



Sy Stokes, Ph.D.

National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID)
University of Michigan
610 East University Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

Education

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
University of Michigan, National Center for Institutional Diversity
Ann Arbor, MI

Doctor of Philosophy – Urban Education Policy
University of Southern California, Rossier School of Education
Los Angeles, CA

Dissertation: [Into the wildfire: Campus racial climate and the Trump presidency](#)

Dissertation Committee: Drs. Shaun R. Harper (Chair), Charles H.F. Davis III, Tyrone C. Howard, and Ben Carrington

Master of Science – Higher Education
University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education
Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Arts – African American Studies
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA

Publications

Published

- 2021 Stokes, S. (2021). A sense of belonging within the imaginative constraints of racial realism: A critical race analysis of Latinx students' racialized experiences during the Trump presidency. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*. doi:10.1080/09518398.2021.1956632
- 2020 Davis III, C. H. F., Stokes, S., & Morgan, D. L. (2020). Engaging student activists. In S. J. Quaye, S. R. Harper, & S. L. Pendakur (Eds.) *Student Engagement in Higher Education: Theoretical Perspectives and Practical Approaches for Diverse Populations (3rd ed.)*. New York: Routledge.

- 2019 Davis III, C. H. F., Harris, J. C., Stokes, S., & Harper, S. R. (2019). But is it activist? Interpretive criteria for activist scholarship in higher education, 1968-2018. *Review of Higher Education*, 42(5), 85-108. doi:10.1353/rhe.2019.0046
- 2019 Stokes, S., & Miller, D. (2019). Remembering “The Black Bruins”: A case study of supporting activists at UCLA. In Davis III, C. H. F., & Morgan, D. (Eds.) *Student Engagement, Student Services, and Supporting Student Activists*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Online Editorials

Stokes, S. (2021). Why we are calling for Black and Asian solidarity. *Medium*. Retrieved from <https://systokes.medium.com/why-we-are-calling-for-black-and-asian-solidarity-bd30507f8482>

Stokes, S. (2020). College students’ racialized political efficacy and the Trump presidency. *Spark*. Retrieved from <https://medium.com/national-center-for-institutional-diversity/college-students-racialized-political-efficacy-and-the-trump-presidency-f3107763a818>

Grant Awarded

- 2019 University of Southern California Rossier School of Education
Internal Research Grant: **\$1,500**

Scholarships and Honors

- 2021 Dissertation of the Year – University of Southern California, Rossier School of Education
- 2020 Bobby Wright Dissertation of the Year Award Finalist – Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
- 2019 NYU Steinhardt Faculty First-Look Scholar
New York University, Steinhardt
- 2016 Merit Scholarship – Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania

Conference Presentations

- April 2021 Stokes, S., Bridgeforth, J., Simmons, I., Patrón, O., Baxter, K. S., Toutant, S., & Ortega, J. “*Frontstage*” *White Supremacist Violence on College and University Campuses During the Trump Presidency*. American Educational Research Association, 2021 Annual Conference (Virtual).
- November 2019 Stokes, S., Hung, Y-C., & Davis III, C. H. F. *Analytical limitations of mixed-race students' qualitative responses: Recommendations for disaggregation*. Association for the Study of Higher Education, 44th Annual Conference. Portland, Oregon.
- May 2019 Stokes, S., Patrón, O., and Simmons, I. *Racism on college campuses: Before and after the 2016 presidential election*. Critical Race Studies Conference, 2019 Annual Conference. Los Angeles, CA.
- April 2019 Stokes, S., Morgan, D., Davis III, C. H. F., Baker, D., Gowen, G., Sanchez, M., and Wilkinson, A. *The 2020 election and beyond: Building a collaborative ‘politics of higher education’ research/advocacy*. American Educational Research Association, 2019 Annual Conference. Toronto, CAN.
- November 2018 Stokes, S., Patrón, O., Christian, W. C. III, Meyer, D. and Drivalas, J. *Reimagining diversity, inclusion and equity at a private research university: A case study at the University of Southern California*. Association for the Study of Higher Education, 43rd Annual Conference. Tampa, Florida.
- May 2018 Stokes, S., Wijeyesinghe, C. L., Daniel, G. R., and Brown, V. K. M. *Intergenerational conversation of scholars on multiracial/mixed race identity*. National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE), 21st Annual Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- November 2017 Stokes, S. & Davis III, C. *Contemporary black student activism and demands for institutional change*. Association for the Study of Higher Education, 42nd Annual Conference. Houston, Texas.
- June 2017 Stokes, S., Keene, A., Squire, D. D., Washington, M. S., Kwist, S. T., and Guerrero, M. J. *Who gets to speak on behalf of communities of color? Complicating mixed race leadership and advocacy across research and practice*. National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE), 30th Annual Conference. Fort Worth, Texas.
- April 2014 Stokes, S., Howard, T. C., Copeland-Morgan, Y. *The Black Bruins*. College Board, A Dream Deferred: The Future of African American Education, 2014 Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA.

Teaching Experience

- 2022 Adjunct Lecturer: EDUC 722: Race, Racism, and Anti-Blackness in Higher Education. University of Michigan.
- 2021 Co-Instructor: EDUC 771: Race, Racism, and Anti-Blackness in Higher Education. University of Michigan.
- 2018 Teaching Assistant: EDUC 599: Improving Urban Education. University of Southern California.
- 2017 Teaching Assistant: EDUC 599: Race in Education. University of Southern California.

Leadership & Service

- 2020-Present Graduate Student Caucus, University of Michigan School of Education
- Advising Master's, Ed. D., and Ph. D. students
 - Helping formulate their analytical, theoretical, and methodological approaches to their respective research agendas
 - Assisting students with the logistical processes of submitting IRB proposals, utilizing qualitative data analysis software, and applying for research grants
- 2020-Present USC Rossier Ph.D. Black Student Collective (BSC)
- Co-writing manuscripts with current Ph.D. students
 - Editing and providing feedback for dissertation proposals
- 2017-2020 Grad Prep Academy
USC Race & Equity Center
- Co-planned and led the *Grad Prep Academy (GPA)* conference for 35 undergraduate men of color from colleges and universities throughout the United States
 - Serve as a graduate student mentor for GPA
 - Created an online GRE prep program for GPA students by recruiting and collaborating with Princeton Review tutors
- 2017-2020 Equity Institutes
USC Race & Equity Center
- Worked closely with several cohorts of K-12 superintendents, principals, and other senior-level leaders through a series of "Equity Institutes," where I helped oversee the design,

implementation, measurement, accountability, assessment, and sustainability of their respective DEI strategic plans over an eight-week professional learning series

- Helped launch the National Assessment of Collegiate Campus Climates (NACCC)—a national quantitative survey on campus racial climate in higher education—by spearheading the initial stages of the partnering institutions' \$10,000 enrollment contracts through the recruitment of survey participants and the implementation of survey protocols on-site
- Led the NACCC Student Advisory Panel in identifying the most salient survey content areas and questions related to campus racial climate

2015-2016

BGC Buddies

Boys & Girls Club, El Sobrante

- Founded a free private-tutoring program for low-income K-8 students in partnership with administrators/school leaders at De Anza High School in Richmond, California
- Developed and executed recruitment strategies for high school students to further promote engagement in BGC's academic mentorship program for BGC students
- Coordinated all community and individual parent engagement conversations, workshops, and activities to promote student success both on and off campus

2013-2021

Spoken Word Outreach Mentorship Program

Diego Rivera Learning Complex

Los Angeles, CA

- Created an after-school program that provided space for students to express themselves through the art of spoken word poetry
- Served as an academic advisor for participating students
- Helped students complete FAFSA applications and identify scholarship opportunities
- Continued to mentor participating students throughout their college careers

2011-2015

The "Black Bruins" Campaign

Black Male Institute (BMI) at UCLA

- Conducted research and led a social media campaign focused on Black male retention at UCLA ("The Black Bruins") that raised over **\$2 million** in grant funding to support Black students at UCLA
- The campaign motivated UCLA administrators to officially implement a general education (GE) diversity requirement for all

freshmen students and create the university's first Vice-Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion position

Presentations, Lectures, and Keynote Speeches

- October 2021 Stokes, S. Workshop: Applying to College (Organizer: Victorya Vargas). Castlemont High School. Oakland, CA.
- October 2021 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Freedom of Speech and the Politics of Morality. HPSE-GE 2068: The Impact of College on Student Success (Dr. Jessica Ostrow Michel). New York University.
- October 2021 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Race and Space in Higher Education. EDUC 672: Power, Privilege, and the Politics of Difference in Higher Education (Dr. Christina Morton). University of Michigan.
- September 2021 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Activism and Leadership in College. Edward Markham Middle School (Teacher: Jamie Schnablegger). Los Angeles, CA.
- August 2021 Stokes, S. & Miller, D. Guest Lecture: Academic Success in the Undergraduate Experience (Dr. Ifeoma Amah). UCLA AAP Freshman Summer Program.
- July 2021 Stokes, S. Keynote: Activism is in Your Blood. California State University, Dominguez Hills: The Male Success Alliance (MSA) GEARUP Summer Virtual Program.
- June 2021 Stokes, S., Davis III, Charles H. F., Guitérrez, L., & Peoples, W. Panel: Improving Intercultural Race Relations to Develop Intercultural Solidarity. University of Michigan Women of Color Task Force Juneteenth Event.
- May 2021 Stokes, S. Keynote: Uplifting the Voices of the Next Generation. San Diego Mesa College, Kapwa Scholars Virtual Summit.
- May 2021 Stokes, S. Workshop: Mental Health and the Arts. San Diego Mesa College's NextUp and FAST Foster Care Awareness Month.
- May 2021 Stokes, S. Keynote: Protecting Our Elders: Defunding the Police, Investing in Our Communities. Portland State University's API Heritage Month.
- April 2021 Stokes, S. Workshop: Building Solidarity Through Poetry. San Diego Miramar College.

- April 2021 Stokes, S. & Miller, D. Guest Lecture: The Black Bruins and Supporting Student Activists. EDUC 471: Activism and Social Movements in College (Dr. Charles H. F. Davis III). University of Michigan.
- April 2021 Stokes, S. Keynote: Building Bridges of Consciousness: Understanding Who You Are and How to Respond to Campus Racism. California State University, Dominguez Hills: Male Success Alliance 2021 Virtual Spring Summit.
- April 2021 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Racial Space on College and University Campuses. EDHP 552: Politics of Difference (Dr. Arely Acuña). University of Southern California.
- April 2021 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Cultivating a Student Activist Identity in High School (Organizer: Andrew Strawbridge). Liberty High School: Brentwood, CA.
- March 2021 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Student Activism and Campus Diversity. Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education (Dr. Connie Chang). Texas Christian University.
- March 2021 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Anti-Blackness and Campus Racial Climate. EDUC 771: Race, Racism, and Anti-Blackness in Higher Education (Dr. Charles H. F. Davis III). University of Michigan.
- March 2021 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Research Alongside and Supporting Student Activists. ELP 513: Cultural Diversity in Higher Education. University of Buffalo.
- March 2021 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: The Ontological Expansiveness of Whiteness and Whiteness as Property (Dr. Oscar Patrón). Indiana University.
- February 2021 Stokes, S. Workshop: Racism, Student Activism, and You. Monterey Peninsula College, TRIO Program.
- February 2021 Stokes, S. Keynote: Student Activism and Political Engagement. San Diego Miramar College.
- February 2021 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Identity and Diversity. University of Southern California.
- January 2021 Stokes, S. Keynote: Lost Ones: The Miseducation of Students of Color. REACH Educational Solutions.

January 2021	Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Research Methods. HPSE-GE 2068: The Impact of College on Student Success (Dr. Jessica Ostrow Michel). New York University.
November 2020	Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Social Movements, Collective Behavior, and Social Change. Rowan University.
November 2020	Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Student Activism and Political Engagement in Higher Education. HIED 502: Organizational Development and Administration in Higher Education (Dr. Romàn Liera). Montclair State University.
November 2020	Stokes, S. Presentation: Student Activism and the Arts. University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre and Dance.
November 2020	Stokes, S. Presentation: Where Do We Go from Here? Cultivating Anti-Racism at SMTD. University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre and Dance.
November 2020	Stokes, S. Panel: Career Pathways for Ph.D.'s. Southern Region United Black Student Unions of California Regional Conference.
October 2020	Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: The Intersection of Race and Space at the University of Virginia. EDUC 771: Race, Racism, and Anti-Blackness in Higher Education (Dr. Charles H. F. Davis III). University of Michigan.
October 2020	Stokes, S., Garcia, N., & McLewis, C. Seminar: Research and Dissertation Seminar. Rutgers University.
October 2020	Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: White Nationalist Resurgence and Presidential Elections. Ethnic Studies 101: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (Dr. Lynn Fujiwara & Jill Torres). University of Oregon.
October 2020	Stokes, S. Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Social Movements and Activism. EDU-704: Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism in Education (Dr. Brian McGowan). American University.
October 2020	Stokes, S. Keynote: Uplifting Our Voices. San Diego Mesa College.
October 2020	Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Introduction to Higher Education. EDUC 561: Introduction to Higher Education (Dr. Julio Cardona). University of Michigan.

September 2020	Stokes, S., Franco-Clausen, S., Hernandez, E., Wallace, J. & Chi, E. Panel: Elections and Equity. Cerritos College.
September 2020	Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: What is your “why”? CSP: Social Justice and Holistic School Systems (Dr. Joey Nuñez Estrada Jr.). San Diego State University.
August 2020	Stokes, S. & Miller, D. Guest Lecture: Academic Success in the Undergraduate Experience (Dr. Ifeoma Amah). UCLA AAP Freshman Summer Program.
June 2020	Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Critical Whiteness and Student Activism (Dr. Cheryl Matias). University of Denver.
April 2020	Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Student Activism and Political Engagement in Higher Education. EDHP: Politics of Difference (Dr. Arely Acuña). University of Southern California.
March 2020	Stokes, S. Keynote: Racism on College Campuses During the Trump Presidency. Worcester State University.
March 2020	Stokes, S. Keynote: Stopped While Being Black & Brown: A Relationship with ALANA communities and the Police. Worcester State University.
January 2020	Stokes, S. Presentation: Race & Equity Day with Sy Stokes. Burbank High School.
January 2020	Stokes, S. Keynote: Engaging Student Voice and Activism Lunch and Learn. Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR), the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP), and The Education Trust. Washington, D.C.
November 2019	Stokes, S. Seminar: Men of Color Learning Community/The Brotherhood. Salem State University.
November 2019	Stokes, S. Seminar: Effective Strategies to Sustain a Racially Equitable Climate with Sy Stokes. Salem State University.
November 2019	Stokes, S. Keynote: Leading for Change Higher Education Diversity Consortium – Racial Equity and Justice Institute Fall Summit. Bridgewater State University.

- November 2019 Stokes, S., Davis III, C. H. F., & Simmons, I. Presentation: Student Organizing Institute—Strategic Direct Action for Institutional Change. St. Louis Graduates: Active Advocacy Coalition.
- October 2019 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Campus Racial Climate and the Trump Presidency. EDUC 290A: Higher Education: Access, Equity, Outcomes, and Competition (Dr. Tolani Britton). UC Berkeley.
- October 2019 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: The Black Bruins. EDUC 19: Race and Racism at UCLA: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (Dr. Jessica Harris). University of California, Los Angeles.
- September 2019 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Student Activism and Campus Racism. EDHP 442: Education and Social Change (Dr. Charles H. F. Davis III). University of Southern California.
- April 2019 Stokes, S. Keynote: Spark Leadership Conference. Greenville University.
- March 2019 Stokes, S. Keynote: OYE Latinx Youth Conference. Cañada College.
- February 2019 Stokes, S. Keynote: Diversity, Social Justice, and Education. Black Resource Center: San Diego State University.
- January 2019 Stokes, S. Keynote: Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation. Blackburn College.
- November 2018 Stokes, S. & Valizadeh, N. Panel: Activism in Higher Education. University of California, Los Angeles.
- October 2018 Stokes, S. Keynote: Student Life Cultural Centers presents Palabra featuring Sy Stokes. California State Polytechnic University.
- October 2018 Stokes, S. Keynote: Speak Up, Stand Out with Sy Stokes. University of California, Santa Barbara.
- October 2018 Stokes, S. Keynote: Dr. G.W. Carver's College Awareness Week. Carver Middle School, Los Angeles.
- October 2018 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: Campus Racial Climate. EDUC 596: Contemporary Issues in Higher Education (Graziella Covello). American University.
- October 2018 Stokes, S. Keynote: The Construction of Race in the United States. City Year of Los Angeles Learning Summit.

- June 2018 Stokes, S. Guest Lecture: The Black Bruins Aftermath. Fiat Lux Course: Black Activism and Art (Dr. Travis Dumas). University of California, Los Angeles.
- February 2018 Stokes, S. Panel: USC Price Asian Pacific Islander Caucus – API Lived and Beyond. University of Southern California.
- November 2016 Stokes, S., Morgan, D., Perez II, D. Panel: Student Success in Higher Education. Miami University, Ohio.
- November 2016 Stokes, S., Harper, S.R., & Zimmerman, J. Panel: Politics on the American Campus. University of Pennsylvania.
- November 2015 Stokes, S. Keynote: The Black Bruin Legacy. Greatest MINDS Society, Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.
- July 2015 Stokes, S. Panel: White House Summit on Educational Excellence for African Americans. UCLA Graduate School of Education and the Black Male Institute of UCLA. University of California, Los Angeles.
- March 2015 Stokes, S. Panel: UCLA Diversity & Inclusion Communication Initiative. University of California, Los Angeles.
- September 2014 Stokes, S. The Black Bruins. Presented for the UCLA César E. Chávez Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies. University of California, Los Angeles.
- March 2014 Stokes, S. Keynote: Baltimore County Public Schools Equity Conference – Office of Equity and Cultural Proficiency. Baltimore, Maryland.
- March 2014 Stokes, S. Keynote: Being One Out of None: Behind Black Bruins. Santa Clara University. Santa Clara, CA.
- February 2014 Stokes, S. Keynote: The Black Bruins: Students of Color at PWI's. St. Mary's University. Moraga, California.
- December 2013 Stokes, S. and Howard, T. Panel: Today's Business Crisis: Educating Tomorrow's Workforce. University of Southern California. Black Enterprise and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Los Angeles, CA.

Research Experience

- 2020-Present Lead Consultant and Organizational Strategist

Racial Equity Data Institute (REDI)

- 2020-Present Postdoctoral Research Fellow
National Center for Institutional Diversity
University of Michigan
- 2017-2020 Research Associate
USC Race and Equity Center
University of Southern California
- 2016-2017 Research Associate
Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education
University of Pennsylvania
- 2013-2015 Research Assistant
UCLA Black Male Institute
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2014 Research Assistant
UCLA BMI, Freedom School Initiative – Read Lead/Helen Keller
Elementary School, Los Angeles, CA

Other Professional Work Experience

- 2015-2016 Director of Education
Boys and Girls Club (BGC) of El Sobrante
El Sobrante, CA
- 2015 Program Associate
Marcus Foster Education Fund, East Bay College Access Network
Oakland, CA
- 2015 Assistant Program Coordinator
Connecting Communities to UCLA
University of California, Los Angeles

Press and Media Coverage

Print Media

- 2021 Just, R. L. [What is Critical Race Theory – and is it Being Taught in Michigan Schools?](#) WWMT-TV Newschannel 3.

- 2018 Hoover, E. [His Video on Black Men's Frustrations Went Viral. Now He's Getting a Ph.D.](#) The Chronicle of Higher Education.
- 2015 Hoover, E. [A Young Man of Words: A Viral Video About Race Helped One Student Find a Voice.](#) The Chronicle of Higher Education.
- 2015 Buck, K. [My Privileged Skin, the Life of Sy Stokes.](#) The Los Angeles Sentinel.
- 2015 Sade, A. [Sy Stokes & Remi Kanazi Bridge the Black and Palestinian Struggle Through Spoken Word.](#) Al-Talib Student News Magazine.
- 2015 Ni, P. [Summit Seeks to Address Issues in Education for Black Students, Teachers.](#) The Daily Bruin.
- 2015 Rosenberg, J. S. ["Diversity" Anger at UCLA.](#) Minding the Campus: Reforming Our Universities.
- 2015 Kosciolk, K. [UCLA Alum Sy Stokes Talks Life Post "Black Bruins" Video.](#) The Daily Bruin.
- 2014 Marklein, M.B. [Black Students Can Face Uneasy Adjustment to College.](#) USA Today.
- 2014 Moore, A. [UCLA, Male Black Bruins and the Myth of Individual Merit.](#) The Huffington Post.
- 2014 Schallert, A. [Students, Faculty Continue to Push for Diversity Requirement.](#) The Daily Bruin.
- 2013 Lopez, C. [UCLA Video Decries Tiny Number of Black Male Students; Napolitano Responds.](#) KQED.
- 2013 Otani, A. [Black UCLA Students Decry Lack of Diversity in Video.](#) USA Today.
- 2013 Aquino, J. [Students Protest Lack of Diversity in Higher Ed During UCSA Conference.](#) The Daily Bruin.
- 2013 Lemon, D. [Are We Preparing Our Black Men for Championships or Diplomas?](#) Black America Web.
- 2013 Hicks, J.P. [After Launching a Video, UCLA Student Becomes Champion of Diversity.](#) Black Entertainment Television (BET).

- 2013 Jaschik, S. [*To Be a Black Man at UCLA*](#). Inside Higher Ed.
- 2013 Black Voices. [*UCLA Has More NCAA Championships Than Black Male Freshmen*](#). The Huffington Post.
- 2013 Mitchell, K. [*Student Posts Video to Spark Discussion About Diversity at UCLA*](#). The Daily Bruin.

Television

- 2013 [*UCLA Student Says Blacks Under-Represented*](#). Gut Check with Tamron Hall: MSNBC Live.
- 2013 *“Black Bruins” Video Highlights Stark Statistics About Diversity at UCLA*. CBS Local News, Los Angeles.

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association (ASA)

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

American College Personnel Association (ACPA)

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)

Critical Race Studies in Education Association (CRSEA)

National Center for Institutional Diversity – Diversity Scholars Network (DSN)

NYU Steinhardt Faculty First-Look