

Bianca C. Williams

Bianca C. Williams (she/her) is an Associate Professor of Anthropology, Critical Psychology, and Women & Gender Studies at CUNY Graduate Center. She is an ethnographer of race, gender, and emotion in higher education and organizing communities, with a focus on Black women's affective lives. The investigative thread that binds Williams' organizing, teaching, and research is the question "How do Black women develop strategies for enduring and resisting the effects of racism and sexism while maintaining emotional wellness?" This question has led her to write about Black women, travel, and happiness; "radical honesty" as pedagogy; citational politics as Black feminist praxis; campus activism within the Movement for Black Lives; and writing while anxious. In her award-winning book *[The Pursuit of Happiness Black Women, Diasporic Dreams, and the Politics of Emotional Transnationalism](#)* (Duke University Press, 2018), Williams argues that pursuing happiness is a political project for Black women, while examining how African American women use travel to Jamaica and the Internet as tools for escaping U.S. racism and sexism. She is co-editor of *[Plantation Politics and Campus Rebellions: Power, Diversity, and the Emancipatory Struggle in Higher Education](#)* with Dian Squire and Frank Tuitt (SUNY Press, 2021). Additionally, Williams has published in the volume *[Race, Equity, and the Learning Environment](#)* and in the journals *[Souls](#)*, *[Transforming Anthropology](#)*, *[Cultural Anthropology](#)*, *[Teachers College Record](#)*, and on the blogs *[Anthrodendum](#)* and *[Anthropoliteia](#)*.

Williams is Faculty Lead of the [PublicsLab](#), where she and Director Stacy Hartman encourage graduate students and faculty to think broadly about public scholarship and reimagine doctoral education as a process of wellness and wholeness. She is a recipient of the American Anthropological Association m Oxford University Press Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching of Anthropology. Some of her most intense and insightful learning experiences were earning a Ph.D. at Duke University, and later organizing as a co-founder of Black Lives Matter 5280. Always thrilled to talk about the power of Black women's writing, Williams is currently the inaugural Scholar-in-Residence at [Well-Read Black Girl](#).