**ABIMBOLA COLE KAI-LEWIS, Ph.D.**

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**EDUCATION**

2016 Doctor of Philosophy, Ethnomusicology University of California, Los Angeles

Dissertation: “The Hard Cashless Society: Millennial Economics and Street Hop in Johannesburg”

2013 Master of Science, Teaching and Learning

Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus

2003 Master of Arts, Ethnomusicology University of California, Los Angeles

2001 Bachelor of Arts, Music Spelman College

1997 International Baccalaureate Diploma

United Nations International School

**SELECT HONORS AND AWARDS**

2021 District 13 Equity Fellows, New York City Department of Education

2020 The Metropolitan Museum of Art Professional Learning Community, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

2019 Apollo Theater School Programs Advisory Committee, Apollo Theater Foundation

2018 Applied Ethnomusicology Section Travel Award, Society for Ethnomusicology

2017 New York City Writing Project Invitational Leadership Institute, Lehman College

2016 Graduate Division Tuition Grant, University of California, Los Angeles

2015 AmeriCorps Education Award, AmeriCorps Corporation for National and Community Service

2011 New York City Teaching Fellows, New York City Department of Education

2011 Applied Ethnomusicology Student Paper Award, Society for Ethnomusicology

2010 Applied Ethnomusicology Section Travel Award, Society for Ethnomusicology

2009 Gerald L. Davis Travel Award, American Folklore Society

2007 Quality of Graduate Education Award, University of California, Los Angeles

2005 J. William Fulbright Fellowship, Institute of International Education

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

07/2019-08/2019 Liberty Partnerships Program at Fordham University

*Summer Quest ELA Teacher*

Bronx, NY

* Designed curricula for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students
* Developed grade-level reading and writing assignments
* Taught two classes over the course of the two-month program

09/2018-present Park Place Community Middle School (Middle School 266)

*Special Education Teacher*

*­*  Brooklyn, NY

* Partnered with teachers to develop lessons for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Science classes
* Participated in collaborative planning and inquiry group sessions with Science and ELA teachers
* Led a Humanities class for a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Self-Contained classroom
* Co-facilitated a hip-hop elective with Ray Ramirez of the non-profit organization Lyric Lab
* Prepared IEPs for students based on their specific learning needs

09/2016-06/2018 Community Partnership Charter School

*Special Education Coordinator*

Brooklyn, NY

* Collaborated with members of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) to prepare IEPs for students
* Facilitated SETSS sessions for students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade based on academic curricula and data
* Scheduled related services for students with 4 service providers (Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Social Worker, and Speech Pathologist) and 3 paraprofessionals
* Administered assessments including NYSAA, NYSESLAT, and NYSITELL
* Completed Per Pupil Billing spreadsheets identifying the specific services and budgetary allocations for each student with special needs
* Responded to teacher inquiries about students with special needs through e-mails, office hours, staff newsletter entries, and workshops
* Arranged 504 accommodations for students for assessments in conjunction with the 504 Committee

09/2014-06/2016 Public School/Intermediate School 66

*Special Education Teacher*

Brooklyn, NY

* Created lesson plans for instruction in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies
* Partnered with General Education teachers in Integrated Co-Teaching classrooms to ensure that lessons were properly modified to meet the needs of students with disabilities
* Led the RTI team and identified students requiring additional academic support through appropriate Tier 1, 2, and 3 interventions
* Designed unit assessments based on the instructional content
* Facilitated professional development sessions about the arts, classroom instruction, and personal ethnomusicological research during staff professional development sessions

09/2011-06/2014 Public School/Middle School 4

*Special Education Teacher*

Bronx, NY

* Collaborated with General Education teachers to develop assessments, curricula, and lesson plans for students
* Analyzed student data from assessments to determine areas requiring further reinforcement through reteaching content
* Provided differentiated small group instruction for students in ELA and Math
* Partnered with members of the Special Education Team to create IEPs for students with special needs
* Served as the Music and Vocal Director for the Broadway Junior afterschool program
* Administered NYSAA for students in 5th, 7th, and 8th grades

09/2003-06/2004 University of California, Los Angeles

*Teaching Assistant*

Department of Ethnomusicology

Los Angeles, CA

* Developed curricula and assignments
* Facilitated weekly class discussions
* Supplemented lectures delivered by the professor
* Administered and proctored examinations
* Recorded class lecture notes for students
* Advised students during office hours

**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

02/2011-05/2011 Apollo Theater Foundation, Incorporated

*Program Assistant*

New York, NY

* Organized administrative files
* Maintained correspondence between the Director of Programming and various program participants
* Assisted in coordinating departmental events and programs

08/2010-10/2010 Apollo Theater Foundation, Incorporated

*Archive Project Assistant*

New York, NY

* Inventoried collateral materials, colorized photographs, compact discs, DVDs, and miscellaneous ephemera
* Worked with Apollo staff and archival consultants to arrange materials in the offsite and onsite storage spaces

09/2009-07/2010 Philadelphia Folklore Project

*Program Associate*

Philadelphia, PA

Folk Arts Education

* Drafted contracts and invoices for teaching artists in the Folk Arts Education program
* Observed classroom progress and met with teaching artists to discuss program development
* Partnered with the Director and school staff to plan professional development sessions for teaching artists
* Documented teaching artist residencies using digital photography and video recording
* Organized school wide concerts and performances

Public Programs

* Facilitated workshops for the African American Storytelling Workshop and Tatreez (Palestinian Needlework) Workshop

Technical Assistance

* Drafted agendas for Community Folklife Documentation Workshop (CFDW) sessions
* Advised CFDW participants about their research and projects

01/2009-09/2009 Apollo Theater Foundation, Incorporated

*Archive Project Assistant*

New York, NY

* Surveyed and inventoried audiovisual materials
* Prepared signage for the Apollo Theater’s 75th Anniversary Open House
* Coordinated meetings between archiving partners at The Winthrop Group and Apollo Theater Foundation staff members

10/2004-12/2004 University of California, Los Angeles Music Library Special Collections

*Bibliographer*

Los Angeles, CA

* Inventoried materials included in the Herb Alpert A&M Records Collection
* Arranged and sorted correspondence, records, various ephemera, and sheet music

09/2004-10/2004 University of California, Los Angeles Ethnomusicology Archive

*Gospel Archiving in Los Angeles (GALA) Project Recorder*

Los Angeles, CA

* Recorded gospel music performances using a DAT machine and a camcorder at churches and venues throughout Los Angeles

08/2002-06/2003 University of California, Los Angeles Ethnomusicology Archive

*Bibliographer/Graduate Student Researcher*

Los Angeles, CA

* Digitized reel-to-reel field recordings
* Copied recordings onto compact discs using Roxio Toast
* Entered metadata for each digital recording

**SELECT INTERNSHIPS**

11/2008-05/2009 Apollo Theater Foundation, Incorporated Oral History Project at C.S. 154, The Harriet Tubman Learning Center

*Intern*

New York, NY

* Recorded interviews between 4th and 5th grade C.S. 154 students and Harlem Significant Elders
* Transcribed student interviews, distributed them among participants, and maintained project binders
* Supported Teaching Artists during classroom sessions, rehearsals, and student performances

**SELECT PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS**

2021 “Touching the Sun: Music, Trauma, and Youth in New York City.” Music, Sound, and Trauma: Interdisciplinary Perspectives Virtual Conference, Indiana University.

2020 “The Sugarloaf Mudslide: Climate Change and Musical Activism in Sierra Leone.” Society for Ethnomusicology Virtual Annual Meeting, Carleton University and Queen’s University

2020 “Twelve and Me: Teaching the Apollo Theater’s *Between the World and Me* Curriculum.” International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) Music, Education, and Social Inclusion Group Conference, Universidad Interamericana, Puerto Rico, COVID Cancellation

2020 “Lonta! Environmental Sustainability Messages in the Music of Sierra Leone’s Freetong Players.” Responses to Music in Climate Change Conference, CUNY Graduate Conference, COVID Cancellation

2020 “Kykunkor: Early American Encounters with Sierra Leonean Dance Dramas.” American Contact: The History of the Book, Virtual Conference, Princeton University and University of Pennsylvania

2020 “Freetown Soundscape: Chosan’s Love Song to Sierra Leone.” Un/Sounding the Relational City, New York University, New York, NY

2019 “Beyond the Estate: Migration Messages in the Music of Emcee Chosan.” African/Diaspora Migrations, Displacements, and Movements: Histories, Politics, and Poetics Conference, Howard University, Washington, DC

2019 “Lonta! Ecomusicological Messages in the Songs of Sierra Leone’s Freetong Players Musical Arts Troupe.” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, Washington, DC

2019 “‘Trilliant’: Searching for Truth, Realness, and Brilliance in Music and the Public Humanities.” Northeast Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology Conference, Colby College, Waterville, ME

2019 “Hip-Hop and Trauma in New York City.” PHENND Trauma and the Arts: Mobilizing Anchor Institutions, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

2019 “Student Musical Tastes: Exploring Musical Cultures through Writing in Middle School through College Classrooms.” Teachers in the Round, Lehman College, Bronx, NY

2018 “‘Say It Again’: Stories of Worthy Witnessing with Emcee Chosan.” Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM

2018 “‘The Educational Coffeehouse’: Using Sierra Leonean Hip-Hop Music in New York City Teacher Workshops.” International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) African Musics Symposium, Accra, Ghana

2018 “Disrupt! Empowering Students (and Teachers) with Voice and Choice.” Teacher-to-Teacher Conference, Lehman College, Bronx, NY

2018 “London Roads and Postal Codes: An Analysis of Sierra Leonean Migration in the Song ‘N18.’” New York African Studies Association, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ

2017 “Rethinking Immigration: Discussing Cultural Identity through Hip-Hop Music.” Workshop co-facilitated with Chosan, For Teachers, By Teachers Conference, New York, NY

2017 “Telling Our Stories: Education, Ethnomusicology, and Hip-Hop Narratives.” Teacher-to-Teacher Conference, Lehman College, Bronx, NY

2017 “Transformative Darkness: Fear, Vigilantism, and the Death of Trayvon Martin.” Black Lives Matter Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2016 “‘Ain’t Nothing Like the Real Thing’: The Role of Music and Memory in the Apollo Theater’s Archive Project.” Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

2016 “‘This Is My America’: An Examination of American Citizenship and Sierra Leonean Identity in the Music of Emcee Chosan.” Show and Prove Hip-Hop Studies Conference, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA

2016 “The Hard Cashless Society: Radical Economics and the Music of Hip-Hop Collective Cashless Society.” The City University of New York Graduate Students in Music Symposium, The City University of New York, New York, NY

2016 “The Accidental Hero: Depictions of the Antihero in the Music of Hip-Hop Collective Cashless Society.” Stony Brook University Graduate Music Symposium, Stony Brook, NY

2015 “‘You Can Take Our Diamonds, But You Can Never Take Our Spirit’: Chosan’s Analysis of Blood Diamonds and the Sierra Leonean Civil War.” Tyranny and Music Conference, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

2015 “‘Find the Cure’: Hip-Hop Artist Chosan’s Response to the West African Ebola Outbreak.” Northeast Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI

2015 “‘The New Endangered Species’: Interpretations of the Michael Brown Case by Rapper Chosan.” Current Musicology Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY

2011 “Welcome to the United States of Africa: Kwame Nkrumah’s Philadelphia Years, African Nationalism, and Hip-Hop Perspectives on Unity in the New Africa.” Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

2011 “No Cash, No Credit: Cashless Society’s Anti-Bling Critiques.” Experience Music Project Pop Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

2010 “Becoming an Arts Coordinator: Lessons Learned from Incorporating Ethnomusicological Training in Elementary and Middle School Classrooms.” Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

2010 “‘Accidental Heroes’: Understanding the Music of Cashless Society through the Hip-Hop Matrix.” Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, HI

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS**

Forthcoming “Kykunkor: Early American Encounters with Sierra Leonean Dance Dramas.”

2019 “Contemporary Music in Botswana.” *The Sage Encyclopedia of Music and Culture*, edited by Janet Sturman, pp.398-401. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

2019 “Hip-Hop Music in Botswana.” *The Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World*, pp. 228, edited by Heidi Carolyn Feldman, David Horn, John Shepherd, and Gabrielle Keilich. New York: Bloomsbury Academic.

2019 “Transformative Darkness: Fear, Vigilantism, and the Death of Trayvon Martin.” *Nocturnes: Popular Music and the Night*, edited by Geoff Stahl and Giacomo Bottà, pp. 177-190. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

2018 “‘You Can Take Our Diamonds, But You Can Never Take Our Spirit’: Chosan’s Analysis of Blood Diamonds and the Sierra Leonean Civil War.” *Tyranny and Music*, edited by Joseph E. Morgan and Gregory N. Reish, pp. 199-215. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

2013 “Welcome to the United States of Africa: African Nationalism and Hip-Hop Perspectives on Unity in the New Africa.” In *Resiliency and Distinction: Beliefs, Endurance and Creativity in the Musical Arts of Continental and Diasporic Africa*, edited by Kimasi Browne and Jean Kidula, pp. 116-133. Point Richmond, CA: Music Research Institute Press.

2011 “Contemporary Uses of the Musical Arts in HIV/AIDS Health Education Initiatives: The Case of the Radio Serial Drama *Makgabaneng*.” In *The Culture of AIDS: Hope and Healing in Music and the Arts*, edited by Gregory Barz and Judah Cohen, pp. 144-157. New York: Oxford University Press.

**MEDIA PRODUCTS**

2020 HBO Between the World and Me: The Apollo Panel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5wiVkXyl7c>

2020 HBO Between the World and Me Podcast: The World., Episode 4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lisCAp1Rzk>

**FIELDWORK**

2014-2021 Seven years of fieldwork on Sierra Leonean hip-hop music in New York City

2006-2008 Two years of fieldwork on the musical arts and youth culture in Gaborone, Botswana

2004 One month of fieldwork on local music and HIV/AIDS health education in Gaborone, Botswana

2003 Two months of fieldwork on hip-hop and kwaito music in Durban and Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

2002 Six months of fieldwork on hip-hop music and virtual hip-hop communities in Los Angeles, California

1999 Four months of fieldwork on hip-hop and kwaito music in Durban, South Africa

**LANGUAGES**

French 13 years, fluent

German 2 years, elementary

Setswana 1 year, elementary

Spanish 2 years, elementary

Zulu 5 years, advanced

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

Northeast Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology

Society for Ethnomusicology