

**Chapter 1 : Beauty shop politics : African American women's activism in the beauty industry - JH Libraries**

*"The scope of the material and interdisciplinary scholarship evident throughout the book makes Beauty Shop Politics a comprehensive addition to the bookshelves of women's studies, African-American studies, and entrepreneurial studies, as well as to history, business, and political-science departments.*

The beauty shop gossip took on a new vibrancy, and the women whose lives were limited by the racial and economic injustice of the Jim Crow era used what they knew to stimulate change and to create the modern black female identity. Taking time away from her newest project, examining the birth of an African American international tourist industry in the postwar era, Gill explains her decade-long research process, favorite memories and hopes for the book. It was just that this is such a great space to discuss the things that have been most important to African American women throughout the 20th century. Analyzing beauticians and beauty shops allowed me to work through all of those issues. Can you describe your research process for this book? A lot of it was done as archival research in museums and libraries looking at collections from African American beauticians starting in the early s " the papers of well-known beauticians like Madam C. Walker, who developed her own line of hair products, to lesser known beauticians whose papers I found. I started archival research in the fall of , so it has been over a decade of slowly piecing it together. The first place I did research was down in South Carolina where there was a beautician named Bernice Robinson. I thought at first that I would talk about Robinson and the type of political work that she did down in South Carolina during the s and s, but as I started going through her story I began to realize that there was much more to this. After broadening the scope to the national level and broadening the time period, I found African American beauticians engaged in political struggles and active in their communities based on the fact that they were economically autonomous and had access to African American women as clients. So originally what I thought was going to be something very narrow became a much bigger project than I had ever envisioned for it. Photo courtesy New York Times What was one of your favorite moments in researching for the book? I was out in San Diego where there is a project still going on that links African American beauticians with health advocates and health educators from the University of California San Diego Moores Cancer Center, using beauticians as front-line community health educators. I had the opportunity to go to various beauty shops where these beauticians were engaged in everything from handing out information about breast cancer to encouraging their clients to go for yearly mammograms and pap smears. I got to talk with their clients as well. As I was talking to one beautician about how she got interested in health advocacy because of a close family member who died of breast cancer, her client in the chair started sharing about her own journey with breast cancer as well. It was a lot of fun listening to the kind of impact they were able to have as beauticians in their community and as health advocates. Beyond opening beauty salons as entrepreneurial ventures, what was the role of the beauty salon in the lives of African American women trying to make their voice heard in the public sector? I think part of the function of beauty shops, particularly for African American women in a society that did not value them, is that they gave these women this one space where they were valued and where they could literally let their hair down " somewhere to relax. Beauty shops were empowering spaces for women, who were engaged in such difficult labor in their daily lives, to talk with the beauticians whom they trusted and whom they saw as community leaders. All of that together made for really interesting things to happen. I was shocked every time I would read about another manner in which these women were using these spaces in the most creative and interesting ways. What do you think readers will find most surprising about the book? I ask people that a lot, and I think mainly they are surprised by the scope and the varied things that were going on in beauty shops throughout the 20th century that had absolutely nothing to do with hair. I also think they will be surprised at just how intentional beauticians were in using their space for political and health engagement and how these shops were linked to a national network. Women were often taught in beauty colleges how to engage their clients politically. This was not something that was happenstance, but rather this was something that was very intentional, very thought-through, very much organized at the local, state and national level. It surprised me and I think it surprises most readers as well.

### Chapter 2 : Q&A: Beauty Shop Politics â€” Life & Letters Magazine

*Looking through the lens of black business history, Beauty Shop Politics shows how black beauticians in the Jim Crow era parlayed their economic independence and access to a public community space into platforms for activism.*

But because mom knew how to pull herself together, no one ever suspected what was hidden beneath her artfully applied make-up and stylish polyester pantsuit. The beauty shop was always buzzing with cackling women, many of whom shared their most intimate secrets with my mother as she cut and styled their hair. Mom was a master at permanent waves and finger waves, but she was superior at keeping secrets especially her own. Her hair was dyed light blonde and teased so high it looked like cotton candy. Lucille purchased a two-bedroom, one-bathroom house on top of a hill on South Tenth Street, and eventually she converted it into one of the most popular salons in the small town of Haines City, Florida. The beauty shop had four orange Formica shampoo stations -- complete with mirrors, porcelain sinks, and black vinyl chairs that swiveled back and forth, and also went up and down. Posters of stylish women sporting the latest 70s hairdos hung on the yellow stucco walls. The competing scent of permanent wave lotion and Grand Finale hairspray wafted throughout the salon. The sunroom, which was also known as the dryer room, was located on the east end of the beauty salon. This room housed six orange hair dryer chairs. Their heads bobbed up and down as they slept and their cheeks turned beet red from the warm air blowing out of the clear acrylic dryer hoods. I frequently watched mom gently take her elderly customers by the arm and escort them all the way from the dryer room to her styling chair on the other side of the salon. Some of her customers were so frail they could barely walk without assistance. I rarely saw any of the other beauty operators go to such great lengths to assist their customers the way my mother did. Her customers always appreciated her kind attentiveness. When I turned eight, I was old enough to help mom whenever she got busy. Mom occasionally glanced over from her styling chair across the room to make sure I kept each curl in tact. She smiled with approval. As I removed the prickly rollers, the customers would often ask, "Do you want to be a beautician when you grow up, Jackie? In my mind, I already had my whole career mapped out. I wanted to travel the world, wear sequined dresses, appear in magazines and perform on television. Instead, I wanted to be famous. Her fingernails were stained with hair color and she had corns and callouses on her feet from standing for hours. At night, mom would lie on the floor while my brother and I took turns walking on her spine. Despite all her aches and pains, mom never called in sick, nor did she complain. She adored her customers and they adored her. They were extremely loyal and would have followed her anywhere. She instinctively knew what her customers wanted; they wanted to look beautiful. Although she was not rich, she did manage to find a career that she truly enjoyed. She cared about her customers and took great pride in making them look their very best. Behind it all was a kind, caring, vulnerable woman who managed to make ends meet, to keep her wits about her, and make sure that her children felt cherished and safe. For more stories by Jacqueline Whitmore, visit her blog [JacquelineWhitmore](#).

### Chapter 3 : Life Lessons I Learned In a Beauty Salon | HuffPost

*Politics, and the Complexities of Modern Black Womanhood," expands her analysis to include other, less well-known beauty pioneers and nationally organized beauty culture clubs to focus on.*

### Chapter 4 : Beauty Shop Politics: African American Women's Activism in the Beauty Industry by Tiffany M.

*The beauty shop is a very safe place for women to talk, so why not marry it to things like health advocacy and politics and things that are very important to women's lives? It was a lot of fun listening to the kind of impact they were able to have as beauticians in their community and as health advocates.*

### Chapter 5 : Tiffany Gill on Beauty Shop Politics - Not Even Past

## DOWNLOAD PDF BEAUTY SHOP POLITICS

*Beauty Shop Politics demonstrates the central role of black women in the history of black business and shows how black businesswomen challenged the dictates of black.*

### Chapter 6 : NPR Choice page

*Politics Beauty is My Voice in Legislation. Politics Beauty mission is to reform, rebuild and reconnect licensed Cosmetologist, Estheticians, Nail Technicians and Barbers with the legislative process and be a resource to effect change.*

### Chapter 7 : Tiffany M. Gill - Beauty Shop Politics - Wikidelphia

*Tiffany Gill's Beauty Shop Politics focuses on an often-overlooked area of entrepreneurship research: the connections between black women's business ownership in the hair industry and their involvement in social and political activism.*

### Chapter 8 : [PDF/ePub Download] beauty shop politics eBook

*Shop Politics remains a convincing chronicle of black women's social and political mobilization via the beauty industry. Memory of Trees: A Daughter's Story of a Family Farm, by Gayla Marty.*

### Chapter 9 : Black Beauty Salons Sow in Social Activism | MadameNoire

*She is the author of Beauty Shop Politics: African American Women's Activism in the Beauty Industry (University of Illinois Press, ) which was awarded the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize by the Association of Black Women Historians.*