

Dionne Bensonsmith

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Education

2007: Ph.D. – The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Political Science.

1997: MA – The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Political Science.

1993: BA – University of Notre Dame, Government and International Affairs.

Research and Teaching Interests

- American Political Development
- Public Policy/Public Administration
- U.S. Social Policy
- Race and Gender Politics
- African American Feminist Thought

Academic Positions

Assistant Professor: Department of Political Science, Grinnell College. Spring 2005 –

Courses Regularly Taught

- POL 101: Introduction to Politics
- POL 295: American Public Policy and Democracy
- POL 292: Welfare State, Politics and Society
- POL 395: Advanced Seminar in Public Policy

Fellow/Acting Assistant Professor: Cornell University, 2000-2001.

Developed and taught one senior seminar course “Race, Gender and the Welfare State.”

Instructor: Hamilton College, Spring 2000.

Developed and taught one seminar course entitled “Race, Gender and the Development of the American Welfare State.”

Instructor: Syracuse University, Summer 1998.

Developed and taught the introductory American Government course, “American National Government and Politics.”

Teaching Assistant: Syracuse University, 1996-1998, 2002.

Teaching Associate: Department of Political Science, 1997-1998 Academic Year.

Organized and facilitated orientation for the new graduate students, participated in a mentored teaching experience, and conducted departmental professional development seminars. Represented the Department of Political Science at Syracuse University in the Preparing Future Faculty Program (1999 Academic Year).

Teaching Fellow and Consultant: The TA Program of the Graduate School, Syracuse University, 1999.

Mentored new teaching assistants, conducted workshops on teaching and pedagogy, and facilitated the training of new TAs in the August, October, and January orientations.

Publications

“Jezebels, Matriarchs, and Welfare Queens: The Moynihan Report of 1965 and the Social Construction of African American Women in Welfare Policy,” in *Deserving and Entitled: Social Constructions and Public Policy*, Anne L. Schneider and Helen Ingram editors. State University of New York Press, 2005.

“It’s No Longer Just About Race: Social Constructions of American Citizenship in the Moynihan Report,” in *Women’s Work Is Never Done: Comparative Studies In Care-Giving, Employment, And Social Policy Reform*, Sylvia Bashevkin editor. Routledge, 2002.

“Crossing Lines: Mandy Carter and the Tradition of Black Feminist Activism in the Third Wave,” with Lynn Eckert, in *Still Lifting, Still Climbing: African American Women’s Contemporary Activism*, Kimberly Springer editor. New York University Press, 1999.

Conference Papers and Presentations

“It’s No Longer Just About Race: Sex Roles, the Family, and the Resurrection of the Moynihan Report” Presented at the American Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., September 1-3, 2000.

“In the Eye of the Storm: Exploring the Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender in the Study of Welfare” Presented at the 58th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 27-30, 2000.

“From Widows to Welfare Queens: Race and Gender Construction in Welfare Reform” Presented at the Western Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, March 24-26, 2000.

“Welfare Queens and Other Metaphors: The Effects of Gender and Race Construction on Implementation and Bureaucratic Values” Presented at the American Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, September 2-5, 1999.

“From the Ground Up: Welfare Reform and Relationships Between the States, Congress, and the President” Presented at the Northeastern Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 13-15, 1997.

Invited Talks and Lectures

“From Widows to Welfare Queens: Race and Gender Construction in Welfare Reform” Cornell University Lecture Series on Race, Gender and Sexuality. Co-sponsored by the Departments of Government, Women’s Studies and African American Politics. March 14, 2000.

Facilitator: Diversity Issues In Teaching Seminar, The TA Program of the Graduate School, Syracuse University Summer 1999.

Speaker: AHANA (African, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American Student’s Association) Graduate Forum, Fall, 1998.

Editorial Essays

“The Revenge of the Angry White Male.” Syndicated by Knight-Ridder, February, 2001 (published among others in *The Champaign News-Gazette*; *The Corning Leader*; *The Idaho State Journal*; and *The McAllen Monitor*. With Joseph Cammarano and Grant Reeher).

Professional, College, and Community Service

- *Board Member:* The Ford Foundation “Black & Latina/o Sexuality Project” 2007. Principal Investigator: Juan Battle, The New School.
- *Policy Studies Concentration Group:* Participant in Expanding Knowledge Initiative Lunches (EKI) for the Policy Studies Concentration and served as a member of the curriculum development sub-committee, Grinnell College, 2006 - 2007.
- *Faculty Mentor:* Participated as a faculty mentor to undergraduates involved with the Office of Multicultural Affairs faculty-mentoring program. Grinnell College, Fall 2006.
- *Literacy Tutor:* The Learning Place, Syracuse New York, 1998-2000.
- *Mentor:* Black Graduate Students Association Mentor/Liaison program for African American Undergraduates at Syracuse University, Fall 1997.

Additional Professional Activities and Experience

Advising: College of Arts and Sciences, Syracuse University, 2001-2002, 1995-1996, and summer 1997.

- Faculty Advisor (2001-2002): Served as primary advisor for approximately 150 first-year students in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Academic Counselor (1995-1996): Served as secondary advisor for students without a major, and maintained academic and personal information on a case-load of 100 students
Coordinator:
- Summer Faculty Advising Program (summers of 1996 and 1997): Managed and instructed Arts and Sciences faculty in advising incoming first-year students. Other responsibilities included the creation and maintenance of a database containing registration and advising information for incoming first-year students.

Research Consultant: Center for Community Alternatives, Syracuse, New York, June
October 2001.

Translated interviews, composed a comprehensive data-base to organize and evaluate information, and participated in writing and researching the reports submitted to the New York State Judicial Board.

Research Assistant: Syracuse University Fall 1998- Spring 1999.

Assisted with the planning and implementation of a University wide conference entitled “The Politics of Women, Family, and Children.” Other tasks include assisting with surveying World War II veteran’s, members of the collegiate Class of 1949, and recipients of the United States GI Bill.