The New Ph.D. Cohort Arrives :: Class of 2010

Ashley Glacel studies modern forms of American story-telling in popular culture, specifically how they are and can be used for persuasive, political, and progressive ends by media figures and public intellectuals. She received her B.A. in Public Policy with a minor in Women’s Studies from the College of William & Mary, and her M.A. in Liberal Studies from the New School for Social Research.

Dan Greene is beginning the American Studies Ph.D. as a University Flagship Fellow. He received his B.A. in English and Psychology from UMD and worked as a counselor at a local mental health clinic after graduation. His research interests include visual culture, the history of science and technology, media studies, and social scientific approaches to digital media and its users.

Jessica Walker was born and raised in Cleveland and earned a degree in Anthropology and Gender and Women’s studies from Bowdoin College in 2009. Jessica’s research focuses on Black women and their preparation, cooking, and consumption of “soul food.” She uses ethnographic methodologies in uncovering how, in the practices of everyday life, Black women negotiate these tropes when they prepare, cook, and talk about food.

Kristina Nies received her M.A. in Gastronomy from Boston University and B.A. in History from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research interests involve looking at how persons transitioning genders (re)negotiate foodways.

Paul Saiedi hails from Southern California. He recently received his M.A. in American Studies from the California State University of Fullerton. He explores the history and experiences of Middle Eastern Americans and the ways that they have been situated and left out of various discourses in American thought. His broader academic interests examine how marginalized communities or communities are labeled as such, resist power structures, and embody their resistance in art.

Stephanie Stevenson received her B.A. in American Studies with Honors from the University of Maryland, College Park in May 2010. She is currently leading a mentoring program in Baltimore City, which also serves as a longitudinal study that explores how black female 6th and 8th graders navigate their social development and value academic success and familial/peer relationships. Her other interests include Hip-Hop culture, urban studies, and politics.

Shane Walsh earned his B.A. in Anthropology from Washington College and his M.A. in African American Studies at Morgan State University. He has served as research assistant to the curator of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture in Baltimore, and expects to focus his research on museum studies and material culture.