

Jade Abston

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Jade Abston is a media professional and educator. For several years, she worked at television networks creating digital media while also teaching undergraduate media studies and new media courses with a dedication to a diverse curriculum for over 10 years. Currently, she is working as a graduate student researcher and co-author for the UCLA Hollywood Diversity Report for the Entertainment and Media Research Initiative under the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, which examines the relationship between the bottom line in the Hollywood entertainment industry and diversity.

Her dissertation examines music videos and visual albums as a popular medium that allows Black women agency in their performance and world-building by developing narratives and aesthetics rooted in black feminist praxis.

EDUCATION

PhD Cinema and Media Studies

University of California, Los Angeles 2021- Current

Areas of Expertise: Black feminism, Black popular culture, popular music studies, black visual culture, sound studies

Master of Arts, Cinema and Media Studies

University of California, Los Angeles 2020-2021

Areas of Expertise: Black feminist media studies, Black cultural productions, Afrofuturism, popular culture, music videos

Master of Arts, Communication Arts 2012-2014 New York Institute of

Technology, Manhattan

Areas of Expertise: Media Management

Bachelor of Arts, Communication. 2008-2012 Cedar Crest College

PRESENTATIONS, RESEARCH EXPERIENCE, PUBLICATIONS, ETC.

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Presentations

Abston, Jade (2025) "ti esrever dna ti pilf, nwod gniht ym tuP": Missy Elliot Queering the Video Vixen Trope." paper presented at the Popular Culture Association National Conference in New Orleans.

Research Experience

Graduate Student Researcher and Co-Author, UCLA Social Sciences Department

2021-Present

- Collect film and television data for the UCLA Hollywood Diversity Report. I assist with conducting research analyses and writing and editing reports.

Student Research Assistant, University of California, Los Angeles (School of Theater, Film, and TV) 2021-Present

- Researched representations of disability and neurodiversity in media and representations of women's anger in the media for Professor Kathleen McHugh
- Graduate Student Researcher for Professor Shelleen Greene in the Department of Film, Television, and Digital Media. In my role as a student assistant for Professor Greene, I researched Black Performance studies and Black artists and collected bibliographic research and compilation: video interviews, journal articles, magazines, museum catalogs, etc.

Publications

Peer Review, Define American: Change the Narrative, Change the World: The Power of Immigrant Representation on Television, USC Norman Lear Center's Media Impact Project (2022)

Invited Talks

Host, Q&A with Dennis Bovell at Soho House Warehouse, Los Angeles (2023)

AWARDS

- James Pendleton Foundation Prize, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (\$4,500) 2021
- Graduate Council Diversity Fellowship (\$30,000) 2022 - Army Archerd

Fellowship, UCLA School of FTV

(\$1,300) 2022

- Teshome Gabriel Memorial Award

(\$8,000) 2023

- Allies for Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship. 2024

(\$4,000)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Faculty Associate, Arizona State University, Remote - Television Studies 2023-Present

- Race, Gender, & Sexuality in Media
- Emerging Digital Media
- Race & Gender in U.S. Media

Inclusive Teaching Fellow 2022

- Served as an Inclusive Teaching Fellow from March 2022- September 2022 - Enhancing inclusive teaching at UCLA by co-creating knowledge and increasing competence in cutting-edge critical and inclusive pedagogical approaches that disrupt inequitable instructional practices by: - Facilitating workshops on inclusive and equitable pedagogy for UCLA graduate students, teaching assistants, and faculty
- Training other UCLA graduate students and faculty on how to implement inclusive teaching practices in their classrooms
- Developing content and curriculum for workshops on inclusive teaching practices in Higher Education
- Creating inclusive teaching resources for the UCLA community
- Partnering with various stakeholders to present on issues relating to inclusive teaching in 495 courses, departmental workshops, etc.

Co-Author and Graduate Student Researcher and Co-Author, UCLA Social Sciences Department, UCLA Social Sciences Department

- Collect film and television data for the UCLA Hollywood Diversity Report. I assist with conducting research analyses and writing and editing reports.

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Los Angeles 2021-Present

- FTV 113 Film Authors
- FTV 4 Introduction to Art and Technique of Filmmaking
- FTV 114 Film Genres
- FTV M50 Introduction to Visual Culture
- FTV 6A History of American Motion Picture

- FTV 112 Film & Social Change
- FTV 106B History of European Motion Picture

Instructor, Cedar Crest College Department of Communication 2014 - 2016

- Intro to New Media - Interpersonal Communication
- Global Issues in New Media - Visual Communication
- Women in Music
- Reality Television
- Hip Hop Culture
- Digital Photography
- Animation and 3D Motion
- Advanced Digital Photography
- Video for the Web

SKILLS

- Qualitative research skills in the humanities fields
- Complete proficiency in Windows and Mac OS X operating systems
- Complete proficiency in Microsoft and Apple Office Suites, including Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Pages, and Keynote,