

I. MALIK SAAFIR
admin@imaliksaafir.com

EDUCATION

Degrees

- 2009 – 2012 University of Arkansas at Little Rock, M.Ed.
Adult Education Primary Areas: Critical Pedagogy, Spirituality,
& Transformative Learning
- 2004 – 2008 Vanderbilt University, M.Div. (Master of Divinity)
Religious Studies Primary Areas: Africana Philosophy & Religion Ethics,
& Postcolonial Biblical Criticism
- 1998 – 2004 University of Arkansas at Little Rock, BA.
Philosophy Primary Areas: Africana Philosophy & Religion
- 1998 – 2004 University of Arkansas at Little Rock, BA.
History Primary Areas: Africana & Latin American History

Certifications & Trainings

Permaculture Design, Certified by Stone River Design
Organizing For Social Change, Certified by Midwest Academy
Art of Leadership for Southern Leadership, Certified by Rockwood Institute
Climate Reality Leadership Corps Training, Certified by Climate Reality Project
Compassion Cultivation Training For Clergy, Facilitated by Compassion Institution

Scholarships and Fellowships

Kelly Miller Smith Scholarship, Sponsored by Vanderbilt University
Ronald E. McNair Scholarship, Sponsored by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR)
Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship, Sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Toyota Corporation
GreenFaith Fellowship, Sponsored by GreenFaith and Interfaith Power & Light

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Faculty

- 2019 - 2020 **Adjunct Instructor**, Philosophy & Religion, University of Central
Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas.
Undergraduate Courses Taught: Gender, Race, & Class: Philosophical Issues
- 2018 - 2020 **Philosophy Instructor**, Philosophy & Religion, Philander Smith College,
Little Rock, Arkansas.
Undergraduate Courses Taught: Applied Ethics, Ethics In Society, Moral Theory &
Ethical Applications, Critical & Affective Thinking, Introduction to Epistemology (Race),
Advance Studies in World Religions (Zen Buddhism), Introduction to Social Justice,

Advance Studies in Philosophy (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. & Environmental Justice),
Black Liberation Theory (Dr. James Cone)

2012 - 2017 **Adjunct Instructor**, Philosophy & Religion, Philander Smith College,
Little Rock, Arkansas.
Undergraduate Courses Taught: Survey of World Religions, Ethics In Society,
Critical & Affective Thinking

2014 - 2015 **Visiting Lecturer**, Africana/African American Studies, University of
Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas.
Undergraduate Courses Taught: Introduction to Africana/African American Studies

2011 - 2013 **Adjunct Instructor**, Philosophy & Religion, University of Central
Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas.
Undergraduate Courses Taught: History of World Religions

Administration

2017 - 2018 **Dean of Chapel & Religious Life**, Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committees

2018 - 2020 **Chair**, Philander Smith College, Budget Committee
2018 - 2020 **Chair**, Philander Smith College, Research & Sabbatical Committee
2017 - 2018 **Chair**, Arkansas Baptist College, Mission Statement Committee
2017 - 2018 **Chair**, Arkansas Baptist College, Academic Service-Learning Committee
2017 - 2018 **Chair**, Arkansas Baptist College, Religious & Spiritual Life Council

EDUCATION & TRAINING EXPERIENCE

2024 - Present **Disaster Workforce Engagement Manager**, American Red Cross, Kentucky Region
2021 - 2022 **Strategist & Career Coach**, Arkansas Workforce - Adult Education, Arkansas
2018 - 2020 **Education & Training Associate**, GreenFaith, Highland Park, New Jersey.
2009 - 2017 **President & Founder**, Janus Institute For Justice, Little Rock, Arkansas.
2005 - 2008 **Company Commander**, 100th Division Institutional Training, Nashville, Tennessee.

RESEARCH AREAS

Philosophy

Africana Philosophy, Philosophy of Education, Philosophy of Religion, Continental Philosophy, Philosophical
Mysticism

Religion

Africana Religions, Black Theology, Latin American Theology, Womanist Theology, Postcolonial Theology,
Postcolonial Biblical Criticism

I. Malik Saafir

Psychology

Psychology of Race, Psychology of Religion, Psychology of Culture

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

Saafir, I. M. (2020). Performance pedagogy and the theater of justice. In *The SAGE handbook of critical pedagogies*. SAGE Publishing.

Saafir, I.M., (2012). Rhythm, rhyme, reel, resistance: Transformative learning using african american popular culture. In C.B. Boden McGill & S.K. Kippers (Eds.) *Pathways to transformative learning in relationship*. Charlotte, North Carolina: Information Age Publishing, Inc.

CONFERENCES (SELECTED)

Attendance

Attendee, "The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding, Reconciliation, and Change," The Parliament of the World's Religions, Toronto, Canada, November 2018.

Organizer

Co-Organizer, "Take A Knee Rally," Sponsored by Indivisible Little Rock and Central Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas, June 2020.

Co-Organizer, "Leading The Charge: Fighting Implicit Racial Bias Inside & Out," Sponsored by UALR William H. Bowen School of Law and UALR Institute on Race & Ethnicity, Little Rock, Arkansas, April 2019.

Co-Organizer, "Reveal, Restore and Resurrect The Truth About Racial Disparities in the Arkansas Criminal Justice System," Sponsored by UALR William H. Bowen School of Law and UALR Institute on Race & Ethnicity, Little Rock, Arkansas, August 2015.

Co-Organizer, "U.S. EPA Region 6 Environmental Justice Workshop," Sponsored by Janus Institute For Justice and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Little Rock, Arkansas, June 2015.

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

Panelist, "Childhood Across Culture: Boyz N The Hood," Sponsored by The Reel Thinking Series of the Alliance for Psychoanalytic Thought, Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 2018.

Presenter, "Faith, The Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability," Sponsored by Creating A Climate For Change Conference and Southern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology, Florence, South Carolina, October 2018.

Panelist, "Environmental Policy Summit," Sponsored by Arkansas Public Policy Panel, Sierra Club, Arkansas Audubon, and Pulaski Tech College, Little Rock, Arkansas, October 2018.

Panelist, “Renewable Energy: The New Social Justice Frontier,” Sponsored by Arkansas Legislative Black Caucus and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, September 2018.

Panelist, “Interfaith Conversation on Social Movements,” Sponsored by Arkansas Peace Week and Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas, September 2018.

Panelist, “GreenFaith & the Environmental Justice Movement,” Sponsored by Interfaith Fellowship of Arkansas Meeting, Fort Smith, Arkansas, July 2018.

Panelist, “An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power,” Sponsored by Sierra Club, Little Rock, Arkansas, August 2017.

Moderator, “#BlackLivesMatter In The Media,” Philander Smith College and the National Park Service & Central High National Historic Site, Little Rock, Arkansas, September 2016.

Presenter, “Environmental Justice and the African American Community,” Sponsored by Walton Arts & Ideas Series, University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Arkansas, February 2015.

Panelist, “Ain’t I A Man? If I Act Like A Woman and Think Like A Man,” Sponsored by Department of Philosophy & Religion, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas, September 2012.

Panelist, “Eco-Equity and Environmental Racism and Social Justice,” Sponsored by Center for Community Philanthropy, University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, Little Rock, Arkansas, April 2011.

Presenter, “Environmental Justice and Empowering Communities,” Sponsored by City of North Little Rock and Pulaski County Brownfield, North Little Rock, Arkansas, October 2010.

Panelist, “Rethinking W.E.B Dubois Conception of the Talented Tenth,” Sponsored by Talented Tenth, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, November 2009.

Panelist, “Recovering A Nation One Community At A Time: Ecumenical Community Panel,” Sponsored by Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, Arkansas, May 2009.

Panelist, “Beyond Our Differences: Ecumenical Community Panel,” Sponsored by Faulkner County Library, Conway, Arkansas, May 2009.

Presenter, “Bridging the Gap Between Islam and Christianity: Social Justice as Common Ground,” Sponsored by Humanity, Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas, April 2009.

Presenter, “Inventions of Difference: Black Christian and Black Muslim Theology,” Sponsored by Marshall T. Steel Center for the Study of Religion and Philosophy, Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas, February 2009.

Panelist, “Losing or Refinishing the Buckle on the Bible Belt?” Sponsored by Socratic Society, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas, April 2009.

Panelist, “Arkansas Community Engagement Models and Strategies,” Sponsored by Mosaic: Center for Nonprofit Development & Pluralism and Advocates for Children & Families, Little Rock, Arkansas, July 2008.

Presenter, “Pastoral Ethics and HIV/AIDS,” American Baptist College, Nashville, Tennessee, February 2008.

ADVOCACY

National

Advocate, “BUILD Act,” Sponsored by The ONE Campaign, Capitol Hill, Washington, District of Columbia, February 2018.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2020 - 2021 Commissioner, Little Rock Sustainability Commission, City of Little Rock
2011 - 2021 UALR William H. Bowen School of Law Racial Disparities in the Arkansas Criminal Justice System Research Project Steering Committee
2018 - 2020 Multi-Faith Justice Working Group, Philander Smith College Social Justice Institute & Auburn Seminary
2012 - 2013 Community Advisory Board, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Arkansas Center for Health Disparities
2009 - 2013 Clergy Advisory Board, United Methodist Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence

RECOGNITIONS

Awards

Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns Interfaith Award
Army Training Officer of the Quarter Award

Medals

Armed Forces Reserve Medal
Army Achievement Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Service Medal