

I can't be bothered... um, quite honestly. I can't be bothered to try and make people like me, um, which is a dangerous game to play in a context where that is necessary to keep your job. At the same time though, I am very clear about that, right? I'm very clear about, there are moments where I need to play nice. And then there are moments where I take precedence. So, thinking about marketability... for me, it's not so much about making myself palatable or acceptable or whatever. It's more about letting people know who I am when I walk in the door. That for me is extremely important. And... thankfully, this is why I'm so grateful for this position in particular, because it's in my job title. It's in my job title that I am a Black Study Scholar, and that that's very important because that means that they already know that I will be the one, I will be one of the ones, naming anti-Blackness, naming anti-Indigenous issues, and thankfully I'm not the only person, uh, thinking about Indigeneity and Decolonialism and anti-Blackness in this department. Um, but it's in my job title. And so that, to me, also serves as a shield. And so, it also means that I don't need to do much to make myself marketable because everything I do in some way relates to Black Studies.

And then for the rest, again, can't be bothered. I can't be bothered. What I wear, how I speak, how I present myself to the world, how I do my research, how I interact with students has a lot more to do with the kind of person I want to be in the world. And always striving to be a better version of myself and to make the circles of the world that I interact with that much brighter.

That's how I move through the world, that's what's most important to me is, making sure that I'm feeling safe and happy and joyful and loved and sharing a little bit of that as much as possible with the people who I interact with, right? So, in my classrooms or when I'm working on a project or, you know, curating a show, whatever, like, that's my way of making a mark on the world. Like, the rest doesn't really matter to me as much as long as I'm doing that, right? Like, how do I center this idea of being a caring person and contributing to a more caring world and to making the world a more caring place in my small ways?