

TARA L. CONLEY, Ed.D.

Assistant Professor of Transmedia Storytelling
School of Communication and Media
Montclair State University
conleyt@montclair.edu | 973.655.3589
taralconley.org

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am an ethnographer and social media scholar with key interests in digital cultures, storytelling, race, feminism, and social movements.

EDUCATION

- Ed.D.** **Communication, Media, and Learning Technologies Design**
Teachers College, Columbia University, 2016.
- M.A.** **Women's Studies**, Texas Woman's University, 2008.
- B.A.** **English**, University of Houston, 2004. Magna Cum Laude.

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Conley, T.L. (in preparation). The cultural production of hashtags: Contemporary vernaculars of social organization and political protest

*Articles/Chapters (*indicates refereed publications).*

***Conley, T.L. (2019).** Black women and girls trending: A new(er) autohistoria-teoría. *This Bridge We Call Communication: Anzaldúan Approaches to Theory, Method, and Praxis*. Hernandez, L.H. and Guitierrez-Perez, R. (Eds). Lanham: Lexington Books.

***Conley, T.L. (2017).** Decoding black feminist hashtags as becoming. *The Black Scholar Journal: Black Code Studies Special Issue*, 47(3). Neal, M.A. and Johnson J.M. (Eds). New York: Routledge.

***Conley, T.L. (2017)**. Urban settings. The SAGE Encyclopedia of Out-of-School Learning: Volumes 1 and 2. Peppler, K. (Ed). Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.

***Conley, T.L., Vasudevan, L. (2017)**. Peer cultures. The SAGE Encyclopedia of Out-of-School Learning: Volumes 1 and 2. Peppler, K. (Ed). Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.

***Conley, T.L. (2014)**. From #RenishaMcbride to #RememberRenisha: Locating our stories and finding justice. In L. Portwood-Stacer & S. Berridge (Eds). *Feminist Media Studies*, Special Issue. London: Routledge.

*Vasudevan, L., Rodriguez Kerr, K., **Conley, T.L.**, Riina-Ferrie, J. (2015). Postmodernism and literacy studies. In K. Pahl & J. Rowsell (Eds). *The Routledge handbook of literacy studies*. London: Routledge.

Working Papers

Conley, T.L. How-to YouTube: Young people's multimodal approaches to DIY.

Conley, T.L. 'I use Facebook to better my life': A critical technocultural discourse analysis of social media use among disconnected youth of color.

Conley, T.L. LeBron James: A case study in transmedia authorship.

Conley, T.L. The cafe experiment: The place of race in networked publics.

Conley, T.L. Transmedia storytelling in the age of Black Panther: A critical perspective.

Conference/White Papers

Conley, T.L. (2015). "Will the police see my text?" Tracing mobilities of 'vulnerable' youth as sites to be (un)seen, *American Educational Research Association*, Chicago, Illinois.

Apollon, D., Ortega, N.L., **Conley, T. L.**, Weekes, M. (2014). Moving the race conversation forward: #MediaOnFerguson. (Issue Brief). New York, NY: Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation.

Interactive Media/Documentary Projects

Hashtag Genealogy. 2018.

Brackish: A Visual Ethnography of NOLA and Hurricane Katrina (brackishfilm.org). 2015.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Montclair State University.

Transmedia Projects, 2018-present. Guide students in developing transmedia and immersive storytelling projects and campaigns. Students explore perspectives from both the academic 'field' and commercial/non-commercial industry of Transmedia Storytelling.

Communication, Media, and Gender, 2018-present. Introduces students to the critical examination of how communication processes of socialization and media content exposure produce and circulate shared knowledge, representations, models, and expectations about gender.

Race, Ethnicity, and Media, 2019. Introduce students to critical theories of mass and social media and society with particular attention to the social construction of race and ethnicity.

Adjunct Instructor, New York University.

Principles of Professional Writing, 2017-present (online). Introduce students to critical practices of professional writing and develop students' skills for ethical, logical, structural, rhetorical, and grammatical dimensions of writing.

Qualitative Methods in Communication Research (Independent Study), 2017-present (online). Guide graduate students in professional writing through research design and methodological choices in pursuit of their individual research inquiries.

Directed Study, 2016-present (online). Guide graduate students in bringing theoretical learning to practical application in a supervised environment. This course offers a choice between an internship (where an organization sponsors/contracts a student in an authentic work experience) and a directed study case project (where a student participates in a case project designed by the course instructor that mimics a freelance work experience).

Business and Organizational Writing, 2016-present (online). Develops students' ability to communicate both within and outside of a business or other organization as both members and managers, including the ability to communicate ethically in the organization's voice.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Culture, Media, and Education, 2014-present (online). Examines the cultural implications of media and technologies for education by parking theoretical frameworks with case studies and other examples of empirical research.

Adjunct Instructor, The New School.

Women of Color Feminisms: Technologies of Thought & Action, 2015-present. Framing technology as the practical application of knowledge, this course considers how Women of Color Feminist thought and activism has invented and mobilize a wide range of technologies to provide a significant body of work toward social change.

Instructor, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Speech and Intercultural Communications (Pre-College Program), 2011-2014. Guide pre-college international students in examining interpersonal and speech communication principals as well as basic multimedia production skills.

Adjunct Instructor, Bronx Community College.

Interpersonal Communications, 2012-2013. Survey course to increase students' understanding and implementation of effective interpersonal communication behaviors and skills.

Teaching Assistant, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Youth, Multiliteracies, & Educational Justice I & II, 2014. Assisted teaching team with syllabus development, providing feedback to students, and taught a session on social media and civic engagement. Course examined the ways in which critical, digital, visual, and other literacies can provide positive social and academic experiences for vulnerable youth.

Youth, Media, & Educational Justice, 2013-2014. Assisted teaching team with syllabus development, providing feedback to students, and taught a session on visual storytelling and social media. Participatory learning seminar that provided an interdisciplinary approach to three areas of study: youth, media, and educational justice.

Ethnographic Methods in Educational Research: Dilemmas and New Directions, 2013. Assisted teaching team with syllabus development, providing feedback to students, and taught a session on ethnographic

filmmaking. Course guided students in conducting ethnographic methods in educational research.

Teaching of English in Diverse Social & Cultural Context, 2010-2011. Assisted teaching team with syllabus development and providing feedback to students, provided research assistant. Course examined how issues of gender, class, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation inform instructional goals, curriculum planning/implementation, and practices in the teaching of literature, language, and composition in English language arts classrooms.

Teaching Assistant, Barnard College, Columbia University.

Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies WMST V1001, 2011. Introduction survey course examining issues related to gender, sex, sexuality, and race in U.S.-American culture.

Teaching Assistant, Texas Woman's University.

Women-Images and Perspectives, WS 100, 2007-2008. Assisted teaching team with syllabus development and providing feedback to students. Survey course examining issues related to gender, sex, sexuality, and race in U.S.-American culture.

PRESENTATIONS

Hashtag Genealogies: A Black Feminist Project - *Invited Speaker.*

Center for Professional and Applied Ethics; University of North Carolina, Charlotte; March 2018.

Honoring Black Boys and Men in the Age of #BlackLivesMatter: Critically Conscious Reflections From Women Teachers, Teacher Educators, and School-Community Activists - *Symposium Chair.*

American Educational Research Association; April 2018.

Strategies for Racial Equity in Educational Technology - *Presenter.*

Reimagining Education: Teaching and Learning in Racially Diverse Schools; July 2016.

Race, Media, and Social Justice - *Invited panelist.*

4th Annual Screening Scholarship Media Festival on Race, Media, and Social Justice; April 2016.

Walk about school: A case study analyzing the walking interview using multimodal techniques. - *Lecture.*

Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference; February 2016.

Ethnography in Education Research Forum; February 2016.

Towards an anti-racist pedagogy in educational technology.

Cultural Studies Association Conference; May 2015.

Anti-racist practices for new movements in the classroom and beyond.

Race, Rights, and Responsibility Conference, New York University; May 2014.

Renisha McBride and transmedia storytelling.

Stanford University; February 2015.

Media mobilizing justice: Access, learning, and action in community-based settings with youth.

American Educational Research Association; April 2015.

Youth, social change and the media.

Online News Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois; September 2014.
(Invited panelist).

Method of madness: Ethnographically documenting participatory prototyping in design.

Ethnography Forum, University of Pennsylvania, February 2014.

At the intersections of media, arts, and social change: Community-based participatory research with court-involved youth.

Ethnography Forum, University of Pennsylvania; February 2014.

Possibilities of designing with and for underrepresented communities: A conversation about participation, court-involved youth, and humility.

Racial Literacy Roundtables, Teachers College Columbia University, October 2013.

Critical perspectives on feminism and activism in the third wave.

The National Communication Association; November 2012.

RELEVANT ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

January 2017 - Sept. 2017	Position: Postdoctoral Fellow <i>Civic Participation Project, Teachers College, Columbia University.</i> Co-researcher on re-entry and well-being ethnographic study.
December 2017 - Present	Position: Director of Research <i>Race Forward, The Center for Racial Justice Innovation.</i> Under the advisement of the Race Forward's Vice Present of Research, lead the research team in implementing short and long-term research projects that advance racial justice solutions in the United States.
March 2016 - Present	Position: Senior Research Associate <i>Race Forward, The Center for Racial Justice Innovation.</i> Conceptualize, plan, and implement short and long-term research projects that support the organization's mission to advance racial justice solutions in the United States.

AWARDS

<i>Dissertation Grant Award</i> Teachers, College, Columbia University.	\$6,250
<i>Minority Scholarships</i> Teachers College, Columbia University.	\$30,000
<i>Media Ideation Fellowship</i> Voqal Initiative.	\$12,000

CONSULTING

- Voqal** 2016
Fellowship Advisor
Provide ongoing support and mentorship to Voqal fellows creating innovative technologies for social change in social, civic, and academic or professional arenas.
- The Schott Foundation for Public Education** 2009-2015
Research consultant
Consulted on the strategic development of online communications for the foundation and its grantees.
- Beyond the Bricks Project** 2011-2014
Curriculum designer
Designed and consulted on the development of a media literacy literacy curriculum that serves young Black men and boys.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2018 Critical Code Studies Working Group, *General Member*.
- FemTechNet, *Advisory Board Member*.
- American Educational Research Association, *General Member*.
- Cultural Studies Association, *General Member*.
- Activist Millennials, *Advisory Board Member*.