

Abstract Submitted
for the BPNMC18 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

The Intersection of Identity and Performing Arts for Black Physicist¹ TAMIA WILLIAMS, The Ohio State University, SIMONE HYATER-ADAMS, The University of Colorado Boulder, KATHLEEN HINKO, Michigan State University, CLAUDIA FRACCHIOLLA, University College Dublin, KERSTIN NORDSTROM, Mount Holyoke College, NOAH FINKELSTEIN, The University of Colorado Boulder — How one negotiates their physics identity is crucial to gaining and maintaining membership in the physics community. However, there is an exclusive culture of physics that has marginalized Black people and leads them to feel that they do not fit the criteria of who a physicist is supposed to be. In an effort to counter the systemic marginalization of Black students in physics, we consider the role performing arts plays in the positive development of science identity. In this work, building on previous studies of physics and racial identities, and studies that demonstrate the positive role of arts for underrepresented groups in STEM, we collect and analyze interviews of thirteen Black physicists. We identify themes that relate to the ways in which Black physicists participate in the performing arts, and map those themes onto the previously- developed Critical Physics Identity (CPI) framework. We find that the performing arts can have positive impacts for Black physicists' identities by serving as a material resource, and can activate ideational resources, which support relational resources or enhance a person's sense of performance/ competence.

¹NSF Award 1423496,

Tamia Williams
The Ohio State University

Date submitted: 16 Oct 2018

Electronic form version 1.4