

Breigha Adeyemo, Ph.D.

breighaadeyemo.com

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **University of Illinois Chicago, August 2025**
Major Field: Communication
Certificate: Black Studies
Faculty Advisor/Committee Chair: Zizi Papacharissi
Committee Members: Kishonna Gray, Safiya Noble, Sharon Meraz, Jane Rhodes
Dissertation Title: System Override: A Critical Virtual Ethnography of Women of Color's Digital Praxis in Horizon Worlds
- M.A. **Texas A&M University, December 2018**
Major: Performance Studies
Faculty Advisor: David Donkor
- B.A. **Prairie View A&M University, December 2013**
Major: Communication Studies
Minor: Behavioral and Political Science
Honors Program Member
- Xi'an International Studies University (2012)** | Mandarin Chinese
6 week Summer Immersion Program in Xi'an, China
- Middlebury Summer Languages Institute (2011)** | Mandarin Chinese
8 week Summer Immersion Program

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2026 - Present **Adjunct Lecturer**, Richard J. Daley College (City Colleges of Chicago)
English & Speech Department
SPCH 101: Fundamentals of Speech Communication (online & in person)
SPCH 202: Interpersonal Communication (online, synchronous)
- 2025 - 2026 **Adjunct Lecturer**, University of Illinois Chicago
Department of Communication
COMM 100: Fundamentals of Human Communication (in person)
- 2019 - 2025 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, University of Illinois Chicago
Department of Communication
COMM 100: Fundamentals of Human Communication (in person & hybrid)
COMM 101: Introduction to Communication (online, asynchronous)
COMM 103: Introduction to Media (online, asynchronous)
COMM 140: Fundamentals of Social Media and Communication (hybrid)
COMM 200: Communication Technologies (online, asynchronous)
COMM 250: Social Media & Society (online, asynchronous)

- 2021-2023 **Graduate Research Assistant**, University of Illinois Chicago
Department of Communication, Advisor: Zizi Papacharissi
- 2014 - 2016 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Texas A&M University
Department of Performance Studies
THAR 281: Theatre History II (in person)

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Adeyemo, B. & Papacharissi, Z. (2026). Unbecoming: Twitter and a better sociotechnical future. *M/C Journal*, 29(2), <https://doi.org/10.5204/mcj.3249>

Gray, K. & **Adeyemo, B.** (2021). Not “falling for the okey-doke”: #BlackLivesMatter as resistance to disinformation in online communities. *Feminist Media Studies*, 21(5), 868-871, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14680777.2021.1952468>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Adeyemo, B. (2026, revise & resubmit). The illusion of inclusion: Race, gender, and platform governance in social VR. *New Media & Society*.

Adeyemo, B. (2026, under review). Residual surveillance: The institutional afterlife of crisis. *Communication Theory*.

Adeyemo, B. (2026, under review). System Overrides: Women of color’s world-building, digital refusal, and community formation in social VR. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Adeyemo, B. (in preparation for journal submission). Centering voices is not enough: Black feminist and decolonizing approaches to digital research.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Adeyemo, B., McGee, M., Stevenson, A. & Pimentel, D. (2026). Virtual reality, real bias: Fostering inclusivity in virtual worlds. In S.J. Ahn & B. McEwan (Eds.), *The Social Virtual Reality Debate*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003488460>

BOOK REVIEWS

Adeyemo, B. (2021). [Review of the book *Bargaining with the machine: Technology, surveillance, and the social contract*, by R.M. Pallitto]. *Surveillance & Society* 19(2). <https://doi.org/10.24908/ss.v19i2.14739>

Adeyemo, B. (2015). [Review of the book *Black performance theory*, by T.F. DeFrantz & A. Gonzalez, Eds.]. *Liminalities* 11(5). <http://liminalities.net/11-5/rev-bpt.html>

GRANTS

- 2023 **Dissertation Research Grant**, Institution for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP)

Earned \$2000 funding for dissertation research related to race/ethnicity and public policy

- 2022 **Grace Holt Memorial Award**, Black Studies Department, University of Illinois at Chicago
Earned \$1000 toward research for working actively to improve the lives of black people

AWARDS | HONORS

- 2026 **AoIR Dissertation Honorable Mention**
One of three dissertations recognized among 30+ submissions for scholarly quality and contributions to internet studies.
- 2023 **Meta Research PhD Fellowship**, Finalist
I was a finalist in two research areas: Technology Policy Research and AR/VR Technologies. View the announcement [here](#).
- 2021 **Graduate Instructor Award**, Communication Department, University of Illinois at Chicago
Recognizes Ph.D. students who have proven research productivity and teaching excellence

CONFERENCES | PANELS | WORKSHOPS

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Adeyemo, B. (2025, June 11). The illusion of inclusion: Examining the structural conditions of Horizon Worlds through the lens of women of color creators. *Debating Creator Culture (ICA) Pre-Conference*, Boulder, Colorado.

Adeyemo, B. (2025). Virtual reality, real bias: A book chapter discussion. *Questioning Reality Conference*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Adeyemo, B. (2023, August 20). Racial surveillance capitalism in the digital age. *American Sociological Association (ASA)*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Adeyemo, B. (2022, May 25). Racialized machines: User perceptions of AI-powered voice assistants. *International Communication Association (ICA)*, Paris, France.

Adeyemo, B., & Papacharissi, Z. (2022, May 24). Unbecoming: Undoing, regulation, and design sovereignty. *International Communication Association (ICA)*, Paris, France.

Adeyemo, B. (2021, September 25). Residual surveillance: Life and democracy after covid-19. *Carolinas Communication Association (CCA)*, (virtual).

Adeyemo, B., & Lackey, C. (2021, May 7). From the bottom up: Rethinking HCI design principles and practices for marginalized groups [conference workshop]. *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*, Yokohama, Japan (virtual).

Adeyemo, B. (2021, February 18). Race, technology, and social justice: A critical review. *Internet Governance Lab TPRC48 Grad Research Symposium*, Washington, DC (virtual).

Adeyemo, B. (2021, February 16). Critical race waves: A review at the intersections of communication, technology, and justice. *Black Graduate Students Association/ Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans Grad Chapter Research Symposium*, Chicago, IL (virtual).

Adeyemo, B. (2020, April 15-18). Woke consumption: From entertainment television to the online public sphere. *Popular Culture Association Annual Conference*, Philadelphia, PA.

Adeyemo, B. & Lagunas, M. (2020, April 22-24). Cultural proficiency in admission counseling. *Illinois Association of College Admission Counseling Annual Conference*, Itasca, IL.

Adeyemo, B., Howard, R., & Miller, B. (2019). The sooner the better: Benefits of early transfer planning. *Illinois Association of College Admission Counseling Annual Conference*, Normal, IL.

PANELS

Adeyemo, B. et al. (2025, April 23). Corresponding Authors Discuss the Forthcoming Book: Debates in Virtual Reality [panel]. *Questioning Reality: Explorations of Virtual Reality*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Acosta, A., **Adeyemo, B.**, Garetto, A., Mateo, D. & Wolff, M. (2024, September 20). The Graduate Student Panel [panel]. *Illinois Communication and Theatre Association (ICTA)*. Palatine, IL.

WORKSHOPS

Adeyemo, B. (2024, October 30). System override: Women of color's imaginations, digital practices of resistance, and technology design. *Association of Internet Researchers (AOIR) Doctoral Colloquium*, Sheffield, UK.

Adeyemo, B. (2024, October 24). Reality reimaged: Exploration in Meta's Horizon Worlds. *UIC Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS) AI Impact Faculty Research Symposium*, Chicago, IL.

Adeyemo, B. (2024, April 18-20). Building (for) empowerment in virtual worlds. *Questioning Reality: Explorations of Virtual Reality and our Social Future*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP | MEDIA INTERVIEWS | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2023 Wine Note? Podcast (2023). Episode Title: Intersectional oppression and the metaverse. <https://soundcloud.com/the-bounty-bar/wine-not-ep3-i-am-a-black-woman-and-the-metaverse-scares-me>

2022 Webinar. (An Economy of our Own). Event Title: Digital Possibilities: Capitalism, Tech, and the Fight for a Feminist Internet. <https://youtu.be/ob9KFBErmII>

Webinar. (Tech Ready IL, Discovery Partners Institute, University of Illinois System). Event Title: Amplifying Black Voices in the Tech World.

Media Inside Out TV Series (2022, Center for Media Literacy, Temple University). Episode 57: The Future of Media: Blockchain and the Metaverse.

<https://centermil.org/2022/01/27/ep-57-the-future-of-media-blockchain-and-the-metaverse/>

Free Float Media's Business Pants podcast (segment: 36:00-50:00). Episode Title: Hyperloops: Public transportation but worse!

<https://www.freefloatmedia.com/businesspants>

2021 WTTW Chicago (PBS Affiliate; Show: Chicago Tonight).

<https://news.wttw.com/2021/12/21/i-m-black-woman-and-metaverse-scares-me-here-s-how-make-next-iteration-internet-inclusive>

WBEZ Chicago (NPR Affiliate; Show: Reset with Sasha-Ann Simons).

<https://www.wbez.org/stories/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-metaverse/67df2e97-6582-41ac-841a-8ff72aea2cb4>

Adeyemo, B. (2021, December 15). I'm a Black woman and the metaverse scares me – here's how to make the next iteration of the internet inclusive. *The Conversation*.

<https://theconversation.com/im-a-black-woman-and-the-metaverse-scares-me-heres-how-to-make-the-next-iteration-of-the-internet-inclusive-173310>

(republished by [The Associated Press](#), [NPR Chicago](#), [PBS Chicago](#), [Fast Company](#), [Popular Science](#), [The Philadelphia Tribune](#), and other outlets)

2020 **Adeyemo, B.** (2020, October 1). Even if you edit, give credit: Black cultural appropriation on TikTok. *In Media Res*.

<http://mediacommons.org/imr/content/even-if-you-edit-give-credit-black-cultural-appropriation-tiktok>

SERVICE

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2020 - Present **Co-Founder, The Good Ground Project**

A nonprofit scholarship initiative that expands access to higher education by providing financial support to underrepresented students entering college

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2024 - Present **Manuscript Reviewer**, International Journal of Communication

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2025- Present **Member**, Content Creators Scholars Network (CCSN)

2021 - Present **Member**, Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)

2021 - Present **Member**, International Communication Association (ICA)

Communication & Technology Division; Human-Machine Communication Division;

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2016 - 2019 **Senior Transfer Admission Counselor**, Illinois Institute of Technology

2013 - 2016 **Academic Advisor**, Lone Star College