

SUBAN NUR COOLEY

suban@msu.edu | www.subannurcooley.com

Suban Nur Cooley is an assistant professor of Black Feminisms, Genders, and Sexualities at Michigan State University's department of African American and African Studies. Working to empower and embolden the value and strength of varied knowledges and cultural practices through her writing, research, and teaching, Dr. Nur Cooley blends the rhetorics of identity and belonging, cultural and digital literacies, and Black feminist theory to help build understanding and broaden perspectives of how we define and value all forms of writing. Dr. Nur Cooley has more than 12 years of experience working as a storyteller and professional communicator and brings this expertise to bear in the classroom, teaching with and about technology to help students develop both practical and critical digital and cultural literacies. As a community-minded scholar, she is also driven by equity, reciprocity, and a growth in empathy and understanding for one another and is consistently looking for opportunities to engage her research and classroom spaces with the world beyond it by focusing on issues pertaining to identity, culture, and current events.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Black Feminisms, Genders, and Sexualities

2023 - present

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Assistant Professor of English (Rhetoric and Professional Communication)

2021 - 2023

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

Assistant Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies (joint appointment)

2020-2021

Ball State University, Muncie, IN

EDUCATION

PhD, Rhetoric and Writing. 2020

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Graduate Specialization, Women's and Gender Studies. 2018

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Graduate Specialization, International Development. 2018

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Master of Arts, Digital Rhetoric and Professional Writing. 2016

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Bachelor of Communications, Journalism. 2011

University of Canberra, Canberra, ACT

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

[*Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Feminist Rhetoric*](#), Routledge, 2024.
Co-edited with Jacqueline Rhodes

*Carrying Culture: Black Feminist Rhetorics of Survival, Memory, and
Belonging in the Somali Diaspora.*
Forthcoming

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

Nur Cooley, Suban. "Black Boy in a Box Labeled France: Racialized Bodies, Borders, and Belonging". *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*.
Forthcoming 2026.

Beck Wise and Susan Thomas "Symposium: The Future of Rhetoric and Writing Studies In The Asia-Pacific." Nur Cooley, Suban: "Adding to the Antenarratives: Engaging in Language, Self-Definition, and Collective Community Through Discourses About Writing". *Rhetoric Review*. 2026.

Nur Cooley, Suban. "Black Diasporas are a Call and Response to the Continent". *Rhetorics, Politics, and Culture*. December 2025.

Nur Cooley, Suban. "Global Black Feminisms as Rhetorics of Diaspora". *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Feminist Rhetoric*. Ed. Jacqueline Rhodes and Suban Nur Cooley. Routledge, 2024.

Nur Cooley, Suban. "Global Black Feminisms as Rhetorics of Diaspora". *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Feminist Rhetoric*. Ed. Jacqueline Rhodes and Suban Nur Cooley. Routledge, 2024.

Nur Cooley, Suban, Laura Gonzales. "Introduction to Special Issue on Social

Justice and Translation in Technical Communication." *Communication & Social Justice* Vol. 1, No. 1, 2023.

Nur Cooley, Suban. "On Being and Becoming Black in a Globally Dispersed Diaspora". *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*. August. 2022 .

Nur Cooley, Suban. "Home." *Growing Up African In Australia* Anthology. Ed. Maxine Beneba Clarke. Black Inc. Books. Print. 2019.

Nur Cooley, Suban. "This is Home Now." *Refuge Lansing: Stories of Resettlement in Mid-Michigan*. Print. 2018.

Nur Cooley, Suban. "Hoygaygii Waa Halkee? A Nomad Seeking the Sensation of Home." *Pixelating the Self: Digital Feminist Memoirs*. Ed. Alexandra Hidalgo. Enculturation: Intermezzo. Digital Book. 2018.

Álvarez, Erin, Becca Hayes and Suban Nur Cooley. "Editor's Note: We Need to Change in Order to Hear More Voices." *Fourth Genre: Explorations in Nonfiction*, vol. 18 no. 2, 2016.

Nur Cooley, Suban. "Baasto Iyo Moos." *Journal of the Anglo-Somali Society: Warsidaha Ururka Ingiriiska iyo Soomalida*. Issue No. 58, Autumn. 2015.

Nur Cooley, Suban. "Baasto Iyo Moos." *Scarf Literary Arts Magazine: Future Riddims*. Vol. 8, Issue 5. Print. 2015.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Lansing Poet Laureate

City of Lansing/Arts Council of Greater Lansing — 2026-2028

Rhetoric Society of America (RSA), Annual RSA Scholarly Writing Retreat, 2025

- Selected as one of 10 to attend the first annual retreat aimed at the professional development of Rhetoric, Writing, and Communication scholars of color working on an early book project.

Rhetoric Society of America (RSA)

[Charles Kneupper Award for best article published in Rhetoric Society Quarterly](#), 2023

Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC)

[James Berlin Memorial Outstanding Dissertation Award](#), 2021

Michigan State University Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$7,000), 2020

TIAA [Ruth Simms Hamilton Graduate Merit Fellowship](#) (\$32,000),

The Graduate School at Michigan State University Program, 2019

[Women's Creative Mentorship Project](#) (approx \$5,000)

University of Iowa International and U.S. Department of State, 2019

Mayor's Art and Culture Commission

- Appointed by City of Lansing Mayor Andy Schor as one of 28 community members to sit on the inaugural arts and culture commission for the city, 2019

National Humanities Without Walls Predoctoral Fellow (\$5,000)

Humanities Without Walls, 2019

Graduate Language Fellow (\$8,000)

Language Fellowship Program, Department of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH), Michigan State University, 2018-19

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (\$83,000)

Center for Advanced Studies of International Development (CASID) and Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen).

- Program of the U.S. Department of Education (US/ED): Awarded for Academic Year 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19.
- Awarded funding for summer 2017 and 2018 in Zanzibar, Tanzania

Summer Institute Scholarship (\$1,000)

College of Arts & Letters and Digital Humanities

Visual Resources & Image Management Certificate

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Michigan State University, 2018

College of Arts and Letters Scholars Award (\$14,000),

Michigan State University, 2016-2020

Rasmussen Fellowship Award (\$5,000)

- given in recognition of demonstrated scholarship and integrity. This competitive fellowship is granted to the most outstanding Michigan State University undergraduate and graduate students who have applied to a MSU doctoral program, 2016

Writing Resident (\$1,000),

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 2015

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) (approx \$5,000-\$10,000)

Storytelling for Somalia: A retreat for journalists, change makers and creatives from the Somali diaspora

- a groundbreaking storytelling project run by UNAOC, September 15- 19 in Wales, UK, 2014

10 Over the Next Ten Award, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

- recognizing the Lansing region's top young professionals who are expected to contribute significantly to the community over the next ten years, 2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor (2023-present)

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

- AAAS 100: Pathways to African American and African Studies
- AAAS 200: Black Feminisms
- AAAS 202: Black Genders
- AAAS 300: Communities in Action
- AAAS 307: Creative Expression as Craft: Poetry and Prose
- AAAS 404: Black Ecologies and Poetics
- WRA 441: Social Justice as Rhetoric

Assistant Professor (2021-2023)

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

- ENGL 404/504: Understanding Power, Privilege, and Positionality in User Experience and Assistance Design
- ENGL 497/597: Internship in Rhetoric and Professional Communication
- ENGL 2210: Introduction to Professional and Technical Communication
- ENGL 431/531: Technical Editing
- ENGL 507: Special Topics in Rhetoric and Professional Communication
- ENGL 590: Rhetorics of Identity and Belonging

Assistant Professor (2020-2021)

Ball State University, Muncie, IN

- ENG 213: Introduction to Digital Literacies
- WGS 410: Feminist Theory
- WGS 210: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
- ENG 690: Rhetorics of Identity and Belonging

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Fall 2014-2019)

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

- AL 242: Introduction to Experience Architecture
- WRA 150: Evolution of American Thought

- WRA 101: Writing as Inquiry

English and Cultural Instructor (Summer 2016)

Harbin Institute of Technology – Harbin, China

- Instructor of English and Culture Summer Program. Focused on academic reading/writing strategies with masters and PhD candidates

Parent Education Specialist (2008 - 2010)

Refugee Development Center – Lansing, MI

- Created and taught a curriculum to educate new-arrival refugee parents about the American school system, its rules, and regulations

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Core Faculty (2025-)

African Studies Center (ASC)

Michigan State University

Affiliated Faculty (2021-2023)

Data Science and Application Center (DaSA)

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces

Graduate Research Assistant (2019 - 2020)

Center for Language Teaching and Advancement (CeLTA)

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Editor (2015-2018)

Fourth Genre - explorations in nonfiction

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Graduate Research Assistant (2017 – 2018)

Writing, Information, and Digital Experience (WIDE)

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

CEDAR Communications (2017-2018)

Consortium on Critical Diversity in a Digital Age Research (CEDAR)

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Communications Manager (2014 – 2015)

Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

INVITED OR PAID SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Just Fine: The Rhetorics of Black Women and Femmes" - RSA SuperSession. Rhetoric Society of America: Just Rhetoric. Denver, Colorado. May 2024

"Crossing Borders, Carrying Cultures: The Work in Preserving, Manifesting, and Constructing Somalia Among Women in the Diaspora." Micere Mugo Symposium on Pan-Africanism, African Feminism, and Orature: The Life and Work of Micere Githae Mugo. African Studies Center at Michigan State University. East Lansing, Michigan, April 2024

Global Displacements, Local Responses, Sustainable Futures: A Solution-Driven Working Symposium with Virginia Tech in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. December 2023

Mentoring Roundtable for The Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition (CFSHRC), "Writing Your Dissertation." Annual Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC). Chicago, Illinois. February 2023

"Carrying Culture: Temporal and Spatial Constructions of Somalia Among Women in the Diaspora." Endemic Crisis Speaker Series, Texas Woman's University. Dallas, Texas (via Zoom). October 2021

"Gathering Together." Performance Presentation. Gathering Together. Lansing Symphony Orchestra. October 2021

Artist in Residence. Michigan Libraries Association Annual Conference: Open Doors Novi, Michigan. October 2019

"Autoethnography as a Practice of Reflection." Office for Education Abroad, Michigan State University. East Lansing, Michigan. April 2019

"The Power of Storytelling." Al-Muslimat, Wellesley College. Wellesley, Massachusetts. December 2018

"Supporting Students' Intersectional Identities in Education Abroad." Office for Education Abroad, Michigan State University. East Lansing, Michigan. March 2018

“Developing Feminist, Community-Driven Research Centers.” Multilingual UX Symposium, Sponsored by University of Texas, El Paso. El Paso, Texas. November 2017

“Join the Conversation: Diversity, Inclusion and Refugee Experiences.” Citizen Scholars, Michigan State University. East Lansing, Michigan. October 2017

“Using Autoethnography in Research and Reflection.” Office of International Studies in Education, Michigan State University. East Lansing, Michigan. November 2017

“Ladylike: Woman Warrior.” Performance presentation. Peppermint Creek Theater Gala. Peppermint Creek Theater. Lansing, Michigan. December 2016

“Shaping the Avenue: Unique Places and Community Spaces.” Performance presentation. Multi-jurisdictional partnership between the municipalities of Lansing, Lansing Township, East Lansing and Meridian Township Sponsored by Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA). East Lansing, Michigan. December 2016

“Hoygaygii waa Halkee: A Nomad Seeking the Sensation of Home.” Speaking invitation Sponsored by Wellesley College. Panel Title: Reframing Power: Somali Storytelling as/in History. Wellesley College History Department, Harambee House, and MMUF. Wellesley, Massachusetts. October 2016

“Our Future is not a Façade.” Performance presentation. Arts Council of Greater Lansing, Creative Placemaking Summit. Lansing, Michigan. October 2015

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Expanding the Critical Themes of Global Black Rhetorics” - RSA. Rhetoric Society of America: Rhetorical In?Dignities. Portland, Oregon. May 2026

“Rhetorics & Technologies in the Age of AI” - ATTW. Association of Association of Teachers of Technical Writing. El Paso, Texas. April 2026

“Into a Black Girl Beyond,” Furious Flowers IV Conference, Harrisonburg, Virginia. September 2024.

“Reveling in ritual for a departmental new build: New and Re-membered Directions in Black Studies and Feminist Education,” National Women’s Studies Association: A History 2024. Detroit, Michigan. November 2024

“Black Feminist Orientations to Technology and Literacies: Alternative Ways to Just Do Rhetoric,” Rhetoric Society of America: Just Rhetoric. Denver, Colorado. May 2024

“Global Black Feminist Approaches in Rhetorical Studies,” Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference — Feminisms and Reckonings: Interrogating Histories and Harms, Implementing Restorative Practices. Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia. October 2023

“What Does It Mean to Do “Contemporary Feminist Rhetoric”? Perspectives from Contributors to the 2024 Routledge Handbook,” Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference — Feminisms and Reckonings: Interrogating Histories and Harms, Implementing Restorative Practices. Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia. October 2023

“Recirculating Rhetorical Memories across Publics and Places.” Annual Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC). Chicago, Illinois. February 2023

“Adding to the Antenarrative: Engaging in Language, Self-Definition, and Collective Community Through Discourses About Writing.” Australasian Association of Writing Programs. University of the Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast, Australia. Zoom. November 2022

“UX in/as Political Re-Negotiation.” with Kellie Sharp-Hoskins. IEEE International Professional Communication Conference (ProComm). Limerick, Ireland. July 2022

“A Grammar of Creativity: Rhetorical Contours of Revolt and the Praxis of Human Being.” American Studies Association. Zoom. October 2021

"Acknowledging the Margin as the Center: What Tech Comm Can Learn by Making Space for Other/ed Methods of Knowledge Production." Association of Teachers of Technical Writing (ATTW). Zoom Conference. March 2021

"Real Talk: Using Personal Narratives and Embodied Experience to Reimagine African American/Black Rhetorical Studies." Annual Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC). Accepted, but canceled due to COVID-19. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. March 2020

"(In)Hospitality in Diaspora: Exploring Home-Building Within, Beyond, and in Defiance of Nation-State Boundaries." Rhetoric Society of America. Accepted but canceled due to COVID-19. Portland, Oregon. May 2020

"Feminism in Futurity: Protecting Culture, Protecting Black Women." Global Pan African Conference (G-PAC). Accepted but canceled due to COVID-19. The Gambia, West Africa. May 2020

"Carrying Culture: Temporal and Spatial Constructions of Somalia Among Women in the Diaspora." Harvard University, Somali Territories and Somali Diaspora in the Modern World. Cambridge, Massachusetts. November 2019

"How to DIY Feminist Activism in 3 Parts: Positionalities, Privilege, and Public Writing." Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference: Redefining Feminist Activism. Harrisonburg, Virginia. November 2019

"Dear White People ... A Performance on Race and Language in Academia." Annual Conference on College Composition and Communication. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. March 2019

"When we say justice, what do we mean?" The Council of Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication (CPTSC). University of Minnesota. Minneapolis. October 2018

"Reclaiming Stories: Somali Women Using Social Media to Build Gendered Counternarratives." Digital Humanities Conference. Association of Digital Humanities Organizations. Mexico City, Mexico. July 2018

"Techno Black: Connecting the Mobile Reader to Globally Diverse Writers."

Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Conference. Tampa, Florida. March 2018

"Refuge Lansing." Michigan State University. Migration With(out) Boundaries Conference. East Lansing, Michigan. October 2017

"Multimodal Mixing: Interdisciplinary Methods to Exploring Identity, Orality, and Power for Black/African Diasporas." Collegium of African American Research (CAAR) Biennial Conference. Malaga, Spain. June 2017

"Listening to the Diaspora: Identity, Displacement, and the Idea of Home." Panel Title: Delivering the Goods: Cultivating Reciprocity in Activist Research. Annual Conference on College Composition and Communication. Portland, Oregon. March 2017

"I'm a Mother and I _____ An Exploration of Societal Expectations of Motherhood." Panel Title: Being a Working Mother: A Performative, Multimedia Exploration. Cultural Rhetorics Conference. Michigan State University. East Lansing, Michigan. October 2016

"Gurigey meeye? (Where is my house?)" Panel Title: Multimodal Mixing: Interdisciplinary Methods to Exploring Identity, Orality and Power for Black/African diasporas. University of Minnesota, International African Studies Conference. April 2016

"Spoken Word, Song, and Orality as History." Performance presentation. Michigan State University, Cultural Rhetorics Conference. East Lansing, Michigan. October 2014

WORKSHOPS

"My Secret Lansing." Writing workshop for The Lansing Poetry Club. Lansing, Michigan. June 2023.

Toward Codifying Social Justice Approaches to Teaching Technical Editing. Association of Association of Teachers of Technical Writing (ATTW). Zoom Conference. June 2023

Somali Historiography Workshop supporting young Somali students in telling cultural narratives. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mogadishu and Hargeisa, Somalia (via Zoom). March 2021

Hormar Academy mentoring workshop: a coalition of Somali college students and young professionals committed to serving Somali youth in our communities. Northeastern University. Boston, Massachusetts. November 2019

"Memoir and the Mundane." Writing workshop for Write on the Red Cedar Conference, 2017. East Lansing, Michigan. January 2017

"Important Connections: Between Poetry and Place." Writing workshop for Writing Walking Women. Newfoundland, Canada. August 2015

SERVICE: INSTITUTIONAL, NATIONAL, COMMUNITY

Editorial Board Member, *Peitho: Journal of the [Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric](#)*, 2025.

RSA Book Award Selection Committee, Rhetoric Society of America, 2025.

Dean's Arts Advisory Council (DAAC), Dean's Select of Interim Dean Yen-Hwei Lin, Michigan State University College of Arts and Letters, (2024-2025)

Dean's Arts Advisory Council (DAAC), Dean's Select of Chris Long, Michigan State University College of Arts and Letters, (2023-2024)

Accountability for Equity and Inclusion Committee (AEIC) for the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), 2024 and 2025

Journal Editor, Special Issue in Social Justice in Technical Communication "Social Justice and Translation in Technical Communication", 2023-24

Selection Committee, James Berlin Memorial Outstanding Dissertation Committee, Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), 2022

Journal Article Reviewer, IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication, 2021

Journal Article Reviewer, Technical Communication Quarterly, 2021

Community Board Member, Michigan State University Center for Gender in Global Context, 2012 – 2020

Stage 1 Proposal Reviewer, Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), 2019

Board Vice President, at All of the Above (AOTA) Hip Hop Academy, 2017 - present

PhD Council Representative College Graduate Committee (CGC), The College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University, 2018

Social Chair Writing, Rhetoric and Praxis, Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures Department - 2016-17

Advisor, Blvck Dynasty Dance Group at MSU - 2018 - 2020

Reader, East Lansing Art Festival Poetry Submissions, 2019

Judge, Poetry Out Loud State Finals - 2019

Board of Director REO Town Commercial Association - 2013 – 2019

Board of Director REACH Studio Art Center - 2008 – 2017

Organizer, Spoken word stage for the Renegade Theatre Festival, 2013 – 2017

Marketing Committee Member Fenner Nature Center - 2012 – 2016

Founding Board Member The Firecracker Foundation - 2013– 2015

PROFESSIONAL/INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Editor in Chief (2010 – 2019)

Capital Gains Media/Issue Media Group – East Lansing, MI

Freelance Journalist/Communications Professional (2005 – present)

Director of Communications (2012 – 2014)

Habitat for Humanity of Michigan – Lansing, MI

Communications Coordinator (2008 – 2010)

American Cancer Society – East Lansing, MI

LANGUAGES

Somali - Heritage Speaker

English - Fluent

Swahili - Advanced Beginner