

# Taylor L. Smith

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## EDUCATION

**Washington University in St. Louis**, St. Louis, MO August 2016-May 2020

Bachelor of Arts in African & African-American Studies, *magna cum laude*

Thesis: ‘The Depth Within:’ Black Women, Creative Media, & the Aesthetics of Interiority

Committee: Jonathan Fenderson, Rhaisa Williams, and Reem Hilu

**WU French and African Studies Summer Program**, Senegal July 2019

Project: ‘The Politics of Care:’ Understanding Sisterhood in Senegal

Coursework: Intensive Introductory Wolof & Senegal: History, Politics, & Care

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Visual Culture, Digital Media Studies, Black Feminist Thought, Performance Theory, Black Studies, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Communication Studies

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PAPERS

**Undergraduate Research Symposium** May 2020

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

*Presenter:* “‘The Depth Within:’ Black Women, Creative Media, & the Aesthetics of Interiority”

**Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship- Midwest Regional Conference** November 2019

Carleton College, Northfield, MN

*Presenter:* “‘The Depth Within:’ Conceptualizing the Aesthetics of Black Women’s Interior Self in Media”

**Undergraduate Research Symposium** October 2019

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

*Presenter:* “‘The Politics of Care:’ Understanding Sisterhood in Senegal”

**Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship- Midwest Regional Conference** November 2018

Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

*Presenter:* “‘The Depth Within:’ Conceptualizing the Aesthetics of Black Women’s Interior Self in Media”

**Undergraduate Research Symposium**

April 2018

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

*Presenter:* “Can One ‘Snatch the Sound?:’ The Impact of African American Vernacular Appropriation in Popular Music”

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

**Copper-DuBois Mentoring Program,**

October 2021

Pennsylvania State University

**Mellon Scholars Summer Workshop,**

Summer 2021

Library Company of Philadelphia

**Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship,**

February 2018- May 2020

Washington University in St. Louis

**Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship**

Summer 2019

**Rowe Summer Study Abroad Scholarship,**

Summer 2019

Washington University in St. Louis

**College of Arts and Sciences’ Dean List,**

Spring 2017- Spring 2019

Washington University in St. Louis

**Ralph Bunche Scholar- James E. McLeod Honors**

Spring 2018, Spring 2019

Washington University in St. Louis

**Cape Town January Programme Fellow,**

January 2019

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship- Cape Town

**Student Success Fund Recipient,**

September 2018

Washington University in St. Louis

**Emerging Scholars,**

Summer 2018

Richards Center, Pennsylvania State University

## **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

### **The Oakland Community School (OCS) Project, LLC**

*Research Assistant*

Summer 2021

- Assisted with database transfers between digital platforms as a part of a documentary project and memory book project
- Tracked references between platforms like Airtable and Google Drive
- Created original promotional material for community events and faculty talks

### **Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO**

*Faculty Teaching Assistant*

January 2021- May 2021

- Lead weekly class discussions of approximately 25-30 students
- Tracked attendance and assessed students' assignments
- Assisted in planning lectures and teaching course material

*Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Intern*

April 2019-May 2020

- Acted as the liaison between the program's professional staff and the fellows
- Assisted in the coordination of the recruitment process of the next cohort of fellows
- Clerical and creative tasks including the maintenance of the alumni database and the making of promotional material

*Research Assistant*

January 2022- Present

Collaborated with a small group on the development of a forthcoming book project

Located journalistic and scholarly writing on major databases (i.e. Billboard and Vibe)

Maintained accurate inventory of data collection and high-quality copies of material

Generated weekly reports detailing data collected