

LESSIE BRANCH, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

- 2015** The New School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy (Milano), New York, NY
PhD, Public and Urban Policy
- 2011** **MPhil, Public and Urban Policy**
- 2007** The New School for Social Research, New York, NY
MA, Political Science
- 1990** Fordham University, Bronx, NY
BA, Political Science

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021** Director of Programs Community Relations, Citizens Committee for New York City
- 2020-2022** Inaugural Director- The Think Tank at The Thinkubator, Bronx, NY
- 2020** Adjunct faculty member- St. John Fisher Executive Leadership Program, New Rochelle and Syracuse, NY
- 2019-2021** Chair, Region 1 Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, New York, NY
- 2019-2021** Peer Evaluator, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018-2019** Associate Dean Metropolitan College of New York, School for Business, New York, NY
- 2018-2021** Associate Professor Metropolitan College of New York, School for Business, New York, NY
- Directed aspects of four graduate and three undergraduate degree business programs, including faculty hiring, training, and evaluation; and oversight of student appeals and academic processes.
- 2018** Scholar, Scholars Strategy Network, New York City Chapter, New York, NY
- Research to improve public policy and strengthen democracy.
 - Providing breaking research, new policy ideas, and jargon-free ideas and explainers to journalists on issues of socioeconomic disparities and discourse and rhetoric.
- 2016-2020** Assistant Professor (Adjunct) City University of New York, Queens College, Urban Studies Department, Flushing, NY
- 2016** Fulbright Specialist in Race, Ethnicity and Religion in Politics
- 2015-2020** Senior Research Fellow City University of New York, Medgar Evers College, School for Business and School for Public Administration, DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy, Brooklyn, NY
- 2009-2018** Adjunct Professor, Metropolitan College of New York, School for Business and School for Public Affairs and Administration, New York, NY and Bronx, NY
- 2004-2018** Professor, Department of Social Sciences/School for Business and Accounting, Monroe College, Bronx, NY

COURSES DELIVERED

Leadership and Diversity	Public Economics	Microeconomics
Public Policy, Law & Ethics	Urban Poverty and Affluence	Political Science
Introduction to Public Policy	Race, Ethnicity and Immigration	Government and Business
Contemporary Social Issues	Urban Diversity	Political Economy and Philosophy

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race and class disparities, stratification economics, racial equity and socioeconomic policy, political psychology, political and racial rhetoric and discourse

CONSULTING

- 2020 – 2021** Programs Community Relations Consultant to Citizens Committee for New York City, New York, New York
- 2015** Academic Program Consultant to Westchester Community College, Valhalla, New York

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Branch, L. (June, 2021). *Don't Believe the Hype: HBCUs and MSIs Are Still Necessary to Black Political and Socioeconomic Development and Advancement*. In Reimagining Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Survival Beyond 2020. Gary B. Crosby, Khalid A. White, Marcus A. Chanay and Adriel A. Hilton (Eds). Emerald Publishing, Great Debates in Higher Education series.

Branch, Lessie. "Optimism At All Costs: Black Attitudes, Activism, and Advancement in Obama's America" at University of Massachusetts Press (April, 2018)

ARTICLES

Branch, Lessie, January 2022. This tragedy defines us, but it doesn't have to! <https://www.bxtimes.com/op-ed-this-tragedy-defines-us/>

Branch, Lessie, January 2022. Don't miss your moment! <https://www.bxtimes.com/op-ed-dont-miss-your-moment/>

Branch, Lessie, June 2021. Even 100 Years Later, It's Not Too Late to Repair the History of Black Harm <https://blavity.com/even-100-years-later-its-not-too-late-to-repair-the-history-of-black-harm?category1=opinion>

Branch, Lessie, August 2020. Why the Bright Future for Black Women in Politics is Happening Now <https://blavity.com/why-the-bright-future-for-black-women-in-politics-is-happening-now?category1=opinion&category2=politics>

Branch, Lessie, August 2020. The United States of America is Becoming a Failed State <https://www.gothamgazette.com/columnists/other/130-opinion/9669-united-states-of-america-becoming-failed-state-trump-biden-2020>

Branch, Lessie, July 2020. The Black Lives Matter Affirmation is not Denigrating Fifth Avenue, Trump and the Vandals Are <https://blavity.com/the-black-lives-matter-affirmation-is-not-denigrating-fifth-avenue-trump-and-the-vandals-are?category1=opinion>

Branch, Lessie and Pope, TyRon, July 2020. Why All Karens Should Be Held Accountable When Making False Claims Against Black People <https://blavity.com/why-all-karens-should-be-held-accountable-when-making-false-claims-against-black-people?category1=opinion>

Summers, Edward, Branch, Lessie and Hilton, Adriel, June 2020. Stepping Away from the Brink: COVID-19 Pushed <https://diverseeducation.com/article/181489/>

Branch, Lessie and Thomas, Stacy Y, June 2020. For Those Who Are Confused, Here's 'What's Going On' With the Change Happening Around You <https://blavity.com/for-those-who-are-confused-heres-whats-going-on-with-the-change-happening-around-you?category1=opinion>

Branch, Lessie, June 2020. Why White Fragility is and Always Has Been, the Roadblock Towards Real Change <https://blavity.com/why-white-fragility-is-and-has-always-been-the-roadblock-towards-real-change?category1=opinion&subCat=news&category2=news>

Summers, Edward, Branch, Lessie and Hilton, Adriel, March 2020. Stepping Away from the Brink: Part VII: Faculty and the Academy <https://diverseeducation.com/article/169464/>

Branch, Lessie and Harris, Rahsaan, January 2020. Big Money And Its Impact on Candidates of Color In the 2020 Race. <https://blavity.com/big-money-and-its-impact-on-candidates-of-color-in-the-2020-race?category1=politics>

Summers, Edward, Hilton, Adriel and Branch, Lessie, January 2020. Stepping Away from the Brink: Part VI: Community Colleges and their Important Role in a More Equitable World <https://diverseeducation.com/article/163312/>

Summers, Edward and Branch, Lessie, December 2019. The Bronx Economy, Economic Growth and Opportunity Challenge. Under review. https://www.thisisthebronx.info/weekday_magazine

Branch, Lessie and Summers, Edward, December 2019. "School Choice and Bronx Gentrification." <https://www.thisisthebronx.info/weekday-magazine-school-choice-and-bronx-gentrification/>

Branch, Lessie, Summers, Edward, and Hilton, Adriel, December 2019. "Stepping Away From the Brink, Part V: The Call to Action for HBCUs." <https://diverseeducation.com/article/161611/>

Summers, Edward Hilton, Adriel and Branch, Lessie, October 2019. "Stepping Away From the Brink, Part IV: The Access and Affordability Challenge." <https://diverseeducation.com/article/157158/>

Summers, Edward Hilton, Adriel and Branch, Lessie, September 2019. "Stepping Away From the Brink, Part III: Board Governance." <https://diverseeducation.com/article/154723/>

Summers, Edward; Hilton, Adriel and Branch, Lessie, August 2019. "Stepping Away From the Brink, Part II: Presidential Leadership." <https://diverseeducation.com/article/151139/>

Summers, Edward and Branch, Lessie. May 2019. "Is the Bronx the Next College Town?" <http://www.thisisthebronx.info/weekday-magazine-is-the-bronx-the-next-college-town/>

Branch, Lessie and Summers, Edward. April 2019. "Can Any Good Thing Come From the Bronx?" https://digital-editions.qns.com/BT04122019/page_13.html

Branch, Lessie, 2016. "Reexamining the 'Obama Effect': How Barack Obama Spread Optimistic Colorblindness in the Age of Inequality" *The Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric*, 6 (3/4): 99-111

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Barbot, Oxiris, Bedell, Jane, Branch, Lessie and Nunez, Denise, July 2020. Health Disparities and COVID-19 in the Bronx: Challenges to Life and Health in Our Communities https://youtu.be/xf_rnJunXH4
Branch, Lessie, Harris, Rahsaan, Jackson, Joey, and Rascoe, Malynda, July 2020. No More! Black Folk Are Done with the Bowing and Meek Obeisance Townhall <https://youtu.be/-5Ij9GXoxhI>

Branch, Lessie and Scott-McFadden, Marricka, January 2020. Census 2020 <https://youtu.be/1gFNdN0GNT8>
Branch, Lessie and Summers, Edward, October 2019. The Borough of Universities.
<https://www.bronxnet.org/watch/videos/8181/>

New Books Network Podcast, Optimism At All Costs: Black Attitudes, Activism and Advancement in Obama's America August 17, 2018 <https://newbooksnetwork.com/lessie-b-branch-optimism-at-all-costs-black-attitudes-activism-and-advancement-in-obamas-america-u-massachusetts-press-2018/>

Scholars Strategy Network, Social Knowledge, the Rhetoric of Public Policy, and Black Progress in America, July 2018 <https://scholars.org/brief/social-knowledge-rhetoric-public-policy-and-black-progress-america>

WERS, You Are Here, The Legacy of President Obama's Race Rhetoric Emerson College, November 2, 2016 <https://soundcloud.com/889-wers/obama>

Branch, Lessie. Elisabeth Hasselbeck, Fox, and "Hate Group" Labels Racism Review Blog
<http://www.racismreview.com/blog/2015/09/06/elisabeth-hasselbeck-fox-and-hate-grouplabels/>

Branch, Lessie. The Epidemic of Colorblindness Racism Review Blog
<http://www.racismreview.com/blog/2015/07/08/the-epidemic-of-colorblindness/>

Branch, Lessie. Race and the Ghost of Jim Crow Racism Review Blog
<http://www.racismreview.com/blog/2015/07/02/race-and-the-ghost-of-jim-crow/>

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2006-2008 The New School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy Doctoral Fellowship
2005-2006 Earned a place on the *National Dean's List*
2004-2006 The New School for Social Research Scholarship

PUBLIC SPEAKING PRESENTATIONS

Branch Lessie and Michael G. Miller. 2018. "Race and Money-in-Politics." New York, New York.
<https://civichall.org/eventbrite-event/race-and-money-in-politics-with-scholars-strategy-network-and-sludge/>

Branch, Lessie, Ron Busby, John William Templeton and Timothy Turane. 2018. "Black Wealth 2020." New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus. Albany, New York

Branch, Lessie, Bruce Miroff. 2017 "Was President Obama's Time in Office Fruitful or Fruitless? The Sanders Report, Albany, New York

Branch, Lessie, Diedre Owens, James Sanders, Alfonso Wyatt. 2017. "Was President Obama's Time in Office Fruitful or Fruitless? Debate Sponsored by NYS Senator James Sanders Jr. Jamaica, New York

Branch, Lessie. 2016. "Narrative Matters: What's Your Story." TEDx Bergen Community College. Paramus, New Jersey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMTi-2bHAr0>

Branch, Lessie. 2012. "Entrepreneurship, An Update." Cuttington University Alumni Association of the Americas Annual Reunion. Lawrenceville, Georgia

Branch, Lessie. 2012. "Economic Development: Helping to Rebuild Liberian Post-War Economy, One Entrepreneur at a Time." Cuttington University Alumni Association of the Americas. East Providence, Rhode Island

Branch, Lessie. 2011. "The Importance of Education." Come to the River Conference, sponsored by Joshua's House. New Rochelle, New York

PAPERS

Branch, Lessie. 2015. "Race and Inequality in the Obama Era and Beyond." Association of Black Sociologists Conference. Chicago, Illinois

Branch, Lessie. 2017. "Black Scholarship Matters: Intellectualism, Race, and the Public Sphere." Black Doctoral Network Conference. Atlanta, Georgia

Branch, Lessie. 2018. "The New Black Sociologist." Association of Black Sociologists Conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

CAMPUS/DEPARTMENT TALKS

Branch, Lessie, Britany Dixon, Clyde Griffin. 2019. "Juneteenth: Remembering Our Past – Reuniting Our Families – Celebrating Our Generations

Branch, Lessie. 2013. "Who Am I? Knowing Your Gifts and Pursing Your Passion." CEO Club of Monroe College. Bronx, New York

PROFESSIONAL/UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2020	Board Member The Thinkubator
2019	Executive Mentor for doctoral student at Saint John Fisher, Ed.D. Program
2019-2021	Member, Library Committee
2018-2019	Member, School for Business Advisory Board
2018-2019	Faculty Member, School for Business, Alumni Association
2018-2019	Member, Budget Committee
2018-2019	Member, Purpose Centered Education
2018-2019	Member, Curriculum Committee
2018-2019	Member, Academic Policies and Standards Committee
2018-2019	Member, Distance/E-Learning Committee
2018-2019	Member, Faculty Standards Committee
2018-2019	Member, Faculty Assessment and Compensation Committee
2018-2021	Member, Grievance Committee
2018-2021	Member, Faculty Hiring Committee
2018-2019	Member, Academic Standards and Assessment Committee
2017	Book Reviewer for Roman and Littlefield International
2017	Peer Reviewer for The Black Scholar Journal of Black Studies and Research

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Black Sociologists
Black Doctoral Network
National Conference of Black Political Scientists