

# Center for Black Studies Research MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

M  
A  
Y

2  
0  
2  
2



### Statement from Director Dr. Sharon Tettegah

Centering data sciences and Black communities are critical to the future of Black Studies as a discipline and field. Black communities need to understand how all types of data influence and impact our lives (e.g., health care, policing, education). A recent article stated, "Recent estimates show that Black people make up just 3 percent of data and analytics professionals, and women overall make up only 15 percent of data scientists." It is clear that we need more Black individuals involved in learning about the hows, whats, whens and whys of data science. The CBSR is providing opportunities for diverse undergraduates from all disciplines to learn about Black Communities ~Director Sharon Tettegah

## 1. SEEDS Succeeding

With over 50 students enrolled, representing over 18 majors across disciplines, Student Engagement and Enrichment in Data Science (SEEDS) is having a successful inaugural year. Despite the pandemic, students are able to connect to each other and connect with data science. At every event so far, students surveyed have said they learned something new.

From data carpentry workshops to frequent open discussions, the SEEDS program is offering dynamic and robust learning through collaborative efforts across campus, disciplines, and universities. SEEDS is dedicated to fostering skills in Data Science to reflect the increasing demand for diverse, well rounded Data Scientists

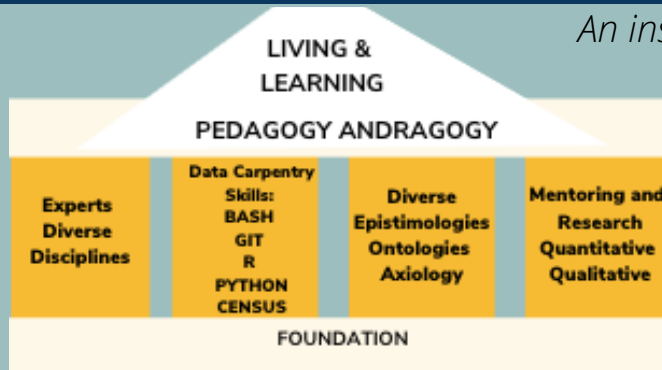


### 1.1 More than Diversifying Data

SEEDS is committed to diverse representations in Fellows, Guides, knowledge and ways of knowing. Participants from all levels and backgrounds come from diverse ethnicities, sexualities, genders and disciplines creating a robust network of kinship and knowledge. SEEDS is diversifying approaches to understanding and working with data, bridging knowledge between student fellows and experts across the Data Science field. The goal is to cultivate a pipeline of diverse students therefore creating a more equitable and diverse discipline.

## 2. SEEDS Pillars for Success

*An inside look into the CBSR SEEDS Program*



SEEDS has four main pillars that are foundational to the goals and objectives of the program. The pillars include training in computational and data science, scholarly presentations, open discussions and mentoring by researchers. All of these pillars will work together to support the ultimate goal of creating an active Living and Learning Community of SEEDS scholars and future data scientists. In the meantime, SEEDS has been dedicated to fulfilling the 4 principal pillars. For example, SEEDS have hosted 5 different workshops dedicated to developing Data Carpentry skills.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SEEDS PILLARS IN ACTION on pg.2**

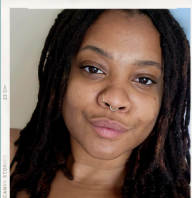
## 3. Welcome Our New Staff!

Join the CBSR in welcoming two new staff members back to support the center!

**Lyla Washaha, Admin Assistant**  
"I'm so excited to be back at the center! It feels great to be able to reciprocate the help I once received."



**Taylor Jackson, Admin Assistant**  
"I have so much love for the CBSR, it is an honor to be back and work for such a visionary place!"

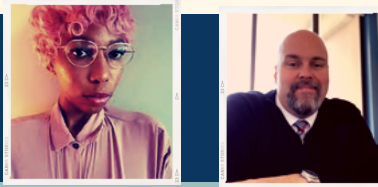


## 4. Keeping up with the Works of Associate Director Dr. Stephanie Batiste

PAGE 3

# 2. SEEDS Pillars for Success CONTINUED

## 2.1 Successful Webinars



SEEDS keeps its student fellows informed on what is happening in the realm of data science by hosting bi-weekly webinar presentations. Recently we've had two of our own SEEDS guides, Dr. Timothy Sherwood and Dr. Faithe Day, give presentations concerning ethics within data. In Dr. Sherwood's presentation, Lying with Data, he discussed the lack of diversity when it comes to data and what we can do to change that. One student responded to Dr. Sherwood's presentation saying, "I learned more about computer architecture and design as well as the different ways that researchers intentionally, or unintentionally, present data that is not completely factual or accurate." During her Teaching Data Justice presentation, Dr. Day spoke on how the social justice work doesn't stop when it comes to data, and the various ways in which companies are operating unethically today. Another student claimed that: "I really enjoyed this presentation as it gave more insight on the issues concerning data collection/information." In surveys completed for all presentations thusfar, 100% of students learn something new!

## Experts across Diverse Disciplines: Webinars and Events

### 2.2 Upcoming Events



Data Visualization  
Presented by George Legrady, Ph.D.  
Save the Date:  
May 23, 2022  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm



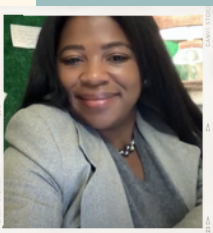
Data and Twitter  
Presented by Danyelle Dawson, Ph.D.  
Save the Date:  
June 6, 2022  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

## Diverse Epistemologies

### 2.3 Open Discussions, New Ways of Knowing



The fellows engage in bi-weekly open discussions with our Post-Doctoral Fellows Dr. Joaquin Noguera, Dr. Faithe Day, and our Pre-Doctoral Fellow Miriam Burnett. This is an opportunity for them network, examine topics regarding data science and utilize the knowledge our postdocs provide. The student feedback on the open discussions has been positive across the board, as they love the benefit of small scale groups where they can interact with their peers and have more opportunities to bring up questions/concerns.



## Research and Mentoring

### 2.4 BRAIN Mentorship Stimulates Students

Designed for undergraduates of any major, SEEDS fellows are paired with faculty, graduate students and staff from a range of disciplines to engage in computational and data set analysis. BRAIN, Black Researchers Advancing Intelligence in Neuro-computation, is a subset of SEEDS, including 6 Guides who worked with students by sharing their research, having students participate in research, and guiding them to pursue graduate school. BRAIN is just one component of mentoring for SEEDS. SEEDS also pairs Fellows with different researchers to work on a variety of projects.



Thank you to our sponsors!



# 4. Keeping up with the Works of Associate Director Prof. Stephanie Batiste



## Black Radical Tradition

Below you can find a selection of recent events in the Black Radical Tradition. Events have focused on feeling, philosophy, performance, creative writing, Black life and history, alongside racial justice and the dismantling of white supremacy. We're grateful to Taylor Holmes, HS/s RA, for her role in helping organize these events!

Catch up on Associate Director Stephanie Batiste's programming in the Black Humanities at [hemsouths.english.ucsb.edu](https://hemsouths.english.ucsb.edu).

### 4.1 Affect in the Black Humanities Series

**Professor Sarah Jane Cervenak April 6, 2022** - In her book, *Wandering*, Dr. Cervenak discusses the significance of physical and mental roaming for black freedom.

**Professor Lindsay Reckson April 13, 2022** - In *Realist Ecstasy*, Dr. Reckson traces how bodies come undone into practices that threaten the very category of the real.

#### UPCOMING

**Professor Felice Blake May 18, 2022** - Join us in reviewing Dr. Blake's *Black Love, Black Hate*

**AFFECT IN THE BLACK HUMANITIES**  
"How does it feel to be a problem?": Black Intimacies and Other Reasons to Live  
May 18, 2022 @ 10am - 11:00am  
Join us and Prof. Felice Blake for our third and final discussion on affect in the black humanities in conversation with her book *Black Love, Black Hate: Intimate Antagonisms in African American Literature* and with Dr. Badi'a Ahad's *Freud Upside Down*.

### 4.2 Creative-Critical Approaches to Studies of the Global South

**Professor Mecca Jamilah Sullivan February 23, 2022** - We welcomed Dr. Sullivan for a Q&A on her approaches to the creative and the critical in both her creative and scholarly works. She moved between fiction and analysis of the critical poetics of authors such as Audre Lorde, capturing in all her work the subtleties of black queer womanhood across the diaspora.



### 4.4 This Bridge Called My Back Turns 40!

This foundational volume announcing woman-of-color feminisms celebrated its 40th anniversary with a new edition. Professor Batiste curated and directed a performance of Black ancestors' contributions for this event that appears at minute 19:00.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZUVIxU7YZY>



### 4.3 Global Imagination of Racial Justice Symposium

The Global Imagination of Racial Justice symposium included an undergraduate research panel; roundtables 'Black/Brown Intersections' and 'Queer of Color Borderscapes'; a round table called 'Bridging Diaspora and Coloniality'; and a keynote event with artists Sa'dia Rehman and Natalie Diaz.

"The Global Imagination of Racial Justice symposium was a luscious intellectually stimulating convening of Black, API, Latinx, queer, and feminist scholars and subjects. These brilliant scholars addressed the most challenging conceptual problems of our day regarding race, justice, and the humanities. The closing ceremony by Celia Herrera Rodriguez kicked-off new critical creative reckonings such as those embedded in every moment of the convening." --Professor

Stephanie Batiste

**LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT ISSUE: EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT: LIVE/LIVES "Learning Institute for Visionary Epistemologies/Learning Institute for Visionary Epistemologies In STEM (Live/Lives) LIVES is a learning institute for visionary epistemologies in STEM and non-STEM fields.. "**

