Lauren Stockmon Brown
9 Linden Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11221
lsb2168@columbia.edu | (914) 602-2340

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

New York University, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York, NY
B.A., summa cum laude, 2020
Concentration: Political Theory and Media Studies; Minor: French Linguistics

Dissertation: *Bridging Art & Politics: Miriam Makeba, Victoria Santa Cruz, Josephine Baker, and the Making of a Gestural Grammar of Black Feminist Futurity - Committee: William B. Worthen (Chair), Rebecca R. Kastleman, María José Contreras Lorenzini*

> **Description**: This dissertation argues that Miriam Makeba, Victoria Santa Cruz, and Josephine Baker developed a gestural grammar of Black feminist futurity through embodied practices of voice, rhythm, and choreography. Drawing on Tina Campt's concept of *stasis* and Santa Cruz's *internal rhythm*, I examine how these performers negotiated the racialized grammatical constraints imposed on Black women's bodies. Through Makeba's vocal rupture, Santa Cruz's rhythmic suspension, and Baker's choreographic acceleration, I demonstrate how each performer organized her own temporal movement while challenging the institutional conditions under which she performed.

Research Interests: African American and Africana Theatre and Literature; Digital Humanities; Black Feminist Theory; Postcolonial Literature and Performance; Performance and Dance Studies; Creative Nonfiction; Writing Studies.

HONORS & AWARDS

- Finalist (one of nine), Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student Instructor, Columbia University, 2025
- Fulbright Scholarship Recipient, Student Program ETA, U.S. Department of State, 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 Recipient, New York University, 2020

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Fellow, Futures of American Studies Summer Institute, Dartmouth College, 2026
- International Dissertation Research Travel Grant, Columbia University, 2026
    - Archival research on Victoria Santa Cruz in Lima, Peru (Biblioteca Nacional del Perú; Instituto de Etnomusicología, PUCP; Ministerio de Cultura)
- Grant Participant, "Shakespeare and Black Performing Women" Workshop Series, Folger Institute, Folger Shakespeare Library, 2025–2026
- Conference Travel Fellow, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2025

- Provost Diversity Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2022–2023
- Social Justice Mini-Grant, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2022–2023

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly Publications

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

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

- Stockmon Brown, Lauren. “Quiet Laughter: Miriam Makeba and the Making of a Gestural Grammar of Black Feminist Futurity.” *Global Black Thought* (African American Intellectual History Society; University of Pennsylvania Press). (Under revision for resubmission).

- 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).

PUBLIC HUMANITIES

Podcast: *My Colorful Nana* **(**mycolorfulnana.com), 2018–present
Founder and Producer

- Created and produced a 28-episode podcast; more than 8,000 downloads.
- Extended the podcast to Senegal during the Fulbright year: wrote 18 weekly blog posts from Dakar and developed an episode with Dr. Korka Sall and Dr. Mamadou Bodian at the West African Research Center; featured on Amani TV (2022).

Public-Facing Articles

- Stockmon Brown, Lauren. "How My Grandmother's Art Inspired Me to Pursue an Afrocentric Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance Studies." *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 4, 2023.
- Stockmon Brown, Lauren. "16 Best Political and Racial Injustice Podcasts to Listen To." *Women's Health*, June 9, 2020.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer (Instructor of Record), *Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Department of Theater*

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

Instructor of Record, *Columbia University, Department of English and Comparative Literature*

- Approaches to Literary Study (ENGL UN2000), Spring 2026
    - Led an intensive seminar training 13 students in close reading and literary interpretation.

Instructor of Record, *Columbia University, Undergraduate Writing Program*

- Writing-intensive seminar, Gender and Sexuality, Spring 2025
- Writing-intensive seminar, Race and Ethnicity, Fall 2024
    - Designed original syllabi for seminars centered on the public humanities and critical scholarly writing, including the foundations of citational practice.

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, New York, NY

Graduate School Coach, School of General Studies, 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, 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 Instructor, GSAS Summer Research Program, *Columbia University,* New York, NY

- **STEM and Social Sciences Writing Instructor,** Summer 2026
    - Designed and taught *Writing in the Sciences: How to Write Like a Researcher in STEM*, a nine-week research writing seminar for seven undergraduate research fellows from seven institutions.
    - Advised students in biology, mechanical engineering, and computational linguistics, many of them first-generation students preparing for doctoral study.
- **Humanities Graduate Cohort Mentor,** Summer 2025
    - Taught *Articulating Research: Graduate-Level Methods in the Humanities* to undergraduate students and prospective doctoral candidates.

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

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

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

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

Sotheby's Institute of Art, Pre-College Program, New York, NY Summer 2025–2026

- Co-Instructor (with Klaudia Ofwona Draber, Director of Programs, Finnish Cultural Institute), Art Business: Markets, Museums, and Money (2026).
- Co-Instructor (with Dr. Alexander Nagel, Chair of Art History and Museum Professions, Fashion Institute of Technology), Art Conservation and Appraisal (2025).

The New Community Project (Nonprofit)**,** New York, NY 2022–2024

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

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.

PEDAGOGICAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS

- **Senior Teaching Assessment Fellow,** Center for Teaching and Learning, Columbia University, 2025–2026
    - 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
    - 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
- **Social Enterprise Fellow,** Tamer Institute for Social Enterprise, Columbia Business School, 2022–2024

UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **Production Copyeditor,** *The Black Theatre Review* (Black Theatre Network), 2026–present
- **Selection Committee Member,** Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student Instructor, Columbia University, 2025-2028 (three-year-term)
- **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
    - Launched an undergraduate fellowship supporting underrepresented undergraduates in research, writing, and public speaking, with a peer mentorship model pairing returning fellows with first-year writers.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

LANGUAGES

- French (advanced)
- Spanish (reading knowledge)

REFERENCES

William B. Worthen
Alice Brady Pels Professor in the Arts and Chair, Department of Theatre, Barnard College, Columbia University
wworthen@barnard.edu | (212) 854-2757
Dissertation Sponsor and Committee Chair

Rebecca R. Kastleman
Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
rrk2157@columbia.edu | (212) 854-3215
Dissertation Committee Member

María José Contreras Lorenzini
Associate Professor of Theatre, Columbia University
mc4873@columbia.edu | (786) 602-0166
Dissertation Committee Member

Aaron J. Ritzenberg
Senior Lecturer in Discipline in English and Comparative Literature; Associate Director, Undergraduate Writing Program; Director of First-Year Writing, Columbia University
ajr2186@columbia.edu | (212) 854-3215
Writing Program Supervisor