

ROBERT “BIKO” BAKER
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EDUCATION:

June 2002-June 2013

Ph.D History

University of California, Los Angeles

August 2000-June 2002 (TRANSFER TO PH.D)

Master’s African American Studies

UCLA

August 1997-June 2000

BA African American Studies

BA Political Studies

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Coaching Experience:

Youth

2017-18 Inner City Pride FC - Co-Founder Head Coach - u12/u18

1997-2000 Simba Lions/Milwaukee Kickers Inner City Initiative

High School

Milwaukee Lutheran JV - 1998

Riverside High School JV/Varsity Assistant - 1999

Mens

Simba Lions - Mens Reserve 2013-2015 - WSL

America FC - Mens Majors 2016 to present - WSL

College Playing Experience :

1996 - Northeastern Illinois Division 1 (Student Athlete NCAA Award)

ODP and Youth Awards:

1994-1996 ODP STATE Team

1995 Lutheran High School All American
1995 All State
1994-1995 All Conference

CURRENT ROLE:

Aug 2016 - Present

CEO/Founder

Render

- Launched digital storytelling firm to servicing movement and public sector clients.
- Based out of Milwaukee, WI but servicing clients across the country

TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENCE:

June 2014 - Oct 2016

Client Principal/Fellowship

Thoughtworks

- Helped team of North American technologists drive solutions for social cause clients
- Developed process for “content delivery”, adapted from software delivery
- Finalist for the company’s annual Aaron Schwarz Award, for social cause leaders
- Helped celebrity client, India Arie, develop 5000 person SMS database in 24 hours

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:

April 2008- Dec 2014

Executive Director

The League of Young Voters

League of Young Voters Education Fund

- Expanded program from 3 states to 8 states.
- Raised \$5,000,000 over four years from foundations, individual donors, and low dollar gifts.

- Managed 6 person senior management team.
- Developed innovative online outreach strategy that integrated real world outreach and mobile technology.
- Fostered key partnerships with national media outlets like ColorLines.com, theNation.com, Allhiphop.com, GlobalGrind.com and tech companies like Ustream.
- Led national coalition of civic engagement groups to challenge Voter ID laws in federal and state courts in two states.
- National spokesperson with appearances on MSNBC, CSPAN, CBS' "Face the Nation," Bill O'Reilly, Warren Ballentine, Al Sharpton.

June 2006 -March 2008

National Organizing Director

League of Young Voters

The League of Young Voters Education Fund

- Developed power mapping and planning tools that have been utilized by several local partners.
- Developed innovative text and email engagement strategies.
- Managed a national organizing team of 6 leaders.
- Spokesperson at national gatherings.

June 1998-August 2000

Central City Initiative Co-Director

Milwaukee Kickers

- Helped develop and manage in inner city soccer program with seven teams, five coaches, over one hundred players and several volunteers.
- Managed an annual program budget of around 170k.
- Developed report materials for influential and powerful board (The Milwaukee Kickers are the largest youth soccer program in the country).
- Developed training materials and institute program.

TEACHING/TRAINING:

August 2019-Present

Instructor African and African Diaspora Studies Department

UW- Milwaukee

African American History 1865 to Present

African American History 1619 to Present

August 2020- Present

Instructor Ethnic Studies Department

UW-Milwaukee

Ethnic Studies 101

August 2018-Spring 2019

Guest Lecturer

Milwaukee School of Engineering
Freshman Honors

December 2005-August 2006

National Training Director

League of Young Voters/Education Fund

- Developed curriculum modules for intensive week long and year-long young voter/civic leadership training programs.
- Coordinated logistics for national training program.
- Innovated using online and teleconferencing tools to organize young leaders.
- Cross trained with national partners and allies.
- Developed design materials and analysis for local and national campaigns, plans and reports.

August 2001-May 2004

Teaching Assistant

UCLA

- Intro to Afro American Studies
- Sociology and Media
- History of Social Movements
- Nonviolence in Organizing

RESEARCH:

April 2012-June 2012

Effect of Voter ID message on African American election turnout.

Collaboration with the League of Young Voters, Analyst Institute and New Organizing Institute.

- Convened principals for largest civic engagement field experiment ever conducted in African American community.
- Helped design experiment protocols and research questions.
- Coordinated field team that implemented 100,000 household field survey.

September 2005-May 2007

Stanford Hip-Hop Archive

Research Fellow

August 2002-June 2004

Research Assistant/Archivist

UCLA Labor Center (Rev. James Lawson)

- Developed classroom materials for historic civil rights activist.
- Sorted personal papers and archive materials.
- Wrote official 70th Birthday/Commemoration Biographical Note.

August 2002-June 2004

Research Assistant

UCLA African American Studies Center

- Worked as research assistant on project that developed innovative statistical analysis to track African American face time on prime-time television.

July 2002-March 2003

Researcher

SEIU Local 1877 (Justice for Janitors)

- Assisted with developing communication strategies for field and lobbying efforts.
- Assisted with the coordination of direct action events.
- Worked closely with security guard organizers, helping develop communication and outreach strategies for ground breaking security guard campaign.

Summer, 2002

Summer Internship Program

UCLA Labor Center

- Participant in an intensive internship that focused on training the next generation of labor leaders.
- Learned techniques in power analysis and campaign planning.
- Labor research.
- conducted survey of international workers movements.

BOARD EXPERIENCE:

January 2014- 2015

National Commissioner - National Voting Rights Commission

- Serving as a national commissioner for the National Voting Rights Commission, convened by Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law.

June 2009- Present

CIRCLE Research advisory board (Housed out of Tufts University)

- CIRCLE (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement) conducts research on the civic and political engagement of young Americans.

June 2010-June 2014

Working America Education Fund

- Focusing on good jobs and a fair economy, we educate the public about issues like employment, income and retirement security, education, the impact of the global economy and national and state decision-making on budget priorities and revenues.

June 2008- June 2015

New Organizing Institute

- We train organizers to build and manage effective movements by integrating tried-and-true community organizing, cutting-edge digital strategy, and data-driven decision making. We provide free access to revolutionary tools, technologies, and research to help campaigns reach the next level.

EDITED ACADEMIC VOLUMES:

2014

#Youthaction: Becoming Political in the Digital Age

- Wrote forward for upcoming edited volume *#Youthaction: Becoming Political in the Digital Age*. The volume is being published by Information Age Publishing. Ben Kirshner, from the Colorado University at Boulder, is leading the project.

EDITORIAL:

June 2008- Present

Yes! Magazine

Editorial Advisory board

- National periodical advancing sustainable community development.

April 2007- June 2009

WireTap

Editorial Advisory Board

- National youth leadership and civic engagement magazine.

2002-2006

The Source Magazine

Mind Squad & Politics and Culture Correspondent

- Frequent writer and editor for nation's largest hip-hop magazine.

JOURNALS:

(Academic/Professional)

Summer, 2012

Shelter Force: Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Building (National Housing Institute)

"Picking up the Pieces After ACORN."

Issue No. 6 August 2012

Momentum Magazine (A periodical published by the Tides Foundation)

"Truthing the Field: How Gaps in the Voter File Can Help Us Win the Future."

Vol 18, Issue 2, 2004

Socialism and Democracy

Special Issue: Hip Hop, Race, and Cultural Politics

"Take Me To Your Leader: A Critical Analysis of the National Hip-Hop Summit Action Network."

2003 Edition

Revolutions of the Mind: Cultural Studies in the African Diaspora Project (A Book Published by UCLA's Center For African American Studies

"Afros & Mics."

MAGAZINES/ PERIODICALS:

(Recent & Noteworthy)

December 1, 2014

Vanity Fair

"How to Turn the Ferguson Protests into a New Civil Rights Movement."

March 2014

GlobalGrind.com

“We Don’t Have To Be Afraid Of The Elephant #MyBrothersKeeper by Biko Baker”

August 27th, 2012

Allhiphop.com

“League of Young Voters Exec Biko Baker Addresses Kendrick Lamar's Recent Anti-Voting Stance”

October 18, 2011

Huffington Post/AOL Black Voices

“Why We Must Occupy With Purpose and Intention.”

August 10, 2011

GlobalGrind.com

“From Murder to Excellence: Will Youth Get the Necessary Investment to Turn Their Community Around.”

August/September 2011

Vibe Magazine

“FireWire: Anatomy of the Egyptian Revolution.”

May 4, 2011

Huffington Post

“Why We Must Occupy With Intention and Purpose.”

November 5, 2010

Huffington Post

“Confessions of A Young Organizer: Why Dems Lost the Midterm Election.”

September 10, 2008

The Nation

“Future Civil Rights: Next Move is Ours.”

(originally delivered at Allied Media Conference 2008)

November 2006 Edition

The Source Magazine

Cover Story: *“G-Unot: Is Hip-Hop’s Top Crew Fading Fast (An Analysis of the Rise and Fall of G-Unit)”*

June 2004 Edition

The Source Magazine”

“Tupac: Political Hero or Commercial Product?”

TALKS:

(Academic/Professional; Recent & Noteworthy)

Academic Year 2020

The Challenge of Automation and the Opportunity for a Society Where All Belong
Convened by the Gerald Huff Fund for Humanity with the Othering and Belonging
Institute at UC Berkeley

Oct 2016

Black Male Reimagined

Curated a panel called *Unsung Heroes* from the Ferguson Movement at the Campaign for
Black Male Achievement’s semi annual event at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

US State Department

ASEAN countries hosted a live, interactive group viewing and discussion event at the
American Center in Yangon and the Jefferson Center in Mandalay.

June, 2015

UC Berkeley - Black Graduation

Commencement Speaker

October 9th, 2013

National Press Club Newsmakers Conference

The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE),
released the findings of a groundbreaking report by the *Commission on Youth Voting and
Civic Knowledge* entitled, "All Together Now: Collaboration and Innovation for Youth
Engagement." Speakers included Trey Grayson, former KY Secretary of State, Director
of the Harvard Institute of Politics, member of the Presidential Commission on Election
Administration and member of the *Commission on Youth Voting and Civic Knowledge*;
Amanda Terkel, **and** Senior Political Reporter and Politics Managing Editor of the
Huffington Post,

June 2013

BET Networks BET Awards Experience - Panel Host/Producer

Hosted a panel at music industry premier event BET Awards. Panelists include
Congresswoman Maxine Water, Snoop, TI, Ryan Coogler and others. The event was
produced by me and other leaders with the League of Young Voter

March 14-16th, 2012

Digital Media and Learning Conference - Plenary Speaker

The Digital Media and Learning Conference is an annual event supported by the MacArthur Foundation and organized by the Digital Media and Learning Research Hub located at the UC Humanities Research Institute, University of California, Irvine. The conference is meant to be an inclusive, international and annual gathering of scholars and practitioners in the field, focused on fostering interdisciplinary and participatory dialog and linking theory, empirical study, policy, and practice.

Spring, 2011-Present

Rap Sessions College Speaking Tour

Guest panelist with speakers including: Dr. James Peterson, Bakari Kitwana, Chuck D, Rosa Clemente, Jasiri X, Joan Morgan, Dr. Mark Anthony Neal, Dr. Jelani Cobb and many more.

- Tulane University
- Xavier University
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Columbia College
- Indiana University East

December 16, 2011

Massachusetts Institute for Technology

Civic Engagement Lunch

“Mobile Technology in Urban Communities”

March 17, 2011

Our Future Now Jobs Summit (America’s Future Now)

“Movement or Moment?”

June 2008

National Conference For Media Reform

“You Don’t Know My Struggle.”

CITED:

(Recent & Noteworthy):

2011

Grace Lee Boggs & Scott Kurashige

Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century

University of California Press

FILM PRODUCTION:

2020

***Finding KJ* (Forthcoming Documentary about the Murder of Kendrick Johnson)**

2020

“Champion Style: A Dance Film By Jade Charon”

2017

***Stranger Fruit* (Documentary on Starz)**

FELLOWSHIPS/ GRANTS:

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles,
2000-2001

Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2000-2002

Academic Opportunity Fellowship P-Center For African American Studies Fellowship,
University of California, Los Angeles 2001-2002