

Lauren Stockmon Brown

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
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EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York, NY

Ph.D., English and Comparative Literature (Theatre and Performance), expected May 2027

M.Phil., English and Comparative Literature, 2024

M.A., English and Comparative Literature, 2023

Dissertation: *Bridging Art & Politics: Miriam Makeba, Victoria Santa Cruz, Josephine Baker, and the Making of a "Black Feminist Performance Grammar"*

- **Description:** Argues that Miriam Makeba, Victoria Santa Cruz, and Josephine Baker developed distinct temporal vocal practices (rupture, suspension, and acceleration) that reshape the performer–audience encounter. Taking Santa Cruz's concept of "internal rhythm" as an interpretive method, the project draws on archival research in Peru, France, Senegal, and the United States to trace a "Black feminist performance grammar" across Africa, Latin America, Europe, and North America. It positions Black feminist performers as political agents who have long sustained an intellectual practice through their art.
- **Committee:** William B. Worthen (Chair), Rebecca R. Kastleman, María José Contreras Lorenzini

Areas of Specialization: African Diasporic Theatre and Performance; Black Feminist Theory; Postcolonial Performance; African Diasporic Literature

Teaching Interests: Africana Theatre and Performance History; African American Literature; Africana Studies; Postcolonial Literature; Creative Nonfiction; Writing Studies (First-Year Writing)

New York University, New York, NY

B.A., summa cum laude, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, 2020

Concentration: Political Theory and Media Studies; Minor: French Linguistics

HONORS & AWARDS

- Finalist (one of nine), Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student Instructor, Columbia University, 2025
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program, English Teaching Assistant Award, Dakar, Senegal, 2021–2022
- Student Commencement Speaker, NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study, 2020
- Dean's Award for Graduating Seniors, New York University, 2020
- Interdisciplinary Academic Excellence Award, New York University, 2020
- University Honors Scholar, New York University, 2020

PUBLICATIONS

Book Reviews

- Stockmon Brown, Lauren. "On the Potentials of Black Feminist Spirituality." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 31, no. 4 (2025): 581–600.

Other Publications

- Stockmon Brown, Lauren. "Miriam Makeba and the Sound of Black Liberation." *MODA Critical Review* 6 (2025): 50–53.

Articles Under Review

- Stockmon Brown, Lauren. "Laughter in the Break: Miriam Makeba and the Politics of Attention." *Global Black Thought*. Revise and resubmit.
- Stockmon Brown, Lauren. "Her Rhythmic Edges: Victoria Santa Cruz and the Making of a 'Black Feminist Performance Grammar.'" *Women & Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory*. Under review.
- Stockmon Brown, Lauren. "Tracing Her Archives: The Making of a 'Black Feminist Performance Grammar.'" *Feminist Africa*, special issue, "Feminists' Archives Against a Common-Sense: Narratives and Experiences within the Postcolonial Order." Under review.

Articles in Preparation

- Stockmon Brown, Lauren. "Grammar as Protest: Black Feminist Dramaturgy in Adrienne Kennedy's *Mom, How Did You Meet the Beatles? A True Story of London in the 1960s*." For submission to *TDR: The Drama Review*.

Public Writing

- Stockmon Brown, Lauren. "16 Best Political and Racial Injustice Podcasts to Listen To." *Women's Health*, June 9, 2020.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Participant, Futures of American Studies Summer Institute, Dartmouth College, 2026 (\$995)
- International Dissertation Research Travel Grant, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, 2026 (\$2,500)
 - Archival research on Victoria Santa Cruz in Lima, Peru (Biblioteca Nacional del Perú; Instituto de Etnomusicología, PUCP; Ministerio de Cultura)
- Participant, "Shakespeare and Black Performing Women" Workshop Series, Folger Institute, Folger Shakespeare Library, 2025–2026 (\$3,000)
- Conference Travel Award, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2025 (\$900)
- Provost Diversity Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2022–2023 (\$10,000)
- Social Justice Mini-Grant, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2022–2023 (\$2,500)

INVITED TALKS

- "Crowned Heights: Conference and Homecoming," panelist, symposium on Black women's hair, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University, November 2025
- "Gesture as Method: Black Feminist Performance in Josephine Baker, Victoria Santa Cruz, and Miriam Makeba," guest lecture, Professional Practicum for Art Museums and Galleries, Fashion Institute of Technology, November 2025
- "Black Hair is the Root of Pan-Africanism," West African Research Center, Dakar, Senegal, June 2022

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Towards a Global Black Feminist Performance Method: Sonic Embodiment in Miriam Makeba, Victoria Santa Cruz, and Josephine Baker." Futures of American Studies Summer Institute, Dartmouth College, July 2026.
- "Laughter in the Break: Miriam Makeba and the Politics of Attention." LOOK! Graduate Student Workshop, Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender, Columbia University, April 2026.
- "Miriam Makeba: Gesture as Method." Working session, "Black Feminist Cartographies of Time," American Society for Theatre Research Annual Conference, Denver, CO, November 2025.
- "Miriam Makeba: Gesture as Method." Emerging/Emergent Graduate Student Conference, City University of New York, October 2025.
- "Analyzing Miriam Makeba's 1950–60s Musical Performances: A Precursor to Steve Biko's Black Consciousness Movement and a Response to the Epistemological Erasure of Blackness in Urban South Africa." Graduate Student Conference, Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender, Columbia University, April 2025.
- "Analyzing Miriam Makeba's 1950–60s Musical Performances..." Graduate Student Conference, Tisch Center for Research and Study, New York University, April 2025.
- "Analyzing Miriam Makeba's 1950–60s Musical Performances..." Human Language and Development Conference, The New School, April 2024.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Department of Theater, Lecturer

- Theater Histories II (two sections), Spring 2026
- Theater Histories I (two sections), Fall 2025

Designed original research- and writing-intensive syllabi for 50 BFA students in acting, dramaturgy, and design; organized a guest lecture series linking theatre history to contemporary practice

Columbia University, Undergraduate Writing Program, GSAS Teaching Fellow

- Gender and Sexuality Studies (writing-intensive seminar), Spring 2025
- Race and Ethnicity: African American Studies (writing-intensive seminar), Fall 2024

Designed original syllabi centering Black feminist thought and queer of color critique (Lorde, Crenshaw, Spillers, Hartman)

Seminar Leader

Columbia University, Department of English and Comparative Literature

- Approaches to Literary Study (ENGL UN2000), Spring 2026

Teaching Assistant

Barnard College, Department of Theatre

- Theatre Traditions in a Global Context (Shayoni Mitra), Lead TA, Fall 2025; TA, Fall 2023
- Critical Histories of Theatre and Performance (Abigail Schroering), Spring 2024

ADDITIONAL TEACHING & MENTORING

Columbia University, GSAS Summer Research Program

- Instructor, Writing in the Sciences: How to Write Like a Researcher in STEM, Summer 2026. Designed and taught a nine-week seminar for seven undergraduate STEM research fellows from seven institutions.
- Graduate Cohort Mentor, Articulating Research: Graduate-Level Methods in the Humanities, Summer 2025. Mentored humanities fellows from Howard University, Claflin University, and Florida State University.

Sotheby's Institute of Art

- Co-Instructor (with Klaudia Ofwona Draber), Art Business: Markets, Museums, and Money, Summer 2026
- Co-Instructor (with Alexander Nagel), Art Conservation and Appraisal, pre-college program, Summer 2025

The New Community Project, Bronx, NY

- Instructor, Qualitative Research Approaches in Public Humanities, 2022–2024. Taught a research-intensive course on African American performance history for high school students.

WRITING PROGRAM & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Graduate School Coach, School of General Studies, Columbia University, 2026–present

- Advise students applying to Ph.D., master's, J.D., M.B.A., and fellowship programs, including returning, international, first-generation, veteran, and dual-degree students
- Created *Where to Start?*, a series of graduate-application toolkits for the GS website covering personal statements, research statements, recommendation letters, and CVs

Writing Studio Consultant, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2026–present

- Lead weekly writing groups of 8–10 graduate students across GSAS departments and hold one-on-one consultations on dissertation chapters, articles, proposals, and fellowship applications

Writing Tutor, Warrior-Scholar Project, Columbia University, 2025

- Provided individualized writing support to enlisted veterans preparing for college-level coursework

PEDAGOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS

- **Senior Teaching Assessment Fellow**, Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University, 2025–2026 (\$3,000)
 - Led a graduate-student cohort through monthly workshops on learning outcomes, rubric design, and inclusive assessment; authored assessment guides distributed to 200+ Columbia instructors
- **Academic Administration Fellow**, School of General Studies, Columbia University, 2025 (\$5,000)
 - Designed and led a computational humanities workshop on measurable vs. interpretive data
- **Pedagogies of Race and Oppression Fellow**, Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University, 2024–2025 (\$3,000)
- **Social Enterprise Fellow**, Tamer Institute for Social Enterprise, Columbia Business School, 2022–2024 (\$10,000)

PUBLIC HUMANITIES

***My Colorful Nana Podcast* (mycolorfulnana.com), Founder and Producer, 2017–present**

- Created and produced a 28-episode podcast on race, identity, and belonging across the African diaspora, drawing on Africana studies and performance studies; 7,500+ downloads
- Served as the community engagement component of Fulbright research in Dakar, Senegal, convening cross-cultural dialogue on beauty standards in transnational African diasporic discourse

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Production Copyeditor, *The Black Theatre Review* (Black Theatre Network), 2026–present

- Prepare accepted manuscripts for publication in a biannual, peer-reviewed journal of Black theatre and performance scholarship, working with Editor-in-Chief Omiyemi (Artisia) Green and Managing Editor Michelle Cowin Gibbs on author revisions, Chicago-style citation and formatting, and proofs

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Committee Member, Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student Instructor, Columbia University, 2026

Student Delegation Member, Office of Academic Access and Engagement, Columbia University, 2025–2026

Creator and Coordinator, Race and Ethnicity Writing Collective Fellowship, Columbia University, 2025

- Designed and launched a fellowship supporting underrepresented undergraduates in research, writing, and public speaking, with a peer mentorship model pairing returning fellows with first-year writers

Lead Teacher (volunteer), Community Impact, Columbia University, 2019

- Prepared and taught English lessons for adult immigrant learners; completed TESOL training workshops

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Modern Language Association (MLA), and Performance Studies International (PSI)

LANGUAGES

French (advanced)

REFERENCES

Dr. William B. Worthen

Alice Brady Pels Professor in the Arts and Chair, Department of Theatre, Barnard College, Columbia University

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Dissertation Sponsor and Committee Chair

Dr. Rebecca R. Kastleman

Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

rrk2157@columbia.edu | (212) 854-3215

Dissertation Committee Member

Dr. María José Contreras Lorenzini

Associate Professor of Theatre, Columbia University

mc4873@columbia.edu | (786) 602-0166

Dissertation Committee Member

Dr. Aaron J. Ritzenberg

Senior Lecturer in Discipline in English and Comparative Literature; Associate Director, Undergraduate Writing Program; Director of First-Year Writing, Columbia University

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Writing Program Supervisor