

# **Michele Tracy Berger, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor, Department of Women's and Gender Studies & Adjunct Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning & Director of the Faculty Fellows Program, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences at UNC - Chapel Hill**

Chapel Hill, NC, US

Teaching and research interests include multiracial feminism, HIV/AIDS activism and women's and gender studies scholarship. (see more below)

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## **Description**

Michele Tracy Berger is associate professor in the Department of Women's Studies and adjunct professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning.

She is also the Director of the Faculty Fellows Program at the The Institute of the Arts and Humanities.

Berger's research and teaching interests include African American women and girls' health, racial and gender health disparities, multiracial feminism, theories and methods of intersectionality, HIV/AIDS activism, and the career and activist pathways of women's and gender studies graduates.

Her books include "Workable Sisterhood: The Political Journey of Stigmatized Women with HIV/AIDS" (Princeton University Press, 2004) and the co-edited collections "Gaining Access: A Practical and Theoretical Guide for Qualitative Researchers" (Altamira Press, 2003) and "The Intersectional Approach: Transforming the Academy Through Race, Class and Gender" (University of North Carolina Press, 2010).

What can you do with an interest in women's and gender studies? is an often heard question from students, parents, the general public and even some educators. Berger's recent co-authored book "Transforming Scholarship: How Women's and Gender Studies Students are Changing Themselves and the World," (Routledge 2011, 2nd ed. 2014) grapples with this question. The book argues that not only are women's and gender studies graduates able to find fulfilling employment, they also comprise an emerging community of knowledge producers in the U.S. and globally, and maintain a strong commitment to gender equality and social justice after graduation. This is currently the largest global data set about contemporary women's and gender studies graduates.

Her current book project is "Thriving vs. Surviving: African-American Mothers and Adolescent Daughters on Health, Sexuality, and HIV." Its focus is on southern African American mothers and their adolescent daughters and examines the themes that emerge about health, information about and access to health and health care, and sexuality at a crucial period of girls' lives—early adolescence. It also pays particular attention to mothers' framing of intimacy, relationships and ideas about HIV risk.

She is also a creative writer and conducts seminars on women, leadership and creativity.

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## **Topics**

Women's and Gender Studies, HIV/AIDS Activism, Multi-racial feminism, Faculty Development, Women in Leadership, Creativity, African American women and girls' health, Racial and gender health disparities

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## **Education**

### **University of Michigan**

Ph.D. Political Science & Women's Studies

### **Bard College**

B.A. Political Studies and Creative Writing

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Best Book Award, Political Science Association**

Berger's book, "Workable Sisterhood: The Political Journey of Stigmatized Women with HIV/AIDS," won this award.

### **Distinguished Book Award nomination, American Sociological Association**

Berger's book, "Workable Sisterhood: The Political Journey of Stigmatized Women with HIV/AIDS," was nominated for this award.

### **American Association of University Women's American Fellow Award**

Awarded for Berger's work on African American mother and daughter communication on health and sexuality.

### **Former Vice President of the National Women's Studies Association**

Berger served from 2010=2014 in this role.

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