
WATUFANI M. POE

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Activist Media Tulane University of Louisiana, Department of Communication	January 2024 – Present
Core Affiliate Faculty Member Tulane University of Louisiana, Program in Africana Studies	January 2024 – Present
Core Faculty Member Tulane University of Louisiana, Stone Center for Latin American Studies	January 2024 – Present
Affiliate Faculty Member Tulane University of Louisiana, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program	August 2025 – Present
Assistant Professor of Language, Literacy, and Culture University of Pittsburgh, Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leading	2022 – 2023
Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for Humanistic Inquiry and Visiting Lecturer Amherst College, Department of Black Studies	2021 – 2022

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Brown University, Africana Studies	2015 – 2021
	Designated Emphasis: Studies in Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality Dissertation: <i>Resisting Fragmentation: The Radical Possibilities of Black LGBTQ+ Activism in Brazil and the United States</i> Committee: Keisha-Khan Perry (Chair), James Green, Anani Dzidzienyo, Geri Augusto, Marlon Bailey	
	University of São Paulo, Sociology - Visiting Fulbright Scholar	2019
	Federal University of Minas Gerais, Political Science - Visiting Fulbright Scholar	2019
	Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, History - Visiting Fulbright Scholar	2019
A.M.	Brown University, Africana Studies	2018
A.M.	Brown University, History	2018
	York University, Centre for Feminist Research and Sexuality Studies Program - Summer Institute in Sexuality Studies (SISS) Scholar	2017
B.A.	Swarthmore College	2009 - 2013
	<i>Major:</i> Africana Studies <i>Minor:</i> Latin American Studies	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Black Queer Studies, Afro-Latin America, History of Brazil, Black Feminist Ethnography, Qualitative methods, Social Movement Rhetoric, Transnational History, Gender and Sexuality, Pan-Africanism

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 "Making Black Queer Worlds: Black LGBTQ+ Parties in Brazil and the United States." *The Sociological Quarterly*, April, 1–25. doi:10.1080/00380253.2025.2483837.
- 2025 "Beyoncé as a Fulcrum for Black Queer Diaspora(s)," *Renaissance Reader* from Routledge Press (Under Review)
- 2023 "Representação vs. Representatividade: Analyzing Black LGBTQ+ Identity Politics in Brazil." *Women Gender and Families of Color* 10, no. 2 (2022): 156-178.
- 2023 "Black Gay Worldmaking of the Global 1980s: Brazil and the United States" *Revista Brasileira de Estudos da Homocultura*. <https://periodicoscientificos.ufmt.br/ojs/index.php/rebeh/article/view/14682/12262>
- 2023 "Homens Negros Amando Homens Negros: Militância Gay Negra dos Anos 1980 no Brasil e nos EUA" *Revista Brasileira de Estudos da Homocultura*. <https://periodicoscientificos.ufmt.br/ojs/index.php/rebeh/article/view/14682/12261>
- 2023 "Black Brazilian Media Producers and the Nomination of Marte Um," *Black Perspectives*. <https://www.aaihs.org/black-brazilian-media-producers-and-the-nomination-of-marte-um/>
- 2021 "A Quare Eye to Slavery: Black Homoerotic Encounters in Brazil and Cuba," in *Appealing Because He Is Appalling: Black Masculinities, Colonialism, and Erotic Racism*. University of Alberta, 2021.
- 2017 "Review of *Sex Tourism in Bahia: Ambiguous Entanglements*, by Erica Lorraine Williams," *Souls*, 19:1, 111-113, DOI: [10.1080/10999949.2017.1268808](https://doi.org/10.1080/10999949.2017.1268808)

MONOGRAPH (In progress)

- 2026 *Against Fragmentation: Hemispheric Reflections of Black Queer Worldmaking in Brazil and the United States* (Under Review at University of California Press)

WORKS IN PREPARATION

- 2026 Guest Editor for Special Issue, "Investing in Black Queer/Trans Futures," *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*. Co-editors Jallicia Jolly and Paul Joseph López Oro. (Forthcoming Fall 2027)
- 2026 "Black Queer Futures: The Black LGBTQ+ Artist Imaginary in Brazil and the United States" (In Progress)
- 2026 "Black Queer Intimacy as Racial Democracy's Refusal" (In Progress)

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Career Enhancement Fellowship, Institute for Citizens and Scholars	2027
Finalist, Fulbright Scholar Brazil	2026
National Endowment for the Humanities Institute Participant, San Diego State University	2022
Faculty of Color Working Group Mentee, New England Humanities Council	2021-2022
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College (Amherst, MA)	2021-2022
Alfred J. Hanna Distinguished Post-Doctoral Fellow, Rollins College (Winter Park, FL) – Declined	2021-2022
Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow, Haverford College (Haverford, PA) – Declined	2021-2022
Fellow, Fulbright U.S. Student Program (Brazil)	2018 - 2019
Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellow (Brazil), Social Sciences Research Council	2018 - 2019
Participant, Summer Institute in Sexuality Studies, York University	2017

Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Competition	2017
Grantee, Tinker Field Research Grant (Brazil), Tinker Foundation	2017
Grantee, Tinker Field Research Grant (Brazil), Tinker Foundation	2016
Associate Fellow, Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers, Phillips Academy (Andover, MA)	2014 - 2015

INTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Outstanding Faculty Service Award, Latin American Graduate Student Organization	2026
Maureen E Shea Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and Mentorship	2026
The Carol Lavin-Bernick Faculty Grantee, Tulane University (\$7500)	2026
Tulane University Council on Research International Travel Grant (\$1000)	2025
Tulane University Council on Research Fellowship (\$8800)	2025
Tulane University School of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Award (\$5000)	2025
Carol S. Levin Fund for Faculty Research and Creative Projects Award (\$1500)	2025
The Stone Center Committee on Faculty Professional Travel and Research Award (\$800)	2025
Center for Scholars Award, Tulane University (\$1000)	2024
The Carol Lavin-Bernick Faculty Grantee, Tulane University (\$9000)	2024
Faculty Collaborative Research Incubator Grantee, Center for Ethnic Studies, University of Pittsburgh (\$1200)	2022
Participant, Race @ Work, University of Pittsburgh	2022
Faculty Lecture Fund Grantee for “Manifesting Black Queer Futures Symposium,” Amherst College (\$12000)	2021
Fellow, Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Brown University (\$34000)	2020
Fellow, Open Graduate Education Program, Brown University (\$30000)	2017
Awardee, International Travel Award, Brown University Graduate School (\$800)	2017
Grantee, Joukowsky Summer Research Award, Brown University (\$800)	2017
Grantee, Joukowsky Summer Research Award, Brown University (\$1500)	2016
Awardee, International Travel Award, Brown University Graduate School (\$800)	2016
Grantee, James Green Fund Small Grant, Brazil Initiative at Brown University (\$2000)	2016 - 2017
Fellow, Tisch Fellowship, Brown University Graduate School (\$30000)	2015
Grantee, Summer Action Grant, Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility at Swarthmore College (\$1200)	2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, COMM 4812/COMM 6810 Ethnographies of the African Diaspora	Fall 2026
Instructor, COMM 4811 Social Movements on Screen (Tulane University)	Spring 2026
Instructor, COMM 4811 Afro-Latin American Feminism(s) (Tulane University)	Fall 2025
Instructor, COMM 4811/COMM 6810 Theorizing the Black Queer Americas (Tulane University)	Spring 2025
Instructor, COMM 3140 Cross-Cultural Analysis (Tulane University)	2024-2026
Instructor, Cultures, Knowledge Traditions, and Social Systems of Schooling I (University of Pittsburgh)	Spring 2023

Instructor, Special Topics: Black Queer Studies (University of Pittsburgh)	Fall 2022
Instructor, “For an Afro-Latin American Feminism:” A Freedom Seminar (University of Pittsburgh)	Fall 2022
Instructor, Theorizing the Black Queer Americas (Amherst College)	Spring 2022

INVITED TALKS

“Health, Science & Diaspora” Presented at ADS Knowledge & Action: Cultivating African Diaspora Studies, Grinnell College; New Orleans, LA	2026
“Black Translation as Stitching Together Diaspora(s)” Presented at the Symposium in Black Study, University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA	2025
“Queering Quilombismo: Representations of Non-Normative Black Families in Brazil” Presented at the Moving Media in the Americas Pre-Conference, Tulane University; New Orleans, LA	2025
“Geographies of Black Knowledge” Presented at the Practices of Freedom Series, University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA	2023
“The Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislative Landscape and the University Classroom” Presented at the Provost’s Diversity Institute for Faculty Development, University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA	2023
“Black Gay Worldmaking of the Global 1980s: Brazil and the United States of America” Presented at Simon Fraser University; Burnaby, BC, Canada	2023
“Serving LGBTQ+ Youth in Today’s Schools” Presented at the Durham Public School Board; Durham, NC	2023
“Visualizing Black Queer Freedom(s): The Black LGBTQ+ Artist Imaginary in Brazil and the United States” Presented at Tulane University; New Orleans, LA	2023
“The Creation of Brazil’s First Black Gay Organization” Presented at the From Slavery to Freedom Lab, Duke University; Durham, NC	2023
“Black LGBTQ+ Politics in Latin America” Presented at the Department of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, PA	2023
<i>Descendant</i> (2022) Film Screening and Study Session Co-facilitated at the Center for Urban Education, University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA	2023
“ <i>Adé-Dídú</i> : Lessons From Brazil’s First Black Gay Organization” Presented at the Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA	2022
“Resisting Fragmentation: Black LGBTQ+ Acts of Self and Community Making in Brazil” Presented at the Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College; Amherst, MA	2022
“Black Queer Geographies” Presented at the Department of Africana Studies, San Diego State University; San Diego, CA	2022
“Representação vs. Representatividade: Analyzing Black LGBTQ+ Identity Politics in Brazil” Presented at: Occidental College; Los Angeles, CA Duke University; Durham, NC The University of Toronto Center for Ethics; Toronto, ON, Canada	2021 2021 2020
“Papo Preto: A Crise do Coronavírus de uma Perspectiva Transnational Afro-Queer” Presented at the Federal University of Bahia; Salvador, BA	2020
Black Lives Matter in Brazil Presented at the Latin American Institute, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); Los Angeles, CA	2020

“Race, Racism and Resistance in Latin America” Presented at San Diego State University; San Diego, CA	2020
“Finding Space for the Bicha Preta: Black LGBTQ Activism in Brazil and the United States” Presented at: Federal University of Minas Gerais; Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil Federal University of Rio de Janeiro; Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil Federal University of Southern Bahia; Porto Seguro, BA, Brazil	2019 2019 2019
“Viadagens Cruzadas: Insurgências Negras e Desobediências Queers no Sul Globalizado” Presented at the Federal University of Reconcavo da Bahia, Cachoeira; BA, Brazil	2019
CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION	
“Translating Adé-Dúdú: Black Queer Diasporic Encounters” Presented at the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) Conference, Salvador, BA, Brazil	2026
“Black Queer Hauntings Roundtable” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Conference, New Orleans, LA	2025
“Representatividade: The Body Politics of Brazilian Federal Representative Erika Hilton” Presented at the National Women's Studies Association Conference, San Juan, PR	2025
“Making Black Queer Worlds: Black LGBTQ+ Parties in Brazil and the United States” Presented at the ASWAD 2025 Conference, St. Louis, MO	2025
“ <i>Cuir-ing</i> Quilombismo: Representations of Non-normative Black Brazilian Families in Film and Media” Presented at the Race and Media Symposium, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT	2025
“ <i>Cuir-ing</i> Quilombismo: Representations of Non-normative Black Brazilian Families in Film and Media” Presented at the Association for Black Anthropologists Conference, Dakar, Senegal	2025
“Author Meets the Readers: <i>Emergent Quilombos: Black Life and Hip-Hop in Brazil</i> ” Critic/Presenter, Panel at the National Association of Communication (NCA) Conference, New Orleans, LA	2024
“Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Memory in Brazil” Chair/Moderator, Panel at the XVII Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA), SDSU, San Diego, CA	2024
“Gender and Identity Panel” Chair/Moderator, Panel at the Representations of Afrolatinidad Conference, University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA	2023
“Bodies in Translation: Unsettling Genders and Sexualities in Latin America” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting; Seattle, WA	2022
“Gathering BlackSIDE: Liberatory Study and Practice of Black Sexuality, Intimacy, Desire, and Erotics” Co-Moderator, Experimental Session at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting; New Orleans, LA	2022
“Funding and the Future of Afrolatinidad” Moderator, Panel at Latinx Connect; Pittsburgh, PA	2022
“Traversing Diaspora: Global Black Queer Reflections” Presented at the Association of Black Sociologists; Chicago, IL	2022
“Situating Black Queer Geographies” Presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting; New York City, NY	2022
“Black Queer Intimacy as Racial Democracy’s Refusal” Presented at the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) Conference; Washington DC	2022
“Reorganizing Representation: The Black Trans Quilombismo of Erica Malunhinho” Presented at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting; San Juan, Puerto Rico	2021

“Meet the Authors: Appealing Because He Is Appalling: Black Masculinities, Colonialism, and Erotic Racism” Presented at the Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting	2021
“B(l)ack To My roots: Black Queer Diasporic Reclamation of Homeplace” Presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting; New Orleans, LA	2018
“Reading at the Intersections: Representations of Blackness in <i>O Lampião da Esquina</i> (1978-1981)” Presented at the Dialogues and Challenges in the Study of the African Diaspora in Latin America; Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	2017
“A Quare Eye to Slavery: Black Homoerotic Encounters in Brazil and Cuba” Presented at the Colloquium ¿Del otro la'o?: Perspectives on Queer Sexualities, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez; Puerto Rico	2016

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

MA Thesis Advisor, Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University MA Candidate: Jacqueline Amezcua	2026
MA Thesis Committee Member, Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University MA Candidate: Cyntoya McCall	2026
Honors Thesis Committee Member, Department of Communication, Tulane University MA Candidate: Emily Kreller	2026
Africana Studies Curriculum Committee Member, Tulane University	2025
Professor of Practice Review Committee Member, Tulane University	2026
Manuscript Reviewer, Feminist Pedagogy	2025
Manuscript Reviewer, Transforming Anthropology	2025
Carol S. Levin Award Committee Member, Tulane University	2024 – Present
Dissertation Committee Member, Federal University of Bahia Center for Ethnic Studies (CEAO), Salvador, Brazil PhD Candidate: Vinicius Zacarias	2024
Rainbow Network Faculty Member, Associação Brasileira dos Estudos da Trans-Homocultura (ABETH)	2024
Critical Cultural Studies Division Award Committee Member, National Communication Association (NCA)	2024
Manuscript Reviewer, International Journal of Cultural Studies	2024
Manuscript Reviewer, Sociological Perspectives	2024
Faculty Search Committee Member, Department of Communication, Tulane University	2024-2025
Editorial Board Member for <i>Revista Brasileira de Estudos da Homocultura</i> (REBEH)	2023-Present
Planning Committee Member, Freedom and Justice Gathering, University of Pittsburgh	2023
Freedom Studies Committee Member, University of Pittsburgh	2022-2023
Transforming Teacher Education Committee Member, University of Pittsburgh	2022-2023
Planning Committee Member, Black: Here and Now Conference, Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College	2023
Co-Organizer, Manifesting Black Queer Futures Series, Amherst College	2022
Black Genders and Sexualities Collective Member	2021-Present
Faculty Search Committee Member, Department of Teaching, Learning and Leading, University of Pittsburgh	2021-2022

Co-Organizer, Black Queer Geographies Sessions, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting	2018-2022
Co-Organizer, South of Queer Series, Brown University	2016 - 2017
Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Committee Member, Brown University	2016 – 2017

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

National Communication Association (NCA)

American Anthropology Association (AAA)

American Studies Association (ASA)

Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA)

Association of Black Sociologists (ABS)

Association for the Worldwide Study of the African Diaspora (ASWAD)

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)

LANGUAGES

English (fluent); Portuguese (fluent); Spanish (Proficient)