

# KAM COPELAND

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Department of African American and African Studies  
The Ohio State University  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of African American and African Studies, The Ohio State University, August 2024 -

Post Doctoral Fellow, James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference, Emory University, August 2023 – May 2024

Dissertation Fellow/Instructor, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, Boston College, August 2022 – May 2023

## EDUCATION

**University of Southern California (School of Cinematic Arts), Los Angeles, CA**  
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Cinema and Media Studies 2023  
Graduate Certificate, Religious Studies  
*Dissertation: Muhammad Gazes: Islam, Blackness, and Resistance Cinema in the United States, 1959-2000*  
*Committee:* Christine Acham (chair), Evelyn Alsultany, Todd Boyd, Sherman Jackson

**Savannah State University, Savannah, GA**  
Bachelor of Science (BS), Biology [*Magna Cum Laude*] 2018

**Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA**  
Master of Arts (MA), Film and Television 2014

**Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA**  
Master of Arts (MA), Communication Arts 2016  
Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Mass Media [*Magna Cum Laude*] 2013  
Minor: African American Studies

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Black Muslims in the U.S. Media  
Race, Religion, and Media  
African American Studies / Critical Race Theory / The Black Radical Tradition  
Film Studies / Television Studies / Digital Studies  
Muslim American Studies / Islam in Black America  
Southern Studies

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Assistant Professor, Department of African American and African Studies, The Ohio State University, 2024 –**

- Black Popular Culture and Visual Media, Fall 2024

**Instructor, Department of African American Studies, Emory University, 2023-2024**

- Black Cinema and the U.S. South, Spring 2024

**Instructor, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, Boston College, 2022-2023**

- Islam in African American Cinema, Spring 2023

**Teaching Assistant, Division of Cinema and Media Studies, USC School of Cinematic Arts, 2019-2021**

- Race, Class, and Gender in American Film, Spring 2021, Professor Todd Boyd, Lead TA
- New Hollywood, Fall 2020, Professor Todd Boyd, Lead TA
- African American Cinema, Summer 2020, Professor Todd Boyd, TA
- Race, Class, and Gender in American Film, Spring 2020, Professor Todd Boyd, Lead TA
- Introduction to Cinema, Fall 2019, Professor Drew Casper, TA
- Diversity and Inclusion Graduate Lab, Professor Evan Hughes, Lead TA

## **GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

- Black Metropolis Research Consortium Summer Short Term Fellowship (2024)
- Emory University James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference Visiting Fellowship (2023-2024)
- Boston College African and African Diaspora Studies Program Dissertation Fellowship (2022-2023)
- MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Predoctoral Diversity Fellowship (2022-2023) – Declined
- BIPOC Summer Research Grant, Division of Cinema and Media Studies, USC School of Cinematic Arts (2022)
- USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant (2022)
- Annenberg Top-Off Research/Travel Award (2021)
- Distinguished Alumnus of the African American Studies Program – Valdosta State University (2018)
- Annenberg PhD Fellowship – University of Southern California (2018-2023)
- Outstanding Student in Mass Media – Valdosta State University College of the Arts (2013)
- Top Student of the Year – Valdosta State University Department of African American Studies (2013)
- Honorable Mention for Screenwriting – Colorado Film Festival (2011)
- Member, Golden Key International Honour Society (2010)

## **SELECTED PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

- “Islam, Black Fitra, and the Cinematic: Defining the Black Gaze from the Street Rostrum to the Masjid,” *American Studies Association*, Baltimore, 2024 (forthcoming).
- “Islam, Revolutionary Nationalism, and the L.A. Rebellion,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Boston, 2024.

- “Salafiyya Swag: Islam, Black Cultural Politics, and the Making of a #HalalDrip Aesthetic,” *Critical Approaches to Black Media Culture*, New Orleans, 2024.
- “Afrocentric Aesthetics, Gangsta Culture, and Revolutionary Nationalism: Islam in 1990s U.S. Black American Cinema,” *American Academy of Religion*, San Antonio, 2023.
- “Islam, Revolution, and the Rise of the Black Nation: Muslimness in 1970s U.S. Black Public Affairs Television,” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, Denver, 2023.
- “Reading Beyond *The Hate That Hate Produced*: Islam, Black Fitra, and the Formation of an Alternative Cinematic Gaze,” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, Online, 2022.
- “Black Islam, Orientalism, and the Conscious Community: Confronting Black Suffering in the Cultural Nationalist Vlogosphere.” *American Academy of Religion*, San Antonio, 2021.
- “Kunta Gazes: Islam in *Roots* (1977) and the Power of Gazing in Blackamerican Praxis.” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, Online 2021.
- “Receptions of Spike Lee’s *Malcolm X* in the African-American Muslim Community.” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, Denver 2020. Paper accepted, conference canceled due to COVID-19.
- “Islam in 1990s Black Male Narrative Films.” Valdosta State University Research Symposium. Valdosta 2015.

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

### **Refereed Journal Articles**

- "Representing Father–Son Relationships among African-American Muslim Men in Film and Television." *Islam and Christian–Muslim Relations*, vol. 30, no. 2, 2019, pp. 165-193.
- “‘Message to the Black Man’: Islam in 1990s Black Male Narrative Films.” *Contemporary Islam*, vol. 11, no. 3, 2017, pp. 259–85.
- “‘I Do Feel the Fire!’: The Transformations of Prison-Based Black Male Converts to Islam in South Central, *Malcolm X*, and *Oz*.” *Journal of Religion & Film*, vol. 21, no. 1, 2017, Article 35.
- “From New Black Realism to Tyler Perry: The Characterizations of Black Masculinity in Tyler Perry’s Romantic Storylines.” *The Journal of Men’s Studies*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2017, pp. 70–91.
- “The Construction of Racial Identity among Same Gender Loving Black Male Characters in Contemporary Film and Television.” *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2015, pp. 39–66.

### **Interviews**

- Russworm, TreaAndrea M. "Spotlight: Kam Copeland." *JCMS: Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 62, no. 3, 2023, pp. 8-10.

### **Film and Media Reviews**

- “Media Review: No Access: Young, Black & Positive.” *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*, vol. 4, no. 3, 2018, pp. 91-95.
- “Film Review: Dana Flor and Toby Oppenheimer (Dirs.), *Check It*.” *Crime, Media, Culture: An International Journal*, 2018, pp. 1–4.
- “Moonlight, Directed by Barry Jenkins: New York, NY: A24. 2016, 111 Min.” *Journal of Homosexuality*, vol. 65, no. 5, 2018, pp. 687–89.

## **Book Reviews**

- “Book Review: Black Masculinity and the Cinema of Policing.” *Men and Masculinities*, vol. 22, no. 4, 2019, pp. 738-739.

## **MEDIA**

- “Muslims As Seen on TV Ep. 2: Black Muslim Representations with Kam Copeland,” Consortium for Gender, Sexuality, Race and Popular Culture – Dornsife College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, forthcoming 2022. Podcast. <https://usc-gss-consortium.libsyn.com/muslims-as-seen-on-tv-ep-2-black-muslim-representations-with-kam-copeland>

## **INVITED LECTURES**

- “Race in American Film and Television.” Guest lecture for Diversity and Inclusion Graduate Lab at the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. September 27, 2019.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Robert Noyce Summer Education Internship Program at Savannah State University’s Coast Camp (K-12 Marine Sciences Camp), Savannah, Georgia (Summer 2017)
- Graduate Assistant, Valdosta State University Department of Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences, Valdosta, Georgia (Spring 2016)
- Tutor and Office Assistant, Valdosta State University Office of Social Equity, Valdosta, Georgia (2010)

## **REVIEWER**

- 2022 Reviewer, *Western Journal of Communication*
- 2021 Reviewer, *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*
- 2019 Reviewer, *Journal of Religious History*
- 2019 Reviewer, *Howard Journal of Communications*
- 2017 Reviewer, *Journal of Religion & Film*
- 2015 Reviewer, *Howard Journal of Communications*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society for Cinema and Media Studies  
American Academy of Religion  
American Studies Association