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# *Mikaila Brown, PhD*

FASHION ANTHROPOLOGIST

&

FASHION MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR

## PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT

I am a fashion anthropologist, who has built a brand around integrating my degree in Anthropology with over 4 years experience of running my own fashion line. I am committed to using my unconventional background to develop a pedagogy that encourages those preparing to work with and in the fashion industry to be more culturally aware.

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

**2005 - 2007**

Columbia University  
PhD in Anthropology & Education

**2002 - 2005**

Columbia University  
M.Phil in Anthropology & Education

**1996-2000**

University of Pennsylvania  
B.A. in Communications with a concentration in  
Culture Minor in Urban Education

**1996**

Goldsmith University, University of London  
Exchange program within the Communications  
and Media Department

## REFERENCES

**VAN DYK LEWIS**

Apparel Design, Cornell University  
vdl4@cornell.edu

**SARAH PORTWAY**

Fashion & Textiles, SUNY Oneonta  
sarah.portway@gmail.com

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**2018 - PRESENT**

Cornell University- Senior Lecturer  
+Fiber Science and Apparel Design  
(FSAD) Department

Courses Taught:

- Fashion Product Management (Fall 2018)
- Global Fashion Management (Fall 2018)

+ eCornell

FSAD Course Design:

- Intro to Fashion Management  
(Projected for Spring 2019)

**2015 - PRESENT**

The Common Thread Project-Founder & CEO  
+ Developing a travel and fashion brand that  
showcases local fashion trends through a cultural  
examination of a particular city or community.  
+ Offering a fashion tour series through AirBnB that  
highlights the deeper social and cultural meanings  
behind what local communities wear.

**2009-2015**

ALIAKIM FASHIONS INC.- Founder, CEO, Lead  
Designer

+ Developed a socially conscious fashion line,  
centered on raising awareness to societal issues  
around the world.

## **PRESENTATIONS & PANELS**

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE TO CREATIVITY,**

**SCHEDULED JUNE 2019**

Pixar Studios  
Guest Speaker

### **HAIR APPARENT: AN EXAMINATION OF THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND NATURAL HAIRSTYLE MOVEMENTS, PAST AND PRESENT, APRIL 2019**

Black Lives Conference  
CUNY Grad Center

### **BUILDING THE BUSINESS OF YOU, JANUARY 2019**

Les Femmes de Substance Annual Women's Retreat, Cornell University  
Workshop Facilitator

### **#FORTHECULTURE: NEW YORK CITY IN COMICS, JANUARY 2019**

Schomburg Black Comic Book Festival  
Panelist

### **THE PROBLEM OF CULTURAL APPROPRIATION ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES, OCTOBER 2018**

Intergroup Dialogue Project  
Cornell University  
Faculty Advisor

### **FASHION TRENDS THROUGH AN ANTHRO LENS, SEPTEMBER 2018**

Association for Students of Color  
Cornell University  
Faculty Talk

### **USING COMICS TO FOSTER CREATIVE AND CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, AUGUST 2018**

Teachers College, Columbia University  
Panelist

### **TECH AND SUSTAINABILITY PANEL, APRIL 2018**

Brooklyn Fashion Week  
Panelist

### **NEXT LEVEL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 2017**

LIM College  
Sustainability, Travel & Race  
Seminar Leader

### **FASHION THEN & NOW, OCTOBER 2017**

LIM College  
"Green is (Not) the New Black: The Role of Sustainable Fashion in Historically Black Communities"  
Presenter

### **FASHION & JUSTICE WORKSHOP, JULY 2017**

Parson School of Design  
Presenter

### **SLAVERY MADE PLAIN, JULY 2017**

Wall Street, New York  
Producer

### **HARLEM TECH WEEK, DIVERSITY STARTUP CONFERENCE, JUNE 2017**

WeWork Harlem  
Panelist

### **HOW TO LEVERAGE YOUR COMMUNITY TO CREATE, MAY 2017**

WeWork Brooklyn Commons  
Panelist

### **BLACK STYLE MATTERS PANEL, APRIL 2017**

Parsons School of Design  
Panel Organizer & Moderator

## **GUEST LECTURES**

"THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TO FUTURE FASHION PROFESSIONALS " FACULTY WORKSHOP, SCHEDULED-APRIL 2019  
SUNY Oneonta, Arts and Science Department

"DOLLARS & SENSE: THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TO THE FASHION INDUSTRY'S BOTTOM LINE ", SCHEDULED-APRIL 2019

SUNY Oneonta, Fashion and Textile Department

"EXAMINING THE THIN LINE BETWEEN CULTURAL INSPIRATION AND APPROPRIATION", FEBRUARY 2019

Graduate Studies Program, City University of New York, Fashion Studies Department

"THE REAL IMPACT OF CULTURAL APPROPRIATION ON THE FASHION INDUSTRY", FEBRUARY 2018

Montclair State University, Fashion Studies Department

**"FASHION POLICE: USING ANTHROPOLOGY TO NAVIGATE FASHION'S CULTURAL POLITICS", FEBRUARY 2018**

Cornell University, Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design

**INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

**The Common Thread Project**

+ **Conducting ethnographic research on the history, politics and culture behind local fashion trends**

- Atlanta, Georgia, 2018
- South Bronx, New York, 2017
- Harlem, New York, 2016

**Columbia University**

+ **Conducting ethnographic research on the migration experience of pre-retirement, middle-class returnees living in Kingston, centered on the effects of socioeconomic status and an intent to return on the development of self-perception and nationalism.**

-Kingston, Jamaica 2005-2009

**PUBLICATIONS**

**BUCKLEY,C., & CLARK H., FASHION AND EVERYDAY LIFE: LONDON AND NEW YORK, BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING, N.Y. SEPTEMBER 2017**

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**CARIBBEAN MIGRATION AND DIASPORA: CULTURES OF FREEDOM AND RESTRAINT, IAN RAND PUBLISHING, J.A., NOVEMBER 2008**

"The Importance of Intent: Understanding the Social Networks of Jamaican Migrants Educated Abroad."

**WADABEGEI, MAY 2005**

"Addressing 'Premigration Legacies and Immigrant Social Mobility': A Book Review.

**HTTP://WWW.LING.UPENN.EDU/~WLABOV/PAPER S, WITH W. LABOV, B. BAKER, S. BULLOCK, L. ROSS, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA, P.A., MAY 1998**

"A Graphic - Phonemic Analysis of the Reading Errors of Inner City Children."

**COMMITTEES**

- + African Studies Working Group (ASWG), Founding Member; Columbia University
- + Nation Building, NY Steering Committee Co-Chair; Columbia University and New York University
- + Institute of African Studies, TC Liaison; SIPA/Columbia University
- + Caribbean Scholars Association- New York, Member and Conference Organizing Committee
- + African Economic Forum (AEF), SIPA/ TC Liaison and Conference Organizing Committee
- + Black Student Network (BSN), Member; TC/Columbia University
- + Sisters Inspiring Sisters (SIS), Member; TC/Columbia University
- + Caribbean Studies Association, Member Jamaica Impact Inc. (JAMPACT), Member; New York Chapter
- + Black Student Network, Member, Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA)
- + Umoja Leadership Council, Member; UPENN
- + Caribbean American Student Association, President; UPENN

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

+ **KNOWLEDGE MATTERS, AN INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY INITIATIVE; CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

Ithaca, New York, 2018-2019

**EDITORSHIP**

- + TC Record, Peer Reviewer; Columbia University
- + Wadabegei, Book Reviewer
- + Transforming Anthropology, Peer Reviewer
- + Journal of Latin American Anthropology, Film Reviewer
- + Institute of African Studies Newsletter, Editor & Contributor; SIPA, Columbia University

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

**"HOW ONE WOMAN TURNED FASHION ANTHROPOLOGY INTO A CAREER", NOVEMBER 2018**

The Root

**"THE LEGACY OF HARLEM FASHION LIVES ON", AUGUST 2018**

Amsterdam News

"DOING IT FOR THE CULTURE! UNIQUE  
BLACK-OWNED NEW YORK CITY TOURIST  
EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE TO TRY ",

MARCH 2018

Essence Magazine

## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

Proficient in Microsoft Office, SPSS, Blackboard and  
Canva