

Melvin A. Whitehead, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Higher Education and Student Affairs
Binghamton University (SUNY), College of Community and Public Affairs
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Last updated: August 20, 2025

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
Higher Education and Student Affairs, College of Community and Public Affairs
Assistant Professor, September 2020 – present

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Qualitative methodologies, whiteness and anti-blackness in U.S. higher education, critical whiteness studies, endarkened feminism, Black critical theory, white racial engagement

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Whitehead, M. A.**, Briscoe, K. L., Ford, J. R., Wallace, J. K., & Smith, T. C. (accepted/in press). The specificity of anti-blackness: A critical co-constructed autoethnography on the marginalizing experiences of early-career Black faculty. *The Journal of Higher Education*.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00221546.2025.2545162>
- Whitehead, M. A.**, Reynolds, M. A., & Marlow-McCowin, J. A. (2025). "Come get your people!": An endarkened analysis of white college students' intraracial conversations about race. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09518398.2025.2470924>

- Whitehead, M. A., & Foste, Z. H.** (2025). When push comes to shove: (Dis)junctures in utility, purpose, and meaning in white college students' intra-racial conversations about race. *Journal of College Student Development*, 66(1), 33—49.
<https://doi.org/10.1353/csd.2025.a951527>
- Briscoe, K. L., Jones, V., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (2024). "Behind the veil": Unmasking anti-blackness in presidential discourse and responses to racialized incidents. *The Review of Higher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1353/rhe.0.a946603>
- Smith, T. C., **Whitehead, M. A.**, Briscoe, K. L., Ford, J. R., & Wallace, J. K. (2024). If not us then who: Supporting Black graduate students. *Journal Committed to Social Change on Race and Ethnicity*, 10(2), 2—22. <https://doi.org/10.15763/issn.2642-2387.2024.10.2.1-22>
- Whitehead, M. A.** (2024). Remaining in the wake: Towards an endarkened paradigm for critical studies of whiteness. *Whiteness and Education*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/23793406.2024.2411569>
- Stewart, T. J., **Whitehead, M. A.**, Williams, Q., & Quayle, S. J. (2023). Extending BlackCrit: Reframing the Black/white paradigm toward implicating People of Color in antiblackness in education. *The Journal of Negro Education*, 92(3), 259—272. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/934315>
- 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.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci11090486>
- 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.
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/795639>
- 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.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10668926.2019.1600611>
- 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.
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1255464.pdf>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR REVISION

- Zhao, A., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (under review). Coming home: Embracing healing for Scholars of Color through research. *Departures in Critical Qualitative Inquiry*.
- Ozias, M., **Whitehead, M. A.**, & McKinney, N. (revised & resubmitted). Towards a praxis and ethics of critical whiteness studies. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*.

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* (pp. 1-54) 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* (pp. 70—82). 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.

NON-REFEREED JOURNAL MANUSCRIPTS

Whitehead, M. A. (2025). Addressing privilege and oppression from multiple angles. *About Campus*, 30(1), 4–6. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10864822251314985>

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. <https://doi.org/10.1353/csd.2022.0041>

GRANTS SUBMITTED

Evans, M. E., **Whitehead, M. A.,** Weston, E. R. (2025). *Tracing the trajectory of white racial engagement: Longitudinal insights into identity, accountability, and change*. Research Grants on Education, Spencer Foundation (\$401,563). Co-Principal Investigator.

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.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Whitehead, M. A., & Zhao, A. (2023, November). *Coming home: Imagining possibilities for Scholars of Color healing through research*. Scholarly performance ethnography session 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 whitelash 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

Stephens-Peace, K. J., Suarez, M. I., **Whitehead, M. A.,** Asamoah, A. B. (2025, February 27). *How is the social context of education changing?* Invited panelist for American Educational Research Association webinar series.

Adams, M. M., Shipe, S. L., Young, S. R., & **Whitehead, M. A.** (2024, April 17). *Reconciling the past with the present to create an anti-oppressive social work practice*. Invited panelist for the Binghamton University Department of Social Work's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Whitehead, M. A. (2024, February). *Deepening Racial Engagement Among White College Students*. Invited workshop for SUNY Broome Community College.

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:

- Social Justice, Positionality, and the Politics of Knowledge (Ph.D.)
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Student Affairs (M.S.)
- Culture of the American College Student (M.S.)
- Whiteness in U.S. Education / Race & Racism in U.S. Education (M.S.)
- Introduction to Student Personnel Services (M.S.)
- College Student Development Theory, Research, & Practice (M.S.)
- College Student Development II: Theory to Practice (M.S.)
- Organization and Administration of Higher Education (M.S.)
- Admissions to Alumni Success (M.S.)

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 (Teaching Assistant)

ADVISING

Major Advisor, Doctoral Students

1. Jeffrey Godowski, Ph.D., Community Research and Action, Binghamton University
2. Adam Zhao, Ph.D., Community Research and Action, Binghamton University

Committee Member, Doctoral Dissertation Defended

1. Ying Li (2024). *Teaching Critical Media Literacy in the Secondary English Classroom*. Ed.D., Teaching, Learning, and Educational Leadership, Binghamton University

Committee Member, Doctoral Students

1. Amethyst Rodriguez, Ph.D., Community Research and Action, Binghamton University
2. Nicole Koschmann, Ed.D., Educational Theory, Research, and Practice, Binghamton University

SERVICE

EDITORIAL SERVICE

2024 – present	Editorial Board Member, <i>Journal of Higher Education</i>
2024 – present	Editorial Board Member, <i>Journal of Diversity in Higher Education</i>
2023 – present	Board of Contributors Member, <i>About Campus</i>

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Association for the Study of Higher Education

2023 – present	Member, Bobby Wright Dissertation of the Year Committee
2019 – 2022	Annual Reviewer for conference proposals
2022	Member, Program Committee, Council of Ethnic Participation Pre-Conference

ACPA: College Student Educators International

2024, 2025	Reviewer, Marylu K. McEwen Dissertation of the Year
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COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Binghamton University

2025 – present	Member, Educational Opportunities Program Advisory Committee
2025 – present	Member, LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus
2025 – present	Co-Chair, Research Committee, College of Community and Public Affairs
Spring 2025	Member, Roger Summers Student Affairs Scholarship Committee
February 2025	Course Connections Discussion Facilitator, Graduate School
Spring 2025	Member, TLEL Special Education faculty search committee
February 2025	Workshop Facilitator on Whiteness & Healing, Pride & Joy Families
2024 – present	Member, Community Research and Action PhD Advisory Committee
2023 – present	Department Representative, Faculty Senate
2021 – 2025	Member, Research Committee, College of Community and Public Affairs
2020 – 2023	Advisor, Student Affairs Graduate Association

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