

# Melvin A. Whitehead, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Student Affairs Administration  
Binghamton University (SUNY), College of Community and Public Affairs  
mwhitehe@binghamton.edu

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## EDUCATION

- 2020      Ph.D., Education  
University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
Concentration: College Student Affairs Administration
- Dissertation: *Facing the Disagreeable Mirror: A Critical Counter-narrative Exploring How White College Students Make Meaning of and Evade Disrupting Racism in Their Environments*
- 2010      M.S.I., Information Science  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI  
Concentration: Library and Information Services
- 2007      B.S., Music Education  
Towson University, Towson, MD  
Concentration: Instrumental Music

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**Binghamton University - State University of New York (SUNY)**, Binghamton, NY  
*Student Affairs Administration Program, College of Community and Public Affairs*  
Assistant Professor, September 2020 – present

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## RESEARCH EXPERTISE

- Qualitative methodologies
- Whiteness and anti-blackness in U.S. postsecondary education
- Endarkened feminisms
- Critical whiteness studies
- Black critical theory
- Racial meaning-making and development

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## SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Stewart, T. J., **Whitehead, M. A.**, Williams, Q., & Quaye, S. J. (accepted). Extending BlackCrit: Reframing the Black/white paradigm toward implicating People of Color in antiblackness in education. *Journal of Negro Education*.
- Whitehead, M. A.**, Foste, Z., Duran, A., Tevis, T., & Cabrera, N. L. (2021). Disrupting the big lie: Higher education and whiteness in a post/colorblind era. *Education Sciences*, 11, 486.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2021). Whiteness, anti-blackness, and trauma: A grounded theory of white racial meaning-making. *Journal of College Student Development*, 62(3), 310-326.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2019). "Where are my people at?": A community cultural wealth analysis of how lesbian, gay, and bisexual community college students of color access community and support. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 43(10-11), 730-742.
- Whitehead, M. A.**, Smith, M. J., Williams, B. M., & McDaniel, B. N. (2019). A document analysis examining the experiences of Muslim college students at a public university in the U.S. South. *College Student Affairs Journal*, 37(2), 198-212.

### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR REVISION

- Briscoe, K. L., Jones, V., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (under revision). "Behind the veil": Unmasking anti-blackness in presidential discourse and responses to racialized incidents.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (revised & resubmitted). Remaining in the Wake: Towards an endarkened paradigm for critical studies of whiteness.
- Smith, T. C., **Whitehead, M. A.**, Briscoe, K. L., Ford, J. R., & Wallace, J. K. (revised & resubmitted). If not us then who: Supporting Black graduate students.
- Whitehead, M. A.**, Reynolds, M. A., & Marlow-McCowan, J. A. (under review). "Come get your people!": An Endarkened analysis of white college students' intra-racial conversations about race.
- Whitehead, M. A.**, Briscoe, K. L., Ford, J. R., Wallace, J. K., & Smith, T. C. (under review). Proximity and practice: The nexus of whiteness and anti-blackness in the experiences of Black faculty.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

- Tevis, T., **Whitehead, M. A.**, Foste, Z., & Duran, A. (2023). Whiteness beyond (just) white people: Exploring the interconnections among dimensions of whiteness in higher education. In L. W. Perna (Ed.), *Higher education: Handbook of theory and research, Vol. 38*. Springer.
- Whitehead, M. A.**, Weston, E., & Evans, M. E. (2022). The white racial engagement model: Unlearning the oppressive conditioning of whiteness. In Z. Foste and T. Tevis (Eds.), *Critical whiteness praxis in higher education & student affairs: Considerations for the pursuit of racial justice on campus* (pp. 224-244). Stylus.
- Foste, Z., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (2022). Starting from the margins: Reflections on challenging whiteness in higher education. In Z. Foste and T. Tevis (Eds.), *Critical whiteness praxis in higher education & student affairs: Considerations for the pursuit of racial justice on campus* (pp. 256 - 272). Stylus.

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2020). "Where are my people at?": A community cultural wealth analysis of how lesbian, gay, and bisexual community college students of color access community and support. In D. L. Floyd, C. Salinas, E. Swingle, M. J. Zeledón-Pérez, S. Barhoum, & G. Ramdin (Eds.), *Graduate students' research about community colleges: A guide for publishing*. Routledge.

**Whitehead, M. A., & Gulley, N. Y.** (2019). LGBTQ+ matters and the community college: Policy and program considerations for students, faculty, and staff. In E. M. Zamani-Gallaher, D. D. Choudhuri, & J. L. Taylor (Eds.), *Rethinking LGBTQIA students and collegiate contexts: Identity, policies, and campus climate* (pp. 120 – 134). Routledge.

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2022). The experiences of Queer Students of Color at historically white institutions: Navigating intersectional identities on campus [Review of the book]. *Journal of College Student Development*, 63(4), 471-473.

### **GRANTS FUNDED**

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2021). *Exploring whiteness in white college students' conversations about race*. Presidential Diversity Research Grant, Binghamton University Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (\$7,674). Principal Investigator.

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2017). *The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and similarly-identified Students of Color at a community college*. Southern Association for College Student Affairs (\$300). Lead Project Manager.

### **SCHOLARLY & RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

**Whitehead, M. A., & Zhao, A.** (2023, November). *Coming Home: Imagining Possibilities for Scholars of Color Healing Through Research*. Scholarly performance ethnography session to be presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2023, April). *"Come get your people": White college students' conversations about race with white peers and family*. Scholarly paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Ozias, M., **Whitehead, M. A., & McKinney, N.** (2023, April). *Towards an ethics of critical whiteness studies*. Scholarly paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

**Whitehead, M. A.,** Briscoe, K. L., Ford, J. R., Wallace, J. K., & Smith, T. C. (2023, April). *Proximity and practice: Enacted whiteness and anti-blackness in the experiences of Black faculty*. Scholarly paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Smith, T. C., **Whitehead, M. A.,** Briscoe, K. L., Ford, J. R., & Wallace, J. K. (2023, March). *If not us then who?: Supporting Black graduate students*. Scholarly paper presented at the ACPA: College Student Educators International Conference, New Orleans, LA.

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2021, November). *Towards an endarkened whiteness studies: Centering Black humanity in critical whiteness research in higher education*. Scholarly paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, San Juan, PR.

- Whitehead, M. A.,** Foste, Z., Duran, A., Tevis, T., & Cabrera, N. C. (2021, October). *Disrupting the big lie: Higher education and whiteness in a post/colorblind era*. Scholarly paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference (virtual).
- Wallace, J. K., Briscoe, K., Ford, J., Smith, T. C., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (2020, November). *Before we let go: Counterstories of Black scholars navigating the academic job market*. Interactive symposium presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference (virtual).
- Whitehead, M. A.,** Grimes, N., & Breeden, R. (2020, November). *Deepening spirit: An ethnographic performance bridging Black diasporic home-making to liberation work in higher education*. Scholarly performance ethnography session presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference (virtual).
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2020, March). *Understanding processes underlying white college students' racial emotions*. Paper presented at the ACPA: College Student Educators International Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Whitehead, M. A.,** Weston, E., & Evans, M. E. (2019, November). *The white racial engagement model: A new conceptualization of engaging with white racial identity*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Portland, OR.
- Foste, Z., Tevis, T., **Whitehead, M. A.,** Lange, A. C., Cabrera, N. L., Haynes Davison, C., Doran, E. E., & Linley, J. (2019, November). *Shifting the gaze: How differently-situated scholars approach and experience the study of whiteness in higher education*. Symposium presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Portland, OR.
- Stewart, T. J., **Whitehead, M. A.,** Williams, Q., & Quaye, S. J. (2018, November). *CritNoir: Reframing the Black/white continuum and implicating non-Black People of Color in anti-Black racism*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.
- Smith, M. J., **Whitehead, M. A.,** & Williams, B. M. (2018, March). *A #TravelBan?: Muslim international student experiences in the U.S. South*. Program presented at the ACPA: College Student Educators International Conference, Houston, TX.
- Gulley, N. Y., Evans, M. E., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (2018, March). *Persistence strategies of LGBTQ community college students*. Program presented at ACPA: College Student Educators International Conference, Houston, TX.
- Jourian, T. J., Nicolazzo, Z., Pitcher, E., schneider, f., Simmons, S., Stewart, D.-L., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (2017, November). *Not your t\*oken: The power of trans(\*) and gender non-conforming scholars*. Symposium presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Houston, TX.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2017, November). *Examining the experiences of LGBTQ+ community college students of color using an intersectional framework*. Roundtable presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Houston, TX.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2017, October). *Applying intersectional frameworks to study and support LGBTQ+ community college Students of Color*. Presentation at the National Symposium on LGBTQ Research in Higher Education, Dekalb, IL.

#### **PEER-REVIEWED WORKSHOPS**

**Whitehead, M. A.**, & Reynolds, M. A., & Marlow-McCowan, J. A. (2022, October). *Deepening racial engagement: white students' conversations about race outside the classroom*. Program presented at the College Student Personnel Association of New York State Annual Conference, Binghamton, NY.

Wallace, J. K., Bostick, D. N., Breeden, R., **Whitehead, M. A.**, Williams, Q. (2019, November). *Black excellence lives here: The Experiences of Black doctoral students at historically white institutions*. Program presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Association for College Student Affairs Annual Conference, Raleigh, NC.

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2018, November). *Using community cultural wealth to enhance support for Students of Color*. Program presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Association for College Student Affairs Annual Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Evans, M. E., Smith, M. J., Wallace, J. K., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (2017, October). *An inclusive measure: The art of applying critical theories to common assessment practices*. Program presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Association for College Student Affairs Annual Conference, Chattanooga, TN.

Williams, B., Andrews, L., **Whitehead, M. A.**, Williams, Q., & Williams, M. (2017, October). "What will I wear today?": *Misogynoir, homoantagonism, & anti-Blackness in 'professional dress'*. Panel at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Association for College Student Affairs, Chattanooga, TN.

#### **INVITED KEYNOTES, TALKS, WORKSHOPS, & PANELS**

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2023, February). *Community, care, and responsibility: Intersectional strategies for unlearning and healing from anti-blackness*. Invited keynote for Merrimack College Unity Days event.

Duran, A., Porter, C., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (2022, November). *Wrestling with and establishing congruence in critical qualitative research*. Invited research methods workshop for the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

**Whitehead, M. A.**, & Marlow-McCowan, J. A. (2022, October). *White college students' conversations about race with white peers and family members*. Invited research presentation for the College of Community and Public Affairs Lunch & Learn series, Binghamton University.

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2022, September). *Community, care, and responsibility: Strategies for healing from anti-blackness*. Invited workshop for Branch Out Alternative Breaks, College of William and Mary.

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2022, June-July). *Anti-blackness & community engagement: Strategies for (un)learning, healing, and coalition-building*. Invited lectures for Break Away.

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2022, April). *The Ground of our existence: Whiteness and anti-blackness on U.S. college campuses*. Invited public lecture for the University of Kentucky.

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2022, February). Invited guest lecturer on whiteness and college students in Dr. Yancey Gulley's Diversity & Higher Education course at Western Carolina University.

Wang, A., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (2021, October). *Thriving as a graduate student*. Invited panelist for the Association for the Study of Higher Education Council for Ethnic Participation Mentor-Protegee Program.

**Whitehead, M. A.** (2021, September). Invited guest lecturer on grounded theory methodology in Dr. Katherine Cho's Advanced Qualitative Research course at Miami University.

- Whitehead, M. A.** (2021, April). Invited speaker on disrupting racism in Dr. Jennifer George's Historical Context of Contemporary Social Issues course at the University of Georgia.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2021, April). Invited guest lecturer on disrupting racism on college campuses in Dr. April Perry's Capstone in Higher Education & Student Affairs course at Western Carolina University.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2021, April). Invited guest speaker on engaging white college students with racial issues. College of Community and Public Affairs Inclusive Pedagogy Faculty Group, Binghamton University.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2021, March). Invited guest lecturer on whiteness and college students in Dr. Yancey Gulley's Diversity & Higher Education course at Western Carolina University.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2021, February). Invited guest lecturer on grounded theory methodology in Dr. Zak Foste's Advanced Qualitative Research course at the University of Kansas.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2020, November). *Committing to action: White anti-racist group interactive symposium*. Invited panelist for symposium presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2020, June). *Centering LGBTQ2S+ Students of Color in community college online environments*. Invited presenter for "Fostering LGBTQ2S+ inclusion in online learning" webinar.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2020, February). *Facing the disagreeable mirror: A critical counternarrative exploring how white college students make meaning of and evade confronting racism in their environments*. Invited presentation for the University of Georgia Campus Police.
- Whitehead, M. A., & Evans, M. E.** (2019, March). *White racial engagement model*. Invited guest lecture in Dr. Georgianna Martin's Student Development Theories course at the University of Georgia.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2018, September). "*Where my people at?: Community and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and gender nonconforming Students of Color*". Invited presentation at Central Piedmont Community College.
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2018, April). *Using intersectionality to support LGBTQ+ Students of Color*. Invited guest lecture in Dr. Georgianna Martin's Student Development Theories course at the University of Georgia.

### **CONFERENCE DISCUSSANT**

2022 *Navigating Racialized Identities as a Student Affairs Academic*, ACPA: College Educators International, St. Louis, MO.

## **TEACHING**

### **BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY (SUNY)**

#### **Graduate Instruction:**

- Introduction to Student Personnel Services (M.S.)
- Culture of the American College Student (M.S.)
- Whiteness in U.S. Education (M.S.)
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Student Affairs (M.S.)
- College Student Development Theory, Research, & Practice (M.S.)

- College Student Development II: Theory to Practice (M. S.)
- Social Justice, Positionality, and the Politics of Knowledge (Ph.D.)

## **UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

### Graduate Instruction (Teaching Assistant):

- Theories of College Student Development (M.Ed.)

### Undergraduate Instruction:

- Peer Leadership on Campus
- Leadership in Action
- Advanced Leadership in Action
- Strategies and Life Skills

## **SERVICE**

### **EDITORIAL & REVIEW BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

*Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, 2024 – present

*About Campus*, Board of Contributors, 2023 – present

*Journal of Critical Research in Higher Education and Student Affairs*, 2015 – 2017

### **INVITED MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER**

*International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*

*Journal of Women and Gender in Higher Education*

*Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*

*Journal of Higher Education*

*Whiteness & Education*

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

*American Educational Research Association*

2021 – 2020                      Annual Reviewer for conference proposals

*Association for the Study of Higher Education*

2023 – present                      Member, Bobby Wright Dissertation of the Year Committee

2019 – present                      Annual Reviewer for conference proposals

2022                                      Member, Program Committee, Council of Ethnic Participation Pre-Conference

### **COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

*Binghamton University (SUNY)*

2023 – present                      Student Affairs Administration Representative, Faculty Senate

2021 – present                      Member, Research Committee, College of Community and Public Affairs

2020 – 2023                              Advisor, Student Affairs Graduate Association

*University of Georgia*

2018                                      Cluster Facilitator, LeaderShape Institute

2018                                      Facilitator, IGNITE Social Justice Retreat (student leadership program)

2017 – 2020                              Facilitator, Safe Space Ally Program (LGBTQ ally training program)

2017 – 2020                              Student Ambassador, College Student Affairs Administration Program

*Joliet Junior College*

2016 Search Committee, Dean of Academic Excellence and Support  
 2015 – 2016 Member, Professional Development Task Force  
 2015 Search Committee, Associate Dean of the Library  
 2014 – 2016 Co-Initiator of Safe Zone Student Speakers Bureau  
 2014 – 2016 Chair, Brown Bag Lecture Series Committee  
 2014 – 2016 Co-Advisor, Student Government Association  
 2014 Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Natural Arts & Sciences  
 2013 – 2016 Secretary, Committee for African American & Latino/a American Concerns  
 2013 – 2016 Member, Student Learning Committee  
 2013 – 2016 Secretary, President's Diversity Advisory Council  
 2013 – 2014 Member, Learning Technology Advisory Team  
 2013, 2014 Member, Summer Bridge Program Planning Committee  
 2012 – 2016 Co-Facilitator, Safe Zone Ally Project (LGBTQ ally training program)  
 2012 – 2016 Advisor, Gay, Lesbian, And More (student organization)  
 2012 – 2015 Event Organizer (annually), Transgender Day of Remembrance  
 2011 – 2013 Member, Personal and Professional Development Committee