

Royalti G. Richardson

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EDUCATION

2024-Present Doctorate of Philosophy - University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

2021 Bachelor of Arts - Connecticut College, New London, CT

Majors: Sociology and Africana Studies

2017 High School Diploma - George School, Newtown, PA

IB Certificate in Modern Dance

RESEARCH

Interest Areas

Erotic Sovereignty

Pleasure

Black Sexuality

Social Movements

Sex Work

Capitalism

Projects

2025 “You Ain’t Hear This From Me But...”: Sex Work, Gossip and Hoping for the Future in Color

2023 Black Women in Pornography Pursuing Erotic Sovereignty Through Individual and Community Action

2021 The African Body in Protest: A Comparative Study of Nigerian & Kenyan Women’s Resistance Throughout Colonialism

Presentations

2025 “You Ain’t Hear This From Me But...”: Sex Work, Gossip and Hoping for the Future in Color

I take up the practice of gossip as constructing a feminist archive of affective information, and expressing dissonance and resistance through feminized and racialized networks

2021 Mellon Mays Senior Presentation

Title: Breaking the Silence of Black Women’s Sexuality

2020 Mellon Mays Summer Writing and Research Training Program at UCLA

Title: Speak for Yourself: Black Women and Sex

2020 Mellon Mays Northeast Regional Conference

Title: Black Women and Sex: The Politics of WAP

Involvement

2021 Research Participant

The Big Sex Study. Candice Nicole, Ph.D. University of Kentucky

2024 Research Participant

Navigating the Academic Landscape: Exploring the Impact of Campus Racial Climates on Black Graduate Students (IRB-2024-1376)

Training

2020 Mellon Mays Summer Writing and Research Training Program at UCLA

Completed research used in an annotated bibliography
Attended workshops focused on the preparation of graduate school applications
Developed an academic resource network of graduate students and professors at UCLA

RELEVANT EXPERIENCES

2025 Graduate Student Respondent for the GWSS Undergraduate Research Colloquium

Graduate students offer remarks on the presentations and facilitate discussion on interdisciplinary topics to integrate into their research

2021 Mellon Mays GAP Year Training Program

Attended faculty-led workshops discussing different aspects of the graduate application
Expanded academic network and built strong relationships with peers
Gained valuable insight on making myself distinguishable in the application process

2020-2021 Ambassador, Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity

Presented, designed, and organized events for the student body, focusing on current social issues. Produced posters and other media to generate student engagement and involvement
Facilitated discussion between college faculty and CCSRE staff

2020 - 2021 Intern, Africana Studies Program

Assisted in curriculum revision
Audited existing coursework offerings
Documented student interests and expectations for the program

2013 A Better Chance Alumna

Preeminent resource for identifying, recruiting, and developing well-educated young people of color who are capable of assuming positions of leadership in American society

VOLUNTEER AND SERVICE WORK

2022 Sex Worker Outreach Project - Los Angeles (SWOP-LA)

Provided cash aid and sexual health products to sex workers in the downtown Los Angeles area

2017 Pokhara, Nepal (Senior Year Service Trip)

Assisted a rural community in rebuilding a schoolhouse

2012 Managua, Nicaragua (Independence Charter School Service Trip)

Assisted in building housing for homeless families in the community

AWARDS AND FUNDING

2021 The Audre Lorde Award

Given to the graduating senior in Africana Studies who best exemplifies the activism and

achievements of black lesbian feminist writer and teacher Audre Lorde (1934-1992).

A monetary award of \$150.

2021 Alpha Kappa Delta (ADK)

International Sociology Honors Society

2020 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's initiative to increase faculty diversity in higher education. Monthly Stipend of \$800.

2019/2021 Dean's High Honors

Based on a system of GPA thresholds.

For the academic year 2020-2021, the threshold for students was 3.84.

2017 - 2021 Thames Scholarship Recipient

Merit-based scholarship awarded to students who have demonstrated the highest levels of achievement during high school and promise continued achievement at Connecticut College.

Annual monetary amount ranges from \$15,000 to \$32,000.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

African Studies Association (ASA)

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Association of Black Sociologists (ABS)