

Alaina E. Roberts, Ph.D.

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Academic Appointments

Associate Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh, 2023-present

Assistant Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh, 2019-2023

Dietrich School Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pittsburgh, 2018-2019

Richards Civil War Era Center Postdoctoral Fellow, The Pennsylvania State University, 2017-2018

Education

Ph.D., History

Indiana University

June 2017

Fields of Study: African Diaspora, Native American and Indigenous Studies

B.A., History

University of California, Santa Barbara

December 2011

Minor: American Indian and Indigenous Studies

Honors

Nonfiction Monographs

I've Been Here All the While: Black Freedom on Native Land

(University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021; paperback, 2022)

Winner of the 2022 W. Turrentine Jackson Book Prize
Western History Association
given annually to recognize the best first book on the American West

Winner of the 2022 John C. Ewers Award
Western History Association
given annually to recognize the best book on North American Indian Ethnohistory

Winner of the 2022 Stubbendieck Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize,
Center for Great Plains Studies (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
given annually to recognize the best book on the Great Plains

Winner of the 2021 Phillis Wheatley Book Award
Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage
given annually to recognize the best book on American slavery

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Finalist for the 2021 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in History

Finalist for the 2022 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize

Honorable Mention for the 2023 Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Book Prize

Nonfiction Essays and Book Chapters

(March 2026) “In 2025, an Echo of the 1800s: The Fight for Black Citizenship in the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations,” *Journal of the Civil War Era* vol. 16, no. 1

(November 2025) “A Pedagogy of Empathy and Self-Interest in Teaching Multiracial History,” *Journal of Southern History* vol. 91, no. 4

(June 2025) Editor with Joan Cashin, Material Culture in Nineteenth-Century America (special issue), *Journal of the Civil War Era* vol. 15, no. 2

(June 2025) Roundtable Convener & Facilitator, “‘We Are Cherokee’: Exhibiting Material Culture as an Act of Reconciliation,” *Journal of the Civil War Era* vol. 15, no. 2

(May 2024) Essay response to “Holding Space in Colonial Settler Histories: Book Forum on Alaina E. Roberts’ *I’ve Been Here All the While: Black Freedom on Native Land* (2021),” *Settler Colonial Studies* vol. 14, no. 2

(March 2023) “Black Slaves and Indian Owners: The Continuous Rediscovery of Indian Territory,” *Journal of the Civil War Era* vol. 13, no. 1

(February 2023) “Settlement” in *Democracies in America: Keywords for the 19th Century and Today*, eds. D. Berton Emerson and Gregory Laski (Oxford University Press)

(December 2022) “At the Intersection of Chickasaw Identity & Black Enslavement,” *Southern Cultures* vol. 28, no. 3

(September 2021) “When Black Lives Matter Meets Indian Country: Using the Cherokee and Chickasaw Nations as Case Studies for Understanding the Evolution of Public History and Interracial Coalition,” *American Indian Quarterly* vol. 45, no. 3

Honorable Mention for the 2021 Louis D. Rubin Award, Society for the Study of Southern Literature
given annually to recognize the best article in Southern Studies

(April 2021) Roundtable Participant, “No More Nations within Nations: Indigenous Sovereignty after the End of Treaty-Making in 1871,” *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* vol. 20, no. 2

(June 2020) “A Different Forty Acres: Land, Kin, and Migration in the Late Nineteenth Century West,” *Journal of the Civil War Era* vol. 10, no. 2

Winner of the 2021 Vicki Ruiz Award, Western History Association
given annually to recognize the best article on race in the North American West

(January 2018) “A Hammer and a Mirror: Tribal Disenrollment and Scholarly Responsibility,” *Western Historical Quarterly* vol. 49, no. 1

Nationally & Internationally Competitive Awards, Fellowships, Honors & Grants

(2026) Kweli Sing the Truth! Mentee, Kweli Mentorship Program for BIPOC Children’s Literature Writers

(2026) Kweli: The Color of Children’s Literature Conference scholarship

(2026) Honorable Mention, Louis D. Rubin (Article) Award, Society for the Study of Southern Literature

(2025) We Need Diverse Books’ Native Children’s and YA Writing Intensive scholarship

(2023) Honorable Mention, Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Book Prize

(2022) John C. Ewers Book Award, Western History Association

(2022) W. Turrentine Jackson Book Prize, Western History Association

(2022) [Stubbendieck Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize](#), Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

(2022) American Association of University Women American Postdoctoral Research Leave (declined)
 (2022) Finalist, Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize
 (2022) Finalist, *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize (History category)
 (2021) Vicki Ruiz (Article) Award, Western History Association
 (2021) Phillis Wheatley Book Award, Historical-Era Non-Fiction category, Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage
 (2021) Finalist & Alternate, Mellon Emerging Faculty Leadership Award
 (2018-2019) Dietrich School Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
 (2017-2018) Richards Civil War Era Center Postdoctoral Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University
 (2016) Trennert-Iverson Scholarship, Western History Association
 (2016) Indian Student Conference Scholarship, Western History Association
 (2015) Phillips Fund for Native American Research Grant, American Philosophical Society

Competitive University-Level Awards, Fellowships, Honors & Grants

(2025) Travel Funding Grant, Center for Ethnic Studies Research
 (2025) Research and Travel Funding Grant, World History Center
 (2024) Selected for a [Pitt Magazine profile](#)
 (2021) Selected for a [The Pitt News Silhouette](#) profile in recognition of university service and student mentorship
 (2020) Working Group Grant, World History Center

Public Scholarship: Select Op-Eds & Essays

(November 2023) [The Era of the Black Western Has Arrived. Is It Here to Stay?](#), *High Country News*, <https://www.hcn.org/articles/review-the-era-of-the-black-western-has-arrived-is-it-here-to-stay>

(June 2022) [Reconsidering Wilma Mankiller](#), *High Country News*, <https://www.hcn.org/articles/indigenous-affairs-people-places-reconsidering-wilma-mankiller/>

(October 2021) [The Ways Afro-Indigenous People Are Asked to Navigate Their Communities](#), *High Country News*, <https://www.hcn.org/issues/53.11/indigenous-affairs-interview-the-ways-afro-indigenous-people-are-asked-to-navigate-their-communities>

(May 2021) [Remembering the History of Black Wall Street](#), *Al Jazeera English*, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/5/31/remembering-the-history-of-black-wall-street>

(May 2021) [B.C. Franklin and the Tulsa Massacre: A Triracial History](#), *Perspectives Daily*, American Historical Association, <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/may-2021/bc-franklin-and-the-tulsa-massacre-a-triracial-history>

(April 2021) [My Ancestors Were Enslaved, But Their Freedom Came at a Price for Others](#), *TIME* magazine, <https://time.com/5954759/slavery-in-indian-territory/>

(March 2021) [As the Country Reckons with Race, Will Tribal Nations Lead the Way?](#), *High Country News*, <https://www.hcn.org/issues/53.5/indigenous-affairs-race-racism-as-the-country-reckons-with-race-will-tribal-nations-lead-the-way>

(June 2020) [Commemorating the Tulsa Massacre: A Search for Identity and Historical Complexity](#), *National Council on Public History* blog, <https://ncph.org/history-at-work/commemorating-tulsa-massacre/>

(August 2019) [Democratic Candidates are Finally Talking About Domestic Terrorism. Here's Why That Matters](#), *Washington Post*, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/08/27/democratic-candidates-are-finally-talking-about-domestic-terrorism-heres-why-that-matters/>

(February 2019) [Who is Native American?: The Elizabeth Warren Saga](#), *Al Jazeera English*, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/native-american-190220092329850.html>

(December 2018) [How Native Americans Adopted Slavery from White Settlers](https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/native-americans-adopted-slavery-white-settlers-181225180750948.html), *Al Jazeera English*, <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/native-americans-adopted-slavery-white-settlers-181225180750948.html>

(September 2017) [A Federal Court Has Ruled Blood Cannot Determine Tribal Citizenship. Here's Why That Matters](https://t.co/EB5yS0liW0), *Washington Post*, <https://t.co/EB5yS0liW0>

Public Scholarship: Select Commentary & Coverage in Local, Regional, National & International Media

(March 2026) [‘We Just Want Recognition of This Shared History,’](https://ictnews.org/news/we-just-want-recognition-of-this-shared-history/) *Indian Country Today*, <https://ictnews.org/news/we-just-want-recognition-of-this-shared-history/>

(June 2025) [Fans Criticize Beyoncé for Shirt Calling Native Americans ‘the enemies of the peace,’](https://www.theguardian.com/music/2025/jun/29/beyonce-shirt-anti-indigenous-language) *The Guardian* <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2025/jun/29/beyonce-shirt-anti-indigenous-language>

(April 2025) [Move Over Lone Ranger, Hopalong, Wyatt and Pals – History is Coming Your Way](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/22/arts/design/museums-black-cowboys-exhibitions.html), *New York Times*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/22/arts/design/museums-black-cowboys-exhibitions.html>

(January 2025) Commentary on Pine-Richland School Board meeting about banning *Angel of Greenwood* book, *KDKA Radio*

(July 2024) [Unpacking the Complicated History of the Black Cowboy](https://www.levelman.com/complicated-history-black-cowboy/), *LEVEL*, <https://www.levelman.com/complicated-history-black-cowboy/>

(December 2023) Interview on Lawmen: Bass Reeves, *KJZZ 91.5/NPR*

(October 2023) Interview on Indigenous Peoples Day, Tavis Smiley on [KBLA 1580am](#)

(September 2023) [‘Road to Healing’ Tour Highlights a Century of Abuse for Indigenous Children](https://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2023/09/02/carlsle-pennsylvania-indigenous-tour-boarding-school-american-indian/stories/202308240128), *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2023/09/02/carlsle-pennsylvania-indigenous-tour-boarding-school-american-indian/stories/202308240128>

(August 2023) [We’re Having a Cowboy Moment](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/24/style/were-having-a-cowboy-moment.html), *New York Times*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/24/style/were-having-a-cowboy-moment.html>

(July 2023) Interview, *SiriusXM* 146 [Road Dog Trucking](#)

(June 2023) [Contributor/Talking Head, The Real Wild Wild West docu-series](#) (filmed August 2022, now airing on Curiosity Stream/Amazon Prime/Roku; covered [here](#), [here](#) & [here](#))

(March 2023) [‘What About Black history bothers you?’: Allerdice students value AP African American Studies course criticized in other states](https://www.publicsource.org/ap-pittsburgh-pps-african-american-studies-criticism-pilot/), *Public Source*, <https://www.publicsource.org/ap-pittsburgh-pps-african-american-studies-criticism-pilot/>

(April 2022) [Who Belongs in the Cherokee Nation?](https://www.theatlantic.com/podcasts/archive/2022/04/chokeee-freedmen-controversy-slave-trade/629461/), *The Atlantic*: The Experiment podcast, <https://www.theatlantic.com/podcasts/archive/2022/04/chokeee-freedmen-controversy-slave-trade/629461/>

(August 2021) [Why the Jump in the Native American Population May Be One of the Hardest to Explain](https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/19/us/census-native-americans-rise-population/index.html), *CNN*, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/19/us/census-native-americans-rise-population/index.html>

(June 2021) [Juneteenth is a Celebration of Freedom from Slavery. But it Didn’t Mean Freedom for All](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/06/18/juneteenth-slavery-freedom-delayed-celebration/7713722002/), *USA Today*, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/06/18/juneteenth-slavery-freedom-delayed-celebration/7713722002/>

(May 2021) [The Foundation of the Wealth: Why Black Wall Street Boomed](https://www.ocregister.com/2021/06/01/the-foundation-of-the-wealth-why-black-wall-street-boomed/), *The Orange County Register*, <https://www.ocregister.com/2021/06/01/the-foundation-of-the-wealth-why-black-wall-street-boomed/>

(May 2021) [Discovering Black History as 100th Anniversary of Tulsa Massacre Nears](https://www.wtae.com/article/wtae-listens-discovering-black-history-as-100th-anniversary-of-tulsa-race-massacre-nears/36548466), *WTAE: Pittsburgh's Action News*, <https://www.wtae.com/article/wtae-listens-discovering-black-history-as-100th-anniversary-of-tulsa-race-massacre-nears/36548466>

(May 2021) [Native Americans Weren't Alone on the Trail of Tears. Enslaved Africans Were There, Too](https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/09/us/tulsa-massacre-native-history-alaina-roberts/index.html), *CNN*, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/09/us/tulsa-massacre-native-history-alaina-roberts/index.html>

(April 2021) [An Overdue Reckoning for Black Freedmen on Native Land](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/04/03/opinion/an-overdue-reckoning-black-freedmen-native-lands/), *Boston Globe*, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/04/03/opinion/an-overdue-reckoning-black-freedmen-native-lands/>

(November 2020) [The Black Native American descendants fighting for the right to belong](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/black-native-american-descendants-fighting-right-belong-n1248328), *NBC News*, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/black-native-american-descendants-fighting-right-belong-n1248328>

(October 2020) [Western Race Relations During the Presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes](#), *The Past, The Promise, The Presidency: Race and the American Legacy* podcast, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

(June 2020) [University of Pittsburgh History Professor Explains Importance of Juneteenth](https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/06/19/pitt-professor-explains-importance-of-juneteenth/), *KDKA CBS Pittsburgh*, <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/06/19/pitt-professor-explains-importance-of-juneteenth/>

(November 2018) [The Black Americans Suing to Reclaim Their Native American Identity](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/nov/02/black-americans-native-creek-nation), *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/nov/02/black-americans-native-creek-nation>

Book Reviews

(June 2024) W. Dale Weeks, "Cherokee Civil Warrior: Chief John Ross and the Struggle for Tribal Sovereignty," *Journal of American History* vol. 111, no. 1

(December 2023) Kyle T. Mays, "An Afro-Indigenous History of the United States," *The American Historical Review* vol. 128, no. 4

(December 2023) R. Isabela Morales, "Happy Dreams of Liberty: An American Family in Slavery and Freedom," *Journal of the Early Republic* vol. 43, no. 4

(March 2023) Fay A. Yarbrough, "Choctaw Confederates: The American Civil War in Indian Country," *American Indian Quarterly* vol. 46, no. 4

(December 2022) Samantha Seeley, "Race, Removal, and the Right to Remain: Migration and the Making of the United States," *Journal of the Civil War Era* vol. 12, no. 4

(July 2022) Christina Dickerson-Cousin, "[Blacks, Indians, and Freedmen: The African Methodist Episcopal Church & Indigenous Americans, 1816-1916](#)," *H-Net*

(June 2019) Paul D. Quigley, ed., "The Civil War and the Transformation of American Citizenship," *Journal of the Civil War Era* vol. 9, no. 2

(January 2018) Mikaëla M. Adams, "Who Belongs?: Race, Resources, and Tribal Citizenship in the Native South," *Western Historical Quarterly* vol. 49, no. 1

(December 2013) Barbara Krauthamer, "Black Slaves, Indian Masters: Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship in the Native American South," *Ohio Valley History* vol. 13, no. 3

Invited Presentations

(May 2026) Presenter, Freedmen & Afro-Indigenous Identities Webinar, Young Democrats of America Indigenous Caucus

(May 2026) “Black Slaves and Native American Masters,” Seoul National University (South Korea)

(March 2026) Presenter, “African American and Indigenous Life in the Southern United States,” University of Costa Rica

(February 2026) Organizer and Speaker, Freedmen Futures Inaugural Gathering (on freedmen history and citizenship advocacy), Phillips Theological Seminary

(February 2026) Discussant with Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Chair in Civil Rights Professor Carla Pratt (former Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Supreme Court Associate Justice), Phillips Theological Seminary

(February 2026) Keynote address, “Black Slavery, Native Nations, and a Path to Reconciliation,” Hemispheric Afro-Indigeneities Seminar, Arizona State University

(February 2026) Discussion with student book club on “I’ve Been Here All the While: Black Freedom on Native Land,” Labriola Center, Arizona State University

(February 2026) Discussion with Dean Stacey Leeds (former Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Justice), “On Freedmen and Tribal Sovereignty,” Sandra Day O’ Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

(December 2025) Keynote address, Symposium on Native American and African American Citizenship and Civic Engagement (funded by the Mellon Foundation Higher Learning Grant), The Ohio State University

(November 2025) Discussant with Dr. Ryan Booth (Upper Skagit tribal citizen), “Complicated Entanglements: Black and Indigenous Historical Intersections on the Plains,” rRemai mModern museum (Saskatoon, Canada)

(April 2025) Participant, Roundtable, DuBois’s *Black Reconstruction* Today, Classic Texts in Southern History virtual series, Southern Historical Association

(April 2025) Presenter, “Mississippi Goddam,” (first book chapter of my untitled second manuscript), Atlantic History Workshop, New York University

(November 2024) Book talk, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, WV

(November 2024) Guest speaker, Annual Freedom Fund Banquet, Indiana County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Pennsylvania

(April 2024) Timothy Donovan Lecture, University of Arkansas

(March 2024) “Black Slavery, Native Nations, and the Path to Reconciliation,” Cornell University

(February 2024) Black History Month speaker, College of Charleston

(February 2024) Black History Month speaker, University of Georgia

(November 2023) Panelist, Draper Workshop, University of Connecticut

(November 2023) Keynote speaker, Native American Heritage Month, The RAND Corporation

(May 2023) Book talk, Politics & Prose bookstore, Washington, D.C.

- (May 2023) Workshop on second book proposal draft, Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity, University of Chicago
- (March 2023) Keynote address, Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) Research Symposium, Virginia Tech
- (March 2023) Beauregard-King Emeriti Lecture, University of Dayton
- (March 2023) “Black and Indigenous Solidarities & Antagonisms,” Association of College & Research Libraries annual conference, Pittsburgh, PA
- (March 2023) Keynote address, Re-imagining Civil War and Reconstruction Histories initiative, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- (February 2023) Featured author, Cultures of the Americas Seminar, Gilcrease Museum/University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK
- (February 2023) Book talk, Pasadena Public Library
- (October 2022) Featured author, Social Cohesion Dialogue program, Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, Arizona State University
- (March 2022) Keynote address, Seeding Relations: Beyond Settler Colonial and Racialized Ecologies, Harvard University
- (March 2022) [Keynote address](#), History Graduate Student Association Conference, Indiana University
- (March 2022) “Black Freedom on Native Land,” Speaks-Warnock History Workshop series, University of Delaware
- (March 2022) “Whose Land & Identity is it Anyway?: Black/Native History in Indian Territory,” Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK
- (February 2022) “The Intersection of Black Studies and Native American & Indigenous Studies,” Black Studies NOW! series, Marywood University, Dunmore, PA
- (February 2022) Panelist, 13th Annual Presidential Symposium: “Lincoln, the Civil War, and Native Americans,” HistoryMiami (museum), Miami, FL
- (February 2022) Panelist, Bonds Beyond Blood: Afro-Indigeneity and Urban Settler Colonialism, Arizona State University
- (February 2022) Book talk, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, TX
- (January 2022) Book Break (book discussion on *I’ve Been Here All the While*), Gilder Lehrman Institute of American history, New York city, New York
- (November 2021) Why Indigenous Peoples’ Day?, Cook County Native American Heritage Month event, Chicago, IL
- (October 2021) Book talk, Donald E. Sharpe Lecture Series, Denison University, Granville, Ohio
- (September 2021) Book discussion, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria, Canada
- (September 2021) Book discussion, Richards Center, The Pennsylvania State University

(September 2021) “A Brief History of Exclusion/Inclusion in the United States,” Revolution New Jersey 250th Anniversary Commemoration, New Jersey Historical Commission

(June 2021) Book talk, The Newberry Library, Chicago, IL

(May 2021) Book talk, Philadelphia Athenaeum, Philadelphia, PA

(May 2021) Book talk, American Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA

(May 2021) Book talk and Q&A facilitated by Dr. Robert Keith Collins (San Francisco State University), Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD), San Francisco, CA

(May 2021) “Black and Indigenous Solidarities,” The Black Freedom Lectures series, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, University of Chicago

(May 2021) Book talk, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA

(May 2021) Book talk, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, KY

(April 2021) Book talk, Boston Athenaeum, Boston, MA

(April 2021) Book talk, University of Tennessee, Knoxville (The Papers of Andrew Jackson project)

(April 2021) Book talk, Made Local series, Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures

(April 2021) Book discussion, *Journal of the Civil War Era* webinar series

(April 2021) “A Racial Utopia that Could Have Been?: Lessons from Indian Territory (Oklahoma),” Civic Dialogue Series on Building Multiracial Democracy in the American West, Dartmouth University-Harvard University co-sponsored roundtable

(March 2021) Book talk, University of Georgia

(March 2021) “A Different Forty Acres: Land, Kin, and Migration in a Black and Native West,” Free People of Color: Race, Law, and Freedom in the 19th and 20th Century U.S. Inaugural Colloquium, University of California, Davis

(March 2021) “The Tulsa Race Massacre and Black-Native History in Oklahoma,” Newberry Teachers’ Consortium Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL

(February 2021) Moderator, Roundtable: “Indigenous Sovereignty + Black Liberation,” Carnegie Mellon University

(February 2021) “Black Slaves & Native Masters: A History of Indian Territory,” Idaho State University

(January 2021) “Black & Native History as Research and Identity,” Black Creek Native History Program, Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band

(November 2020) “Black and Native People as Settlers?: A Case Study in Indian Territory,” Brandeis University

(February 2020) “The Revelatory Power of a Black and Native Life,” Keynote address, American Indian and Indigenous Collective’s 7th Annual Symposium, University of California, Santa Barbara

(September 2019) “Coming to Terms with an Intertwined African American and Native American History and Present,” Crossroads: Reconsidering Native Americans and African Americans in Tennessee and the South Symposium, Historic Franklin Masonic Hall Foundation, Franklin, Tennessee

(September 2019) “The Wages of Settler Colonialism within Indian Country: A Discussion about Tribal Disenrollment,” Settler Colonialism and the United States Symposium and Teach-In, Carnegie Mellon University

(August 2019) “Facing the Black Experience in a Native Space,” Africana Studies Norris Lecture, Oklahoma State University

(March 2019) “Who is Indigenous?: Land, Colonialism, and Placemaking,” Spring Lunch Series on Global Indigeneity, World History Center, University of Pittsburgh

(January 2017) “Defining Freedom: Emancipation in the Chickasaw Nation,” Emerging Scholar Speaker Series, The Pennsylvania State University

Conference Participation

(July 2026) Panelist, Roundtable, The Early Republic and Contemporary US Politics, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, PA

(October 2025) Panelist, Roundtable, Re(Teaching the West): Bringing Scholarship into the Classroom, Western History Association conference, Albuquerque, NM

(June 2025) Co-organizer & Panelist, Roundtable, Freedmen Futurities in the Choctaw & Chickasaw Nations, Native American and Indigenous Studies Association conference, Oklahoma City, OK

(October 2024) *Panelist*, Roundtable: Historical Memory in the Civil War West and Indian Country, Western History Association conference/Southern Historical Association conference, Kansas City, MO

(October 2024) *Panelist*, Roundtable: Black-Indigenous Intersectional History, Western History Association conference/Southern Historical Association conference, Kansas City, MO

(October 2023) *Panelist*, Roundtable: Teaching the Black West, Western History Association conference, Los Angeles, CA

(October 2022) *Panelist*, Presidential State-of-the-Field Roundtable: Captivity, Slavery, and Their Afterlives: Scholars and Communities Confront the Intertwined Histories of Kinship and Coerced Labor, Western History Association conference, San Antonio, TX

(October 2022) *Commenter*, New Perspectives on the Black West, Western History Association conference, San Antonio, TX

(April 2022) *Chair*, The New Native Reconstruction, Organization of American Historians conference, Boston, MA

(February 2022) *Panelist*, Roundtable: Foundational Sins: Crafting a New Narrative for Teaching American History, American Historical Association conference, New Orleans, LA (invited by conference planning committee) (virtual)

(February 2022) *Chair*, Black Geographies in Memory, History, and Practice, American Historical Association conference, New Orleans, LA (virtual)

(July 2021) *Panelist*, Roundtable: New Histories of Black Citizenship, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic conference, Philadelphia, PA (invited by conference planning committee) (virtual)

(June 2021) *Panelist*, Roundtable: Keywords for New Directions in Civil War and Reconstruction Studies, Society of Civil War Historians conference, Raleigh, NC (virtual)

(June 2021) *Panelist*, Roundtable: Indigenous Sovereignty in Old Indian Territory & Contemporary Oklahoma, Native American and Indigenous Studies Association conference (virtual)

(April 2021) *Panelist*, “The Joys and Pains of American Documentation in a Black and Native Space,” Organization of American Historians conference, Chicago, IL (virtual)

(November 2020) *Panelist*, Roundtable: The Long History of the Chickasaws, Southern Historical Association conference, Memphis, TN (virtual) (invited by conference planning committee)

(January 2020) *Organizer and Chair*, Parallels and Comparisons: Black and Native Involvement in Systems of Captivity and Enslavement, American Historical Association Conference, New York, NY

(October 2019) *Panelist*, “Democracy through Domestic Imperialism: Land, Citizenship, and Reconstruction in Indian Territory,” Western History Association conference, Las Vegas, NV

(September 2019) *Commentator*, Creating and Contesting Southern Narratives, American Society for Ethnohistory conference, State College, PA

(June 2019) *Chair*, Visions of Empire: Policy and Protest in the British Atlantic World, Omohundro Institute conference, Pittsburgh, PA

(April 2019) *Panelist*, “Can People of African Descent be Settlers?: Envisioning Freedom in the West as Imperialism by Proxy,” Organization of American Historians conference, Philadelphia, PA

(March 2018) *Panelist*, “Who is Chickasaw in Nineteenth Century Indian Territory?,” Critical Mixed Race Studies conference, College Park, MD

(January 2018) *Panelist*, “Defining Freedom through Transnational Movement: Emancipation and Reconstruction in the Chickasaw Nation,” American Historical Association conference, Washington, D.C.

(November 2017) *Panelist*, “Agents as Activists: The Case of John Sanborn and the Chickasaw Freedpeople,” Southern Historical Association conference, Dallas, TX

(August 2017) *Panelist*, “Contested Narratives: Venues of Identity and Memorialization,” Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association conference, Los Angeles, CA

(October 2016) *Panelist*, Roundtable: Family History as a Method in Reconstructing Indigenous and Black West(s), Western History Association conference, St. Paul, MN

(November 2015) *Panelist*, “‘A Permanent Dissolution of the American Union’: Chickasaw Nationhood and the Rhetoric of Chickasaw Freedpeople in the Era of Reconstruction,” American Society for Ethnohistory conference, Las Vegas, NV

Courses Taught

Undergraduate

Introduction to African American History (HIST 0670/AFRCNA 0629, lower division, 35 students)

History of the American Frontier (HIST 1625, lower division, 35 students)

The Black West (HIST 1628, upper division, 35 students)

Natives and Newcomers: A Multicultural History of North America (HIST 0672, lower division, 35 students)

Graduate

Public Narratives: Monuments, Cultural Centers, and Museums as Sites of Contestation (HIST 2047, 8 students)

Independent Study: Nineteenth Century U.S. History (1 student)

Independent Study: Gilded Age & Reconstruction Era Black and Native America (2 students)

Service to the Department & University

(Spring 2026) Member, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Ad Hoc Review Committee, Dietrich School

(Fall 2025) Presenter, The Fantastical Historical: Native American Futurism, World History Center

(Fall 2025) Member, search committee for targeted teaching assistant professor in sport history, History Department

(Fall 2025-Fall 2027) Member, Tenure Committee, Dietrich School

(Spring 2025) Respondent, “Learning to Arrive”: Why Co-Creation and Worldmaking in Music Research Matters Now with Dr. Jessica Bissett Perea, Humanities Center

(Fall 2024-Spring 2026) Member, Planning & Budget Committee

(Fall 2024) Chair, Department of Economics Ad Hoc Tenure Committee, Dietrich School

(Fall 2024) Panelist, Lakota Perspectives, University of Pittsburgh Civic Action Week

(Fall 2023-Spring 2024) Member, search committee for spousal hire/tenure-track assistant professor in Atlantic/Native history, History Department

(Fall 2023-Spring 2024) Associate co-organizer, Slavery and Memorialization in the Atlantic World history department lecture series, University of Pittsburgh

(Fall 2023-Spring 2024) Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, History Department

(Fall 2022) Member, search committee for assistant professor in Latinx history, History Department

(Spring 2022) Guest speaker, “The Origins of Race in the Americas,” Racism in Medicine course (taught by Dr. Alaina James), University of Pittsburgh

(2021-2024) Member, Inaugural advisory committee for the Center for Ethnic Studies Research (CESR), University of Pittsburgh

(Fall 2021) Guest speaker, “When Native Americans Owned Black Slaves,” Honors College (Chancellor’s Scholars seminar), University of Pittsburgh

(Summer 2021) “Who is Indigenous?: Defining Migration and Identity,” Keynote address, Teaching Indigenous History as World History, World History Center, University of Pittsburgh (in partnership with The Alliance for Learning in World History)

(Spring 2021) Consultant, reimagining the Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship committee (under Dean Tara Meyer), University of Pittsburgh

- (Spring 2021) Moderator, Dr. Tiffany King lecture: “Red and Black Alchemies of Flesh: Off the Shores of Work,” World History Center, University of Pittsburgh
- (Spring 2021) Presenter, Flash Class: “The Tulsa Massacre,” Undergraduate Recruitment and Alumni Relations (under Carol Mullen), University of Pittsburgh
- (Spring 2021) Organizer & Moderator, “First Peoples Past and Present: Native American Health & Voting Power,” Office of Diversity & Inclusion, University of Pittsburgh
- (Fall 2020) Facilitator, “Read & Discuss: *The Black Shoals: Offshore Formations of Black and Native Studies*,” World History Center, University of Pittsburgh
- (Fall 2020) Convener, Working Group on Global Indigeneity, World History Center, University of Pittsburgh
- (Fall 2020) Chair, Joint Senate Educational Policies Committee-Senate Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Discrimination Advocacy Committee Working Group on Massenberg Petition/Black Studies Course, University of Pittsburgh
- (Fall 2020) Guest speaker, “Who Belongs in the Reconstructed United States?,” Anti-Black Racism: History, Ideology, and Resistance required freshman course, University of Pittsburgh
- (Fall 2020) Member, provost committee on Anti-Black Racism and Transformative Pedagogy, University of Pittsburgh
- (Spring 2020) Presenter, African American-Native American Genealogy Workshop, Department of Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh (in partnership with the Heinz History Center)
- (Spring 2020) Facilitator, “Ten Evenings” book discussion about *There, There* by Tommy Orange, Global Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh (in partnership with Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures)
- (Fall 2019) Guest speaker, “Native American Genocide,” The Holocaust in Context: Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in Central Europe undergraduate seminar (taught by Dr. Gregor Thum), University of Pittsburgh
- (Spring 2019) Co-Originator, “Spring Lunch Series on Global Indigeneity,” World History Center, University of Pittsburgh
- (Fall 2018) Co-Presenter, “[The Diversity Statement: What it Is and How it Can Change the Way You Teach](#),” Graduate Studies, University of Pittsburgh
- Service to the Profession & the Public**
- (2026) Advisor and Board Member, Honoring Chickasaw Freedmen Scholarship, Communities Foundation of Oklahoma
- (2026) External reviewer for tenure case
- (2026-2028) Member, Award Committee for the Oscar Winther Award, Western History Association
- (2026-2028) Member, Award Committee for the Janet and Bert Fireman Award, Western History Association
- (2026) Article reviewer, *Ethnohistory*
- (2026-2028) Member, Editorial Board, Western Historical Quarterly
- (2025-2028) Elected member of the Executive Council, Western History Association

- (2025) Advised three Native children's literature authors on freedmen history, leading to the creation of their blog post, "[Who Are Native Freedmen?](#)" – my quote in this post was also cited in a subsequent *Publisher's Weekly* [article](#)
- (2025) Presenter, Black and Indigenous Summer Institute (for Rhode Island high school students), Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University
- (2025) Organizer & Co-Presenter, Let's Learn About Chickasaw History! with Dr. Robert O. Smith, Chickasaw citizen, Ardmore Public Library, Ardmore, OK
- (2025) Organizer & Co-Presenter, Learning About Choctaw Freedmen Together! with Dr. Shane Dillingham, Choctaw citizen, Pushmataha County Historical Society, Antlers, OK
- (2025) Collaborator, Partnership with Dr. Jessica Jackson, Colorado State University undergraduate students, and Colorado K-12 teachers to incorporate my book, *I've Been Here All the While*, into their curriculum
- (2025) Manuscript reviewer, Louisiana State University Press
- (2025) Chair, *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for History Committee
- (2024) Manuscript reviewer, University of Illinois Press
- (2023-2026) Member, Indigenous Advisory Ad Hoc Committee, Western History Association
- (2024) Chair, Vicki L. Ruiz Award Committee, Western History Association
- (2023) MacArthur Genius Grant reviewer
- (2023) Article reviewer, *Settler Colonial Studies*
- (2023) Presenter, Teacher Institute, Historical Society of Pennsylvania/National Endowment for the Humanities
- (2023) Manuscript proposal reviewer, University of Oklahoma Press
- (2023) Contributor, student project for National History Day
- (2022) Member, Research Grant Review Committee, Research for Indigenous Social Action and Equity (RISE) Center, University of Michigan
- (2022) Presenter, National Parks Service Book Club on Women's Western History
- (2022) Collaborator (helped create overall exhibit narrative and curate specific labels), *We Are Cherokee: Cherokee Freedmen and the Right to Citizenship* exhibit, Cherokee National History Museum, Tahlequah, OK
- (2022) Presenter, Indigenous Peoples' Day Teach In, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian
- (2022) Presenter, Teaching the Black Freedom Struggle series, Zinn Education Project
- (2022) Presenter, United Negro College Fund/Mellon Programs Faculty Seminar: Africans, Their Descendants, and Native Americans: History and Legacy
- (2022) Member, Program Committee, Western History Association Conference 2023
- (2022-2023) Member, Vicki L. Ruiz Award Committee, Western History Association

- (2022) Member, Merle Curti Social History Book Award Committee, Organization of American Historians
- (2021) “The Black and Native Civil War West,” Newberry Teachers’ Consortium Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL
- (2021) External reviewer for tenure case
- (2021) Manuscript proposal reviewer, Oxford University Press
- (2021) Consultant on reparations and Black land ownership, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services under Chairwoman Maxine Waters
- (2021) Member, Fishel-Calhoun Article Prize Committee, Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era
- (2021) Manuscript proposal reviewer, University of North Carolina Press
- (2021-2024) Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of the Civil War Era*
- (2020) Article reviewer, *William & Mary Quarterly*
- (2020-2022) Member, Early Career Committee, Society of Civil War Historians
- (2020) Member, Program Committee, Southern Historical Association Conference 2021
- (2019) Article reviewer, *Radical History Review*
- (2019-2022) Member, Editorial Board, *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*
- (2018) Member, Julia Cherry Spruill Book Prize Committee, Southern Association of Women Historians

Service to the Pittsburgh Community

- (2026) Consultant, Land Acknowledgment for the 2026 Pittsburgh conference of the University Council for Educational Administration
- (2025) Member, Host Committee for Dr. Shyla Spicer (CEO of Natives Arts & Culture Foundation), *Owning Our Future: A Symposium on BIPOC Institutional Ownership*, Kelly Strayhorn Theater
- (2025) Discussant, “Black Experiences in 19th century America,” Three Rivers Graduate History Conference
- (2025) Participant/Presenter, Guest Label Writers in Conversation on *Kara Walker: Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)* exhibit, The Frick Pittsburgh
- (2025) Collaborator (created custom label for an art piece and approved artifact display labels), *Kara Walker: Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)* exhibit, The Frick Pittsburgh
- (2024) Speaker, Book symposium for Edda Fields-Black’s *COMBEE: Harriet Tubman, the Combahee River Raid, and Black Freedom during the Civil War*, History department, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh
- (2024) Juneteenth talk, Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, Carnegie, PA
- (2024) Juneteenth talk, Duquesne Light
- (2024) Historical consultant for programming related to *The Coffin Maker* play, Pittsburgh Public Theater

- (2023) Book talk, Upper St. Clair Township Library, Upper St. Clair, PA
- (2023) Book talk, Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, Carnegie, PA
- (2022) Book talk, Penn Hills Public Library, Pittsburgh
- (2021) "[The Complexities of Native American History](#)," Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Pittsburgh
- (2021) Moderator, Roundtable: "Art in Context: Reconstructing Monuments," The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh
- (2021) Presentation on diverse and anti-racist curriculum development, North Allegheny for Change, Pittsburgh
- (2020) Facilitator, Virtual Black and POC Student Decompression Session (organized by a University of Pittsburgh undergraduate alumna)
- (2019) Historical Consultant, *The African Diaspora: For Children* (children's book on the African Diaspora written by a University of Pittsburgh undergraduate alumna)
- (2019) Presenter, "Black Slave Revolts & Methods of Resistance," Black History Program for High School Students across Allegheny County, Stop the Violence, Pittsburgh

Graduate & Undergraduate Student Supervision

Co-advisor for Connor Diaz, Ph.D. student, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, 2026-present

Co-advisor for Amina Timera, M.A. Candidate, Department of History, Université Paris Cité, 2024-2026

M.A. Committee member for Leila Nilipour Conte, M.A. Candidate, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, 2026

Undergraduate Thesis Committee member for Andi Eklund, History Major, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, 2025

M.A. Committee member for Ashlea Fishburn-Moore, Ph.D. student, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, 2023

Primary advisor for Ashlea Fishburn-Moore, Ph.D. student, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, 2022

M.A. Committee member for Morgan Pierce, M.A. Candidate, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, 2020-2021

Membership in Professional Organizations

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association

Organization of American Historians

Western History Association

The Society of Civil War Historians