

# Clarice O. Thomas

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Department of African American Studies  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2021-Present **Assistant Professor of African American Studies**  
**Director of Shut It Down**, School of Education  
Saint Louis University
- 2018-2021 **Adjunct Professor/Student Success Coach**  
Richland Community College, Department of Liberal Arts
- 2018-2019 **Qualitative Research Consultant**  
Georgia State University, Department of Middle and Secondary Education

## EDUCATION

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- 2018 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Teaching and Learning  
**Concentration:** Teaching and Teacher Education  
Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA  
**Dissertation Title:** *Reclaiming Our Promise: Victorious Narratives of African American Males Navigating the School-to-Prison Nexus*  
**Committee Members:** Drs. Nadia Behizadeh (Chair), Michelle Zoss, Joyce E. King, David Stovall, and Stephanie Behm Cross
- 2010 Master of Education (M. Ed.)  
**Concentration:** Curriculum and Instruction  
Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI  
**Master's Project:** *Social Support for Low-Income Urban Students at Risk of Dropping Out of High School*  
**Advisor:** Dr. Nagnon Diarrassouba
- 2005 Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)  
**Majors:** History and Political Science  
Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

## CERTIFICATIONS

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- 2018 Graduate Certificate in Qualitative Research in Education  
Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
- 2009 Michigan Educator Certificate in History and Political Science (6-12)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Journal Articles

Behm Cross, S., Cannon, S., Jones Williams, M., Hale, J., Donovan, M., **Thomas, C.**, Chea, M., Bryant, M., & Downey, C.A. (2020). Criticality and the Narrative Inquiry: Travel Stories and Tensions. *Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue*, 22(1).

Behizadeh, N., **Thomas, C.**, & Behm Cross, S. (2019). Reframing for Social Justice: The Influence of Critical Friendship Groups on Preservice Teachers' Reflective Practice. *Journal of Teacher Education*, 70(3), 280-296, doi: 10.1177/0022487117737306.

Behizadeh, N., Gordon, C., **Thomas, C.**, Marks, B., Oliver, L., & Goodwin, H. (2019). Social Justice Beliefs and Curricular Freedom: Factors Supporting Critical Composition Pedagogy in a U.S. Middle School. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 85, 58-68, doi:10.1016/j.tate.2019.06.004.

**Thomas, C.** (2018). Negotiating Words and Worlds: An Autoethnography of Linguistic Identity Development. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, 31(7), 612-625, doi: 10.1080/09518398.2018.1468044.

Cross, S.B., & **Thomas, C.** (2017). Mitigating First Year Burnout: How Reimagined Partnerships Could Support Urban Middle Level Teachers. *Middle Grades Review*, 3(1), 1-9.

### Book Chapters

**Thomas, C.**, & Donovan, M. (2018). What Does it Mean to be United?: Using our Voices to Dismantle the School-to-Prison Connection. In K. Varner, K. Tobin, & S. Lentz (Eds.) *#BrokenPromises, Black Deaths, & Blue Ribbons: Understanding, Complicating, and Transcending Police-Community Violence* (pp. 117-121). Boston, MA: Brill Publishing.

Many, J., Favors-Welch, S., Kurz, K., Ogletree, T., & **Thomas, C.** (2018). Using the Concerns Based Adoption Model (CBAM) as a Framework to Understand and Support edTPA Coordinators and Faculty During the Implementation Process. In J. Many & R. Bhatnagar (Eds.) *Implementing and Analyzing Performance Assessments in Teacher Education* (pp. 217-246). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

### Book Reviews

**Thomas, C.** (2017). Prelude to Prison: Student Perspectives on School Suspension Book Review. *Journal of Negro Education*, 86(2), 190-191.

### Qualitative Reports

**Thomas, C.** (2018). A Midpoint Conversation with Richland Community College Students.

Cross, S.B. & **Thomas, C.** (2017) CREATE Teacher Residency Program: Executive Summary.

## Manuscripts in Progress

Thomas, C. (in preparation). Are We Still Talking About Discipline?: Re-conceptualizing the School-to-Prison Nexus.

Thomas, C. (in preparation). The Problem with the Highway North: Retracing One Family's Great Migration from the South.

Thomas, C. (in preparation). Writing Home: An Oral History of the Carceral State.

## PRESENTATIONS

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### International

**Thomas, C., & Zoss, M.** (2017, August). *Resilience and Resistance in the School-to-Prison Nexus: A Narrative Study*. Poster presented at the International Society for Cultural Historical Activity Research, Quebec City, Canada.

### National

**Thomas, C.** (2019, April). *Beating the System: The Stories of Three African American Males Who Overcome the School-to-Prison Nexus*. The annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.

**Thomas, C.,** Gordon, C., Marks, B., Oliver, L., Behizadeh, N., & Goodwin, H. (2019, April). *The Consciousness of a Classroom: Enacting a Critical Composition Pedagogy at an Urban Middle School*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.

**Thomas, C.** (2018, April). *Tired of the Handcuffs: A Narrative Inquiry into the School-to-Prison Nexus*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Cross, S.B., **Thomas, C.,** & Jones Williams, M. (2018, April). *Black Women's Identity, Shifting and Stereotype Threat: Using Story to Reconsider Teacher Preparation*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Behizadeh, N., Chisholm, G., Cross, S.B., Hackett, J., & **Thomas, C.** (2018, March). *Community-Based Teacher Education: Data from Experiences within an Urban Teacher Residency*. Roundtable presentation at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Baltimore, MD.

Cross, S.B., Jones Williams, M., & **Thomas, C.** (2017, November). *Listening to our Teachers of Color: Using Story to Reconsider the Design of Initial Teacher Preparation*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for Multicultural Education, Salt Lake City, UT.

**Thomas, C. & Zoss, M.** (2017, April). *Light after Dawn: A Narrative of Escape from the School-to-Prison Pipeline*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

Behizadeh, N., **Thomas, C.**, & Behm Cross, S. (2017, April). The Impact of Critical Friendship Groups on Preservice Teachers: Reframing Deficit Views through Collaborative Reflection. Roundtable presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

Bhatnagar, R., Kim, J., Many, J., Ogletree, T., Favors, S., **Thomas, C.**, Jones Williams, M., Tanguay, C., Kurz, K., Wilson, J., & Ariail, M. (2017, April). *Understanding Faculty Concerns and the Change Process Resulting from Adoption of a High-Stakes Performance Assessment*. Poster presented as part of a poster-symposium at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

Behizadeh, N., & **Thomas, C.** (2016, November). *Designing Writing Curriculum that Encourages Linguistic Diversity and Student Inquiry*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English, Atlanta, GA.

Bryant, M., Cannon, S., Chea, M., Behm Cross, S., Donovan, M., Downey, C.A., Hale, J., **Thomas, C.**, & Jones Williams, M. (2016, April). *Coming to the Table through Narrative Inquiry: Inductions and Transitions*. Roundtable presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC.

Many, J. E., Bhatnagar, R., Ariail, M., Tanguay, C., Jones Williams, M., **Thomas, C.**, Kim, J., Cannon, S., Favors, S., Ogletree, T., Wilson, J., Kurz, K., Howard, S., & An, S. (2016, April). *State-wide implementation of edTPA in preparation for high-stakes testing: A Mixed-Methods Study of the Concerns of edTPA Coordinators*. Poster presented as part of a poster-symposium at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC.

**Thomas, C.**, Neely, A., & Jones Williams, M. (2015, October). *A Trans-disciplinary Examination of African American Women Educators Holistic Experiences Post-Slavery to Present*. Paper presented at the annual Black Doctoral Network Conference, Atlanta, GA.

### **Regional & State**

Berry, A. & **Thomas, C.** (2020, October). Striking a Match to Institutional Bridges: Co-Conspiring to Overcome Barriers to DEI Work. RISE Conference, Charleston, IL.

Marks, B., Oliver, L., Gordon, C., **Thomas, C.**, Goodwin, H., & Behizadeh, N. (2018, October). *Educating for Increased Awareness and Action through Critical Composition Pedagogy in an Urban Middle School*. Paper presented at the annual Sources of Excellence in Urban Education Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Hackett, J., Behizadeh, N., Cross, S.B., Chisholm, G., **Thomas, C.**, & Summers, A. (2017, October). *Community-Based Teacher Education: Preparing Teachers to Work with and for the Atlanta Community*. Paper presented at the annual Sources of Excellence in Urban Education Conference, Atlanta, GA.

**Thomas, C.** (2015, October). *Negotiating Words & Worlds: An Autoethnography of Linguistic Identity Development*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Conference, Savannah, GA. \*Awarded the Outstanding Student Research Award.

Bhatnagar, R., **Thomas, C.**, & Favors, S. (2015, October). *Struggling with the Implementation of edTPA: Understanding the Concerns of edTPA Coordinators in Georgia*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Conference, Savannah, GA.

**Thomas, C.** (2015, May). *Code-meshing: A review of the literature to encourage dialect diversity in the classroom*. Paper presented at the Sources of Excellence in Urban Education Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Tanguay, C. Bhatnagar, R., Barker, K., **Thomas, C.**, Williams, M.J., Ball, M., Favors, S., & Many, J. (2014, October). *The Effectiveness of Urban Teacher Education Programs: Listening to the Voices of Cooperating Teachers*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Conference, Savannah, GA.

## **GRANT FUNDED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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2017-2019: U.S. Department of Education's Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Grant, *Collaboration and Reflection Enhancing Atlanta Teacher Effectiveness (CREATE)*, GSU, Amount Awarded: \$8,322,632 PI: Dr. Stephanie Behm Cross, Role: Co-PI

2015-2017: Investing in Innovation Development Grant, *Collaboration and Reflection to Enhance Atlanta Teacher Effectiveness (CREATE)*, GSU, Amount Awarded: \$2,801,115 PI: Dr. Stephanie Behm Cross, Role: Co-PI

2017-2018: Spencer Small Grant, *Investigating Access to Powerful Writing Pedagogy in Urban, Public Schools*, GSU, Amount Awarded: \$46,475 PI: Dr. Nadia Behizadeh, Role: Co-PI

2017: National Science Foundation, *An Exploratory Study: The Role of Social Networks and Self-Efficacy in the Retention of Noyce Teachers*, Georgia Institute of Technology, Amount Awarded: \$426,547 PI: Dr. Melton Alemdar, Role: Co-PI

## **UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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SOC 225: Race, Class, & Gender in the United States, Spr19-Spr21, Richland Comm. College

STDEV 100: Introduction to College Success, Fall19, Fall20, Richland Community College

AFAM 100: Introduction to African American Studies, Sum19, Richland Community College

EDUC 2120: Exploring Sociocultural Perspectives on Diversity, Spr18, Georgia State University

EDCI 4600 / EDCI 7660: Practicum I, Fall16, Georgia State University (*University Supervisor for Social Studies and Language Arts Teacher Candidates*)

EDCI 4640: Critical Issues in Middle Grades Education, Spr15, Georgia State University (*Graduate Teaching Assistant*)

### **Invited Guest Lectures**

February 1, 2020: Georgia State University, EDUC 3200: Organization & Instruction of Middle Grade Curriculum, “The Modern-Day Lynching of Black Excellence”

September 3, 2019: Richland Community College, COMM 120: Business and Professional Speaking, “Presenting with Confidence”

February 20, 2019: Richland Community College, Essential Skills: 101, “Liberating through Storytelling: A Narrative Experience of Trauma and Triumph”

February 15, 2018: Georgia State University, EDCI 4640: Critical Issues in Middle Grades Education, “A Panel Discussion of the School-to-Prison Nexus”

October 17, 2017: Georgia State University, EDCI 8830: Critical Socio-historical Perspectives on Curriculum and Teaching, “What I Wish I had Known: Navigating the PhD Program”

February 16 & 20, 2017: Georgia State University, EDCI 4640: Critical Issues in Middle Grades Education, “Dismantling the School-to-Prison Nexus and Addressing Deficit Views”

July 20, 2016: Georgia State University, EDCI 3220: Understanding and Supporting Middle Level Learners, “The Ethics of Classroom Management”

July 11, 2016: Georgia State University, EDCI 3200: Organization and Instruction of the Middle Grades Curriculum, “Teaching in Alternative Settings and Understanding Restorative Justice”

February 16, 2016: Georgia State University, EDCI 4640: Critical Issues in Middle Grades Education, “Dismantling the School-to-Prison Nexus and Addressing Deficit Views”

February 5, 2016: Georgia State University, EDCI 4700 / EDCI 7670: Practicum II, “Middle Child History/Social Studies: Unpacking the Rubrics”

## **SECONDARY TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Adult Education**

2015-2016: GED Instructor, Youth Enhancement Services, Atlanta, GA

2010-2012: Adult Education Instructor, Muskegon Community Education Center, Muskegon, MI

## **Middle and High School**

2009-2010: History Teacher, Discovery Alternative High School, Grand Rapids, MI  
 2008-2009: Provisional Social Studies Teacher, Pinewood Middle School, Kentwood, MI  
 2006-2007: Substitute Teacher, Hickman Mills C-1 School District, Kansas City, MO

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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2021-2022: Writing for Justice Fellowship: PEN America (\$5000)

January 31, 2018: Invited Speaker at the inaugural Asa G. Hilliard, III Foundation Dinner, Georgia State University

2016-2018: CREATE Grant Graduate Research Assistantship: Georgia State University (\$25,000/ year)

2017: CEISMC Educational Research & Program Evaluation Internship: Georgia Institute of Technology (\$4000)

2017: Beverly J. Armento Doctoral Award: Georgia State University (\$1000)

2017: Spencer Small Grant Graduate Research Assistantship: Georgia State University (\$12,000)

2016: Asa G. Hilliard, III Memorial Scholarship: Georgia State University (\$1000)

2014-2016: Teacher Education Fellowship: Georgia State University (\$27,000/year)

2015: Outstanding Student Research Award: Georgia Educational Research Association (\$100)

2015: NAEA Executive Board Fellowship: National Alternative Education Association (\$1000)

2014: Sociocultural Writing Portfolio Pilot Graduate Research Assistantship: Georgia State University (\$2000)

2010: Nominee for the Dean's Outstanding Master Thesis Project: Grand Valley State University

2001-2002: Michigan Educational Assessment Program Scholarship: Michigan Department of Education (\$2,500)

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED**

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**Thomas, C. & Berry, A.** (2020, August). *If Black lives mattered we wouldn't have to say it: Understanding an antiracism approach to teaching and learning*. Professional development for Richland Community College faculty and staff, Decatur, IL.

**Thomas, C.** (2018, November). *Social Justice and Equity Today*. Professional development series for Richland Community College faculty and staff, Decatur, IL.

Berry, M., Berry, A., & **Thomas, C.** (2018, October). *Culture, Race, and Gender: An Inclusive Approach*. Professional development for Decatur Housing Authority, Decatur, IL.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ATTENDED**

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Mental Health Professional Certification (2019, August). Heritage Behavioral Health Center, Decatur, IL.

Racial Justice Institute (2019, July). Prairie State College, Chicago, IL.

African American Multigenerational Trauma & Implementing Models of Change. (Summer, 2019). Dr. Joy DeGruy.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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#### **Reviewing**

2019-2020: Language and Education  
 2017-2020: International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education  
 2017: Urban Review  
 2017-2019: Georgia Educational Researcher  
 2016-2018: AERA Annual Conference proposal reviewer, Division K  
 2016-2020: Journal of Negro Education  
 2015: National Alternative Education Association (NAEA) Conference proposals

#### **Committees**

2020-2021: Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility, Richland Community College  
 2019-2020: Lead Research Consultant, Racial Justice and Equity Committee, Richland Community College  
 2019-2020: Retention Committee, Richland Community College  
 2019: Workforce and Community Strategic Planning Committee, Richland Community College  
 2018-2019: Default Prevention Team, Richland Community College  
 2018-2019: Guided Pathway Implementation Team, Richland Community College  
 2016: Graduate Student Organizer: College of Education and Human Development, Georgia State University, SEED Grant Professional Education Faculty Retreat  
 2015: Student Representative: College of Education and Human Development, Georgia State University, Academic Dishonesty Committee  
 2014-2015: Planning Committee: National Alternative Education Association (NAEA)

## Mentoring

- 2019-2021: Faculty Sponsor/Founder of Club SpeakEasy, Richland Community College  
 2018-2021: Student Success Team: Department of Student Development, Richland Community College  
 2017-2018: New Doctoral Student Transition Team for Teaching and Teacher Education  
 Doctoral Students: Middle and Secondary Education Department, Georgia State University  
 2017: Social Capital Group Facilitator: Department of Middle and Secondary Education, Georgia State University, Middle and Secondary Education Teacher Candidates  
 2015-2016: Graduate Student Supervisor: College of Education and Human Development, Georgia State University, Undergraduate Research Internship  
 2014-2016: Graduate Student Assistant: College of Education and Human Development, Georgia State University, edTPA support and local evaluation training  
 2010-2012: Mentor: Muskegon Community Education Center, At-Risk Student Prevention

## Service to the Community

- 2019-2021: Mental Health Professional: Heritage Behavioral Health Center  
 2015-2017: President/Founding Member: Teaching and Teacher Education Doctoral Students (T-TEDS) Chartered Student Organization, Georgia State University  
 2016: Moderator: Black Doctoral Network Annual Conference  
 2015: Admissions Interviewer: College of Education and Human Development, Georgia State University  
 2008-2009: Board Member: New Branches Charter Academy

## AFFILIATIONS

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- American Educational Research Association (AERA) member, *2014-present*  
 Division K-Teaching and Teacher Education  
 SIGs-Critical Educators for Social Justice; Narrative Research
- National Alternative Education Association (NAEA) member, *2014-present*
- National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), *2017-2018*
- Georgia Educational Research Association (GERA), *2014-2018*
- Teaching and Teacher Education Doctoral Students (T-TEDS), *2015-2018*
- Middle and Secondary Education Doctoral Student Council, *2014-2018*