

# **Patricia Parker, Ph.D.**

**Department Chair & Associate Professor, Department of Communication, College of Arts and Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill**

Chapel Hill, NC, US

Parker explores leadership development, career socialization and empowerment among African American teen girls in low-income neighborhoods.

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## **Description**

Patricia S. Parker is an associate professor of Communication in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences. While conducting research for a book on the leadership approaches of African-American female executives a few years ago, Parker made the linkage in her mind between the life work of civil and human rights activist Ella Jo Baker, whom she had long admired as an unsung hero, and the personal stories of the executives who cited a grounding in community as being pivotal to their success. The Ella Baker Women's Center for Leadership and Community Activism is part of her evolving vision to promote the continued legacy of transformative leadership by women of color.

At UNC, Parker regularly teaches "Communication and Leadership;" "Group Communication;" "Interpretive Studies in Organizational Communication;" and "Seminar in Race, Ethnicity, and Organization." Her honors include: Kauffman Faculty Fellow, 2006-2007; Scholar in Residence, Center for Urban and Regional Studies, 2005; Affiliate Fellow, Institute of African American Research, 2003-present; Burress Fellow, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, 2002-present. Among Parker's recent publications are: "Race, Gender, and Leadership: Re-envisioning Organizational Leadership from the Perspectives of African American Women Executives;" "Keeping It Real: Race, Difference, and Corporate Ethics at Coca-Cola;" "Always at Risk?: African American Women Faculty, Graduate Students, and Undergraduates."

She is working on a book, "Ella's Daughters: Race, Gender and Community Organizing in the Era of the 'New Jim Crow.'"

She is the former Director of Faculty Diversity Initiatives for the College of Arts and Sciences (2012-2015).

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## **Topics**

Organizational Communication, Organizational Leadership, Social Justice Leadership, Community Engaged Scholarship, Youth Activism, Girl's and Women's Empowerment

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## **Past Talks**

**Decolonizing Diversity in the Age of Globalization: Writing against the Persistence of Racialization in Organization Theory and Practice**

Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association

**"You're Out of Control": The Normalizing of White Emotional Experience as a Site of Control and Resistance in the Gendered and Racialized Workplace**

Gender, Work and Organization: 5th International Interdisciplinary Conference

## **Community Based Participatory Research with African American Teen Girls in Low Income Communities**

Moore Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program Seminar

## **Creating and Sustaining Diverse Workplaces: Valuing Diversity/Negotiating Difference**

Paper presented at the 46th Annual North Carolina City and County Management Seminar

## **Race, Gender, And Leadership: (En)Countering Discourses that Devalue African American Women as Leaders**

27th Alabama Symposium, The Signs of Race Series on Literature, Race, and Ethnicity

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## **Education**

**University of Texas at Austin**

Ph.D. Communication Studies

**California State University**

M.A. Speech Communication

**Arkansas Tech University**

B.A. Speech, Theatre, and Journalism

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## **Accomplishments**

**University Diversity Award (Faculty) (2014)**

Awarded by UNC Chapel Hill

**Academic Leadership Program Fellow, Faculty Fellow and Participant in Chairs Leadership Program**  
Institute for the Arts and Humanities

**Office of the Provost Engaged Scholarship Award in recognition of outstanding engaged teaching (2013)**

Awarded by UNC Chapel Hill

**Faculty Learning Community on Strategic Planning and Leadership Program Fellow (2012 - 2013)**

Awarded by UNC Chapel Hill

**Engaged Scholars Service Award**

National Communication Association, Organizational Communication Division (2010)

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