

Andre E. Johnson, Ph.D.

Contact Information:
University of Memphis
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Education

- Ph.D. Communication
 Emphasis: Rhetoric
 University of Memphis; Memphis, Tennessee
- M.Div. Religious Studies/Theology
 Memphis Theological Seminary; Memphis, Tennessee
- B.S. Communication
 University of Tennessee at Martin; Martin, Tennessee

Areas of Research:

Rhetoric Race and Religion, Civil Rights and Social Movements, African American Public Address, African American Communication and Rhetoric, African American Studies, Media Studies, African American Preaching, Henry McNeal Turner, Religious Rhetoric, Religious Studies, Race/Critical Race Theory Studies, Hip Hop Studies, Public Speaking, Black Church

Research

Books:

Urban God Talk: Constructing a Hip Hop Spirituality, (ed). Lexington Books; 2013

The Forgotten Prophet: Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the African American Prophetic Tradition. Lexington Books. (2012) ***2013 Winner of the African American Communication and Culture Division Top Book Award**

Contributor, James Hal Cone, Frances E.W. Harper, and Henry McNeal Turner: *Great Lives of History: African Americans*. Salem Press. (2011)

Editor: The Literary Archive of Henry McNeal Turner. Edwin Mellen Press

- *An African American Pastor Before and During the American Civil War Vol. 6 (forthcoming 2017)*
- *An African American Pastor Before and During the American Civil War. Vol. 5 (2016)*
- *An African American Pastor Before and During the American Civil War. Vol 4 (2015)*
- *An African American Pastor Before and During the American Civil War. Vol. 3 (2013)*
- *An African American Pastor Before and During the American Civil War. Vol. 2 (2012)*
- *An African American Pastor Before and During the American Civil War, Vol.1 (2010)*

Book Chapters:

“What in the Hell Do You Have to Lose”: Donald Trump and the Appeal to African American Voters" in *The Rhetoric of Religious Freedom in the United States*. Eric Miller (ed) Lexington Books. (Accepted: Forthcoming, 2017)

Johnson, A.E. and Fisher, E. “But, I Forgive You”: Mother Emanuel, Black Pain and the Rhetoric of Forgiveness in *Was Blind but Now I See: Rhetoric, Race, and Religion in the Charleston Shootings*. Sean O'Rourke and Melody Lehn (eds). Lexington Books (Accepted: Forthcoming, Fall 2017)

“Democracy in America is Impossible”: The Pessimistic Prophecy of W. E. B. Du Bois in “Why I Won’t Vote” *No Deed but Memory: Forging American Freedom in W. E. B. Du Bois’s Twilight Years*. Phillip Luke Sinitiere (ed). University of Mississippi Press. (Accepted: forthcoming, 2017)

Fighting the Devil with Fire: The Political Career of Henry McNeal Turner. *Handbook of Research on Black Males*. Bernard K. Duffy (ed). Michigan State Press. (Accepted: forthcoming 2017)

“Further Silence Upon Our Part Would be an Outrage”: Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the Colored Convention Movement” in *Colored Conventions in the Nineteenth Century and the Digital Age*, Gabrielle Foreman (ed). Duke University Press (Forthcoming, 2017)

“Is the Negro Like Other People: Race, Religion and the Didactic Oratory of Henry McNeal Turner” in *Converging Identities: Blackness in the Modern African Diaspora*, Julius Adekunle (ed). Carolina Academic Press, 2013

Journals:

“The Scold of Black America”: Obama, Race, and the African American Audience.” *Howard Journal of Communications*. Vol 28, No 2. (2017)

“To Make the World So Damn Uncomfortable”: W.E.B. Du Bois and the African American Prophetic Tradition. *Carolinas Communication Annual* 32 (2016): 16-29.

Teaching in Ferguson: A Rhetorical Autoethnography from a Teacher/Activist. *Southern Communication Journal*. Vol. 81 No. 4. (2016) 267-269.

Understanding the Rhetoric(s) of Race. *Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric*. Vol. 5 Issue 3/4 (2015) ***Special Issue on Rhetoric and Race**

“You Go Out and Make Me Do It”: The Bully Pulpit and the Articulation of Black Pain Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric. Vol 5. Issue:3/4 (2015) ***Special Issue on Rhetoric and Race**

“Engaging the City: Memorials and the Making of Theology.” *The Arts in Religious and Theological Studies*. Vol 26, No. 2 (April, 2015) 29-30

“God is a Negro”: The (Rhetorical) Black Theology of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner. *Black Theology Journal*. Vol 13 Issue 1. (April, 2015) 29-40

“Avoiding Phony Religiosity”: The Rhetorical Theology of Obama’s 2012 National Prayer Breakfast Address. *Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric* Vol. 2, Issue 2 (May 2012) 44-53

“The Prophetic Persona of James Cone and the Rhetorical Construction of Black Theology.” *Black Theology Journal* 8.3 (2010) 266-285 ***Top Article Award from the Religious Communication Association in 2011**

Will We have Ears to Hear: The African American Prophetic Tradition in the Age of Obama. *The African American Pulpit*. (Spring 2010) 10-14

Research in Progress

Books:

“No Future in this Country:” The Prophetic Pessimism of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner. University of Mississippi Press

“The Press, Pulpit and Platform: The Speeches and Writings of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner. Lexington Books

Book Chapters:

Johnson, A.E. and A.N. Edgar. “There’s Nothing Else That I Can Say”: Self-Censorship in Online Racial Justice Rhetoric, in *(E)-Racing Voice and Identity: Communal and Divisive Aspects of Digital Media*. Cerise L. Glenn & Roy Schwartzman (eds). Routledge, 2017 (Chapter accepted)

“I Have Had to Pass Through Blood and Fire”: Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetorical Legacy of Reconstruction. *Memories of a Massacre: Exploring Slavery, Emancipation, and Reconstruction*. Susan O'Donovan and Beverly Bond (eds.) (Awaiting Contract)

Journals:

“To Wake Up the Latent Powers”: Henry McNeal Turner and the Legacy of the Israel AME Lyceum. *American Nineteenth Century History*. (Submitted; awaiting decision)

Whitfield, K. and **Johnson, A.E.** “Multimedia Madea: Contrasting Depictions of Perry’s Leading Lady as S/he Appears on Stage vs. Screen.” *Journal of Media and Religion*. (Submitted) v

“Engaged Scholarship: Rhetorical Autoethnography, Theological Reflection and the Spirituality of Ferguson” *Ecumenica Journal*. (Revised and Resubmit)

Editorial Positions

General Editor: “Rhetoric Race and Religion” Book Series (Lexington Books)

- Spencer, Leland. *Women Bishops and Rhetorics of Shalom: A Whole Peace* (2017)
- Satchel, Roslyn M. *What Movies Teach About Race: Exceptionalism, Erasure, and Entitlement*. (2016)

Special Issue: “Rhetoric and Race.” *Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric* (2015)

Selected Public Scholarship

#White Church Quiet: Anything But Outrage is Complicity. Religion Dispatches
September 27, 2016.

<<http://religiondispatches.org/whitechurchquiet-anything-but-outrage-is-complicity/>>

Is “Racist” Jesus Lawsuit Against the Met Already a Success? Religion Dispatches.
(January 26, 2016).

<<http://religiondispatches.org/is-lawsuit-against-the-met-over-white-jesus-already-a-success/>>

“The Forgotten Preacher.” *New York Times*. Disunion Blog. (October 21, 2013).

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/21/the-forgotten-preacher/?_r=1>

TV, Film Digital Humanities and Other Media

Academic Consultant: The Memphis Massacre 1866. Dance River Productions. Shot:
February 13, 2017. Release Date: Fall 2017

Director: The Henry McNeal Turner Project

<<http://www.thehenrymcnealturnerproject.org/>>

Academic Consultant: Who Do You Think You Are? (Television Show: TLC) Scene
Shot: July 10, 2016

Academic Consultant: An Outrage: History of Lynching. Field Studio. Interviewed July
1, 2016

Talk, Memphis Podcast with David Waters. Memphis Commercial Appeal. Interviewed
February 25, 2016

<<http://archive.commercialappeal.com/columnists/david-waters/U-of-Ms-Johnson-Racism-never-went-away-We-elected-not-to-see-it-370271961.html>>

Academic Consultant: Remembering Fort Pillow. Dance River Productions. Dee
Garceau. Interviewed April 3, 2013

Book Reviews

Vincent W. Lloyd, Ed. *Race and Political Theology*. Reviewed in the *Journal of African American History* Vol. 100 Spring 2015

Rosetta R. Haynes. *Radical Spiritual Motherhood: Autobiography and Empowerment in Nineteenth-Century African American Women*. Reviewed in *Religion and Literature* (Fall 2014)

Anthony Pinn and Benjamin Valentin, eds. *Creating Ourselves: African Americans and Hispanic Americans on Popular Culture and Religious Expression*. Reviewed in the *Journal of African American History*, Fall (2011)

Fellowships and Awards

Research Grant:

\$3,000 total award for study “Networking Lives: #BlackLivesMatter, #AllLivesMatter, and the Bridges between Online and Offline Social Movements.” The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis, April 2016

Top Paper Award:

Southern States Communication Association (American Society For the History of Rhetoric) *The Rhetoric of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner in the Colored Convention Movement*. (2016)

Outstanding Book Award:

National Communication Association Conference (African American Communication Division). *The Forgotten Prophet: Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the African American Prophetic Tradition*. (2013)

Top Article Award:

Religious Communication Association. *The Prophetic Persona of James Cone and the Rhetorical Theology of Black Theology*. (2011)

Lily Conference on Theological Research Award

Association of Theological Schools: (2009)

New Faculty Roundtable Seminar Award

Association of Theological Schools: (2008)

Top Papers Panel:

Southern States Communication Association: *Mission Oriented Prophecy as (Re) Constitutive Rhetoric*. (2007)

Top Graduate Paper Award:

Tennessee Communication Association: *Celebratory Prophecy in Henry McNeal Turner’s “Emancipation Day” Speech* (2007)

Top Graduate Paper:

Tennessee Communication Association: *A Daughter of Thunder: The Prophetic Rhetoric of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper in Her "Duty to Dependent Races" Speech* (2006)

Top Paper Panel:

Spiritual Communication Association Division *The Listening Function of Prophetic Rhetoric*. (2005)

Graduate Travel Fund Grant (2005-2008)

University of Memphis: Teacher Assistant Fellowship (2004-2008)

Refereed Academic Presentations:

"The Last Sermon: Prophetic Rhetoric in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Remaining Awake through a Great Revolution." **Sacred Rhetoric Conference**. Findlay, Ohio. (May 31-June 2, 2017)

"Rhetoric, Race, and the Reconstruction of Black Lives Matter as a Hate Group." **Southern States Communication Association**. Greenville, South Carolina (April 8, 2017)

"An Abominable Conclave of Negro Hating Demons': Bishop Henry McNeal Turner, the Supreme Court and the Plessy Decision" **Southern States Communication Association**. Greenville, South Carolina (April 8, 2017)

"Race, the Movement, and the Bully Pulpit" **Southern States Communication Association**. Greenville, South Carolina (April 7, 2017)

"Rhetoric and the Black Public Sphere." **Southern States Communication Association**. Greenville, South Carolina (April 6, 2017) **Respondent**

Reclaiming the Radical Revolutionary: Celebrating the Ten Year Anniversary of Obery Hendricks' The Politics of Jesus. **American Academy of Religion**. San Antonio, Texas. (November 19, 2016)

Rhetoric, Race, and Religion. **National Communication Association**. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. **Chair/Respondent** (November 13, 2016)

Traditionally Taboo: Mental Illness, Sexuality and the Role of the Black Church. **National Communication Association**. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (November 13, 2016)

Representations of Women, Race, and Violence in (un)Civil Society. **National Communication Association**. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. **Chair** (November 12, 2016)

Civic Callings in our Communities: Student Paper Panel. **National Communication Association**. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. **Respondent**. (November 12, 2016)

"Whose Streets; Our Streets": Black Activism and the Meaning of Black Lives Matter." (Spotlight Panel) **National Communication Association**. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (November 11, 2016)

White Silence and the Creation of #WhiteChurchQuiet. **National Communication Association**. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (November 10, 2016)

"What Do You Have to Lose:" Donald Trump, Religious Freedom and the African American Vote (Preconference) **National Communication Association**. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (November 9, 2016)

"Remember Fort Pillow: A Viewing and Discussion of the Film. **Association for the Study of African American Life and History**. Richmond Virginia (October 8, 2016)

"Respect Black: Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetoric of Post-Reconstruction." **Association for the Study of African American Life and History**. Richmond Virginia (October 7, 2016)

"Murder, Mutilation, and Mayhem in Memphis: The Lynching of Ell Persons." **Association for the Study of African American Life and History**. Richmond Virginia (October 7, 2016)

"Bishop Henry McNeal Turner, Oppositional Prudence, and the 1896 Plessy v Ferguson Decision." **Tennessee Communication Association**. Dickson, Tennessee. (September 10, 2016).

"Learning to Speak and Speaking to Learn: Henry McNeal Turner and the Role of the African American Lyceum." **Rhetoric Society of America**. Atlanta, Georgia (May 27, 2016)

"If I See Next March:" Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetorical Legacy of Reconstruction." **Memories of a Massacre Symposium**. Memphis, Tennessee (May 21, 2016)

"The Whole Damn System Is Guilty as Hell": Black Lives Matter and the Confrontational Rhetorical Form. **Southern States Communication Association**. Austin, Texas (April 9, 2016)

“The Rhetoric of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner in the Colored Convention Movement.” **Southern States Communication Association**. Austin, Texas (April 8, 2016) ***Top Paper Award**

Race, Ruckus, and the Color of God: A Spirituality of Ferguson. **American Academy of Religion**. Atlanta, Georgia (November 22, 2015)

Teaching Religious Rhetoric in Both Athens and Jerusalem. **American Academy of Religion**. Atlanta, Georgia (November 21, 2015)

“We Young, We Strong, We Do it All Night Long”: Hip Hop and the Ferguson Resistance. **National Communication Association**. Las Vegas, Nevada. (November 20, 2015)

Engaged Scholarship: God, the Movement, and the Spirituality of Ferguson. **National Communication Association**. Las Vegas, Nevada. (November 19, 2015) ***Competitive Papers Panel**

Blogging Rhetoric Race and Religion: Pedagogy of a Blog. **National Communication Association**. Opening Session. (November 19, 2015)

"The Pulpit, Platform and Press: Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetoric of Freedom." Atlanta, Georgia. **Association for the Study of African American Life and History**. (September 23-27, 2015)

"Speaking Literacy: Henry McNeal Turner and the African American Lyceum Tradition" **Association for the Study of African American Life and History**. Atlanta, Georgia. (September 23-27, 2015)

“All Aboard: Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the 1893 National Negro Convention.” **Colored Convention Symposium** (April 25, 2015)

“Dehonkifying Christianity”: Black Power’s Role in Shaping Black Theology.” **National Council of Black Studies**. (March 11-15) *Paper Accepted

“An Uncle Ruckus Type of God: Ferguson and the Problem with the Blackness of God.” **National Council of Black Studies**. (March 11-15) *Paper Accepted

Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the Blackness of God.” **National Council of Black Studies**. (March 11-15) *Paper Accepted

“Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetoric of Post Reconstruction.” **National Council of Black Studies**. (March 11-15) *Paper Accepted

“To Make the World So Damn Uncomfortable: W.E.B. Du Bois and the African American Prophetic Tradition.” **National Communication Association**. (November 22, 2014). Chicago, Illinois.

“Examining Black Church Rhetorics” **National Communication Association**. (November 20, 2014). Chicago, Illinois.

“Civil Rights and the African American Prophetic Tradition.” **Association for the Study of African American Life and History**. (September 25, 2014) Memphis, Tennessee

“Establishing Civil Rights: Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetoric of Reconstruction.” **Association for the Study of African American Life and History** (September 25, 2014). Memphis, Tennessee

Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetoric of African Emigration. **Rhetoric Society of America**. (May 24, 2014). San Antonio, Texas

“The Rhetoric of Black Pain and Viewing Tragedy through the Lens of Blackness: Obama's Response after the Zimmerman Verdict.” **Southern States Communication Association** (April 4, 2014). New Orleans, Louisiana

“On the Battlefield for My Lord: The Rhetoric of Henry McNeal Turner during the Civil War.” **National Communication Association** (November 22, 2013). Washington, DC.

“Behold, I Make All Things New: Prophetic Rhetoric in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution." **National Communication Association** (November 21, 2013) Washington, DC.

“If I See Next Year:” Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetorical Legacy of Reconstruction” **Association for the Study of African American Life and History** (October 4, 2013) Jacksonville, Florida. *Accepted but did not present

“To Redeem the People:” W.E.B. Du Bois and the African American Prophetic Tradition.” **Association for the Study of African American Life and History** (October 3, 2013). Jacksonville, Florida. *Accepted but did not present

“Henry McNeal Turner and the Emancipation Proclamation.” **National Council of Black Studies**. (March 16, 2013). Indianapolis, Indiana

“Loving God with Your Heart and Mind: The Pastor-Preacher/Professor Paradigm and the Black Church Experience.” **National Council of Black Studies** (March 15, 2013) Indianapolis, Indiana

“Theologian in Chief: The Religious Discourse of Barack Obama.” **National Council of Black Studies**. (March 14, 2013) Indianapolis, Indiana

“The Rhetorical Trajectory of the African American Prophetic Tradition.” **National Council of Black Studies.** (March 14, 2013). Indianapolis, Indiana

“W.E.B. DuBois and the African American Prophetic Tradition.” **Du Bois Conference** (February 20, 2013) Atlanta, Georgia

“There is No Future in the United States for the Negro: The Pessimistic Prophecy of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner.” **National Communication Association** (November 15-18, 2012)

“A Review of the 2012 Presidential Election: A Case for COMMunity.” **National Communication Association** (November 17, 2012)

“The Cry in the Wilderness: (Re) Claiming the Prophetic Voice of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner.” **Association for the Study of African American Life and History.** Pittsburgh Pennsylvania (September 29, 2012)

“They Can Preach Too: Henry McNeal Turner and the Role of Women in the Church.” **Association for the Study of African American Life and History.** Pittsburgh Pennsylvania (September 28, 2012)

“We Are Not a Dependent Race: The Prophetic Rhetoric of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper.” **Association for the Study of African American Life and History.** Pittsburgh Pennsylvania (September 27, 2012)

“Get Out of Babylon!” Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetoric of Emigration.” **National Council of Black Studies.** (March 7, 2012) Atlanta, Georgia

“Fire Shut up in My Bones: The Black Church and the African American Prophetic Tradition.” **National Council of Black Studies.** (March 7, 2012). Atlanta, Georgia

“The Rhetorical Trajectory of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner.” **National Association of African American Studies** (February 15, 2012). Baton Rouge, Louisiana

“Hip Hop’s Spiritual Side: A Discussion of Urban God Talk: Towards Constructing a Hip Hop Spirituality.” **National Communication Association.** (November 17, 2011) New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Melodic Voices: The Rhetoric of Hip Hop, Neo-Soul and Blues.” **National Communication Association.** (November 17, 2011). New Orleans, Louisiana (Respondent)

“Prophetic Rhetoric as Religious Communication” **Religious Communication Association** (November 16, 2011) New Orleans Louisiana.

“The Prophetic Persona of James Cone and the Rhetorical Theology of Black Theology: A Presentation.” **Religious Communication Association** (November 16, 2011) New Orleans Louisiana

“Celebrating the Emancipation: Bishop Henry McNeal Turner’s Reflection on the Emancipation.” **Association for the Society of African American Life and History** (October 7, 2011). Richmond, Virginia.

“Dear Editor: The War Correspondence of Chaplain Henry McNeal Turner.” **Association for the Society of African American Life and History** (October 6, 2011). Richmond, Virginia

“The First Anniversary of Freedom: Henry McNeal Turner’s Emancipation Day Speech: A Rhetorical Analysis.” **Association for the Society of African American Life and History** (October 6, 2011). Richmond, Virginia

“Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the Unconstitutionality of the 1875 Civil Rights Bill: A Rhetorical Analysis.” **Southern States Communication Association** (March 24, 2011). Little Rock, Arkansas

“The Long and Short of It: The Rhetoric of the Black Church and Bishop Eddie Long’s (Non) Apology.” **National Council of Black Studies** (March 18, 2011) Cincinnati, Ohio.

God and Government: The Audacity of Jeremiah Wright and the African American Prophetic Tradition. **National Council of Black Studies** (March 17, 2011) Cincinnati, Ohio.

“Reporting from the Battlefield: The Letters of Chaplain Henry McNeal Turner **National Council of Black Studies** (March 17, 2011) Cincinnati, Ohio.

“Towards a Black Jesus: James Cone and the Prophetic Tradition.” **National Council of Black Studies** (March 18, 2011) Cincinnati, Ohio

“Pentecostalism and the African American Experience: A Response.” **Society for Pentecostal Studies** (March 11, 2011) Memphis, Tennessee Race. (Respondent)

“(Re) Introduction Henry McNeal Turner as Rhetorical Figure Worthy of Study.” **National Communication Association**. (November 17, 2010) San Francisco, California

“Is the Negro Like Other People”: Race, Religion and the Didactic Prophecy of Henry McNeal Turner.” **National Communication Association**. (November 16, 2010) San Francisco, California.

“Salvation Outside of the Black Church: The Role of Religion in Tyler Perry’s “For Colored Girls.” **National Communication Association** (November 15, 2010) San Francisco, California

“Theological Education Making the Rhetorical Turn: The Teaching of Rhetoric and Communication Studies in Seminaries and Divinity Schools” **Religious Communication Association** (November 13, 2010) San Francisco, California.

“The Life and Career of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner.” **Association for the Society of African American Life and History** (September 30, 2010) Raleigh, North Carolina

“Creating the Foundation for Success: Prophetic Optimism of African American Orators During Reconstruction.” **Association for the Society of African American Life and History** (October 1, 2010). Raleigh, North Carolina

“Jeremiah Wright, Barack Obama and the African American Prophetic Tradition in the Age of Obama.” **Rhetoric Society of America**. (May 30, 2010). Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“The Preacher, the Politician and the Prophetic: The Rhetoric of Henry McNeal Turner.” **National Council of Black Studies**. (March 20, 2010) New Orleans, Louisiana

“What’s Taking Us So Long: An Examination of the Scholarship of Hip-Hop in African American Religious Studies.” **National Council of Black Studies**. (March 18, 2010) New Orleans, Louisiana

“The Day They Kicked Them Out of the Georgia State Legislature: The Prophetic Disputation of Henry McNeal Turner.” **Southern States Communication Association** (April 8, 2009). Memphis, Tennessee.

“From the Streets to the Sanctuary and Back to the Streets: Towards a Hip Hop Spirituality.” **National Communication Association**. (November 15, 2009) Chicago Illinois. (Respondent)

“Fixated and Fascinated: Linguistic Artistry in African American Popular Culture.” **National Communication Association**. (November 14, 2009) Chicago, Illinois. (Respondent)

“A Change is Gonna Come: Reflecting on the Voices and Strategies of Change Agents from the Civil Rights Movement.” **National Communication Association**. (November 13, 2009) Chicago, Illinois, 2009 (Respondent)

“The Joshua Generation: The Faith Language of Barack Obama. “**National Communication Association**. (November 12, 2009) Chicago, Illinois, 2009

“The Inauthentic Real: Hip Hop’s Reality Problem.” **National Communication Association**. (November 12, 2009) Chicago, Illinois

“The Prophetic Persona of James Cone and the Rhetorical Construction of Black Theology” **American Academy of Religion** (November 7, 2009) Montreal, Canada

“The Battle between Jesus and Muhammad: The Religious Oratory of Barack Obama.” **Tennessee Communication Association** (September 11, 2009). Murfreesboro, Tennessee

“Negroes Get Your Guns!: The Prophetic Rhetoric of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner.” **National Council of Black Studies**. (March 20, 2009). Atlanta, Georgia.

“Baby You Fine!: A (Re) Affirmation of Black Female Beauty in Sir Mix-a-Lot’s Baby Got Back.” **National Council of Black Studies** (March 20, 2009). Atlanta, Georgia.

“How to Respond to a Dis: The Creation of a Hip Hop Ethos in Sister’s Soulja’s Response to Bill Clinton.” **National Communication Association** (November 21, 2008). San Diego, California.

“James Brown and the Transforming Black Aesthetic” **National Communication Association**: November 15, 2007 Chicago, Illinois.

“Audience (Re) Construction in Henry McNeal Turner’s Emigration or Justice Speech” **National Communication Association** (November 18, 2007). Chicago, Illinois.

“The Emigration and Propaganda Campaign of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner” **National Communication Association** (November 15, 2007). Chicago, Illinois.

“Celebratory Prophecy in Henry McNeal Turner’s “Emancipation Day” Speech” (**Top Paper**) **Tennessee Communication Association** (September 22, 2007) Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

“Mission Oriented Prophecy as (Re) Constitutive Rhetoric” (Top Papers Panel) **Southern States Communication Association** (April 1, 2007). Louisville, Kentucky.

“Rhetorical Replacing in Henry McNeal Turner's Emancipation Day Speech” (**Top Papers Panel**) **National Communication Association** (November 19, 2006). San Antonio, Texas.

“Prophetic Rhetoric Expanded” **National Communication Association** (November 16, 2006). San Antonio, Texas.

“A Daughter of Thunder: The Prophetic Rhetoric of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper in Her “Duty to Dependent Races” Speech” (**Top Paper**) **Tennessee Communication Association** (September 30, 2006). Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

“All Aboard: Bishop Henry McNeal Turner’s African Propaganda” **National Association of African American Studies** (February 17, 2006). Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

“The Listening Function of Prophetic Rhetoric” (Top Papers Panel) **National Communication Association**: (November 19, 2005). Boston, Massachusetts.

“Engaging the Silence: Prophetic Listening and Non-Violence.” **Gandhian Nonviolence Conference** (October 9, 2004). Memphis, Tennessee.

Community Outreach

Public Lectures/Speeches:

White Silence and the Creation of #WhiteChurchQuiet. Given at the University of Loyola-Maryland. April 3, 2017

The Lynch Murder of Ell Persons. Given at Central High School at the Facing Our History Symposium. Memphis, Tennessee, March 23, 2017

"Race Trumps All: (Re)Visioning How We Communicate Race." . **Given at the Tennessee NAACP Race Relations/Advocacy Summit**. (Keynote Speaker). Jackson, Tennessee, March 11, 2017.

Social Justice: The Role of the Black Church. **Given at Centenary United Methodist Church**. Memphis, Tennessee. February 25, 2017

“A Nation of Murderers”: Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and the Rhetoric of Racialized Violence. **Given at the University of Memphis at the Extrajudicial Violence and Questions of Complicity Panel**. Memphis, Tennessee. February 16, 2017

“Woe Unto You”: Preaching Social Justice in the Era of Trump. Given at the **North District Conference of the AME Church at Providence AME Church**. Memphis, Tennessee, February 3, 2017

The Meaning of Black Lives Matter in the Trump Era. Given at Austin Peay University at the Racial Equality Conference. Clarksville, Tennessee. November 16, 2016

Do We Even Care: A Conversation on Race and Racial Tensions. **Given at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church,** Germantown, Tennessee. November 1, 2016

From the Middle Passage to the Memphis Massacre and Beyond: (Re)claiming the African American Prophetic Tradition. **Given at Metropolitan Baptist Church for the Center of African and African American Studies at LeMoyne-Owen College.** Memphis, Tennessee. September 7, 2016

Burned Alive: The Lynched Murder, Mutilation, and Mayhem in Memphis: The Story of Ell Persons. **Given at a meeting of the American Inns of Court-Memphis Chapter.** Memphis, Tennessee April 12, 2016

Does Black Truth Matter: Black Lives and the Disregard and Recovery of Black Truth. Memphis, Tennessee. **Given at the University of Memphis.** February 16, 2016.

Chaplain Turner. **Given at Gifts of Life Ministries.** Memphis, Tennessee. February 5, 2012.

Praying Preaching and Pastoring: Henry McNeal Turner and the Ministry of a Wartime Chaplain. **Given at the African American Civil War Museum.** Washington, DC. January 7, 2012

The Life and Career of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner. **Given at the Outreach and Evangelism Conference of the AME Church.** Arlington Virginia, January 3, 2012

The Spiritual Side of Hip Hop. **Given at the College of Charleston.** Charleston, South Carolina, September 23, 2011

The Early Career of Henry McNeal Turner: 1859-1865. **Given at Gifts of Life Ministries.** Memphis, Tennessee. January 9, 2011

Preparing for the Teaching Ministry. **Given at Castalia Baptist Church.** Memphis Tennessee. May 22, 2010

Finding God in Hip Hop. **Given at the CME Christian Educators Retreat.** Crown Plaza Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee. February 21, 2009

The Philosophy of Servant Leadership: **Given at American Baptist College.** Nashville, Tennessee. October 21, 2008.

Hip Hop and the Peace Movement: Given at the Gandhi/King Nonviolence Conference October 17, 2008. Memphis, Tennessee.

Hip-Hop and the Church: Given at American Baptist College. March 24, 2008. Nashville Tennessee

Hip-hop as Social Movement: Given at American Baptist College. November 14, 2007. Nashville, Tennessee.

Before A Movement, Get a Meaning: A Proposal for a Rhetorical Hermeneutical Study of Hip- Hop Texts for Theological Engagement: National Congress of Black Churches: April 11, 2005, Memphis, Tennessee.

Panels

The Relevance of the Mis-Education of the Negro: Confronting Illiteracy and Inequality in Education. Association for the Study of African American Life and History. (Invited Panelist) Memphis, Tennessee. December 19, 2016

The Church and Race Relations in the 21st Century. Memphis Theological Seminary (Invited Panelist) October 12, 2016

My Whole City Underwater: Race, Trauma, and Surviving Katrina. Marcus Orr Center for the Humanities at the University of Memphis. (Invited Panelist) September 21, 2016

Prophetic Rhetoric of Frederick Douglass' What to a Slave is the 4th of July Speech: University of Memphis English Conference: December 8, 2004, Memphis, Tennessee.

Academic Appointments

August 2016-Present: Affiliate Faculty, African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric: Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana.

- Preaching and Rhetorical Theory

August 2015-Present: Assistant Professor, Communication: Rhetoric, Race, Religion, Media, and African American Public Address: University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee

- African American Rhetoric
- African American Prophetic Tradition
- Interracial Communication

- Rhetoric/Civic Controversy

August 2013-2015: The Dr. James L. Netters Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Religion and African American Studies: Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tennessee

August 2013-2016: Visiting Professor Theatre and Africana Studies, Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee

- Voice and Diction (Public Speaking)
- Do Black Lives Matter: Rhetoric and Hip Hop

August 2009-July 2013: Assistant Professor, Rhetoric & Religion and African American Religious Studies: Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tennessee

- Hip Hop Theology and Urban God Talk
- African American Religious Personalities
- Black Theology
- Rhetoric of Race
- Rhetoric and Religion
- African American Religious Studies
- Rhetoric of the Black Church
- Mission of the Church

August 2006-2015: Instructor, African and African American Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee

- Rhetoric of Hip Hop
- Voices of the Black Church
- African Religions in the Diaspora
- Obama Phenomenon
- Intro to African American Studies
- Research Methods
- African American Rhetoric

January 2005-July 2009: Adjunct Professor/Research Fellow, Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tennessee

- African American Prophetic Tradition
- Sacred Rhetorical Tradition
- African American Studies
- Urban Ministry and Theology

August 2005-June 2008: Teaching Assistant, University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee

- Oral Communications (Public Speaking)
- African American Rhetoric

August 2007-2009: Adjunct Professor, Southwest Tennessee Community College, Memphis, Tennessee

- Oral Communications (Public Speaking)

Summer 2008-2010: Visiting Professor, American Baptist College, Nashville, Tennessee

- Hip Hop Theology/Urban God Talk

Administrative Experience:

October 2011-2015: Director: Dr. James L. Netters Certificate Program in Ministry

Service

Graduate Committees (Chair)

Memphis Theological Seminary

Masters of Arts and Religion (M.A.R.)

(2010)-Alphonzo Saville-“Hip Hop Spirituality According to Jay-Z”-(Chair)

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

(2011)-Earnestine Hunt- “W.E.E.P. PILOT PROGRAM - Women Enabling & Empowering People (Edifying, Embracing, Enabling, Equipping & Empowering God’s People)”-(Chair)

(2011)-Verlie Horton- “Transforming Scars to Stars: A 12-Step Program that Provides Support to Families and Individuals Affected by an Addicted Relative or Friend”-(Chair)

(2012)-Roosevelt Watson-“The Transformative Ministry of Whooping in the Sermon Event-(Chair)

University of Memphis

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

(2015) Marcus Hassell-“Under Siege: Conspiracy, I-Pistemology and Resistance through Hip-Hop in Killarmy’s *Silent Weapons for Quiet Wars*” (Committee Member)

(2016) Scott Anderson “Rhetoric, Race, and Barack Obama's Discourse of Division.” (Committee Member)

Institutional Service:

University of Memphis

Communication Director: Memories of a Massacre: Memphis in 1866 Project
(2016-Present)

Departmental Library Liaison: 2015-Present

Assistant to the Director of African American Studies:(2009-2010)

Memphis Theological Seminary

Chair: Educational and Development Committee (2011-2015)

Curriculum Committee: (2008-2010; 2013-2014)

Barbara A. Holmes Lecture Committee: (2008-2015)

Regional/National Service:

Reviewer: American Nineteenth Century History. (2016-Present)

Reviewer: Congress and Presidential Studies: A Journal of Capitol Studies
(2016-Present)

First Vice-President (Program Planner): American Society for the History of Rhetoric
Division: Southern States Communication Association (2017)

Second Vice-President: American Society for the History of Rhetoric Division:
Southern States Communication Association (2016)

Steering Committee Member: Critical Approaches to Hip Hop and Religion Group:
American Academy of Religion (AAR) (2013-Present)

Reviewer: Southern Communication Journal (2013-Present)

Associate Editor and Reviewer: Journal of Hip Hop Studies (2013-Present)

Editorial Board: Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric (2011-Present)

Reviewer: National Communication Association (NCA) African American
Communication and Culture Division/Black Caucus (2008-Present)

Respondent: NCA Spiritual Communication Division (2007-Present)

Legislative Assembly: National Communication Association (2014-2015)

Chair: National Communication Association (NCA) African American Communication
and Culture Division (2013)

First Vice Chair (Program Planner): National Communication Association (NCA)
African American Communication and Culture Division (2012)

Second Vice Chair: National Communication Association (NCA) African American Communication and Culture Division (2011)

Reviewer: Journal of Race and Religion (2010-2012)

Membership Committee: National Council of Black Studies (NCBS) (2009-2013)

Reviewer: African American Review (2009-2011)

Professional and Service Organizations

National Communication Association

American Academy of Religion

Rhetoric Society of America

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

National Council of Black Studies

Southern States Communication Association

Tennessee Communication Association

African American Intellectual History Society

Academy of Homiletics

Related Professional Experience

Senior Pastor, Gifts of Life Ministries

Director, G'Life Outreach (non-profit)

Founder and Managing Editor, Rhetoric, Race and Religion Blog

Director: The Henry McNeal Turner Project