

# A. Kamau Pope

he/him & they/them

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## Education

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Ph.D. Candidate, History, Duke University, Expected 2026

Dissertation: *Queer the Land: Southern Activism's Mandate of Justice*

Master of Arts in History, University of South Carolina, 2021

Master's Thesis: *Shaping a Queer South: The Evolution of Activism from 1960-2000*

Bachelor of Arts, Women's and Gender Studies and African American Studies, College of Charleston, 2016

## Research Interests

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LGBTQ history, African American history; American Studies, women's and gender studies; southern studies; Black feminist thought; masculinity; oral history; storytelling; Black joy; activism; cultural studies; ethnography

## Publications

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### Published

- Pope, A. Kamau. "Shaping a Queer South: The Evolution of Activism from 1960-2000", (Master's Thesis), 2021, <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/etd/6195>

### Works in Progress

- Pope, A. Kamau. "Black Joy as a Form of Resistance"

### Digital Publications

- Pope, A. Kamau. 2020. *Personal Website* "[Black Lives, Health, and Rage Matters](#)"
- Pope, A. Kamau. 2016. *Medium*. "[Welcome to the Friendliest City in the South](#)"
- Pope, A. Kamau. 2016. *Medium*. "[To Charlotte, From Charleston](#)"

## Conference Participation and Speaking Engagements

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Note: Presenters are underlined

- Vic Barrett, Kamau Pope, Felicia Teter, Love Sanchez, Yvette Arellano. 2022 Movement Storytelling: How and Why Our Stories Matter, Students for Zero Waste Conference, Virtual.
- Corfman, S. Brook, Pivazyan, Arev, Aftab, Aqdas & Pope, A. Kamau. 2021. Reading Trans Movements, Narratives, and Futurities. Presenting at annual meeting for the American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD.
- Pope, A. Kamau. 2020. Word of Mouth in the South: LGBTQ+ Oral Histories. Presented at #CouchConnections with We Are Family, Virtual
- Pope, A. Kamau and Kane, Chris. 2019. Student Activism: Beyond the Classroom. Presented at the Points of Intervention convening at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- Pope, A. Kamau. 2018. Black Joy: An Academic Symposium on Climate Change, Environmental Justice and Activism. Presented at New College of Florida's Black History Month Symposium, Sarasota, FL.
- Hollis, Princess and Pope, A. Kamau. 2017. Queer Liberation in our Lifetime. Presented at Black Lives Matter North Carolina Summit for Southerners on New Ground, Durham, NC.
- Pope, A. Kamau. 2016 StrengthsFinder Workshop/Leadership Development. Presented to the Bonner Leader Program, Charleston, SC.
- Pope, A. Kamau and Wilson, Jasmin. 2015. Liberation and Leadership: Workshop to Strengthen the Leadership of People of Color, Presented for College of Charleston's Diversity Conference, Charleston, SC.
- Pope, A. Kamau and Naik, Anjali. 2015. How To Make Black Lives Matter in Your Organization. Presented at Girls Rock Camp Alliance, Elmer, NJ.

## Relevant Experience

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### Research Experience

**Mandy Carter Intern**, *Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History & Culture, Duke Rubenstein Library, Durham, NC*

**Jul. 2022-Present**

- Organize the acquisition of collections, choosing exhibition themes, and installing exhibit materials for the exhibition, "Mandy Carter, Scientist of Activism."
- Document and write about the life and career of Mandy Carter, a Black lesbian activist's career in the community organizing within the South.
- Plan events for the campus and Durham community to examine the influence of activism and the legacies that influence Mandy Carter and young people's role in continuing her activist work.

**Race, Racism, and Sports at Duke**, *Research Assistant for Dr. Timothy Lovelace at Duke University, Durham, NC*

**Jan 2022-Jun 2022**

- Collected archival material to support the documentation of racism and sports at Duke University to support ongoing research for the bi-centennial anniversary of the institution's establishment.

**Ethel Bolden Minority Fellow**, *Richland County Library, Columbia, SC*

**Sept. 2020-May 2021**

- Conducted research and asset mapping of the rural Lower Richland community.
- Developed a database of local and community stakeholders and ways the Lower Richland community can support them.

**Research Consultant**, *Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN), Columbia, SC*

**Aug. 2019- Aug. 2020**

- Co-authored [the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Mandate](#) to inform how to foster better internal and external organizational structures within non-profit organizations.
- Recorded and created a six-week curriculum to further student's personal and professional development skills.

### Teaching Experience

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, *Dept. of History, Duke University, Durham, NC*

**Jan 2023- Present**

- Teach students about the historical legacy of colonization, slavery, and heterosexism to surface dialogue about power, privilege, and what a decolonial future can be.
- Support the instructor with grading, classroom content, and syllabus development.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, *Dept. of History, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC*

**Aug. 2019-May 2021**

- Independently instructed three weekly discussion sections for students in U.S. History since 1865.
- Graded writing assignments, quizzes, and exams for 78 students.
- Assisted the instructor with syllabus development, classroom content, and lecture structure.
- Led lecture on the gay liberation movement and the rise of conservatism in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**, *Dept. of Women's and Gender Studies, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC*

**Aug. 2013- May 2015**

- Co-facilitated discussions on topics such as racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia with a classroom of fifteen students through engaging in various articles, interactive methods through accessible education, and required written reflections on weekly topics.
- Provided weekly evaluations of each classroom session to process the success of each class meeting.
- Demonstrated an increased knowledge of student development through the progress of a semester by sharpening a student's analysis of their identities by focusing on the queer theory and critical race theory.

**Race and the Professions Fellow, Kenan Institute of Ethics at Duke University, Durham, NC**

**Aug. 2021-May 2022**

- Completed a year-long program to explore moral purpose through incorporating racial and social justice in the academic profession.
- Established proposal for online digital archive with interviews from activists and organizers that is secure and offers political education to Southern-based activists.

**Coordinator, Racial Equity, Sundance Institute, Columbia, SC**

**May 2021- Aug 2021**

- Supported Racial Equity Teams at Sundance Institute through meeting scheduling, synthesizing data that can drive racial equity initiatives.
- Supported the dissemination of internal and external grant applications for BIPOC staff and BIPOC-led artist organizations.
- Developed curriculum for the summer internship and supervise racial equity projects.

**Tour Coordinator, Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN), Columbia, SC**

**Aug. 2017- Aug. 2019**

- Developed and organized a national tour that visited college campuses across the country to teach students about the consumption economy and environmental justice.
- Facilitated in-person speaking events and trainings at campuses about environmental justice, global waste crisis, and activism.
- Mentored students in the Students of Color Environmental Collective to support students' personal and professional development at UC Berkley.

*Activism and Community Organizing Experience*

**Member Leader and South Carolina Organizing Fellow, Southerners on New Ground (SONG), Charleston, SC**

**Apr. 2013- July 2017**

- Fostered dialogue with regional members on various social justice issues both locally and across the southern region through planning general membership meetings on political education, researching local court systems, and executing regional membership gatherings of over 100 people.
- Worked with elected officials through written and oral engagements on behalf of citizens to express satisfaction or dissent on local issues impacting the community, such as public school closure, Title IX inaction, and the community's relationship with local law enforcement.
- Coordinated local Free from Fear Campaign to challenge racial and gender injustice in Charleston, South Carolina.

**Bonner Leader & Senior Intern, Bonner Leader Program, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC**

**Aug. 2012- May 2016**

- Completed over 1,200 direct community service hours in the Charleston community over four years through AmeriCorps primarily working with: food security, accessible housing, and after-school youth programs.
- Supervised the Bonner Leadership Team to support in developing the direction of the Bonner Leader Program.
- Partnered with different donors and stakeholders to discuss aspects of the program and provide tangible results from their support.

**Programming Coordinator, Carolina Youth Action Project (née Girls Rock Charleston), Charleston, SC**

**July 2013- May 2015**

- Planned and implemented after school program, including the envisioning and creation of the first alternative to incarceration (ATI) program in the state of South Carolina.
- Educated youth on various topics such as social identity, music education, theatre, and social change theory for the semester.

## **Awards and Accolades**

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1. **African American Studies Capstone Project Award, 2016: Department of African American Studies**
  - Acknowledges a graduating senior who best exemplifies the passionate commitment to inquiry that promotes significant academic achievement and the intellectual curiosity that lead to the development and pursuit of wide-ranging interests.
2. **Consuela Francis Outstanding Student Award, 2016: Department of African American Studies**
  - Recognizes graduating seniors based on their GPA in the major as well as extra-curricular activities that distinguish the award recipient.
3. **Community Activism Award, 2016: Department of African American Studies**
  - Recognizes the outstanding service of an AAST major/minor to improve the campus or broader community concerning issues around racial equality and social justice.
4. **Hall of Leaders Award, 2016: College of Charleston Gay-Straight Alliance**
  - Nominees must have given selfless time, and leadership to the organization made a significant contribution to the campus community and encouraged and motivated others in the organization.
5. **Community Impact Award, 2015: Excellence in Collegiate Education and Leadership**
  - Through this award, a leader of a student organization is recognized for their contribution to the campus community.
6. [Charleston's 50<sup>th</sup> Most Progressive, 2015, CHARLIE Magazine](#)
  - Recognizes the most forward-thinking people making a positive impact on the future of Charleston.

## **Membership**

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- Board Member, **Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN)**, 2021- Present
- Member, **American Studies Association**, 2019-Present
- Leader, **Tigers Eye Collective: Queer Security, Cultural and Education Project**, 2016- Present
- Alumni, **Bonner Leader Program at College of Charleston**, 2016-Present
- Member, **Southerners on New Ground (SONG)**, 2013-Present