

# Teigha Mae VanHester, PhD (she/they)

## Curriculum Vitae

Butler University  
4600 Sunset Blvd  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

4450 Heaney Ct  
Indianapolis, IN 46228  
tvanhester@butler.edu

### EDUCATION

PhD English Studies, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2022  
Illinois State University, Department of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**Dissertation Title:** "From Violent Inceptions to Unapologetic Existence: Theorizing the Griot of Defiant Sovereign in Black, Queer Femme Counter-storying and the Implications for Epistemic Liberation Using Pleasure Activism and Defiant Rhetorical Performance"

**Committee:** Dr. Katherine Ellison, Dr. Ela Przybyło, and Dr. Derek Sparby

MA International Education, 2013  
Concordia University - Irvine, Department of International Studies

**Thesis Title:** "The Sexual Behaviors, Comprehension, and Education of Chinese University Students in Zhenjiang, P.R.C."

**Advisor:** Alex English

BA Cultural Anthropology and East Asian Studies, 2011  
Central College, Department of Anthropology and East Asian Studies

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2022-present Assistant Professor, Butler University, Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

2021-2022 Affiliated Faculty, Bradley University, Department of Women and Gender Studies and Department of English

2014-2021 Adjunct Faculty, Illinois Central College, Department of Humanities

2012-2013 Visiting Professor, Zhenjiang University, Department of English and Media Studies

### PUBLICATIONS

VanHester, Teigha Mae. "Unleashing a Weapon of Sass Destruction: The Pageantry, Politics, and Pleasure of Effy." *Professional Wrestling Studies Journal*. (forthcoming 2025).

VanHester, Teigha Mae. "Finding the Lorde in Me: Using Lordean Counterstory to Thwart Bureaucratic Violence in Community-Based Literacy Projects." *Community Literacy Journal* 12, no. 2 (2024).

VanHester, Teigha Mae. "Love in Till's Casket." *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly* 50, no. 1 (2022): 163-164. doi:10.1353/wsq.2022.0011.

VanHester, Teigha Mae. "In a 90s Kind of World, I'm Glad I Got My Girls!: Living Single and One Fat, Black, Intellectual Queen's Quest to Bring Flavor to the Academy." *Rhetoric, Politics & Culture* 1, no. 1 (2021): 75-83. doi:10.1353/rhp.2021.0007.

VanHester, Teigha Mae.. "The Tale of the Fat, Beautiful, Black Butterfly: My COVID-19 Chrysalis and the Disruptive Potential of Cultivating Yoga Practices Emerging from Black Feminist Thought." *Race and Yoga* 6, no. 1 (2021): 9-15. doi.org/10.5070/R36152538

VanHester, Teigha Mae. "Say Her Name, Speak Her Truth." *The 33rd*. (2018).

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2021 Emerging Scholars Award, Coalition for Community Writing, Chicago, IL
- 2021 Ron Howell Excellence in Diversity Award, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL
- 2021 Digital Media and Composition Institute Cindy and Dickie Selfe Award, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2019 Writer-in-Residence, Conference for Community Writing, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 Scholars for the Dream Award, Conference for College Composition and Communication, Kansas City, MO

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2024 Women of Color Leadership Program, National Women's Studies Association
- 2023 Wilma Gibbs Fellowship, Indiana Humanities
- 2022 Center for Global Engagement, Global Initiatives Grant
- 2022 Office of Sponsored Programs, Equipment Fund
- 2021 Research Development Grant, Organization for Research on Women and Communication (OWRAC)
- 2021 Illinois State University Student Sustainability Project Grant, Illinois State University
- 2020 RISE Diversity Fellowship, National Association for Studies Abroad (NAFSA)
- 2019 GoAbroad.com Content Writing Fellowship
- 2019 *Forum Journal* Editorial Fellowship, National Council for Teaching English (NCTE)
- 2019 Graduate Research Network Grant, Computers and Writing

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- 2024 "ULI On Location - USA Olympic Swim Trials." *Urban Land Institute*. Indianapolis, IN: June 18.

2024 "Deep Waters: A Critical Conversation on Water Access, Equity, and Safety in Indianapolis." *Indiana Sports Corp - All Lanes Lead to Indy*. Indianapolis, IN: April 18.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 "Navigating with Nāmaka: Cultivating a Scholar-Activist Embodiment in the Unapologetic Undercurrents of Academia." *College Composition and Communication Conference*. Baltimore, MD: April 9-12.
- 2025 "Community Writing Mentor Workshopping Roundtable." *College Composition and Communication Conference*. Baltimore, MD: April 9-12.
- 2024 "(be)coming the Tides of Trouble: Strategies for Cultivating Scholar-Activism Committed to Wild Joy, Speculative Play, and Radical Healing." *National Women's Association Conference*. Detroit, MI: November 14-17.
- 2023 "'Notes from Generation Z Radical Abolitionist: Ending Neoliberal Violence, Betrayal, and Injustice on Campus.'" *National Women's Association Conference*. Baltimore, MD: October 26-29.
- 2023 "Reclaiming Our Spaces: Creating Abolitionist Feminist Ecologies to Radically Reimagine the Tenure Track." *National Women's Association Conference*. Baltimore, MD: October 26-29.
- 2023 "When do we begin building Acorn? How can we compose, archive, and prioritize a practice of unapologetic and authentic kinship? How does transforming strategies of solidarity/allyship/accompliceship to radical kinship cultivate strategies for love, joy, resistance, abolition, and liberation?". *Conference on Community Writing*. Denver, CO: October 11-15.
- 2022 "Defiantly Mapping Justice: Cartography as Liberatory Act to Address Readiness, Accessibility, and Empowerment in Composition Research and Pedagogy." *Conference for College Composition and Communication*. Chicago, IL: March 9-15.
- 2021 "From Untamed Anger to Abundance Assemblage: Using Anger in Writing to Create Ecotones for Unapologetic Existence." *Conference on Community Writing*. Washington DC: Online. October 21-23.
- 2019 "Sorry I'm Not Sorry: Using Disruptive Digital Narrative to Foster Student's Writer-Researcher Identity." *Computers and Writing Conference*. East Lansing, MI. June 20-22.
- 2019: "Spotlight Session: With Unapologetic Pride: A Performance of Disruptive Narrations of Marginalized Graduate Students in the Academy." *Conference for College Composition and Communication*. Pittsburgh, PA. March 16.
- 2018 "Wakanda Forever: Developing Community Identity Through Afrofuturist Lens." *Cultural Rhetoric Conference*. East Lansing, MI. November 16.

- 2018 "Afrofuturist as Digital Dominance in Online Literacy." *Watson Conference*. Louisville, KY. October 26.
- 2018 "Kickin' It Old School: A Call for Code-meshed Anti-Racist Writing Assessment Ecologies." *Conference for College Composition and Communication*. Kansas City, MO. March 14-17.

## CAMPUS TALKS

- 2024 "Books and Breakfast: *Loving Corrections* by adrienne maree brown." Indianapolis, *Butler Black Hub and MLK Center*. October 12.
- 2024 "Presidential Debate Panel." Indianapolis, *Butler DAWGS Vote*. September 10.
- 2024 "B\*A\*P\*S as Black Femme Millennial Intellectual Ancestry for Radical Imagination." Indianapolis, *Butler/RGSS Film Series*: Kan-Kan Theater. April 9.
- 2024 "Anti-Racist Pedagogy Lunch and Learn." *Faculty Professional Development*. Indianapolis, Butler University. March 4.
- 2021 "Becoming a Griot of the Diaspora." *One Book, One College*. East Peoria, Illinois Central College. February 5.
- 2018 "*The Alchemist*: A Beginning Path to Literary Adventure, Travel and Discovery." *One Book, One College*. East Peoria, Illinois Central College. April 4.
- 2018 "A Life Worth Writing." *Between the Lines*. East Peoria, Illinois Central College. April 3.
- 2017 "Lemonade: Womanist Relations." *The Lemonade Series*. East Peoria, Illinois Central College. March 15.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Butler University

- Critical Theories of Race and Racism (RGSS-302)
- Feminist and Queer Theory (RGSS-304)
- Hip-Hop Feminism: Poetry, Politics, and Pleasure (TI-274)
- Intersections of Identity (RGSS-201)
- Perspectives of Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (RGSS-100)
- Postcolonial Caribbean (GHS-202)
- Resistance for Social Change (RGSS-202)
- Rights and Resistance: Global Women (GHS-207)\*
- Senior Capstone: Discourse, Literacy, and Rhetoric of Pleasure (RGSS-405)
- Senior Capstone: Feminist Writing Praxis (RGSS-405)
- Undercurrents of Resistance: Counterstory and the US Territories (TI-275)

\* courses have been taught in person and online

### Bradley University

- Introduction to Hip-Hop Feminism (LAS 100)
- Introduction to Afrofuturist Feminism (LAS 100)
- Introduction to Women and Gender Studies (WGS 200)

## Illinois Central College

Beginning Composition I (ENGL 110)\*  
Advanced Composition II (ENGL 111)\*  
Chinese Culture and Society (INTST 132)\*  
Latin American Humanities (INTST 134)  
International Studies Global Issues (INTST 140)\*  
Introduction to Literature (LIT 110)  
Non-Western Literature (LIT 140)

\* courses have been taught in person and online

## Zhejiang University

Introduction to US Media and Culture (ENG-400)  
Advanced Oral English: Improvisation (ENG-500)

## DEPARTMENTAL & INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

2023-2024 Butler HUB for Black Affairs Advisory Board  
Hiring Committee - CtB Inaugural Dean

2023-present Humanities Senator, Faculty Senate

2022-present Steering Committee, Butler University - RGSS Program  
Faculty Advisor, PERIOD.  
Task Force Member, Butler CORE - Texts and Ideas

2022-2023 Co-Chair, Indigenous Initiatives/Advancement  
Committee Member, Parking Committee  
Contributor, Transformation Lab - Come to Believe Initiative Grant

2019-2021 Co-Chair, Global Learning Joint Advisory Committee, Illinois Central College

2020 Hiring Committee, Director of Athletics, Illinois Central College

2019 Risk Management, Faculty-Led Study Abroad, South Africa, Monmouth College

2017-2019 Chair, ACE Comprehensive Internationalization Lab Initiative, Monmouth College

2017-2019 Advisor, H.E.R. Women's Empowerment Student Organization, Monmouth College

2016-2017 Member, Six Sigma Committee: Placement Testing Practices, Illinois Central College

2014-2021 Chair, ESL Curriculum Revision and International Student Retention, Illinois Central College

2014-2021 Member, Intercultural Diversity Committee, Illinois Central College

2014-2021 Advisor, International Friendships Club Student Organization, Illinois Central College

2014-2017 Member, Committee for Minority Student Retention, Illinois Central College

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2024-present Board Member Candidate, SeaScope  
Volunteer, Friends of the White River

2021- 2022 Member, Peoria Guild of Black Artist

2020- 2022 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Peoria County  
2018-2019 Volunteer Faculty, Hill Correctional Institution (Pending Reopening)

### **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

2024-present Co-Faculty Director, Butler Hub for Black Affairs and Community Engagement,  
Academic Affairs - Office of the Provost.

2019-2021 Director of International Education, Illinois Central College, Department of  
Academic Support Services

2017-2019 Director of Global Engagement, Monmouth College, Department of  
Academics

2014-2017 Coordinator of International Education, Illinois Central College, Department of  
Diversity and Inclusion

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Black Women's Studies Association (BWSA)

Coalition for Community Writing (CCW)

Collegium of African American Research (CAAR)

Conference of College Composition and Communication (CCCC)

National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance (NAAFA)

National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)

Organization for Research on Women and Communication (ORWAC)

Popular Culture Association (PCA)