

Nia J. Baker

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of South Carolina

Fall 2024-present

Research Assistant Professor of Sociology
University of South Carolina

Research interests: sexualities, race, gender, and LGBTQ identity, qualitative methods, Black feminisms

EDUCATION

University of Virginia

May 2024

Ph.D. Sociology
Dissertation: *Transformations in Sex and Race: Black Women and Sex Work.*

University of Virginia

May 2021

M.A. Sociology
Thesis Title: "The Sexual Politics of Hookup Culture."

Lehigh University

May 2019

B.A. Sociology; Women Gender and Sexuality Studies; Africana Studies and Global Citizenship, *Summa Cum Laude*

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Baker, Nia. (2023) "The Sexual Politics of Hookup Culture: A Black Feminist Intervention." *Sexualities*.

Baker, Nia. (2025) "Black Women and Sex Work: Gender, respectability, and sensual critiques of power." *Social Problems*.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Baker, Nia. "Race, Dating, and Sex Work: Black women's experiences in a new terrain of intimacy." *Manuscript under review*.

Baker, Nia. "Sapphire's Revenge: Rage and racialized emotions in BDSM sex work." *Manuscript under review*.

Baker, Nia. "Queer Black experiences at HBCU/PWI: Identity Diffusion, Fragmentation, and the Politics of Black Queer Belonging." *Manuscript under preparation*.

PRESENTATIONS

"Lucrative Rage: Race and racialized emotions in sex work." National Association of Women's Studies. Accepted for November 2025

"Selling the Strong Black Woman: Gender, race, and sensual critiques of power through sex work," The American Sociological Association. August 2025

"The Crisis of Intimacy: Strategic intimacy and its racialized consequences." The South Carolina Sociological Association. February 2025

"Transformations in Race and Sex: Black women and sex work." The American Sociological Association Annual Conference. August 2024

"The Sexual Politics of Hookup Culture," The American Sociological Association Annual Conference. August 2022

"The Sexual Politics of Hookup Culture: A Black Feminist Intervention" The Association of Black Sociologists Annual Conference. October 2022

"Race, Sex and Work: A Changing Cultural Landscape" The Black Doctoral Network Annual Conference. October 2022

HONORS & AWARDS

UVA Raven Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service	Spring 2023
John A. Herring Award for Excellence in Leadership	Spring 2023
James J. Duane III Student Life Leadership Award	Spring 2019
William R. Scott Award for Honors in Africana Studies	Spring 2019
Patti T. Ota Award for Honors in Gender and Sexuality Studies	Spring 2019
Gilman International Scholarship Program	Spring 2018

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences DEI Grant	Spring 2021
Queer Alumni Association's Professional Development Award	Spring 2021
Dean's Doctoral Fellowship	Fall 2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant August 2020-May 2022
University of Virginia
Courses: Introduction to Sociology, Gender and Society (2x)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

DEI Oleda Casscells Fellow	2022-2024
The Maxine Platzer Women's Center at UVA	
Social Justice Research Intern	Spring 2023
AB Partners	
Qualitative Research Intern	Fall 2023
Exponential Talent LLC	
Doctoral Intern	Fall 2022
Campus Pride Inc.	

SERVICE & OUTREACH

GradQTPOC at UVA	2021-2024
<i>Founder</i>	
Center for Gender Equity at Lehigh University	2015-2019
<i>Project Coordinator</i>	
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBTQ Community Center	2017
<i>Digital Humanities Research Fellow</i>	
Lehigh Prison Project	2017
<i>Volunteer Tutor</i>	