

SHAWNA SHIPLEY-GATES, PhD, MPH, CHES

[Email](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Website](#)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | University of Kansas | May 2024
Dissertation Title: Uses of the Digital Erotic: Black Feminist Resistance and its Influence on the Sexual Health Behaviors of Black Women

M.A. in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | University of Kansas | May 2021

Graduate Certificate in Health Psychology | University of Kansas | May 2021

M.P.H. in Community Public Health | New York University | May 2009

B.A. in Psychology with Pre-Medicine Concentration | Spelman College | May 2006

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Research Experience

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW | **University of Kentucky**, Lexington, KY
Department of Gender and Women's Studies | July 2024-Present
Project Title: The Black gURL Erotic Project (Sponsoring Professor: Aria Halliday, PhD)

RESEARCH COORDINATOR | **University of Kentucky**, Lexington, KY
Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion | August 2023- January 2024
Project Title: Black Pelvic Floor Therapy Experience Project (Principal Investigator: Shemeka Thorpe, PhD)

RESEARCHER & HEALTH EDUCATOR | **University of Kansas**, Lawrence, KS
Workshop Title: The Age of Pleasure Sexual Health Workshop Series, Fall 2023

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT | **University of Kansas**, Lawrence, KS
Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | May 2022- May 2024
Project Title: Black Feminist Digital Erotic Resistance (Faculty Investigator: Katie Batza, PhD)

RESEARCH CONSULTANT | **KC CARE Health Center**, Kansas City, MO
February 2019- August 2019
Project Focus 1: Improve Health Center Relationship with Black Transwomen
Project Focus 2: Increase Health Center Engagement within Black Communities
Project Focus 3: Evaluate Service Satisfaction among Black Patients Living with HIV/AIDS

RESEARCHER & HEALTH EDUCATOR | KC CARE Health Center, Kansas City, MO
Community Prevention Services Department | January 2016-December 2016
Study Title: Represent Your Cupcake: A sex-positive workshop promoting HIV/AIDS awareness from the Black feminist perspective

STUDY COORDINATOR | KC CARE Health Center, Kansas City, MO
Community Prevention Services Department | June 2013-October 2014
Study Title: Messages 4 Men: Exploring New Health Information for our Communities

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE | Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, COMSKIL Laboratory | Feb 2008- Sept 2011

Study Title 1: Communication Skills Training and Research Laboratory (Principal Investigator: David Kissane, MD), May 2010- Sept 2011

Study Title 2: Development of a Clinical Trial Specific Question Prompt List. (Principal Investigator: Richard Brown, PhD), Feb 2008-May 2010

Study Title 3: Seeking Informed Consent to Phase I Cancer Clinical Trials: Identifying Oncologists' Communication Strategies (Principal Investigator: Richard Brown, PhD), Feb 2008-May 2010

Study Title 4: The Communication of Genetic Risk to Adolescent Daughters of Women with Breast Cancer (Principal Investigator: David Kissane, MD), Feb 2008-May 2010

RESEARCH INTERN | Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, NY
Department of Epidemiology and Population Health | November 2008-November 2010
Study Title: Promoting Post-Treatment Surveillance among African American Breast Cancer Survivors. Principal Investigator: Hayley Thompson, PhD (Funding Source: Komen for the Cure).

Teaching & Instructional Experience

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

Psychology of Gender | Avila University, Kansas City, MO | Department of Psychology/Department of Women and Gender Studies
Spring 2026 (In-person)

Health Psychology | Avila University, Kansas City, MO | Department of Psychology
Fall 2025 (In-person)

Gendered Media | Avila University, Kansas City, MO
School of Visual and Communication Arts/Department of Women & Gender Studies
Fall 2025 (In-person)

The Politics of Physical Appearance | University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Dept of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | Fall 2024-Spring 2025 (In-person/online)

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Gender, Sexuality, and Health (Course Designer) | University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | Spring 2023 (In-person)

Sex and Gender in New Media | University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Spring 2022-Spring 2023 (In-person/online)

Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Summer 2021-Spring 2022 (In-person/online)

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Dept of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | Fall 2020-Spring 2021 (In-person/online)

CO-FACILITATOR

Teaching at a Predominantly White Institution | University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Center of Teaching Excellence | Fall 2021(online)

Digital Humanities Experience & Relevant Projects

CURATOR, [Uses of the Digital Erotic Digital Storytelling Project](#), January 2023-Present

FELLOW, Institute for Digital Research in Humanities
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, Fall 2022-Spring 2023

RESEARCH CONSULTANT, The Project on the History of Black Writing: Black Lit
Network, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, August 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA ASSOCIATE, Women, Gender, and Families of Color Journal
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, Fall 2020-Spring 2021

PUBLICATIONS

Submitted/Under Review Manuscripts

Shipley-Gates, S. Digital Erotic Resistance and Sexual Health Promotion among Black Women:
A Brief Review. [Manuscript under review and resubmit].

Shipley-Gates, S. Digital Erotic Resistance: A Black Feminist Approach to Pleasure-Based
Sexual Health Communication. [Manuscript under review and resubmit].

Shipley-Gates, S. Digital Erotic Resistance: A Black Feminist Strategy Against Sexual
Oppression. [Manuscript under review and resubmit].

Shipley-Gates, S. The Successes and Challenges of Digital Erotic Cultural Production Among Black Women. [Manuscript under review].

Shipley-Gates, S. Black Women's Digital Erotic Cultural Production as Black Feminist Resistance Against Sexual Oppression. [Manuscript under review].

Shipley-Gates, S. The Influence of Digital Erotic Resistance on the Sexual Health Behaviors of Black Women. [Manuscript under review].

Journal Articles

Shipley-Gates, S. (October 2025). Celebrating the lives and strategies of Black women digital erotic cultural producers. *Journal of Positive Sexuality*, 11(2), 73-92.
<https://doi.org/10.51681/1.1121>

Fisher, C.L., Maloney, E., Glogowski, E., Hurley, K., **Edgerson¹, S.**, Lichtenthal, W., Kissane, D., & Bylund, C.L. (2014). Talking about familial breast cancer risk: Topics and strategies to enhance mother-daughter interactions. *Qual Health Res*, 24(4), 517-535.

Fisher, C., Maloney, E., Bylund, C., Lichtenthal, W., **Edgerson, S.**, & Kissane, D. (2012). Will I get it? High-risk mothers' experiences of challenging conversations with their daughters and strategies to enhance their interactions. *Psycho-Oncology*, 21, 30-31.

Maloney, E., **Edgerson, S.**, Robson, M., Brown, R., Offit, K., Bylund, C., & Kissane, D. (2012). What women with breast cancer discuss with clinicians about risk for their adolescent daughters. *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology*, 30(4), 484-502.

Bylund, C.L., Fisher, C.L., Brashers, D., **Edgerson, S.**, Glogowski, E.A., Boyar, S.R., Kemel, Y., Siegel, B., Spencer, S., & Kissane, D. (2012). Sources of uncertainty about daughters' breast cancer risk that emerge during genetic counseling consultations. *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, 21, 292-304.

Brown, R.F., Bylund, C.L., **Edgerson, S.**, Li, Y., & Butow, P.N. (2012). Testing the utility of a cancer clinical trial specific Question Prompt List (QPL-CT) during oncology consultations. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 88(2), 311-317. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2012.02.009>

Brown, R.F., Shuk, E., Leighl, N., Butow, P., Ostroff, J., **Edgerson, S.**, & Tattersall, M. (2011). Enhancing decision making about informed consent to cancer clinical trials: Development of a question prompt list. *Journal of Supportive Care in Cancer*, 19(8), 1227-1238.

Brown, R.F., Shuk, E., Butow, P., **Edgerson, S.**, & Tattersall, M. (2010). Identifying patient information needs about cancer clinical trials using a Question Prompt List. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 84(1), 69-77. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2010.07.005>

¹ The last name of Edgerson was my maiden name.

Reference Entries

Shipley-Gates, S. (2022). National survey of sexual health and behaviors. In J.M. Duquaine-Watson (Ed.), *Women's Health: Understanding Issues and Influences* (pp. 463-464). ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press.

Shipley-Gates, S. (2022). Representations of women's health in popular culture. In J.M. Duquaine-Watson (Ed.), *Women's Health: Understanding Issues and Influences* (pp. 517-519). ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press.

Book Chapters

Shipley-Gates, S. (2024). A Black woman's guide to erotic self care. In J. Boulware, R. Mathis, C. West-White, and K. Yusef (Eds.), *Mamas, Martyrs, and Jezebels: Myths, Legends, and Other Lies You've Been Told about Black Women* (pp. 193-195). Black Lawrence Press.

Shipley-Gates, S. (2023). Black feminist digital erotic resistance as a harm reduction strategy to impact the sexual health behaviors of Black women. In R. Davis Moss (Ed.), *Black Women's Reproductive Health and Sexuality: A Holistic Public Health Approach* (pp. 87-96). APHA Press.

Shipley-Gates, S. (2023). 'WAP:' Erotic Revolutionary Hip-Hop by Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion. In K. Fairclough, B. Halligan, S. Rambarran, and N.H. Persley (Eds.), *Diva: Feminism and Fierceness from Pop to Hip-Hop* (pp.160-175). Bloomsbury Academic.

Shipley-Gates, S. (forthcoming). Uses of the Digital Erotic: Black Women's Resistance Against Sexual Oppression. In S.A. Smythe (Ed.), *Transnational Black Studies*. Liverpool University Press.

Public Scholarship

Shipley-Gates, S. (2021, July 2). An interview with DeAsia Paige, author of 'The College Diaries' Pt. 2. *The Project on the History of Black Writing*.
<https://projecthbw.ku.edu/uncategorized/an-interview-with-deasia-paige-pt-2/>

Shipley-Gates, S. (2021, June 15). An interview with DeAsia Paige, author of 'The College Diaries' Pt. 1. *The Project on the History of Black Writing*.
<https://projecthbw.ku.edu/uncategorized/an-interview-with-deasia-paige-pt-1/>

Shipley-Gates, S. (2021, March 29). Book Review: 'The College Diaries: How a Budding Black Feminist Found Her Voice.' *The Project on the History of Black Writing*.
<https://projecthbw.ku.edu/uncategorized/book-review-the-college-diaries/>

Shipley-Gates, S. (2021, January 19). Get your freak on: 'Heaux Tales' reclaims the erotic. *Bitch Media*. <https://www.bitchmedia.org/article/jazmine-sullivan-heaux-tales-reclaims-the-erotic>

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

LYMAN T. JOHNSON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

University of Kentucky | 2024-2026

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN AMERICAN DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP | 2023-2024

THE HALL CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES APPLIED HUMANITIES BOOT CAMP

University of Kansas | May 2023

THE HALL CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES APPLIED HUMANITIES SUMMER FELLOWSHIP | University of Kansas | 2023

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

University of Kansas | 2023

INSTITUTE FOR DIGITAL RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES MICRO GRANT

University of Kansas | March 2023

GRADUATE STUDIES SCHOLARLY DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

University of Kansas | November 2022

INSTITUTE FOR DIGITAL RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES FELLOWSHIP

University of Kansas | Fall 2022-Spring 2023

INSTITUTE FOR POLICY & SOCIAL RESEARCH DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

University of Kansas | Fall 2022-Spring 2023

THE CENTER FOR BLACK, BROWN, AND QUEER STUDIES FELLOWSHIP

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

CHANCELLOR'S DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

University of Kansas | Fall 2019-Spring 2020

AWARDS AND HONORS

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS AND PROQUEST DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD NOMINEE | June 2025

MARNIE AND BILL ARGERSINGER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION

University of Kansas | 2024-2025

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS TRAILBLAZER AWARD
University of Kansas | May 2024

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

Shipley-Gates, S. (2025, November 2-5). *The influence of digital erotic resistance on the sexual health behaviors among Black women*. [Conference presentation]. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Oral Presentations

Shipley-Gates, S. (2025, November 13-16). *Black women's digital erotic cultural production as Black feminist resistance against sexual oppression*. [Conference presentation]. National Women's Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Shipley-Gates, S. (2025, October 6-8). *The influence of digital erotic resistance on the sexual health behaviors among Black women*. [Conference presentation]. National Sexual Health Conference, virtual.

Shipley-Gates, S. (2022, November 10-13). *Uses of the digital erotic: Black queer women's resistance against sexual oppression*. [Conference presentation]. National Women's Studies Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Shipley-Gates, S. (2023, November 3-6). *Uses of the digital erotic: Black queer women's resistance against sexual oppression*. [Conference presentation]. Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Shipley-Gates, S. (2022, June 2-3). *Uses of the digital erotic: Black queer women's resistance against sexual oppression*. [Conference presentation]. KU LGBTQ Research Symposium, virtual.

Shipley-Gates, S. (2021, October 15). *Represent your cupcake: A sex-positive workshop promoting HIV/AIDS awareness from the Black feminist perspective*. [Conference presentation]. (Presented at the National Women's Studies Association Conference, virtual.

Edgersson, S. (2017). *Represent your cupcake: A workshop for women focused on sex-positivity and HIV/AIDS awareness from the female perspective*. [Conference presentation]. University of Missouri-Kansas City Women of Color Leadership Conference, Kansas City, MO.

Fisher, C., Maloney, E. K., Glogowski, E., Hurley, K., **Edgersson, S.**, Lichtenthal, W., Kissane, D. and Bylund, C. L. (2013). *Challenging conversations for high-risk mothers and their daughters and communication strategies to enhance their interactions*. [Paper presentation]. Annual meeting of the International Communication Association, virtual.

Fisher, C., Maloney, E., Bylund, C., Lichtenthal, W., **Edgerson, S.** & Kissane, D. (2012). *Will I get it? High-risk mothers' experiences of challenging conversations with their daughters and strategies to enhance their interactions*. [Paper presentation]. Conference of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society, Miami, FL.

Bylund, C., Fisher, C., Brashers, D., Brown, R., **Edgerson, S.**, & Kissane, D. (2010). *Mother's uncertainty about their daughter's breast cancer risk and prevention strategies*. [Paper presentation]. IPOS World Congress of Psycho-Oncology, Quebec, Canada.

Brown, R., Shuk, E., **Edgerson, S.**, & Bylund, C. (2009). *Developing a clinical trial specific question prompt list*. [Paper presentation]. International Conference on Communication in Healthcare, Miami Beach, FL.

Poster Presentations

Shipley-Gates, S. (2022, November 6-9). *Uses of the digital erotic: Black feminist resistance and its potential impact on the sexual health behaviors of Black women*. [Poster session]. American Public Health Association Conference, Boston, MA.

Shipley-Gates, S. (July 2019). *Don't be a label whore: Focusing less on societal standards and more on sexual behavior*. [Poster session]. National Sexual Health Conference, Chicago, IL.

Edgerson, S. (September 2017). *Represent your cupcake: A sex-positive workshop for black women promoting HIV/AIDS awareness from the female perspective*. [Poster session]. United States Conference on AIDS, Washington, D.C.

Edgerson, S. (July 2017). *Represent your cupcake: A sex-positive workshop for black women promoting HIV/AIDS awareness from the female perspective*. [Poster session]. National Sexual Health Conference, Denver, CO.

Edgerson, S. & Dyson, R. (July 2011). *Responding to anger: Development and evaluation of a communication skills training module*. [Poster session]. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Clinical Research Professionals Week, New York, NY.

Edgerson, S. & Horner, J. (July 2010). *Communication skills training and research laboratory*. [Poster session]. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Clinical Research Professionals Week, New York, NY.

Brown, R F., Shuk, E., **Edgerson, S** & Bylund C L. (April 2010). *Development of a clinical trial specific question prompt sheet: Meeting patient information needs*. [Poster session]. NCI-ASCO Cancer Trial Accrual Symposium, Bethesda, MA.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

CITI PROGRAM HUMAN RESEARCH BASIC COURSE
University of Kentucky | August 2025

**SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION, AND REFERRAL TO TREATMENT FOR
SUBSTANCE USE (SBIRT) FOR HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS | University of Kansas | April 2020**

**CITI PROGRAM SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH BASIC COURSE
University of Kansas | February 2020**

CERTIFIED HEALTH EDUCATION SPECIALIST | October 2016-Present

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

**GRADUATE STUDENT MENTOR | Department of Gender and Women's Studies
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY | Fall 2025-Present**

**CO-FOUNDER & MENTOR | KU Front Porch Collective
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS | Fall 2021- Present**

**CO-FOUNDER | KU Black Feminist Collective
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS | Spring 2021- Spring 2024**

**GRADUATE STUDENT LIASION | Center of Teaching Excellence Revolutionizing
Academia Workshop | University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS | Spring 2021**

**DEIB GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE | Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Committee in Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS | Fall 2020-Spring 2023**

**MEMBER | Graduate Student of Color Network
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS | Fall 2019-Spring 2024**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

**MENTOR & EVENT VOLUNTEER | HBCU Walking Billboard, Kansas City, MO
Nov 2018-Present**

**PRESIDENT | National Alumnae Association of Spelman College- Metropolitan Kansas
City Chapter, Kansas City, MO | April 2017-February 2021**

**AIDS WALK KC TEAM CAPTAIN | KC CARE Health Center, Kansas City, MO
January 2017-April 2019**

**VICE CHAIR | Prevention Committee | Kansas City Transitional Grant Area (TGA)
Comprehensive HIV Prevention and Care Planning Council, Kansas City, MO
July 2015-July 2018**

URBAN CO-CHAIR | Women and their Male Partners Committee
Missouri Comprehensive Prevention Planning Group | March 2015-August 2019

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH VOLUNTEER
Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center, Kansas City, MO | April 2012-December 2012

HIV/AIDS WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP VOLUNTEER
AIDS Service Center NYC, New York, NY | October 2007-March 2008

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, University of Kansas Chapter 171 | Fall 2023-Present
American Association of University Women | September 2023-Present
The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality | August 2022-Present
National Women's Studies Association | February 2021-Present
Women of Color Sexual Health Network | July 2017-Present
American Public Health Association | August 2016-Present
National Alumnae Association of Spelman College | June 2006-Present