

# Koritha Mitchell

award-winning author,  
cultural critic, runner

@ProfKori



*Many ways to succeed. Find yours.*



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Koritha Mitchell, PhD (*Koritha* sounds like *Aretha*)

is an award-winning author, cultural critic, runner, and professional development expert. Her study *Living with Lynching: African American Lynching Plays, Performance, and Citizenship, 1890-1930* won book awards from the American Theatre and Drama Society and from the Society for the Study of American Women Writers. Her scholarly articles include "James Baldwin, Performance Theorist, Sings the *Blues for Mister Charlie*," which appears in *American Quarterly*, and "Love in Action," which draws parallels between racial violence at the last turn of the century and anti-LGBT violence today (published by *Callaloo*). In March 2014, Koritha spoke at the Library of Congress and received a Certificate of Congressional Recognition. The lecture aired on C-Span's BookTV and is part of their online video library.



Koritha's professional development expertise has long been recognized. She has been asked to provide guidance to students and professors by various types of institutions, including the Ford Foundation, the American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Lehigh University, Kenyon College, and Vanderbilt University. She curated a slate of 9 to 15 professional development workshops for ASTR's 2011, 2012, and 2013 annual conferences, and she is a regional liaison for Ford Fellows, with primary mentoring responsibility for scholars in Ohio, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania. In addition to serving as external reviewer for tenure dossiers, she has chaired or served on committees to select the winners of essay awards, book awards, and postdoctoral fellowships. She has also mentored professors who earned research support from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

Koritha has given lectures at many universities and community centers, including Columbia University, Northwestern University, Bates College, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Atlanta Cyclorama & Civil War Museum, and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Her commentary has appeared in publications such as *The Washington Post*, *ColorLines*, and *The Feminist Wire*, and she has appeared on radio, television, and media podcasts. Currently an associate professor of English at Ohio State University, Koritha grew up near Houston, Texas; earned her BA from Ohio Wesleyan University; and earned her MA and PhD at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Koritha also founded the Columbus, Ohio, chapter of *Black Girls RUN!*, a national organization encouraging women to make fitness and healthy living a priority.

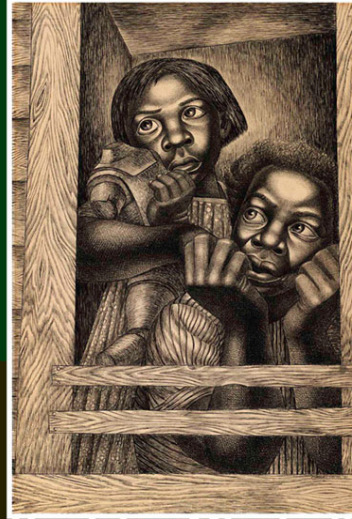
On Twitter, she's @ProfKori.

# WORKSHOPS

## Writing & Publishing Your First Scholarly Book

Given from the author's point of view, this workshop empowers scholars to complete the writing of their first major research project and find the best outlet for their work. It addresses questions regarding what to send as a book proposal; whether and how to propose to more than one acquisitions editor simultaneously; the difference between an acquisitions editor and book series editor; what to expect between manuscript submission and publication; strategies for responding to reader reports; the implications of having one's book immediately released in paper and ebook; what one might be able to negotiate in a publishing contract; and much more.

## LIVING WITH



## LYNCHING

African American  
Lynching Plays,  
Performance,  
and Citizenship,  
1890–1930

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## Public Scholarship: Reaching Broader Audiences

After devoting so much time and energy to earning a degree and building expertise, scholars have much to offer the public, but reaching audiences outside of one's field often seems impossible. This workshop empowers attendees to share their expertise in the public sphere. It offers strategies for leveraging social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, and offers suggestions based on experience with newspapers, radio, and television. Acknowledging both the advantages and disadvantages of engaging wider publics, this workshop also helps attendees identify the etiquette of different spaces, so it benefits those who have not yet decided whether they want to venture into the public sphere as well as those who already have and want additional strategies.

## Join the Nerd Herd: Ready, Set, Run + Write

Scholars want to be productive writers, and we know that physical activity is important for basic health. Too often, though, our writing productivity is non-existent. At other times, we write energetically but our health suffers as we sacrifice not only exercise but also sleep. This workshop empowers scholars to use exercise to improve research productivity. Because running changed Koritha's life, she loves sharing it, and having founded the Columbus, Ohio, chapter of *Black Girls RUN!* taught her how to guide people who don't see themselves as athletes to develop consistent workout routines. Though running is the primary example, and distributed training programs focus on walking and running, the principles can be applied to one's chosen physical activity.

## Surviving and Thriving in College, Graduate School, and Beyond

As the first in her family to attend college, Koritha understands that the knowledge needed to succeed in various environments may seem like common sense, but it is anything but natural or self-evident. She enjoys equipping audiences with information that demystifies the challenges they may encounter in college and in different stages of graduate study. The workshop can be tailored to address high school students, college students, or graduate students. It offers strategies for maximizing local and national resources; creating community; and networking so that students gain exposure to the many ways in which they can contribute to society and find joy while doing so.

## TESTIMONIALS

Koritha Mitchell is a powerful public speaker, able to engage a mixed audience—of undergraduates, graduate students, and senior faculty and university administrators representing a broad range of academic disciplines—with facility. Her background in performance studies is no doubt an advantage in this regard: she *commands* an audience's attention, performs her research expertise in a thoroughly dynamic way, never simply talking "at" an audience but instead inspiring high-level intellectual engagement. A public intellectual in the tradition of Cornel West and Khalil Gibran Muhammad.

- Ann Ardis, Deputy Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Delaware

Koritha Mitchell was the best speaker our university has ever had. She combines relevancy, academic seriousness, and a rare ability to entertain and inspire her audience. She is also a charming and personable guest who enlivens the social events surrounding talks. She is the ideal speaker, not just for campus events but also larger public events as she knows how to mold her topic to her audience. Her scholarly work is vital to national social and political concerns and she can speak in an accessible way on issues of race, history, gender, art, memory, and related academic fields.

*- John Patrick Daly, Associate Professor of History  
State University of New York, College at Brockport*

Dr. Mitchell's presentation at Kenyon was the perfect mix of advice, support and personal experience about how to get your book published. [. . .] This presentation was geared toward new faculty but it would be appropriate for any faculty member writing their first book or just needing a little extra push to finish a writing project. Faculty found her inspiring, encouraging, and very knowledgeable. She showed personal interest in their work and tailored her comments to their needs. Dr. Mitchell brings enthusiasm, warmth, and a wealth of knowledge to her talks. I have already recommended her to colleagues at other institutions who work in the area of faculty development.

*- Jan Thomas, Associate Provost, Kenyon College*

I first heard Koritha Mitchell speak at Columbia University in December 2011. As a filmmaker who cares deeply about history, I thought I had command of certain subjects, but Koritha's talks always remind me that it is a gift to hear from erudite scholars like her. My work allows me to speak across numerous platforms. After witnessing Koritha's presentations, I have borrowed a few of her techniques. She has been very generous with her knowledge.

*- André Robert Lee, Film and Television Director and Producer  
Credits include The Prep School Negro*



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