

DR. CHARLES H.F. DAVIS III

Author, Artist, Organizer, and Professor

Dr. Charles H.F. Davis III is a third-generation educator and artist committed to the lives, love, and liberation of everyday Black people. He is currently a faculty member in the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education and Director of the Campus abolition Research Lab at the University of Michigan, where his research and teaching broadly focus on issues of race, racism, and organized resistance in education and society.

Dr. Davis has produced more than three dozen publications including research articles, books, podcasts, and scholarly essays as well as several short and feature-length films. As an artist, Dr. Davis uses photography and film to explore the materiality of Black culture and the sociopolitical lives of Black people in the United States and abroad. His work has been featured in, but not limited to, the Los Angeles Times, Bloomberg News, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and cited in amicus briefs to the Supreme Court of the United States. In 2020, Dr. Davis was recognized as an Emerging Scholar by Diverse Issues in Higher Education, a recipient of the 2021 National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, and a 2022 Research & Community Impact Fellow with the National Center for Institutional Diversity.

Dr. Davis spent his early-career as an organizational strategist helping launch two national racial equity research centers at the University of Pennsylvania and University of Southern California. As a racial equity educator, Dr. Davis has trained more than 10,000 students, educators, and institutional leaders from over 100 colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. Most notably Dr. Davis has given invited lectures at Columbia University, Grambling State University, the Sorbonne University in Paris, Stanford University, and Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania.

As an organizer, Dr. Davis is the founder and director for the Scholars for Black Lives collective, an international group of grassroots and university thinkers who are politically committed to the labor of engaged scholarship, public teaching, and advocacy against injustice to improving the material conditions for Black communities. He currently resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan and considers Black Lives Matter Los Angeles and Dream Defenders as his political homes.

Dr. Davis holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from The Florida State University, an M.S.Ed. from the Penn Graduate School of Education, and earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Arizona.

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Student Activism, Politics, and Campus Climate in Higher Education, presents a comprehensive, contemporary portrait of political engagement and student activism at colleges and universities in the United States. This resource explores how colleges and universities are experiencing unrest and in what ways broader social and political conflicts are found on-campus, ultimately unpacking the political as of how students engage with campus communities and their broader political worlds.