

## Yolanda Covington-Ward

Yolanda Covington-Ward is an Associate Professor in the Department of Africana Studies with a secondary appointment in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh. She is also an affiliated faculty member in the African and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Programs, and the Global Studies Center. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Michigan and a B.A. in Afro-American Studies from Brown University. Her research places the body at the center of human experience, and focuses on the dynamic relationship between physical bodies and group identity. She has examined such questions through ethnographic and archival research on religious movements in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in her book *Gesture and Power: Religion, Nationalism, and Everyday Performance in Congo* (Duke University Press, January 2016). She has new projects looking at identity formation, mental, and physical health for Liberian immigrants. She is also exploring embodiment in contemporary Kongo prophetic churches and is co-editing a volume on *Embodiment and Relationality in Religions of Africa and its Diasporas*. She has previously published in the journals *Africa Today*, *The Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, *Women and Performance*, *Transforming Anthropology*, *The Journal of Africana Religions*, and *The Journal of Black Studies*, among others. She has received a number of prestigious fellowships including the Ford Postdoctoral Fellowship, the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, and is also a former Fulbright fellow. She teaches courses such as *Cultures of Africa*, *Women of Africa and the African Diaspora*, *Power and Performance in Africa*, and *Global Diasporas*. Find out more [www.covington-ward.com](http://www.covington-ward.com).