

DeAnna Monique Daniels, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Africana and Religious Studies & Classics

University of Arizona

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EDUCATION

Rice University (Houston, Texas)

Doctor of Philosophy

African American Religion

December 2023

Rice University (Houston, Texas)

Master of Arts

African American Religion

August 2020

Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania)

Master of Arts

American Studies

Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

August 2016

Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, Virginia)

Master of Theology

Theology and Ethics

May 2014

Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, Virginia)

Master of Divinity

Theology and Ethics

May 2013

Alma College (Alma, Michigan)

Bachelor of Arts

Religious Studies

June 2010

Daniels Curriculum Vitae

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

University of Arizona

George H. Davis Endowed Travel Scholarship	2025
Wabash Creative Writing Roundtable Fellowship	2024
Wabash Early Career Religion Faculty Teaching Undergraduates Fellowship	2024

Rice University

John Gardener Dissertation Award Nominee	2024
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Honorable Mention	2023
Center for African and African American Studies Certificate	2022
Center for Critical & Cultural Theory Certificate	2022
Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) Doctoral Fellowship Recipient	2022
Louisville Institute Doctoral Fellowship (Declined)	2022
Civic Humanist Fellow Program Manager	2021-2022
Lodieska Stockbridge Vaughn Fellowship Nominee	2021
Civic Humanist Fellow Arts and Cultural Heritage	2019-2021

Lehigh University

Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS)	2016
Strohl Grant Recipient	2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Arizona

Course(s):		
	<i>AFAS/ENGL 320 Black Womanist Writers</i>	Present
	<i>RELI 227 Religion and Film (Black Horror Focus).</i>	Present
	<i>AFAS 200 Introduction to Africana</i>	2024
	<i>AFAS/SOC 220 Introduction to African American Studies</i>	2024
	<i>AFAS/ENGL 320 Black Womanist Writers</i>	2023
	<i>AFAS 302 Africana Research Approaches</i>	2023

Rice University

Course(s):	<i>FWIS 175 Examining Horror and Black Religion</i>	Present
	<i>RELI 357 What's Black about Black Religion</i>	2022
	<i>RELI 216 Religion and Black Lives Matter</i>	2022
	<i>RELI 158 Liberation Theologies</i>	2021

Center for Academic and Professional Communication Writing Coach

Course(s):	<i>FWIS 100 (First-Year Writing Intensive) The American Dream</i>	
	<i>FWIS 100 (First-Year Writing Intensive) Border Narratives</i>	2022

Teaching Assistant

Course(s):	<i>RELI 157 Religion and Hip-Hop Culture</i>	2018
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Lehigh University

Teaching Assistant	2014-2016
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Course(s):	<i>ENGL 491 Special Topics Voices of Freedom</i>	
	<i>REL/ENGL 395 Black Queer Saint</i>	

PUBLICATIONS

“Short Reviews: The Bible and Cinema.” *Interpretation Journal*, August 2024

“Denver’s Quest: Exploring Horror and Complex Subjectivity in *Beloved*.” *Journal of Africana Religion*, vol 11, no. 2 (2023): 251-283. muse.jhu.edu/article/908196.

“Review of *Ezili's Mirrors: Imagining Black Queer Genders*, by Omise'eke Natasha Tinsley.” *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft* 14, no. 1 (2019): 119-122. doi:10.1353/mrw.2019.0012.

“Can the Church Get ‘Turnt’ Up? On the Hymns and Hip-Hop Conference.” In *Urban Faith Magazine*, March 2014, 1-4.

“Bathsheba.” In *Lady Parts: Biblical Women and The Vagina Monologues* edited by K.D. Blanchard (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2012), 68-70.

ACADEMIC PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Towards a Black Teratological Pedagogical Intervention.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, November 22, 2024.

“Monstrous Reclamation: Exploring Black Religion Through the Monstrous.” Festival of Monsters at UC Santa Cruz Center for Monster Studies, Santa Cruz, California, October 17th, 2024.

“The Future of the Study of Religion in Arizona’s Public Universities.” The Study of Religion in Arizona ASU/U of A Symposium, Tempe, Arizona, September 13th, 2024.

“Horror and Religion.” *Beyond The Womanist Classroom* with Dr. Mitzi Smith Podcast, Season 2, Episode 4, August 2024.

“Towards Black Teratological Becoming(s): Black Religion and The Monstrous as Possibility.” Esalen Institute Center for Theory and Research: Black Possibility, Big Sur, California, June 14-18, 2024.

“Black Religion(s), Horror, and Afrofuturism.” Bethany Seminary, Zoom Virtual Lecture, May 10, 2024.

“Beyond the Shadows: Exploring the Monstrous in/through/and Black Religion.” Society for the Study of the American Gothic Inaugural Symposium, Salem, Massachusetts, March 21st, 2024.

“Still Unspeakable, Still Unspoken? Conjuring the Africanist Presence in Contemporary Film and Media.” Society for Cinema and Media Students, Boston, Massachusetts, March 16, 2024.

“Reclaiming The Monster: Monstrous Renderings of Blackness, Race, and Religion.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, November 19, 2023.

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ACADEMIC PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

“Vampiric Hauntology/Octavia Butler’s *Fledgling*/Assembled Becoming.” Esalen Institute Center for Theory and Research, Big Sur, California, December 4-8, 2022.

“On Ratchet Theology through Horror and Hip Hop.” Black Femme Theologies, University of Detroit-Mercy, Detroit, Michigan, November 29, 2022.

“On Ghosts, Hoodoo, and Complex Subjectivity: Examining Horror and Black Religion in HBO’s *Lovecraft Country*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, November 18, 2022.

“Black To the Future: Horror and Afrofuturism in Popular Culture.” Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia, October 25, 2022.

“Horror and Writing in the Humanities.” Connectrix Summer Program, Rice University, Houston, Texas, June 15, 2022.

“Thinking Through the Slash: Horror In/As/Through/And Black Religion and Culture.” CAAAS Colloquium, Houston, Texas, April 23, 2021.

“Pivoting Writing Center Pedagogy and Practice Beyond Traditional Forums.” South Central Writing Centers Association Virtual Conference, March 7, 2021.

“Imagineering Possibility: Black Horror, Mermaids, and Diasporic Religion.” Boniuk Institute, Houston, Texas, March 22, 2021.

“Imagineering Possibility: Black Mermaids, Horror, Imagination, and the Humanities.” Lecture Series as Civic Humanist Research Fellow, Rice University, Houston, Texas, August 15, 2019-May 15, 2022.

“Religion and Hip-Hop: Conflict, Conflation or Coexistence.” Houston Independent School District Conference and Boniuk Institute, Houston, Texas, January 26, 2019.

“Place Is the Space: Constructing Place in Black Women’s Narrative Fiction.” Rice University, Houston, Texas, December 1, 2018.

“In Living Community: Black Women’s Cultural Productions as Architectonic Texts.” Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church, Houston, Texas, September 9 & 16, 2018.

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Religion, Film and Visual Culture Unit American Academy of Religion Steering Committee Member	2025-Present
Society for Study of American Gothic At Large Member	2024-Present
University of Arizona SANKOFA Faculty Affinity Group Steering Committee Black History Month Programming Committee Africana Department Recruitment Committee	2023-Present

CAMPUS, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND EMPLOYMENT

PAPER Tutoring Company Virtual K-12 Academic Support and Essay Reviewer	2021-2023
Rice University Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning (CERCL) Graduate Assistant Dr. Anthony Pinn/ Maya Reine	2017-Present
Academic and Cultural Empowerment at Rice President (ACE@Rice) Maya Reine	2017-2023
Afro-Diasporic Houston Symposium Vice Chair Dr. Portia Hopkins	2022-2023
Pleasantville Archival Project Religious Oral History Archivist Dr. Zoe Wool	2020-2023
Fondren Library Circulation Assistant Heidi Viera	2017-2023
First Unitarian Universalist Church Research Assistant Dr. Colin Bossen	2018-2021
Moody Center for the Arts Gallery Docent Alyshia Harris	2018-2021
Black Graduate Student Association President	2017-2019

LANGUAGES

German (reading), **French** (reading), **Hebrew** (reading), **Greek** (reading).