

Christiana Kallon Kelly, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Department of African American Studies
University of California, Los Angeles
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023-present **University of California, Los Angeles**
UC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of African American Studies and Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies
- 2021-2022 **Harvard Kennedy School**
Research Fellow, Women and Public Policy Program

EDUCATION

- 2023 **University of Pennsylvania**
Ph.D. in Education, Culture and Society
Certificate in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

Dissertation (with distinction): *Secondary Schoolgirls: Education and the Politics of Inclusion for Young Women in Sierra Leone*
Committee: Krystal Strong (chair), Rand Quinn (co-chair), Susan Shepler, Roberto Gonzales
- 2016 **University of Pennsylvania**
MS.Ed. in International Educational Development
- 2011 **The College of William & Mary**
B.A. in Sociology

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Kallon Kelly, C.** (2022). "[Secondary Education Reforms and Partisan Politics in Sierra Leone: Implications for Students and Teachers](#)". *Africa Policy Journal*.
- Strong, K. & **C. Kallon Kelly.** (2022). "[Youth leadership for development: contradictions of Africa's growing leadership pipeline](#)". *Journal of Modern African Studies*.

Book Chapters

- Strong, K., R. Odendaal & **C. Kallon Kelly.** (2023). "[Education for Subordination: Youth and the Afterlives of Coloniality and Racialization in Africa](#)" in *Racialization and Educational Inequality in Global Perspective*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Kallon Kelly, C.** "Some Will Say I'm Too Small" Contested Politics of Schooling and Inclusion for Young Women in Sierra Leone

Kallon Kelly, C. Methods, Migration, and Motherhood During the Pandemic: Critical Reflections on Qualitative Research From a “Returnee Researcher”.

Kallon Kelly, C. & E. Ali. “Just Like Us” Making Sense of the Pandemic During A Virtual Classroom Exchange Between 6th Grade Students in Sierra Leone and the United States.

Kallon Kelly, C. “James Aggrey, Nnamdi Azikiwe, and Kwame Nkrumah: African Students and Teachers of Black Liberation, 1920-1945”.

Policy Reports

Kallon Kelly, C., Koomar, S., Kreimeia, A., McBurnie, C., Mitchell, J., & Myers, C. (2020). *Country-level research review: Sierra Leone*. London: EdTech Hub.

Yonemura, A. & **C. Kallon**. (2016). “[Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises: Developing Inclusive, Responsive, and Resilient Education Services for All](#)”. *Education2030* Volume 2. Dakar: UNESCO.

Hospital, X & **C. Kallon**. (2016). “[Strengthening Education in West and Central Africa by Improving Learners Sexual and Reproductive Health](#)”. *Education2030*. Volume 3. Dakar: UNESCO.

Public Scholarship

Kallon Kelly, C. (2023, October 12). *Learning From Our Children and Youth*. SierraEye Magazine and News. <https://www.sierraeyemagazine.com/?p=2355>

Kallon, C. (2018, August 6). *How Do We Decolonize Peace Research?* PRIO Blogs. <https://blogs.prio.org/2018/08/how-do-we-decolonize-peace-research/>

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

External - Total: \$161,700

- 2023 University of California Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (\$120,000 over 2 years)
- 2022 Harvard Kennedy School Women and Public Policy Program Fellowship
- 2021 Honorable mention, Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools Regional 3 Minute Thesis competition
- 2020 Comparative and International Education Society Underrepresented Racial, Ethnic, and Ability Groups Committee Travel Award (\$200)
- 2018 International Summer School Scholarship, University of Oslo/Peace Research Institute Oslo (\$3,500)
- 2015 American Association of University Women International Fellowship (\$18,000)
Philanthropic Educational Organization International Peace Scholarship (\$10,000)
- 2012 Kathryn Davis Peace & Diplomacy Grant (\$10,000, *declined*)
- 2007 Educational Collaborative for International Schools Award for International Understanding

Internal – Total: \$259, 377

- 2023 Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Research Award (\$250)
President Gutmann Leadership Travel Award (\$300)
William Fontaine Doctoral Travel Award (\$400)
Office of the Provost Family Grant (\$5000)
- 2022 Leboy-Davies Graduate Student Award for Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (\$2000)

- Office of the Provost Family Grant (\$7000)
- 2021 PennGSE Dean’s PhD Summer Research Fellowship (\$7,500)
First place winner, 3 Minute Thesis competition at the University of Pennsylvania (\$400)
Penn PhD Career Exploration Fellowship
- 2020 GAPSAs-Provost Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Innovation (\$6,000)
PennGSE Dean’s PhD Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500)
- 2019 Penn Institute for Urban Research [with undergraduate mentee, Adamseged Abebe C’19] (\$2,000)
- 2018 PennGSE Dean’s PhD Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500)
President Gutmann Leadership Travel Award (\$800)
- 2017 William Fontaine Doctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (\$196, 227 over 4.5 years)
Lipman Family Prize Fellowship, The Wharton School
Perry World House Graduate Associate
- 2015 Merit Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania (\$17,500)
- 2011 Benjamin Stoddert Ewell Award, The College of William & Mary
- 2010 Hulon Willis Memorial Scholarship, The College of William & Mary (\$3,000)

INVITED TALKS

- 2022 “Power and Privilege in International Development”. World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.
- 2021 “Government Support for Teachers: What Do We Have and What Do We Need?” Indiana University (virtual).
- 2020 “Education During COVID in Sierra Leone”. University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine (virtual).
“Localizing International and Regional Women’s Rights: How Women’s Social Movements Overturned the Ban on Pregnant Schoolgirls in Sierra Leone”. Penn Cary Law School (virtual).
“Intercultural Communications in Management and Beyond”. Lehigh University College of Business

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Some Will Say I’m Too Small” Schooling and Gendered Differences in Political Participation for Students in Sierra Leone” African Studies Association. San Francisco
- 2022 “Is the Country Ready for a Woman President? Student Perspectives on Gender, Violence, and Politics in Sierra Leone”. Comparative and International Education Society. Washington, D.C.
- 2021 “Schoolyard innovations: Students, teachers, and education technologies in Sierra Leone”. (virtual).
“Politicization of Education Reconstruction and Reform in Sierra Leone: Implications for Students and Teachers”. Comparative and International Education Society. (virtual).
- 2019 “Unlearning Civil War: Educational Reforms, Youth Identities and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Sierra Leone”. Comparative and International Education Society. San Francisco CA.
- 2018 “Leading Africa: Experiences of Participants in Youth Leadership (for) Development Programs in Africa” [with Dr. Krystal Strong] 62nd Annual Meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society. March 24-29, 2018. Mexico City, Mexico.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Krystal Strong’s Qualitative Modes of Inquiry graduate level course, University of Pennsylvania, (fall 2019)

Doctoral student supervisor for undergraduate student, Adamseged Abebe’s, semester-long research project, “The Role of Teachers in Creating Positive School Climate in Conflict-Affected Ethiopia”, as part of Penn IUR Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium (spring, 2019)

Graduate student mentor for Society of African International Students at Penn, undergraduate student group, University of Pennsylvania (2017-2019)

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCES

Project Manager, The Wharton School Lipman Family Prize
Philadelphia, PA-USA June 2022-August 2023

Research Assistant for Dr. Krystal Strong, University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, PA-USA January 2016- December 2021

Consultant, EdTech Hub
Freetown, Sierra Leone December 2020

Senior Resident Assistant, U.S. State Department Mandela Washington Fellowship Program
Charlottesville, VA-USA June 2017-August 2017

Research and Development Assistant, UNESCO West Africa Regional Hub
Dakar, Senegal May 2016- August 2016

Programme Analyst, UNOPS Regional Hub
Amman, Jordan September 2014-August 2016

Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Admission, The College of William & Mary
Williamsburg, VA-USA September 2011-July 2014

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Raised in: Pakistan (1993-1998), Kenya (1998-2001), Uganda (2001-2005), Bangladesh (2005-2007)

Work: United States (2011-2014), Jordan (2014-2015)

Research: Senegal (2016), Nigeria (2017), Sierra Leone (2020-2021), Ghana (2021)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English: Excellent listening, writing, and speaking

Krio: Excellent listening, conversational/ research proficiency

French: Conversational/ research proficiency

REVIEWER

Journal of Education in Emergencies

Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

African Studies Association

American Educational Research Association

Comparative and International Education Society

West Africa Research Association

REFERENCES Upon request