

DR. RHONDA Y. WILLIAMS

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Director, University-level Social Justice Initiative, Case Western Reserve University, June 2008-present.

Founder and Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship in African American Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, CWRU, 2008-present. The postdoctoral fellowship, seeded by the Office of the Provost, was initiated in 2006, and launched in the 2008-09 academic year.

Associate Professor, Department of History, CWRU, 2004-present.
Secondary Appointment in the Mandel School of Applied and Social Sciences, Spring 2008 – present.

Program Faculty, Ethnic Studies Program, CWRU, 2003 – present.
Steering Committee Member, 2003-2005.

Program Faculty, Women Studies, CWRU, 2000 – present.

Assistant Professor, Department of History, CWRU, 1998 – 2004.

Assistant Professor/Instructor, Department of History, CWRU, 1997 – 1998.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA, May 1998.

Dissertation Committee: Mary Frances Berry (advisor), Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Farah Jasmine Griffin

B.S., Journalism, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, **University of Maryland College Park**, College Park, MD, May 1989. Also received a Certificate in Afro-American Studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles Against Urban Inequality (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004).

Inaugural book in interdisciplinary series, *Transgressing Boundaries: Studies in Black Politics and Black Communities*, with special co-editors Cathy Cohen and Fred Harris.

2004 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Award from the Association of Black Women Historians. Awarded in 2005. (See Honors and Fellowships)

Essay Collections, Co-editor

Women, Transnationalism and Human Rights, edited by Karen Sotiropoulos and Rhonda Y. Williams, Special Issue of the *Radical History Review* 101 (Spring 2008).

This issue of *Radical History Review* includes feature articles, reflection essays, interviews, teaching essays and syllabi, and art that focus on interrogating the contemporary iterations of human rights debates, the historical origins of human rights discourse, and the relationship among and shaping influences of women's material realities. With attention to local conditions and universal claims, contributors explore the interactions between women occupying and traveling across different geographical spaces and assess the efficacy of human rights for women's social justice struggles.

Teaching the American Civil Rights Movement: Freedom's Bittersweet Song, edited by Julie Armstrong, Susan Hult, Houston Roberson, and Rhonda Y. Williams (New York: Routledge, 2002).

This collection of pedagogical essays evolved from the National Endowment for the Humanities' "Teaching the Southern Civil Rights Movement" Summer Institute in 1998 at Harvard University. (See Honors and Fellowships) My essay entitled, "Raising the Curtain: Performance, History, and Pedagogy," discusses the historical place of performance in black politics and focus on how teachers can use performance as an innovative pedagogical practice.

Articles

"Nonviolence and Long Hot Summers: Black Women's Activism in 1960s Baltimore," *Rethinking Gandhi and Nonviolent Relationality: Global Perspectives* (London: Routledge, December 2007). (See, *Borderlands E-Journal* version below).

"Race, Dismantling the "Ghetto," and Housing Mobility: Considering the Polikoff Proposal," *Northwestern Journal of Law and Social Policy*, Vol. 1, Issue 1, Summer 2006. Access at: <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/journals/njls/v1/n1/4/> (2006).

"Black Women, Urban Politics, and Engendering Black Power," *The Black Power Movement: Rethinking the Civil Rights-Black Power Era*, edited by Peniel E. Joseph (New York, Routledge, 2006)

"Nonviolence and Long Hot Summers: Welfare Rights Struggles in the 1960s" for *Borderlands E-Journal*, Vol 4, No. 3, 2005. Access at: http://www.borderlandsejournal.adelaide.edu.au/vol4no3_2005/williams_welfare.htm.

"Raising the Curtain: Performance, History, and Pedagogy," *Teaching the American Civil Rights Movement*.

"We're Tired of Being Treated Like Dogs: Poor Women and Power Politics," *The Black Scholar*, Special Edition on Black Power Studies: A New Scholarship, Fall/Winter 2001, 31-41.

"I'm a Keeper of Information: History-Telling and Voice," *Oral History Review* 28/1, Winter/Spring 2001, 41-63.

Review & Historiographical Essays

"Black Women and Black Power" historiographical essay, Bibliographic essay, and Sample Teaching Assignment, *OAH Magazine* (June/July 2008)

- “Black Milwaukee, Women, and Gender,” Review essay reprising Joe W. Trotter’s book. *Journal of Urban History* 33.4 (2007), 551-556.
- “Exploring Babylon and Unveiling the ‘Mother of Harlots.’” An examination of Robert O. Self’s *American Babylon* and its historical contributions as well as a discussion of the broader trends in urban, black, and race and gender studies. *American Quarterly* 57 (2005), 297-304.

Book Reviews

- Roberta M. Feldman and Susan Stall’s *The Dignity of Resistance: Women Residents’ Activism in Chicago Public Housing for City & Community*. September 2006, 350-352.
- Annelise Orleck, *Storming Caesars Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty* for *Journal of American Ethnic History*. Summer 2006, 203-205.
- Jennifer Mittelstadt, *From Welfare to Workfare: The Unintended Consequences of Liberal Reform, 1945-1965* for the *Business History Review*. Summer 2006, 343-346.
- Johanna Schoen’s *Choice and Coercion: Birth Control, Sterilization and Abortion in Public Health and Welfare* for the *Journal of African American History*. Summer 2006.
- Daniel J. Walkowitz, *Working with Class: Social Workers and the Politics of Middle-Class Identity* for the *Journal of Social History*. Summer 2001, 977-979.
- Christopher Waldrep, *The Roots of Disorder: Race and Criminal Justice in the American South, 1817-80* for the *Journal of Social History*. Fall 2000, 222-224.
- Robert Max Johnson, *Destined for Equality: The Inevitable Rise of Women’s Status* for the *Journal of Social History*. Spring 2000, 749-751.
- Dennis E. Gale’s *Understanding Urban Unrest: From Reverend King to Rodney King* for the *Journal of American History*. September 1999, 851-852.

Other Publications

- “Single Mothers,” an encyclopedia entry for *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming).
- “Teaching Black Women’s History and Other Stories,” *HUArchivesNet: The Electronic Journal of the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center*, Howard University, Issue #4, May 2000, <http://www.huarchivesnet.howard.edu/0005huarnet/womenhis1.htm>.
- “Maryland,” *Civil Rights in the United States Reader*, edited by Patricia Sullivan and Waldo E. Martin Jr., Vol. 2 (New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2000), 456-458.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book project:

The Dope Wars: Street-Level Hustling and the Culture of Drugs in Post-1940s Urban America.

Article Manuscripts:

- “‘Something’s wrong down here’: Low-Income Black Women and Urban Struggles for Democracy,” for an anthology *New Trends in Post-World War II African American and Urban History*, edited by Kenneth Kusmer and Joe W. Trotter (University of Chicago Press). Accepted.

“‘We had better listen’: Community Action, Poor People, and Municipal Politics in Baltimore,”
for *The War on Poverty and Struggles for Racial & Economic Justice: Views from the
Grassroots* (University of Georgia Press). Accepted.

“The Pursuit of Audacious Power: CORE, Neighborhood Politics, and Black Power in
Baltimore, 1966-1968.” Revising for submission.

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Professional Fellowships

Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship, American Association of University Women American
Educational Foundation, July 2002-June 2003.

W.P. Jones Presidential Faculty Development Fund Award, CWRU, supported research and
travel, Fall 2000.

Glennan Teaching Fellowship, University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education
(UCITE), CWRU, 1999-2000.

Fellow, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University: National Endowment for the Humanities
Summer Institute, “Teaching the Southern Civil Rights Movement, 1865-1965,” Summer
1998. Invitation Accepted.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, “Roots: The African Background of
American Culture Through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade,” Summer 1998. Declined
invitation.

Professional Honors and Awards

HNN’s Top Young Historians, February 2008. <http://hnn.us/roundup/49.html#47024>

2004 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Award for *The Politics of Public Housing: Black
Women’s Struggles against Urban Inequality*, Association of Black Women Historians,
2005.

Forty-Forty Club Class of 2005, Kaleidoscope Magazine, Cleveland, Ohio. This honor celebrates
the achievements of 40 professionals, age 40 or younger, for their “exceptional
leadership” and contributions to their organizations or the Cleveland area. Inductees are
nominated by mentors/peers for recognition.

Student Government’s Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award for the Arts and Humanities,
CWRU, 2004.

Nominee for the Carl F. Wittke Award, University-wide Undergraduate Teaching Excellence
Award, Case Western Reserve University, Spring 2001 & Spring 2000.

Nominee for the Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award, Undergraduate Student
Government, CWRU, Spring 1999.

Selected to appear in the *Undergraduate Viewbook*, featuring faculty and students. (Outstanding
undergraduates nominated faculty members.) Undergraduate Admissions Office, CWRU,
Summer 1999. Have appeared in each subsequent publication through 2002.

Graduate School/University of Pennsylvania

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, 1996-1997.

Fontaine Academic Fellowship, 1992-1996.

Graduate/Professional Student Outstanding Achievement Award, Women of Color Day, 1995.

Malcolm X Outstanding Service to the African-American Community, Black Graduate and Professional Student Association (BGAPSA), 1994.
Paul Robeson Academic Excellence and Leadership, BGAPSA, 1994.

Undergraduate/University of Maryland College Park

University of Maryland Full Scholarship Award, 1985-1989
Maryland Senatorial Scholarship, 1985-1989
Maryland State Scholarship Board, Distinguished Scholar Award, 1985-1989
Graduation Commencement Speaker, UMCP, First black speaker in the University's 187-year history, 1989.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (2000-PRESENT)

Invited Speaker, "The Pursuit of Audacious Power: CORE, Neighborhood Politics, and Black Power in Baltimore, 1966-1968," Global 1968 Conference, Colgate University, Hamilton, New York, April 2008.
Plenary Speaker, "America's Color Line 40 Years after the Kerner Commission," "Rupture, Repression and Uprising: Raced and Gendered Violence Along the Color Line" Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, April 2008.
Chair and Commentator, "Beyond the Panthers: Gender and Black Power," Organization of American Historians' Annual Conference, New York, March 2008.
Invited Speaker, "The Youth Narcotic Problem," University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, November 2007.
"We had better listen': Community Action, Poor People, and Municipal Politics in Baltimore," The War on Poverty & Grassroots Struggles for Racial & Economic Justice, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, November 2007.
Presenter and Session Leader, "Stretching the University's Boundaries: The Local Community as a Resource and Site for Teaching and Learning," The Reinvention Center (of SUNY-Stony Brook) Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2006.
"Copping an Expressive High: Drugs & Culture in the 1960s and 1970s," Urban History Association, Phoenix, AZ, October 2006.
Invited Lecturer, "Raising/Razing the 'Projects': Black Women's Quest for Decent Housing," Fairfield University, CT, September 2006.
"Black Women and Black Power Politics," Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, September 2006.
Presenter, "New Directions in African-American Urban History" Roundtable, American Historical Association-Pacific Coast Branch, Stanford University, August 2006.
Chair and Commentator, "New Migrants, New Movements, and New Teachers in Big City Schools: Educational Dissent in Postwar Urban America," Organization of American Historians Conference, Washington, D.C., April 2006.
"Black Women, Urban Politics, & Engendering Black Power," "Race, Roots, and Resistance: Revisiting the Legacies of Black Power" Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, March 2006.
Discussant, "A Race-Conscious Mobility Proposal: Debates and Alternatives," at "Gautreaux at 40: Race, Class, Housing Mobility, and Neighborhood Revitalization," Northwestern University School of Law, March 2006.

Invited Lecturer, “Raising/Razing the ‘Projects’: Black Women’s Quest for Decent Housing,” Ida B. Wells Inaugural Symposium, African American Studies Department, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, November 2005.

“Black Women, Nonviolence, and Urban Activism,” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, November 2005.

Invited Lecturer, “African American Women’s Struggles Against Urban Inequalities,” Eleventh Annual “What Is A City? Conference,” Center for the Humanities, University of Missouri-St. Louis, October 2005.

Invited Lecturer, “New Directions in Black Women’s History,” Association of Black Women Historians’ Roundtable, Association for the Study of African-American Life and History Conference, Buffalo, New York, October 2005.

Invited Lecturer, “The Politics and Struggles of Black Women in Poverty,” Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy, 10th Anniversary Conference, Carnegie-Mellon, September 2005.

“Grassroots Empowerment and Baltimore’s War on Poverty,” 1965 Remembered: Women, Grassroots Activism, and the War on Poverty, Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Scripps College, Claremont, California, June 2005.

“Black Women’s Activism in Public Housing in Post-Depression Baltimore,” Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, November 2004.

Invited Lecturer, “Struggling at the Grassroots: The War on Poverty, Race, and Empowerment,” The Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture Workshop, University of Chicago, November 2004.

Presenter, Roundtable reprising Joe William Trotter Jr.’s *Black Milwaukee* (The 20th Anniversary), Urban History Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 2004.

Invited Lecturer, “Black Women’s Activism in 1960s Baltimore,” Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, September 2004.

“Grassroots Empowerment and Baltimore’s War on Poverty,” War on Poverty Conference, The Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies and the African-American Studies Program, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, November 2003.

“They Were Fighting Organizations: Black Power, Gender and Urban Activism in the 1960s,” The Black Power Movement in Historical Perspective: Dialogues on Race and American Society, Institute for African American Studies, University of Connecticut Storrs, November 2003.

“Dopefiends and Drug Dealers: Narcotics in Postwar Urban America,” for the Works-in-Progress Colloquium Series, Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, CWRU, September 2002.

Commentator, Conference on Social Connectedness and Public Activism, Center for American Political Studies/Department of Government, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, May 2002.

“Poor Women and ‘Black Power’ Politics: Race, Gender and Urban Activism in Baltimore,” African-American Studies: Transnationalism, Gender and the Changing Black World Conference, Department of African American Studies, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, April 2002.

“Sitting at the Table with the Decision-Makers: Black Women’s Push for Representation,” Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2001.

“‘We’re Tired of Being Treated Like Dogs’: Poor Women and the Power Politics,” Association

for the Study of African-American Life and History Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., September 2001.

Chair, Gender, Charity, and the State, Diaspora Paradigms Conference, Michigan State University, Lansing, Michigan, September 2001.

“Public Housing and Welfare Rights Activism: The Confluence of Identities,” University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, Works-in-Progress Colloquium, Presentation of Book Chapter, May 2001. (One of 15 scholars invited nationwide.)

“Public Housing and Welfare Rights Activism and the Emergence of the Racial Bogeywoman,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, April 2001.

Panelist, Black Workers Remember: A Symposium on the Past and Future of Black Labor Through the Eyes of Workers, Labor, and the New Millennium Conference, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, October 2000.

“Citizenship Rights & Entitlements to Housing and Welfare,” Engendering Social Justice Roundtable, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, March 2000.

SELECT INVITED BOOK TALKS (2005-2006), *The Politics of Public Housing*

Department of History, University of North Carolina Greensboro, April 2006.

Featured Scholar and Invited Lecture, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C., February 2005.

Mac’s Backs Bookstore, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, September 2005.

Border’s Bookstore, sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Beachwood, Ohio, March 2005.

Department of History, Florida State University, Gainesville, Florida, March 2005.

Department of Afro-American Studies, University of Maryland College Park, February 2005.

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland, February 2005.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL DUTIES

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Urban History*, Spring 2008-present.

Associate Editor, *The Sixties*, Fall 2006-present.

Associate Editor, *Black Women, Gender & Families*, Fall 2005-present.

Editorial Collective Member, *The Radical History Review*, Fall 2004-present.

Reviewed books and/or essay collections for major presses

Reviewed article manuscripts for *Gender and History*, *Feminist Studies*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Social History*, *Journal of Urban History*, *Journal of Women’s History*.

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate Level 100-200

Introduction to American History
Slavery and Emancipation
African-American History, Civil War – 1945
African-American History, 1945 – Present

History of Drugs in Modern America
Introduction to Black Studies (Ethnic Studies Program core course)

Undergraduate Upper Level 300

Black Women's History

Undergraduate/Graduate Level 300/400

Advanced Readings in Black History
City as Classroom (cross-listed with sociology and political science)
Social Movements, USA

Graduate 400 Level

Seminar on Modern U.S. Historiography
Race, Gender & Social Policy

CWRU SERVICE/ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

University Level

Chair, Search Committee for VP of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity, Spring 2008-present.

Member, University Strategic Planning Committee, January 2008 – present.

Chair, President's Advisory Council on Minorities, January 2008- present. (Formerly co-chair, January 2005-December 2007)

Faculty Senator, College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2006-present.

Member, Faculty Senate, Minority Affairs Committee, 2003-2004

Member, Case Center for Women Strategic Planning Committee, 2003

Member, Fisk/Case Exchange Taskforce, 2003-2004

Judge, Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation Essay Contest, 1998-2001.

College of Arts & Sciences Level

Selection Committee, W.P. Jones Award, Fall 2004.

Member, Strategic Service-Learning Taskforce, Coordinated by Office of Student Community Service, 2003-2006.

Member, Steering Committee, Ethnic Studies Program, 2003-2005.

Member, Advisory Committee, Establishing African/African-American Studies Minor, 2000, 2002.

Member, Search Committee for the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, 2000-2001.

Member, Steering Committee and Curriculum Committee, Women Studies Program, 2000-2001.

Member, Advisory Committee on the Reassessment of the American Studies Program, 1998-1999.

Departmental Level

Chair, Speakers' Committee, 2004-2007.

Undergraduate Director, Spring 2006.

Member, U. S. Social Justice History Search Committee, 2005-2006

Member, Early American History Search Committee, 2003-2004.

Member, Speakers' Committee, 1999-2001, 1997-1998.
Supervising Professor, Building a Library Resource Database for History 112: Introduction to American History, Nord and Hewlett Packard Grants, January-May 2000.
Member, Search Committee in American Women's History, 1999-2000.
Member, Working Group on Nonprofit Public Policy/Advocacy for Curricular Revision for the Master of Nonprofit Organization Degree, Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations, Fall 1999.
Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 1998-1999.
Chair, Committee on Mentoring Policy, Spring 1998.
Member, Ad Hoc Committee on the Reassessment of Graduate Programs, Spring 1998.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE/PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES (2000-PRESENT)

Panelist, "Hurricane Katrina: Why Did the New Orleans Disaster Unfold the Way It Did?" Open Forum, sponsored by the Share the Vision Committee: Building a Just and Humane Campus Community, September 2005.
Workshop Leader, "Stepping Forward, Taking A Risk: Political Activism and Active Citizenship," for The Second Year Institute Leadership Camp, a student retreat at Camp Asbury, sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership, August 2004, 2005.
Invited Speaker, "Africa Roots of Africa America," 28th Annual Ebony Ball, Afro-American Society, November 2000.
Guest Speaker, Discussion of the "City as Classroom" concept, Focus Group/Project Step-Up Brown Bag Luncheon Series, Office of Student Community Service, March 2000.
"The Role of Black Women in the Suffrage Movement," presentation with Tracy Glover Williams for the University Women's Coalition, March 2000.
" 'A Date with Death': The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal," African-American History Month presentation for Clarke Tower Residence Hall, February 2000.
Guest Facilitator, "New Ways to Get Better Grades," seminar for the 2000 New Year, New You Series, Educational Support Services, February 2000.
Panelist, "Bigotry, Racism, Prejudice: Inherited, Learned or Mental Disorder?" University Counseling Services, February 2000.
Participant/Panelist for the session "Developing Identities," for the *Defining the Minority Experience* one-day community-building retreat sponsored by the Office of Minority Student Programs, January 2000.

COMMUNITY SERVICE (2000-PRESENT)

Invited Speaker, "Race and the Politics of White Privilege," Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program, Congressional Hunger Center, Washington, D.C., 2008, 2007 & 2005.
Docent Trainer, Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, Baltimore, Maryland, December 2005.
Keynote, "The Local and the Global: Women and Social Justice," Women History Month Celebration, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial United Methodist Church, Baltimore, Maryland, March 2005.
Invited Speaker, "Looking Back, Looking Forward: The Role of History in Promoting Social

Change,” Euclid Avenue Church of Christ, Cleveland, Ohio, Fall 2004.
Guest Speaker, “Resistance against Oppression,” Morning Show with Janet Babin, WCPN/NPR 90.3 FM, Cleveland, 2004.
Member, Community Education and Outreach Committee for the Winter production of Uncle Tom’s Cabin at Cleveland Public Theater in February 2004, Coordinated by Cleveland Public Theater, 2003-present. In addition to coming up with topics for theater talks and community events, I served as a post-performance speaker opening weekend (February 7, 2004), and as co-leader for a panel on “Race and Representation” at CPT (February 15, 2004).
Post-Performance Speaker for the Suzan-Lori Park’s play “In the Blood,” The Dobama Theater, Cleveland, 2003.
Advisory Committee Member, African-American Women’s Papers Projects, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, 1999-2001.
Consultant on the Afro-American Museum’s grant proposal for the preservation and exhibit development of photographic images, Cleveland, Ohio, 2000.
Guest Speaker, Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice, Cleveland, 2000.
Guest Speaker, Juneteenth Celebration, Afro-American Museum, Cleveland, 2000.
Guest Speaker, “The Forgotten Black Woman,” Roundtable for the *Around Noon* Show with Dee Perry, WCPN/NPR 90.3 FM, Cleveland, 2000.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Historical Association
Association of Black Women’s Historians
Berkshire Conference of Women Historians
Organization of American Historians
Urban History Association

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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