

Curriculum Vitae

Allison Upshaw, Ph.D.



Summary of Qualifications

A creative leader, problem solver, published author, grant writer, and higher education professional with expertise in interdisciplinary studies, multimodal communication, project facilitation, and curriculum design and implementation. Over 20 years of experience in education, including training and facilitating.

Related Experience

2020- Present

Consultant • IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access)


- Design and facilitate original arts-based IDEA workshops for arts organizations
- Design lesson plans utilizing the arts to facilitate IDEA discussions for parents and teachers (high school)
- Facilitate panel discussions on IDEA issues
- Plan long-term IDEA education goals for arts organizations

2000–Present

Education Consultant • Classroom **OPERA**tunities

- Create video trainings for higher K-12 education faculty
- Design and facilitate K-20 professional development workshops for education faculty
- Manage classrooms of 50+ students
- Design and facilitate arts-integrated learning in adjudicated youth facilities
- Participate in arts training for youth programming
- Design newsletters

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- Present at conferences
- Design and implement multi-year direct instructional support/programming on arts integration and Common Core implementation
- Facilitate social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum in juvenile justice facilities
- Design and implement arts-integrated accommodations and adaptations for special needs and ESL classrooms
- Facilitate professional development workshops on classroom technology for rural educators
- Write successful grant narratives for \$7K, \$3K, and \$1K, respectively
- Collaborate with state and local agencies to identify and implement agency-wide strategies for learning through the arts
- Provide arts integration training for teaching artists, classroom teachers, community members, and other arts professionals
- Collaborate with faculty to improve data-identified learning needs (DILNs) through the arts
- Train educators in arts-integrated learning strategies
- Model differentiated learning instruction for K-12 classrooms
- Provide educational workshops, residencies, and informances in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee
- Provide leadership for arts and arts integration projects

1998-1999

Education Manager • Soapstone Center for the Arts

- Managed after-school classes
- Assisted in programming all afterschool classes
- Provided oversight of afterschool instructors (N=10) in a variety of classes (visual art, music, dance)
- Designed marketing materials
- Led community engagement activities

1993-1994

Director • African American Cultural Center

- Supervised a staff of 11
- Designed marketing materials
- Created cultural activities calendars of events
- Organized payroll processes
- Managed budget
- Built community engagement through networking

1988-1990

Minority Recruitment/Retention Counselor • Oberlin Conservatory

- Reviewed applications for admission
- Connected students with campus services as needed
- Provided financial, social, and academic counseling
- Recruited minority performers
- Connected students with community resources

Teaching Experience**2018–Present**

Associate Professor of Music • Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

2014-2016

Instructor • University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

2007-2012

Instructor • Atlanta Christian College, Atlanta, GA

2000-Present

Co-Instructor (K-12) • Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina

Education

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

M.M. in Voice Performance, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

B.M. in Voice Performance, Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin, Ohio

Leadership and Service

- Senior Faculty Representative, Board of Trustees, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- Senior Faculty Representative, Honorary Degree Committee, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- Senior Faculty Representative, Educational Affairs Committee, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- Faculty Representative, Judiciary Appeals Committee, Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Publications**Book Chapters**

Upshaw, A.(2022). ResearchER: The power and potential of research careers for women. *Women in Academia Support Network (WIASN)*. Bingley, UK: Emerald.

Upshaw, A. (2021). Battling for Wounded Me in Jones, K. *Doing Performative Social Science: Creativity in doing research and reaching communities*. Milton Park, UK: Routledge.

Upshaw, A. (2017). My body knows things: Black women's stories, theories, and performative autoethnography in Bolen, D. M., Pensoneau-Conway, S. L., & Adams, T. E. *Doing Autoethnography*. Boston, MA: Sense Publishers. pp. 55-65.

Journals Articles Under Review

Upshaw, A. (2023). RIOT: A poetical suite for the unheard. *ProudFlesh Journal*.

Upshaw, A. (2023). Salt Pork and Seasonings: A Mama and Me Chronicle. *Oral History Review*.

Journal Articles

Upshaw, A. (2020). L'OPERA: Layered operations practicing embodiment, reflection, and analysis in the performative paradigm. *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, 38(1-2), 108-138.

Upshaw, A. (2020). Black women as compost: An autoethnographic cantata. *The Ethnographic Edge*, 4(1), 49-52. <https://doi.org/10.15663/tee.v4.60>

Upshaw, A. (2019). Mama and Me Chronicles, Part 1 [Video]. *Liminalities*, 15(1), <https://vimeo.com/348272021>

Upshaw, A. (2018). "Who really killed Cock Robin": Aesthetic meaning-making in preservice teacher training. *Pedagogies: An International Journal*, 13 (2), 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1554480X.2018.1454839>

Hudson-Vassell, C., Acosta, M. M., King, N. S., Upshaw, A., Cherfere, & G. (2018). Development of liberatory pedagogy in teacher education: Voices of novice Black women teacher educators. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 72, 133-143.

Upshaw, A. (2017). For colored girls who've considered suicide while surviving Post-Traumatic Slavery Syndrome (with acknowledgments to Ntozake Shange and Dr. DeGruy). *Performance Philosophy*, 3(3), 807-808.

Upshaw, A. (2017). Between the between: Entering Diversity. *Integrative Pathways*, 39(3), 6-7.

Upshaw, A. (2016). Arias to academia: An academic malpractice suite in three movements. *Qualitative Research Journal*, 16(3), 263-273.

Upshaw, A. (2013). Finding common ground. *ALT/Space: The Teaching Artists Journal*, 11(4), 234-246.

Upshaw, A. (2013). Finding common ground: *The perfect fit*. *ALT/Space: The Teaching Artists Journal*, 11(3), 168-183.

Upshaw, A. (2013). Fun with little people. *ALT/Space: The Teaching Artists Journal*, 11(2), 105-113.

Conference Presentations

National

2024

- Difficult Discussions Down the Artful Path, Sustaining Artful Instruction and Learning, Montgomery, Alabama
- reFraming: Dramatic Narratives of African American Female Landowners in Alabama's Black Belt, Rural Women's Studies Association, Jonesboro, Arkansas

2023

- reFraming: Narratives of African American Female Land Ownership in Alabama's Black Belt, Society of Alabama Archivists, Atmore, Alabama

2022

- 'Lawd, how come me here': Building African American Cultural Dimensions Through Enslaved Voices, Universities Studying Slavery Conference, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- Techethics and Techequity: Facilitating Difficult Conversations, Georgia Educational Technology Conference, Atlanta, Georgia
- Prezi in the Classroom, Alabama Educational Technology Conference, Mobile, Alabama
- Battling for Wounded Me, International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Virtual
- Recit.:Ernestine, que vas-tu faire, Aria: O Clemangis, lis dans mon ame. Black Identities on the Operatic Stage: A Symposium with Music, Greensboro, North Carolina
- Riot, A Poetical Suite for the Unheard. Humanities Education and Research Association, Virtual
- Mama and Me Chronicles: Travel Edition. International Symposium on Autoethnography, Virtual

2021

- A Black Woman Speaks to White Feminist Allies, Antiracism: Centering the Voices of Black Women, Virtual
- A Black Woman Speaks to Allyship. Journal of Language & Literacy Education (JoLLe), Virtual

2019

- Put on My Robe... Tell the Story. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI), Champaign, Illinois
- The Ridge: Video as Method. ICQI, Champaign, Illinois

2018

- Arts Integration: Exploring Literacy Through Music, International Conference on Education, Honolulu, Hawaii

2017

- Paying Attention: An Experiential Guide to Noticing, Association of Interdisciplinary Studies, Baltimore, Maryland
- Home Is Where My Culture Lies, Film and History Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2016

- My Body Knows Things: Dancing through Trauma, Doing Autoethnography, San Angelo, Texas

2015

- Enter My Diversity: A Poetic Inquiry, Association of Interdisciplinary Studies, Boston, Massachusetts
- Understanding Poetry: Multimodalities in Action, Journal of Language and Literacy Education, Athens, Georgia
- Opera as Method, International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Champagne, Illinois
- The Battles of Wounded Me: An Autoethnographic Cantata for Voice and Piano, Doing Autoethnography, San Angelo, Texas

2014

- Parental Involvement: Relationship Building Through the Arts, Alabama State Educator's Conference (MEGA), Mobile, Alabama
- Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL) Through the Arts, National At-Risk Education Network, Baltimore, Maryland

2013

- Learningscapes, Southeast Center for Education in the Arts, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- A MapQuest of Quilts and Gourds, Harriet Tubman Symposium, Albany, New York

2012

- Opera May Have My Heart, But The Blues Own My Soul, Harlem Renaissance Conference, Augusta, Georgia

2011

- Act Before You Write: Drama Strategies for Creative Writing in K-5, Alabama State Educator's Conference (MEGA), Mobile, Alabama

International**2020**

- Black Women as Compost, International Conference of Autoethnography, United Kingdom (virtual)
- Constructing interdisciplinary common ground: The Arts and Humanities in Practice. The Association of Interdisciplinary Studies, Ottawa, Canada

2015

- OPERAtunities in Critical Autoethnography, Critical Autoethnography, Melbourne, Australia

2012

- Literacy in and through the Arts, First International Teaching Artists Conference, Oslo, Norway

Performances**Film****2024**

- *Alabama Culture and Tourism*

2022-2023

- *Black Butterfly*

2015-2016

- *The Ridge*

Directing**2025**

- *Master Class*

2011

- *Nonsense*

2007-2012

- *Musical Theater (Scenes)*

2007-2012

- Opera (Scenes)

Role/Show/Theatre/Location

- Florence, *Cinnamon GRITS*, ART Station, Atlanta, Georgia
- Florence, *Cinnamon GRITS*, ART Station, Atlanta, Georgia
- Florence, *GRITS The Musical*, ART Station, Atlanta, Georgia
- Story-singer, *Hansel and Gretel/Who's Afraid of Opera*, Classroom OPERAtunities, Regional
- Zandra/Irene/Mary, *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, Playhouse on the Square, Memphis, Tennessee
- Sis. Hubert, *Nunsense*, Atlanta Lyric Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia
- Miss Mamie, *Jelly's Last Jam*, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia
- Patient, *Pre-Service Medical Training*, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia
- PW/EM, *Menopause the Musical*, G Four Productions, Atlanta, Georgia
- Celie, *Southern Christmas Carol*, Colquitt/Miller Arts Council, Colquitt, Georgia
- Lena, *A Raisin in the Sun*, Class Act Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia
- Former Slave, *Do Lord Remember Me*, Iomandi Theater, Atlanta, Georgia
- Actress/Singer, *Air/Fire*, Several Dancers Core, Atlanta, Georgia
- Marcellina, *The Marriage of Figaro*, Newnan, Georgia
- Aunt Emma, *When the Devils Be Callin'*, Onstage Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia
- Dr. Judith Kaufman, *An American Daughter*, Neighborhood Playhouse, Decatur, Georgia
- Supermarket Lady, *Space Twins*, Capitol City Opera, Atlanta, Georgia
- Patient, *Pre-Service Medical Training*, Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia

Professional Memberships and Fellowships

- Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD) Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Leadership (2022-2024 Cohort)
- Alabama Conference of Theatre, President
- Association of Interdisciplinary Studies, Board Member
- Universities Studying Slavery, Steering Committee Member
- Women in Academia Network
- Intracultural Leadership Fellowship (5th Cohort)

International Partnerships

2023

- Mzati Wa Africa, Malawi
- Ministry of Education, Malawi
- University of Malawi, Malawi

Certifications and Trainings

2022

- Prezi Certified Educator Trainer

2016

- Grant Writing: Training Series

2008

- Grant Writing Certification

Grant Writing/Participating Experiences

2023-2025

- Principle Investigator, National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), Alabama Black Belt Counties (TBD)
 - Awarded \$194,074

2021

- Principle Investigator, Alabama State Council on the Arts, Project Name: Hello Black Belt, Virtual
 - Awarded \$7,700

2021

- Principle Investigator, Alabama Humanities Alliance, Project Name: Hello Black Belt, Virtual
 - Awarded \$2,500K

2019-2020

- Principle Investigator, VISTA, Project Name Black Belt Community Foundation, Selma, Alabama
 - Awarded: \$111,378K
- Participant, South Carolina Arts Council, Greenville, South Carolina
- Participant, Atlanta Public Schools, Atlanta, GA
- Participant, Birmingham Public Schools, Birmingham, AL

2015; 2019; 2021

- Reviewer, National Education Association (NEA) and Alabama State Council of Arts (ASCA)

Honors and Awards

2023-2024

Intracultural Leadership Institute, Cohort 5

2021-2023

Fulbright Specialist

2023-2024

Intercultural Leadership Fellow

2022-2024

AICAD BIPOC Leadership Institute

2023-Present

Alabama Humanities Road Scholar

References

Andrew Goodliffe, Ph.D.

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