

## James Sidbury

### University Address:

Department of History  
326 Humanities Building  
6100 Main St., MS 42  
Houston, TX 77251  
713-348-4947

### Home Address:

1503D California St.  
Houston, TX 77006  
(512) 470-6471

### EDUCATION:

The Johns Hopkins University  
B. A., History, 1980  
M.A., History, 1988  
Ph. D., History, 1991

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor of the Humanities, Rice University,  
July 2011- .  
Co-Director (with Kerry Ward) of inaugural Rice Seminar, 2012-13. Year-long  
exploration of Human Trafficking, Past and Present.  
Professor of American History at the University of Texas at Austin, September  
2007- June 2011. Contributing faculty member in Center for African and  
African American Studies and the Department of American Studies.  
Associate Professor of American History at the University of Texas at Austin,  
September 1998 – August 2007. Contributing faculty member in the  
Center for African and African American Studies and the Department of  
American Studies.  
Assistant Professor of American History at the University of Texas at Austin,  
September 1991-August 1998.

### PUBLICATIONS:

#### Books:

*Becoming African in America: Race and Nation in the English Black Atlantic,  
1760-1830.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.  
*Ploughshares into Swords: Race, Rebellion, and Identity in Gabriel's Virginia,  
1730-1810.* Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1997.  
Published simultaneously in cloth and paper. Paperback in second printing.

#### Book Projects in Progress:

“*E Pluribus Unum: Race Formation in the Era of the American Revolution,*”  
(manuscript in progress; prospectus and selected chapters available upon  
request).  
*The Black Urban Atlantic in the Age of the Slave Trade,*” ed. with Jorge  
Cañizares-Esguerra and Matt Childs (anthology of essays, forthcoming from

University of Pennsylvania Press, May 31, 2013).

Articles and Book Chapters:

- “Slave Rebellions,” Oxford Bibliographies Online, Atlantic History, <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/obo/page/atlantic-history>.
- “‘African’ Settlers in the Founding of Freetown,” in Suzanne Schwarz, Paul Lovejoy and David Richardson, eds., *Rebuilding Civil Society in Sierra Leone, Past and Present* (forthcoming 2013).
- “Mapping Ethnogenesis in the Atlantic World” (with Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra), *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ser., 68 (April 2011), 181-208.
- “On the Genesis of Destruction, and Other Missing Subjects” (with Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra), *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ser., 68 (April 2011), 240-46.
- “Slave Resistance,” in Gad Heuman and Trevor Burnard, eds., *The Routledge History of Slavery* (Routledge, 2010), 204-19.
- “Africa in Early African American Literature,” in Gene Jarrett, ed., *A Companion to African American Literature* (Blackwell, 2010), 25-44.
- “From Igbo Israeli to African Christian: The Emergence of Racial Identity in Olaudah Equiano’s *Interesting Narrative*” in *Africas of the Americas: Beyond the Search for Origins in the Study of Afro-Atlantic Religions*, ed. by Stephan Palmié (Leiden: Brill, 2008), 79-106
- “Globalization, Creolization, and the Not-So-Peculiar Institution,” *Journal of Southern History*, LXXIII (August 2007), 617-30.
- “Slave Rebellions in the United States,” in *Revolutionary Movements in World History From 1750 to the Present*, 3vols., ed. By James V. DeFronzo, (Santa Barbara, Cal.: ABC-CLIO, 2006), 771-84.
- “Rhys Isaac and History’s Uneasy Kingdom: A Review Essay,” *Journal of Southern History*, LXXII (May 2006), 429-42.
- “Gabriel’s Conspiracy and the Lives of Enslaved Artisans in Richmond, Virginia,” in Eric Arnesen, ed. *The Human Tradition in American Labor History* (Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, 2004), 15-30.
- “Early Slave Narratives and the Culture of the Atlantic Market,” in *Empire and Nation: Essays in Honor of Jack P. Greene*, ed. by Peter Onuf and Elijah Gould (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), 260-274.
- “Reading, Revelation, and Rebellion: The Textual Communities of Gabriel, Denmark Vesey and Nat Turner,” in Kenneth S. Greenberg, ed, *Nat Turner: A Slave Rebellion in History and Memory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003) 119-33.
- “Thomas Jefferson in Gabriel’s Virginia,” in *The Revolution of 1800: Democracy, Race, and the New Republic*, ed. by Peter Onuf, James Horn, and Jan Lewis (Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 2002), 199-220.
- “Plausible Stories and Varnished Truths,” a response to Michael Johnson, “The Making of a Slave Conspiracy: Denmark Vesey and His Co-Conspirators,” in *The William and Mary Quarterly* (April 2002).
- “Saint Domingue in Virginia: Ideology, Local Meanings, and Resistance to

Slavery, 1790-1800,” *Journal of Southern History* (August, 1997), 531-52.  
 “Slave Artisans in Richmond, Virginia, 1780-1810,” in *American Artisans: Crafting Social Identity, 1750-1850*, Howard B. Rock, Paul A. Gilje, and Robert Asher, eds. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995), 48-62.

Book Reviews and Miscellaneous Publications:

- Review of John Craig Hammond and Matthew Mason, eds., *Contesting Slavery: The Politics of Bondage and Freedom in the New American Nation* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2011), *American Historical Review* 117 (2012), 1593-1594.
- Review of Randolph Ferguson Scully, *Religion and the Making of Nat Turner’s Virginia: Baptist Community and Conflict, 1740-1840* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008), *American Historical Review* 114 (2009).
- Review of Anthony E. Kaye, *Joining Places: Slave Neighborhoods in the Old South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007), *Slavery and Abolition* 30 (2009).
- Review of Christopher Leslie Brown and Philip D. Morgan, eds., *Arming Slaves: From Classical Times to the Modern Age* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006), *New West Indian Guide* 83 (2009).
- Review of Colin Kidd, *The Forging of Races: Race and Scripture in the Protestant Atlantic World, 1600-2000* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2006), *Journal of British Studies* 47 (2008).
- Review of Eva Sheppard Wolf, *Race and Liberty in the New Nation: Emancipation in Virginia from the Revolution to Nat Turner’s Rebellion* (Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2006), *William and Mary Quarterly* 65 (2008).
- Review of Michael O’Brien, *Conjectures of Order: Intellectual Life and The American South, 1810-1860*, 2 vols. (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2004), *The Maryland Historical Magazine* 102 (2007).
- Review of Gordon S. Brown, *Toussaint’s Clause: The Founding Fathers and the Haitian Revolution* (Jackson, Miss.: University Press of Mississippi, 2005), *The Journal of Southern History* 72 (2006).
- Review of Douglas B. Chambers, *Murder at Montpelier: Igbo Africans in Virginia* (Jackson: The University Press of Mississippi, 2005), *The North Carolina Historical Review*, LXXXIII (January 2006).
- Review of David Waldstreicher, *Runaway America: Benjamin Franklin, Slavery, and the American Revolution* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2004), *New England Quarterly*, LXXVIII (December 2005).
- Review of John Saillant, *Black Puritan, Black Republican: The Life and Thought of Lemuel Haynes, 1753-1833* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003). *The William and Mary Quarterly* LXI (2004).
- Review of Joyce E. Chaplin, *Subject Matter: Technology, the Body, and Science on the Anglo-American Frontier, 1500-1676* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001). *Journal of Southern History*, 69 (2003).
- Review of Marjoleine Kars, *Breaking Loose Together: The Regulator Rebellion in Pre-Revolutionary North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2002). *American Historical Review* 108 (2003).

- Review of Roger Wilkins, *Jefferson's Pillow: The Founding Fathers and the Dilemma of Black Patriotism* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2001), *Journal of Southern History* 69 (2003).
- Review of Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic* (Boston, Beacon Press, 2000). *New West Indian Guide*, 76 (2002).
- Review of Peter Hinks, ed. *David Walker's Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World* (University Park, Pa.: Pennsylvania State University, 2000). *Journal of Southern History* 68 (2002).
- "The Construction of Race in Republican America," in Jack P. Greene and J. R. Pole, eds. *A Companion to the American Revolution* (Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2000).
- Review of Woody Holton, *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999), *American Historical Review* (October 2000).
- Review of Edward Pearson, ed., *Designs Against Charleston: The Trial Record of the Denmark Vesey Slave Conspiracy of 1822* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999), in *The Journal of the Early Republic* (Fall 1999).
- "Slave Revolts in the United States, 1776-1865," in Jack Gladstone, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Political Revolutions*. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Books, 1998.
- Review of Lorena S. Walsh, *From Calabar to Carter's Grove: The History of a Virginia Slave Community* (Charlottesville, Va.: The University Press of Virginia, 1997), *William and Mary Quarterly* (Fall 1998).
- Review of Patricia Morton, ed., *Discovering the Women in Slavery: Emancipating Perspectives on the American Past* (Athens, Ga., 1996) and Kenneth W. Goings and Raymond A. Mohl, eds., *The New African American Urban History* (Thousand Oaks, Cal., London, Eng., and New Delhi, India, 1996) in *Labor History*, Spring 1998.
- Review of Douglas R. Egerton, *Gabriel's Rebellion: The Virginia Slave Conspiracies of 1800 and 1802* (Chapel Hill, 1993) in *The Journal of American History*, 81 (1994), 1295-96.
- Review of Winthrop D. Jordan, *Tumult and Silence at Second Creek: An Inquiry into a Civil War Slave Conspiracy* (Baton Rouge, 1993) *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 97 (1993), 403-4.
- Review of Bernard Bailyn and Philip D. Morgan, eds., *Strangers within the Realm: Cultural Margins of the First British Empire* (Chapel Hill, 1991) in *The Journal of American History*, 78 (1992), 1412-13.
- Review of James Baker Farr, *Black Odyssey: The Seafaring Traditions of Afro-Americans* (New York, 1989) in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 85 (1990), 415-17.

#### GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS:

Distinguished Alumnus Award, Durham Academy, Durham, NC, April 2010.  
Supporting investigator for \$150,000 grant from Australian Research Council for research on "The Book of Negroes" (Cassandra Pybus primary investigator), 2009-10. Renewed 2010-11.  
Elected Member of The American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass., 2005 -.  
Post-doctoral Fellow, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence, R.I., June 2003-Dec. 2003.  
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, The American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass., Aug. 2002-May 2003.  
Faculty Research Assignment, University of Texas, Spring, 1999.  
Deans Fellowship, University of Texas College of Liberal Arts, Fall, 1997.  
URI Summer Research Assignment, Summer 1997.  
Rockefeller Foundation post-doctoral fellowship at the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C., 1993-4.  
Fellow in Program for the Advanced Study of European History; Johns Hopkins University's Charles S. Singleton Center for Italian Studies in Florence, Italy, September-December 1990.  
Graduate Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 1985-1989.

#### SCHOLARLY AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

"African Lives, Atlantic Biography: the Individual, the Group, and Non-Western Subjectivities, written with James H. Sweet, essay presented at the *William and Mary Quarterly*-Early Modern Studies Institute Workshop on Early American Biography, Huntington Library, San Marino, California, May 26, 2012.  
"Pontiac, Indians, and the French: Thinking Race Through an Alternate Cultural Logic," essay presented at the Rocky Mountain Early American History Seminar, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 22, 2012.  
"Entangled Legal Traditions and Constitutional Visions in Early Freetown, Sierra Leone," presentation at "Atlantic Networks and the Problem of Liberty in the Age of Revolutions," a workshop and conference at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, N.H., Nov. 4-5, 2011.  
"Rebels, Revolutions, and Race: 'Ethnic,' Racial and Ideological Entanglements in Early Freetown, Sierra Leone," presentation to the Houston Area Southern History Seminar, October 17, 2011.  
"Legacies of Colonial Slavery," invited paper given at Slavery in the Colonial South, the Fourth Biennial Colloquium on Southern History, Rice University, Feb. 20, 2011.  
"Early Black Antislavery Activists and the Historiography of Abolition," paper given at the AHA annual meeting in Boston, Mass., Jan. 6, 2011.  
Invited panel member, roundtable discussion of *A Simple Black: The Hidden History of Wuthering Heights* at Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Annual Conference, Austin, Texas, March 25, 2010.  
Comment on "African American Migration into the British Caribbean in the Age

- of Revolution” panel at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Louisville, Kentucky, November 2009.
- Guest faculty for “Slaves, Soldiers, Rebels: Currents of Black Resistance in the Tropical Atlantic, c. 1760-1860,” an NEH Summer Seminar for College and University Faculty, held at Johns Hopkins University, July 24-28, 2009 (Ben Vinson, Director; Natalie Zacek and Stewart King, Assistant Directors).
- Invited talk on race formation in the era of the American Revolution to the American Cultures Colloquium at Northwestern University, April 15, 2009.
- “Coerced Migration and Identity in the English Black Atlantic, ca. 1750-1820,” paper given at OIEAHC/SEA Conference commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of Jamestown, Williamsburg, VA, June 2007.
- “Black Internationalism in the Early Republic,” presentation to the opening Plenary Session, 2006 Annual Meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Montreal, Canada, July 20, 2006.
- “Daniel Coker, John Kizell, and Sherbro: False Start to Liberian History,” 2006 Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Washington, D.C., April 20, 2006.
- “Becoming American in Liberia,” paper delivered at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Seattle, Washington, Jan 9, 2005.
- “Atlanticizing the Early Republic,” paper delivered at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Historians of the Early Republic, Providence, Rhode Island, July 2004.
- “Becoming African in America: Black Discourse on Africa, 1760-1830,” talk given to Brown University Department of History, November 11, 2003.
- “To make Africa a “Historians’ Nation”: Paul Cuffe’s Nationalist Vision,” Public presentation at the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass., October 21, 2003.
- “*E Pluribus Unum*: Race Formation in the Era of the American Revolution,” paper presented at the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, R.I., July 2003.
- “To make Africa a “Historians’ Nation”: Paul Cuffe’s Nationalist Vision,” paper given at Boston College Graduate Colloquium, Boston, Mass., April 11, 2003.
- “Out of America: The Black Loyalists’ Encounter with Africa, 1792-1800,” paper given at Princeton University African American Studies Program’s Works-in-Progress series, Princeton, N.J., February 10, 2003.
- “Early Slave Narratives and the Culture of the Atlantic Market,” paper given at Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY, December 6, 2002.
- “Thomas Jefferson in Gabriel’s Virginia,” paper given at “Revolution of 1800” Symposium, Monticello Foundation, Charlottesville, Va., October 2000.
- “Gabriel’s Conspiracy,” public talk to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Gabriel’s Conspiracy at the University of Richmond, October 2000.
- “Markets, Millennialism and the Emergence of African Identity in Eighteenth-Century Slave Narratives,” a paper delivered at “New World Orders: Millennialism in the Western Hemisphere,” an international conference

sponsored by the Center for Millennial Studies, Boston University, November 7-9, 1999.

“Toward Africa: The Emergence of Racial Identity in Sacred and Secular Time,” paper given to a seminar at the Department of History, Rice University, Houston, Texas, December 4, 1998.

Comment on paper given by Patrick Manning on the Atlantic slave trade databases, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, November 10, 1998.

“Early Slave Narratives and the Culture of the Atlantic Market,” paper delivered at “Markets, Cultures, and the Cultures of Markets,” a symposium for the Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, October 30, 1998.

Invited discussant at “The Impact of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World”; an international conference held at the College of Charleston, October 16-18, 1998.

“Toward Africa: The Emergence of Racial Identity within Western Time Structures”; paper given to The Seminar at the Department of History, Johns Hopkins University, October 12, 1998.

“From Israeli Igbo to African Christian: The Emergence of Racial Identity in Olaudah Equiano’s *Interesting Narrative*”; paper delivered at “Prophets, Visionaries, and their Publics in the Afro-Atlantic World,” an international conference held at the University of Maryland at College Park, October 8-11, 1998.

Panel discussion leader, “Memory: Southern Social and Cultural Comparisons,” a Rockefeller Foundation Conference at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. October, 1995

“‘To imitate the example exhibited in Saint Domingo’: ‘frenchness,’ racial identities, and revolutionary traditions in Virginia, 1790-1800.” Annual Meeting Organization of American Historians, Atlanta, Ga. April 1994.

“Narrating Gabriel’s Conspiracy: White and Black Stories of Slave Rebellion.” The Institute of Liberal Arts and the Graduate History Society, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. April 1994.

“‘As ferocious and formidable as the males’: Gender and Race in Richmond, Virginia, 1780-1810.” *New Directions in North American Slavery Studies*, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. October 1993.

“Gabriel and the Canon: Cultures and Resistance in Eighteenth Century Virginia.” Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Chicago, Ill. April 1992.

“Gabriel’s Conspiracy and the Problem of Slave Rebellion.” Houston Area Southern Historians’ Seminar, Rice University, Houston, Tx. February 1992.

“‘Peculiar Moderation and Humanity’: White Virginians’ Responses to Gabriel’s Conspiracy.” Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Louisville, Ky. April 1991.

“Gabriel’s World: Slavery and Race Relations in Jeffersonian Virginia.” Department of History, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. January 1991.

“Slave Artisans in Richmond, Virginia, 1780-1810.” Conference on the American Artisan at the George Meany Center for the History of American Labor, Silver Spring, Md. October 1990.

“Race Relations and Neighborhood Development in Richmond, Virginia, 1750-1810.” Charles S. Singleton Center of the Johns Hopkins University, Florence, Italy. September 1990.

#### SERVICE:

Member, Program Committee, Africans in the Americas: Making Lives in a New World, 1675-1825, OIEAHC Conference, 2013.

Member, Graduate Committee, Department of History, Rice University, 2012-13

Member, Research Committee, Rice University, Sept. 2011 -12.

Member, Graduate Committee, Department of History, Rice University, 2011 -12.

Graduate Advisor, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, September 2007 - 2011.

Member, University Continuing Fellowship selection committee, University of Texas at Austin, 2008 - 2011.

Faculty, Pilot Free Minds Project to teach a university-level humanities course to educationally underserved adults in east Austin, Humanities Institute, University of Texas at Austin, 2006-07, 2007-08.

Chair, Graduate Studies Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, 2007 - 2011.

Chair, Graduate Program Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, 2007 - 2011.

Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, 2007 - 2011.

Member, Editorial Board, *The Journal of Southern History*, 2005 – 2008.

Member of Graduate Program Committee, Department of History, University of Texas, 1996- 2011.

Co-chair, Distinguished Atlantic Authors Seminar Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, 2006 - 2008.

Member, Executive Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, 2005-2006.

Member, Student Activities Committee, University of Texas at Austin, 2005-2006.

Chair, African American History Search Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, 2005-2006.

Co-Chair, Mastin Gentry White Chair in Southern History, Search Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, 2005-2006.

Chair, African American History Search Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, 2004-2005.

Member, Program Committee for annual meeting of the Omohundru Institute for Early American History and Culture in New Orleans, June 2003.

Member, Editorial Advisory Board, *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 2001-03.

Undergraduate honors program director, Department of History, University of



Texas at Austin, September 2001-June 2002.  
Member, Budget Council, Department of History, University of Texas, 1994-95;  
2000-2002.  
Member, University Library Committee, University of Texas at Austin, 2000-01.  
Member, Department of History Senior Search Committee, 2000-01.  
Chair, American History Senior Search Committee, 1998-99.  
Chair, American Gender History Search Committee, 1998-99.  
Member, Program Committee for annual meeting of the OIEAHC in Austin, June 1999.  
Member of Faculty Council, University of Texas, Fall 1997-99.  
Member, University Recruitment and Retention Committee, University of Texas,  
1997-98 .  
Chair, American Area Committee, Department of History, University of Texas,  
Spring 1998-Fall 1999; Fall 2000-Spring 2001.  
Co-founder and administrator of the Atlantic Seminar for faculty and graduate students  
in the Department of History presented and critiqued work in progress, 1993-99.  
Chair, African American History Search Committee, Department of History,  
University of Texas, 1995-96.  
Member, African American History Search Committee, Department of History,  
University of Texas, 1994-95.  
Member, Early American History Search Committee, Department of History,  
University of Texas, 1992-93.  
Member, African American History Search Committee, Department of History,  
University of Texas, 1991-92.

References are available upon request