

Victoria W. Wolcott

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Education

Ph.D. University of Michigan, Department of History, October 1995

Dissertation: "Remaking Respectability: African American Women and the Politics of Identity in Inter-War Detroit"

B.A. New York University, 1989, *magna cum laude*

Publications

Books

Run Sis: An Athlete and Activist in the Cold War Era, monograph in progress

Utopian Imaginings: Saving the Future in the Present (State University of New York Press, 2024)

Living in the Future: Utopianism and the Long Civil Rights Movement (University of Chicago Press, 2022)

-Awarded Best Book in New Deal History by The Living New Deal

-Awarded the Elise M. Boulding Prize in Peace History

-Book Panel, Society for United States Intellectual History, November 11, 2023

Race, Riots, and Roller Coasters: The Struggle Over Segregated Recreation in America (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012)

Remaking Respectability: African American Women in Interwar Detroit (University of North Carolina Press, 2001)

Articles and Chapters

"Struggle at the Margins: The Elkton Three and the Power of Noncooperation," *Modern American History*, forthcoming

"Resistant Bodies: Female Hunger Strikes in Modern America," *Peace and Change* 51, 4 (January 2026): 104-18.

“Putting People First: Earl Lewis and the Transformation of Graduate Education,” in *Earl Lewis: Scholar, Teacher, Administrator, and Diversity Pioneer*, edited by Joe William Trotter, Jr. (University of California Press, forthcoming)

[“The Communal Counterpoint,”](#) *The Carryall: The US Cultural and Intellectual History Occasional*, March, 2025.

“Freedom to Dream: Black Owenites and Cooperation in America,” *Journal of Cooperative Studies*, 56, 3 (Spring 2024): 71-77.

Introduction, in *Utopian Imaginings: Saving the Future in the Present*, (State University of New York Press, 2024): 1-14

“Black Cooperators: Owenism and Utopia in Black America,” in *Utopian Imaginings: Saving the Future in the Present*, (State University of New York Press, 2024): 37-66.

“Networks of Resistance: Floria Pinkney and Labor Interracialism in Interwar America,” *Journal of African American History* 105, 4 (Fall 2020): 567-592.

“Linked Movements,” in *‘Whose Streets? Our Streets!’ New York City: 1980-2000* (Rochester: Rochester Institute of Technology Press, 2018): 90-94.

“Radical Nonviolence, Interracial Utopias and the Congress of Racial Equality in the early Civil Rights Movement,” in *The Journal of Civil and Human Rights*, 4, 2 (Fall/Winter 2018): 31-61.

"Recreation and Race in the Postwar City: Buffalo's 1956 Crystal Beach Riot," *Journal of American History* (June 2006): 63-90.

"Gendered Perspectives on Detroit History." *Michigan Historical Review* (Spring 2001): 75-91.

"Defending the Home: Ossian Sweet and the Struggle Against Segregation in 1920s Detroit," in *American Stories: Collected Scholarship on Minority History from the OAH Magazine of History* (Bloomington: Organization of American Historians, 1998).

"The Culture of the Informal Economy: Numbers Runners in Inter-War Black Detroit," *The Radical History Review* (Fall 1997): 46-75.

"'Bible, Bath, and Broom': Nannie Helen Burroughs, the National Training School, and the Uplift of the Race," *Journal of Women's History* (Spring 1997): 88-110.

"Mediums, Messages, and Lucky Numbers: African-American Female Spiritualists and Numbers Runners in Inter-War Detroit," in *The Geography of Identity*, edited by Patricia Yeager (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996), 273-306.

"Defending the Home: Ossian Sweet and the Struggle Against Segregation in 1920s Detroit," *Magazine of History* 7 (Summer 1993): 23-27.

Review Essays

“Legacies of Liberalism,” Review of Lizabeth Cohen, *Saving America’s Cities: Ed Logue and the Struggle to Renew Urban America in the Suburban Age*, for *Reviews in American History* 48, 4 (Fall 2020): 589-595.

“Behind the Second Veil,” Review of Leslie Brown, *Upbuilding Black Durham: Gender, Class, and Black Community Development in the Jim Crow South*, for *Reviews in American History* 37, 2 (June 2009): 243-48.

“The Fragmenting of the Solid South,” Review of Charles E. Connerly, *The Most Segregated City in America*, Kevin M. Kruse, *White Flight*, and Matthew D. Lassiter, *The Silent Majority*, for *Journal of Planning History* 7, 1 (February 2008): 80-88.

"Towards a National Narrative of Civil Rights," Review of Peter B. Levy, *Civil War on Race Street: The Civil Rights Movement in Cambridge, Maryland*, Robert O. Self, *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*, and John A. Kirk, *Redefining the Color Line: Black Activism in Little Rock, Arkansas, 1940-1970*, for *Journal of Ethnic History* (Fall 2005).

“‘Nordics’ and ‘Negroes,’” Review of Matthew Pratt Guterl, *The Color of Race in America: 1900-1940*, for *Reviews in American History* 30, 3 (September 2002): 433-38.

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries

Review of Jeanelle K. Hope and Bill V. Mullen *The Black Antifascist Tradition: Fighting Back from Anti-Lynching to Abolition for Peace and Change* 49, 4 (October 2024): 452-54

Review of Melissa Ford, *A Brick and a Bible: Black Women’s Radical Activism in the Midwest during the Great Depression*, for *American Historical Review* 129, 2 (June 2024): 728-29

Review of Mary-Elizabeth B. Murphy, *Jim Crow Capital: Women and Black Freedom Struggles in Washington, D.C., 1920-1945*, for the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 50, 3 (Winter 2020): 464-65.

“Amusement Parks,” *World of Jim Crow: A Daily Life Encyclopedia*, (Greenwood Press, 2019).

Review of Todd M. Michney, *Surrogate Suburbs: Black Upward Mobility and Neighborhood Change in Cleveland, 1900-1980*, for the *American Historical Review* 122, 5 (2017), 1632-33.

Review of Karen R. Miller, *Managing Inequality: Northern Racial Liberalism in Interwar Detroit*, for the *American Historical Review*, 121, 2 (2016), 585-86.

Review of Wanda A. Hendricks, *Fannie Barrier Williams: Crossing the Borders of Region and Race*, for the *Journal of American History*, 101, 4 (2015), 1299-1300.

Review of Ronald J. Stephens, *Idlewild: The Rise, Decline, and Rebirth of a Unique African American Resort Town*, for *American Historical Review*, 119, 5 (2014), 1711-1712.

Review of Benjamin Houston, *The Nashville Way: Racial Etiquette and the Struggle for Social Justice in a Southern City*, for *American Historical Review*, 118, 3 (June 2013), 884-85.

Review of Lisa Levenstein, *A Movement Without Marches: African American Women and the Politics of Poverty in Postwar Philadelphia*, for *American Historical Review*, 116, 2 (April 2011): 480-81.

Review of Shane White, Stephen Garton, Stephen Robertson and Graham White, *Playing the Numbers: Gambling in Harlem Between the Wars*, for *Left History*, 14, 1 (Fall/Winter 2010-11).

“Juanita Morrow Nelson,” *African American National Biography*, (Oxford University Press).

“Wallace Nelson,” *African American National Biography*, (Oxford University Press).

Review of Susan Sessions Rugh, *Are We There Yet? The Golden Age of American Family Vacations*, for *American Journal of Play* (Fall 2009): 221-23.

Review of Jeff Wiltse, *Contested Waters: A Social History of Swimming Pools in America*, for *American Historical Review* (February 2008): 214-15.

Review of Felicia Kornbluh, *The Battle for Welfare Rights: Politics and Poverty in Modern America*, in *Women and Social Movements in the United States* 2, 4 (December 2007),

Review of Carol Faulkner, *Women’s Radical Reconstruction: The Freedmen’s Aid Movement*, for *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History* 31, 1 (January 2007): 113-115.

Review of Amy Maria Kenyon, *Dreaming Suburbia: Detroit and the Production of Postwar Space and Culture*, for *American Historical Review* (December 2006): 1548.

Review of Michele Mitchell, *Righteous Propagation: African Americans and the Politics of Racial Destiny After Reconstruction*, for *Journal of American History* (March 2006): 1453-54.

Review of Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age* (2004), for *Social History* (Fall 2005).

Review of Kimberley L. Phillips, *AlabamaNorth: African-American Migrants, Community, and Working-Class Activism in Cleveland, 1915-45*, for H-NET Urban History Discussion List, May 2001.

Review of Katherine G. Aiken, *Harnessing the Power of Motherhood: The National Florence Crittenton Mission, 1883-1925*, for *Journal of Southern History* 66, No. 3 (August 2000): 660-661.

Review of Kevin Boyle and Victoria Getis, *Muddy Boots and Ragged Aprons: Images of Working-Class Detroit, 1900-1930*, for H-NET Urban History Discussion List, June 1999.

"Selma Hunter Borchardt," *American National Biography*, edited by John A. Garraty and Mark C. Carnes (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).

"Lizzie Pitts Merrill Palmer," *American National Biography*, edited by John A. Garraty and Mark C. Carnes (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Review of June Manning Thomas, *Redevelopment and Race: Planning a Finer City in Postwar Detroit*, for *Cithara: Essays in the Judaeo-Christian Tradition* 38, 1 (November 1998): 69-70.

Review of Tera W. Hunter, *To 'Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors After the Civil War*, for H-NET Urban History Discussion List, November 1997.

Review of Gretchen Lemke-Santangelo, *Abiding Courage: African American Migrant Women and the East Bay Community*, for H-NET Urban History Discussion List, December 1996.

"'We Win Battles By Social Action, Education Will Win Social War': The American Teachers Association and Black Women Educators," *Black Women in the United States: An Historical Encyclopedia* (New York: Carlson Publishing, 1993), 26-28. Co-author with Earl Lewis.

"The National Training School for Women and Girls," *Black Women in the United States: An Historical Encyclopedia* (New York: Carlson Publishing, 1993), 868-869.

Honors and Awards

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activity, May 2025

Co-PI on Mellon Grant, "Communities of Care," \$2,527,000.00, 2023-2026

Elise M. Boulding Prize in Peace History for *Living in the Future: Utopianism and the Long Civil Rights Movement*, June 2023

New Deal Book Award for *Living in the Future: Utopianism and the Long Civil Rights Movement*, June 2023

Humanities Institute Fellowship, University at Buffalo, Spring 2020

National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship, Spring 2016

Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians, 2014-present

Susan B. Anthony Institute Research Grant, University of Rochester, Spring 2010

Abraham J. Karp Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Rochester, Spring 2005

Beveridge Grant, American Historical Association, 2002

Faculty Research Grant, Saint Bonaventure University, 2000

Lerner-Scott Dissertation Prize of the Organization of American Historians, 1997

Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies, University of Rochester, Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1996-1997

Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan, Research Grant, 1995

Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical Profession/Conference Group on Women's History/Berkshire Graduate Student Award, 1995

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 1994-1995

Graduate Student Fellowship, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, 1993-1994

Walter Rodney Essay Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student Essay, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan, 1993

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Research Grant, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, 1992

McGuigan Prize for Best Graduate Essay on Women, Women's Studies, University of Michigan, 1990

Slosson Fellowship, Department of History, University of Michigan, 1989-1993

Presentations

Invited Talks

Panel for 40th Annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival, "Ain't No Back to a Merry Go Round," March 26, 2025

"The Resistant Body: Female Hunger Strikers in Modern America," Furman University, March 21, 2024

"Dangerous Play: Racial Conflict in Twentieth Century Urban Amusements," Kaboom Play Academy Annual Conference, February 29, 2024

"The History of Glen Echo," National Parks Service Panel, February 10, 2024

"Dangerous Play: Racial Conflict in Twentieth Century Urban Amusements," Ontario History Society, February 8, 2024

"Living in the Future," Webinar, The Living New Deal, October 10, 2024.

"Living in the Future: Race and American Utopias," Roosevelt Reading Festival, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, June 24, 2023.

"Radical Nonviolence, Interracial Utopias, and the Long Civil Rights Movement," January 27, 2023, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.

“Living in the Future,” Book Talk, New Books, New Feminist Directions, Gender Institute, University at Buffalo, March 8, 2022, Online.

Panelist, “African American Urban History from Past to Future Tense: Thoughts on a State of the Field,” Center for African American Urban Studies and the Economy, Carnegie Mellon University, September 24, 2021, Online.

“Black Owenites: Cooperation and the Long Civil Rights Movement,” Robert Owen, Celebrating 250 Years, University of Indiana, September 23, 2021, Online.

“Father Divine and New York’s Promised Land,” Humanities Festival, September 18, 2021, Buffalo, New York.

“Changing Narratives of the Public Realm: For Whom and By Whom?” Garden & Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop, Dumbarton Oaks, June 1, 2020. Online.

“Landscapes of Segregation: Race, Recreation and Resistance in Modern America,” Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C., February 20, 2020

“Radical Nonviolence, Interracial Utopias, and the Long Civil Rights Movement,” Humanities Institute, University at Buffalo, Scholars at Hallwalls, February 7, 2020

“Religio-Racial Identities and the Politics of Father Divine,” Department of History, University of Delaware, October 1, 2019

“Roller Coasters and Race in the Postwar City: Crystal Beach, Canada, and the 1956 *Canadiana* Riot,” Phi Alpha Theta, West/Central New York Regional Conference, University at Buffalo, April 13, 2019

“Repertoires of Resistance: Social Unionism and Workers’ Education in Interwar America,” From Protest to Politics: Women’s Movements and Strengthening Democracies, University at Buffalo, April 12, 2019

“Radical Nonviolence and Interracial Utopias in the Early Civil Rights Movement,” Modern American Society and Culture Seminar, Massachusetts Historical Society, September 25, 2018

OAH Distinguished Lecture, “Rethinking the Civil Rights Movement: The View from the North,” Jamestown Community College, April 7, 2017

“Voting with Their Feet: The Struggle Over Segregated Recreation,” VRA@50: A Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Utica College, November 14, 2015

Keynote Address, “Dangerous Play: Racial Conflict in Twentieth-Century Urban Amusements,” The Cultures and Politics of Leisure in the British Isles and the United States” conference, Organized by the Research Group Histoire et Dynamique des Espaces Anglophones, Université Sorbonne, Paris, France, November 6-7, 2015

OAH Distinguished Lecture, "Dangerous Play: Racial Conflict in Twentieth-Century Urban Amusements," Higgins School of the Humanities, Clark University, February 24, 2015

"Recreation Riots and Racial Liberalism in the Postwar American City," York University, November 13, 2014

"Race, Riots and Roller Coasters: The Struggle Over Segregated Recreation in America," Herbert H. Lehman Center for American History, Columbia University, March 12, 2013

"Radical Nonviolence, Interracial Utopias, and the Long Civil Rights Movement," New Faculty Seminar, Humanities Institute, University at Buffalo, March 5, 2013

"Anatomy of a Hunger Strike: Eroseanna Robinson and Radical Nonviolence," Feminist Research Alliance, Gender Institute, University at Buffalo, September 25, 2012

"Militant Maternalism: Women's Struggles for Desegregation in the 1950s," Smith College Address, April 13, 2011

Keynote Lecture for "Reconsidering the City: A Conference on Urban History," SUNY Fredonia, April 23-24, 2010

"Recreation Riots and Racial Liberalism in the Postwar American City," Robert Marcus Memorial Lecture, SUNY College at Brockport, March 31, 2009

"Militant Maternalism: Women's Struggles for Desegregation in the 1950s," Keynote address for Upstate New York Women's History Organization Meeting, May 23, 2008

Buffalo Seminar on Racial Justice, "Racial Integration in Public Amusements," Buffalo, New York, September 14, 2006

"Northern Freedom Struggles: New Directions in Civil Rights," University of Rochester, October 21, 2005

"Recreation and Race in the Postwar City," University of the West Indies, Bridgetown, Barbados, April 15, 2005

"The Post-War city: Suburbs, Sprawl and Segregation," Strong Museum AP History Conference, March 24-28, 2003

"A Community Transformed: African-American Women and Detroit's Great Migration," The Institute for Detroit Studies at Marygrove College, October 10, 2002

Conference Presentations

"Living in Community: Radical Pacifists and Feminist Carework in Mid-Century America," *American Historical Association*, January 8-11, 2006

“Author Meets Critics: *Living in the Future: Utopianism and the Long Civil Rights Movement*,” Society for United States Intellectual History Conference,” November 9-11, 2023

“Living in Community: Radical Pacifists and Communal Living in Mid-Century America,” for the Urban History Association Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 26-29, 2023

“Resistant Bodies and Civil Rights: The Route 40 Desegregation Campaign and the Elkton Three,” for the Organization of American Historians Conference, Los Angeles, California, March 30-April 2, 2023

“Abundance in a Time of Scarcity: Father Divine’s Peace Mission and Utopian Solutions to Economic Crises,” for the Society for Utopian Studies Conference, Charlestown, South Carolina, November 9-13, 2022

“Black Internationalism and Workers’ Education: The Case of Floria Pinkney,” for the African American Intellectual History Society Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 22-23, 2019

“Visions of Utopia: Modeling Social Change in Mid-Twentieth Century Pacifist Communities,” for the Organization of American Historians Conference, Sacramento, California, April 11-14, 2018

“Urban Cooperatives and the Black Freedom Struggle During the Great Depression” for the Urban History Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, October 13-16, 2016

“Manly Myths: Black and Soviet Female Track Stars,” for the Gender Institute Symposium, “Wonder Woman and Super Men,” University at Buffalo, September 25, 2015

Roundtable, “Historical Anniversaries,” Milton Plesur Graduate History Conference, University at Buffalo, March 7, 2015

“The Delta Cooperative Farm and the Utopian Strain in the Long Civil Rights Movement,” Communal Studies Conference, “Capitalism & Socialism: Utopia, Globalization, and Revolution,” November 6-8, 2014

“The Resistant Body: Female Hunger Strikers in the Twentieth Century,” Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Toronto, Canada, May 22-25, 2014

“An Uptown Utopia: Radical Interracialism and the Harlem Ashram,” Urban History Association Conference, New York, New York, October 26, 2012

“Representing Female Voices from the Margins,” Seneca Falls Dialogues, Seneca Falls, New York, October 20, 2012

“Eroseanna Robinson: The Long Civil Rights Movement and Interracial Pacifism in Postwar America,” Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Amherst, Massachusetts, June 9-12, 2011

- “Recreation Riots and the Struggle for Chicago’s Beaches,” Urban History Association Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 21-23, 2010
- “Shock Cities and Urban Nostalgia: Whitewashing the History of Recreation,” Urban History Association Conference, Houston, Texas, November 5-8, 2008
- “Violent Boundaries: Recreation Riots and Race in Post-WWII American Cities,” The Urban History Group’s 2008 Annual Conference, Nottingham, England
- “Swimming Pools and Racial Conflict in Postwar America,” Society for American City Regional and Planning History Conference, Portland, Maine, October 25-28, 2007
- “Moving the Movement North: A Roundtable on the Northern Freedom Struggle” The Third Biennial Urban History Conference, Tempe, Arizona, October 19, 2006
- "Integrated Leisure in Segregated Cities: Amusement Parks and Racial Conflict in the Post-War North," Urban History Association Conference, October 7-9 2004
- “Recreation and Race in the Post-War City: Buffalo’s 1956 Crystal Beach Riot,” Organization of American Historians Conference, March 26-28 2004
- "Integrated Amusements and Racial Strife: Buffalo's 1956 *Canadiana* Riot," Diaspora Paradigms: New Scholarship in African and African-American History Conference, September 20-23, 2001
- "The Bridge of Black Women's History: Building New Models of Urban History," Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, June 4-6, 1999
- "Race and Reform in New Deal Detroit," American Historical Association Conference, January 7-10, 1999
- “‘For a More Prosperous Day’: Economic Self-Help, African-American Women, and the Detroit Housewives’ League, 1930-1941,” Organization of American Historians Conference, March 30-April 2, 1995
- "Buffet Flats and Blind Tigers: African-American Female Leisure Workers and 'Vice' in Inter-War Detroit," American Historical Association Conference, January 5-8, 1995
- “‘For a More Prosperous Day’: Economic Self-Help, African-American Women, and the Detroit Housewives’ League, 1930-1941,” Social Science History Association Conference, October 13-16, 1994
- "Delusions of Alliance: Historical and Ethnographic Studies of African-American Women," Social Science History Association Conference, November 5-8, 1992
- "'Bible, Bath, and Broom': The National Training School and the Construction of African-American Female Identities," Social Science History Association Conference, October 31-November 3, 1991

"'Though Hands Are Hard Yet Hearts Are Gentle Still': The Structure of Gender in Victorian England," Eighth Annual National Graduate Women's Studies Conference, March 8-10, 1991

"The Making of the Modern Maid: The Construction of an African-American Working Class in Inter-War Detroit," Center for Afroamerican and African Studies Conference, February 2-4, 1991

Public History

Blog Posts, Editorials, On-Line Articles

["Blowing Up Operation Alert: The Protests that Pierced a National Myth,"](#) *Process: A Blog for American History*, January 29, 2026

Quoted in Raphaëlle Besse Desmoulières, "Aux Etats-Unis, premières plaintes liées aux décrets contre les personnes transgenres et la diversité," *Le Monde*, Feb. 13, 2025

["Masculinity Has Long Been a Factor in U.S. Elections,"](#) Gender Institute Blog, October 29, 2024

["The Mecca: Kamala Harris, Pauli Murray, and the Role of the University in Public Life,"](#) Gender Institute Blog, August 26, 2024

Quoted in ["Anthony Nesty's Role as US Olympics Men's Swimming Head Coach,"](#) NBC News, July 3, 2024

["Lessons from the Past: Campus Protests,"](#) Gender Institute Blog, University at Buffalo, May 3, 2024

["Bread and Roses: Lessons Learned from Women's History,"](#) Gender Institute Blog, University at Buffalo, February 26, 2024

["A New Era for the Gender Institute: The Communities of Care Mellon Grant,"](#) Gender Institute Blog, University at Buffalo, December 12, 2023

["Revealing Dress Codes,"](#) Gender Institute Blog, University at Buffalo, September 27, 2023

Quoted in Nathaniel Meyersohn, ["Public Pools are Disappearing Across America,"](#) CNN, July 23, 2023

["Howard Thurman and the Church for the Fellowship of All People,"](#) *Black Perspectives*, April 14, 2023

["Elon Musk's Utopian Town Will Disappoint—Like Most Company Towns,"](#) *Washington Post*, March 27, 2023

["White Violence and Black Buffalo,"](#) *Black Perspectives*, September 14, 2022

[“Five Questions with Victoria W. Wolcott.”](#) *The Chicago Blog*, August 13, 2022

[“Utopia in Dark Times.”](#) *Black Perspectives*, August 10, 2022

Quoted in Quoted in Andrew Lawrence, [“Theme Parks Were Not Meant for Black Families.”](#) *The Guardian*, August 1, 2022

Quoted in Zoe Greenberg, [“Ghosts in the Water.”](#) *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 15, 2022

Quoted in Roxanne Fequiere, [“For Black Women, Roller Skating is the Ultimate Form of Self Expression.”](#) *Refinery29*, July 6, 2022

Interview with Paul Rosenberg, [“To Renew Democracy we Need Big Dreams: Why Utopian Visions are Necessary.”](#) *Salon*, April 10, 2022

[“The Public has Underestimated the radicalism of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Early Work.”](#) *Washington Post*, January 17, 2022

Quoted in Victoria Vouloumanos, “This Viral Tiktok Breaks Down the ‘Black People Can’t Swim’ Stereotype,” *Buzzfeed*, February 23, 2021

Quoted in Andre Touran, “Unwelcome Waters: Segregated Public Pools and the Lasting Effect they have on the Black Community,” *Louisville Courier Journal*, February 23, 2021

[“Suffragists Used Hunger Strikes as a Powerful Tool of Resistance.”](#) *The Conversation*, August 19, 2020

Quoted in Whitney Eulich, “‘Our Voices Carry Weight’: Young Women of Color Lead Activist Charge,” *Christian Science Monitor*, August 3, 2020

Quoted in James Politi, “John Lewis, civil rights activist and Democratic congressman,” *Financial Times*, July 18, 2020

[“Q&A with Victoria Wolcott on Race Riots and Roller Coasters.”](#) Society for Commercial Archeology, June 15, 2020

Editorial, [“A Black Man in a White Space’: America has a Long and Troubled History of Segregated Public Parks.”](#) *New York Daily News*, May 26, 2020

Blog Post, [“Remaking Urban History.”](#) for *The Metropole*, January 8, 2020,

[“The Forgotten History of Segregated Swimming Pools.”](#) *The Conversation*, July 9, 2019,

Quoted in Tamar Carroll and Josh Meltzer, “The Village Voice’s Photographers Captured Change, Turmoil, Unfolding on New York City’s Streets,” *The Conversation*, October 23, 2018

Quoted in Cyril Julien, “U.S. Social Networks Help Combat Racial Bias,” *Agence France-Press*, July 12, 2018

Editorial, [“Not Even a Trip to the Amusement Park Has Been Easy for African Americans.”](#) History News Network, May 27, 2018

Quoted in Stave Zin, “How Donald Trump Ruined the Opening of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum for Actual Civil Rights Leaders,” *Newsweek*, December 12, 2017

Editorial, [“Six Flags has taken down its Confederate flag. But that’s not its only legacy of Jim Crow at the Park.”](#) *Washington Post*, August 28, 2017

Quoted in “NAACP Shake Up Needed, Observers Say,” *The Washington Informer*, May 24, 2017

Blog post, [“Dispatch from the Queen City.”](#) for “Public Seminar,” January 23, 2017

Blog Post, [“False Choices: Identity Politics and Lessons from the Left.”](#) for “Black Perspectives,” January 18, 2017

Quoted in “The Secret History of Black Santas,” BBC.com, December 9, 2016

Quoted in Steve Orr, “At Ontario Beach, A Carousel with Suspect History,” *Democrat and Chronicle*, July 16, 2015

Editorial, [“Why the Shocking Video of the Police Attack on Black Kids at a Pool Shouldn’t Shock Us.”](#) for History News Network, June 9, 2015

Blog Post, [“Disciplining Black Bodies: Racial Stereotypes of Cleanliness and Sexuality.”](#) for “Notches: (Re)marks on the History of Sexuality,” June 8, 2015

Organization of American Historians Media Relations Initiative, Experts Guide: History of U.S. Race Relations, March 2015-Present

Podcasts, Radio, Television and Film

Radio Interview, “The Visionary Activism of the Long Civil Rights Movement,” [Nonviolence Radio](#), the Metta Center for Nonviolence, September 2, 2024

Radio Interview, [“When Cities Like Louisville Devalue Public Pools.”](#) WFPL, Louisville, Kentucky, August 11, 2023

Podcast on *Living in the Future*, Political Junkie, [“White and Black Together.”](#) November 11, 2022

Radio Interview, “What’s Next?” NPR, WBFO, Buffalo, New York, February 2023

Radio Interview with Ambriehl Crutchfield, [“Why do most Metro Nashville Pools Close in July instead of Labor Day.”](#) NPR, WPLN, Nashville.

Podcast, [“Desegregating American Amusement.”](#) We the Black People: An American History Podcast, August 15, 2022

Podcast on *Living in the Future*, [Drafting the Past](#), August 2, 2022

Podcast on *Living in the Future*, [New Books Network](#), July 18, 2022

Podcast on *Living in the Future*, [Thecuriousmanspodcast](#), May 26, 2022

Historical Consultant, “Ain’t No Back to a Merry-go-Round,” film on Glen Echo Amusement Park, Ruby Pictures, Inc.

Podcast on *Living in the Future*, [“The Last Negroes at Harvard.”](#) April 14, 2022

Radio Interview, [“The Public Morality.”](#) WSNC, Winston Salem, North Carolina, April 12, 2022

Podcast, [“Women at the Table with Karen King.”](#) March 22, 2022

Podcast, The Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, [“Utopianism and the Long Civil Rights Movement.”](#) February 21, 2022

Radio Interview, “Evening Words,” WURD, Philadelphia, January 18, 2022

Film Interview, *Boblo Boats: A Detroit Ferry Tale*, Premiered September 22, 2021

Television Interview, “All Aboard the S.S. Columbia,” Spectrum News, March 31, 2021

Radio Interview, “Your Turn with Sherre Bishop,” 760 AM, Nashville, Tennessee, September 23, 2019

Podcast, National Public Radio, [“Strange Fruit: The Segregated History of our Summertime Spaces.”](#) August 25, 2019

Television Interview, WXXI, “Need to Know, Rochester,” October 11, 2018

Podcast, [“1968: In Hindsight.”](#) LePage Center for History in the Public Interest, Villanova University, March 29, 2018,

Radio Interview, [“Remembering the Detroit Housewives League, a Powerful Force in the City after Segregation.”](#) Michigan Public Radio, Stateside, May 26, 2017

Podcast, [“Immersive Irony Experience Theme Park Podcast-Crystal Beach Memorial Episode.”](#) “Parkscope: A View Into the World of Theme Parks,” March 29, 2017

Film Interview and Historical Consultant, "United Skates," Independent Documentary Film, August 2014-present

Television Interview for "I Have a Dream" speech commemoration, Channel 2, WGRZ, August 28, 2013

On-Line Interview, Huffington Post Live segment on Leigh Gallagher, *The End of the Suburbs*, August 9, 2013

Radio interview and blog post on *Race, Riots and Roller Coasters*, WBEZ Chicago, February 19, 2013

Radio interview on *Race, Riots and Roller Coasters*, WBAI New York, September 10, 2012

Humanities Advisor for "Race, Culture and the American City," a PBS documentary television series, 2004

Public Talks

"Urban Decline and Suburban Growth: How the Kensington Expressway Reshaped Williamsville and Buffalo," Williamsville Meeting House, April 7, 2024

"Virtual Third Thursday Speaker Series: Deconstructing Nostalgia," Detroit Historical Society, January 20, 2022

Organized and Moderated, "Black Utopias in a Post-Pandemic World," Humanities Institute, University at Buffalo, November 19, 2020

Video Conference, "Sarah Elizabeth Ray: The Rosa Parks of SS Columbia," July 21, 2020

Bistro Bookers Review, Lecture and discussion of Melinda Gates, *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*, November 18, 2019, Buffalo, New York

"You Say You Want a Revolution?": Remembering 1968", Superintendent's Conference Day, Amherst Central School District, Amherst, New York, November 6, 2018

Exhibit Opening, "Whose Streets? Our Streets!" New York City: 1980-2000," Rochester Institute of Technology, October 11, 2018

"You Say You Want a Revolution?" Remembering 1968," Humanities Festival, Buffalo, New York, September 22, 2018

Moderator, University at Buffalo Distinguished Speaker Series, Susan Rice, February 28, 2018

Academic Rounds, "Dangerous Play," Women and Children's Hospital, Buffalo, New York, November 16, 2017

"MLK@Buffalo, 50 Years Later," University at Buffalo, November 9, 2017

“The Confederacy: Balancing History, Pride, and Identity Politics in Today’s Diverse Society,” InFocus Program, University at Buffalo, September 8, 2017

Amherst High School, Black History Month Presentation, “Rethinking the Civil Rights Movement: The View from the North,” February 28, 2017

“Dangerous Play: Racial Conflict in Twentieth-Century Urban Amusements,” Teddy Roosevelt Inaugural Site, March 22, 2016

“#Blacklivesmatter: Historical Perspectives,” Symposium, University at Buffalo, February 18, 2015

“The Great Migration and the Hope of a Nation, “The Buffalo Humanities Festival,” “Moving Stories,” September 27, 2014

“Race, Riots and Roller Coasters: The Struggle for Integrated Recreation in America,” Central Library, Rochester, July 15, 2014

Teaching Experience

University at Buffalo (SUNY), 2011-present, Professor, Received tenure and promotion to Full Professor Summer 2012

“U.S. History Post-1865.” Lecture Course

"Civil Rights in America." Lecture Course

“The City in American History.” Lecture Course

“African American History II.” Lecture Course

“U.S. History Since 1945.” Lecture Course

“American Utopias.” Freshman Seminar

“Race and the American City.” Upper-level Seminar

“Sex and Gender in the American City.” Upper-level Seminar

“Bombshells: Gender and the Cold War in American History.” Upper-level Seminar

“The Long Civil Rights Movement.” Graduate Seminar

“The Role of the City in American History.” Graduate Seminar

“American History Core Seminar.” Graduate Seminar

University of Rochester, 2002-2011, Associate Professor, Received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor Spring 2006

“African-American History II.” Introductory Lecture Course

“Recent America.” Introductory Lecture Course

"Civil Rights in America." Introductory Lecture Course

“The City in American History.” Introductory Lecture Course

“Race and the American City.” Upper-level Seminar

“African-American Women’s History.” Research Seminar and Introductory Course

“The Beats and Beyond: 1950s America.” Research Seminar

“Introduction to Historical Methods: American Utopias.” Introductory Course

“Leisure and Recreation in America.” Research Seminar

"Northern Freedom Struggles." Research Seminar

“African American Popular Culture.” Research Seminar
“Sex and Gender in the American City.” Research Seminar
“Senior Capstone for African and African American Studies.” Research Seminar
“United States Colloquium II.” Introductory Graduate-Level Course

Saint Bonaventure University, 1998-2002, Assistant Professor, Received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor Spring 2002

"United States History Since 1865." Introductory Lecture Course
"United States History to 1865." Introductory Lecture Course
"Twentieth Century American History to 1945." Upper-level survey
"Twentieth Century American History Since 1945." Upper-level survey
"Women in America." Upper-level survey
"The City in America." Upper-level seminar
"Leisure and Recreation in America." Upper-level seminar
"Civil Rights in America." Upper-level seminar
"American Popular Culture." Upper-level survey
"Microhistory." Graduate Course

University of Rochester, 1996-1997, Postdoctoral Fellow

"African American Popular Music." Upper-level seminar
"African-American Women's History." Upper-level survey

University of California, San Diego, Spring 1996, Adjunct Professor

"African American Women's History." Upper-level seminar
"Urban Studies and Planning: The City and Social Theory." Introductory lecture course

University of California, Irvine, Winter 1995, Adjunct Professor

"African American Women and the Blues." Upper-level course

University Service

University at Buffalo

Member, College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Search Committee, January 2026-April 2026

Member, College of Arts and Sciences, Disability Studies Communities of Care Search Committee, 2025-26

Member, College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Search Committee, September 2024-January 2025

Co-PI, Mellon Grant, “Communities of Care,” December 2023-present

Director, Gender Institute, Fall 2023-present

Chair, Faculty Senate Equity and Diversity Committee, Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Member, Faculty Senate, Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Member, Gender Institute's Fellowship Committee, Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Member, Andrew Carnegie Fellowships Award Committee, Fall 2022-present

Member, Faculty Senate, Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Executive Committee, Global, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Fall 2021-Spring 2023

Search Committee, Lockwood Chair for Latinx History, Department of History, 2022

Member, Selection Committee for the Graduate School's Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award, January, 2021

Chair, Library Committee, Department of History, 2020-2021

UUP, Departmental Representative, January 2020-September 2023

Member, Diversity Committee, Department of History, Fall 2019-Spring 2026

Chair, Diversity Committee, Department of History, Spring 2022, Spring 2023

Gender Institute Dissertation Fellowship Committee, Spring 2020

Chair, Department of History, 2016-2019

Civil Rights Exhibit Committee, Fall 2018

Co-Director, Humanities Institute Workshop, "City and Society," 2015-2017

Member, College Strategic Enrollment Management Committee, 2017-2019

Member, Graduation Education Brand Strategy Development Group, University at Buffalo, June 2017-2018

Member, Decanal Review Committee, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, December 2016-May 2017

Organizer, "History Facts" Series, Department of History, University at Buffalo, February-April, 2017

"Voting Rights and Civil Rights: Lessons from a Century of Resistance," "History Facts," University at Buffalo, March 15, 2017

Panelist, Difficult Conversations, "Statues, flags, and other icons that serve as reminders of historical legacies of injustice should be removed from college and university campuses," University at Buffalo, April 20, 2017

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2014-2015

“Architectures of Gender” Committee, Gender Institute, 2013-2014

Search Committee for Historian of Africa, Fall 2013

Policy Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2012-2015

Phi Beta Kappa Committee, Fall 2012-2013

Graduate Committee, Department of History, Fall 2012-2014, 2021-23

Executive Committee, Department of History, Fall 2011-Spring 2012; Fall 2013-Spring 2015;
Fall 2016-Fall 2019, Fall 2024-Fall 2025

Chair, Speaker’s Committee, Department of History, Fall 2011-Spring 2012

University of Rochester

Interim Director, Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies, Fall
2010-Spring 2011

Chair, Search Committee for Director of the Frederick Douglass Institute for
African and African-American Studies, Fall 2010-Spring 2011

Principal Investigator, Humanities Project, “Rethinking Gender and Race in American History,”
Fall 2009-Spring 2010

Target of Opportunity Hiring Committee, Department of History, Fall 2009-Spring 2010

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2009-Fall 2010

Recording Secretary, Phi Beta Kappa, Fall 2009-Spring 2011

Enrollment Committee, University of Rochester, Fall 2007-Fall 2008

Search Committee, Department of History, Fall 2006-Spring 2008

Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies, Executive Committee,
2002-2011

Faculty Associate, Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies, 2002-2011

Publicity Committee, Fall 2004, Fall 2006-Spring 2008

College Writing Committee, Fall 2003-Fall 2004; Fall 2005-Spring 2006

Urban Fellows Program, July 2006

Organized visit of Barbara Seals Nevergold and Peggy Brooks-Bertram, Uncrowned Queens Project, April 2004

Faculty Council Representative, Spring 2004

Undergraduate Studies Committee, Spring 2004, Fall 2007-Spring 2010

Co-Taught the “American History as Dialogue” Summer Institute, July 22-26, 2002

Professional Activity

Evaluator, Newcombe Fellowship Preliminary Selection Committee, 2022; 2023

External Evaluator, Wayne State University, Department of History, November, 2021

National Endowment for the Humanities, Panel Reviewer, March, 2017; November, 2019; May, 2020; April, 2025

Member, Urban History Association Nominating Committee, 2016-18

Co-Chair, Urban History Association Conference Program Committee, 2013-2014

Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians, 2012-present

Executive Board, Urban History Association, September 2009-2012

Presented remarks at book launch for Anastasia Curwood, Vanderbilt University, February 16, 2011

Organized conference, “Race and Gender in American History,” University of Rochester, April 17-18, 2010

North American Book Review Editor, *Urban History* (Cambridge University Press), December 2002-January 2009

Organized conference, “Northern Struggles: New Paradigms in Civil Rights,” University of Rochester, September 23-24, 2004

Editorial Boards

Editorial Board, *Journal of Urban History* (Sage), September 2015-present

North American Editorial Board, *Urban History* (Cambridge University Press), September 2007-April 2016

Editorial Board, University of Rochester Press, “Race and Gender in American History” series, 2008-present

Editorial Board, *Rochester History*, Rochester Historical Society, 2008-2010

Prize Committees

Chair, Elise M. Boulding Prize in Peace History, Spring 2025

New Deal Book Prize Committee, *The Living New Deal*, Spring 2024

Chair, J. Franklin Jameson Fellowship Committee, American Historical Association, 2020-21

J. Franklin Jameson Fellowship Committee, American Historical Association, 2019-20, 2020-21

Chair, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, Catherine Bauer Wurster Prize Committee, 2015

Ellis W. Hawley Prize Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2014

Graduate Student Prize Committee for the Urban History Association, 2012

Article Prize Committee for Society for American City Regional and Planning History, 2011

Article Prize Committee for the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, 2009, 2010

Book Prize Committee for the Urban History Association, 2004

Article Prize Committee for the Urban History Association, 2001, 2010

Manuscript Reviews

Article manuscripts evaluated for:

American Journal of Public Health, 2004

City and Society, 2012

Gender and History, 2009, 2020

Journal of Urban History, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2024

Journal of Civil and Human Rights, 2015

Journal of American History, 2003

Journal of Women's History, 2003, 2007, 2016

Labor: Studies in Working-Class History, 2025

Michigan Historical Review, 2002, 2006

New York History, 2018

Souls, 2016

Book manuscripts evaluated for:

Organization of American Historians—National Park Service Historic Context Study on African American Outdoor Recreation, 2021

Cambridge University Press, 2018

Oxford University Press, 2016, 2018

University of Rochester Press, 2016, 2025

New York University Press, 2015, 2017
University of California Press, 2012, 2013
University of Chicago Press, 2021, 2024
University of North Carolina Press, 2004, 2008, 2016
University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020
Wayne State University Press, 2009
University of Minnesota Press, 2010, 2012
University of Illinois Press, 2010
University of Massachusetts Press, 2012
University of Georgia Press, 2012
Routledge, 2013
Textbook manuscripts evaluated for:
Houghton Mifflin, 2000
Routledge, 2013

Professional Organizations

Member of the African American Intellectual History Association, 2022-present
Member of the Urban History Association, 1999-present
Member of the Society for American City Regional and Planning History, 2007-present
Member of the Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical Profession, 1998-present
Member of the Organization of American Historians, 1990-present
Member of the American Historical Association, 1990-present
Member of the African American Intellectual History Society, 2019-present