

Kendra Janelle Ross, Ph.D.

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Education

- 2020 Doctor of Philosophy, Community Engagement
Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA
Dissertation Title: "Freedom Dreams: A Black Feminist Exploration of Cultural Work in the Hill District of Pittsburgh"
Chair: Dr. Jamesena Talbott
- 2011 Master of Arts, Anthropology
The New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2006 Master of Arts, Liberal Studies
Brooklyn College, The City University of New York, Brooklyn, NY
Thesis: "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Black Woman: Redefining Race and Gender Roles in American Society Through the Arts: From Exploitation to Self-Determination"
- 1997 Bachelor of Music, Music Business and Technology
New York University, New York, NY

Research and Teaching Interests

Black Feminist Thought
African American Expressive Culture
Cultural Movements
Community Engagement and the Arts
The Business of Music and Entertainment

Critical Feminist Geography
Cultural Studies
Arts and Activism
Cultural Anthropology
Popular Culture

Professional Experience

Point Park University
Assistant Professor (tenure-track)
Sports, Arts, & Entertainment Management Department
Rowland School of Business

Pittsburgh, PA
August 2019 - present

University Teaching

Point Park University
Course Instructor

Pittsburgh, PA
August 2018 - present

Undergraduate courses taught:

Introduction to Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management
Pioneer Records (Record Label Management)

Event Management
Talent and Booking Management

Undergraduate courses in-development:

Big Data in Sports, Arts, and Entertainment
Feminisms of Color and Popular Culture

Graduate courses taught:

Community Engagement in the Arts

Invited Lecture

The New School for Social Research

Guest Lecturer, Black Feminist Standpoint Theory

Undergraduate Course: Introduction to Feminist Thought and Action, Professor Ann Snitow

New York, NY

2012

Conference Paper Presentations

Conference on James Baldwin for Academics, Artists & Activists

“Baldwin, Black Women, and the Blues: A Love Story”

St-Paul de Vence, France

2021 (*Forthcoming*)

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

“Freedom Dreams: A Black Feminist Exploration of Cultural Work in the Hill District of Pittsburgh”

Indianapolis, IN

2018

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

“In Search of Fannie’s Song: Towards an Affective Politics of Love in Black Women’s Musical Expressions”

Atlanta, GA

2015

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

“How I Got Over (Untaming the Muse): 20th Century Black Women Artists and Activists”

Memphis, TN

2014

Tulane University

Co-Author, “Slim, trim, also light skin: Exploring the Intersections of Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Color-coding in Hip Hop”

Anna Julia Cooper Project Conference: “Gender, Sexuality, and Hip Hop”; Melissa Harris-Perry, Conference Host

New Orleans, LA

2013

Columbia University

Co-Author, “My Name is Sweet Thing: Exploring the Intersections of Gender, Race, and Skin Color in the Music Industry”

Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality Conference: “Skin / Matters: Gendered and Racial Economies of Skin Color”

New York, NY

2013

Luther College

“The Body Politic: Michelle Obama, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter and the (Re)Making of a Nation”

Diversity Center – Black History Conference: “Body Politic: Cultural Identities and Representations of Black Women’s Sexuality”

Decorah, IA

2013

Speaking Engagements

Penn State University, Greater Allegheny Campus

Guest Speaker, Course: Black Art in America and West Africa, from the 1960s to the present

Pittsburgh, PA

2020

University of Pittsburgh, Center for Urban Education

Panelist, “Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am”

Pittsburgh, PA

2020

Community Engagement Institute at Point Park University

Co-Presenter, “Use of Self: Dialog and Deliberation”

Pittsburgh, PA

2019

International Symposium on Electronic Art

*Presenter/Performer, “Intersection*ology – Feminist Art, Technology, and Community Engagement”*

Durban, South Africa

2018

National Women's Studies Association <i>Participant</i> , "When and Where We Gather: The (Un)Certain Future of Womanism" (Roundtable)	Atlanta, GA 2018
Sixth Annual Community Development Summit: The Power of Place <i>Panelist</i> , "Organize to Preserve and Promote Hill District Art"	Pittsburgh, PA 2016
James Baldwin International Conference at American University of Paris <i>Panelist</i> , "What Would Baldwin Do? – Exploring the Responsibility of The Artist in Contemporary Society"	Paris, France 2016
Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council <i>Guest Presenter</i> , "The Mozart and the Mogul: An Independent Artist's Guide To The Music Business"	Pittsburgh, PA 2015

Relevant Professional Experience

ACT3 Consulting Partners, LLC <i>Partner/Co-Owner</i> Drives strategy, development and management of several ongoing arts and community-based projects focusing on community development and engagement, event management, communication technology, entertainment production, and diversity and inclusion for local clients such as: Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center, UniSound, and McAuley Ministries	Pittsburgh, PA 2016 - present
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Universal Music Group <i>Director, Label Process Operations</i> Over the course of seventeen years, I ascended through the ranks of my department from the Administrative Assistant position to the Director/Department Head role which I held until my departure from the company. I garnered many accomplishments during my tenure, including: playing a key role in the successful development and implementation of the company's Global digital supply chain, co-creating a system platform that improved the accuracy and efficiency of data collection and exchange for UMG record labels in North America, and nurturing the talents of several entertainment professionals who are now enjoying successful careers in the recorded music business. In my final role, I served the company in the following capacities:	New York, NY 2002 - 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead a dynamic team of five in the oversight of release management systems, business processes, and operations for North American record labels and central business units under the UMG umbrella • Business Transformation Lead for East Coast Labels on key enterprise-wide initiative • North American business lead and subject matter expert on the globalization of the digital supply chain • Lead subject matter expert and business owner overseeing the development, testing, roll-out, and enhancement of an internal workflow system which connects data between supply chain systems and the general ledger for all North American record labels • Key advisor to central business units such as accounting, finance, royalties, production, and legal and business affairs on corporate-level business process and internal workflow guidelines 	

Point Park University <i>Graduate Assistant</i> , Community Engagement Ph.D. program	Pittsburgh, PA 2015 - 2017
The New School for Social Research <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Anthropology department	New York, NY 2011

Honors and Awards

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, <i>Paul Ross Award for Excellence in Education and Community Engagement</i>	2018
Point Park University, Department of Community Engagement, <i>Travel Grant</i>	2018
Carnegie International, <i>Keyword International Fellowship</i> (w/ Lori Hepner)	2018
Nefertiti Alliance, <i>Mini-Grant</i>	2017

Hill CDC 30th Anniversary Awards, <i>Emerging Leader in Civic Leadership</i>	2017
The Opportunity Fund, <i>Artist Grant</i> (w/ Lori Hepner)	2017
Heinz Endowments, <i>Small Arts Initiative Grant</i> (w/ Lori Hepner)	2017
Point Park University, Department of Community Engagement, <i>Travel Grant</i>	2016
Kelly Strayhorn Theater, <i>FreshWorks Artist-In-Residence</i> (w/ Lori Hepner)	2016
Point Park University, <i>Graduate Student Assistantship</i>	2015-2017
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Program, <i>Honorable Mention</i>	2011
The New School for Social Research, <i>Graduate Teaching Assistantship</i>	2010-2011
M.I.A. (Ministry in Action), <i>Community Service Scholarship</i>	2009
Soultracks.com Readers' Choice Awards, <i>New Artist of the Year</i>	2007

University Service

Point Park University, Faculty Assembly, <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Committee</i>	2020-present
Point Park University, University-wide, <i>Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee</i>	2020-present
Point Park University, Rowland School of Business, <i>Scholarship Committee</i>	2019-present

Community Service and Leadership

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Diversity & Inclusion Committee, <i>Member</i>	2019-present
Apollo Theater (Harlem, NYC), <i>Young Patrons Committee</i>	2018-present
UniSound – Youth Music Collective, <i>Steering Committee</i>	2018-present
#ArtsInHD - Hill District Neighborhood Arts Plan Committee, <i>Co-Chair</i>	2016-present
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Community Advisory Board, <i>Co-Chair</i>	2016-2019
Heinz Endowments, Transformative Arts Process, <i>Panelist</i>	2016 & 2017
The Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank/Produce to People, <i>Volunteer</i>	2015-2016
Brown Memorial Church Women's Day Oral History Project, <i>Producer</i>	2012-2014
Just-Us Youth Social Justice/Community Organizing Program, <i>Youth Leader</i>	2004-2012
New York University Music Business Alumni Mentoring Program, <i>Mentor</i>	2003-2007
P.A.S.S.A.G.E. Teen Mentoring Program, <i>Mentor</i>	2002-2004

Professional and Academic Affiliations

African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA, <i>Member</i>
American Association of Geographers, <i>Member</i>
Association for the Study of African American Life and History, <i>Member</i>
Broadcast Music Incorporated, <i>Writer and Publisher Affiliate</i>
Music Business Association, <i>Member</i>
National Women's Studies Association, <i>Member</i>
The Recording Academy, <i>Voting Member and District Advocate</i>
Pittsburgh Black Feminist Reading Group, <i>Founding Member</i>
Women in Music, <i>Member</i>