

Patricia Parker, Ph.D.

Ruel W. Tyson Distinguished Professor of Humanities; Director, Institute for the Arts and Humanities; Professor, Department of Communication, College of Arts and Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC, US

Uses organizational communication theories to explore how discourses of race, gender and class intersect with girls? and women's leadership.

Patricia S. Parker is an associate professor of Communication in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences. She uses decolonizing/participatory research methodologies and critical organizational communication theories to explore how discourses of race, gender and class intersect with girls? and women's leadership, empowerment and agency. While conducting research for a book on the leadership approaches of African-American female executives a few years ago, Parker made the linkage in her mind between the life work of civil and human rights activist Ella Jo Baker, whom she had long admired as an unsung hero, and the personal stories of the executives who cited a grounding in community as being pivotal to their success. The Ella Baker Women's Center for Leadership and Community Activism is part of her evolving vision to promote the continued legacy of transformative leadership by women of color. At UNC, Parker regularly teaches "Communication and Leadership;" "Group Communication;" "Interpretive Studies in Organizational Communication;" and "Seminar in Race, Ethnicity, and Organization." Her honors include: Kauffman Faculty Fellow, 2006-2007; Scholar in Residence, Center for Urban and Regional Studies, 2005; Affiliate Fellow, Institute of African American Research, 2003-present; Burrell Fellow, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, 2002-present. Among Parker's recent publications are: "Race, Gender, and Leadership: Re-envisioning Organizational Leadership from the Perspectives of African American Women Executives;" "Keeping It Real: Race, Difference, and Corporate Ethics at Coca-Cola;" "Always at Risk?: African American Women Faculty, Graduate Students, and Undergraduates." Her upcoming book is "A Primer on Community Engagement and Communication for Social Justice Leadership" (University of California Press, 2020). She is the former Director of Faculty Diversity Initiatives for the College of Arts and Sciences (2012-2015).

Community Engagement, Girl's and Women's Empowerment, Youth Activism, Community Engaged Scholarship, Social Justice Leadership, Organizational Leadership, Organizational Communication

The Ella Baker Women's Center for Leadership : Founder / Executive Director, Founding Partner The Community Chorus Project (2011-2013)

Decolonizing Diversity in the Age of Globalization: Writing against the Persistence of Racialization in Organization Theory and Practice

Annual Meeting of the National Communication Association

"You're Out of Control?: The Normalizing of White Emotional Experience as a Site of Control and Resistance in the Gendered and Racialized Workplace

Gender, Work and Organization: 5th International Interdisciplinary Conference

Community Based Participatory Research with African American Teen Girls in Low Income Communities

Moore Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program Seminar

Creating and Sustaining Diverse Workplaces: Valuing Diversity/Negotiating Difference

Paper presented at the 46th Annual North Carolina City and County Management Seminar

Race, Gender, And Leadership: (En)Countering Discourses that Devalue African American Women as Leaders

27th Alabama Symposium, The Signs of Race Series on Literature, Race, and Ethnicity

University of Texas at Austin

Ph.D. Communication Studies

California State University

M.A. Speech Communication

Arkansas Tech University

B.A. Speech, Theatre, and Journalism

University Diversity Award (Faculty) (2014)

Awarded by UNC Chapel Hill

Academic Leadership Program Fellow, Faculty Fellow and Participant in Chairs Leadership Program

Institute for the Arts and Humanities

Office of the Provost Engaged Scholarship Award in recognition of outstanding engaged teaching (2013)

Awarded by UNC Chapel Hill

Faculty Learning Community on Strategic Planning and Leadership Program Fellow (2012 - 2013)

Awarded by UNC Chapel Hill

Engaged Scholars Service Award

National Communication Association, Organizational Communication Division (2010)

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