ABIGAIL SMITH

Silver Spring, Maryland | ajvsmith@umd.edu

EDUCATION

University of Maryland- College Park — College Park, MD, US
Ph.D., International Education Policy — August 2024- Present
Holmes Scholar

University of Connecticut — Storrs, CT, US
Master of Arts (M.A.), Higher Education and Student Affairs — May 2017

Randolph College — Lynchburg, VA, US
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Sociology — December 2014
Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Knowledge Diplomacy and Internationalization, Caribbean Education Development, Epistemic Justice, Black educators' and students' experiences in education

GRANT-FUNDED RESEARCH TEAMS

- Wright-Mair, R., Hubain, B., Peters, C., & Smith, A. (2024- 2026). Beneath The Veil of Niceness: Interrogating the Façade of Anti-Racist Work in Student Affairs. Spencer Foundation Small Grant. Research Consultant (Awarded: $ 49,997.00).
- Sam, K., Smith, A., Laing, A., Elliot, A., Akello, A., Pretz, D., Decoster, B. (2024-2025). A Collaborative Autoethnographic (CAE) Exploration of COVID-19's Impact on the Psychological Wellbeing and Mental Health of Higher Education Frontline Workers in the United States. NASPA. Channing Briggs Grant. Researcher. (Awarded: $2,000)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Smith, A., & jules, t. (manuscript under contract). From Exclusion to Inclusion: Reimagining Caribbean Education via Epistemic Justice. In F. E. Godwyll, Y. Agyei, T. Rosado, N. T. Nguyen, & J. F. Godwyll (Eds.), *From the periphery to the center: Spaces for marginalized voices*. Cognella Academic Publishing.
- Smith, A. J. & jules, t. d. (2025). Inter-Complexity and the Polycrisis: The Bridgetown Initiative and Human-Centered Educational Development in CARICOM Countries. In G. Bufalino (Ed.), *Navigating Learning, Culture, and Identity in Island Education* (pp. 167-196). IGI Global Scientific Publishing. https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3373-1345-0.ch006
- jules, t. d., Garrett, A., Balakrishnan, P., & Smith, A. (2024). Educational cooperation in an era of deglobalization: Lessons for the Caribbean community. In *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Caribbean and African Studies in Education* (pp. 329-342). Bloomsbury Publishing PLC.
- Bent, S., Stephens-Peace, K. J., & Smith, A. (2023). Mek Yaad within Academia: Afro-Caribbean Women Finding Belonging in the Academy. In *Black Women Navigating the Doctoral Journey* (pp. 58-70). Routledge.

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

- Wright-Mair, R., Peters, C., Smith, A., Fanshel, R. (Under Review). Implicating the Academy as the "Scene of a Crime", Part 1: Experiencing a Public Spirit Lynching. Journal of Women and Gender in Higher Education.
- Peters, C., Wright-Mair, R., Smith, A. (Under Review). Mi Spirit (Nuh) Tek Yuh": Cementing 'Spirit Tek' as Spiritual Intelligence. Journal of Contemplative and Holistic Education.
- Smith, A. & Jibiki, Y. (2025) Expanding place in higher education through digital internationalization [Review of the book Digital internationalization in higher education: Beyond virtual exchange, edited by T. C. Woodman, M. Whatley, & C. R. Glass]. Global Studies Literature Review. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003444237

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- jules, t. d., Arnold, R., & Smith, A. (2023). Caribbean exceptionalism and the rise of Sino-CARICOM relations in the post-bureaucratic era. The Round Table, 112(1), 57–72. https://doi.org/10.1080/00358533.2023.2165752

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- jules, t., Smith, A., Naidoo, K. (In Progress). Moving from the Periphery to the Center: Re/Framing Decolonial Educational Innovation in the Caribbean
- Peters, C., Smith, A. (In Progress). Disrupting Stratified Blackness: Unpacking the Communal Responsibility of Black International/Immigrant Academics to Black American Academics
- Barton, R. & Smith, A., Allen, L., Samuels, A. (In Progress) Black Women Teachers' Cultural Ways of Knowing
- Smith, A., Woodman, T. (In Progress). Evaluating the Impact of U21 Micro-Internships on Students' Interpersonal Personal, Academic, and Career Development.
- Smith, A., Olawuni, T. (In Progress). Negotiating Identities Across Borders: A Collaborative Autoethnography of Afro International Students and Staff in US Residential Life. The Journal of College and University Student Housing (JCUSH).
- Smith, A. (In Progress). Likkle But Tallawah: A Black Jamaican Woman's Journey Through Student Affairs in the US and the Middle East. *Passport to Possibilities: Black Experiences in Global Learning - Vol. I*.

PRESENTATIONS

- Evaluating the Impact of U21 Micro-Internships on Students' Interpersonal Personal, Academic, and Career Development, AAC&U Global Learning Conference, Presenter (November 2025)
- Book Launch: Black Women Navigating the Doctoral Journey, University of Maryland, Panelist (April 2025)
- Silenced Solidarity: Navigating Student Activism in UAE Universities Amidst Digital Surveillance and Political Constraints, CIES Virtual, Presenter (March 2025)
- Mentorship, Spirituality, & Home: Black Women Faculty Mek Yaad Within and Despite the Academy, ASHE, Co-Presenter (November 2024)
- Learning Together: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Around the Globe, ACUHO-I Multicultural Institute, Moderator (October 2023)
- Staffing Reconsidered: student and professional staffing in housing trends post pandemic, MENASA NASPA, Presenter (March 2023)
- Enhancing Residential Education through introduction of Resident Assistants and a Curricular approach, EUCA NASPA (Barcelona, Spain), Presenter (October 2022)
- From Dorm Room to Board Room, MENASA NASPA Virtual Conference, Presenter (February 2022)
- SINO-CARICOM: The fate of education and economic integration amidst COVID-19, China and Higher Education: Navigating Uncertain Futures Virtual Conference, Co-Presenter (December 2020)
- Creating an Anti-Racist Culture in your department- NEACUHO Virtual Annual Conference, Co-Presenter (September 2020)
- Career Connections- New Professionals Roundtable, ACUHO-I Virtual Annual Conference, Moderator (July 2020)
- The Experience of International Students of Color in the United States Part 2: The Experience of Black International Staff during the Movement for Racial Justice, ACPA, Moderator (September 2020)
- The Experience of International Students of Color in the United States Part 1: The Experience of Black International Students during the Movement for Racial Justice, ACPA, Moderator (July 2020)
- Spirituality in the Residence Halls, Pace University, Presenter (April 2020)
- Athletes and the Student Conduct Process, ASCA Annual Conference, Presenter (February 2020)
- Professionals of Color Institute, NEACUHO Annual Conference, Facilitator (October 2019)
- Young Involved & Opinionated: Creating RA Buy-in During Departmental Change, NEACUHO Res Ed Retreat, Presenter (June 2019)
- Global Student Affairs Housing Models Around the World, Pace University, Presenter (April 2019)

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- Staying to My Roots, Even Abroad - Notes from Cuba, ACPA Commission for Global Dimension on Student Development, Author (February 2019)
- Best Practices: Living Learning Communities, NEACUHO Metro - NY Drive In, Co-Presenter (January 2019)
- Embracing the Scholar Practitioner - Notes from Cuba, NEACUHO Navigator, Author (December 2018)
- Mi Deh Ya Too, Caribbean Students Navigate Bi-Cultural Identity, Caribbean Studies Association (Havana, Cuba), Presenter (June 2018)
- UConn HESA Master's Graduation Ceremony, Alumni Speaker (May 2018)
- A Shift from Diversity Training to Inclusion Training for Resident Assistants at Pace University - Pleasantville, NEACUHO Navigator, Co-Author (November 2017)
- So, You Want to Lead Change? Setters Fall Leadership Conference, Pace University, Presenter (November 2017)
- Supporting African American Male Student Athletes, NACADA Region 1, Co-Presenter (March 2016)
- The Afro-Caribbean International Student Experience, NASPA Region 1, Co-Presenter (November 2016)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assessment and Research in Student Affairs I and II, University of Connecticut Storrs, CT
Teaching Assistant August 2016- December 2016

- Partner with faculty to engage in teaching yearlong assessment course to the HESA graduate students.

Global House Living Learning Community, University of Connecticut Storrs, CT
First Year Experience Facilitator August 2016- December 2016

- Partnered with faculty director to develop curriculum for three first-year experience course.
- Instructed 14 Global House learning community first-year students through their transition to college process through lessons on diversity of self and the world and basic skills needed to actively and ethically contribute to a globalized society.

Senior Transition and Engagement Programs, University of Connecticut Storrs, CT
Senior Year Experience Facilitator September 2015- December 2015

- Developed and facilitated 10 weekly lesson plans for the senior-year experience course discussion section on experiential topics, such as budgeting, core values, interviewing for jobs, and applying for graduate school.
- Co-facilitated discussions on self-exploration and senior-year transition.

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland, Global Learning Initiatives Maryland, US
Graduate Assistant August 2024- Present

International Graduate Student Advisory Board March 2025- Present

Semester At Sea, Institute for Shipboard Education
Residence Director January 2024- April 2024

American University of Sharjah, Student Residential Life Department Sharjah, UAE
Complex Manager March 2021- December 2023

Pace University, Department of Residential Life and Housing Pleasantville, NY, US
Residence Director July 2017-March 2021

Department of Residential Life, University of Connecticut Storrs, CT

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Assistant Residence Hall Director — August 2015- May 2017

Community Standards, University of Connecticut — Storrs, CT
Conduct Officer — August 2016- May 2017

Academic Achievement Center, University of Connecticut — Storrs, CT
UConn Connects Facilitator — January 2016- December 2016

Alternative Break Program, University of Connecticut — Fayette County, WV
Learning Partner — March 2016

Office of Residence Life, Randolph College — Lynchburg, VA
Residence Director — January 2015- May 2015

AWARDS

Pace University Outstanding Staff Member of the Year — April 2020
NEACUHO Rising Star Award — October 2019
Randolph College Shirley W. Strickland Award for Sociology — April 2014
Randolph College Virginia H. Worden Exemplary Leadership Award — April 2014

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

NEACUHO- Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers
Chair - New Professionals Committee (NEACUHO) — October 2019- September 2020
Chair - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (NEACUHO) — September 2018 - October 2019
Participant - Regional Entry Level Leadership Institute (RELI) — June 2019

IASAS- International Association of Student Affairs and Services
Professional Development Coordinator — May 2024- Present
Regional Director (Middle East) — January 2022- May 2024
Regional Communications Coordinator (North America) — February 2019 – February 2020

ACUHOI- Association of College and University Housing Officers Intl.
Chair- Global Initiatives Chair Network — January 2021- January 2022

NASPA- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators — September 2015- September 2020
ACPA- Association of College Personnel Administrators — September 2015- September 2020
CSA- Caribbean Studies Association — Present
CIES- Comparative and International Education Society — Present
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Member — May 2017 - Present