**SaraEllen Strongman**

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Africana Studies

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**EDUCATION**

2018 (anticipated) **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA

Ph.D., Africana Studies

Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies

CTL Certificate in Teaching

2011 **Columbia University**, New York, NY

A.B., Women’s and Gender Studies

Cum Laude

**DISSERTATION**

The Sisterhood: Black Women, Black Feminism, and the Women’s Liberation Movement

Committee: Herman Beavers (chair), Barbara Savage, Salamishah Tillet

This dissertation traces the development of black feminism as an intellectual and activist tradition in the United States during the 1970s and 1980s as well as black women’s simultaneous participation in the Women’s Liberation Movement during that time. I argue that a cohort of black women novelists, poets, critics and academics used their work and social networks to build a distinct black feminist movement while also working with and within the second wave feminists and their organizations to reshape and expand the predominantly white feminist movement’s political platform. I read published and unpublished literary and academic works alongside archival materials and personal correspondence to explore how black women created autonomous communities and institutions for black feminism and black women’s work, while simultaneously imagining and producing new possibilities for political and personal relationships with white women and the larger second wave feminist movement.

**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century African American Literature, Black Feminism, Twentieth-Century African American Cultural and Intellectual History, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Queer Theory

**FELLOWSHIPS**

AY 2017-2018 **Dissertation Completion Fellowship**

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts & Sciences

AY 2016-2017 **Center for Teaching and Learning Graduate Fellowship**

University of Pennsylvania, Center for Teaching and Learning

AY 2012-2017 **William Fontaine Graduate Fellowship**

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts & Sciences

AY 2014-2015 **Mainwaring Graduate Prize**

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts & Sciences

AY 2009-2011 **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship**

Columbia University

**GRANTS**

2017 **Rose Library Short Term Fellowship**

Stuart A. Rose Library, Emory University

2017 **Joan Challinor Dissertation Grant**

Schlesinger Library, Harvard University

2016 **SAS Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship**

School of Arts & Sciences, University of Pennsylvania

2016 **Graduate Research Grant**

Alice Paul Center, University of Pennsylvania

2015 **William Fontaine Summer Research Grant**

William Fontaine Society, University of Pennsylvania

2013, 2014, 2016 **SSRC/Mellon Mays Graduate Enhancement Grant**

Social Science Research Council/Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives

**ADDITIONAL HONORS**

 2017 **Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship**, Honorable Mention

2015 **Distinction in Qualifying Examinations**

University of Pennsylvania, Africana Studies Department

2014 **Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship**, Alternate

2011 **Women’s Studies Paper Prize**

Columbia University, Institute for Research on Women and Gender

**PUBLICATIONS**

“‘Necessity and Battle: Audre Lorde and Pat Parker on Interracial Lesbian Sex in the Women’s Movement." *Feminist Theory*. (Revise and Resubmit)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Spring 2015 **Guest Lecturer,** Study Abroad Narratives

“Nation and Identity in *We Need New Names* by Violet Bulawayo”

Fall 2014 **Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Africana Studies

 **Guest Lecture:** “Black Atlantic Literary Cultures: Equiano and Wheatley”

Summer 2014 **Teaching Assistant**, Black Women Writers on New African Diasporas

Spring 2014 **Guest Lecturer,** Satire, Race, Nation

The Gaze in *Misadventures of an Awkward Black Girl*

Spring 2014 **Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Africana Studies

Fall 2013 **Teaching Assistant**, African American History to 1877

 **Guest Lecturer:** “Gender and Sexuality on the Plantation”

**CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED**

**“**Radical Black Women and Cultural Resistance in the 1970s and 1980s.” *National Women’s Studies Association*. Baltimore, MD. November 2017.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Black Feminists and Radical, International Politics.” *American Studies Association Conference*. Chicago, IL. November 2017. (Forthcoming)

“Black Feminism and Women’s Studies: Barbara Smith’s Demands on the NWSA.” *National Women’s Studies Association Conference*. Baltimore, MD. November 2017. (Forthcoming)

“Feminism in Black and White: Antagonism and Alliances in the Work of Alice Walker.” *American Studies Association Conference*. Denver, CO. November 2016.

“The Struggle for Solidarity: Black and White Women in Alice Walker's *Meridian*." *GSWS Graduate Research Colloquium*. University of Pennsylvania. March 2016.

“Labors of Love: Black Women, The Help, and the Work of Pleasure” *National Women’s Studies Association Conference*, San Juan, PR. November 2014

"Janelle Monae's Erotic Ambiguity as Liberatory Politics." *Unleashing the Black Erotic: Gender & Sexuality—Passion, Power and Praxis.* Charleston, SC. September 2013.

“Black Humor in the ‘Post-Racial’ Era: The Radical, Anti-Racist Revisions of *Key & Peele*.” *SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Annual Conference*. Bryn Mawr, PA. June, 2013.

"Queer Across the Color Line: Interracial Queerness as Sustaining Practice in ZZ Packer's 'Drinking Coffee Elsewhere.'" *Remapping the Black Atlantic: Diaspora (Re)Writings of Space and Place*. Chicago, IL. April 2013

"Selling Selves: Race, Identity, and Narratives of Kinship in Natural Hair Care Advertising.” *The Politics of Black Women's Hair Symposium*. Philadelphia, PA March, 2013

“The New ‘Magic Negros’: Nonwhite Women as Transformational Agents in Disney Animated Films.” *MMUF 2011 New York Regional Conference*. New York, NY. April 2011.

**UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

2014-2017 **University of Pennsylvania MMUF**, Graduate Coordinator

AY 2014-2016 **Africana Studies Graduate Colloquium Planning Committee**, Member

AY 2014-2015 **Center for Teaching and Learning**, TA Training Co-Coordinator

2014 **Center for Teaching and Learning**, TA Training Trainer

AY 2014-2015 **Center for Africana Studies Summer Institute*,*** Graduate Assistant

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Studies Association

Modern Language Association

National Women’s Studies Association