



Michon A. Benson

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EDUCATION

- 2008** **Rice University, PhD.** African American Literature
Dissertation Committee: *Krista Comer, Alex Byrd, Caroline Levander*
- 2002** **Rice University M.A.** African American Literature
- 1999** **Texas Southern University, M.A.** Rhetoric and Composition
- 1995** **Texas Southern University, B.S.** English Education
- 1990** **University of Texas at Austin, B.A.** Sculpture

EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – Present** **Texas Southern University, Houston, TX**
Assistant Professor of English, African American Literature
Director of Graduate English Program
University Supervisor of Clinical Teaching
Faculty Senator for COABS
Faculty Liaison for the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
Editor of The Maroon Journal of Arts and Letters
- 2014 – 2017** **Texas Southern University, Houston, TX**
Visiting Professor of English
Summer of Student Success Supervisor
- 2010 – 2014** **WALIPP-TSU Preparatory Academy, Houston, TX**
Director of Schools
- 2008 – 2010** **Houston A+/YES Prep/Drew Academy, Houston, TX**
Principal Intern
RTI Coordinator
Assistant Principal
- 2000 – 2005** **Athletes for Art, Houston, TX**
Director of programming and community engagement
- 1999 – 2003** **University of Houston, Houston, TX**
Project GRAD Administrator
- 1991 – 1998** **Jack Yates High School, Houston, TX**
English, History, and Journalism Instructor
Chair of English Department
Faculty editor of the school newspaper
Tennis Coach

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS and APPOINTMENTS

[Visiting Scholar](#), Rutgers University Samuel Dewitt Proctor Institute of Leadership, Equity, and Justice
Howard Social Justice Consortium
PCRl Mentor, [Pre-College Research Institute](#)
Lambda Iota Tau English Honors Society
Curriculum Committee, Hermann Park Rotary Club

MEMBERSHIPS and APPOINTMENTS con't.

Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC)
National Council for Higher Education (NCHE)
College Language Association (CLA)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA)
Advisory Council of Community Artists' Collective (CAC) Association of
Curriculum Development (ACD)
Board member of MDI Prep
Advisory Council of Community Artists' Collective Association of Curriculum
Development National Education Association
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

AWARDS

- 2021 - 2025** Principal Investigator, Mellon Foundation Grant, Howard University Social Justice Consortium
- 2020 - 2024** QEP Grant for Faculty Engagement, Texas Southern University
- 2017** English Department Faculty of the Year, Texas Southern University
- 2013** Tre Magazine, Education Honoree, Houston, TX
- 2011** Women of Distinction Honoree, Houston, TX
- 2011** Presidential Fellowship, Rice University
- 1999** H-E-B Outstanding Scholars Award, Houston, Texas

PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES

- Feb. 2023** The Burning Featherbed: Zora Neale Hurston's Nihilism in "The Gilded Six Bits" Bethune Cookman
- June 2022** "The Legacy of Juneteenth" ENGIE North America International Speaker
- Feb. 2022** "Why Study Black History?" United Against Human Trafficking
- July 2021** "Arts Education: A 21st-Century Social Justice Issue" ASALH (virtual)
- Jan. 2021** Commentator, "Black Texas Writers," Texas State Historical Association (virtual)
- Oct. 2020** "Re-framing Black Art: A Matter of Social Justice," (Essay) Rutgers University
- Oct. 2020** Re-framing Black Art: A Matter of Social Justice: Panel Moderator, Rutgers University
- Jun. 2020** "Racism, Whiteness, and Privilege," Panelist, Rutgers University
- Dec. 2019** "Troubling the Waters: Hollywood's Revisionist History in 'Harriet'(2019)," Texas Southern University
- Aug. 2019** "Smashing Idols for the Culture" *The Maroon Journal of Arts and Letters*
- May 2019** Keynote Speaker, Thomas J. Freeman Honors College, Texas Southern University
- Mar. 2019** "Issues of the #MeToo Movement," TSU History Department
- Feb. 2019** Race and Privilege Panel Discussion, Texas Southern University
- Dec. 2018** An evaluation of the effect of graphene oxide on *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*
(Editor) *African Journal of Microbiology Research*
- Apr. 2018** Keynote Speaker, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Texas Southern University
- Nov. 2017** "Ebbs and Flows": The Challenge of Staying 'Woke' in Contemporary America," Texas Southern University

PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES

- Jul. 2016** "Angie Brown and the Matter of Black Lives" Foreword in Kossie-Chernyshev, Karen. *Angie Brown: A Jim Crow Romance*. Outskirts Press, 2016.
- May 2016** "Roots in the Readings: Facilitating Students' Success in the HBCU Classroom," CLA Presentation, Houston, TX
- May 2016** "Ways of Reading Lillian Horace Jones's *Recovering Five Generations Hence*," Texas Southern University
- Apr. 2015** Book Review of *SOS: Calling All Black People* (2014), College Language Association
- May 2013** "Fright and Flight: Why Historically African American Schools are 'Failing'," Houston, TX
- Oct. 2012** "Why Single-Gender Education?" National Association of Single-Gender Public Schools, Houston, TX
- Jan. 2010** "Creating Curriculum for the Adolescent Brain," Drew Academy Professional Development, Houston, TX
- Mar. 2009** "Assessing School Culture," Texas Alliance of Black Educators
- Apr. 2006** "The Legacy of Slave Narrative Tradition for Hip-Hop Narrative Forms," Lambda Iota Tau Induction Lecture
- Apr. 2005** "From the Ride-n-Tie to 'Ryde-or—Die': Neo-Slave Narratives in Hip-Hop Music and Film," Athens, GA
- Oct. 2003** "Teaching Hybrid English Courses at an HBCU," Montgomery, AL
- Apr. 2001** "Get Your Swerve On: Compulsory Heterosexuality in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*," Memphis, TN
- Oct. 2000** "Being and Becoming: A Phenomenological Approach to Toni Morrison's *Paradise*" Memphis, TN
- Mar. 2000** "Teaching Race and Ethnicity on Television," Chicago, IL
- Nov. 1998** "A Psychoanalytic Approach to Zora Neale Hurston's *Dust Tracks on the Road*," College Language Association

PENDING PUBLICATIONS

- Spring 2024** *Ethics and Aesthetics: The Social Politics of the Community Artists' Collective* part of the "Cultures of Resistance" series with University of South Carolina Press
- Fall 2023** *Athazagoraphobia: A Novella*