



# Michon A. Benson

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## EDUCATION

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- 2008**      **Rice University, PhD.** African American Literature  
Dissertation Committee: *Krista Comer, Alex Byrd, Caroline Levander*
- 2002**      **Rice University M.A.** African American Literature
- 1999**      **Texas Southern University, M.A.** Rhetoric and Composition
- 1995**      **Texas Southern University, B.S.** English Education
- 1990**      **University of Texas at Austin, B.A.** Sculpture

## EXPERIENCE

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- 2018 – Present**      **Texas Southern University, Houston, TX**  
*Assistant Professor of English, African American Literature*  
*Director of Graduate English Program*  
*Tier-2 Faculty Lead*  
*University Supervisor of Clinical Teaching*  
*Faculty Senator for COABS*  
*Faculty Liaison for the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*  
*Editor of The Maroon Journal of Arts and Letters*  
*Tier-1 Faculty Curriculum Designer for Freshman Seminar 102*
- 2014 – 2017**      **Texas Southern University, Houston, TX**  
*Visiting Professor of English*  
*Summer of Student Success Supervisor*
- 2010 – 2014**      **WALIPP-TSU Preparatory Academy, Houston, TX**  
*Director of Schools*
- 2008 – 2010**      **Houston A+/YES Prep/Drew Academy, Houston, TX**  
*Principal Intern*  
*RTI Coordinator*  
*Assistant Principal*
- 2000 – 2005**      **Athletes for Art, Houston, TX**  
*Director of programming and community engagement*
- 1999 – 2003**      **University of Houston, Houston, TX**  
*Project GRAD Administrator*
- 1991 – 1998**      **Jack Yates High School, Houston, TX**  
*English, History, and Journalism Instructor*  
*Chair of English Department*  
*Faculty editor of the school newspaper*  
*Tennis Coach*

## MEMBERSHIPS and Appointments

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Golden Key International Honors Society  
[Visiting Scholar](#), Rutgers University Samuel Dewitt Proctor Institute of Leadership, Equity, and Justice  
Visiting Scholar, Howard Social Justice Consortium  
Mentor, [Pre-College Research Institute](#)  
Lambda Iota Tau English Honors Society

## MEMBERSHIPS and Appointments con't.

Board member of MDI Prep  
Advisory Council of Community Artists' Collective  
Association of Curriculum Development  
National Education Association  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

## AWARDS

**2021** Mellon Fellowship, Howard University Social Justice Consortium  
**2020** QEP Grant for Faculty Engagement, Texas Southern University  
**2017** English Department Faculty of the Year, Texas Southern University  
**2013** Tre Magazine, Education Honoree, Houston, TX  
**2011** Women of Distinction Honoree, Houston, TX  
**1999** Presidential Fellowship, Rice University  
**1998** H.E.B. Scholarship

## PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES

**June 2022** "The Legacy of Juneteenth" ENGIE North America International Speaker  
**Feb. 2022** "Why Study Black History?" United Against Human Trafficking  
**July 2021** "Arts Education: A 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Social Justice Issue" ASALH (virtual)  
**Jan. 2021** Commentator, "Black Texas Writers," Texas State Historical Association (virtual)  
**Oct. 2020** "Re-framing Black Art: A Matter of Social Justice," (Essay) Rutgers University  
**Oct. 2020** Re-framing Black Art: A Matter of Social Justice: Panel Moderator, Rutgers University  
**Jun. 2020** "Racism, Whiteness, and Privilege," Panelist, Rutgers University  
**Dec. 2019** "Troubling the Waters: Hollywood's Revisionist History in 'Harriet'(2019)," Texas Southern University  
**Aug. 2019** "Smashing Idols for the Culture" *The Maroon Journal of Arts and Letters*  
**May 2019** Keynote Speaker, Thomas J. Freeman Honors College, Texas Southern University  
**Mar. 2019** "Issues of the #MeToo Movement," TSU History Department  
**Feb. 2019** Race and Privilege Panel Discussion, Texas Southern University  
**Dec. 2018** An evaluation of the effect of graphene oxide on *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Editor) *African Journal of Microbiology Research*  
**Apr. 2018** Keynote Speaker, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Texas Southern University  
**Nov. 2017** "Ebbs and Flows": The Challenge of Staying 'Woke' in Contemporary America," Texas Southern University  
**Jul. 2016** "Angie Brown and the Matter of Black Lives" Foreword in Kossie-Chernyshev, Karen. *Angie Brown: A Jim Crow Romance*. Outskirts Press, 2016.  
**May 2016** "Roots in the Readings: Facilitating Students' Success in the HBCU Classroom," CLA Presentation, Houston, TX  
**May 2016** "Ways of Reading Lillian Horace Jones's *Recovering Five Generations Hence*," Texas Southern University  
**Apr. 2015** Book Review of *SOS: Calling All Black People* (2014), College Language Association  
**May 2013** "Fright and Flight: Why Historically African American Schools are 'Failing'," Houston, TX  
**Oct. 2012** "Why Single-Gender Education?" National Association of Single-Gender Public Schools, Houston, TX  
**Jan. 2010** "Creating Curriculum for the Adolescent Brain," Drew Academy Professional Development, Houston, TX  
**Mar. 2009** "Assessing School Culture," Texas Alliance of Black Educators  
**Apr. 2006** "The Legacy of Slave Narrative Tradition for Hip-Hop Narrative Forms," Lambda Iota Tau Induction Lecture  
**Apr. 2005** *From the Ride-n-Tie to 'Ryde-or—Die': Neo-Slave Narratives in Hip-Hop Music and Film*, Athens, GA  
**Oct. 2003** "Teaching Hybrid English Courses at an HBCU," Montgomery, AL

## PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES

- Apr. 2001** "Get Your Swerve On: Compulsory Heterosexuality in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*,"  
Memphis, TN
- Oct. 2000** "Being and Becoming: A Phenomenological Approach to Toni Morrison's *Paradise*"  
Memphis, TN
- Mar. 2000** "Teaching Race and Ethnicity on Television," Chicago, IL
- Nov. 1998** "A Psychoanalytic Approach to Zora Neale Hurston's *Dust Tracks on the Road*,"  
College Language Association

## PENDING PUBLICATIONS

- 2023** *Ethics and Aesthetics: The Social Politics of the Community Artists' Collective* part of the  
"Cultures of Resistance" series with University of South Carolina Press
- 2023** *Athazagoraphobia: A Novella*