



Cite Black Women: A Critical Praxis

Christen A. Smith, Ph.D.

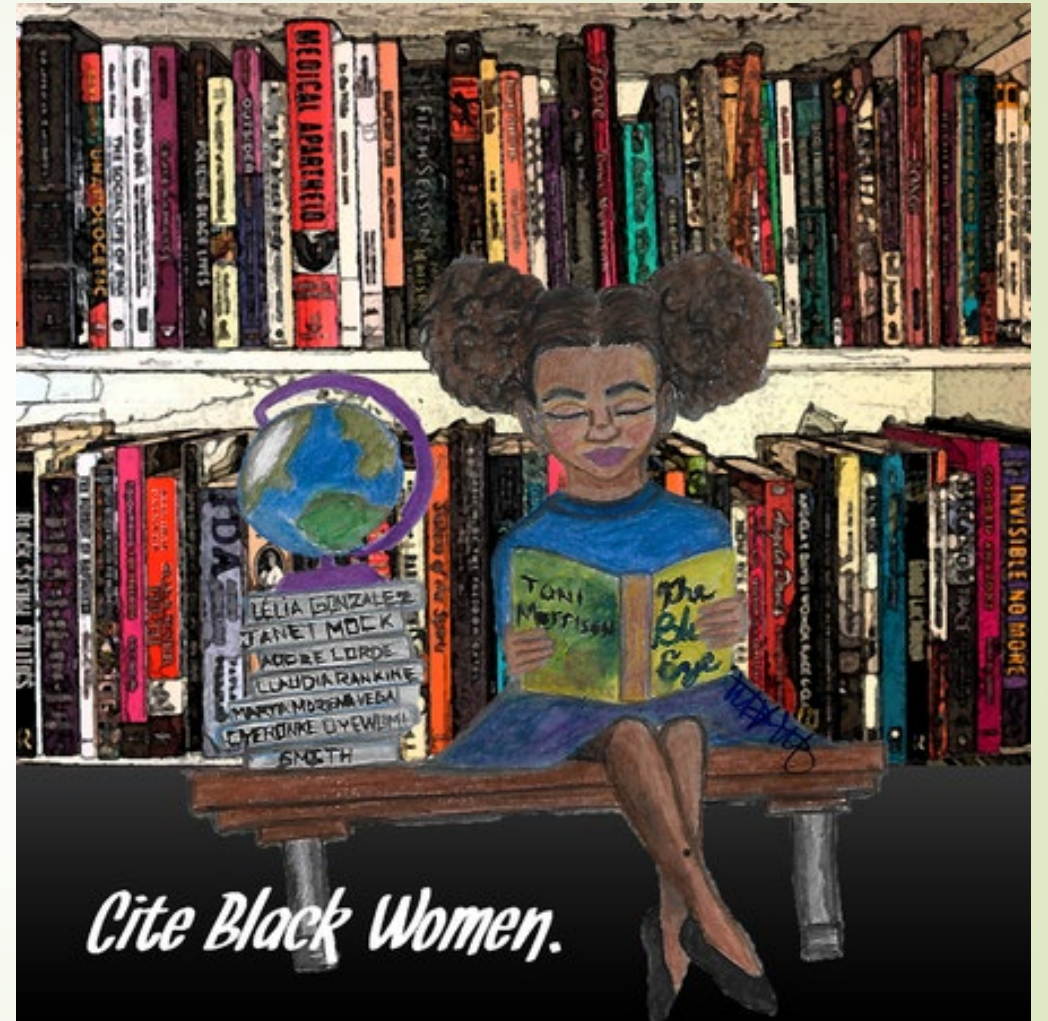
The University of Texas at Austin

Twitter: @profsassy

Cite Black Women Twitter, Instagram, Facebook: @citeblackwomen

Our Story.

Cite Black Women is a campaign to push people to engage in a radical praxis of citation that acknowledges and honors Black women's transnational intellectual production. It started out with t-shirts with the simple phrase "Cite Black Women." The idea was to motivate everyone, but particularly academics, to critically reflect on their everyday practices of citation and start to consciously question how they can incorporate black women into the CORE of their work. From there, the movement grew, expanding to Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and establishing the hashtags #CiteBlackWomen and #CiteBlackWomenSunday.



A Praxis

Everyone, but particularly those people in the academy, should critically reflect on their everyday practices of citation. Because of this, we came up with our **5 Guiding Principles**. Think of them as practices to live by.

#1 - Read Black women's work

#2 - Integrate Black women into the CORE of your syllabus (in life & in the classroom).

#3 - Acknowledge Black women's intellectual production.

#4 - Make space for Black women to speak.

#5 - Give Black women the space and time to breathe.

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Cite Black Women: A Critical Praxis (A Statement)

Christen A. Smith¹ , Erica L. Williams² , Imani A. Wadud³, Whitney N. L. Pirtle⁴ , & The Cite Black Women Collective¹

1 The University of Texas at Austin

2 Spelman University

3 University of Kansas

4 University of California, Merced

Corresponding author: The Cite Black Women Collective; e-mail: citeblackwomen@gmail.com

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1 Read Black Women's Work

“If Black women were free, it would mean that everyone else would have to be free since our freedom would necessitate the destruction of all the systems of oppression” (Combahee River Collective Statement).



#2 - Integrate Black women into the CORE of your syllabus (in life & in the classroom).

Being deliberate about not just mentioning Black women but also taking our ideas seriously and allowing our ideas to shape how you fundamentally see and relate to the world.



#3 - Acknowledge Black women's intellectual production.

Taking the time to clearly express credit for the work that we have done and its import.



#4 - Make space for Black women to speak.

Create spaces for Black women to participate in critical conversations and dialogues. Cede room to let Black women be heard. Create opportunities for Black women to be seen, heard and acknowledged.



#5 - Give Black women the space and time to breathe.

As you take care to acknowledge us and make space for us to speak, remember that we are also some of the most over-extended and over-worked members of society. Recognize that we also need space to retreat, rejuvenate and rest and help us have access to this space.

What is citation?

citation | sī'tāSH(ə)n | (abbreviation **cit.**)

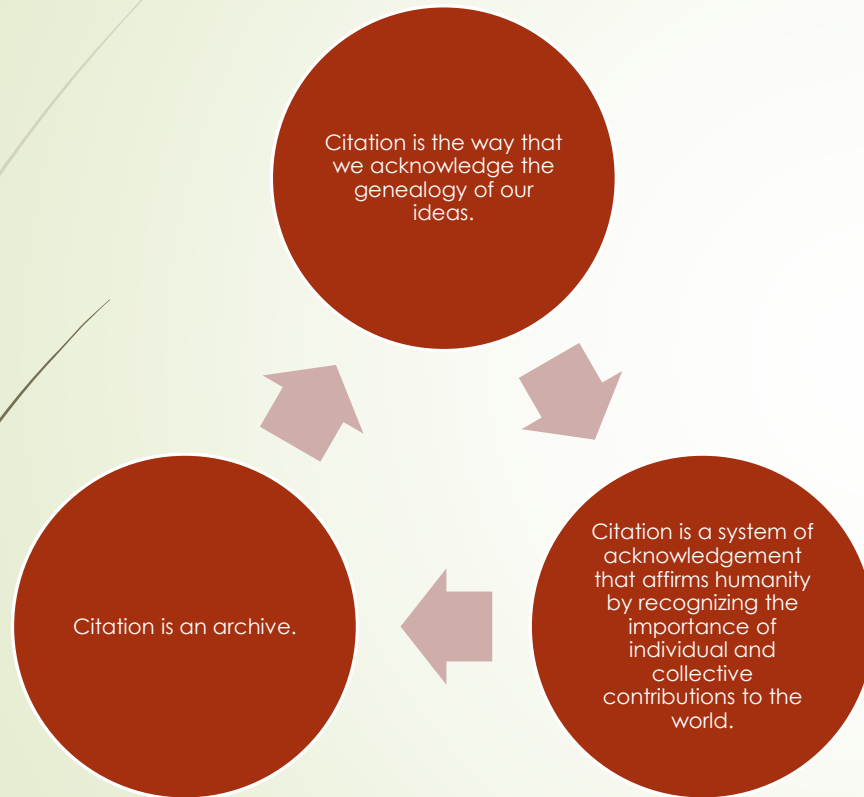
noun

- 1 a quotation from or reference to a book, paper, or author, especially in a scholarly work: *there were dozens of citations from the works of Byron* | *recognition through citation is one of the principal rewards in science.*
 - a mention of a praiseworthy act or achievement in an official report, especially that of a member of the armed forces in wartime.
 - a note [accompanying](#) an award, describing the reasons for it: *the Nobel citation noted that his discovery would be useful for energy conversion technology.*
 - *Law* a reference to a former tried case, used as guidance in the trying of comparable cases or in support of an argument.
- 2 *North American* a summons: *a traffic citation.*


ORIGIN

Middle English (**SENSE 2**): from Old French, from Latin *citation-*, from *citare* 'cite.'

Why does citation matter?



In this day and age when information is being proliferated through social media and new media, citation is even more important as a way to ensure equity as we continue to find new ways to share information.



“Black women have been participants in higher education for more than a century, but they are almost totally absent from the research literature; rarely is the impact of racism and sexism on black women in academe examined.”

Yolanda Moses, “Black Women in Academe”, 1997




Intellectual Genealogy



Interlocking forms of Oppression

“...we are actively committed to struggling against racial, sexual, heterosexual, and class oppression and see as our particular task the development of integrated analysis and practice based upon the fact that the major systems of oppression are interlocking”

- (The Combahee River Collective)

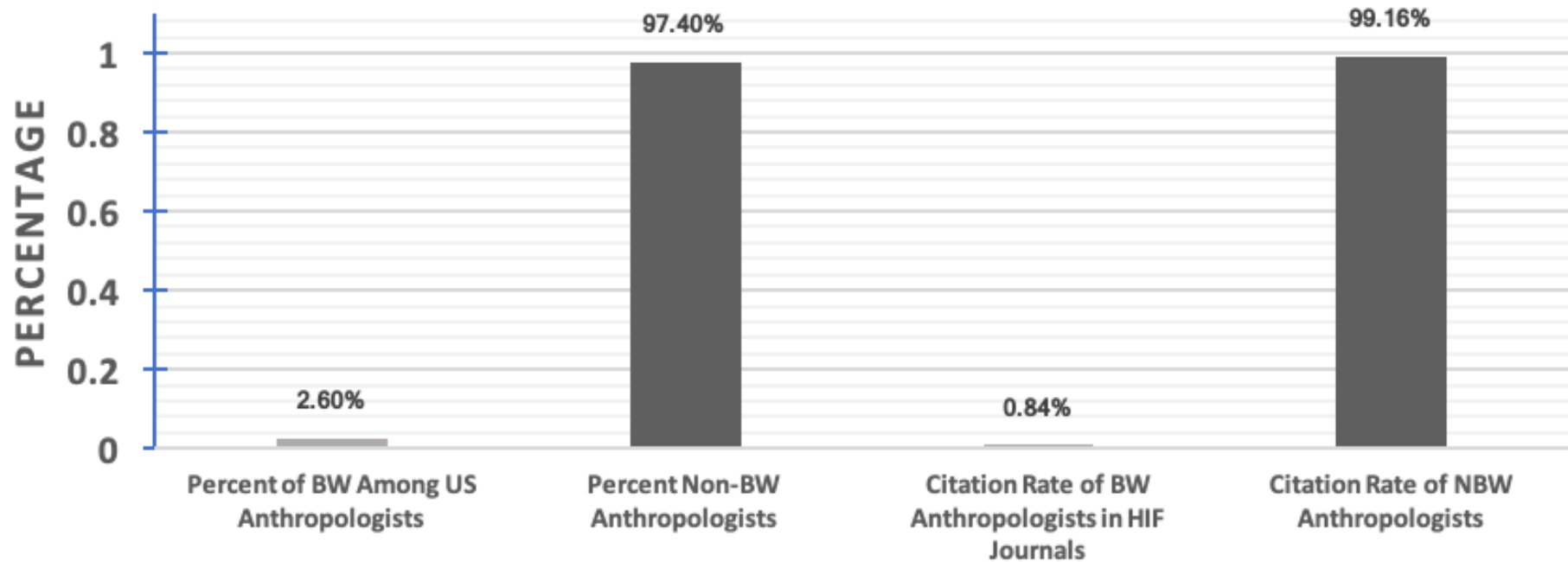


“If Black women were free, it would mean that everyone else would have to be free, since our freedom would necessitate the destruction of all systems of oppression.”



The Combahee River Collective Statement (1977)

PERCENTAGE OF BLACK WOMEN (BW) ANTHROPOLOGISTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY IN 2018 AND RATES OF CITATION OF BW ANTHROPOLOGISTS IN 2018





Library Publishing Forum Call To Action

1. Teach students and everyone that identity politics matter when it comes to citation: citations are always implicated in the politics of race, gender, sexuality, etc.
2. Teach students and everyone that citation is not just about listing people in a bibliography; it is also about creating genealogies of thought that are steeped in the politics of power and knowledge production. Undoing oppressive power dynamics starts by rethinking the way we structure our bibliographies and knowledge production.
3. Teach people to be critical of knowledge assumptions and canons.
4. Decolonize your stacks by creating a database (formal or informal) of Black women writing in every field. It doesn't have to be extensive, can be crowdsourced. Be creative! And remember, what arts with Black women changes the world (in other words, if you start with us, then moving on to other BIPOC and marginalized communities is a clear, necessary next step)
5. Create creative ways to disrupt normative citational politics by developing curricula, community forums, crowdsourcing, etc, COLLABORATE and INNOVATE. Show students how to critically engage in research searches in a mindful, reflective way.



Thank You



- ▶ Christen A. Smith, Ph.D., Director
- ▶ Center for Women and Gender Studies
- ▶ The University of Texas at Austin
 - ▶ Twitter: @profsassy
- ▶ Website: www.citeblackwomenscollective.org
- ▶ *Please follow @citeblackwomen on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for more information and conversations on Black women's intellectual contributions.