

# Stephanie Keeney Parks, M.A.

3270 Sawtelle Blvd apt 201  
Los Angeles, CA 90066  
310-621-5131  
skeeneyparks@ucla.edu

## EDUCATION

Ph.D.	<b>Spring 2024</b>	<b>University of California, Los Angeles Department of Anthropology</b>
	Dissertation Chair:	H. Samy Alim, Ph.D.
	Committee:	Helena Hansen, M.D. Ph.D. Doug Hollan, Ph.D. Cheryl Mattingly, Ph.D. Nicole McDonald, Ph.D.
	Dissertation Title:	The Struggle for Black Disability Justice: Autism, The Black Family, Advocacy, and Inequality in the United States
M.A.	<b>May 2017</b>	<b>Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska Department of Peace and Justice Studies</b> <i>Concentration:</i> Medical Anthropology <i>Thesis:</i> Thesis: Parenting Autism: An Exploratory Study of the Culture and Experience of African American Parents of Children Diagnosed with Autism

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race and Disability  
Black Families with Autistic Children  
Juvenile Legal System, Disability, and Race  
Health and Education Disparities  
Race and Racism

## GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

2021-2023	Centering the Black Experience in Academic and Anthropological Creativity (C-BLAAC) <b>\$350,000</b>
2023	C-BLAAC Summer Research Fund <b>\$3000</b>
2018 – 2022	<b>Fellow</b> , Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Fellowship, Health Policy Research Scholar <b>\$120,000</b>
2022	C-BLAAC Summer Research Fund <b>\$6,000</b>
2021	CCLN Black Women’s Leadership Fund, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation <b>\$2,000</b>

<b>2021</b>	Deans Diversity Fund, UCLA <b>\$6,000</b>
<b>2020</b>	CCLN Black Women’s Leadership Fund, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation <b>\$2,000</b>
<b>2019</b>	Graduate Student Research Mentorship, UCLA <b>\$6,000</b>
<b>2018</b>	Graduate Student Research Mentorship, UCLA <b>\$6,000</b>
<b>2017 – 2022</b>	Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship, UCLA <b>\$115,000</b>

### SERVICE

<b>2020 – Present</b>	Graduate Member Support: Undergrad - Centering the Black Legacy in Anthropological Creativity
<b>2018 – 2019</b>	The Only Hope: UC-System Wide Black Graduate Work Group
<b>2017 – Present</b>	Founding Member: Centering the Black Legacy in Anthropological Creativity (C-BLAAC) UCLA Department of Anthropology
<b>2017-2018</b>	Vice President: Anthropology Graduate Student Association
<b>2017</b>	Assistant Dean Search Committee

### PUBLICATIONS (\*\*denotes equal co-authorship)

\*\*Irsheid, S., Keeney Parks, S., & Linsey, M. A. (2024). (Re)assessing clinical spaces: How do we critically provide mental health/disability support and effective care for Black and Brown young people who are impacted by structural violence. *Academic Pediatrics*.

Keeney Parks, S. (Fourth Coming). Color Evasiveness; Autism Diagnostics as White Public Space. In L. Arnold, E. Avera, A. I. Corwin, & J. R. Guzman (Eds.), *Language and Health in Action*.

Keeney Parks, S. (Fourth Coming). “Gaming the System” as Strategic Mothering: Black Parents of Children with Autism Decision Making as Resistance to the Intersections of Ableism and Racism. In R. Lester & L. Cubellis (Eds.), *Traces of Care*.

\*\*Mack, A., Keeney Parks, S., & Parks, W. (Fourth Coming). On Love and Abolition: Building a Speculative Practice of Transformative Justice in Psychological Anthropology. In R. Lester (Ed.), *Innovations in Psychological Anthropology*.

Mattingly, C., & Keeney Parks, S. (2022). “Haunted by the Future: Autism and the Spectre of Prison – Configuring Race and Disability in the African American Community.” In L. Meinert & J. Seeberg (Eds.), *Configuring Contagion: Ethnographies of Biosocial Epidemics* (First edition). Berghahn Books.

\*\*Moore, L. F., & Keeney Parks, S. (n.d.). When Can Disabled Black Folks Come Home? The Krip-Hop Movement, Race, and Disability Justice. In H. S. Alim, J. Chang, & C. Wong (Eds.), *5th Element, Hip – Hop and Social Justice*. Oxford University Press.

\*\*Tunette Powell, & Keeney Parks, S. (2021). They Never Listen to the Parent: Parent Narratives at the Intersection of Racism, Education, and Disability. In D. Hines, M. Boveda, & E. J. Lindo (Eds.), *Racism by Another Name: Black Students, Overrepresentation, and the Carceral State of Special Education*. Information Age Publishing.

### INVITED TALKS AND PANELS

The School Fuckin' Can't: A Black Parent Response to Special Education, University of California, Santa Barbara Special Education working group. February 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UCLA, Mind Medicine and Culture, presentation, Black Autism Parents; Race and Phenomenology. Spring 2018  
UC Graduate Research Advocacy Day: Winter 2018, Sacramento, CA

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 Disparitie

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, and ROUNDTABLES

Decorum and Niceness as Discourses of Not Giving a Fuck, Symposium: Political Ethos and Subjectivity: Engaging the Political Nature of Ecologies of Mind Society for Psychological Anthropology Bi-Annual Conference 2023

Conscious Conversation—Expert Panel Discussion, Special Needs Network, Annual Autism Conference, Spring 2022

In A Different Key: A True Story of Love, Difference, and The Fight to Belong, Timber Talks, Autism Action Partnership, Spring 2022

In A Different Key: A True Story of Love, Difference, and The Fight to Belong, Common Sense Festival, Autism Action Partnership, Spring 2022

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

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

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

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

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

American Anthropological Association, Panel Presentation, November 2019, The Struggle for Progress: Black Community Responses to Urban School Reform: 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, Dec. 2017  
African American Parent Language in White Clinical Spaces as Competing Forms of “Local Knowledge”: Whuppins not Spankings Create Disparities

“Gaming the System” as Strategic Mothering: African American Parents of Children with Autism Decision Making as Resistance to Intersection of Ableism and Racism.

#### GUEST LECTURES

New York University, Guest Lecture Department of Social Work, Sireen Irsheid PhD, MSW, BA Winter 2024

University of Southern California, Guest Lecture Department of Occupational Therapy, Spring 2023

University of Southern California, Guest Lecture Department of Anthropology, Emily Zeamer PhD, Spring 2023

University of Southern California, Guest Lecture Department of Narrative Medicine, Emily Zeamer PhD, Spring 2023

Creighton University, Guest Lecture Anthropology, Laura Heinemann PhD. MSW, Fall 2022

Creighton University, Guest Lecture Anthropology, Laura Heinemann PhD. MSW, Spring 2022

Creighton University, Guest Lecture Anthropology, Sabrina Danielsen, PhD Spring 2022

Creighton University, Guest Lecture Anthropology, Angela Lederach, PhD Spring 2022

Didactic Lecture, UCLA Semel Institute, Dr. Nicole McDonald, Winter 2022

University of Southern California, Department of Narrative Medicine, Dr. Cheryl Mattingly, Winter 2022

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

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

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

UCSB, Guest Lecture, Department of Education, Spring 2019

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

UCLA, Guest Lecture, Department of Anthropology, Fall 2018

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Creighton University, Guest Lecture Laura Heinemann Anthropology 363, Fall 2016

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Race, Disability, and Medicine; The Special Report, Areva Martin

See the Forest, Autism's First Child; Pod caste Summer 2022

African Americans and Autism, The Special Report; Areva Martin Spring 2022

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

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

African Americans and Autism; The Special Report, Areva Martin

In A Different Key: A True Story of Love, Difference, and The Fight to Belong.

Documentary appearance, <https://www.inadifferentkeythemovie.com/>

Produced by John Donvan and Caren Zucker

How Racism Impacts Black Kids with Autism: From the Clinic to the Classroom, SpeakUP United Parents, Blog

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2023      **Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Department of American Indian Studies  
Course: *Intro to American Indian Studies*
- Summer 2023      **Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Transfer Program.  
Course: Honors English Comp 101  
Instructor: Cheryl Wong Ph.D.
- Summer 2023      **Instructor of Record**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: *Culture and Society*
- Spring 2023      **Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: *Ethnography of LA: Visual Anthropology*  
Instructor: Jason De Leon Ph.D.
- Winter 2023      **Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: *Social Movements and Controlling Processes*  
Instructor: Seinenu Thein-Lemelson, Ph.D.
- Fall 2022      **Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: *Culture and Communication*  
Instructor: H. Samy Alim Ph.D.
- Spring 2022      **Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: *Psychological Anthropology*  
Instructor: Doug Hollan Ph.D.
- Winter 2022      **Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: Society and Genetics; Senior Thesis Project  
Instructor: Chris Kelty Ph.D.
- Fall 2021      **Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: Global Hip Hop and Social Justice  
Instructor: H. Samy Alim Ph.D.
- Spring 2021      **Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: Medical Anthropology  
Instructor: L. Garro Ph.D.
- Winter 2021      **Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow**  
University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology

Course: Society and Genetics; Senior Thesis Project  
Instructor: Chris Kelty Ph.D.

Fall 2020

***Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow***

University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: *Culture and Communication*  
Instructor: H. Samy Alim Ph.D.

Spring 2020

***Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow***

University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: *Psychological Anthropology*  
Instructor: Doug Hollan Ph.D.

Winter 2020

***Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow***

University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: *Psychological Anthropology*  
Instructor: Doug Hollan Ph.D.

Fall 2019

***Graduate Teaching Assistant; Teaching Fellow***

University of California, Los Angeles; Department of Anthropology  
Course: *Culture and Communication*  
Instructor: H. Samy Alim Ph.D.

Spring 2017

***Graduate Teaching Assistant***

Creighton University, Omaha NE: Department of Public Health and Policy  
Course: Public Policy of Health Care  
Instructor: State Rep. Sue Crawford Ph.D.

Fall 2016

***Graduate Teaching Assistant***

Creighton University, Omaha NE: Department of Peace and Justice Studies  
Course: Medical Anthropology  
Instructor: Laura Heinemann Ph.D.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022 - 2023

**Graduate Student Research Assistant**

UCLA Hip Hop Institute, Hip Hop High School-to-Higher Education Pipeline

2021 – Current

Diversity in Research Working Group, UCLA CART

2020 – Current

**Graduate Student Research Assistant**

Hip Hop Studies Working Group, UCLA Bunche Center

2019 – 2022

Graduate Student Research Assistant,  
Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy Research Project

## REFERENCES

H. Samy Alim Ph.D. UCLA Department of Anthropology, Dissertation Chair  
Email: halim@ucla.edu

Douglas Hollan Ph.D. UCLA Department of Anthropology, Dissertation Committee

Email: dhollan@anthro.ucla.edu

Cheryl Mattingly Ph.D. USC Department of Anthropology, Dissertation Committee  
Email: mattingl@usc.edu

Helena Hansen M.D. Ph.D. UCLA interim chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, interim director of the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, associate director of UCLA's Center for Social Medicine. Dissertation Committee  
Email: HHansen@mednet.ucla.edu

Nicole McDonald Ph.D. UCLA Semel Institute, Dissertation Committee  
Email: NMcdonald@mednet.ucla.edu