

## Stephanie A. Keeney Parks

E-Mail: [skeeneyparks@UCLA.edu](mailto:skeeneyparks@UCLA.edu)

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3454-4201>

website: [stephaniekeeneyparks.com](http://stephaniekeeneyparks.com)

### EDUCATION

---

Current	PhD Student in Anthropology
2017	MA, Medical Anthropology, Creighton University <b>Thesis:</b> Parenting Autism: An Exploratory Study of the Culture and Experience of African American Parents of Children Diagnosed with Autism
2016	BA , Cultural Anthropology, Ashford University

### Teaching

---

#### **Creighton University**

*Teaching Assistant*

August 2016 – May 2017

- PLS/HAP 334 Public Policy of Health Care
- Medical Anthropology 363

#### **University of California, Los Angeles**

*Teaching Assistant*

September 2018 – Current

- Anthro 4. Culture and Communication
- Medical Anthropology
- Global Hip Hop and Social Justice
- Psychological Anthropology
- Society and Genetics; Senior Thesis Project

### Research

---

**Graduate Student Research Assistant, Dr. Samy H. Alim, Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy Project 2019 – Current.**

**Graduate Student Research Assistant, Dr. Samy H. Alim, UCLA Hip Hop Institute, Ralph J. Bunche Center**

**Diversity in Research Working Group, UCLA CART, 2021 – Current**

### Guest Lectures

---

**Creighton University, Guest Lecture Anthropology 363, Fall 2016**

**Creighton University, Guest Lecture Dr. Pamela Runestad, Fall 2016**

**Creighton University, Guest Lecture Dr. Ryan Wishart, Spring 2017**

**USC, Guest Lecture, Department of Occupational Therapy, Fall 2017,**

**USC, Guest Lecture, Department of Occupational Therapy, Winter 2018**

**Creighton University, Guest Lecture, Department of Public Health, Dr. LaShaune Johnson Spring 2018**

**UCLA, Guest Lecture, Department of Disability Studies, Summer 2018**

**UCS, Guest Lecture, Department of Occupational Therapy, Fall 2018**

**UCLA, Guest Lecture, Department of Anthropology, Fall 2018**

**UCS, Guest Lecture, Department of Occupational Therapy, Spring 2019**

**UCSB, Guest Lecture, Department of Education, Spring 2019**

University of Chicago, Guest Lecture, Department of Social Work, Dr. Eve Ewing  
Winter 2019

University of Chicago, Guest Lecture, Department of Social Work, Dr. Eve Ewing  
Fall 2020

University of Chicago, Guest Lecture, Department of Social Work, Sireen Irsheed  
MSW, Fall 2020

Creighton University, Guest Lecture Anthropology Gender and Health, Spring 2022

Creighton University, Guest Lecture Anthropology, Medical Anthropology and  
Methods, Spring 2022

### Presentations and Invited Talks

**UCLA, Department of Anthropology Discourse Lab**, Paper Presentation Fall 2017  
African-American Parent Language in White Clinical Spaces as Competing Forms  
of “Local Knowledge”: Whuppins not Spankings Create Disparities

**UC Graduate Research Advocacy Day**: Winter 2018, Sacramento, CA

**UCLA, Mind Medicine and Culture**, presentation, Black Autism Parents; Race and  
Phenomenology. Spring 2018

**Society for Applied Anthropology**, Paper Presentation, Spring 2019 “Gaming the  
System”: African American Parents of Children with Autism Decision Making  
as Resistance to Clinical Racism

**(In)consideration of Autism, Blackness and the Clinic**; Invited Talk, UCLA Semel  
Institute, Fall 2020

**(In)Consideration of Black People with Autism: How Racism Impacts the Life  
Course**: Keynote, National Association for Parents of Special Education, Conference  
December 2020

**"Structural Violence and the Use of Misdiagnosis as A Protective Measure; A Black  
Mother's Response"** Invited Talk, UCLA Semel Institute, Winter 2021

**Despite the Barriers, There's Joy**: Include This Pod Caste, March 2021

**Mental Health and Black Parents of Disabled Children**: Dr. Leaf, Podcast Spring 2021

**Inclusion: Anti-Blackness and Ableism in the Disability Community**: Invited Talk,  
Autism Society, Tidewater Virginia Virtual Conference – Understandingly  
Inclusive, Spring 2021.

**Autism and the Black Family: Parent Narratives Matter**: UCLA Semel Institute:  
Invited Talk, Summer 2021

**Protective Diagnosis: A Black Mother's Response to Structural Violence and  
Disability**, Invited Talk, American Psychiatric Association, Summer 2021

**Haunted by the Future -- Autism and the Spectre of Prison: Configuring Race and  
Disability in the African American Community**: Harvard University, Friday  
Morning Seminar, Department of Anthropology and Medicine. *Cheryl  
Mattingly (University of Southern California) and Stephanie Keeney Parks  
(University of California, Los Angeles)*, Fall 2021

### Panels and Round Tables

**American Anthropological Association**, Panel Presentation, Dec. 2017

African American Parent Language in White Clinical Spaces as Competing Forms  
of “Local Knowledge”: Whuppins not Spankings Create Disparities

**Society for Psychological Anthropology Biannual Conference**, New Mexico  
 Round Table: On the Prospects and Perils of Working “Close to Home”: A  
 Roundtable Discussion, Spring 2018

**American Anthropological Association**, Panel Presentation, November 2019, The  
 Struggle for Progress: Black Community Responses to Urban School Reform:  
 “Gaming the System” as Strategic Mothering: African American Parents of  
 Children with Autism Decision Making as Resistance to Intersection of  
 Ableism and Racism.

**Navigating a Minefield: ASD and the American Healthcare System**, at the Drexel  
 University’s Thomas R. Kline School of Law Review Symposium on Autism,  
 Fall 2020

**Diagnostic Disparities: Stanford Neurodiversity Summit**, Fall 2020

**Round Table on Intersectional Identities: ReelAbilities Film Festival**, Spring 2021

**Society for Psychological Anthropology Biannual Conference**,  
 Presidential Panel: “Living and Theorizing Racial Subjectivities in  
 Psychological Anthropology,” Spring 2021

**STAR Seminar on Anti-Racism in Autism Research and Treatment:**  
 UCLA Semel Institute, June 2021

**Structural Trauma Exacted by the Mental Health System**, American Psychiatric  
 Association, Fall 2021

**In A Different Key**, Autism Action Partnership, Spring 2022

### Public Scholarship

- **How Racism Impacts Black Kids With Autism: From the Clinic to the Classroom**, SpeakUP United Parents, Blog
- **In A Different Key: A True Story of Love, Difference, and The Fight to Belong**. Documentary appearance, <https://www.inadifferentkeythemovie.com/>  
 Produced by, John Donovan and Caren Zucker

### Book Chapters

- *They Never Listen to the Parent: Parent Narratives at the Intersection of Racism, Education, and Disability*, Tunnette Powell and Stephanie Keeney Parks, Spring 2020
- **Haunted by the Future -- Autism and the Specter of Prison: Configuring Race and Disability in the African American Community**, Cheryl Mattingly (*University of Southern California*) and Stephanie Keeney Parks (*UCLA*)  
**Configuring Contagion in Biosocial Epidemics** Edited by Lotte Meinert and Jens Seeberg, Fall 2021
- **When Can Disabled Black Folks Come Home? The Krip-Hop Movement, Race, and Disability Justice**, Leroy F. Moore, Jr. and Stephanie Keeney Parks, *Freedom Moves, Hip – Hop and Social Justice*, edited by H.S. Alim, J. Chang, and C. Wong, Spring 2023
- **“Gaming the System” as Strategic Mothering: Black Parents of Children with Autism Decision Making as Resistance to the Intersections of Ableism and Racism**. Stephanie Keeney Parks, *Traces of Care* edited by R. Lester and L. Cubellis, Fourth Coming

## **Service**

---

**Assistant Dean Search Committee:** Fall 2017

**Vice President:** Anthropology Graduate Student Association, 2017-2018

**Founding Member:** Centering the Black Legacy in Anthropological Creativity

**Graduate Member Support:** Undergrad - Centering the Black Legacy in Anthropological Creativity

**Special Needs Parent Leader:** Speak Up, Los Angeles 2017-2018

**The Only Hope:** UC-System Wide Black Graduate Work Group 2018-2019

## **Academic Awards**

---

**Magis Award,** Medical Anthropology Creighton University, 2017

**Black Excellence Honor;** UCLA Black Alumni Association

## **Funding Awards**

---

**Graduate Student Research Mentorship,** UCLA Summer 2018

**Deans Diversity Fund,** UCLA Summer 2021

**CCLN Black Women's Leadership Fund,** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Summer 2020

**CCLN Black Women's Leadership Fund,** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Summer 2021

## **Fellowships**

---

**Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship,** UCLA, Anthropology Department 2017 - Current

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation,** Health Policy Research Scholars 2018 - 2023

## **Professional Membership**

---

**American Anthropological Association** 2016

**Society for Medical Anthropology** 2016

**Society of Linguistic Anthropology** 2017

**Society of Psychological Anthropology** 2016

**Association of Black Anthropology** 2016

**Society for Disability and Anthropology** 2016

**Society for Applied Anthropology** 2017

**Lambda Alpha** 2017

**Sigma Lambda Gamma** 2000