

Anika M. Simpson

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

2004	Ph.D., University of Memphis (Philosophy)
2001	M.A., University of Memphis (Philosophy)
1996	M.Ed., The Ohio State University (Elementary Education)
1995	B.A., Spelman College (Philosophy), <i>magna cum laude</i>

Areas of Specialization

African-American Philosophy, Queer Theory, Feminist Philosophy, Continental Philosophy

Academic Appointments (Standing)

2026-Present	Professor, Department of Philosophy; Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy (2024-2026) Howard University, Washington, DC Courses Taught: Theories in Marriage Abolition, Black Women Philosophers
2004–2024	Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies (2010–2024); Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies (2004–2010) Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD Courses Taught: Contemporary Western Philosophy; Ethics and the Law; Ethics and Values; Ethics in Contemporary Society; Gender and Science; Introduction to Africana Philosophy; Introduction to Logic, Power, and Gender; Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies; Senior Seminar I & II; Senior Honors Thesis I & II; Understanding Feminist Theory

Academic Appointments (Visiting)

2020–2022	Visiting Scholar in Philosophy Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
2018–2020	Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies; McDowell Fellow in Philosophy and Social Policy (2018–2019), Faculty Fellow, Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars (2019–2020) American University, Washington, DC

Courses Taught: Do the Right Thing; Women's Voices Through Time; Contemporary Africana Philosophy (M.A.); Theories in Marriage Abolition (M.A.)

Administrative Experience

2024-Present	Chairperson, Department of Philosophy Howard University, Washington, DC
2023–2024	Chairperson, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD
2018–2019	Interim Director, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGST) Program American University, Washington, DC
2009–2018	Founding Coordinator, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGST) Program Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD

Grants

2024-2028	\$500,000, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, PI, "Black Queer Everything" Black Queer Everything invests in the development of burgeoning LGBTQ+ scholar-activists through interdisciplinary, humanities-focused learning opportunities that engage renowned faculty, community activists, and scholar-activists.
2021-2023	\$20,000 (sub-award), Henry Luce Foundation Funding provided by the Center for Religion and Cities at Morgan State University to seed the formation of Black Queer Everything through the convening of the inaugural Black Queer Everything Faculty Collective retreat.
2010	\$5000, Office of Faculty Development, Morgan State University, Summer Research Grant

Academic Publications

Monograph

1. *Single Black Mother: Queer Reflections on Marriage and Racial Justice*, NY: Oxford University Press (May 2025).

Academic Journal Articles and Book Chapters

1. "The Queering of African American Philosophy," *The Oxford Handbook of African American Philosophy*, edited by Timothy Golden, NY: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
2. "Marital Shade: Studies in Intersectional Invisibility," co-authored with Paul Taylor. *Philosophical Topics* 49, no.1 (2021): 45-59.
3. "Black Philosophy and the Erotic." *Black Scholar* 43, no. 4 (2013): 9–25.
4. "Race and Feminist Standpoint Theory." In *Convergences: Black Feminism and Continental Philosophy*, edited by Maria Davidson, Kathryn Gines, and Donna-Dale Marcano. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2010. 105-120.
5. "Situated Black Women's Voices in/on the Profession of Philosophy." *Hypatia* 23, no. 2 (2008): 155-189.
6. "Contradictions of Racism: Locke, Slavery, and the Two Treatises," co-authored with Robert Bernasconi. In *Race and Racism in Modern Philosophy*, edited by Andrew Valls. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2005. 89-107.
7. "Sartre's Ethics of the Oppressed," *Philosophy Today* 49 (Supplement) (2005): 105–109.

Reviews and Notes

1. Review of *Black Heretics, Black Prophets*, by Anthony Bogues, *CLR James Journal* 12, no. 4 (2006): 165–170.

Academic Presentations

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| 2026 | "Queering Africana Philosophy." Invited talk, Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. |
| 2026 | "Undoing Sexual Citizenship: A Black Queer Feminist Critique." Forthcoming invited talk, W.E.B. DuBois Center for the Study of the Black Experience, Bowie State University. |
| 2026 | "Marriage Abolition." Invited Book Talk, Center for Women, Gender & Global Leadership, Howard University. |
| 2025 | "Beyond Deviance: A Defense of Single Black Motherhood." Presented at the Department of Africana Studies, Oberlin College. |
| 2025 | "A Retrospective: Anita Allen and Black Feminism." Presented at Breaking Boundaries, Advancing Rights: A Celebration of Anita Allen's Scholarship and Leadership, University of Pennsylvania. |
| 2024 | "Marriage Abolition and the Politics of Single Black Motherhood." Presented at the Austin J. Fagothey, SJ Philosophy Conference, Santa Clara University. |
| 2023 | "The Future of the Black Family Roundtable." Presented at the Department of African & African-American Studies Speaker Series, Washington University in St. Louis. |
| 2021 | "Philosophy at HBCUs." Presented at the American Philosophical Association Conference, Eastern Division. |

- 2020 “The History and Philosophy of Black Lives Matter.” Presented to the Department of Philosophy, University of Memphis.
- 2020 “Black Liberation and Deviant Moralities.” Presented at the American Philosophical Association Conference, Central Division.
- 2019 “Black Feminism and Marriage Abolition.” Presented as the McDowell Lecture, American University.
- 2019 “Black Feminism and Marriage Abolition.” Presented at the Black Women Philosophers Conference, The Graduate Center at CUNY.
- 2018 “See(ing) Both Sides Like Chanel.” Presented at the Philosophy Colloquium, Morgan State University.
- 2013 “Recruiting and Retaining Black Philosophy Majors.” Presented at the American Philosophical Association Conference, Eastern Division.
- 2011 “Gender and Sexuality in Africana Philosophy.” Presented at the Articulating Africana Philosophy Conference, The Pennsylvania State University.
- 2008 “Anna Julia Cooper and Feminist Epistemology.” Presented at the College of Liberal Arts’ Honors Colloquium, Morgan State University.
- 2006 “‘Absolute Power and Authority Over His Negro Slaves’: Locke as an Architect of Chattel Slavery.” Presented at the American Philosophical Association Conference, Pacific Division.
- 2005 “Black Women in/and the Profession of Philosophy.” Presented at the American Philosophical Association Conference, Eastern Division.
- 2005 “Race, Gender, and the Production of Knowledge: Revisiting Anna Julia Cooper’s *A Voice from the South*.” Presented to the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, Oberlin College.
- 2005 “From the Gaze to Materiality: Race and Racism in Sartrean Ethics.” Presented at the California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race.
- 2005 “Acknowledging the Unacknowledged: Black Heretics, Black Prophets, and the Black Feminist Intellectual.” Presented at the Caribbean Philosophical Association Conference.
- 2005 “Reconstituting Group Constitution: The Politicization of Racial Group Formation in Sartre’s *Critique*.” Presented at the North American Sartre Society Conference.
- 2005 “‘A Woman Question and a Race Problem’: Anna Julia Cooper and Feminist Standpoint Theory.” Presented to the Department of Philosophy, LeMoyne College.

Awards, Distinctions, and Fellowships

- 2026 Selected Participant, Black Buddhism Faculty Workshop, Black Buddhism Faculty Project, Princeton University
- 2026 Dean’s Award for Outstanding Service, College of Arts and Sciences, Howard University
- 2024 Summer Scholar in Residence, Brown University
- 2023-2024 Breaking the M.O.L.D. (Mellon/Maryland Opportunities for Leadership Development) Fellow, University of Maryland Baltimore County, University of Maryland College Park, Morgan State University

2021	Summer Writing Institute Fellow, Morgan State University
2018	Benjamin Quarles Faculty Fellowship, Morgan State University
2018	Welmore Cook Award, Center for Black Equity
2010	Selected Participant, Women of Color Leadership Program, National Women's Studies Association

Gender and Queer Theory Consultancy

2021	"Building Bridges." Presented at Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.'s Leadership Conference.
2019	"Common Ground V: A Discussion of Religion and LGBTQ Inclusion in College Athletics." Held at the University of Texas, Austin.
2019	"Alliances in Action." Presented at Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.'s Leadership Conference.
2018	"Common Ground IV: A Discussion of Religion and LGBTQ Inclusion in College Athletics." Held at Brigham Young University.
2018	"Inclusion and Diversity: Handling the LGBTQ Conversation." Presented at Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.'s 68th Annual Boule.
2018	"Enhancing Cultural Competencies." Presented at Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.'s 57th Annual Biennial Boule.
2017	"Inclusion and Diversity: Handling the LGBTQ Conversation." Presented at Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.'s Leadership Conference.
2017	"Gender and Sexual Identities." Presented at Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.'s Leadership Conference.
2016	"Enhancing Cultural Competencies." Presented at the Directorate Meeting of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Professional Affiliations

American Philosophical Association
National Women's Studies Association
Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute

Department, College, and University Level Service

Co-Chair: Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Standard I Reaccreditation Working Group, Howard University (2025-2027); College of Arts and Sciences 2026-2031 Strategic Planning Task Force (2025-2026)

Faculty Advisor: Triota Women's Studies Honor Society, American University (2018–2020); Gender Studies Collective, Morgan State University (2017–2018); Philosophy Pre-Law Concentration, Morgan State University (2004–2010)

Committee Member: LGBTQA Presidential Advisory Council (co-chair), Morgan State University (2015–2018); University President's Budget Advisory Committee, Morgan State University (2015–2018); Philosophy and Religious Studies Hiring Committee (chair), Morgan State University (2013–2014); College of Liberal Arts' Promotion and Tenure Committee, Morgan State University (2012–2013)

Disciplinary and Professional Service

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy Editorial Board for African and African-American Philosophy (2026-present): Review and commission entries and coordinate on section development with co-editors

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division
Executive committee member (2019–2023): Serve in an advisory role in support of Eastern Division governance

Philosophy in an Inclusive Key (PIKSI)
Advisory board member (2017–2025): Review undergraduate applications and recommend students to attend the annual PIKSI–Rock Summer Institute that takes place at The Pennsylvania State University

Community Engagement

Yangti Yoga Retreat Center
Board Chair (2025-present): Maintain a pipeline of qualified candidates, establish and monitor policies, provide fiduciary oversight, and support fundraising efforts

National LGBTQ Task Force
Board Member (2018-2025; Board Co-Chair: 2021–2023): Maintain a pipeline of qualified candidates, establish and monitor policies, provide fiduciary oversight, evaluate executive director, and support fundraising efforts

District of Columbia Human Rights Commission
Commissioner (First term: 2017–2020; Second term: 2020–2023): Oversee the adjudication of private sector discrimination complaints brought under the District of Columbia Human Rights Act

Equality March for Unity and Pride
Co-chair (2017): Provided leadership with partner relations and fundraising strategies to plan and execute a grassroots march in Washington, DC, that drew 40,000 participants and led to 100+ solidarity marches nationally