

Marya Thembi Mtshali, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Harvard Kennedy School
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Cambridge, MA 02138

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<https://scholar.harvard.edu/maryamtshali>

EDUCATION

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| Ph.D., Sociology, Boston College | 2019 |
| Dissertation: "Gray Matter: The Roles of Race, Gender, and Racialized Gender Ideologies in the Management of Racial Difference in Heterosexual Black/White Intimate Relationships" | |
| Committee: Zine Magubane (co-chair), C. Shawn McGuffey (co-chair), Martin Summers (History), Amy Steinbugler (Sociology, Dickinson College) | |
| Area Exams: Race, Class, Gender; Gender and Sexualities (Passed with Distinction) | |
| B.S., Sociology, Arizona State University | 2010 |
| Minor, Women and Gender Studies | |
| B.S., Marketing, Arizona State University | 2007 |

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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| Harvard Kennedy School, Shorenstein Center, Postdoctoral Research Fellow | 2021-Present |
| Harvard University, Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Lecturer | 2019-Present |
| Wellesley College, Department of Sociology, Visiting Lecturer | 2020-2021 |
| Clark University, Department of Sociology, Lecturer | 2020-2021 |

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Mtshali, Marya Thembi. (Forthcoming, 2023.) "'Racial Heterosexual Habitus" and Management of Racial Education Discussions within Black Female/White Male Romantic Relationships." *Sociological Forum*.

[Mtshali, Marya T. and Breanne Fahs. 2014. "Catherine Breillat's *Romance and Anatomy of Hell*: Subjectivity and the Gendering of Sexuality." *Women: A Cultural Review* 25 \(2\):](#)

[160-75.](#)

Articles Under Review

Mtshali, Marya T. The Role of “Racial Heterosexual Habitus” in Black-White Intimate Couples’ Management of Negative Public Interactions. *Meridians*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Mtshali, Marya T. (In)Visible Terrains: Racialized Heteronormativities in the World of Black-White Interracial Couples.

Articles in Preparation

Mtshali, Marya T. and Talia Berniker. “Bourdieu’s Habitus in Intersection.”

NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Research Reports

[Dodson, Lisa, Randy Albelda, Diana Salas Coronado, and Marya Mtshali. 2012. “How Youth are Put at Risk by Parents’ Low-Wage Jobs.” Boston: Center for Social Policy Publications, Paper 68.](#)

Mtshali, Marya, Craig Norberg-Bohm, Debra Robbin, and Toni K. Troop. 2011. “Young Men for Change: Be Part of the Solution in Ending Men’s Violence against Women.” Boston: Jane Doe, Inc.: Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.

Public Sociology Writing

[Mtshali, Marya T. 2021. “The Great Outdoors was Socially Engineered for White People.” The Nation.](#)

[Mtshali, Marya T. 2021. “White People in Interracial Relationships Understand Racism Better, Sure, but at What Cost to Black Partners?” Cosmopolitan.](#)

[Mtshali, Marya T. 2020. “How Medical Bias against Black People is Shaping Covid-19 Treatment and Care.” Vox.](#)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

2021-2023 Postdoctoral Research Fellow for The Technology and Social Change Project in the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School (\$180,000 for 2 years)

- Principal Investigator: Joan Donovan, PhD

February 2023

2022 Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate in Teaching Excellence (Spring)

2021 Bok Faculty Fellow at Harvard University Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning (Spring)

2021 Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate in Teaching Excellence (Spring)

2020 Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate in Teaching Excellence (Fall)

2019 Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate in Teaching Excellence (Spring)

2013 Honorable Mention for the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper for the American Sociological Association's Race, Gender and Class section

2013 Severyn T. Bruyn Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Social Economy and Social Justice, Boston College Sociology Department

2013 Summer Individual Research and Conference Grant, Boston College Graduate Student Association (Research)

2012 Spring Individual Research and Conference Grant, Boston College Graduate Student (Research and conference travel)

2011 Graduate Research Expense Grant, Boston College Sociology Department

2010-2015 Boston College Diversity Fellowship (\$100,000)

INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2021 "Women's Equality in the Era of Artificial Intelligence," Department of Science and Innovation, South African Government, and the South African Human Sciences Research Council (August)

2020 "Racism – A Public Health Crisis in America," America's Physician Groups webinar (July)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023 "Black TikTok Counterpublic: Black Content Creators' Use of TikTok to Construct and Disseminate Alternative American Political Epistemologies," *World Conference on Qualitative Research, Algarve, Portugal (January 25)*

Co-authors: Talia Berniker and Shreya Chaturvedi

2022 "Le sens pratique' within the 'matrix of domination': Intersectional Habitus & Black/White Couples Management of Race," *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA (August 9)*

2022 "So You Want to Talk about Race': Role of Racial Heteronormative Habitus in Black Female/White Male Couples' Conversations about Race," *Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (March 11)*

2019 "Cumbersome Conversations: The roles of race, gender, and racialized gender ideologies in racially educational discussions in heterosexual black/white intimate relationships," *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY (August 11)*

2013 "Race, Gender and Issues of Self-Disclosure for Black Female-White Male Intimate Couples"

Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, New York, NY (August 9)

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (March 22)

CAMPUS SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2022 "Black Love in America: A Conversation with Prof. Marya Mtshali," *Carrier House Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Team's Black History Month event, Harvard University (February)*

2021 "Black Voices & Visions: A Panel Discussion on Racial Reckoning, Justice & Healing," *Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Student Center & the W.E.B. Du Bois Society (February)*

2020 "Racial Justice, Scholarship, & Activism," *Harvard Summer School (July)*

2020 "Conversations about BGLTQ+ Folk & Queerness in the Black Community with Barbara Smith," *Hutchins Center for African & African-American Research and Harvard's Black Men's Forum (February)*

2019 "Gender, Race and Sexuality under Trump and Bolsonaro," Harvard Law School Brazilian Studies Association (April)

2019 "Let's Talk: Food & Fascinating Conversation with Professor Mtshali," Harvard College Women's Center (February)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Harvard University

Gender, Race, and Poverty in the United States (Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023)

Interracial Intimacy: Sex, Race, and Romance in the U.S. (Spring 2020, Fall 2020)

Race, Gender, and Youth Activism in the Struggle for Justice (Summer 2020)

Wellesley College

Doing Sociology Real World (Spring 2021)

Classical Sociological Theory (Fall 2020)

Clark University

Sociology of Gender (Spring 2021)

Myth-busting Poverty: Race, Gender & the Realities of Being Poor in the US (Fall 2020)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, The Consortium on Security, Gender, and Human Rights, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts (June - October 2012)

Research Assistant, Graduate School for Arts and Sciences, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts (July 2011 - May 2012)

Men's Initiative Intern, Jane Doe, Inc.: Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, Boston, Massachusetts (June - August 2011)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2023 Session Organizer & Presider for "Political Sociology, BIPOC Political Thought in the Post-Trump Era Session," *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Expected)*

2023 Presider for "Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research," *World Conference on Qualitative Research, Algarve, Portugal (January 27)*

February 2023

2022 Presider for "Microsociological Perspectives on Gender Inequality" Panel, *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA (August 6)*

2022 Conference Co-organizer, *Misinformation and Conspiracy within Communities of Color Conference*, Technology and Social Change Project, Shorenstein Center, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA (April 28-29)

2022 Judge; Harvard Culture Lab Innovation Fund Review Committee; Harvard Office for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging, Harvard University

2022 Moderator for "Values and Valuations" Panel, *True Costs of Misinformation Workshop*, Technology and Social Change Project, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA (March 9)

2022 Moderator for "Misinformation in Communities of Color" Networking Event, *True Costs of Misinformation Workshop*, Technology and Social Change Project, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA (March 9)

2022 Eugene R. Cummings Senior Thesis Prize Selection Committee Member, Harvard University

2021-2023 Advisory Board Member, Lemann Program on Creativity and Entrepreneurship, Harvard University

2021 Creator and Facilitator of Inclusive Teaching Week, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University

2020-2021 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Selection Committee Member, American Sociological Association's Race, Gender and Class section

2020-2021 Mentor for LGBTQ+ Mentorship Program, Wellesley College

2013-2014 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Selection Committee Member, American Sociological Association's Race, Gender and Class section

2012-2015 *SocialEyes* Undergraduate Sociology Journal Graduate Advisor, Boston College

2010-2011 Boston College Graduate Mentor for McNair Scholars Program

SELECTED COMMUNITY OUTREACH

February 2023

2021-2024 Board Member, Boston Bisexual Women's Network

2015-2016 Enroot (formerly Cambridge Community Services City Links Mentor)

2011-2013 Massachusetts Certified Rape Crisis Counselor, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center Hotline

MEDIA COVERAGE

2021

["Andy's favorite interview quotes of 2021," Columbus Live \(December\)](#)

["The Unbearable Whiteness of Camping," Fast Company \(November\)](#)

["Read the Marshall Project on police use of force against Black girls," Columbus Alive \(November\)](#)

["If you're a woman who can do math, you can do anything," South African Human Sciences Research Council \(September\)](#)

["Why Marriage is Still a Sexist Institution - and What We Can Do about It," USA Today \(July\)](#)

["Jill Biden's Tights and Why Society is Obsessed with What Older Women Wear," USA Today \(May\)](#)

["How Bots and Dead Accounts Helped Drive One Ma'Khia Bryant Narrative," Columbus Alive \(April\)](#)

["Guess who's coming to dinner," Harvard Gazette \(February\)](#)

2020

["It's Not Just Unfair, It's Inequitable," Shift Nursing \(September\)](#)

["Creating community in the virtual classroom," Harvard Gazette \(August\)](#)

["The other infectious diseases spreading in the shadow of the pandemic," Vox \(July\)](#)

["Why Asian and Black Americans continue to experience COVID-19-related discrimination – and what you can do about it," MarketWatch \(July\)](#)

["Medical bias: From pain pills to COVID-19, racial discrimination in health care festers," USA Today \(June\)](#)

["White privilege is real: Look at the coronavirus impact on Black America," Business Insider \(June\)](#)

["Experts call for White House to craft a plan for equal access to COVID-19 vaccine," National Journal \(June\)](#)

["The Coronavirus Files: The Health Divide, The Hunger Crisis & Reopening the Courts," USC Annenberg Center for Healthcare Journalism \(June\)](#)

["Gold Star Teaching Moves: Harvard undergraduates recognizing moments of teaching excellence," Harvard University Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning blog](#)

2013

["The Minimum Wage: A Children's Issue," First Focus on Children blog \(August\)](#)

2012

["Low-wage jobs take toll on families," Akron Beacon Journal \(December\)](#)

["Low-Wage Jobs Don't Just Harm Workers – They Harm Their Children," ThinkProgress \(December\)](#)

["Youth at risk from parents' low-wage jobs," United Press International \(November\)](#)

["How Children Subsidize 'Low, Low Prices,'" The New York Times \(November\)](#)

SELECTED NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Research Analyst, Fulcrum Research Group, Waltham, Massachusetts (June - Dec 2019)

Core Curriculum Administrator, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts (October 2015 – February 2016)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Internet Researchers

February 2023

American Sociological Association

Eastern Sociological Society

National Women's Studies Association

Harvard Gender and Sexuality Caucus

Feminist Research on Gender and Sexuality Group at Arizona State University

SOFTWARE

Atlas.ti, SPSS, Microsoft Office Suite, Canvas LMS, Moodle LMS, Poll Everywhere, Kialo, Google Drive Suite, Padlet, Wordpress, Scrivener