

**Nicole Dezrea Jenkins, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Howard University and a Visiting Professor at Harvard University. She is a qualitative researcher and urban ethnographer, incorporating intersectional and critical feminist frameworks to examine race, gender, labor, migration, and Black placemaking.

Her current book project, *CROWNed: Black Women's Entanglement with U.S. Institutions*, is under contract with Princeton University Press and is based on two years of ethnographic research in a Las Vegas African hair braiding salon. This work delves into the complexities of Black women's identity-making, interrogating how perceptions of nationhood and Black womanhood shape and sometimes hinder these processes. Her research extends the discourse on natural hair discrimination to a global scale, capturing the lived experiences of Black women worldwide who wear their natural hair. This project leverages AI tooling and was featured in the May 2024 issue of *Nature* magazine.

Jenkins' scholarship has been published in leading academic journals and presses, including *IGI Global*, *Issues of Race and Society*, *Taylor and Francis*, *Rutgers University Press*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, and the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. At Howard University, she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in *Ethnography*, *Theory*, *Poverty*, and the *Black Community*, mentoring students in community-centered, critical research that bridges scholarship and advocacy.