

Anita Plummer, Ph.D., is an associate professor of African Studies at Howard University. Currently, she is the [Associate Director of Research and Faculty Engagement](#) at the Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership. She is a co-convenor for the Africa-China Initiative's Research Working Group titled "Demand, Disruption, and Transformation: African Agency in Digital Geopolitics." Her research and teaching focus on African political economy, transnationalism, public diplomacy, and Sino-African relations. Before joining the faculty at Howard University, she taught International Studies at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia and she was also a Mellon post-doctoral fellow in the Cultures in Transnational Perspective Program and Visiting Assistant Professor of Global Studies and Political Science at the University of California Los Angeles. She was awarded a Carter G. Woodson Center Pre-doctoral fellowship at the University of Virginia, where she researched Mandarin language in Africa.

Her recent book *Kenya's Engagement with China: Discourse, Power, and Agency* (Michigan State University Press, 2023) investigates the tension between official Kenyan and Chinese state narratives and individual Kenyans' reactions to China's presence to provide insight into how everyday Kenyans exercise their political agency and change. Her articles on China's engagements in Africa have been published in the *National Political Science Review*, the *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, *Africa*, the *AfricaFocus Bulletin* and *Foreign Policy in Focus*.

In addition to her work in academia, Anita has a passion for activism, community organizing, and international solidarity. She has co-coordinated seminars to South Africa, Namibia, and Mozambique with students, teachers, and activists to dialogue on issues ranging from state-sanctioned violence/police brutality, liberation movements and unfinished social justice agendas. She has served as a coordinating committee member of the U.S. Africa Network and volunteered with the [American Friend's Service Committee](#). She was a past co-convenor of the [African Studies Association's Women's Caucus](#). She currently serves on the board of the [Environmental Investigation Agency](#).