

SONNY KELLY

www.sonnykelly.com

EDUCATION

PhD, UNC Chapel Hill, North Carolina May 2020

Communication (Performance Studies), Advised by Renée Alexander Craft, PhD
Dissertation: *Pipelines to Pathways: Reframing & Reclaiming Black Youth Identities through Performance*

MA, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas, May 2008

Communication Studies, Advised by Alan Cirlin, PhD

BA, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, June 1998

International Relations Major/Economics Minor. Latin American Development

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- Instructor: *Intro to Interpersonal Communication, Public Speaking, and Success & Study Skills*, Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) (2020)
- Graduate Instructor: *Intro to Performance of Culture* (2019), *Intro to Performance* (2018), *Intro To Performing Literature*(2018), UNC Chapel Hill
- Teaching Assistant, *Intro to Interpersonal Communication*, UNC Chapel Hill (2017)
- Teaching Assistant, *Performing African American History*, UNC Chapel Hill (2017)
- Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Performance*, UNC Chapel Hill (2017)
- Teaching Assistant, *Intro to Organizational Communication*, UNC Chapel Hill (2016)
- Teaching Assistant, *Intro to Media Production*, UNC Chapel Hill (2016)
- Facilitator of Self-Expression Workshops and Public Performances for youth, Boomerang Youth, Inc., Chapel Hill, NC & Find-A-Friend, Fayetteville, NC (2015 – 2019)
- Facilitator of Interactive Theater, *Theater Delta*, Durham, NC (2015 - present)
- Adjunct Instructor, *Public Speaking*, Robeson Community College, NC (2015 – 2016)
- Adjunct Instructor, *Public Speaking*, FTCC (Aug., 2015 – 2016)
- Adjunct Instructor, *Fundamentals of Speech & Communication*, Northeast Lakeview College, San Antonio, TX (Aug., 2008 - Dec.2011)
- Teaching Assistant, *Business and Professional Communication* (2005), *Fundamentals of Oral Communication* (Fall, 2006), St. Mary's University, TX
- Part-Time Instructor, *English as a Second Language*, FTCC (Jun., 2003 - Aug., 2003)
- Adjunct Instructor, *Success and Study Skills*, FTCC (Jan., 2003 - Dec., 2003)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- *Addressing Educational Disparity with Digital Technology Distribution*, 2019 National Communication Association Annual Convention (NCA) (Elementary and Secondary Educ)
- *A Critical Race Theory Approach to Interpersonal Communication*, 2019 NCA Annual Convention (Interpersonal Communication Division) **Top Student Paper Award*
- *Autoethnographic Engagements: Surviving with/in Scholarship* (panelist), 2019 NCA Annual Convention (Performance Studies Division)
- *Performatively Unpacking the Race Talk*,
 - 2019 We Are Annual Let's Talk Racism Conference, Durham, NC
 - 2019 Black Communities Conference, Durham, NC
 - 2019 UNC Greensboro Free Speech Conference
- *The Talk* performed at the ACCelerate Conference 2018, on behalf of Innovate Carolina the National Museum of American History in Washington D.C.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

- *Trauma-Informed Performance-Based Intervention for Marginalized Youth*, 2018 NCA Annual Convention (Training and Development Division)
- *The Talk* performance at the 2018 NCA Annual Convention (African American Communication and Culture Division)
- *Aspiring Beyond the Achievement Gap: An Analytic Transformation in Education*, 2018 NCA Annual Convention (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Unit) **Top Paper Award*)
- *Reframing "The Talk": Aesthetics of Resisting Negative Biotropes of Black Youth* at the 2018 National Communication Association Annual Convention (Scholar to Scholar Unit)
- *Pipelines to Pathways: Empowering Marginalized Youth of Color Through Embodied Performance* at the Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration, Duke University, April, 2018
- *From Sidekicks to Superheroes: The Importance of Positive Black Protagonists in the Development of Self-Concept for Youth of Color* Post-film panel discussion for the film *Black Panther* at Marbles Museum, in collaboration with NC State University's African American Cultural Center, 2018
- *Pipelines to Pathways: Empowering Marginalized Youth of Color Through Embodied Performance* at the Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration, Duke University, 2018
- *The Power of Words: Storytelling for Non-Profits* at Action Pathways Annual Second Harvest Food Bank Partner Training, Fayetteville, NC, October, 2015
- *Winning the Dope Game: A Youth Workers' Guide to Combating the Draw of Sex, Drugs and Technology Among Teens* at the North Carolina Juvenile Services Agency Conference, Carolina Beach, NC. March 11, 2015

PUBLICATIONS

- **"The Talk: Crucial Conversations for Contemporary Kids of Color in the New South"** for publication in the Fall 2019 special issue of *Southern Cultures*, themed "Left/Right" in celebration of the journal's 25th anniversary.
- **"Mike Wiley is A Multi-Faceted Artist on a Mission for Social Change"** (November 2018) in *The Routledge Companion to African American Theatre and Performance*. Edited by Kathy A. Perkins, Sandra L. Richards, Renée Alexander Craft and Thomas F. DeFrantz.

RECOGNITIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

- *Cumberland County Misdemeanor Diversionary Arts Start* planning team, 2016
- *Fayetteville Urban Ministry, Find-A-Friend* Advisory Council since Aug. 2016
- *National Communication Association Student (Black Caucus)* 2015 - present
- *National Association of Black Storytellers*, 2015 – present

INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- UNC Chapel Hill, Department of Communication, *Sherrill-Pence Award for Applied/ Engaged Communication*, 2019
- UNC Chapel Hill College of Arts & Sciences *Lamplsey Graduate Fellowship*, 2018-2019
- UNC Chapel Hill Initiative for Minority Excellence, *Chancellor's Doctoral Candidacy Award*, 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Suzanne Levy Summer Research Fellowship*, 2018

INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS (Cont'd)

- UNC Chapel Hill *Humanities Professional Pathways Fellowship*, 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship*, 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Tanner Teaching Assistants Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching*, 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill Department of Communication *Martha Nell Hardy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching*.
- UNC Chapel Hill *Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Award for Undergrad Teaching*, 2017
- UNC Chapel Hill *The Maynard Adams Fellowship for Public Humanities Fellow*, 2017-2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Carolina Center for Public Service Community Engagement Fellow*, 2017
- UNC Chapel Hill *Institute of African Amer. Research Grad Student Summer Research Grant*, 2017
- UNC Chapel Hill *Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research Seed Grant*, summer 2016
- Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County *Regional Artist Project Grant*, 2016
- *FTCC Foundation, Inc. Award* for community performances 2016
- UNC Chapel Hill *Performing Arts Special Activity Grant*- community performance, 2015 – 2016
- UNC Chapel Hill *North Carolina Excellence Fellowship*, 2015 – 2016

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Communication Instructor, Fayetteville Technical Community College (2020 – present)

- Teach Interpersonal Communication, Public Speaking, and Success & Study Skills
- Head of curriculum enhancement for Interpersonal Communication course

Primary Investigator, My Life Matters Participatory Action Research(2016 – present)

- Facilitate six-week performance-based self-expression project for 30 - 50 youths
- Collaborate with youths in Photovoice, ethnography, and performance projects

Actor, Writer, Director, Storyteller, Public Speaker & Facilitator (1990 - present)

- Producer and facilitator of community/school/youth workshops and performances

Director of Operations & Programs, Fayetteville Urban Ministry (July 2012 -July 2015)

- Public speaker, advocate, and translator for non-profit industry and clients
- Trained, coached, and managed a staff of 13 employees and a budget of \$950,000

Director, Find-A-Friend, Fayetteville Urban Ministry (January 2012 – July 2012)

- Facilitated discussions, workshops and programming for marginalized youth
- Recruited and trained adult volunteers to become mentors and youth workers

Director, Children & Youth Council, New Creation Christian Fellowship (Sep 2009 –Dec 2011)

- Taught large groups of youth and young adults in character development and leadership through performance, lecture, and facilitated discussions

Healthcare Representative, Pfizer, Inc. (February 2006 – September 2009)

- Consistent excellent performance, recognized internationally for outstanding presentations

Admissions Counselor, St. Mary's University, TX (May 2005 – February 2006)

- Conducted recruitment and orientation campaigns in Mexico, TX, LA and GA

Coordinator, Governor's One-on-One, Fayetteville Urban (January 2003 – June 2004)

- Recruited, trained, equipped, and supervised over 40 volunteers to mentor at-risk youth

Air Force Intelligence Officer (August, 1998 - December, 2002)

- Instructed over 1,000 military personnel in safety, threats and current affairs
- Managed multiple personnel and research projects to enhance war fighters' awareness