

Bobby J. Smith II, Ph.D.

Contact Information:

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Professional Appointments

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2020-Present Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies (100%)
Affiliate Faculty, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
Affiliate, Center for Social & Behavioral Science (CSBS)
Fall 2018-Fall 2019 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of African American Studies

Education

2018 Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Ph.D., Development Sociology
2013 Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Charles S. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management
M.S., Agricultural and Applied Economics
2011 Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas
B.S. (*Summa Cum Laude*), Agriculture – Agricultural Economics

Publications

Books

2023 *Food Power Politics: The Food Story of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement*
(Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2023)

Co-Edited Books

2022 *Rethinking Food System Transformation* (Switzerland: Springer Nature),
co-edited with Rachel Bezner Kerr, T. L. Pendergrast, and Jeffrey A. Liebert.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Invited Essays

2022 Smith II, B. J. (2022). "In Search of the New Farmers of America:
Remembering America's Forgotten Black Youth Farm Movement," *Journal of
Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 11(4), 9–12.
<https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2022.114.021>. [Invited]
Smith II, B. J. (2022). "Reading Ms. Bea's Food Voice: An Ode to my
Grandmothers and Black Women Across the World," *Our Two Cents: A
Symposium on Getting Something to Eat in Jackson by Joseph Ewoodzie, Jr.,
Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 8(4), 565-566.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492221119902>. [Invited]
2021 Smith II, B. J. and Ewoodzie, J. C. (2021). "Listening to Zenani's Food Voice:
Recovering Contemporary Black Foodways in Southern Food Studies," *Food,
Culture, & Society*, 24(5), 662-674.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2021.1884439>

- 2020 Smith II, B. J. (2020). "Food and the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement: Re-Reading the 1962-1963 Greenwood Food Blockade," *Food, Culture, & Society*. 23(3), 382-398. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2020.1741066>
- 2019 Smith II, B. J. (2019). Black Lives and Agricultural History. Centennial Roundtable: Why Does Agricultural History Matter? *Agricultural History*, 93(4), 725-726. <https://doi.org/10.3098/ah.2019.093.4.682>
- Smith II, B. J. (2019). "Mississippi's War Against the War on Poverty: Food Power, Hunger, and White Supremacy," *Study the South*. <https://southernstudies.olemiss.edu/study-the-south/>
- Smith II, B. J. (2019). "Food Justice, Intersectional Agriculture, and the Triple Food Movement," *Agriculture and Human Values*. 36(4), 825-835. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-019-09945-y>
- Pendergrast, T. L., **Smith II, B. J.**, Bezner Kerr, R., and Liebert, J. (2019). "Introduction to the Symposium: Rethinking Food System Transformation: Food Sovereignty, Agroecology, Food Justice, Community Action, and Scholarship," *Agriculture and Human Values*. 36(4), 819-823. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-019-09952-z>
- Smith II, B. J. (2019). "Building Emancipatory Food Power: Freedom Farms, Rocky Acres, and the Struggle for Food Justice." *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 8(4), 33-43. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2019.084.009>
- 2014 Waller, T., **Smith II, B. J.**, & Lumumba-Kasongo, E. (2014). The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program at Cornell University: Survey Results and the Push for Qualitative Research. *Journal of College Orientation and Transition*, 22(1). https://www.nodaweb.org/page/jcot_fall_2014
- 2013 Smith II, B. J., Kaiser, H. M., & Gómez, M. I. (2013). Identifying Factors Influencing a Hospital's Decision to Adopt a Farm-to-Hospital Program. *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*, 42(3), 508-517. <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/159225>

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- 2022 Smith II, B. J. (2022) "Food Justice, Intersectional Agriculture, and the Triple Food Movement." In R. Bezner Kerr, T. L. Pendregrast, B. J. Smith II, J. A. Liebert (Eds.), *Rethinking Food System Transformation*. Switzerland: Springer Nature.
- 2021 Smith II, B. J. (2021). "From the Projects to the Pasture": Navigating Food Justice, Race, and Food Localism." In A. S. Bartel & D. A. Castillo (Eds.), *The Scholar as Human: Engaging the Humanities in Public* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press).

Book Reviews, Media, and Other Writings

- 2023 Bobby J. Smith II, *Growing Gardens Building Power: Food Justice and Urban Agriculture in Brooklyn*, by Justin Sean Myers (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2022), *Agricultural History*, forthcoming.
- 2021 Delta Fresh Foods Initiative, David Hanson, and **Bobby J. Smith II** (2021). "Remembering the Past, Building the Future: Oral Food Histories of North Bolivar County" (Short film). <https://vimeo.com/654696561/3c36069e68>
- 2020 Bobby J. Smith II, *Black Food Geographies: Race, Self-Reliance, and Food Access in Washington, D.C.*, by Ashanté M. Reese (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019), *Journal of Southern History* 86, 2 (May 2020): 498-499.

- 2019 Bobby J. Smith II, *Food Justice Now! Deepening the Roots of Social Struggle*, by Joshua Sbicca (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2018), *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 24, 1 (March 2019): 121-122.
- 2017 Smith II, B. J. (2017). The Greenwood Food Blockade: The White Citizens Council, SNCC and the Politics of Food Access. *Gravy*, No. 66.
<https://www.southernfoodways.org/the-greenwood-food-blockade/>

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

- 2023 Research Fellowship, *Public Libraries Partnering on Food Justice Project*, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Summer 2023-Summer 2024.
National Agricultural Library (NAL) Scholar-in-Residence, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 2023.
Excellence in Service, Outreach, and Engagement Award, Department of African American Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2022-2023.
What makes a user-owned grocery store sustainable?, Co-Academic Mentor, 2023 Community-Academic Scholars (CAS) Program Project, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute and the Center for Social and Behavioral Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, June 2023-August 2023.
- 2022 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Faculty Fellowship, August 2022-July 2023 (\$60,000).
- 2021 American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship, August 2021-July 2022 (\$60,000).
- 2020 *Developing and Delivering a Stress Management and Mental Health Program in Pembroke Township and Kankakee County*, Co-Principal Investigator, 2020-2021 University of Illinois Extension Collaboration Grant (\$59,958.87).
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend Award, June 2020-August 2020 (\$6,000).
- 2019 Special Collections and University Archives Short-Term Travel Fellowship, Library of the Health Sciences-Chicago, Richard J. Daley Library, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2019-2020 (\$4,000).
- 2018 *Study the South* Research Fellowship, Department of Archives and Special Collections, J. D. Williams Library, University of Mississippi, 2018-2019 (\$1,500).
Dr. Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Inductee, Cornell University Chapter, 2018.
- 2017 Medgar and Myrlie Evers Research Fellow, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, 2017 (\$4,000).
From Civil Rights to Local Food: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Food Justice, Engaged Cornell Graduate Student Research Grant, 2017-2018 (\$10,127).
Graduate Research Grant, American Studies Program, Cornell University, 2017 (\$1,000).
Graduate Conference Travel Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University, 2017 (\$335).
Farm to Plate Conference: Uniting to Create, Educate, and Celebrate a Sustainable Local Food System, Engaged Cornell Engaged Opportunity Grant, Cornell University, 2017 (\$5,000).

- 2016 Mellon Diversity Seminar Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Cornell University, 2016-2017.
Seed to Supper: The Role of the Garden in Community Food Security and Food Justice, Engaged Cornell Engaged Curriculum Grant, Cornell University, 2016 (\$80,000).
- 2014 Graduate Conference Travel Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University, 2014 (\$260).
- 2013 SUNY Graduate Diversity Fellowship, Cornell University, 2013-2017 (\$56,940).
- 2011 Graduate Research Tuition Fellowship, Cornell University, 2011-2013 (\$41,600).

Invited Lectures and Conference Presentations

Invited Presentations

- 2023 “The Food Voice of Juneteenth: Black Roots, Black Remembrance, and Black Resistance,” Keynote Address, 2023 Juneteenth Celebration, Grand Valley State University. (June 2023)
- “The Evers Archive: Soundbites from the Food Frontlines of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement,” History Is Lunch, Voices of Courage & Justice: Honoring Medgar and Myrlie Evers, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. (June 2023)
- “The Three Faces of Jamie Whitten: Historizing Race, Power, and Administrative Violence at the USDA,” Diversity and Inclusion Council History Lecture Series, National Agricultural Library, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). (May 2023)
- “Food for Those Who Want to be Free: New Dimensions in the Study of the American Civil Rights Movement,” 2023 African American Studies Summer Institute, Prairie View A&M University. (May 2023)
- “Reading Intersectionality in Black Food Futures: Notes on Studying Food Justice in Black Life,” 2023 Center for Undergraduate Research, Innovation and Creativity (CURIC) Speaker Series, Elgin Community College. (April 2023)
- “Rehearsing Black Food Futures: A Food Justice Perspective on Black Life,” 2023 SIUE Successful Communities Collaborative (SSCC) Speaker Series, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. (April 2023)
- “Food for Those Who Want to be Free: Race, Food Security, and Civil Rights in Black Life,” Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB) Lunchbox Series, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (February 2023)
- 2022 “Rethinking Food, Rewriting Civil Rights: Food, Power, and Black Life in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement,” Critical Development Studies Seminar, Department of Global Development, Cornell University. (November 2022)
- “Making Space for Food Justice: Black Communities and the Triple Food Movement,” FSHN 597 Graduate Seminar Series, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (September 2022)
- “Brief Notes on Building Black Food Justice Movements,” MFSTSA Talk Series: Reimagining Our Food Systems, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (April 2022)

- 2021 “Black Visions of Food Justice: A Triple Food Movement Analysis,” Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) Colloquium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (April 2022)
- 2021 “Black Food Futures: Dreams of a Food Sovereign Black World in Times of Crisis,” Invited Panel, 2021 Virtual Symposium—“Rising for Survival: Black Resistance, Political Projects, and Democracy in Times of ‘Crisis,’” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). (November 2021)
- “Food and Black Freedom: Reflections on Race, Resistance, and the Legacy of Food Justice,” Historic Sotterley 2021 Speaker Series. (November 2021)
- “The Future of Food Justice: Youth Advocacy in a Food Insecure World,” Keynote Address, 2021 Illinois 4-H Food Action Summit, University of Illinois Extension. (May 2021)
- “Food Justice, Food Systems, and Land,” Spring Forward Convening Earth Day Event Panel, Gary Comer Youth Center, Chicago, IL (April 2021).
- “Black Food Activism, White Resistance, and Racial Justice: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives,” University of Hawai‘i - West O‘ahu. (March 2021)
- “The Language of Black Food Struggles: Brief Notes on Race, Food Insecurity, and Resistance” Washington, D.C. Metro HBCU Alumni Alliance, Brunch and Build Panel: What’s Blooming in the Food Desert: Understanding the Community Impact of Food Insecurity.” (March 2021)
- 2020 MillerCom Town Hall with Seitu Jones: “Food for Justice | Food for Thought,” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (October 2020)
- Food Security in the Era of COVID Panel. “Coping with COVID” series, Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN) and the Jamaica Diaspora Agriculture Taskforce (JDAT). (May 2020)
- 2019 “Food Justice, Civil Rights, and Black Studies.” Scholar Tea Series, African American Studies Program, Bates College. (January 2019)
- 2018 “Tracing the Silent Black Food Struggle: Class, Gender, and the Politics of Food in Mississippi, 1962-1977.” Africana Emerging Scholars Symposium, Bates College. (November 2018)
- “From Civil Rights to Food Justice: Race, Food Security, and the Environment.” 50th Anniversary of African American Studies at the University of Illinois Talk Series, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (October 2018)
- “From the Projects to the Pasture: Exploring Food Justice on a Farm.” Invited Session, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. (August 2018)

Conference Presentations

- 2021 Presidential Plenary: “The Justice for Black Farmers Act: Historical Perspectives,” Agricultural History Society, [Chair and Organizer]. (June 2021)
- 2019 “The NAACP, Negro Extension, and the Agrarian Question.” 10th Biennial Conference, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), The College of William and Mary. (November 2019) [Chair and Organizer]
- “Mississippi’s War Against the War on Poverty: Food Power, Hunger, and White Supremacy.” 100th Annual Meeting, Agricultural History Society, Washington, D.C. (June 2019)

- 2018 “Food and Black History: Reflections on Race, Resistance, and the Legacy of Food Justice.” Black History Month Lunch Series, Facilities and Services, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (February 2019)
- 2018 “Building Emancipatory Food Power: Freedom Farms, Rocky Acres and the Struggle for Food Justice.” Seventh Annual Sociology of Development Conference, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. (October 2018)
- 2017 “L. C. Dorsey, Food Justice, and the North Bolivar County Farm Cooperative.” 75th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL. (December 2017).
- 2017 “Disrupting Food Access: The White Citizens’ Council and the Politics of Food in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement.” University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS. (September 2017)
- 2017 “Food as a Weapon: Tracking Food Justice in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement.” Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS. (June 2017)
- 2017 “Food Justice, Intersectional Agriculture, and the Triple Food Movement.” Finger Lakes Farm-to-Plate Conference, Ithaca, NY. (May 2017)
- 2017 “Historicizing Food Justice: Civil Rights and the Black Panther Party.” Department of Archaeology, The University of the South, Sewanee, TN. (April 2017)
- 2016 “Farm-to-Hospital Programs and Food Justice: Race, Local Foods, and Public Health,” One Health + Public Health + Global Health Symposium, Cornell University. (November 2016)
- 2016 “Linking Food Policy to Food Justice: The Case of Tompkins County.” Development Sociology, Cornell University. (November 2016)
- 2016 “From the Projects to the Pasture: Food Justice on a Farm.” Yale Food Systems Symposium, Yale University. (November 2016)
- 2016 “Community Food Security as Food Justice in Garden-Based Learning.” School of Integrative Plant Sciences, Cornell University. (September 2016)

Teaching

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- 2020-2021 AFRO 495: Senior Thesis Seminar, Spring 2021, *Instructor and Course Evaluation System (ICES) List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent* (ranked as outstanding)*
- 2021 AFRO 224: Race and Food Security, Spring 2021
- 2020 AFRO 490: Theory in African American Studies, Fall 2020
- 2019-2020 AFRO 495: Senior Thesis Seminar, Spring 2020, *ICES List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent* (ranked as outstanding)
- 2020 AFRO 224: Race and Food Security, Spring 2020, *ICES List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent* (ranked as outstanding)
- 2018-2019 AFRO 298: Civil Rights Pilgrimage, Spring 2019
- 2019 AFRO 224: Race and Food Security, Spring 2019, *ICES List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent*

*Outstanding ratings indicate instructors who score in the top 10% of each item of teaching evaluations.

Cornell University

- 2016-2017 ASRC 1842: Exploring Food (In)Justice: Race, Class, and U.S. Food Movements (Instructor), Spring 2017

ASRC 4330: Race and Social Entrepreneurship: Food Justice and Urban Reform (Teaching Assistant), Fall 2016

Tompkins-Cortland Community College

2015

ENVS110: Sustainable Food Systems Seminar I: Dilemmas (Adjunct Instructor), Fall 2015

Graduate and Undergraduate Student Advising

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

PhD Dissertation Committee Member

Spring 2022-Present Carleigh Jones, Sociology, Ph.D. Candidate (ABD, March 2022)

2021-2022 Candace Gwin, Curriculum and Instruction, (Defended, April 2022)

Undergraduate Thesis

2020-2021 Supervisor, African American Studies Thesis Projects, Spring 2021

Supervisor, James Scholars Honors Program Thesis Project, Spring 2021

2019-2020

Supervisor, African American Studies Thesis Projects, Spring 2020

University Service

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Department of African American Studies*

2022-2023 New Ethnic, Gender and Women's Studies Building, Chair, 2022-2023

Development Committee, 2022-2023

Undergraduate Committee, 2022-2023

2021-2022

African American Studies Workshop, Big Ten Academic Alliance, June 2022

Search Committee, Senior Position in Black Health and Wellness, 2021-2022

Search Committee, Office Manager Position, Spring 2021-Spring 2022

2019-2021

Department Self Study Committee, 2019-2021

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2021-2022 New Ethnic, Gender and Women's Studies Building Feasibility Committee, 2021-2022

Joint Search Committee: Associate Dean for Humanities and Interdisciplinary Programs, Associate Dean for Social and Behavioral Sciences and Area Centers, and Executive Associate Dean, Spring/Summer 2022

University

2021-2022

I-Engage Faculty Development Program, Inaugural Cohort, 2021-2022

*Recipient of the Excellence in Service, Outreach, and Engagement Award in African American Studies

Journal Manuscript Reviewer

Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development (Member, Editorial Board)

Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

Agriculture and Human Values

Western Folklore

Professional Affiliations and Service

American Sociological Association (ASA)
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)
Association of Black Sociologists (ABS)
Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS)
Southern Sociological Society (SSS)
Agricultural History Society (AHS), 2021 Annual Meeting Program committee member
National Black Food and Justice Alliance (NBFJA)

Professional Experience

2014-2015 Research Assistant, Dyson School, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. (2014-2015)
2013 Research Associate, Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension,
Prairie View, TX. (Summer 2013)
2012 Research Assistant, Dyson School, Cornell Cooperative Extension-Tompkins
County, Ithaca, NY. (Summer 2012)
2010 Seed Sales Advisor Intern/Indiana Team Lead, Fielder's Choice Direct,
Monsanto Company, Monticello, IN. (Summer 2010)
2009 Field Sales/Account Manager Intern, Monsanto Company, Jonesboro, AR.
(Summer 2009)