



Communication,  
Architecture +  
The Arts

## Faculty Spotlight

Paula Powell, PhD

School of Communication

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**FIU**

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# Biographical Summary

With over a decade of experience in television, radio, and print, Dr. Paula Powell is a seasoned media practitioner. She holds a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from Barry University, a master's in Mass Communication from Florida International University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communication: Television Broadcasting from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. Dr. Powell has presented her research at prominent academic conferences like the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA) Annual Conference, the International Symposium on Autoethnography and Narrative Inquiry (IAANI), and the Caribbean Sociological Association Conference. Her teaching portfolio encompasses courses such as Interpersonal Communication, Communication Theory, Creative Concepts, Strategic Branding and Social Media, Social Media's Impact on Communication, Global Strategic Communication Management, Global Reputation Management, and Professional Project.

The logo for Florida International University (FIU), consisting of the letters 'FIU' in a bold, blue, serif font with a horizontal line underneath.

**School of Communication**

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## Research Interests

Dr. Powell's [scholarly endeavors](#) are centered around the intricate intersection of postcolonial theory and the development of culturally relevant curricula. [Her research](#) delves into the examination of teacher subjectivities within postcolonial nations, particularly in the context of the enduring legacies of colonialism in educational systems. This exploration involves a nuanced investigation into how educators perceive and navigate the historical and cultural imprints of colonial influences within the realm of education.

Through her dedicated work in this domain, Dr. Powell aspires to contribute to the enhancement of educational curricula. Her goal is to cultivate curricular frameworks that are not only reflective of the cultural diversity inherent in postcolonial societies but are also responsive to the specific needs and experiences of diverse student populations.

# Teaching

Dr. Powell is dedicated to enriching the educational experience by incorporating pedagogical approaches that elevate student learning. Her educational philosophy centers on the belief that learning should be experiential and directly relevant to students' lives. Drawing from the insights derived from her research, she actively shapes learning environments that are not only student-centered but also culturally responsive.

In the classroom, Dr. Powell employs a diverse array of innovative pedagogies to create dynamic and engaging learning experiences. One such approach is hip hop pedagogy, which harnesses the cultural influence of hip-hop to connect with students and infuse energy into the learning process. Additionally, she integrates movie-based learning, leveraging cinematic narratives to provide real-world contexts for understanding complex concepts.

Furthermore, Dr. Powell adopts a collaborative approach to education, encouraging students to work together in the pursuit of knowledge. This not only cultivates a sense of community within the classroom but also emphasizes the value of teamwork and collective problem-solving.

# Current Activities

Dr. Powell is actively working towards incorporating FIU's Artificial Intelligence Micro Credential into her curriculum for the Social Media and Branding course (ADV 4323).

Recently appointed as the Coordinator of Curriculum for the School of Communication, Dr. Powell collaborates with faculty and administrative staff to enhance and refine educational offerings for students.

Dr. Powell serves as the faculty advisor for [Lambda Pi Eta](#), the official student honor society affiliated with the National Communication Association (NCA).

