

RUTH NICOLE BROWN, PH.D.

Gender and Women's Studies
Education Policy, Organization and Leadership
Associate Professor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Contact

Gender and Women's Studies Office: 333.2990
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Email: rnbrown@illinois.edu
1205 W. Nevada Street
Urbana, IL 61820

Educational Background

PhD., Political Science, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, 2005
 Certificate in Gender and Women's Studies
 Certificate in World Performance Studies
M.A., Political Science, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, 2000
B.A., Honors in Political Science, University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign, 1998

Academic Appointments

Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2014- present
Department of Gender and Women's Studies (50%), Department of Education Policy,
Organization & Leadership (50%), Department of Theatre (0%), The Center for African Studies (0%),
Art + Design (0%)

Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2007- 2014
Department of Gender and Women's Studies (50%) Department of Education Policy, Organization &
Leadership (50%), Department of Theatre (0%), The Center for African Studies (0%)

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2006- 2007
Department of Gender and Women's Studies

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2005-2006
Department of African American Studies

Publications

Books

Ruth Nicole Brown, *Hear Our Truths: Performance and The Creative Potential of Black Girlhood*.
Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2013.

Ruth Nicole Brown, *Black Girlhood Celebration: Toward A Hip-Hop Feminist Pedagogy*. New
York, NY: Peter Lang, 2009.

Edited Volumes

Ruth Nicole Brown, Rozana Carducci, & Candace Kuby, (Eds.), *Disrupting Qualitative Inquiry: Possibilities & Tensions in Education Research*. New York, NY: Peter Lang, 2014.

Ruth Nicole Brown, & Chamara Kwakye, (Eds.), *Wish To Live: The Hip-Hop Feminist Pedagogy Reader*. New York, NY: Peter Lang, 2012.

Referred Articles

R.N. Brown and T. Denmead, Or Stay Home: A resource of self-preservation. In progress.

Brown, R.N., B. Smith, J. Robinson, and P. Garner. (in press) Doing Digital Wrong: A Sound and Creative Praxis of Black Girlhood. *American Quarterly*.

Denmead, T. and R. N. Brown, (2014). Ride or die: An instructional resource. *Art Education*, Vol. 67 Issue 6, 47-53.

Brown, R.N., (October 2014). Teaching love: Teaching the power of the word. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*. 27: 7, 943-945.

Brown, R. N., & Peters, M. (2010). Political philosophy of theatre: The experience of Avant-garde and Black Theatre. *Linguistic and Philosophical Investigations*, 9, 17-35.

Brown, R. N. (2007). Speaking free and fully: The political significance of Black girls' way with words. *International Journal of African Studies*, 13(1), 83-98.

Brown, R. N. (2006). Persephone's triumph: Reflections of a young Black woman becoming a real political scientist. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 13(5), 650-659.

Brown, R. N. (2006). Mentoring on the borderlands: Creating empowering connections between adolescent girls and young women volunteers. *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge*, IV, 105-122.

Feldman, M. S., Sköldbberg, K., Brown, R. N., & Horner, D. (2004). Making sense of stories: A rhetorical approach to narrative analysis. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 14(2), 147-170.

Invited Book Chapters

Brown, R.N. (2015). A performative account of Black girlhood. In, T. Gosa and E. Nielson (Eds.), *The Hip Hop & Obama Reader*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Brown, R.N. (2015). A praise song for Johnnie. In, V.E. Evans-Winters and B. Love (Eds.), *Black Feminism in Education: Black Women Speak Back, Up, & Out*. New York, NY: Peter Lang Press.

Brown, R.N. (2014). She came at me wreckless! Wreckless theatrics as disruptive methodology. In, R.N. Brown, R. Carducci & C. Kuby (Eds.), *Disrupting Qualitative Inquiry: Possibilities and Tensions in Educational Research* (pp. 35-52). New York, NY: Peter Lang Press.

Brown, R.N. (2012). For Oya: I love myself dancing...and then again when I am boxed in and

overwhelmed. In R.N. Brown and C.J. Kwakye (Eds.), *Wish to Live: The Hip-hop Feminism Pedagogy Reader* (pp. 47-50). New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Reprints

Brown, R.N. Theorizing narrative discrepancies of Black girlhood from *Black Girlhood Celebration, Toward A Hip-Hop Feminist Pedagogy*. Reprinted in Sharon Mazzarella (Ed.), *Mediated Youth Reader*. New York, NY: Peter Lang Press. 2016.

Creative Works

Black Girl Genius Week (#BGGW16)

#BGGW16 was a week-long public campaign that made the celebration of Black girlhood visible and felt in our local community in collaboration with internationally known artist-scholars who are also invested in Black girls and the theorization of Black girlhood. Urbana-Champaign, IL. October 2016, February 2016, and November 2014.

Black Girlhood: The Mixtape Remix

A hip-hop inspired choreopoem that documents the everyday struggles and joys of Black girls. Lexington, KY. March 2011.

A Black Girl's Song and Black Gurls Hold It Down

These two theatrical performances were primarily created, written, and performed by Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths (SOLHOT) middle and high school participants. The performances were held at their respective public schools. Urbana-Champaign, IL. May 2011

Check-In!

Building on Shange's concept of the choreopoem, this performance engages reflective moments of doing and living Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths (SOLHOT) through song, poetry, and dance by SOLHOT participants. Independent Media Center. Urbana, IL. April 2010.

Necessary Truths: Reflections of African American Girlhood

Photography exhibit created in collaboration with Claudine Taaffe and African American middle school girls. Krannert Art Museum. Champaign, IL. February 2009.

The Rhythm, The Rhyme, and The Reason

Performance piece co-written and performed with Claudine Taaffe and Chamara J. Kwayke, first conceptualized at the 2008 National Women's Studies Association and later premiered at the University of Illinois Krannert Center for the Performance Arts (September 2008). A staged version of this performance piece was performed at Southern Connecticut State University. October 2008.

Endangered Black Girls

Play premiered at the University of Illinois Armory Theatre (March 2008) and was also staged at the University of Southern California, and Cornerstone Theatre in Los Angeles, CA. (October 2008). A revised version of the play was produced at the East African Theatre Festival in Addis Abba, Ethiopia. November 2008.

Grants (abbreviated)

2018	Black Girl Genius Week, The Whiting Foundation \$50,000.00
2018	Black Girl Nature, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Training in Digital Methods for Humanists Fellowship, UIUC, \$24,000.00
2018	Social Practice as Pedagogy, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Research Cluster grant (with Jennifer Bergmark and Jorge Lucero). UIUC \$2,500.00
2016	Black Girl Genius Week. Student Cultural Programming Fee (with Pasha Trotter). UIUC \$11,500.00
2016	Black Girl Genius Week. Student Cultural Programming Fee (with Porshe Garner and Jessica Robinson). UIUC \$10,000.00
2014	Black (Girl) Genius. Funding Initiative for Multiracial Democracy Program. UIUC \$18,350.00
2014	More Than Words: Engaging in Collective Training and Application of Social Justice (with Soo Ah Kwon, Tiffany Harris, and Lisa Ortiz). Focal Point, UIUC. \$18,760.00
2013	Hip-hop and Punk Feminisms: Genealogy, Theory, Performance (with Mimi Nguyen, Karen Flynn, Fiona Ngô). Campus Research Board. UIUC \$23,330.00
2013	Hip-hop and Punk Feminisms (with Mimi Nguyen, Karen Flynn, Fiona Ngô). Student Cultural Programs. UIUC \$6,440.00
2010-2011	Civic Commitment Task Force Office of the Chancellor. "Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths," \$15,000.00

Honors, Recognitions, and Outstanding Achievements (abbreviated)

2018-23	Conrad Humanities Scholar, Liberal Arts and Sciences, UIUC
2017	Hardie Conference Travel Award, College of Education, UIUC.
2016	International Women's Day Award, Women's Resource Center, UIUC.
2016	Black Women Rock! Award, Black Women Rock at UIUC.
2015	Award for Outstanding Faculty Award for Service In Education Policy, Organization and Leadership.
2013-2014	Mrs. Helen Corley Petit Award, UIUC
2013-2014	Illinois Program Research Humanities Fellowship, UIUC
2013	Invited to White House for White House Research Conference on Girls
2012	Award for Outstanding Faculty in Gender and Women's Studies, UIUC
2011	Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement, UIUC
2012	Award for Faculty Service in Education Policy, Organization and Leadership, UIUC

University Teaching (abbreviated)

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2005- present.

Graduate Seminars:

Critical Arts-Based Methodology

Revolutionary Acts Part I and II

First Year Proseminar

Black Feminisms

Black Girlhood Studies

Undergraduate Courses:

Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies
 Race, Gender, Power
 Identity and Difference
 Hip-Hop Feminisms
 Arts and Creativity (co-taught with Jorge Lucero)
 Time Travel As Creative Practice
 Black Women and Popular Culture

Student Advising and Mentoring

Dissertation committee work

Current students

Rachel Storm	Education Policy, UIUC	present, Chair
Tiffany Harris	Education Policy, UIUC	present, Chair
Taylor-Imani Linear	Education Policy, UIUC	present, Co-Chair
Tanisha King	Education Policy, UIUC	present, Chair
Leslie Morrow	Education Policy, UIUC	present, Chair
Saturnino Rodriguez	Education Policy, UIUC	present, member
Aja Reynolds	Education Policy, UIC	present, member
Deana Lewis	Education Policy, UIC	present, member
Pasha Trotter	Education Policy, UIUC	present, Chair
Blair Smith	Education Policy, Syracuse	present, member
Sheri Lewis	Education Policy, UIUC	present, Co-Chair

Completed students

Porshe Garner	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed, 2018, Chair
Angela Williams	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed, 2017, member
Terry Vaughan	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed, 2017, member
Gabriel Rodriguez	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed, 2017, member
Carolyn Randolph	Communications, UIUC	Completed 2016, member
Tammy Owens	American Studies, Minnesota	Completed 2016, member
Durell Callier	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2014, Chair
Claudine Taaffe	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2014, Chair
Michelle Flowers	Education, Loyola Marymount	Completed 2014, member
Elka Kazmierczak	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2014, member
Grenita Hall	Kinesiology, UIUC	Completed 2014, member
Dominique Hill	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2014, Chair
Cecilia Suarez	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2013, Co-chair
April Warren-Grice	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2013, Co-chair
Ivory Berry	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2013, Co-chair
Chamara Kwakye	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2010, Chair
Laura Galicia	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2009; member
Shuntay Adams	Education Policy, UIUC	Completed 2009; member

Invited Keynote Lectures (abbreviated)

2018	"Black Girl Genius: A Genealogy of Levitation". Brown University, Providence, RI.
2018	"I Want You To Know and Remember: Praise Play Rituals of Black Girlhood and the Life-Affirming Promises of Black Girl Forevers", Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA.

- 2017 “Pleasure... in Nine Verses”, Black Studies Conference, University of Missouri Columbia, MO.
- 2017 “Doing Digital Wrongly: Alternative Sonic Registers of Black Girlhood” and “The Asylum: A Performance Lecture featuring We Levitate”. University of California San Diego, CA.
- 2017 Global History of Black Girlhood Keynote Lecture. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
- 2017 Telephones, Our Land, and Black Girl Forever: A Public Lecture About SOLHOT. Brown University, Providence, RI.
- 2016 Producers of Knowledge and Agents of Change: Black Girls and Women in U.S. Society Conference Keynote Lecture. Providence College, Providence, RI.
- 2016 Winton Cornerstone Keynote Lecture. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2016 “Black Girl Genius: Thoughts on Creativity, Community Engagement, and (In) Justice.”. International Women’s Day Speaker. Hollins University. Roanoke, VA.

Invited Panelist (abbreviated)

- 2017 “Geographies of Justice” Sawyer Seminar. University of Illinois at Chicago. Chicago, IL.
- 2016 “Conversation Circles on Hip-Hop Literacies” and Plenary Artist Workshop. Hip-Hop Literacies Conference, Black Women and Girls Lives Matter. The Ohio State University. Columbus, Ohio.
- 2016 “University of Kentucky Black Women’s Conference”. Lexington, KY.
- 2016 “Black Girl Movement: A National Conference”. Columbia University. New York, NY.

University/Campus Service and Committees

- 2018 50th anniversary of Public Broadcasting Laboratory: 1968 University of Illinois Broadcast Screening event at the University of Illinois. Featured Performer.
- 2018 Campus Research Board Proposal Reviewer.
- 2018 Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Emerging Areas Task Force Committee.
- 2017 Women’s Resource Center Assistant Director Search Committee
- 2017-present Krannert Art Museum Director Search Committee.
- 2014-2016 Public Engagement Advisory Committee.
- 2016 Tenure and Promotion Review Committee member, University of Oklahoma.
- 2016 Tenure and Promotion Review Committee member, Syracuse University.
- 2009-11 FLAS Award Committee, Center for African Studies.
- 2009 Women’s Resource Center Opening, Invited Speaker, University of Illinois.
- 2009 Faculty Liaison for AP Summer Scholars Academy & AP Summer Institute Program. Collaboration between UIUC and Champaign Community Schools Unit District #4 consisting of 12-week summer academic and job placement academies that employed 175 minority and low-income students who met state and federal income criteria.
- 2009 Innvoices Theatre Program. Search Committee.
- 2008 Member of delegation responsible for creating memorandum of understanding between UIUC and Addis Ababa University.
- 2008-2010 Women’s Resource Center Advisory Committee.

- 2008 “Endangered Black Girls,” Invited Performance, University of Illinois, Women of Color Conference.
- 2008 “Black Girls and Women: Gender Roles,” Invited Speaker, University of Illinois, Women of Color Conference.
- 2007-2008 Mentor, McNair Scholars Program, Office of Minority Student Affairs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Gender and Women’s Studies Program/ LAS

- 2016- present Senate Representative
- 2016-present Executive Committee
- 2009-2015 Awards Committee
- 2007-2008 Programming Committee

Department of Educational Policy Studies/ COE

- 2018 Tenure and promotion committee member
- 2015-present Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Education Committee
- 2016- present Tenure and Promotion Review Committee
- 2014 Division of History, Philosophy, and Social-Cultural Foundations Chair, Elected position
- 2011 (Head) Review Committee
- 2009-2010 Advisory Committee
- 2009-11 College of Education Qualitative Inquiry Research Specialization Co-Chair.
- 2009-10 College of Education Diversity and Equity Working Group.
- 2008-2010 Member of Review Committee for the Bureau of Educational Research Endowment Awards.

Professional Affiliations

- ASAP/9 The Association For the Study of the Arts of the Present
- American Educational Research Association
- American Studies Association
- National Women’s Studies Association
- National Communications Association
- Imaging America