

**TRESSIE MCMILLAN COTTOM, Ph.D.**

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Associate Professor, UNC School of Information and Library Science

Senior Faculty Researcher, Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life

Manning Hall | UNC-Chapel Hill

**APPOINTMENTS****Associate Professor | 2020 - Present**

School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina

Senior Research Faculty, Center for Information, Technology and Public Life, 2020 –

Courtesy Appointment, Department of Sociology, 2021 –

MacArthur Fellow, John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, 2020-2025

**Associate Professor | 2019 - 2020**

Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

Affiliated Faculty, Masters in Art, Technology and Communication Program,

2018-2020

**Faculty Affiliate | 2015 - Present**

Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University

**Assistant Professor | 2015 - 2019**

Department of Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University

**RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS**

Race/Class/Gender, Stratification, Higher Education Organizational Field, Inequality in Public Life, Future of Work and Entrepreneurship

**EDUCATION****Laney Graduate School, Emory University | 2015**

Doctor of Philosophy, Emory College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology

**Dissertation:** *Becoming Real Colleges in the Financialized Era of U.S. Higher Education: The Expansion and Legitimation of For-Profit Colleges*

Committee: Richard Rubinson (chair), Irene Browne, Cathy Johnson, Roberto Franzosi, Carol Anderson

**North Carolina Central University | 2009**

Bachelor of Arts, English and Political Science

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY | Books**

McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2019. *THICK: And Other Essays*. New York: The New Press.

- National Book Award, Finalist for Non-fiction, 2019
- Brooklyn Public Library Literary Prize, 2019
- *New York Times* Editor's Choice, 2019
- Library of Virginia, Non-Fiction Award, 2020
- *TIME* Magazine, Must Read Book of 2019
- Reading Women's Nonfiction Award, 2020
- *The Guardian*, Best Books of 2019
- National Public Radio, Best Books of 2019
- *Chicago Tribune*, Best Books of 2019
- Reviewed: *The New York Times*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Adroit Journal*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Foreward Reviews*, *Bust Magazine*

McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2017. *Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profits*. New York: The New Press.

- Translation, Traditional Chinese: McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2019. *Dījī Jiàoyù 低級教育*. Taipei City, Taiwan: Hizashi Publishing.
- Author Meets Critic Session, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2018
- "Most Anticipated Books of 2019", *The Millions*
- Reviewed: *The New York Times*, *Kirkus Review of Books*, *Harvard Educational Review*, *Journal of Cultural Economy*, *Adult Education Quarterly*, *Inside Higher Education*, *The Chicago Tribune*

**BIBLIOGRAPHY | Edited Volumes**

McMillan Cottom, Tressie and Darity A. Williams Jr., eds. 2016. *For-Profit U: The Growing Role of For-Profit Colleges in U.S. Higher Education*. London: Palgrave MacMillian.

Gregory, Karen, Tressie McMillan Cottom, and Jessie Daniels, eds. 2016. *Digital Sociologies*. UK Bristol: Policy Press.

**Reviews**

- Galip, Idil. 2019. "Digital Sociologies." *New Media & Society*. 21(9):2089-2091. doi:10.1177/1461444819841377
- Christensen, Wendy. 2018. "Digital Sociologies." *Contemporary Sociology*. 47(5): 568–570. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0094306118792220g>

**BIBLIOGRAPHY | Book Chapters**

- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2021. "Foreword" in *The Black Agenda: Bold Solutions for a Broken System* by Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman. St. Martin's Press.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2019. "Foreword" in *The Credential Society* Reprint edition by Randall Collins. Columbia University Press.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2018. "Reading Hick-Hop: The Shotgun Marriage of Hip-Hop and Country Music." Pp.236-256 in *The Honky Tonk on the Left*, edited by M.A. Jackson. University of Massachusetts Press.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "The Great Ambivalence" in *False Choices: The Faux Feminism of Hillary Clinton* edited by Liza Featherstone. Verso Books.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "Digitized Institutions and Inequalities." Pp. 129-146 in *Digital Sociologies*, edited by J. Daniels and K. Gregory. UK Bristol: Policy Press.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "Black Cyberfeminism: Ways Forward for Intersectionality and Digital Sociology." Pp. 211-232 in *Digital Sociologies*, edited by J. Daniels and K. Gregory. UK Bristol: Policy Press.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "When Your Black Body is a White Wonderland." Pp. 89-96 in *Assigned: Life with Gender*, edited by L. Wade, D. Hartmann, and C. Uggem. New York: W.W. Norton.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "More Scale, More Questions: Observations on Textual Analysis from Sociology." Pp. 540-545 in *Debates in the Digital Humanities* edited by M. Gold, and L. Klein. Minneapolis; London: University of Minnesota Press.  
Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5749/j.ctt1cn6thb.50>
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie, and Gaye Tuchman. 2015. "The Rationalization of Higher Education." Pp. 1-17 in *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, edited by R.A. Scott and S.M. Kosslyn. New York: Wiley Publishing.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. "When Your Black Body is a White Wonderland." Pp. 390-39 in *Race, Class, Gender*, edited by M.L. Andersen and P.H Collins. New York: Cengage.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2014. "The Logic of "Stupid Poor People": Status, Poverty, and Gatekeeping." Pp. 218-240 in *Poverty/Privilege: A Reader for Writers*, edited by C.S. Mick. Oxford University Press.

- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2020. "Where Platform Capitalism and Racial Capitalism Meet: The Sociology of Race and Racism in the Digital Society" *Journal of Race and Ethnicity*. 6(4) 441–449.
- Siddiqi, Arjumand, Odmaa Sod-Erdene, Darrick Hamilton, and Tressie McMillan Cottom. 2019. "Growing Sense of Social Status Threat and Concomitant Deaths of Despair Among Whites." *SSM Journal of Population Health* 9(2019):100449.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100449>
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2018. "Paying More for Less: Lacking Opportunity, The Poor Turn to For-profit Colleges." *Education Next* 8(1):81-83.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100449>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie, Tara Stamm, Jennifer Johnson, and Julie Honnold. 2018. "A Vision Among Challenges: Lessons About Online Teaching from the First Online Master's Degree Program in Digital Sociology." *Journal of Public and Professional Sociology* 10(1):1-15. Retrieved from:  
<https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jpps/vol10/iss1/1/>
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie, Sally Hunnicutt, and Jennifer Johnson. 2018. "Using Social Network Analysis to Understand the Corporatization of Not-For-Profit and For-Profit U.S. Universities."
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie, and Angela Angulo. 2017. "A Radical Education Platform for the 21st Century." *Harvard Kennedy School Journal of African American Public Policy*. 31-35. Retrieved from:  
<http://hjaap.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/HJAAPP-2017-Volume.pdf>
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "Having It All Is Not A Feminist Theory of Change." *Signs* 42(2):553-6. Retrieved from  
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdfplus/10.1086/688264>
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. "Who Do You Think You Are? When Marginality Meets Academic Celebrity". *ADA: Journal of Gender, New Media and Technology* 7(1):  
 Doi:10.7264/N3319T5T
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie, and Sara Goldrick-Rab. 2012. "The Education Assembly Line: The Problem with For Profits." *Contexts* 11(4):14-21. Retrieved from  
[www.jstor.org/stable/41960870](http://www.jstor.org/stable/41960870)
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2014. "Mitigating Concerns and Maximizing Returns: Social Media Strategies for Injury Prevention Non-Profit Organizations." *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine* 15(5):582-86.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY** | *Non-Refereed Articles and Papers*

- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2021. "Hustle Hard" *Data & Society* (forthcoming).
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2020. "The Hustle Economy" *Dissent* 67(4):19-25.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2019. "Rethinking the Context of Edtech." *Educause*. Retrieved from <https://er.educause.edu/articles/2019/8/rethinking-the-context-of-edtech>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "The Logic of "Stupid Poor People": Status, Poverty and Gatekeeping." Pp. in *The Wicked Problems Collective* edited by C. Oestereich . Amazon Publishing.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2014. "College and the End of the Company Man." *Dissent*. 2014. Retrieved from <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/the-university-and-the-company-man>.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY** | *Engaged Scholarship*

- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2020. "The Danger in White Moderates Setting Biden's Agenda" *New York Times*. November 7. [www.nytimes.com/2020/11/07/opinion/biden-moderate-agenda.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/07/opinion/biden-moderate-agenda.html)
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2020. "What the Pandemic Means for Women in the Hustle Economy" *Filene Research Institute*. April 7. <https://filene.org/blog/what-the-pandemic-means-for-women-in-the-hustle-economy>
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2019. "I Was Pregnant and in Crisis. All the Doctors and Nurses Saw Was an Incompetent Black Woman." *TIME*. January 8. Retrieved from <https://time.com/5494404/tressie-mcmillan-cottom-thick-pregnancy-competent/>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2018. "The Real Threat to Campuses Isn't "PC Culture." It's Racism." *Huffington Post*. Tuesday, February 19. Retrieved from [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/opinion-cottom-campus-racism\\_n\\_5a8afb80e4b00bc49f471b41](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/opinion-cottom-campus-racism_n_5a8afb80e4b00bc49f471b41).
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2017. "How We Make Black Girls Grow Up to Fast." *The New York Times*. July 29. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/29/opinion/sunday/how-we-make-black-girls-grow-up-too-fast.html?searchResultPosition=1>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2017. "A Beauty Product's Ads Exclude the Black Women Who Use It." *The New York Times*. May 3. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/03/opinion/a-beauty-products-ads-exclude-the-black-women-who-use-it.html>.

- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2017. "The Coded Language of For-Profit Colleges." *The Atlantic Monthly*. February 22. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/02/the-coded-language-of-for-profit-colleges/516810/>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "The Problem With Obama's Faith in White America." *The Atlantic Monthly*. December 18. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/12/obamas-faith-in-white-america/510503/>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "Georgetown's Slavery Announcement is Remarkable. But It's Not Reparations." *Vox*. September 2. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/2016/9/2/12773110/georgetown-slavery-admission-reparations>
- McMillian Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "Fact Check – Bernie Sanders Promises Free College. Will It Work?" *NPR*. February 17. Retrieved from <https://www.wbur.org/npr/466730455/fact-check-bernie-sanders-promises-free-college-will-it-work>.
- Hamilton, Darrick, Tressie McMillan Cottom, Sandy Darity, Alan Aja, and Carolyn Ash. 2016. "Still We Rise: The Fate of Historically Black Colleges." *American Prospect*, November 9, pp.54-61.
- Weber, Michelle, and Tressie McMillan Cottom. 2016. "Talking Twitter and Teaching With Tressie McMillan Cottom." *Wordpress Discover*. April 7. Retrieved from <https://discover.wordpress.com/2016/04/07/tressie-mcmillan-cottom/>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. "Race is Always the Issue (In Policy Rhetorics)." *The Atlantic Monthly*. September 17. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/09/race-is-always-the-issue/405295/>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. "Running for President Isn't Brain Surgery: Making Sense of Ben Carson." October 13. *The Atlantic Monthly*. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/10/ben-carsons-halo-effect/410260/>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. "Injustice at Universities Runs Deeper Than Names." *The Atlantic Monthly*. October 16. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/10/injustice-at-universities-runs-far-deeper-than-racist-memorials/412207/>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. "Between the World and Me Book Club: Not Trying to Get Into Heaven." *The Atlantic Monthly*. August 3. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/08/between-the-world-and-me-book-club-not-trying-to-get-into-heaven/400271/>.

- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. "Between the World and Me Book Club: The Stories Untold." *The Atlantic Monthly*. July 25. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/07/between-the-world-and-me-book-club-the-story-not-told/399605/>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. "Between the World and Me Book Club: Two Texts Masquerading as One." *The Atlantic Monthly*. July 20. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/07/ta-nehisi-coates-book-club/398972/>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. "Why Free College is Necessary." *Dissent*. 2015. Retrieved from <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/tressie-mcmillan-cottom-why-free-college-necessary>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2014. "No, College Isn't the Answer. Reparations Are." *The Washington Post*. May 29. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2014/05/29/no-college-isnt-the-answer-reparations-are/>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2014. "Why Do Poor People 'Waste' Money on Luxury Goods?" *Talking Points Memo*. November 1. Retrieved from <https://talkingpointsmemo.com/cafe/why-do-poor-people-waste-money-on-luxury-goods>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2014. "David Brooks' Polluted Ecology." *Slate Magazine*. January 3. Retrieved from <https://slate.com/human-interest/2014/01/david-brooks-smoking-pot-should-black-kids-pay-for-his-pothead-sins.html>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2014. "The New Old Labor Crisis." *Slate Magazine*. 2014. Retrieved from <https://slate.com/human-interest/2014/01/adjunct-crisis-in-higher-ed-an-all-too-familiar-story-for-black-faculty.html>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2013. "Federal Financial Aid Has Become a Middle-Class Entitlement." *The New York Times*. November 6. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/11/06/who-should-get-financial-aid/federal-financial-aid-is-now-a-middle-class-entitlement>.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2013. "Whistling Vivaldi Won't Save You: Stereotype Threat and the Death of Jonathan Ferrell." *Slate Magazine*. September 20. Retrieved from <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2013/09/jonathan-ferrell-shooting-death-the-perils-of-stereotype-threat.html>.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** | *Refereed Oral Presentations*

- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2020. "Power, Resistance and Inequality in Tech: A Conversation with Ruha Benjamin, Anita Sarkeesian, and Tressie McMillan Cottom" at Presidential Session for American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2020. "Cultural Imaginings of Work" Panelist at American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2020. "The Neoliberal University: Including Tributes to Scholar-Activist Dan Clawson" Panelist at American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2019. "Academy in Crisis" Panelist at American Sociological Association. New York, New York.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2019. "#CiteBlackWomen: Centering and Celebrating Black Women in Sociology" Panelist at American Sociological Association. New York, New York.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2019. "Author Meets Critic. The Making of a Teenage Service Class: Poverty and Mobility in an American City." Critic at American Sociological Association. New York, New York.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2018. "Plenary: Whose Lives Matter? Race, Gender, and Plaza Ballroom Feminist Activism." Participant at Sociologist for Women in Society. Atlanta, GA.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "Discussing Race, Gender and Deviance on Xbox Live by Kishonna Gray." Discussant at Southern Sociological Society Annual. Atlanta, GA.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2016. "Moving Between Research and Practice: Reflections from Educational Justice Scholarship" Presenter at American Sociological Association Seattle, WA.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. "Women in Higher Education" Panelist at Sociologist for Women in Society. Washington, DC.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2015. Digital Sociology Pre-Conference. Co-Organizer at Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2014. "Op-Ed Pieces and Pitches" American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA.

- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2014. "Why Should I Use Social Media?" American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2013. "Welfare Eligibility When There's No Work: Constrained Choice of For-Profit Students in the Welfare System." Presented at Research Conclave at The Center for Poverty Research. Davis, CA.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2013. "Organized for Urgency: An Organizational Analysis of Admissions at For-Profit Colleges." Presented at Association of Black Sociologists Annual Conference. New York, NY.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2013. "We'll Tweet Until We're Free: Social Media and Social Movements." Presented at Association of Black Sociologists Annual Conference. New York, NY.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2013. "Gendered Degrees: How For-Profit Colleges Respond to Gendered Inequality." Presented at Organizations, Inequality Conference. University of Toronto, Canada. *Invited*.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2013. "The Organizational Logic of Blurring the Public and The Private in Today's Media." Presented at Media in Transition International Conference: Public Media, Private Media. Cambridge, MA. *Invited*.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2013. "Raging Against the Machine: Black Studies and the Case of Naomi Schaefer Riley and The Chronicle of Higher Education." Presented at UNC Southeastern Women's Studies Conference. Greensboro, NC. *Invited*.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2013. "Stratification and For-Profit Colleges." Presented at Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference 2013, Atlanta, GA.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2013. "Raging Against the Machine: The Case of Black Studies and The Chronicle of Higher Education." Presented at Southeastern Women's Studies Association Annual Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2012. "Learning to Earning – Higher Education and the Changing Job Market" Presented at Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario Conference. Ontario, Canada. *Invited*.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2012. "Race, Inequality and For-Profit Colleges." Presented at Applied Research Center, Facing Race Conference. *Invited*. Baltimore, MD.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2011. "Survey of Space, Place, and Educational Research." Presented at the International Globalization, Diversity, and Education Conference. University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2011. "Structure of Opportunity in Secondary Education." Presented at the Latino Youth Education Conference. Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2010. "HBCUs as a Model for the Emerging Urban University." Presented at the Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality Research Conclave. Duke University, Durham, NC.

McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2009. "African American Women in Philosophy." Presented at the Humanities Spring Symposium. North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC.

McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2009. "The Ronald Reagan Legacy Project." Presented at the Monuments and Memory: Race and History Conference. Duke University, Durham, NC.

McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2009. "Buying Public Memory: The Ronald Reagan Legacy Project." Presented at the *Future of Diversity in Academia*. UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY** | *Presentations*

"Digital Sociologies." (November, 2016 ). Presented at OpenCon, Washington, DC.

"Digital Sociologies." (October, 2016). Presented at Digital Culture Workshop, Social Science Research Council, Brooklyn, NY.

"Lower Ed." (October, 2016). Presented at TEDx University of Richmond, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA.

"Lower Ed." (June, 2016). Presented at Convening on Student Debt, Equity, & Research Paths, ACLU Offices, Washington, DC.

"Lower Ed: Inequalities and For-Profit Higher Education." (February 26, 2016). Presented at Speaker Series, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

"Lower Ed." (January, 2016). Presented at White House Convening on Higher Education. Washington, D.C.

"Democratizing Ideologies and Inequality Regimes in Digital Domains." (July 29, 2014). Presented at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society Series, Harvard University, Online <PDF> Cambridge, MA. Retrieved from <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/events/luncheon/2014/07/cottom>

"The Precarious Profit in HigherEd." (March, 2014). Presented at American Federation of Teachers, National Conference, Baltimore, MD.

- “Close Reading the Social.” (February, 2014). Mason-Sakora Humanities Lecture at North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC.
- “Lower Ed: Inequality and For-Profit College Expansion.” (February, 2014). Presented to Race Research Group, Department of Sociology, Duke University, Durham, NC.
- “Race, Gender, & Class: Constrained Educational Choices of Single Mothers in a ‘Work First’ Culture.” (December, 2013). Presented to the Department of Sociology and Women’s Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.
- “MOOCs and Inequality.” (November, 2013). Presented at Google’s Fairness Matters Forum, San Francisco, CA.
- “MOOCs and Other Disruptions: Lessons from For-Profit Colleges.” (November, 2013). Presented at Sociology and Ethics Center, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA.
- “Degrees of Debt: Demographics, Debt, and For-Profit Colleges in the U.S.” (May, 2013). Presented at University Commission on Humanities Research, University of UC-Irvine, Irvine, CA.
- “Writing for Social Change.” (November, 2012). Presented at Social Activism and Public Scholarship Workshop, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA.
- “So Many Degrees, So Much Inequality.” (October, 2012). Presented at the Department of Sociology, Georgia State University, Social Problems.
- “Writing for Social Change.” (February, 2012). Presented at Social Activism and Public Scholarship Workshop, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY** | *Government Hearings*

- America’s Black maternal health crisis. (April, 2021). House Committee on Oversight and Reform [Invitation]
- (February, 2021). US Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. [Invitation]
- Witness Testimony. (April, 2019). U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Subcommittee Hearing.
- “Rethinking Graduate Student Loan Debt.” (June 28, 2018). Urban Institute Panel for the Subcommittee on Health and Education. Washington, D.C., Capitol Hill.
- “Lower Ed.” (March, 2017). Congressional Veterans Committee, Veterans Group Talk, Washington, DC.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY | *Media Appearances*

“Wyatt Cenac & Tressie McMillan Cottom Discuss The Derek Chauvin Verdict.” (April 2021). *All of It*, WNYC.

“Tressie McMillan Cottom on the Moral Panics of Our Moment” (April, 2021). Ezra Klein, *The Ezra Klein Show*.

“How Split are Votes?” (November, 2020). Trevor Noah, *The Daily Show*.

“Talk with Alicia Menendez” (August, 2020). MSNBC.

“On Higher Ed and COVID” (July, 2020). *All in with Chris Hayes*. MSNBC

“Lower Ed: The For-Profit College Scam with Tressie McMillan Cottom.” (January, 2019). Live with Sam Seder on *The Majority Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.themajorityreport/tmc>

“In ‘Thick,’ Tressie McMillan Cottom Looks at Beauty, Power and Black Womanhood in America.” (January, 2019). *On Point Radio*. Retrieved from <https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/in-thick-tressie-mcmillan-cottom>

“A Conversation with Alicia Menendez on ‘Thick: And Other Essays.’” (January, 2019). Guest host on PBS – *Amanpour & Co*. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/lamanpour-and-company/>

“Upending Stereotypes of Black Womanhood with ‘Thick.’” (January, 2019). Guest on *The Daily Show* with Trevor Noah, New York, NY.

“Thick Descriptions with Tressie McMillan Cottom.” (February, 2019). *Why Is This Happening? with Chris Hayes*, Podcast. Retrieved from <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/tressie-mcmillan-cottom>

“How Facebook’s Scandals Are Hurting Sheryl Sandberg’s Lean in Brand.” (December, 2018). Interview with *Vox*.

“Lower Ed.” (March, 2017). *The Daily Show* with Trevor Noah, New York, NY.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY | *Invited Talks*

“The Future of Education.” (April 2021). Ed Mignon Distinguished Lecture. iSchool at the

University of Washington.

“Keynote Address.” (April 2021). Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) virtual conference.

“The Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Visiting Professorship Series.” (April 2021). Goucher College.

“Hatfield Lecture.” (March 2021). Lafayette College

“Eye of the Hawk Lecture.” (March 2021). College of Arts & Sciences, University of North Dakota.

“Provost's Discovery Themes Lecturer.” (January 2021). Ohio State University.

“Higher Education, Digital Transformation and COVID-19.” (December 2020). Sociology Colloquium Series. The Graduate School CUNY.

“Keynote Address.” (October, 2020). Keynote Address. EconCon. Groundwork Collaborative.

“Nonfiction Panel for Awardees” (October, 2020). Virginia Literary Awards.

“A Crisis of Faith in Higher Education.” (September, 2020). Invited Talk Plenary Address. Duke University. North Carolina.

“Have a Drink with Nikki and Tressie” (September, 2020). Virginia Humanities.

“Change: Making Education More Equitable” (September, 2020). The Graduate School CUNY.

“Women + Power: 100 Years After the 19th Amendment: Body Power” (August, 2020). Center for Brooklyn History. Ms. Foundation.

“On Exceptionalism, Oaths, and the Romance of the Center”. (Fall, 2020). VQR.

“Summer Traditions, Fathers of Daughters, 'Clean,' Race and Animation, Meditation Apps” (July 2020). NPR's All of It.

Higher Education Panel (July, 2020) Society for Values in Higher Education Conference.

“From Here to Equality, a Moderated Convo on Reparations” (July, 2020). UNC Press.

“Race, Identity & Power In Our Online/ Offline Spaces” (July, 2020). Unseen Unknown.

“What Is A Public Intellectual Today” (February, 2020). Humanities Public Writing Project, School of Humanities and Sciences. Stanford, CA.

“The Limits of American Education’s Promise”. (February, 2020) Sociology of Education Association. Pacific Grove, CA.

“Meet the Authors” (January, 2020). Virginia Commonwealth University.

“Hear to Slay Live” (2020). Wordpress.

“Digging out of Debt.” (October, 2019). Invited Plenary Address. The Dignity + Debt Network and the Financial Security Program at the Aspen Institute, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

“Writing Trauma” (March, 2019) Yale University.

“Beauty, Media, Money, and More: A Conversation with Tressie McMillan Cottom.” (February, 2019). Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn, NY.

“Book Talk with Tressie McMillan Cottom.” (February, 2019). Richmond Public Library, Richmond, VA.

“RVA Post-Screening Panel of ‘If Beale Street Could Talk’ Featuring Author & Scholar, Dr. Tressie Cottom.” (November, 2018). Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Richmond, VA.

“Lower Ed in the Digital Society: Tressie McMillan Cottom.” (November, 2018). Keynote Address. University of Baltimore, Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences and Integrated Arts Program, Baltimore, MD.

“Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy.” (October, 2018). University of North Carolina, Charlotte, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Charlotte, NC.

“Research in Equity Lecture Series: Tressie McMillan Cottom.” (April, 2018). University of Southern California, Rossier School of Education, Los Angeles, CA. Retrieved from <https://students.rossier.usc.edu/edl/research-in-equity-lecture-series-tressie-mcmillan-cottom/>

“A Conversation Roxane Gay & Tressie McMillan Cottom.” (March, 2018). The Lannan Foundation: Roxane Gay with Tressie McMillan Cottom, Santa Fe, NM. Retrieved from <https://tickets.ticketssantafe.org/single/eventDetail.aspx?p=4747>

“Lower Ed.” (March, 2018). University of California Davis. Davis, CA. Retrieved from <https://poverty.ucdavis.edu/event/lower-ed-credentials-and-inequality>

- “Lower Ed.” (February, 2018). Eastern Sociological Society 2018 Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. Retrieved from <http://www.essnet.org/>
- “They Persisted: Feminism, Work, Activism, Resistance.” (January, 2018). Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting. Atlanta, GA. Retrieved from <http://www.socwomen.org/meetings/winter-meeting-2018/>
- “Lower Ed.” (January, 2018). Stanford University. Stanford, CA.
- “Open in the Age of Inequality.” (January, 2018). Virginia OpenCon. <https://opencon2018virginia.sched.com/event/CNfW/closing-keynote-open-in-the-age-of-inequality-dr-tressie-mcmillan-cottom>.
- “Context Matters: When and Where We Enter with Learning Tech.” (2018.) Presented at the opening keynote at Association for Learning Technology (ALT) Annual Conference. Manchester, UK.
- (2017.) Presented at the opening keynote at SocArXiv Inaugural O3S: Open Scholarship for the Social Sciences Symposium, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
- “Lower Ed.” (December, 2017). Socialists of America Training Mini-Conference at VCU. Richmond, VA.
- Council of Graduate Schools Keynote. (December, 2017).
- “The Possible Worlds of Digital Humanities.” (November, 2017). Opening Plenary Panel. Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HASTAC). Orlando, FL. Retrieved from <http://hastac2017.org/>
- “Lessons from Lower Ed: Expanding Education and Addressing Inequality.” (October, 2017). Brown & Haley Lectureship at [University of Puget Sound](http://www.pugetsound.edu/), Tacoma, WA.
- “Race in the United States: Race and Lower Ed in the New Economy.” (October, 2017). The New School. New York, NY. Retrieved from <https://events.newschool.edu/event/race>
- Virginia’s Community Colleges Chancellor’s Retreat, Virginia, VA. (October, 2017). Retrieved from [http://www.vccs.edu/vccsblog\\_post/](http://www.vccs.edu/vccsblog_post/)
- Online News Association Pre-Conference. (October, 2017). Panelist. American University, Washington, DC.
- “Lower Ed: Why a Critical View of the ‘Skills Gap’ Is Essential in Today’s Higher Education Landscape.” (September, 2017). [Wisconsin Center for Education Research](http://www.wisconsin.edu/education-research/) University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, WI.

- “Lower Ed: Are We Part of the Problem?” (September, 2017). Colloquium at Southern Methodist University, Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Dallas, TX.
- “Lower Ed.” (June, 2017). Berkman Klein Center for Information & Society at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- “Lower Ed.” (May, 2017). Author Meets Critic Session, Cultural Studies Association, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.
- “Lower Ed.” (April, 2017). Keynote address at the American Federation of Teachers Higher Education Issues Conference, Detroit, MI.
- “Lower Ed.” (April, 2017). Student Debt Conference Panel, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA.
- “Lower Ed.” (April, 2017). State of California Department of Finance, Sacramento, CA.
- “Lower Ed.” (April, 2017). Book reading & signing, Chop Suey Bookstore, Richmond, VA.
- “Digital Sociologies.” (April, 2017). Higher Education as a Public Good: How to Take Action, American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Notre Dame University Maryland, Baltimore, MD.
- “Digital Sociologies.” (April, 2017). Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA.
- “Black Sustainability in the Trump Era Panel.” (April, 2017). The New Black Fest, New York, NY.
- “What Should We Be Worried About? Information and Media in the Trump Era.” (March, 2017). Social and Political Dynamics in the Trump Era Panel, University of North Carolina School of Information & Library Sciences, Chapel Hill, NC.
- “Digital Sociologies.” (March, 2017). University of Richmond, Richmond, VA.
- “Digital Sociologies.” (March, 2017). Social Theory Forum, University of Massachusetts at Boston, Boston, MA.
- “Lower Ed.” (March, 2017). Emory University, Atlanta, GA.
- “College for Baby Mommas: Race, Class, Gender and College in the New Economy.” (March, 2017). Brahos Political Science Lecture, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN.

“Lower Ed.” (March, 2017). Busboys & Poets, Washington, DC.

“Lower Ed.” (March, 2017). Red Emma’s Bookstore Coffeehouse, Baltimore, MD.

“Lower Ed.” (March, 2017). Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC.

“Lower Ed.” (February, 2017). New America Foundation, Interface, New York, NY.

Actions and Detail Panel. (February, 2017). Afrikana Film Festival Presents an Evening with an Icon: Angela Davis, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA.

“Lower Ed.” (February, 2017). Meet VCU’s Authors. Virginia Commonwealth University Cabell Library, Richmond, VA.

“Lower Ed: Corporatization of Higher Education in an Unequal Society.” (February 16, 2016). Keynote at Alpha Kappa Delta Induction Ceremony, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA.

“Groups, Trust, and Critical Access.” (August 21, 2015). Keynote address at Media Pre-conference at American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.

“Democratizing Ideologies and Inequality Regimes.” (January 20, 2015). MLK Lecture at School of Information, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

“Open Education and Closed Mobility.” (October 15, 2015). Keynote Address at the International Council for Open and Distance Education, The University of South Africa, Sun City, South Africa.

“The Hustleman is an Entrepreneur: Understanding Racial and Ethnic Group Economies to Support Diversity in Entrepreneur Programming.” (October, 2013). Keynote address at National Association for Community Colleges and Entrepreneurship, Charlotte, NC.

## HONORS & GRANTS

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### *Grants*

MacArthur Foundation Fellowship 650,000 | **2020**

4-VA Grant 20,000 | **2020**

Filene Research Institute 23,550 | **2020**

Laney Graduate School Research Grant 2,500 | **2013**

American Educational Research Association 65,000 | **2012**

*Honors*

BITCH Media Presenting the 2020 Bitch 50 | **2020**

MacArthur Foundation Fellow | **2020**

Non-Fiction Award, Library of Virginia Literary Award | **2020**

RHSU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings (#55/200), Edu-Week | **2020**

Public Understanding of Sociology Award, American Sociological Association | **2020**

National Book Award, Non-fiction Finalist for *Thick: And Other Essays* | **2019**

Brooklyn Public Library Literary Award for *Thick: And Other Essays* | **2019**

Doris Entwisle Early Career Award, Sociology of Education Section of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY | **2019**

John Jasper Trailblazer Award for Contributions to the African American Community, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, Richmond, VA | **2019**

RHSU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings (#113/200), Edu-Week | **2019**

Outstanding Early Career Faculty Award, Virginia Commonwealth University | **2018**

RHSU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings (#72/200), Edu-Week | **2018**

Distinguished Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Virginia Commonwealth University, College of Humanities & Sciences | **2017**

Feminist Activist Scholar Award, Sociologists for Women in Society | **2017**

North Carolina Central University Forty Under Forty | **2016**

PhD Research Intern, Microsoft Social Sciences Research Labs, Cambridge, Massachusetts | **Summer 2014**

Thought Leadership Fellow, Public Voices | **2012 - 2014**

Graduate Fellow, The Center for Poverty Research at UC Davis | **Fall 2013**

Honorable Mention, Robert Dentler Award for Outstanding Student Achievement from ASA | **2013**

Public Voices Fellow, Faculty Engagement Commission, Emory University | **2012**

Ms. Magazine, Feminist Bloggers in Education Designation | **September 2012**

Feminist Wire, Invited Guest Editor, “Health and Black Women in Academe” | **Winter 2012**

Engaged Research Fellow, Office of University-Community Partnerships, Emory University | **2011**

Emerging Scholar, William Boyd National Education Politics Workshop, AERA | **2011**

Moore Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program, UNC Chapel Hill | **2009**

Research Fellow, NC Consortium South Asian Studies, Duke University | **2009**

**TEACHING** | *Virginia Commonwealth University*

Undergraduate: Minority groups in the U.S.; Sociology of Race & Ethnicity; Digital Sociology; Sociology of Education

Graduate: Contemporary Sociological Theory; Digital Sociology; Seminar in Racial & Ethnic Relations in America; Seminar in the Sociology of Education

**TEACHING** | *University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill*

Graduate: Networks of Racial Capitalism; Human Information Interactions

**GRADUATE STUDENTS SUPERVISED** | *Dissertations*

*Committee Member*

Rachel Levy. “Geo-Spatial Inequality in a School District” | **Fall 2019**

*Committee Member*

Dawn Johnson. “Dissecting the Voice of Black Feminists in the Blogosphere and Their Engagement with Platform Affordances” | **In progress**

**GRADUATED STUDENTS SUPERVISED** | *Master of Science Theses*

*Committee Member*

Tabitha Fairchild. “Racist Discourse and Cultural Production through the Dissemination of Internet Memes.” | **Fall 2019**

*Committee Member*

Sasha Pierre-Louis. “Come and Get Your Capital, Sis: The Use of Twitter to Compensate for Gendered and Racialized Job Networks among Creatives.” | **Fall 2019**

*Committee Member*

Sean Mahoney. “Emotional Engagement in the Classroom: Management of the Classroom Climate as Emotional Support of Students.” | **Fall 2019**

*Chair*

Lauren Garcia. “From the Margins to the Center: Legitimation Strategies from an Alt-Right Case Study” | **Fall 2019**

*Committee Member*

Scott Murrah. “Down by Law: A Demographic and Geographic Analysis of Those Killed by Police” | **Fall 2018**

*Chair*

Shabana Shaheen. “The Identity Formation of South Asians: A Phenomenological Study” | **Fall 2017**

*Committee Member*

Rachel Spraker. “What's Haunting Jackson Ward? Race, Space, and Environmental Violence” | **Fall 2017**

## SERVICE

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### SERVICE | *To the Profession*

*Workshop Contributor*, Race & Technology at Microsoft Research | **Present**

*Advisory Committee Member*, Center for Research on Equitable and Open Scholarship (CREOS) at MIT | **Present**

*Editorial Board Member*, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, American Sociological Association | **Present**

*Member*, ED LAB External Advisory Board | **Present**

*Editorial Board Member*, Digital Sociology Journal, University of Bristol Press | **Present**

*Steering Committee Member*, Humanities, Art, Science, & Technology Alliance & Collaborative (HASTAC), Arizona State University | **Present**

*Panelist*, Stanford Graduate Student Q&A | **February 2020**

*Panelist*, Graduate Student Q&A “Evaluating Public Programs that Address Inequality in the New Economy” with Dr. Ferzana Havewala at University of Baltimore | **2020**

*Panelist*, Graduate Student Q&A: Undergraduate Workshop: “Gaming the System: Using Simulations to Address Real-World Inequality” with Dr. Todd Harper & Dr. Ian Power at University of Baltimore | **2020**

*Advisory Board Member*, “WhatEvery1Says” (WE1S) Project, Mellon Funded Initiative on Digital Humanities to study public discourse on large scales, 4Humanities | **2017 - 2020**

*Qualitative Data Repository (QDR) Research Advisory Board (RAB) Member*, Center for Qualitative and Multi-Method Inquiry, Syracuse University | **January 2018 - December 2019**

*Panelist*, Montgomery College Student Q&A | **2019**

*Editorial Advisory Board Member*, Public Philosophy Journal, Michigan State University | **October 2017**

*Evaluator*, MacArthur 100 & Change, MacArthur Foundation | **October - November 2016**

*Reviewer*, MacArthur Award, MacArthur Foundation | **May, 2016**

*Co-organizer*, Social Media Pre-conference, American Sociological Association | **2016 - Present**

*Board Member*, “Documenting the Now,” Mellon Funded Initiative to Archive Social Media Ephemera for Social Change | **2016 - Present**

*Co-chair*, Academic Justice Committee, Sociologist for Women in Society | **2015 - 2018**

*Co-organizer*, Eastern Sociological Society, “Digital Sociology” Pre-Conference | **2015**

*Executive Board Member*, Social Media Taskforce, American Sociological Association | **2015 - Present**

*Institutional Researcher* for Diversity Programming, Laney Graduate School, Emory University | **2013**

*Chair*, Public Scholarship for Sociologists Working Group, American Sociological Association | **2013**

*Member*, President's Social Media Task Force, American Sociological Association | **2013**

*Peer Reviewer*, American Educational Research Association National Conference | **2012**

*Nominated Representative*, Liberal Arts Commission, Emory University | **2012**

*Manuscript Reviewer*, Psychology of Popular Media Culture | **2012**

*Grant Team Member*, AERA Conference, Duke University | **2011**

*Social Media Director*, AERA, Division J: Higher Education | **2011**

*Peer Reviewer*, ASHE, National Conference | **2011**

#### **SERVICE** | *To the University*

*Faculty Founder*, Master's Degree Program in Digital Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University | **2016**

AERA Proposed Ethics Publication, Performed Review, Authored Group Analysis, Emory University | **2010**

*Representative*, Graduate Student Government Association, Emory University | **2010 - 2015**

*Judge*, SIRE Undergraduate Poster Presentations, Emory University | **2010**

#### **SERVICE** | *To the Community*

*Member*, David Lee Stevenson Best Graduate Paper Award, Sociology of Education Section, American Sociological Association | **2018-2019**

*Member*, [SocArXiv](#), Governance Committee, Washington, D.C. | **August 2017**

*Participant*, Higher Education Working Group, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C. | **November 2016**

*Judge*, 100 &Change, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation | **October - November 2016**

*Reviewer*, Higher Ed Platform, The Debt Collective | **September 2016**

*Judge*, Shorty Social Good Awards. New York, NY. | **September 2016**

*Member*, The Secretary of State Subcommittee on Global Education, Guidelines on open education guidelines, issues, and management | **2016**

*Consultant* (Unpaid), Bernie Sanders Presidential Election Campaign, Policy Proposals for Historically Black Colleges and Universities | **2016**

## **ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP**

### *essaying*

A biweekly newsletter for public scholarship. Subscribers get a deeply-researched long-form narrative essay delivered directly to their inbox, along with shorter essays on the process of writing and several ways to talk with Tressie about them in our behind-the-scenes discussion threads and live events. Founding subscribers can choose any amount to support a future writing grant for Black women and non-binary thinkers to write a long-form essay that only they can write.

### **Hear To Slay**

Internationally distributed podcast on Luminary and Apple Podcasts. Co-hosted with author Roxane Gay, Hear to Slay is a podcast that analyzes cultural events with a Black feminist lens. Past guests include Senator Elizabeth Warren, Representative Ayanna Pressley, activist Stacey Abrams and more.