

Dr. Melanie Bratcher is an Associate Professor in the African and African American Studies at the University of Oklahoma. She received her Ph.D. from Temple University, her M.A. from Temple University and her B.S. from Langston University. Dr. Bratcher has been a part of the AFAM program since 2002.

She has written several articles, contributed a chapter in an African American Studies book and authored The Words and Songs of Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Nina Simone: Sound Motion, Blues Spirit and African Memory.

Dr. Bratcher has participated in numerous conferences and given several presentations. Her latest presentation was at the 2013 NCBS conference which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana on March 13-16, 2013. Scholars in Black Studies gathered from all parts of the world to attend this meeting. Dr. Bratcher presented on a panel entitled: Music, Dance and Aesthetics of the Diaspora. She talked about Ka Ba: An Aesthetic Analysis of Sacred Sounds in Motion. She demonstrated and discussed how the two dance movements are representative of pedagogical and methodological process (es) and practices in Afrocentric teaching and research.

She is also active in the community- at-large. Her fields of interest include: African Aesthetics; African and African American Artistic Culture – Dance and Song forms; African Dance and healing; African Dance and Mathematics; African American folk/ Proverbial Culture; homeopathy; African Spiritual Systems and African Philosophy.

We are so glad that she is a part of AFAM and extremely excited about her tenure track position.