

STEFANIE K. BENJAMIN, PH.D. (SHE/HER)
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Co-Director and Research Fellow for [Tourism RESET](#); Co-Founder of [CODE](#)
- University of Tennessee (UTK): [Community Engagement and Outreach Imagine TN Faculty Fellow](#) 2020 – 2021; Research Development Academy Participant for 2019 – 2021; Faculty Senator – Chair of DEI; Office of Diversity and Engagement Advisory Board Member; Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce; Vice Chancellor's Bullying Taskforce; Teaching and Learning Innovation Diversity & Inclusion Taskforce
- Created ten new courses for RHTM and UTK Honors Programs' Curriculum
- 2023 Lara Odland Excellence in Home Economics Award in recognition of superlative teaching and research in College of Education Health and Human Sciences (CEHHS)
- 2022 Jacquelyn Orlando DeJonge Faculty Award in recognition of superlative research, teaching, and service in (CEHHS)
- 2020 CEHHS Dean's Board of Advisors Faculty Support Award for Excellence in Teaching
- 2018 Travel and Tourism Research Association Best Research Paper
- Editorial Board Member for *Journal of Travel Research*; *Annals of Tourism*
- Participated in projects supported by \$414,466 in grant funding; Loser of ~ \$45K grants

AREAS OF ACADEMIC INTEREST

General: Social equity in tourism: Critical tourism studies; Sustainable tourism; Contents tourism; Inclusive Festivals & Events; Inclusive pedagogy; Qualitative creative and innovative research methods; Disruption of systems of oppression; Anti-colonized Curriculum

Specific: Marginalized groups in tourism including Black Travel/Tourism, people with disabilities, LGTBQ, and women; Film-induced/Contents tourism; Destination Marketing of Tourism; Marginalized Narratives at Heritage Sites; Event Management, Festivals, and Planning; Qualitative Research: Arts-Based & Visual Methodology, Creative writing, Ethnography; Improvisation theater as a Pedagogical Development Tool

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Educational Foundations and Inquiry – August 2015

University of South Carolina; College of Educational Studies

Dissertation: Telling a different narrative: Exploring the values and challenges of performing enslaved community members' stories at U.S. southern plantation museums

M.S. Sustainable Tourism – May 2011

East Carolina University

Thesis: Lost in Mayberry: The profile of the 2010 Mayberry Days Festival tourist

B.S. Recreation, Parks, Tourism - May 2006

University of Florida; Department of Human, Health and Performance

Minor: Hospitality/Event Planning

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Tennessee

Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Management – Associate Professor: Aug. 2022 – Present

Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Management – Assistant Professor: Jan. 2016 – Aug. 2022

Department of Geography – Adjunct Associate Professor: May 2018 – Present

Florida International University Summer 2019; 2020

Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism – Adjunct Assistant Professor

University of South Carolina 2013 – 2015

Educational Foundations & Inquiry; Hospitality & Tourism – Instructor; Co-Instructor

PUBLICATIONS

* *Graduate Student*; ** *Undergraduate Student*

30. Bernard, S., Dillette, A., & **Benjamin, S.** (2023). Race and ethnicity in hospitality management: A review of five major journals. *Journal of Global Hospitality and Tourism*, 2(2), 134-155.

29. Lee, K. & **Benjamin, S.** (2023). The death of tourism scholarship... unless... *Annals of Tourism Research*.

28. **Benjamin, S.**, Dillette, A., & Kline, C. (2023). Come on, baby, smile: Moving through women's Anger while traveling. *Annals of Leisure Science*.

27. **Benjamin, S.**, Dillette, A., & Robinson, E. (2022). Black travel is not a monolith. *Tourism Geographies*, 1-19.

26. **Benjamin, S.**, & Laughter, J. (2022). Toward critical race tourism: valuing counter-narratives and endarkened storywork. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 1-17.

25. Yeager, E., **Benjamin, S.**, Goad, A., & Dillette, A. (2022). Assessing the Role of Transformative Tourism Pedagogy Field Experiences in Developing Self Efficacy. *Teaching in Travel & Tourism*.

24. **Benjamin, S.** and Dillette, A. (2021) "[Living in a Black and White world](#): The value of reflexivity in social equity research", *e-Review of Tourism Research*, 18(5), pp. 677–691.

23. **Benjamin, S.**, & Schwab, K. (2021). Navigating the waves of feminism (s): a duoethnography of two feminist travellers. *Annals of Leisure Research*, 1-18.

22. **Benjamin, S.** & Dillette, A. (2021). Black Travel movement: [Systemic racism informing tourism](#). *Annals of Tourism Research*. 88,) 103169.

21. Frankel, S.*, **Benjamin, S.**, & Stephens, C. (2021). Crafty Woman: An Exploration of How Southeastern Female Brewers Navigate Anger and Emotional Labor in the Craft Beer Industry. *Annals of Leisure Research*.
20. Frankel, S.*, Cuevas, L.*, Lim, J. & **Benjamin, S.** (2021). Exploring Subculture Storytelling on YouTube: The Case Study of Kat von D. *Fashion Theory - Journal of Dress Body and Culture*.
19. Dillete, A. & **Benjamin, S.** [Black Travel Movement](#): A Catalyst for Social Change. (2021). *Journal of Travel Research*.
18. **Benjamin, S.**, Dillette, A., & Alderman, A. (2020). “[We can’t return to normal](#)”: Committing to tourism equity in the post-pandemic age. *Tourism Geographies*, 22 (3), p.476 – 483.
17. **Benjamin, S.**, Bottone, E.*, & Lee, M.**. (2020). [Beyond accessibility](#): exploring the Representation Of people with disabilities in tourism marketing materials. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*.
16. Lee, J.,* **Benjamin, S.**, & Childs, M. (2020) Unpacking the emotional power of TripAdvisor reviews: The case study of Gatlinburg, Tennessee. *International Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Administration*.
15. **Benjamin, S.**, Knollenberg, W., & Chen, R. (2019). Making sure they have the time of their lives: Identifying co-creation opportunities at the Dirty Dancing Festival: *Event Management Journal: Special Issue "Events in a Changing World"*, 23, 613 – 626.
14. **Benjamin, S.** & Kline, C. (2019). How to yes-and in higher education: Using improvisational Games To improv(e) communication, listening, and collaboration techniques: *Journal of Hospitality, Leisure, Sport & Tourism Education Inquiry*, 24, 130-142.
13. Kline, C., **Benjamin, S.**, & Wagner, K. (2019). Tourism as a demand reduction strategy for Pangolin trafficking: Inspiring an ethic of care among college students: *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Education*.
12. Williams, J., **Benjamin, S.**, & Kitterlin-Lynch, M. (2019). Developing self-efficacy: Does Switching to a hospitality major matter? *Journal of Teaching in Travel & Tourism*, 1-14.
11. Oliver, J., **Benjamin, S.**, & Leonard, H. (2019). Recycling on vacation: Does pro-environmental Behavior change when consumers travel? *Journal of Global Scholars of Marketing Science*, 29 (2), 266- 280.
10. Dillette, A., **Benjamin, S.**, & Carpenter, C**. (2018). Tweeting The Black Travel Experience: Social Media Counter-Narrative Stories as Innovative Insight on #TravelingWhileBlack. *Journal of Travel Research*, 58(8), 1357-1372. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0047287518802087>.
9. **Benjamin, S.** & Alderman, D. (2018). Performing a Different Narrative: Museum Theater and The Memory-Work of Producing and Managing Slavery Heritage at Southern Plantation Museums. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 24(3), 270-282.
8. Duffy, L., Pinckney, H., **Benjamin, S.** & Mowatt, R. (2018) A critical discourse analysis of racial violence in South Carolina, U.S.A.: implications for traveling while Black. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 22(19), 2430-2446. DOI: [10.1080/13683500.2018.1494143](https://doi.org/10.1080/13683500.2018.1494143)

7. Williams, J., Brown, E., Kitterlin-Lynch, M., & **Benjamin, S.** (2018). Intramural sports' participation produce self-efficacy in hospitality leaders. *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management*. 3441-47.
6. Williams, J., **Benjamin, S.**, Kitterlin-Lynch, M., Brown, E. A., Schoffstall, D., & Zaman, M. M. (2018). Hospitality Faculty Mentoring Program for Assistant Professors. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Education*, 1-8.
5. **Benjamin, S.**, Williams, J., & Maher, M. (2017). Focusing the Lens to share the story: Using photographs and interviews to explore Doctoral students' sense of well-being. *International Journal of Doctoral Studies*, 12, 197-217.
4. **Benjamin, S.**, Kline, C., Alderman, D., & Hoggard, W. (2016). Heritage Site visitation and attitudes toward African-American heritage preservation: An investigation of North Carolina residents. *Journal of Travel Research*, 55 (7).
3. Sox, C., **Benjamin, S.**, Carpenter, J., & Strick, S. (2013). An exploratory study of meeting planners and conference attendees' perceptions of sustainable issues in convention centers. *Journal of Convention & Event Tourism*, 14, 144-161.
2. **Benjamin, S.**, Schneider, P., & Alderman, D. (2012). Lost in Mayberry: Is film-induced tourism a sustainable option in tourism planning? *Tourism Review International*, 16 (2), 139-150.
1. Alderman, D. H., **Benjamin, S.**, & Schneider, P. (2012). Transforming Mount Airy into Mayberry: Film-induced tourism as place making. *Southeastern Geographer*, 52 (2), 212-239.

Chapters in Edited Books

12. Bottone, E. Alderman, D., **Benjamin, S.** & Frankel, S. (2023). (Forthcoming) "Atmospheric Instability in Dark Tourism: Spatial Construction of Conflicting Affective Atmospheres at the Titanic Museum & Attraction, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee (USA)." Dark Tourism Geographies: Critical Epistemologies on Death and Disaster (edited by Nitasha Sharma, Annaclaudia Martini & Dallen J. Timothy). De Gruyter.
11. **Benjamin, S.** & Dillette, A. (2022). "Introduction". *Inclusion in tourism: Understanding Institutional discrimination and bias*. Eds. Slocum. Routledge Publishing.
10. **Benjamin, S.**, Dillette, A., & Alderman, D. (2022). "We can't return to normal": committing to tourism equity in the post-pandemic age *Global Tourism and COVID-19. Implications for Theory and Practice*. Eds. Lew, Cheer, Brouder, & Mostafanezhad. Routledge Publishing.
9. Dillette, A. & **Benjamin, S.** (2021). Racial and Social justice through the Black Travel Movement. [*Women's voices in tourism research: Contributions to Knowledge and letters to future generations*](#). Eds. Correia & Dolnicar. Brisbane, Australia: The University of Queensland.
8. **Benjamin, S.**, (2021). Using Improvisational theater games to unpack difficult dialogue in Tourism studies. *Teaching Tourism: Innovative, values-based learning experiences for Transformative practices*. Eds. Joppe & Edelheim. Edward Elgar Publishing.

7. **Benjamin, S.** & Dillette, A. (2021). "Dismantling the ivory tower: A narrative ethnography between two critical scholars" chapter in *Socializing Tourism*. Eds. Higgins-Desbiolles, F., Doering, A., & Bigby.
6. Croy, G., Reichenberger, I., & **Benjamin, S.** (2021). Film tourism tribes. *Consumer tribes in tourism: Contemporary perspectives on special interest tourism*. Editors: Pforr, Christof, Dowling, Ross, Volgger, Michael (Eds.)
5. **Benjamin, S.** (2020). Breaking Benjamin: A Woman's Pilgrimage to New Mexico. *Contents Tourism and Pop Culture Fandom: Transnational Tourist Experiences* in Channel View Publications. Eds. Seaton, P. & Yamamura, T.
4. **Benjamin, S.** (2018). "Let them be heard: The emotional performances of enslaved narratives at US plantation sites" in *Tourism and Wellness: Travel for the Good of All?* as part of the series Anthropology of Tourism: Heritage, Mobility, and Society coordinated by Michael Di Giovine and Noel Salazar. Lexington Books.
3. Williams, J. & **Benjamin, S.** (2016). Changes in Hospitality Consumer Needs and Wants. *Routledge Handbook of Hospitality Marketing*. Taylor & Francis Group.
2. **Benjamin, S.** (2015). Is this how you pictured it? Using photo elicitation as a methodological tool. *Social Memories and Heritage Tourism Methodologies*,. in Hanna, S., Potter, A., Modlin, E.A., Carter, P., and Butler, D. (eds). New York: Routledge, pp. 92-108.
1. Alderman, D., Moreau, T., & **Benjamin, S.** (2012). The Andy Griffith Show: Mayberry as Working Class Utopia in Booker, K. (ed.) *Blue-Collar Pop Culture: From NASCAR to Jersey Shore, (Vol. 2) Television and the Culture of Everyday Life*, Praeger, pp. 51-69.

Publications Under Review/Revision

- Tucker, C., Bernard, S., Dillette, A., **Benjamin, S.**, Lamoureux, K., & Nicolau, J. (2023). Creating a new veil: Social media use in Black online travel communities.
- Jabson-Tree, J., **Benjamin, S.**, & McoCoy, D. Enhancing Self-Efficacy for Engagement with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives: Evaluation of a Seven-Day Immersive Pilot Program. *Jouranl of Higher Education*. Submitted November 2023.

Working Articles

- Benjamin, S.**, Boluk, K., Lee, K., Paddison, B. Academic Inertia: Resisting Change in Tourism Studies . Manuscript stage.
- Dillette, A., **Benjamin, S.**, & Alderman, D. Journeying Beyond Boundaries: Unveiling Innovative Pathways in Black Travel Exploration. Manuscript stage
- Bucher, S.** , Lee, K., & **Benjamin, S.** Am I still a chef? Navigating former and current personas through narrative reflexivity. Manuscript stage.
- Babb, J.** , **Benjamin, S.**, & Lee, K. Music To Their (Big) Ears: Exploring Collective Effervescence and Well-Being at Big Ears Festival. Manuscript Stage.

Coffey, L.**, **Benjamin, S.**, & Zhang, H. Can Transformative experiences lead to stewardship and conservation of the U.S. national parks? The case of Canyon Village concessionaire seasonal employees. Manuscript stage.

Boluk, K., **Benjamin, S.**, Lee, S., & Paddison, B. Cultivating care in academia. Manuscript stage

Benjamin, S., Dillette, A., & Robinson, E. Is it a movement or a moment? Black Travel. Manuscript Stage

Benjamin, S., Boluk, K., Lee, S., Willis, D. & Paddison, B. We're not ok: mental health, trauma, and burnout in the academy. Development stage.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Tennessee - Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Management

Associate Professor - January 2016 – Present

- **Blissful Wish Wedding Execution – HTM 440**** 15 undergrad – Experiential Learning Fall 2023
- **Wedding Planning & design – HTM 312**** 140 undergrad – Async. Online Spring 2023; Summer 2023; Spring 2024
- **Event Planning & Design – HRT 212** 41-82 undergrad students Spring 2016; Fall 2017; Spring 2017, Fall 2018; Spring 2018; Fall 2019; Spring 2020; Fall 2020 (online); Spring 2021 (online); Fall 2021 (hybrid); Spring 2024 (online)
- **Advanced event planning & design – HTM 435*** 35 - 55 undergrad – residential Spring 2022; Fall 2022
- **Honors – Tourism Planning & Design – HRT 440**** 10 undergrad/MS – residential Spring 2020
- **Critical Sustainable Tourism – HRT 484**** 20 - 50 undergrad/MS Fall 2017; Fall 2018; Fall 2019; Fall 2020 (online); Spring 2022; Fall 2022 (Hybrid)
- **Strategic Marketing in Hospitality and Tourism – HRT 410*** 24-35 undergrad students Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Spring 2018; Spring 2019; Spring 2021(online)
- **PhD Seminar Course – RHTM 590** 10 PhD – residential Fall 2021
- **Qualitative Research Method in RHTM – RHTM 604**** 7-10 MS/PhD - residential Summer 2017; Summer 2018; Summer 2019, Fall 2021, Fall 2023
- **Performing Improvisation theater to strengthen leadership skills – UNHO101**** 20 undergrad F2F – Spring 2023 - residential
- **So you want to be an event planner? – UNHO101**** 20 undergrad – residential Fall 2019
- **Keeping It Real: Applying Soft Skills and Mindfulness – UNHO101**** 20 undergrad – residential. Fall 2018
- **Improv(e) You: Improvisation Techniques to Enhance Creativity – UNHO101**** 20 undergrad. residential. Fall 2017

** Denotes new class created by Benjamin; * Denotes re-design by Benjamin

Florida International University - Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism

Adjunct Assistant Professor Summer 2019; Summer 2020

- HFT 3735, Destinations and Cultures Course (online)
- Improv(e) You! POD Class (residential)
- HFTT 3930, Tourism is complex? Unpacking how marginalized groups travel and marketed

globally POD Class – FIU High Quality Designation (online)

University of South Carolina

Fall 2012 – Fall 2014

- Instructor: Schools and Communities – EDFN 300
- Co-Instructor: Principles of College Teaching – EDHE 738
- Instructor: Foundations of Tourism – HRTM280

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- [Tourism RESET](#) – May 2011 – Present
Co-Director & Research Fellow
- **USC: Educational Leadership and Policies** – Columbia, SC Aug. 2013 – Sept. 2014
Research Assistant
- **CORE: Skill Development in Doctorates Policies** – Columbia, SC. Sept. 2014 – 2016
Qualitative Researcher
- **Inner Banks Research** – Columbia, NC. June 19, 2014 – July 19, 2014
Qualitative Researcher
- **SmartState Center of Economic Excellence** – Columbia, SC. Aug. 2011 – Dec. 2012
Research Assistant
- **Center for Sustainable Tourism** – Greenville, NC. Aug. 2009 – June 2011
Research Assistant

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- **Nickelodeon Independent Theater** – Columbia, South Carolina. 2013 – 2014 *Concession Manager*
- **Burberry** – New York City. 2007 – 2009 *Special Events Coordinator of the Americas*
- **Christian Dior** – New York City. March – Sept 2007 *Public Relations Assistant*
- **Gen Art** – Miami Beach, Florida. June 2006 – Feb 2007 *Marketing Intern*
- **Ritz Carlton Hotel** – Amelia Island, Florida. Jan – May 2006 *Recreation Intern*

SELECT PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Babb, J**. & **Benjamin, S.** The intersection of Durkheimian theory, ethnography, and the culture of Big Ears Festival. Hospitality Graduate Conference. Poster. Miami, FL. Jan. 2024

Benjamin, S. Bridging the gap: Building brave spaces for Academic/Industry Collaborations. TTRA. June 2023

Yaeger, E., **Benjamin, S.**, Dillette, A., & Goad, A. Assessing the Role of Transformative Tourism Pedagogy Field Experiences in Developing Self-Efficacy. ISTTE 40th Annual Conference. Oct. 4-6, 2021. *WON Best paper award in the category of workshops

Benjamin, S. & Dillette, A. Growth through reflexivity: We are living in a Black and White world. TTRA Conference – virtual. June 16 – 18, 2021.

Dillette, A. & **Benjamin, S.** Black travel is not a monolith. TTRA Conference – virtual. June 2021.

Benjamin, S. & Dillette, A. Black Travel movement: Systemic racism informing tourism. Critical

Tourism Studies, North America. Virtual. June 20 – 21, 2021.

Frankel, S*, **Benjamin, S.**, & Stephens, C. "Crafty Women: Exploring emotional labor within the craft beer industry". Critical Tourism Studies, North America. Virtual. June 20 – 21, 2021.

Benjamin, S. Yes-And-ing Improvisational Theater Games in the Classroom. 2019 Innovation in Teaching Conference. University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, October 24, 2019.

Benjamin, S., & Dillette, A. Black Travel: More than just a Movement. Travel and Tourism Research Association Annual Conference. Melbourne, Australia, June 26-28, 2019.

Benjamin, S., Buttone, E*, Olineak, S**, & Lee, M.**. Beyond accessibility: Exploring how People with disabilities are marketed. Tourism and Leisure Studies. Florida International University. Miami, Florida, May 16-18, 2019.

Benjamin, S., & Dillette. Issues of diversity and inclusion in tourism and leisure studies. Fourth International Conference on Tourism and Leisure Studies. Florida International University. Miami, Florida, May 16-18, 2019.

Benjamin, S. & Williams, J. What does "keeping it real" look like in the classroom? Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy Conference. Virginia Tech University, February, 2019.

Dillette, A., **Benjamin, S.**, & Carpenter, C.**Tweeting the Black travel experience: Social media counter-narratives Stories as Innovative Insight on #TravelingWhileBlack. Travel and Tourism Research Association Annual Conference. Miami, Florida, June 26-28, 2018. **Won Best Research Paper Award**

Benjamin, S. & Knollenberg, W. I didn't have the time of my life: Qualitative data collection Challenges At the 2017 Dirty Dancing Festival. Travel and Tourism Research Association Annual Conference –Miami Florida, June 26-28, 2018.

Benjamin, S., Hur, S*, & Butler, R. Consuming Film Tourism: Exploring the Engagement, Embodiment, and Emotional Experiences of Game of Thrones Film-Tourists Through Instagram. SECSA Conference. Knoxville, TN, March, 2018. *Won Best Faculty Led Presentation

Benjamin, S., Loebner, J., Buttone, E*, Olineak, S**, & McGlaughin, E**. Beyond accessibility: Exploring how people with disabilities are marketed in hospitality and tourism industries. SECSA Conference. Knoxville, TN, March, 2018.

Benjamin, S. & Williams, J. (2018). Keeping It Real: Normalizing failure and encouraging Transparency in the Classroom. CIDER Conference. Virginia Tech University, February, 2018.

Benjamin, S. & Dilette, A. (2017). Workshop: Issues of Diversity & Inclusion in Tourism – A discussion amongst scholars. Critical Tourism Studies Conference. Spain, June 25 - 27.

Benjamin, S. (2017). *Breaking Benjamin: A Woman's Pilgrimage to New Mexico*. Critical Tourism Studies Conference. Spain, June 25-27.

Benjamin, S. (2017). *Improv(e) Your Communication*. Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy. Virginia Tech University, February 5-7, 2017

SELECT INVITED UNIVERSITY (UT AND OTHER) PRESENTATIONS/SPOTLIGHT

Benjamin, S. & Lee, Kai-Sean. Slowing down tourism and academic practice – Strategies to disrupt the system and develop boundaries. Slowing Down Tourism Practice and Scholarship in the Era of The Anthropocene Virtual Symposium. May 23-24, 2023.

Benjamin, S. Keynote for Qualitative Research Methods Workshop. TTRA. June 2023.

Benjamin, S. & Dillette A. Black Travel Movement. Tourism Naturally Conference. Oct. 26, 2022.

Dillette, A. & **Benjamin, S.** Black Travel Movement. "The Cutting Edge" research symposium series from the Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. April 29, 2022.

Benjamin, S. & Dillette, A. Black travel movement. Equity, diversity, inclusion group. University of Ottawa, Canada. February, 11, 2022.

Benjamin, S. & Kessler, R. "A Geohistorical Perspective: Getting to Know Knoxville". Engagement & Outreach Conference. October 20, 2021.

Benjamin, S. Fall 2021 Learning Breaks: Cultural Competency and Cultural Humility. Black Travel movement: Systemic racism informing tourism. College of Education, Health, Human Sciences. Sept. 14, 2021.

Jabson-Tree, **J.**, **Benjamin, S.**, McCoy, D. Equity, Inclusion, Justice Institute. College of Education, Health, Human Sciences. June 22 - 29, 2021.

Benjamin, S. UTK Critical Race Symposium: Critical Race Across Academic Fields. *Black Travel Movement: Systemic Racism Informing Tourism*. April 16, 2021.

Benjamin, S. 13th Documentary Webinar. TCE Anti-Racism & Allyship Task Force, National Society for Black Engineers, UTK Commission for Blacks, and the Division of Diversity and Engagement. February 2021

Benjamin, S. Panelist on DEI Awareness in the Workplace. UTK Graduate & Professional Student Professional Development. February 3, 2021.

Benjamin, S. & Dillette, A. *Co-Creating an Equitable Landscape for Travel: A Workshop with Tourism RESET*. North Carolina State University. January 29, 2021.

Benjamin, S., McCoy, D., & Windford, B. 'Checkerboard Chats' web series panel on - race, diversity, ethnicity, and inclusivity. UTK Office of Alumni Affairs. December 2020.

Benjamin, S. & Dillette, A. Mapping the Black Travel Experience. Healing through history webinar series. Sponsored by Unheard Voices of Louisiana. October 23, 2020. <https://gumbomarie.com/>

Benjamin, S. Engagement and Outreach Conference. Broader Community Engagement Panelist. Knoxville, TN. October 7, 2020. - Virtual.

Benjamin, S. & Dillette, A. Graduate Director of School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Purdue University Graduate Colloquium. September 25, 2020. – Virtual

Benjamin, S. (2019). U.T. [Informational Technology Faculty Spotlight with HRT410](#)

Benjamin, S. April 6, 2019. “Don't mess up with the interview: Learning what to do and not to do while on the market” Professional Development Summit - UTK.

Dillette, A., **Benjamin, S.**, & Carpenter, C. Workshop ‘Exploring the Black Travel Movement and Beyond’ – March 28, 2019. Beck Cultural Exchange Center, Knoxville ,TN.

Benjamin, S. & Coleman, J. March 12, 2019. Workshop facilitator with Dr. Janelle Coleman on “Talking the Talk:” Understanding the Language of Inclusivity”

Benjamins, S. & Carpenter, C. November 14, 2018. Student Political Association – Co-hosted NAACP Debate on my research around Black Travel and Tourism.

Benjamin, S. June 19, 2018. 2018 TN ProStart Professional Development. Knoxville, TN. – Improvisational Workshop to Culinary Instructors.

Benjamin, S. & Williams, J. February 16, 2018. Keeping It Real: Normalizing failure and Encouraging Transparency in the Classroom. Virginia Tech University Hospitality Program.

Benjamin, S. (2017). [*How to Yes-And In Life: Using Improvisational Games to Improv\(e\) Your Communication, Listening, Critical Thinking, and Collaboration Skills.*](#) Mic/Night

SELECT INVITED PROFESSIONAL/INDUSTRY PRESENTATIONS

Dillette, A., **Benjamin, S.**, Robinson, E. Panel. NOMADNESS Travel Festival. Louisville KY. September 9– 11, 2023.

Benjamin, S. & Duffy, L. Keynote on Embracing Community: Navigating D.E.I. in Greenville’s Tourism and Hospitality Industry. Visit Greenville. Greenville, SC. August 2023

Dillette, A., **Benjamin, S.**, Robinson, E. Panel - Traveling in Color: BIPOC Data Story. NOMADNESS Travel Festival. Newark, New Jersey. September 9– 11, 2022.

Benjamin, S. “Traveling toward inclusivity: Unpacking the Black Travel Movement” Georgia’s Governor’s Tourism Conference. Athens, Georgia. Aug. 2, 2022.

Benjamin, S. Appalachian Leadership Institute Session. “The Outdoors: does y'all mean all?” May 12, 2022.

Benjamin, S. & Dillette, A., Black Travel Alliance. History of Black Travel. “What, So What, Now What?”. Presented to Tripadvisor. February 22, 2022.

Benjamin, S. Keynote Speaker for the National Extension Tourism Conference. RESET-ing collaboration: Co-creation research opportunities with Tourism RESET Savannah, Georgia. November 5 – 7, 2021.

Benjamin, S. Frankel, S.*, Stephens, C. Webinar on Self advocacy & workplace safety for women.

FemAle Brew Fest. September 15, 2021.

Robinson, E., **Benjamin, S.**, & Dillette, A. WeTravel. Unpacking the data: Race, Diversity & Equity in the tourism industry. June 18, 2021.

Robinson, E., Dillette, A., & **Benjamin, S.**, Travel Oregon. Unpacking the data: Race, Diversity & Equity in the tourism industry. June 16, 2021.

Robinson, E., Dillette, A., & **Benjamin, S.**, Adventure Travel Trade Association. [Meet the experts: Unpacking the data: Race, Diversity & Equity in the tourism industry](#). May 25, 2021.

Robinson, E., **Benjamin, S.**, & Dillette, A. Destinations International 2021 Marketing & Communications Summit. BIPOC Travelers: Bringing the numbers to life. April 29, 2021.

Benjamin, S. Frankel, S.*, Stephens, C. Webinar on 'Advocating for self-advocacy & workplace safety for women' to Pink Boots Society. March 3, 2021.

Benjamin, S. (2021). [BIPOC Travel Consensus : Trends + Insights 2020](#) Highlights presentation. NOMADNESS Travel Tribe and Tourism RESET. January 21, 2021.

Benjamin, S. Social Equity in Tourism Lecture. East TN Meeting Professionals. Oct. 27, 2020.

Benjamin, S. (2020). [AUDACITY Digi](#). Panelist: Let's Get Real: Conversations with Travel Allies. August 1, 2020.

Benjamin, S., Fitzgerald, B., Warren, L., & Mandala, L. (2020). Designing Inclusive Tourism and Marketing to Diverse Audiences. Panel session moderator and participant for Southeastern Tourism Research Association Conference. Little Rock, Arkansas. Feb. 9 – 12, 2020.

Benjamin, S. Exploring creativity and critical skills in the workplace. (2019). UTK faculty/Extension Partnership. Presented to the Cleveland, TN Kiwanis Club. October 3, 2019

Benjamin, S., Van Patten, C.** , & Bailey, V.** (2019). HRT410. Greater Knoxville Hospitality Association Monthly meeting. April, 4, 2019. Knoxville, TN.

Benjamin, S. (2019). Invited by Pigeon Forge Chamber of Commerce to be their speaker at their monthly meeting. January 30, 2019.

Benjamin, S. (2017). Invited guest speaker for Greater Knoxville Hospitality Association Monthly Lunch Meeting on SCI/HRT410 Lenoir City Project. Loudon County DMO. June 1, 2017.

Benjamin, S. (2017). Invited guest speaker for Greater Knoxville Hospitality Association Stars of the Industry Luncheon PAULY Awards & Scholarship Presentations. May 4, 2017.

Benjamin, S. (2017). Marriott Leadership Training. Improv(e) You! Workshop. Pigeon Forge, TN.

INDUSTRY CONSULTATION WORK

- Dillette, A. & **Benjamin, S.**, & NOMADNESS Travel Tribe. [Diversity in Travel Consensus](#). 2020 – Present
 - Intrepid Travel – tours and travel for the curious, 2023 – Present

- Explore Asheville Destination Marketing Organization
 - 2022 Internal & External data analysis for diversity insights (survey & focus groups)
 - The Future of Travel, Asheville May 2022
 - Visit Oregon 2021 Webinar
 - Destination International 2021 Webinar
- **Benjamin, S.** & Dillette, A. Black Travel Alliance. [*History Of Black Travel*](#) Timeline 2020 – Present
 - TripAdvisor Webinar
- **Benjamin, S.** *Rural Tourism Marketing Workshop development* Tennessee Department of Tourism Development. 2022.
- **Benjamin, S.** & Williams, J. *Community Weaving Project* Ijams Nature Center. 2021 – 2022

FUNDED GRANTS

- 2023. *Speakeasy to Truth*. **Benjamin, S.** Challenge Grant Program – UTK Diversity and Engagement Office. \$3,000.
- 2022. *Healthy Culinary Training and the Impact of Foodways Storytelling*. White, T., **Benjamin, S.**, Colby, S., & Babb, J. CEHHS Strategic Vision and 2022 Diversity Action Plan.
- 2021. *Community Weaving Project*. UTK Office of Diversity and Engagement. \$2,800
- 2021. CEHHS Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Summer Institute. Jabson-Tree, J. & **Benjamin, S.** CEHHS Strategic Vision and 2021 Diversity Action Plan. June 22 – 29, 2021. \$12,000
- 2021. NOMADNESS Travel Tribe, & Tourism RESET *Identifying Mega Travel Trends of the Black Traveler*. Mini Grant – UTK Diversity and Engagement Office. \$1000
- 2021 - 2022. National Endowment for the Humanities. *Role of Geographic Mobility in Black Freedom Struggle*. P.I. – Alderman, D. \$191,236.
- 2019 – 2020. 1794 Research Fellows Grant. UTK. \$700.
- 2018. Faculty Travel to Enhance External Funding for Scholarship. CEHHS. \$1,272.
- 2017 – 2020. Trends and Strategies for Tourism in Appalachia.. \$190,168. Funding Agency: Appalachian Regional Commission. P.I. – Ezzell, T.
- 2016. Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Faculty Proposal. \$1000.
- 2016. Teaching Innovation Grant. University of Tennessee. \$3,500.
- 2016. Teaching for Impact Grant. University of Tennessee. \$500.

AWARDS

- Lara Odland Excellence in Home Economics Award in **recognition of superlative teaching and research** – in College of Education Health and Human Sciences, University of Tennessee April, 2023. \$4,000.
- Jacquelyn Orlando DeJonge Faculty Award in **recognition of superlative research, teaching, and service** – in College of Education Health and Human Sciences, University of Tennessee April 2022. \$4,000.
- ISTTE Conference. **Best paper award** in the category of workshops. October 2021
- Sciences Dean's Board of Advisors Faculty Support Award for **Excellence in Teaching** – in College of Education Health and Human, University of Tennessee. April 2020. \$4,000 scholarship

- **Research Development Academy.** The Office of Diversity and Engagement and Office of Research and Engagement member of first cohort at University of Tennessee. 2019 – 2021. \$6,000
- Frankel, S.*, Benjamin, S., & Stephens, C. *Crafty Woman: Exploration of How Southeastern Female Brewers Navigate Anger and Emotional Labor in the Craft Beer Industry.* UTK Graduate Student Research Colloquium. March 2020 – **Best Poster Award**
- University of Tennessee - **Big Man on Campus Event Award.** Feb. 2019
- Chancellor's Honor Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year Award Nominee. University of Tennessee 2019, 2018
- Travel Tourism Research Association Conference – **Best Research Paper.** June 2018
- SECSA – **Best Led Faculty Presentation.** March 2018.
- Panhellenic Council **Phenomenal Teacher** at the University of Tennessee. March 2018
- Pi Beta Phi at The University of Tennessee. **Recognition of select faculty.** November, 2016
- East Carolina University. **Humanity Research Poster winner** - \$50; April 2011
- Tourism Cares. **Eric Friedheim Scholarship** - \$1000. August 2010

CERTIFICATIONS

- Faculty Mentoring Certificate Program: Teaching, Learning Innovation. Feb. 2023. *University of Tennessee.*
- Teaching and Learning Innovation 'Fostering the Volunteer Experience Course Redesign' Certification. May 2022. *University of Tennessee.*
- Teaching and Learning Innovation 'Inclusive Teaching' Certification. March 2021. *University of Tennessee.*
- High Quality Designation for online course design 2020. *Florida International University*
- Graduate Certificate in Qualitative Research 2015. *University of South Carolina*
- Certified Hospitality Educator 2014. *American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute*

SELECT MASS MEDIA ENGAGEMENT & RECOGNITION

- [The wedding's free – and 13 University of Tennessee students are planning every detail](#) – Knox News. October 2, 2023.
- [University of Tennessee hospitality students plan a real-life wedding](#) – *Knox News.* September, 28, 2023.
- [Couple talks about experience of having UT college students plan their wedding](#)– *Knox News.* September, 28, 2023.
- [Interview: UTK grads get free wedding thanks to alma mater, students & partnership](#) – Fox News Chattanooga. September 5, 2023.
- [Blissful Wish Wedding](#) – WATE TV. Aug. 18, 2023
- [Blissful Wish Wedding](#) – WATE TV. July 10, 2023
- [Tourism Geographies Podcast](#) – Black Travel is not a Monolith. July 11, 2023
- [Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management and Big Ears Music Festival Partner Up to Give Students a Unique Experience.](#) March , 2023
- [HTM Students to Participate in Big Ears.](#) March , 2023
- Checking Inn – A lodging DEI Chat. December 12, 2022
- [An Airbnb property was listed as a 'slave cabin'. It never housed enslaved people.](#) *Essence.com.* August 18, 2022.
- Elton John Comes to Knoxville. *WBIR interview.* April 7, 2022.

- [Professor Helps Launch New Black Travel Website](#). *University of TN News*. Feb. 28, 2022.
- [Why These Professors Helped To Create A History Of Black Travel Timeline](#). *Conde Nast Traveler*. February 21, 2022.
- [SEC Celebrates Black History Month](#). Tweet of Uncle Nearest Story. February 2022
- [Black Travel Alliance and Tourism RESET](#) – History Of Black Travel. TripAdvisor Sponsor. February 2021.
- [Enslaved Black man created world's most popular whiskey](#). *All about America*. Oct. 2021.
- [The Story of Nearest Green, America's First Black Master Distiller](#). *The Conversation*. August 17, 2021
- [Feature story on Tourism RESET](#). CEHHS. April 22, 2021
- ['Black Travel is Not a Monolith'](#). *AFAR*. February, 12, 2021
- *Smoky Mountain Living Magazine*. November 2, 2020
- [Regal Theater Closes](#) – *WBIR Knoxville's Channel 10 News*. October 5, 2020
- Knoxville's hospitality businesses, patrons build community during pandemic. [Knox News Op-ED Article](#) - Aug. 29, 2020
- [AUDACITY Digi](#) Panelist – Let's Get Real: Conversations with Travel Allies. Aug. 1, 2020
- "Tourism RESET – Social Equity". [Interviewed by WUOT](#). May 3, 2019
- Students share accessibility tips with industry professionals. [UT Today](#). April 15, 2019
- ['Improv in the Classroom'](#). *College of Education Accolades Newsletter*. March 11, 2019
- [Emerging Scholar Profile](#)- Dr. Stefanie Benjamin", *e-Review of Tourism Research*, 2019
- [Community Radio- The People's Radio Station](#). *WOZO – 103.9FM*. August 25, 2018.
- Film-Induced Tourism. "[Trip Doctor's Podcast](#)". July 30, 2018
- ["What is Heritage Tourism"](#). WUOT – Knoxville NPR – Fresh Air. January 18, 2018.
- "I went to a dirty dancing festival and it made me weepy. [BuzzFeed.com](#). Sept. 2, 2017
- [5 Questions with Professor Stefanie Benjamin](#)". *Tennessee Today*. September 7, 2017

SELECT RHTM DEPARTMENT & CEHHS COLLEGE SERVICE

- CEHHS. Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Summer Institute Co-Facilitator. June 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- UTK Diversity Action Plan (DAP) CEHHS Taskforce 2020 – 2021
- Department Faculty mentor. 2022 – present
- By-Law Committee. 2022 – 2023
- [Big Ears Music Festival](#) – Creation of Hospitality Ambassadorship. 2022 – present
- Future Professionals Event Planners (FPEP) Faculty Advisor. 2016 – Present
 - Hospitality Career Networking Expo. Knoxville, TN. 2022, 2023, 2024
 - [NOMADNESS Fest](#) volunteering with FPEP. Memphis, TN Sept. 27 – Sept. 29, 2019
- CEHHS Diversity Advisory Board. 2023 – present
- Leader: Diversity Action Plan. 2021 – 2023
- RHTM Day co-organizer; Alumni Spotlight. 2022 – 2023
- RHTM Social Media Coordinator. 2016 – 2020 ([Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#))

SELECT UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE SERVICE

- Faculty Advisory Board D&I Office of Engagement and Diversity – UTK. 2019 – Present
- UTK TLI- Inclusive Teaching Advisory Network. 2019 – Present

- Critical Race Collective. 2019 – Present
 - Co-Chair of Collective Listening Session (2022 – 2023)
- UTK Office of Engagement and Diversity Action Plan Committee. 2020 – Present
- UTK Faculty Senator Faculty Senator. 2019; 2020 – present
 - UTK Faculty Senator Chair of Diversity and Inclusion 2023 – present
- Vice Chancellor's Special Task Force: Bully-Free Environment and Policy. 2019 – 2022
- Member for the [Commission for Black Communities](#) – UTK. 2019 – 2023
- UTK Office of [Community Outreach](#) & Outreach Faculty Fellow. 2020 – 2021
- UTK Teaching Learning Innovation (TLI) Faculty Mentor Innovator. 2019 – 2021
- UTK Faculty Peer Mentor. [Teaching and Learning Innovation Summer Institute](#). June, 2018
- University of Tennessee Office [of Communications and Marketing “Expert” Guide](#) - 2017
- UT Educational Advancement Program's 2017 – 2018 Summer Research Institute Mentor

ACADEMIA/HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICE

Editor; Editorial board; or Guest Editor of Academic Publications

- *Annals of Tourism Research*. Editorial Board Member. 2022 – Present
- *Journal of Travel Research*. Editorial Board Member. 2021 – Present
- *e-Review of Tourism Research*. Associate Editor of Editorial Team. 2017 – 2022
- *Frontiers in Sustainable Tourism*. Review Editor. 2022 – Present
- Guest Editors. Dillette, A., **Benjamin, S.**, & Alderman, D. (2021 – 2024). Special Issue: Unpacking the Black Travel Movement. *Tourism Geographies*.
- Guest Editors. Kline, C., **Benjamin, S.**, & Dillette, A. (2019). Special Issue: Women, Anger, & Tourism. *Annals of Leisure Research*.

TEFI & Tourism RESET

- Co-Chair of Slowing down tourism practice and scholarship in the era of the Anthropocene. 2022 – 2023
- Co-Chair of Intentionally Co-Creating Holistic Caring Spaces for our Post-Graduate Students and Early Career Researchers. 2021 – 2022

DEI Florida International Symposium

- Board of Reviewers

Critical Sustainable Tourism Conference – North America (CTS-NA)

- Co-Directing Special Session: BIPOC Issues in Tourism, Travel, and Mobility. June 2021.

Southeastern Travel Tourism Research Association (SETTRA)

- Elected Board of Director member. 2020 – 2023
- Diversity Committee Head. 2020 – 2023
- Elected Academia Advisor Liaison Board member. 2019 – 2020

Travel Tourism Research Association (TTRA)

- Academic Co-Chair for 2024 TTRA Conference
- Academic Co-Chair for 2020 TTRA Conference (postponed due to COVID)
- Chair of “Ideas Fair” 2018 - 2020
- Qualitative Workshop Leader; Visual Presentation Award judging panel; Popular Culture & Media in Tourism Track Chair. June, 24, 2019

Southeast, Central & South American Federation Conference (ICHRE-SECSA)

- Moderator Industry Panel Session “*The Changing Tide: Women Leadership in Hospitality and Tourism*”, March 1, 2018
- Einstein Simplified Comedy Improv Troupe performance. March 2, 2018

Select Journal Reviewer – Ad-Hoc

- *Annals of Tourism*. April 2021 – Present

- *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*. December 2019 – Present
- *International Hospitality Review*. October 2018 – Present
- *International Journal of Heritage Studies*. August 2018 – Present
- *Journal of Hospitality, Leisure, Sport & Tourism Education*. February 2018 – Present
- *Tourist Studies* Reviewer. July 2017 – Present
- *Journal of Tourism Management* Reviewer. June 2016 – Present
- *Southeastern Geographer* Reviewer. January 2017 – Present
- *Journal of Tourism Geographies* Reviewer. August 2013 – Present

PHD DISSERTATION/MS COMMITTEE MEMBER

PhD

- 2022 – Present RHTM Leah Coffee. Dissertation Chair (*Understanding How Transformative Experiences Impact Responsible Visitation to Yellowstone National Park: The Exploration of Canyon Village Concessionaire Seasonal Employees*)
- 2022 – Present RHTM Jack Babb. Dissertation Chair (*Music to our (Big) Ears: An exploration of collective effervescence and its effect on the well-being of attendees at Big Ears Festival*)
- 2023 – Present CFS Katie James. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2023 – Present NUTR. Marissa McKeague. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2023 – Present NUTR. Shovon Rahanur Alam. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2023 – Present Swansea University. Louisa Hardwick. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2022 – Present GEOG Seth Kannarr. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2022 – Present GEOG Katrina Finkelstein. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2021 – Present GEOG Reagan Yessler. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2020 – Present GEOG Lindy Westenhoff. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2018 – 2023 RHTM Sarah Frankel. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2020 – 2022 RHTM Dominique Jones. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2019 – 2022 TPTE Liz Garcia. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2019 – 2021 Leadership Studies at Johnson University. Christie Connatser
- 2018 – 2020 RHTM Leslie Cuevas. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2018 – 2020 GEOG, Ethan Bottone. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2017 – 2020 RHTM Thamer Alshammari. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2018 – 2020 GEOG, Jordan Brasher. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2016 – 2020 RHTM, Fateen Alshammari. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2017 – 2020 GEOG, Emma Walcott-Wilson. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2017 – 2018 GEOG Janna Caspersen. Dissertation Committee Member
- 2016 – 2017 RHTM Justin Kaewnopparat. Dissertation Committee Member

MS

- Fall 2023 – Present GEOG Annie Lui. Thesis Committee Member
- Spring 2022 – Present GEOG Kayla Roulhac. Thesis Committee Member
- Spring 2022 – Present GEOG Devyn Kelly. Thesis Committee Member
- Fall 2019 – 2021 GEOG Yaell Uziel. Thesis Committee Member
- Fall 2019 – 2021 GEOG Reagan Yessler. Thesis Committee Member
- Spring 2019 GEOG Robert Walker. Thesis Committee Member

SELECT MENTORING OF STUDENTS

- 2023. Katrina Stack – Directed research
- 2022. Reagan Yessler – Directed research
- 2019. 1794 Research Fellow Program – UTK Miranda Lee, geography undergraduate
- 2017; 2018. UT Educational Advancement Program’s Summer Research Institute: Research Mentor for Chelsea Carpenter & Conchita Ramos
- 2016 –2017. Thesis advisor for Honors Undergraduate HTM Maddie Rule

SELECT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2023. Faculty Mentoring Certificate Program: Teaching, Learning Innovation. UTK
- 2022. Diversity Engagement Series: Inclusive Leadership. UTK
- 2021. Critical Conversation Training. UTK
- 2021. [Critical Race Theory Summer Institute](#). University of South Carolina
- 2021. [Teaching Learning Innovation Inclusive Teaching Seminar](#). UTK
- 2020. Effective Anti-Racist Conversations
- 2020. CEHHS SafeZone training
- 2020. From White Tears to Social Transformation: Antiracism Beyond
- 2020. Academics for Black Survival and Wellness weeklong workshop and series
- 2017 – 2019. 17th Annual Qualitative Research Summer Intensive Virtual Conference- Participated in workshops: [Subjectivity in Qualitative Inquiry: Making Social Research Complex, Ethical, and Accessible](#) & [Teaching and Learning Qualitative Research Methods Principles Through Popular Film Clips](#)
- 2019. Critical Race Symposium: New Perspectives on Research and Scholar
- 2019. Innovative Teaching and Learning Conference
- 2019. TALS Qualitative Writing Retreat
- 2015 – 2019. CIDER Pedagogical Conference – Virginia Tech University
- 2018. Diversi-Tea: Best Practices in Inclusive Teaching
- 2017. Discussing Race in the Classroom with TN Teaching and Learning Center