

Biko Mandela Gray, PhD

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Syracuse University

Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, 2017-Present

University of Houston

Lecturer, Department of Religion, 2014-2016

EDUCATION

PhD Rice University, Department of Religion, 2017

Dissertation: “Enfleshing the Subject: Race and Religion in the Development of Subjectivity,” passed with distinction

MA Rice University, Department of Religion, 2013

Exams: History and Methods in Religious Studies
African American Religion
Philosophy of Religion and Continental Philosophy
History of the Body and the Concept of Race

MTS Vanderbilt Divinity School, 2010

BA Xavier University of Louisiana, 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Co-authored as part of the Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning Writing Collective, *Breaking Bread, Breaking Beats: Churches and Hip-Hop—A Basic Guide to Key Issues* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014).

Co-authored as part of the Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning Writing Collective, *Embodiment and Black Religion: Rethinking the Body in African American Religious Experience* (Equinox Publishing, 2017)

Book Chapters

“Show and Prove: Five Percenters and the Study of African American Esotericism,” in *There is a Mystery*, editors Margarita Guillory, Stephen Finley, and Hugh Page (Leiden: Brill Press, 2014).

“Bun B on Religion and Hip Hop: An Interview (by Biko Gray),” in *Religion in Hip Hop: Mapping the New Terrain*, ed. Anthony Pinn, Monica Miller, and Bernard “Bun B” Freeman (New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015)

Journal Articles

Co-authored with Stephen C. Finley, “God is a White Racist: Immanent Atheism as a Religious Response to Black Lives Matter and Antiblack State-Sanctioned Violence,” published as part of a Roundtable discussion in the *Journal of Africana Religions*, Vol. 3, No. 4 (2015), 443-453.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Wonder what God had in Mind? Exploring the Role of the Black Body in White Supremacy.” Public Lecture given at Louisiana State University’s Sociology Department. Louisiana State University, April 1, 2016.

“The Whole Procedure was Wrong, Alien: An Ontological Exploration of the Alien in Octavia Butler’s ‘Bloodchild.’” Presentation given at the *Alien Bodies* conference, Emory University, February 8-9, 2013.

“The New Esoteric God Flow: Five Percenters and the Study of African American Esotericism.” Presentation given at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2012.

“Selling Salvation: a Phenomenology of Kanye West’s ‘Jesus Walks’ in Light of the Quest for Complex Subjectivity.” Presentation given at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2011.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion, 2010-Present

SERVICE

Community Involvement

Mayor Sylvester Turner's Criminal Justice Transition Team, Houston, TX, January 2016

Core Member, Houston's Right to Justice Campaign, Houston, TX, July-December 2016

Mentor, KIPP Spirit, Houston TX, 2015-2016

Curriculum Chair and Executive Board Member, A. Philip Randolph Institute's Youth Leadership Development conference, 2012-2016