

Sierra Austin, PhD

Dr. Sierra J. Austin is a graduate of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at The Ohio State University, with a focus on race and social justice. She also graduated with an interdisciplinary specialization in Latino/a Studies. Sierra's research (done in Columbus City Schools), activism and work focus on education equity and prioritizes operationalizing intersectional approaches to social change.

Her most recent publications appear in *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society* and *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's, Studies*, respectively. Sierra is the recipient of several grants awarded by the National Women's Studies Association, OSU's Department of Women's and Gender Studies, the Council of Graduate Students, the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, and the University of Texas at San Antonio. She has presented original research both domestically and abroad, including in Spain and various parts of the UK.

Sierra received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Media Communications from Wilberforce University (the nation's oldest private HBCU), and a Master of Arts degree in Women's and Gender Studies from The Ohio State University. She has also studied at the University of Westminster in London, England. Sierra has served as a lecturer at The Ohio State University, where she was nominated for an Outstanding Faculty Award, and Purdue University Fort Wayne. She currently holds a faculty appointment at Columbus College of Art & Design in the Writing, Literature and Philosophy Department.

In the K-12 space, Sierra has designed and taught curriculum for social justice elective course offerings and has served as a consultant for several equity and empowerment programs. She currently serves as Regional School Improvement Coordinator for Diversity and Equity at the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio.

Sierra is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, the Wilberforce University Alumni Association, and the YWCA Columbus Alumni Committee. Sierra serves on the board of directors for the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, and was recently named a Deloitte Tax "Rising Star," a recognition for up-and-coming women leaders in Central Ohio.

Sierra currently lives in Columbus with her partner Don and two-year-old daughter, Ryleigh.