

(954) 871-7293



*mikaila@tctproject.com*  
*www.tctproject.com*

# *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**

Fashion Management, 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 Department  
Courses Taught:

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

+ eCornell

Courses Designed:

- Intro to Fashion Management (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.  
+ Creating content that guides the fashion minded  
to see the deeper social and cultural meanings  
behind what they 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 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**

### **"EXAMINING THE THIN LINE BETWEEN CULTURAL INSPIRATION AND APPROPRIATION", SCHEDULED-MAY 2018**

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

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

Mountclair 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  
- South Bronx, New York, 2017  
- Harlem, New York, 2016

Columbia University  
+ Conducting ethnographic research focused on the migration experience of pre-retirement, middle class returnees back to Kingston, centering on the effects of socio-economic status and an intent to return on the development of self-perception and nationalism.  
- Kingston, Jamaica, 2005-2009

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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."

Wadabegai, May 2005  
"Addressing 'Premigration Legacies and  
Immigrant Social Mobility': A Book Review.

<http://www.ling.upenn.edu/~wlabov/Papers>.  
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

## **EDITORSHIP**

- + TC Record, Peer Reviewer; Columbia  
University
- + Wadabegai, 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 WOMEN 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 and Blackboard