

Starita Smith, Ph.D.  
3428 Thrush Dr.  
Irving, TX 75062  
(940) 367-0984  
[Sas0002@dcccd.edu](mailto:Sas0002@dcccd.edu); [starita723@hotmail.com](mailto:starita723@hotmail.com); [smithstarita493@gmail.com](mailto:smithstarita493@gmail.com)

## Education

University of North Texas, Denton, TX  
**Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology** **2012**  
Dissertation: “‘What are you?’: Racial Ambiguity and the Social Construction of Race in the U.S.”

Texas Woman’s University, Denton, TX  
**Ph.D. student in sociology** **2002-2003**

University of North Texas, Denton, TX  
**Master of Arts, English** **2002**  
Thesis: “Neckbones and Sauerfowches: From Fractured Childhood in the Ghetto to Constantly Changing Womanhood in the World”

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN  
**Graduate student in journalism** **1977-1979**

Knoxville College, Knoxville, TN  
**Bachelor of Arts, Spanish** **1970**  
Minor: French  
Summa cum Laude

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA **Summers of 1969 and 1970**

## Awards

- Research Assistant, Sociology Department **2010**
- Teaching Fellow, Sociology Department **2004- 2009**
- Oxford Round Table **2006**
- *Dallas Morning News* Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference Scholarship **2006**
- Teaching Fellow, English Department **2001-2002**
- National Education Writers Association Fellowship **1995-1996**
- Knight Center for Specialized Journalism Fellowship **1993**
- Knight Center for Specialized Journalism Fellowship **1990**
- Hilton A. Smith Fellowship **1978-1979**

## Teaching Experience

Dallas County Community College District, North Lake College, Irving, TX <b>Adjunct Professor</b> ENGL 1302, Composition II, dual credit	<b>2019</b>
. <b>Adjunct Professor</b> “Introduction to Sociology”	<b>2017</b>
North Carolina Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, NC <b>Adjunct Professor</b> “Sociology of the Workplace” “Sociological Principles”	<b>2015-2016</b>
University of North Texas, Denton, TX <b>Instructor</b> – “Race and Ethnic Minorities in the U.S.” “Sociological Theory” “Race and Ethnic Minorities” “Race, Ethnicity, Class, Gender, and Sexuality” “Sociology of Work” “Community Organization” “Sociology of Marriage and Family” “Social Psychology” “Collective Behavior and Social Movements” “Introduction to Sociology” Developed syllabi and overall course structure, and administered grades	<b>2004 -2012</b>
North Central Texas College, Corinth, TX <b>Adjunct Professor</b> – “College Writing” “Introduction to Literature” “Creative Writing” “Advanced Creative Writing” Developed syllabus and overall course structure, and administered grades	<b>2001-2007</b>
University of North Texas, Denton, TX <b>Instructor</b> – “Fiction Writing”	<b>2003</b>
North Central Texas College, Gainesville, TX <b>Adjunct Professor</b> -- “Creative Writing”	<b>2004-2006</b>
University of North Texas, Denton, TX <b>Tutor-Grader</b> -- Sociology Department Office	<b>2003-2004</b>
Texas Woman’s University, Denton, TX	

**Graduate Assistant** – in the university writing center  
Helped students improve their writing skills **2002-2003**

University of North Texas, Denton, TX  
**Teaching Assistant** -- to several professors in "World Literature" **2000-2001**

University of North Texas, Denton, TX  
**Tutor** **2000-2002**  
Helped students who had not passed placement exams prepare for standardized writing tests

### **Career Experience**

Progressive Media Project, Madison, WI  
**Columnist** **1998-present**  
Write opinion columns on current events that are published in newspapers throughout the nation. Recent columns have been published in such newspapers as *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Island Packet*, *The Anchorage Daily News*, *The Hartford Courant*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *The Toronto Star*, *Virgin Islands Daily News*, and others

**Blogged at** [www.colorfulcommentary.org](http://www.colorfulcommentary.org) **2013-2014**

**Freelance Journalist** **1998-2001**  
Articles published in various publications, including *Community College Week*, *Black Issues in Higher Education (now Diverse Issues in Higher Education)*, *Moderna*, *Newswatch*, and others. Was editor of *The Dallas Examiner*, a weekly African American newspaper

*Austin American-Statesman*, Austin, TX  
**Editor and reporter** **1988-1997**  
Managed suburban reporters, covered local schools and colleges, race relations, immigration issues

*The Dispatch*, Columbus, OH  
**Editor and reporter** **1982-1988**  
Managed an office that produced a weekly tabloid of neighborhood news, covered a variety of local stories

*The Post-Tribune*, Gary, IN  
**General Assignment Reporter** **1979-1982**  
Covered pressure groups, police and fire departments, and many other local stories

Connecticut General Insurance Co., Bloomfield, CT

**Communications and Technical Assistant**

**1974-1977**

Solved problems with administration of corporate pension plans, created employee training program, manual and newsletter, facilitated meetings of managers

**Publications and Papers**

- “A Southern Route of the Underground Railroad” published in the Texas Black History Preservation Project, [www.tbhpp.org](http://www.tbhpp.org) (July 2, 2014)
- “A Trip to Richmond” published on The Feminist Wire, [www.thefeministwire.com](http://www.thefeministwire.com) (Aug. 27, 2013)
- “*What Are You?: Racial Ambiguity and the Social Construction of Race in the U.S.* (dissertation) published in *Mixed Race Studies: Scholarly Perspectives on Mixed Race*, [www.mixedracestudies.org](http://www.mixedracestudies.org) (Jan. 9, 2013)
- With Philip Q. Yang, “Trends in Black-White Church Integration,” published in *Ethnic Studies Review* (2009) 32.1:1
- “Trends in Black-White Church Integration”  
Paper presented to the American Sociological Association, New York City, 2007
- “The Coming American Racial Hierarchy” in *Investigating Diversity: Race, Ethnicity and Beyond* published by Linton Atlantic Books, Nashville, TN, 2008.
- “The Coming American Racial Hierarchy”  
Paper presented to the Oxford Round Table, Oxford University, Oxford, England, 2006
- “Eleven O’Clock on Sunday: Black-White Church Integration”  
Paper presented to the Southwest Social Sciences Association, San Antonio, 2003
- “In his Rightful Place”  
Article published in *UU World* magazine, May/June 2002
- “Experiences of the ‘Other’ in Journalism”  
Panel presented to a conference on diversity in education at Stephen F. Austin University, Nacogdoches, TX, 2001
- “The Long Walk”  
Short story published in *North Texas Review*, Spring 2001

**Languages**

English – native language

Spanish, French – speak, read and write.

**Community Service**

- Participated in #blacklivesmatter and Mothers Against Police Brutality demonstrations in Austin and Dallas, TX
- Testified at the Texas Senate against a bill to limit healthcare, including abortions, for poor and working poor families, as well as those who live in small towns and rural areas, 2013

- American Association of Retired Persons volunteer lobbying Denton City Council, state legislators and congressional representatives against predatory lending and for Social Security and Medicare, 2009-present
- Panelist in University of North Texas New Graduate Student Orientation, 2008
- Student representative on University of North Texas-Texas Woman's University-Texas A&M University, Commerce Graduate Federation, 2008
- Volunteer at the Red Cross to help Katrina survivors, 2005
- **First Unitarian-Universalist Church, (Cincinnati, OH) Racial Reconciliation project, 2001-present**
- Reader for *The American Literary Review*, 2000-2002
- Volunteer counselor Texas Runaway Hotline, 1997-1998
- Volunteer at Faith Home for Babies and Children with HIV/AIDS, 1995

### **Professional Memberships**

- American Sociological Association
- Alpha Kappa Delta, sociology honor society
- Formerly, National Association of Black Journalists
- Formerly, Society of Professional Journalists