erotics of Sovereignty.” Presented paper at the *National Women’s Studies Association* (NWSA), San Francisco, CA. 2019.

Jones, B. “Sovereign Erotics and Black Lesbian Poetics: A Gesture Towards Wholeness.” Presented paper at the *American Studies Association*(ASA), Honolulu, HI. 2019.

Jones, B. “Decolonial Approaches to Literature, Film, and Visual Arts.” Paper presented at the *North Eastern Modern Language Association* (NEMLA), Washington, D.C. 2019.

Jones, B. “Disidentification, and *Men on Boats.”* Panelist, Michigan State University, Department of Theatre. 2018.

Jones, B. “Today is Not the Day: Pleasure, Precarity, and The Lorde.” *American Studies Association*

(ASA), Atlanta, Georgia. 2018.

Jones, B. “Cheryl Clarke and The Profundity of the Black Lesbian Body*.”* Paper presented at the

*National Women’s Studies Association* (NWSA), Atlanta, Georgia. 2018.

Jones, B. “Black Girl Epistemic Landscapes.” Paper presented at the *Caribbean Philosophical Association*

(CPA), Dakar, Senegal. 2018.

Jones, B. “Critical Race English Education.” Panelist, Michigan State University. 2018.

Jones, B. “Mute Opposable Evidence,” or The Body/Poem as Witness and Opposition: Toward a Counter-Forensic Poetics of Abolition.” (Rob Halpern), Panelist, Michigan State University. 2018.

Jones, B. “Queer Conversations: Black Queer Youth, Identity, and Black Lesbian Poetics.” Paper presented at *Queer Conversations*, Michigan State University. 2018.

Jones, B. “Multiplicity as Methodology: Black Lesbian Poetics and Prose.” *National Women’s Studies Association* (NWSA), Baltimore, Maryland. 2017.

Jones, B. “Writing in Fire: Honoring the Life and Legacy of Michelle Cliﬀ.” Paper presented at the

*Caribbean Philosophical Association* (CPA), Brooklyn, NY. 2017.

Jones, B. “The Articulation of Multiplicity: A Black Lesbian Poetics Methodology.” Paper Presented at the *Southern Eastern Women’s Studies Association Conference* (SEWSA), Atlanta, Georgia, 2017.

Jones, B. “Rooted in Margins: The Survivance Writings of Black Women.” Paper presented at the *Celebrating African American Literature Conference* (CAAL), Penn State University, State College, Pennsylvania. 2016.

Jones, B. “Dimensions of the Erotic: A Textual Analysis of Audre Lorde’s ‘On a night of the full moon.’” Paper presented at the *Caribbean Philosophical Association Conference* (CPA), The University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. 2016**.**

Jones, B. “A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde.” Michigan State University Film Collective, 2016**.**

Jones, B. “Critical Institutions: Machines.” Roundtable Participant at Michigan State University. 2016.

Jones, B. “An Exploration of Trauma, Identity Construction, and the Suppression of the Erotic in Edwidge Danticat’s *Breath, Eyes, Memory*.” Paper Presented at *The Ohio State University Violent Bodies Conference,* Columbus, Ohio. 2015.

Jones, B. “Immanence and Inauthenticity: The Poetics of Lorde and de Beauvoir.” Paper Presented at the *Florida State History and Identity Conference*, Tallahassee, Florida. 2014.

Jones, B. “Immanence and Inauthenticity: The Poetics of Lorde and de Beauvoir.” Paper presented at the Georgia Southern Research Symposium, Statesboro, Georgia. 2014.

Jones, B. “The New American Poetries in Black and White.” Chaired at the American Literature Association Symposium on American Poetry. 2014

## COURSES

#### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

*WGSS 3252, Genders and Sexualities*

*ENGL 4613W, Advanced LGBT Literature*

*ENGL 2214W, African American Literature*

*WGSS 4994W, Senior Seminar*

#### INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

*WS 202, Introduction to Contemporary Feminisms and Gender Theories*

*WS 492, Advanced Seminar in Women’s and Gender’s Studies*

*English 802, Literary Criticism and Theory: Race, Gender, and The Human*

*English 355, Readings in Sexuality and Literature*

*Women’s Studies 201: Sexuality and Literature*

*English 210, Foundations of Literary Studies*

*English 210, Foundations of Literary Studies*

*Integrative Studies 207, Literatures, Cultures, and Identities*

**INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD: GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

*World Literature 2112*, Graduate Assistant

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## OUTREACH AND FACILITATION

**Graduate Assistant** for *Women of Color Initiatives*

# 2018-2020

Coordinated speaker series for Women of Color Scholars, Activists, and Artists. Facilitated workshops, panels, and events for visiting Scholars and Artists-in Residence.

Responsible for logistics, event construction, and public relations.

**Research Workshop Facilitator** for Race, Pedagogy, and Literature

# 2017-2019

Facilitated speaker series, panels, and content that center race, pedagogy, and literature.

Created content that addresses interlocking oppressions (race, gender, sexuality, class).

Responsible for funding and building relationships across campus with various departments and colleges.

**Race Dialogue Facilitator** for *MSU Intergroup Dialogues*

# 2017-2018

Constructed content for special topic, “intersectionality.”

Organized weekly meetings with student attendees and led discussions that centered race, gender, and sexuality.

Facilitated dialogues with co-facilitator that addressed historical and contemporary discourses about race and the efficacy of dialogical engagement.

## SERVICE

##### 2021-Present

##### Member, Graduate Curriculum Committee (WGSS, UCONN)

##### Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (WGSS,UCONN)

##### Member, Seminars, Symposia & Scholarly Development (English, UCONN)

##### 2018-2021

Editor, The Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate

##### 2017-2019

Facilitator, Race, Pedagogy, and Literature Research Workshop. (English, MSU)

##### 2016-2017

Search Committee Member. African Americanist Hire. (English, UCONN)

##### 2014-2015

Graduate Student Representative. MSU Department of English

## MEDIA/ DIGITAL CONTRIBUTIONS

##### 2019

MSU English Grad Program: MSU Department of English Graduate Education: https://[www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIaXtwdCvuw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIaXtwdCvuw)

##### 2018

MSU English Grad Program Podcast: “MUSE Scholars Program” https://soundcloud.com/ msugradenglish/muse-scholars-program-1

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/ AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association Modern Languages Association

National Women’s Studies Association Caribbean Philosophical Association

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