

**SONNY E. KELLY**

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***www.sonnykelly.com***

**EDUCATION**

**Doctoral Candidate, UNC Chapel Hill, Aug 2015-present**

Communication, Advised by Renée Alexander Craft

Area of Interest: Performance and Critical Pedagogy

Dissertation: *Pipelines to Pathways: Reframing and Reclaiming  
Black Youth Identity through Performance*

Dissertation Committee: Renée Alexander Craft (Chair), Alexandra Lightfoot,  
Patricia Parker, Della Pollock, Katie Striley

**MA, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX, May 2008**

Communication Studies, Advised by Alan Cirlin

**BA, Stanford University, June 1998**

International Relations Major/Economics Minor, Latin American Development

\*Fluent in Latin American Spanish

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

**Lead Instructor:**

*Introduction to the Performance of Culture*, UNC Chapel Hill 2019

*Introduction to Performance Studies*, UNC Chapel Hill 2018

*Introduction to Performing Literature*, UNC Chapel Hill 2018

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

*Performing African American History*, Joseph Megel, UNC Chapel Hill 2017

*Introduction to Performance*, Della Pollock, UNC Chapel Hill 2017

*Intro to Organizational Communication*, Dennis Mumby, UNC C.H. 2016

*Intro to Media Production*, Kristin Hondros, UNC Chapel Hill, 2016

*Fundamentals of Oral Comm.*, St. Mary's Univ., TX, Alan Cirlin 2006

*Business and Professional Comm.*, St. Mary's Univ., TX, Alan Cirlin 2005

**Community College Instructor**

*Public Speaking*, Robeson Community College, Lumberton, NC 2015-16

*Public Speaking*, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fayetteville, NC 2015-16

*Fundamentals of Speech and Communication*, Northeast Lakeview College,  
San Antonio, TX 2008-11

*Success and Study Skills*, Fayetteville Technical Community College 2003

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Articles:

Kelly, Sonny (2019). "The Talk: Crucial Conversations for Contemporary Kids of Color in the New South." *Southern Cultures*, 25(3) (pp. 76-89).

### Book Chapters:

Kelly, S. (2019). "Mike Wiley is A Multi-Faceted Artist on a Mission for Social Change." In Kathy A. Perkins, Sandra L. Richards, Renée Alexander Craft, and Thomas F. DeFrantz, (Eds.). *The Routledge Companion to African American Theatre and Performance*. (pp. 299-302). New York, NY: Routledge.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| "Addressing Educational Disparity with Digital Technology Distribution,"<br>National Communication Association Annual (NCA) Annual Convention                     | 2019 |
| "A Critical Race Theory Approach to Interpersonal Communication,"<br>National Communication Association (NCA) Annual Convention<br>*Top Student Paper Award       | 2019 |
| "Autoethnographic Engagements: Surviving with/in Scholarship" (panelist),<br>National Communication (NCA) Association Annual Convention                           | 2019 |
| "Performatively Unpacking the Race Talk"  |      |
| ○ We Are Annual Let's Talk Racism Conference, Durham, NC  | 2019 |
| ○ Black Communities Conference, Durham, NC  | 2019 |
| ○ Free Speech Conference: Finding Expression in Contested Public<br>Spaces, UNC Greensboro  | 2019 |
| "The Talk"  |      |
| ○ National Communication Association (NCA) Annual Convention<br>(Refereed)  | 2018 |
| ○ ACCelerate Conference, on behalf of Innovate Carolina, Washington D.C.  | 2018 |
| "Trauma-Informed Performance-Based Intervention for Marginalized Youth,"<br>National Communication Association (NCA) Annual Convention                            | 2018 |
| "Aspiring Beyond the Achievement Gap: An Analytic Transformation in<br>Education," National Communication Association (NCA) Annual Convention<br>*Top Paper Award | 2018 |
| "Reframing 'The Talk': Aesthetics of Resisting Negative Biotropes of Black<br>Youth," National Communication Association (NCA) Annual Convention                  | 2018 |
| "Pipelines to Pathways: Empowering Marginalized Youth of Color Through<br>Embodied Performance," Black Communities Conference, Durham, NC                         | 2018 |

**INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- The Talk*, one-man show written and directed by Sonny Kelly
- Syracuse University 2020
  - Fayetteville State University's Fine Arts Series 2020
  - African American Heritage Society, Pensacola, FL 2019
  - Carolina Public Humanities, K-12, Chapel Hill, NC 2019
  - USA Transactional Analysis Association 50th International Conference, "Promoting Equality and OKness: Healing the Divisions in Our World," Raleigh, NC 2019
  - StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performance and Bulldog Ensemble Theater, Chapel Hill and Durham, NC 2019
- "Talking TheTalk: A Performance-Centered Approach to Diversity and Inclusion"
- Carolina Public Humanities, K-12 2019
  - Kenan Flagler School of Business, UNC Chapel Hill 2019
- "From Sidekicks to Superheroes: The Importance of Positive Black Protagonists in the Development of Self-Concept for Youth of Color," NC State University's African American Cultural Center 2018
- "Winning the Dope Game: A Youth Workers' Guide to Combating the Draw of Sex, Drugs and Technology Among Teens," North Carolina Juvenile Services Agency Conference, Carolina Beach, NC 2015

**INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- UNC Center for the Study of the American South *Imagining UNC's Future with Art* Grant (\$4,000) 2019
- UNC Chapel Hill College of Arts and Sciences *Lamplsey Graduate Fellowship* (\$5,000) 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Suzanne Levy Summer Research Fellowship* (\$5,000) 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Humanities Professional Pathways Fellowship* (\$5,000) 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship* (\$5,000) 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research Seed Grant* (\$1,200) 2018
- UNC Chapel Hill *Maynard Adams Fellowship for Public Humanities* 2017
- UNC Chapel Hill *Carolina Center for Public Service Community Engagement Fellowship* (\$2,000) 2017
- UNC Chapel Hill *Institute of African Amer. Research Grad Student Summer Research Grant* (\$1,060) 2017
- UNC Chapel Hill *Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research Seed Grant* (\$1,200) 2016
- Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County *Regional Artist Project Grant* (\$2,000) 2016

**INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS (cont'd)**

<i>Fayetteville Technical Community College Foundation, Inc. Award (\$500)</i>	2016
<i>UNC Chapel Hill Performing Arts Special Activity Grant (\$2,500)</i>	2017

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

<i>UNC Chapel Hill Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research</i>	
<i>UNC Chapel Hill, Department of Communication, Sherrill-Pence Award for Applied/ Engaged Communication</i>	2019
<i>UNC Chapel Hill Initiative for Minority Excellence, Chancellor's Doctoral Candidacy Award</i>	2018
<i>UNC Chapel Hill Tanner Teaching Assistants Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching</i>	2018
<i>UNC Chapel Hill Department of Communication Martha Nell Hardy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching</i>	2018
<i>UNC Chapel Hill Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Award for Undergraduate Teaching</i>	2017

**SERVICE****Public Intellectual**

Stasio, Frank (Host and Editor). (2019, September 2). "Finding Purpose in Tragedy: Meet Sonny Kelly" [Radio program]. In Amanda Magnus (Producer), *The State of Things*. Durham, NC: WUNC

Stasio, Frank (Host and Editor) (2019, February 5). "'The Talk' Between One Man, His Son" [Radio program]. In Amanda Magnus (Producer), *The State of Things*. Durham, NC: WUNC

*The Power of Words Storytelling Workshop*

- Assoc. of Maternal and Child Health Programs 2019
- UNC Chapel Hill Maternal and Child Health Center 2019
- Action Pathways Second Harvest Food Bank Partner Training 2015

**Community Service**

<i>Black Communities Conference Advisory Board</i>	2019
<i>Primary Investigator and Artist in Residence, My Life Matters Participatory Action Research and youth intervention project</i>	2016 - present
<i>Cumberland County Misdemeanor Diversionary Arts Start Planning Team</i>	2016 - present
<i>Fayetteville Urban Ministry, Find-A-Friend Advisory Council</i>	2016 - present
<i>Boomerang Youth, Inc., Board Member</i>	2016 - present
<i>Facilitator of self-expression workshops for youth serving agencies</i>	2016 - present

**PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

Facilitator of Interactive Theater, 2015 - present  
Theater Delta, Durham, NC

Director of Operations and Programs/Grant Writer, 2012 - 2015  
Fayetteville Urban Ministry

Admissions Counselor, 2005 - 2006  
St. Mary's University, TX

Actor, Writer, Director, Storyteller, and Public Speaker 1990 - present

Air Force Intelligence Officer, US Air Force 1998 - 2002