

OPAL GAY (THEY/THEM)

Curriculum Vitae



EDUCATION

BA	Jacksonville State University, Sociology and Political Science Double Major, Summa Cum Laude	2019
MA	Georgia State University, Sociology	2022
Ph.D.	Georgia State University, Sociology	2025

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Department of Sociology, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (2021-2024)

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Jacksonville State University (2018)
Graduate Research Assistant, Georgia State University (2019-2024)
Graduate Editorial Fellowship, City and Community Journal. (2020).
Qualitative Interviewer, Southern Poverty Law Center Landscape Analysis (2022)
Policy Researcher, Black Futurist Group & Legal Action Center (2023-2024)
Fellow, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholar Fellowship Program.
(2021-2024).
Police Violence Policy Research Fellowship, The Southern Center for Human Rights. (2022-2023).
People's Response Fellow, The Movement for Black Lives (2024).
Senior Research Analyst, The Partnership for Southern Equity (2025-Present)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Gay, O. (expected Fall 2026). *Black Sheep: Stigma, Power, and Black Nonbinary Gender*. Lexington Books (Rowman & Littlefield).

Journal Articles

Gay, O., Deshotels, Tina H., and Forsyth, Craig J. (2019). "Performing Deviance in Front Stage Spaces: Prince Roger Nelson and the Boundary Fluidity of Masculinity." *Deviant Behavior*. 42(1), 1-17.

Gay, O., Hammer, Sam. and Ruel, Erin. (2020). "Examining the Relationship Between Institutionalized Racism and COVID-19." *City & Community*, 19: 523-530.

Oakley, D. Gay, O., Grant, J. and Ukpabi, I. (2022). "Introduction: Black Mecca Dilemmas: Prosperity, Political Power, and Poverty." *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 44(6), 785-792.

Gay, O., Farinu, Oluyemi T., Jackson, M. (2022). "'From All Sides': Online Black-Asian Reddit Communities Identify and Expand the Multiracial Microaggression Taxonomy." *Social Sciences*. 11: 168.

Gay, O., & Thomas, A. F. (2024). An Intersectional Analysis of Black Bisexual Men's Internalized Stigmas. *Journal of Bisexuality*, 1-36.

Gay, O. (2025). 'Black sheep supporting Black sheep': Black bisexual men (communal) coping with internalised stigma. *Psychology & Sexuality*, 1-23.

Manuscripts In Progress

Gay, O. (TBD). Examining Structural Stigma among Black Nonbinary Citizens. Under Review at *The International Journal of Transgender Health*.

Gay, O., & Thomas, A. F. (TBD) Intersectional Stigma within State Public Education Mandates. Accepted Invitation to Special Issue 'Reimagining Health Equity in the Face of State-Sanctioned Violence.' at *Frontiers in Public Health*.

Gay, O., & Thomas, L. (TBD) Black nonbinary adults online dating experiences: Insights for algorithmic policy. Accepted Invitation to Special Issue 'Black Sexuality & Intimacies in Online Spaces' *The Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*.

Book Chapters

Gay, O., Cannon, C. (2022). "Constructing 'Lawlessness': Exploring the Relationship Between Policy, Law Enforcement, and Urban Space" in Oakley, Deirdre, A. (Ed) *Alternative Urbanisms and Social Deviance*. Dubuque, IA: Great River Learning.

Oakley, D., Gay, O. (2022). "Conclusion: Embracing The Gap" in Oakley, Deirdre, A. (Ed) *Alternative Urbanisms and Social Deviance*. Dubuque, IA: Great River Learning.

Abernethy, D., Conville, M., Gay, O. (2024). "Selling the Dream of a United Atlanta: Atlanta United FC, Performative Community, and Inequality in Modern Atlanta." in Oakley, D. and Fraser, J (Eds). *Performative Urbanism(s) and Marginalization: The "Forged" Politics of Inclusion*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Gay, O. (2025). "Does Opal deserve to be a Dr.?" in Telfer, N. (Ed) *Our Doctoral Journey: A Collection of Black Women's Experiences*. Orlando, FL: Williams and King Publishers.

Book Reviews



Gay, O. and Oakley, D. (2022). "Diverging Space for Deviants: The Politics of Atlanta's Public Housing" by Akira Drake Rodriguez. Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press, 2021." *Journal of Urban Affairs*.

Encyclopedia Entries

Gay, O., Farinu, O.T.O., & Jackson, M.I. (2022). Multiracial Microaggression Taxonomy. In *MDPI Encyclopedia*. <https://encyclopedia.pub/entry/24020>

Gay, O., Lee, Jenna and Oakley, D. (2024). "Black Urban Housing in the United States." Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies, Oxford University Press.

White Papers

(2023). Atlanta Community Safety and Police Violence Report. The Southern Center for Human Rights.

(2023). Atlanta Harm Reduction Landscape Analysis. The Legal Action Center & Black Futurist Group.

(2025). Investigating Institutional Ownership in Atlanta's Housing Market. Partnership for Southern Equity.

Media

Gay, O. (2021). Interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution "Cancer Culture, In Context." The Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Gay, O. (2023). "Opinion: Reducing Police Violence Will Make Georgia Safer, Healthier." The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Gay, O. (2024) "Stop Cop City: The Social Movement Re-defining Community Safety." Black Life Everywhere Magazine.

Podcast

Connecting Our Roots (2024) - A podcast hosted by Opal Gay for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholars Program, featuring scholars' projects and achievements, community building, and the exploration of values-driven experiences in health policy research.

All episodes available below:

Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/4aFPNk8>

Apple: <https://apple.co/4an38OC>

Podcastle: <https://bit.ly/3VEczEJ>



PRESENTATIONS

Professional Presentations

(Panelist) Undergraduate Sociology Clubs: Activities, Successes, and Challenges
Midsouth Sociological Association in Chattanooga, Tennessee. 2017.

(Panelist) Elitism, Academic Jargon, and Optimizing Access to Sociological Knowledge
Midsouth Sociological Association in Jackson, Mississippi. 2019.

(Moderator) Navigating Graduate School: From Application to the Job Market
Midsouth Sociological Association Virtual Conference. 2020.

(Presenter) Utilizing Reddit Forum Data to Conduct Qualitative Research on Hidden and Under-explored Populations. *Midsouth Sociological Association Virtual Conference*. 2021.

(Panelist) The Future of The Urban Black Mecca. *The Urban Affairs Association Conference* in Washington D.C. 2022.

(Presenter) From All Sides': Online Black-Asian Reddit Communities Identify and Expand the Multiracial Microaggression Taxonomy. *Southern Sociological Society Conference* in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. 2023.

(Presenter) Reimagining public policy to advance health justice: Black feminist resistance and the policing alternatives and diversion initiative (PAD). *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting*. Atlanta, Georgia. 2023.

(Presenter) Black Bisexual Men's Intersectional Experiences. *Southern Sociological Society Conference* in New Orleans, Louisiana. 2024.

(Presenter) Reimagining public policy to advance health justice: Black feminist resistance and the policing alternatives and diversion initiative (PAD). *Southern Sociological Society Conference* in New Orleans, Louisiana. 2024.

(Presenter) Content analysis in intersectional mixed-methods research: Insights from my dissertation research on Black nonbinary adults. *Association of Black Sociologists* in Memphis, Tennessee. 2025.

Invited Talks

(Presenter) *Examining the Relationship Between Institutionalized Racism and COVID-19*. Georgia State University Sociology Departmental Brown Bag Presentation, Atlanta, Georgia. 2020.

(Panelist) *What is Allyship?* Georgia State University Alliance, Atlanta, Georgia. 2020.

(Guest Lecture) *Social Change and The Family*. Clark Atlanta University, Department of Education Atlanta, Georgia. 2022.

(Guest Talk) *Black Queer Ethics and Social Movements*. University of Texas College Democrats, Austin, Texas 2023.



(Guest Lecture) *Anti-trans policies in the United States*. Georgia State University, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Atlanta, Georgia. 2024.

(Guest Lecture) *White Supremacy, Prisons, and “Public Safety” in the United States*. Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia. 2025.

Community Education

(Lead Facilitator) Police Violence and Community Safety Town Hall Series (six town halls in total). *Southern Center for Human Rights*. Atlanta, Georgia.

AWARDS

Jacksonville State University Presidential Honors Award (2015-2019)
Georgia State University Conference Travel Award (2019)
Georgia State University, College of Arts and Sciences Merit Award Recipient (2022)
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Conference Travel Award (2022).
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Conference Travel Award (2024).
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Dissertation Award (2024).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Memberships

Zeta Phi Eta: Professional Communication Fraternity.
Pi Sigma Alpha: Professional Political Science Fraternity.
Alpha Kappa Delta: Professional Sociology Fraternity.
Midsouth Sociological Association Membership.
Abolitionist Public Health Student Network, Human Impact Partners.
Southern Sociological Society Membership
American Public Health Association Membership

Service

Committee Member, Midsouth Sociological Association Technology Committee (2020)
Social Chair, Georgia State University Sociology Student Government Association (2020-2021)
Reviewer, *The Journal of GLB Families* (2021)
Advisory Board, BLKHLTH (2024)

Trainings and Certifications

Mastering Online Teaching: Fundamentals of Online Course Design and Delivery Certificate, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Georgia State University (2020)
Teaching Sociology Internship Sequence, Department of Sociology at Georgia State University (2021)
Just Communities Accredited Practitioner, Partnership for Southern Equity (2025)
Health Policy Research Scholar Certificate of Completion, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2025)

