

Dr. Jefferson “Biko” Caruthers, III
New York University Provost Postdoctoral Fellow
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of Massachusetts Amherst, Afro-American Studies Dissertation: <i>Uncanny Genius of the African Child: The Ongoing Critique against the Human in Black Literature and Culture</i> Committee: Dr. Britt Rusert (Chair), Dr. Rachel Mordecai, Dr. Stephanie Shonekan	Sep. 2024
M.A.	University of Massachusetts Amherst, Afro-American Studies <i>with Advanced Certificate in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies</i>	May 2021
M.A.	University of Central Oklahoma, History Thesis: <i>Queering Black Power: Longing for a Hero</i>	May 2017
B.A.	Oklahoma Christian University, Social Studies Education	April 2011

AREAS OF INTEREST

African American and Black Diasporic Literature; 19th and 20th century African American Literature; Black Visual Culture; Feminist and Queer Theory; Slavery Studies; American Comics; Contemporary Black Feminist Thought; Black Critical Theory; Comic Studies; Sequential Art; Popular Culture; American Studies

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Studies Association (ASA)
Comic Studies Society (CSS)

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Editorial Fellowship, INKS: The Journal of the Comic Studies Society (\$6000)
- 2025 NYU English Advisory Committee Comics Studies Symposium Grant (\$5000)

2024-2026 New York University Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

- 2023 Kehinde Wiley: An Archaeology of Silence Graduate Fellowship, MFAH Museum of Fine Arts Houston (\$10,500)
- 2019 W. E. B. Du Bois Center Graduate Fellow, University of Massachusetts Amherst (\$3500)
- 2017 Research Enhancement and Leadership Fellow, University of Massachusetts Amherst (\$4000)
- 2016 University of Central Oklahoma Research Creative and Scholarly Activities Grant
- 2016 NYPL-Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; Research Grant from University of Central Oklahoma
- 2016 Special Collections and University Archives at UMass Amherst; Research Grant from University of Central Oklahoma
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PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 "Mad at the World: Black Families, Antiracism and the Black Child in the (Neo) Slave Novel," *New Perspectives in Africana Studies: Volume One*. Edited by Crystal Edwards and Abul Pitre. Hamilton Books, 2023
- 2019 Caruthers, Biko. "[Ernest Gaines and Black Studies as Refuge.](#)" *Black Perspectives*, African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS)
- 2018 "[BLACKKKLANSMAN'S False Promise in America's Next Chapter and Police](#)" *RaceBaitr*
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

College and University

New York University (2024-2026)

Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow

Courses Taught: (Fall 2024) Graduate Course: Monsters, Laboratories, and the Black Child, (**Spring 2025**) Undergraduate Course: Nineteenth Century Monster Making, Graduate Course: Race, Sex, and the Superhero in American Comics (**Fall 2025**) and Undergraduate Course: Intro to Comics Studies (**Spring 2026**)

Rice University (2023-2024)

Lecturer, English Department

Courses Taught: (Fall 2023) Intro to African American Literature, Slavery in 20th Century Film & Fiction, (Spring 2024) Constitutions, Colonialism, & Chaos: New World Literature to 1860

University of Massachusetts Amherst (2019-2021)

Graduate Instructor, Departments of Afro-American Studies and Women Gender Sexuality Studies

Courses Taught: Literature of the Harlem Renaissance (Fall 2019), Revolutionary Concepts in Black Music (Spring 2020), Losing Gender (Spring 2021), Afro-American Literature and Culture (Winter 2022)

University of Massachusetts Amherst (2018-2020)

Teaching Assistant, Departments of Afro-American Studies and Women Gender Sexuality Studies

Courses: Survey of Afro-American Literature I (Prof. Britt Rusert, Fall 2018), Survey of Afro-American Literature II (Prof. A-Yemisi Jimoh, Spring 2019), and Gender, Sexuality and Culture (Prof. Kiran Asher, Fall 2020)

PRESENTATIONS/PANELS

- 2025 (Panel Accepted, Upcoming in November) Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association
Session title: *Drawing from Empire: Race, Comics, Anime, and Representation*
- 2025 Annual Conference for the Comic Studies Society
Paper: "Unbinding the Metaphor: Afro-pessimism, Queerness, and the X-men"
- 2023 Meeting of the Society for Comparative Literature and the Arts
Paper: "Mad at the World: Black Families, antiblackness, and the Black Child in The Neo Slave Novel"
- 2023 Faculty First Look Program, New York University
Paper: "The Uncanny Genius of the African Child"
- 2019 The Futures of American Studies Institute-Dartmouth College
Paper: "Oracle Basquiat"
- 2019 Critical University Studies and Futures of Academic Feminism, UMass Amherst
Panel: "Evasion, Theft, and the Neoliberal University"
- 2019 University of Massachusetts Graduate Student Symposium
Paper: "Black Boys and the Black Maternal"
- 2018 Third International Gender & Sexuality Studies Conference
University of Central Oklahoma
Paper: "Inventions of Biopower"
- 2016 International Feminist Journal of Politics-University of Cincinnati
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CONVERSTATIONS/INTERVIEWS/INVITED TALKS

- 2025 Guest Lecture for Course: Race, Gender, and Technology at New York University with Professor Kessie Alexandre
Talk: "Metaphor Madness: Slavery's Generative Capacities"
- 2024 The Black Studies Podcast
Edited/Hosted by John Drabinski and Ashley Newby

https://open.substack.com/pub/blackstudiespodcast/p/biko-caruthers-department-of-english?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web

2018 Panelist, University of Massachusetts Teach-in on Racism

ONLINE AND DIGITAL MEDIA EXPERIENCE

- 2025 Social Media Manager for *INKS: The Journal of the Comic Studies Society*
- 2018 - 2020 Social Media and Communications Manager
Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies, UMass Amherst
- 2018 - 2020 Contributor for Podcast “#BLACK”
Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies, UMass Amherst.
- 2019 Editorial Assistant and Photo Editor
African American Intellectual Historical Society (AAIHS) - *Black Perspectives*
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REFERENCES

Britt Rusert, Professor

W. E. B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies
University of Massachusetts Amherst
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Andrea Adomako, Assistant Professor

English Department
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