

ALEXANDER X. BYRD

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HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Piper Professor Program for Superior Teaching, Rice University Nominee, 2019
Rice University George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching, 2006, 2013, 2015, 2018
Blueprint for Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement in Service and Contributions to the University. Association of Rice University Black Alumni, 2016.
Douglass Adair Memorial Award for the best article published in the *William and Mary Quarterly* during the preceding six years, 2010
Rice University Presidential Mentoring Award (for service to graduate and undergraduate students), 2010
American Historical Association and Association for the Study of African American Life and History Wesley-Logan Prize for *Captives and Voyagers*, 2009
Humanities Research Center Collaborative Research Grant, 2007
Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Career Enhancement Grant, 2004–05
Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2004–05 (declined)
ACLS/Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship for Junior Faculty, 2002–03
Visiting Fellow, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University, 2002–2003
Social Science Research Council International Migration Program Fellowship, Summer 2002
Huntington Library Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, 2002–2003 (declined)
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 1998–99
James B. Duke Advanced International Graduate Student Award, 1995–96
Research Travel Award, Duke University Vice Provost for International Affairs, 1995
Research Travel Award, Duke University Center for International Studies, 1994
Duke University Presidential Fellowship, 1990–93

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Captives and Voyagers: Black Migrants Across the Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic World. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2008. Awarded the American Historical Association and the Association for the Study of African American Life & History's 2009 Wesley-Logan Prize for outstanding book on the history of the African diaspora.

Scholarly articles and book chapters (single authorship)

"Violence, Migration, and Becoming Igbo in Gustavus Vassa's *Interesting Narrative*." In *Constructing Borders/Crossing Boundaries: Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration*, edited by Caroline B. Brettell, 31–58. Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2007.

"Eboe, Country, Nation and Gustavus Vassa's *Interesting Narrative*." *William & Mary Quarterly* 63, no. 1 (2006): 123–148. Awarded the 2010 Douglass Adair Memorial Award by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture for the best article published in the *William and Mary Quarterly* during the preceding six years.

Scholarly articles and book chapters (co authorship)

Ighodaro, ET, Nelson, PT, Kukull, WA, Schmitt, FA, Abner, EL, Caban-Holt, A, Bardach, SH, Hord, DC, Glover, CM, Jicha, GA, Van Eldik, LJ, Byrd, AX, and Fernander, A. "Challenges and Considerations Related to Studying Dementia in Blacks/African Americans." *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* 60, no. 1 (2017): 1-10.

Pedagogy

"Prequel to Civic Engagement: An African American Studies Research Seminar." *Diversity Digest* 10, no. 1 (2006): 4–6.

"Studying Lynching in the Jim Crow South." *OAH Magazine of History* 18, no. 2 (2001): 31–36.

Encyclopedia entries, oral histories, and biographical notes

"David George." In *Encyclopedia of African America Culture and History: The Black Experience in the Americas*, edited by Colin Palmer. Detroit, Mich.: Macmillan Reference, 2005.

"Maggie Dulin." In *Remembering Jim Crow*, edited by William H. Chafe, Raymond Gavins and Robert Korstad, 91–107. New York, N.Y.: New Press, 2001.

"Telling Memories: Creating a Future from the Past." *Duke University Libraries* 12, no. 2 (1999): 2–13.

"William Author Cooper." In *To Conserve a Legacy: American Art from Historically Black Colleges and Universities*, edited by Richard Powell and Jock Reynolds, 184–185. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1999.

"Biographical Notes." In *Black Art and Culture in the Twentieth Century*, 226–236. London: Thames & Hudson, 1997.

Archives, documents, and public history

"Beautiful Sugar: Interpreting African American Life and Labor from the Master's Mansion." A Report on "Shadows on the Teche," New Iberia, La. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, summer 2009.

"Introduction to the Castle Wemyss Estate Papers (Jamaica)." In *Slavery, Abolition, and Social Justice, 1490–2007*. Marlborough: Adam Mathew Digital <<http://www.amdigital.co.uk/>>, summer 2007.

"Introduction to the William Davenport Papers (Liverpool)." In *Slavery, Abolition, and Social Justice, 1490–2007*. Marlborough: Adam Mathew Digital <<http://www.amdigital.co.uk/>>, summer 2007.

"Third Person, First Person: Slave Voices from the Special Collections Library." *Duke University Libraries* 9, no. 1 (1995): 2–6.

Book reviews

Review of Mariana P. Candido, *An African Slaving Port and the Atlantic World: Benguela and Its Hinterland* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013) *American Historical Review* 120 (October 2015): 1579–1580.

Review of Eric Robert Taylor *If We Must Die: Shipboard Insurrections in the Era of the Atlantic Slave Trade* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006). *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 39, no. 1 (2008): 131–312

Review of Christopher Waldrep *Lynching in America: A History in Documents* (New York: New York University Press, 2006). *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 105 (Spring 2007): 316–317.

"Africans in the Americas." Review of Gwendolyn Midlo Hall *Slavery and African Ethnicities in the Americas: Restoring the Links* (Chapel Hill, N.C. The University of North Carolina Press, 2005). *H-Net Reviews* <<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=183321160577352>> (2006).

Review of James H. Sweet, *Recreating Africa: Culture, Kinship, and Religion in the African-Portuguese World, 1441–1770* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2003). *Social History* 30, no. 2 (2005): 54.

Review of Isidore Okpewho, et. al., eds., *The African Diaspora: African Origins and New World Identities* (Bloomington and Indianapolis, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1999) and Darlene Clark Hine and Jacqueline McLeod, eds. *Crossing Boundaries: Comparative History of Black People in Diaspora*

(Bloomington and Indianapolis, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1999). *Journal of Southern History* 68, no. 2 (2002): 149–151.

Review of Saidiya V. Hartman, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America* (New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 1997) *Labour/Le Travail* 45 (2000): 320–321.

HORIZON

Books

“Race, Place, and Power in Houston: The Past and Present of Megapolitan Texas”

Much more is known about Houston’s present than about its past. If you think that’s a local problem, you would be mistaken. A co-edited volume (with Brian Behnken and Emily Straus) based on essays from a 2013 conference but with significant additions. Under contract with LSU Press.

“The Oxford Handbook of African American History” (with Celia Naylor). Under contract.

“Frank Sharp’s Town and the Future of the American City”

The post-war suburb—out of the worst bits of the social and cultural politics of its youth—bequeathed the present age much of what ails America. Can these now middle-aged and often urbanized settlements presently point the country in a different direction? Scholarly monograph, oral history, and digital archive exploring social, cultural, demographic, and economic transformations of a Sunbelt neighborhood (from suburban to urban) since about 1960. In development.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited scholarly lectures and presentations

“Spare No Expense: Diversity in Defense of White Privilege in Urban Schools.” William & Mary Quarterly Prize Lecture. William & Mary University, 11 November 2019.

“Intransigent Blackness: Questioning Race and Power at an African American High School” and “Spare No Expense: Diversity in Defense of White Privilege in Urban Schools.” 54th Annual Furniss Lectures, Colorado State University, 25–27 April 2019.

“Intransigent Blackness: Questioning Race and Power at an African American High School.” Williams College Department of History, Williamstown, Mass. 20 September 2016.

“Eighteenth-Century Slave Ships and Twentieth-Century Cities: On Not Moving On From Atlantic World History.” University of Texas at Arlington 17th Annual Transatlantic History Student Organization Conference: The Red and Black Atlantic, Arlington, Tex. 21 October 2016.

“Is it Possible for a Houston High School to Be Too Black?” History Department Brown Bag, Rice University, Houston, Tex. 23 November 2015.

“Black Migrants Across the Eighteenth Century British Atlantic World.” University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. Feb. 13-14, 2013

“Race, Politics, and the American Revolutions Black Refugees.” Center for Africana Studies Speakers Series. The Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, Md. 5 November 2009.

“The Press of Urban Life: Ethnicity and Migration in the Towns of the Eighteenth-Century Biafran Littoral.” Black Atlantics: An Urban Perspective. The Institute for Historical Studies and the Department of History, University of Texas at Austin. 2–3 April 2009.

“Violence, Migration and Becoming Igbo.” A series of public lectures for *The Equiano Project*. London, Birmingham, and Liverpool, UNITED KINGDOM. 15–19 November 2007

"From Chattel to Human: 'Race,' Politics, and the American Revolution's Black Refugees." *Scientia* 2006–07: Constructing the Human Being. Rice University, Houston, Tex. 19 September 2006.

"Race, Equity, and Education: Reflections on the Public Schools and the Several Careers of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution." Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N.C. 1 April 2006.

"Conceptualizing African Identity in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World: Insights from Olaudah Equiano and his Interesting Narrative." Center for United States Studies, University of Haifa, Haifa, ISRAEL. 1–7 May 2004.

"Comparative, Transatlantic Black Migration." UNESCO and the Association of Caribbean Historians. University of the West Indies, Mona, JAMAICA. 5–7 March 2004.

"Violence, Migration, and the Igbo Origins of Gustavus Vassa, the African." Social Science Research Council International Migration Program. Pacific Grove, Calif. 7–11 January 2004.

"Migration and the Igbo Origins of Gustavus Vassa, the African." Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies Seminar. Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. 7 March 2003; Workshop of the Schomburg Scholars-in-Residence Program. New York, N.Y. 24 April 2003; and at the conference "New Directions in the Study of Americas: Slavery, A Continuing Conversation." Rutgers University History Department, New Brunswick, N.J. 16 May 2003.

"Conceptualizing African Identity in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World." The Ray Ginger Lecture in American History. Brandeis University History Department, Waltham, Mass. 29 November 2001.

"Constructing Identities in the African Diaspora." The African Diaspora: A Symposium at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. New York, N.Y. 4 May 2001.

Selected conference presentations

"After the Common Wind: Atlantic Studies and the Work of Julius S. Scott, III." Panelist at the 133rd Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association. Chicago, Ill, 3 January 2019.

"Author Meets Critic *American Routes* by Angel Adams Parham." Panelist at 43d Annual Social Science History Association Conference, Phoenix, Ariz. 10 November 2018.

"Residential Life and Black Canon" Panelist (with Meina Yates-Richard and David Ponton, III) at the 3rd Annual Residential College Symposium, Nashville, Tenn. 28 October 2016.

"Southern Slavery in Hemispheric Perspective: A Roundtable Discussion." Chair at 80th Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Atlanta, Ga. 15 November 2014

"The Intransigent Blackness of Houston's African–American High Schools," (co-authored with Madlene Hamilton) *The Past and Present of Race and Place in Houston, Texas*. Rice University, Houston, Tex. 26 February 2013

"New Orleans and the Slave Trade," Chair and comment, 127th meeting of the American Historical Association, New Orleans, La. 4 Jan. 2013

Convener and Panel Chair. "Making Gains: Closing the Racial/Ethnic Divide in Academic Achievement in the Early Years of Schooling." A Two Schools Research & Practice Seminar. Houston, Tex. 17 November 2009.

Panel Chair and Commentator. "Christianity and the African Diaspora" (papers by Vincent Carretta, Ty Reese, and John Catron). 15 Annual Conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. Salt Lake City, Utah. 12 June 2009.

"The Effects of Exodus: The Course and Consequences of Black Migration in the Aftermath of the American War." Paper presented to the panel on Independence Wars and Slavery at the Conference on Latin American History. Chicago, Ill. 7 January 2000.

"The Cultural Consequence of Exile: Igbo Captives at the Biafran Littoral." Paper presented at the 42nd annual meeting of the African Studies Association. Philadelphia, Pa. 13 November 1999.

"The Slave Trade from the Biafran Interior and the Migration of Black Southerners to Nova Scotia in the Late Eighteenth Century: Pre-histories of Transatlantic Migration in Comparative Perspective." Paper presented to the University of Houston Black History Workshop. Houston, Tex. 26–27 March 1999.

"The Slave Trade from the Biafran Interior to Jamaica: Commerce, Culture Change, and Comparative Perspective." Paper presented to the International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 1500–1800. The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History. Harvard University. Cambridge, Mass. 11 August 1998.

"A Family Affair?: Race, Revolution, Nuclear Family and the Long Course of Black Migration from London to Sierra Leone." Paper presented to the panel on African Diasporas at the conference Globalization from Below: Conflict, Contestation, and Contingency. Durham, N.C. 7 February 1998.

"Meeting in the Middle? Africanists and Americanists on Writing Atlantic History, and Training Atlantic Historians." Organized and chaired a panel for the 112th annual meeting of the American Historical Association on the previous accomplishments and the future prospects of Atlantic history as a subject and as a methodology. Seattle, Wash. 10 January 1998.

Selected public lectures and presentations

"On 'Apesh*t.'" Department of History Lunch Talk, Houston, Tex. 1 February 2019

"What I Learned at Yates (and Rice).Gregory School Lectures (African American Library), Houston, Tex. 16 February 2019

"On 'This is America'" Department of History Lunch Talk, Houston, Tex. 26 September 2019

"Books that Shaped My World." Fondren Library, Houston, Tex. 8 April 2015

"Race and Reconciliation." University Christian Church, Houston, Tex. 25 August 2015

"Black Lives Matter: Getting Beyond the Hashtag." Rothko Chapel, Houston, Tex. 7 January 2015
< <http://bit.ly/2gy7M51> >

"African American History & Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry," Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Ga. 18 June 2013

"The African Slave Trade and the Lowcountry," Georgia Historical Society. Savannah, Ga. 13, 20 June 2011

"The Aftermath of Brown," Houston Independent School District-US Dept. of Education Teaching American History Summer Seminar. Houston, Tex. 16 June 2011

"Slavery and Early American History," Humanities Texas Teachers Conference. Houston, Tex. 9 June 2011

"Coming to Terms with the Harlem Renaissance." Clear Creek Independent School District Teaching American History Workshop. Seabrook, Tex. 18 February 2011

"School Desegregation in the Urban South: Was It Worth It (and Is It Still)?" Keynote Address to the Annual meeting of the Texas Social Studies Supervisors Association. Houston, Tex. 14 October 2010

"*Brown* and its Aftermath." Wiener Fellow Seminar and Lecture. The Kinkaid School, Houston, Tex. 5–6 October 2010

"The High Seas Slave Trade: African Agency, the Business of Slave trading and the Social History of Afro-America." Real Pirates and the Science of Shipwrecks. Houston Museum of Natural Science and Rice University Glasscock School of Continuing Studies. Houston, Tex. 12 October 2010.

"The Transatlantic Slave Trade." African-American History & Culture in the Georgia Lowcountry: Savannah and the Coastal Islands, 1750-1950. NEH and Georgia Historical Society. Savannah, Ga. 12, 19 July 2010

"The African Slave Trade and the Origins of Afro-America." Humanities Texas Teacher Enrichment Institute. University of Houston. 10 June 2010.

TEACHING

Undergraduate

Blacks in the Americas (co-taught with Edward Cox)
 Black America: From Nadir through the Great Depression
 The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Origins of Afro America
 Race, Education, and Society in the Urban South
 Blacks in Reagan's America: Seminar in Contemporary African American History
 Atlantic World: Origins to the Age of Revolutions
 Brown v. Board (first-year seminar)
 Terror and African American History (first-year seminar)
 Early America
 Undergraduate Honors Seminar (history)

Residential college black studies courses, 2014–2016: 1) Black Men Writing their World: Du Bois, Baldwin, and their Heirs; 2) Black in School: Readings in Race and Education; 3) Kind(s) of Black: Blackness and Black Society in the 20th Century; and 4) Black Women Writing their World: Cooper, Morrison, and their Heirs

Graduate

The African American Century
 Afro-American Studies
 Origins of Afro America
 Workshop in African American History

Dissertations and Theses

David Ponton, III, "Criminalizing Space: Race, Gender, and State-Sanctioned Violence in Houston, 1948–1967," Ph.D. diss. (history), Rice University, 2017. [Director](#)

Laura Renée Chandler, "Black Women and the World: African American Women's Transnational Activism, 1890–1930, Ph.D. diss. (history), Rice University, 2016. [Director](#)

Allison Raven, "Liberal When It Counts? School Desegregation in Austin, Texas," Undergraduate honors thesis (history), Rice University, 2014. [Director](#)

Sydney Vigran, "African Americans in Tom's Town: Kansas City Blacks and the Pendergast Machine," Undergraduate honors thesis (history), Rice University, in progress. [Director](#)

Meina Yates-Richard, "Slavery and Sonic Testimony in African American and Diasporic Literature," Ph.D. diss (English), Rice University, 2016. [Reader](#)

Renita Miller, "Minority Voices: The Representational Roles of African American and Latino Legislators during State Legislative Deliberations," Ph.D. diss. (Poli Sci), Rice University, 2012. [Reader](#)

Shani Roper, "'An Almshouse Ting Dat': Developments in Poor Relief and Child Welfare in Jamaica during the Interwar Years," Ph.D. diss. (history), Rice University, 2012. [Reader](#)

Michon Anita Benson, "From the Ride'n'Tie to Ryde-or-Die: A Pedagogy of Survival in Black Youth Popular Cultural Forms," Ph.D. diss. (English), Rice University, 2007. [Reader](#)

Elizabeth Korver-Glen, "Selling Houses, Constructing Race," Ph.D. diss. (sociology), Rice University, in progress. [Reader](#)

Edwin Breeden, "Race and Educational Politics at the Advent of Mandatory Integration, Houston, Texas, 1969–1975," Ph.D. diss. (history), Rice University, in progress. [Reader](#)

Sam Abramson, "Riots, Reaction, and the New American Right: Conservative Responses to the Kerner Commission," Ph.d. diss. (history), Rice University, in progress. [Reader](#).

Ashley Evelyn, "Education and Transnational Identity in Post-Emancipation Black Atlantic, 1890–1960," Ph.D. diss. (history), Rice University, in progress. [Reader](#)

SERVICE

Professional

Duke-Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Advancement, 2018–2020 (mentoring Dr. Michael Dickinson of Virginia Commonwealth University)

Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, Council, 2016–2019

Outside Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities Public Humanities Exhibitions grant program, 2018

Program Committee, American Historical Association, 129th annual meeting, 2013–2014

Prize Committee, Wesley-Logan Prize in African diaspora history, American Historical Association and the Association for the Study of African American Life & History, 2011

Local Arrangements Committee, Organization of American Historians, 104th annual meeting, 2009–2011

Program Committee, Organization of American Historians, 102nd annual meeting, 2007–09

Site Consultant, National Trust for Historic Preservation *New Perspectives* Project, 2007

Outside reviewer, Social Science and Humanities Research Council, CANADA, 2006, 2007

Program Committee, Southern Historical Association, 69th annual meeting, 2002–2003

University

Center for African and African American Studies Steering Committee, 2019–2020

BRIDGE (Building Research on Inequality and Diversity to Grow Equity) Steering Committee, 2019–2020

First Year Experience Working Group Co-Chair, 2019-2020

Task Force on Slavery, Segregation, and Racial Injustice Co-Chair, 2019–2020

Faculty Appeals Board, Rice University Honor System, 2008–2020

Rice Black Student Association, Faculty Adviser, 2000–2020

Rice African Students Association, Faculty Sponsor, 2013–2020

Inequalities and Inequities Working Group, 2018–2019

Rice Academy of Fellows, Senior Fellow, 2018–2019

Doerr Institute for New Leaders Faculty Advisory Committee, 2015–2018

Teacher Education Program Advisory Committee, 2008–2019

Master, Harry Carothers Wiess College, 2011–2016

Committee of College Masters, 2011–2016 (Chair, Fall 2014)

Faculty Senate Honor System Working Group, co-chair 2015–2016

Initiative For Students Commission, 2015–2016

50 Years of Black Undergraduate Life, Executive Committee, 2015–2016

Problems in African American History, Convener, 2015–2016. Organized four workshops in African American history featuring leading scholars in the field (Leslie Brown and Annie Valk; Megan Ming Francis; Allyson Hobbs; and Stan Deaton).

Program in Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities, Steering Committee, 2011–2016

McMurtry College Masters Search Committee, 2014

Quality Education Task Force, 2014

Faculty Athletics Representative, 2009–20011

Empowering Leadership Alliance (STEM scholars program), 2010–2014

Rice University Common Reading Workshop, 2010—*Work Hard. Be Nice.* by Jay Mathews

Faculty Associate, Baker College, 2000–2011

Divisional advisor, Baker College, 2000–2004 and 2009–2010
 Convener, Americas Colloquium, 2004–2010
 Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Research Program, 2006–2011
 faculty mentor for Kelli Newman, Jonathon Goode, Gustavo Herrera
 Rice University Common Reading Workshop, 2009—*The House at Sugar Beach* by Helene Cooper
 Rice University Teaching Committee, 2006–2008
 Rice NAACP, Faculty Adviser, 2001–2008
 President's Task Force on Diversity, 2006–2007
 Rice Leaders, inaugural class, 2006
 Keynote speaker for Vision Weekend, 200, 2001, 2006
 Library Committee, 2005–06
 Resident Faculty Associate, Baker College, 2000–04
 President's Council on Minority Affairs, 2000–2004

Department

undergraduate committee, 2002–2003, 2011–2018
 graduate committee, 2010–2011, 2014–2016
 director of undergraduate studies, 2003, 2011–2014
 executive committee, 2003, 2011–2014
 department webmaster, 2005–2011

African history search committee, 2014–2015
 Senior US history search committee, 2010–2011
 African history search committee, 2008–2009
 US history search committee, 2007–2008
 US history search committee, 2004–2005
 Global history search committee, 2000–2001

Community

Black Humanities Seminar for HISD teachers, Summer 2016–Summer 2018
 <<http://bit.ly/2fWRIGH>>

Spring Vespers on *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. First Christian Church, Houston, Tx.
 Feb.–Mar. 2016

Faculty Advisor, Bonner Foundation/FIPSE Civic Education Project, 2003–2006

Association of Rice Alumni Board of Directors, 2000–2003

EDUCATION

Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Ph.D. 2001
 “Captives and Voyagers: Black Migrants across the Eighteenth-Century World of Oludah Equiano”
 Advisor: Janet J. Ewald Readers: John W. Cell, Raymond Gavins, Julius Scott, and Peter Wood

Rice University, Houston, Texas. B.A. 1990

EXPERIENCE

Associate Dean, School of Humanities, Rice University, July 2019 to Present

Associate Professor, Department of History, Rice University, July 2008 to Present

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Rice University, July 2001 to June 2008

Research Scholar, Department of History, Rice University, July 1998 to June 2000

ORGANIZATIONS

American Historical Association
Organization of American Historians
Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
Southern History Association (Life Member)