

Msia Kibona Clark, PhD

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EDUCATION

- 2006 PhD: African Studies | Howard University
2001 MA: Comparative & Regional Studies: Africa | American University
1998 BA: Political Science | Johnson C. Smith University

TEACHING

- 2015- present Associate Professor, Department of African Studies, Howard University
2009-2015 Assistant Professor, Department of Pan African Studies, California State University, Los Angeles

PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP

I. Books

- 2018 *Hip Hop in Africa: Prophets of the City and Dustyfoot Philosophers*. Athens: Ohio University Press

II. Edited Books

- 2023 With Wunpini Fatimata Mohammed (co-editor). *African Women in Digital Spaces: Redefining Social Movements on the Continent and in the Diaspora*. Dar es Salaam: Mkuki na Nyota Publishers
2018 With Phiwokuhle Mnyandu and Loy Azalia (co-editors). *Pan African Spaces: Essays on Black Transnationalism*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Press
2014 With Mickie Mwanzia Koster (co-editor). *Hip Hop and Social Change in Africa: Ni Wakati*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Press

III. Special Issues

- 2024 Special issue: Vernacular Verses: Language, Identity and African Hip-Hop. *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, Volume 36, Issue 3
2022 With Jennifer Erie (co-editor). [Special Issue: Hip hop in South Africa](#). *Words Beats & Life: The Global Journal of Hip-Hop Culture*
2013 Special Issue. *Journal of Pan African Studies*

IV. Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2024 “Vernacular Verses: Language, Identity and African Hip-Hop”, *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, 36:3, 343-348, DOI:10.1080/13696815.2024.2351785
2023 [“Hip Hop studies as a model for anti-imperialist research in Africa”](#). *Contemporary Journal of African Studies*, 10 (2), 27-46
2023 [“Ghana”](#) (The Politics of Genre Classification). *Global Hip Hop Studies*, 3 (1 & 2), 71-78
2019 [“Hip-Hop and human rights in Africa”](#). *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*
2018 “Feminisms in African hip hop”. *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*, 17 (2), 383-400
2014 “The role of new and social media in Tanzanian hip hop production”. *Les Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines*, 216 (4), 1115-1136

- 2013 [“The struggle for authenticity and against commercialization in Tanzania”](#). *Journal of Pan African Studies*, 6 (3), 5-21
- 2012 [“Hip hop as social commentary in Accra and Dar es Salaam”](#). *African Studies Quarterly*, 13 (3), 23 – 36
- 2008 “Identity among first and second generation African immigrants in the United States”. *African Identities*, 6 (2), 169 – 181

V. Book Chapters

- 2025 “Femme de Combat”: Braggadocio, Feminism, Violence, and Sexuality of Hip Hop Women in Africa. In G. Rollefson (ed.) *Planet Rap: Global Hip Hop and Postcolonial Perspectives*. Cengage Gale.
- 2023 [“Decolonizing African Studies approaches to research on African women in Hip-Hop”](#). In Q. Williams and J. N. Singh (eds.) *Global Hip-hopography*. London: Palgrave Macmillan
- 2023 “Women, Hip Hop, and Social Discourse in South Africa”. In Asma Naeem (Ed.), *The culture: Hip-Hop & contemporary art in the 21st century* (pp. 108-111). Gregory R. Miller & Co./Baltimore Museum of Art/Saint Louis Art Museum
- 2022 With Nii Kotei Nikoi (co-author). “Studies of Gender and Popular Music in Africa”. In Simone Krüger Bridge (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Global Popular Music*. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190081379.013.53>
- 2020 “African Women Hip-Hop Artists Representing Transnational Identities: Y3 Fr3 Me Rebel”. In O. Yacob-Haliso and T. Falola (eds.) *The Palgrave Handbook of African Women's Studies*. Palgrave Macmillan
- 2019 “The contemporary African Diaspora”. In M. Azevedo (Ed), *Africana Studies: A Survey of Africa and the African Diaspora* (263-289). Durham: Carolina Academic Press
- 2018 “The evolution of a bicultural identity, in the shadows of Nyerere’s Pan Africanism”. In M.K. Clark, P. Mnyandu, L. Azalia (eds.), *Pan African Spaces: Essays on Black Transnationalism*. Lexington Press
- 2016 “A profile of five Ghana emcees”. In K. Konadu and C. Campbell (Eds), *The Ghana Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press
- 2014 “Gendered representations among Tanzanian female emcees”. In M.K. Clark and M. Koster (Eds), *Ni Wakati: Hip Hop and Social Change in Africa*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Press
- 2012 “Identity formation and integration among bicultural immigrant Blacks”. In J. A. Arthur, J. Takougang and T. Owusu (eds.), *Africans in Global Migration: Searching for Promised Lands* (pp. 45 - 66). Lanham, MD: Lexington Press
- 2009 “Questions of identity among African immigrants in America”. In I. Okpewho and N. Nzegwu (eds.), *The New African Diaspora* (pp. 255-270). Bloomington: Indiana University Press

VI. Digital Scholarship

- 2016-present Producer, Host, and Editor. *The Hip Hop African Podcast*. <https://hiphopafrican.com/the-hip-hop-african-podcast-2/>
- 2011-present Editor and Writer. *The Hip Hop African Blog*. <https://hiphopafrican.com/>
- 2011-present Content Creator and Editor. *The Hip Hop African YouTube Channel* <https://www.youtube.com/@HipHopAfrican>

VII. Book Reviews & Essays

- 2021 A Personal Tribute to Professor Wamba dia Wamba. *CODESRIA Bulletin* 1: 53
- 2021 [Hip hop and Pan Africanism: from Blitz the Ambassador to Beyoncé](#). *The Conversation*
- 2020 Leticia Kulwa Maganga and Junayna Al-Sheibani (authors). Rosebell Kagumire (co-editor). [Consent as a Necessary Cultural Virtue in Tanzania](#). *African Feminism*
- 2018 Beef. In T. Riggs (Ed), *St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture* (pp. 38-42). Farmington Hills, MI: St. James Press

VIII. Exhibits and Performances

- 2025 September *A scholarly walk through a century of our musical history with Dr. Msia Clark and DJ R WE ON THE AIR?! March On! Festival*. Washington, DC
- 2019 June *Music Lab: Writing Rap Verses with Msia Kibona Clark*. Apple Carnegie. Washington, DC
- 2017 September *Mfon: Women Photographers in the African Diaspora*. Brooklyn Arts Council
- 2015 March Group Exhibition. I'll Be Your Mirror. 1650 Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 March Group Exhibition. City Life. Nafasi Art Space, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

SELECT KEYNOTE LECTURES

- 2026 March Introduction to Hip Hop & Social Change in Africa. Winsor School, Boston MA.
- 2025 October "Hip Hop Women & Feminism in Africa". *Seminar on Global Hip Hop*. University of Oxford
- 2025 January "Dotun Ayobade's Queens of Afrobeat: Featuring Msia Kibona Clark & Chris Abani". Department of Performance Studies & The Department of Black Studies. Northwestern University.
- 2024 July "Algorithmic Resistance: Addressing Algorithmic Representational Harm Against African Women". *Digitalisation, AI and Feminist Futures Conference*. Maputo, Mozambique
- 2024 February Black History Month Keynote. "Hip Hop: A Shared History of Struggle and Resistance between Coloured South Africans & African Americans". Norfolk State University
- 2023 October "African Women in Digital Spaces: Redefining Social Movements on the Continent and in the Diaspora". *The African Studies Global Virtual Forum 2023–24*. University of Edinburgh
- 2023 June "Hip Hop, Afrobeats, and the Importance of Genre Classification". Keynote: Seminar Series Youth on the Move. *Lagos Studies Association*. University of Lagos (Nigeria)
- 2023 April "Hashtaging Activism: The Role of Social Media in Documenting African Women's Organizing". *Rethinking Print Culture, Media, Digital, and Oral History as Archive, Evidence, and Method*. Johns Hopkins University
- 2023 February "African Women in Digital Spaces: Redefining Social Movements on the Continent and in the Diaspora". Book talk roundtable at the University of Bayreuth
- 2022 February A John B. Slaughter Endowment Lecture: "Hip Hop and the African Diaspora". The University of Maryland College Park
- 2021 October "The Politics Around Race and Identity in South African Hip Hop". Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York
- 2019 March "Pan African Feminist Spaces in Hip Hop". Johnson C. Smith University
- 2019 February Eye on Africa Lecture Series: *Gender, Sexuality, and Hip Hop in Africa*. Michigan State University
- 2018 October A Curtis Wilson Lecture: "Hip Hop in Africa: Prophets of the City and Dustyfoot Philosophers". Cleveland State University
- 2018 May "Hip Hop in Africa". Smithsonian National Museum of African Art

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 June Roundtable Chair: Author Meets Readers: Engaging Nigerian Hip-Hop: Race, Knowledge, and the Poetics of Resistance by Tosin Gbogi. *Lagos Studies Association*. University of Lagos (Nigeria).
- 2026 June Roundtable Discussant: Engaging Nairobi Hip Hop Flow: Diasporic Blackness and Embodied Performance in the Underground by RaShelle R. Peck. *Lagos Studies Association*. University of Lagos (Nigeria).
- 2025 September Decolonizing Media Narratives on Africa. Colloquium Series. Institute for African Development (IAD), Cornell University.
- 2024 October Panelist: Hip Hop Culture as a Form of Healing. Centre for Education Rights and Transformation (CERT), University of Johannesburg
- 2024 August Roundtable: Rethinking Ways of Knowing Through Disobedient and Convivial Scholarship. African Studies Association of the UK conference. Oxford Brookes University.
- 2023 April Panelist: Hip-Hop Culture in College Students' Lives: What Do We Know about Hip Hop's Effectiveness in Building Bridges Between the Academy, Community, and Entertainment Industry? *Hey Young World: Hip-Hop Celebrates 50 Years!* 2nd Annual Hip Hop Studies Symposium. Virginia Union University
- 2022 April Panelist: Engaged Research in African Studies. *African Studies Association of Africa* conference. University of Cape Town
- 2021 November Panelist: Podcasting and Women in Africa. *African Women in Media 2021*. Virtual Conference
- 2021 May Panelist: Digital Innovation and the Future of Journalism. *Innovation Week Tanzania 2021*. Habari Hub: The Digital Journalism Innovation Ecosystem. Virtual Conference
- 2021 March Panelist: Feminist Translations. Paper presented: "Hashtags and Feminism: African Women and Activism in Social Media Spaces". *Global Africa Virtual Symposium: Translating Africa/Africa in Translation*. Rutgers University. Virtual Symposium
- 2020 November Panelist: Writing & Publishing in African Digital Humanities. *4th Princeton Annual Humanities Colloquium*. Princeton University. Virtual webinar
- 2020 October Panelist: *African Voices for Social Justice*. The Department of African and African American Studies and AFRAMER 188Z. Harvard University. Virtual Symposium
- 2018 December Plenary Speaker. *The Youth, Transformation and African Futures* during the Revisiting the 1958 All-African Peoples' Conference at the University of Ghana Legon
- 2018 November Songs & Hashtags: Language, Identity, and Protest in Tanzania. Georgetown University
- 2018 July Panelist on *African Fashion and Film: A Look at the Current and Future State of African Fashion* at the National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, DC
- 2017 October *The Politics of Respectability: Black Women in Popular Culture*. Paper presented at the African Studies Association of Africa conference in Accra, Ghana
- 2016 September *Representations of African Feminism in Hip Hop*. Guest panelist at the African Feminist Initiative at Penn State University in College Park
- 2015 June *Afropolitan Identities: Representations of African immigrant experiences in African hip hop*. Paper presented at the General Assembly for the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in Dakar, Senegal

SELECT MEDIA APPEARANCES & INTERVIEWS

- 2025 February Great Migrations: A People on the Move Episode 4 – "Coming to America". *PBS*

2024 April	世界サブカルチャー史 21世紀の地政学ヒップホップ編 (History of World Subculture: Geopolitics of the 21st Century Hip Hop Edition) for NHK
2023 Fall	2020s: Still Roaring As we celebrate hip-hop at 50, Howard reflects on the genre's current presence and its future potential. <i>Howard Magazine</i>
2023 August	Hip-Hop at 50: Women battle misogyny to send hip-hop spinning in a new direction. <i>Associated Press</i>
2023 August	Women Rap Artists a Driving Force as Hip-Hop Turns 50. <i>Public Radio International: The World</i>
2023 January	African Immigrant Stories: The Realities of JAPA - Episode 1. <i>Japa.Run Documentary</i>
2022 August	How Professors Are Making a Case for Hip-Hop in Academia, <i>OkayPlayer.com</i>
2021 October	Msia Kibona Clark on Hip Hop, Africa and Female Musical Ingenuity. <i>AMAKA</i>
2021 Spring	Podcasting on Africa: The Hip Hop African. <i>ASA News</i>
2019 February	<i>Africa Past & Present: The Podcast about African History, Culture, & Politics</i>
2018 September	<i>The Scholars</i> for UDC-TV
2018 July	<i>BBC Focus on Africa</i>
2018 May	<i>WPFW Africa Today</i>
2017 April	The podcast for African Hip Hop. <i>Africa is a Country</i>
2016 March	<i>Voice of America</i>

SELECT GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SPONSORED RESEARCH

2020-2023	Participant in African/Black Diaspora Studies Research Seminar. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
2019	Hip Hop in Africa Online Short Course. Center for African Studies, Howard University. \$10,000
2017	Summer Faculty Research Fellowship, Howard University. \$15,000
2016	Summer Faculty Research Fellowship, Howard University. \$10,000
2016	Academic Faculty Enhancement & Enrichment Program. Center for African Studies, Howard University. \$5,000
2013-14	Fulbright Scholar – Department of Fine and Performing Art, University of Dar es Salaam

AWARDS

2023	Outstanding Service. College of Arts & Sciences, Howard University
2021	Outstanding Scholarship. College of Arts & Sciences, Howard University
2019	Outstanding Community Service. The Association of Tanzanian Community (ATC)
2017	Outstanding Service. College of Arts & Sciences, Howard University

TEACHING INNOVATION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

New degree program: Hip Hop Studies Minor
 New course: Black Women & Popular Culture
 New course: Hip Hop and Popular Music in Africa

SERVICE

2024-2025	Editor-in-Chief, Words Beats & Life: The Global Journal of Hip-Hop Culture (public service)
2020- present	Editorial Board. Journal of African Cultural Studies (professional service)
2020-2024	Director of Graduate Studies, Department of African Studies (university service)

2019-present	Editorial Board, Global Hip Hop Studies (Journal) (professional service)
2018-2025	Board of Trustees, Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America (DICOTA) (public service)
2016-2025	Mentor. College of Mentors, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) (professional service)

SELECT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

2017-present	African Studies Association of Africa
2016- present	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)