

Emily Alyssa Owens

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Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Harvard University, African American Studies, 2015.
- A.M. Harvard University, African and African American Studies, 2013.
- A.B. Harvard College, *cum laude*, Studies of Women, Gender and Sexuality, and African American Studies, 2009.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2020- David and Michelle Ebersman Assistant Professor of History, Brown University.
Faculty Fellow, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice
Affiliated faculty, Africana Studies
- 2016-2020 Assistant Professor of History, Brown University.
Faculty Fellow, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice
Affiliated faculty, Africana Studies
- 2015-2016 Visiting Scholar, American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Fantasy of Consent: Violence and Survival in Antebellum New Orleans, under contract at the University of North Carolina Press.

Manuscript Workshop for this project held on June 7, 2019; attendees: Crystal Feimster, Associate Professor of History, Yale University; Marisa Fuentes, Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University; Seth Rockman, Associate Professor of History, Brown University; Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, Associate Professor of American Studies and English, Brown University; Robert Self, Professor of History, Brown University.

Peer-reviewed Articles

“Ransom, a Subtle Intervention,” in special issue “Confinement, Interiority, Black Feminist

Study: A Forum on Davis' 'Reflections' at 50," *The Black Scholar: Journal of Black Studies and Research* (forthcoming Spring 2021).

"Reproducing Racial Fictions: Critical Meditation on (a) Lesbian Pregnancy," *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 44.4 (Summer 2019): 859-882.

"Keyword: Consent," in special issue "Sexual Politics, Sexual Panics," *differences* 30.1 (Summer 2019): 148-156.

*this special issue was the winner of Council of Editors of Learned Journals prize for Best Special Issue of 2019.

"Promises: Sexual Labor in the Space Between Slavery and Freedom in Antebellum Louisiana," *Louisiana History* 58.2 (Spring 2017): 179-216.

*this article won the Hugh F. Rankin Prize for the Best Graduate Student Essay in Louisiana History, Louisiana Historical Association.

Edited Volume, Book Chapters

"Consent," in *Keywords in Gender and Sexuality Studies*, co-edited by Kyla Tompkins, Tavia N'yongo, and Amber Musser (forthcoming, NYU Press).

"Intimacy," in *Gender: Love*, edited by Jennifer C. Nash, Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks. Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan Reference USA, 2017.

Co-editor, with Jennifer C. Nash. "Institutional Feelings: Practicing Women's Studies in the Corporate University," Special Issue of *Feminist Formations* 27.3 (Winter 2015).

Other Writing

"Black Struggle Won't Bring Interracial Catharsis--and it Shouldn't" *Literary Hub: The Best of the Literary Internet*, June 30, 2020. <https://lithub.com/black-struggle-will-not-bring-interracial-catharsis-and-it-shouldnt/>

Work in production

Edited Volume

Co-editor, with Mairead Sullivan. *Lesbian Studies, Now: New Directions in Lesbian Studies*, Routledge.

Peer-Reviewed Essays

"Black Ladies, White Ladies, and the Thrill of Publicized Sexual Violence," in *Enticements: Queer Legal Studies*, co-edited by Joseph Fischel and Brenda Cossman (forthcoming, NYU Press).

"No Shadow of Law: Black Women and the Suspension of Rape and Consent" invited to revise and resubmit with *Gender and History*.

Book Review

Review: “Stephanie Jones-Rogers’ *They Were Her Property: White Women as Slaveholders in the American South*,” *Civil War Book Review*.

GRANTS

- 2020 Collaborative Humanities Course Award (with Juliet Hooker, Professor of Political Science), Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University.
- 2015 Hugh F. Rankin Prize for the Best Graduate Student Essay in Louisiana History, Louisiana Historical Association.
- 2014 Program in African American History Dissertation Fellowship, The Library Company of Philadelphia.
- 2013 Charles Warren Center Term-Time Dissertation Research Grant, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University.
- 2013 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Travel and Research Grant, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.
- 2013 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University.
- 2012 Harvard Summer School Language Fellowship, Harvard University.
- 2010 Graduate Seed Grant for Pre-Dissertation Research, Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University.
- 2009 Andrew Ramroop Prize for Excellence in African and African American Studies, Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University.
- 2007-2015 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Organization.

INVITED TALKS and WORKSHOPS

- 2020 “Black Women and the Vote,” Marking the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, October 23, 2020.
- 2020 Keynote address, Society for the Study of the Carolina Lowcountry in the Atlantic World, May 21, 2020.
Cancelled due to COVID-19.

- 2020 Pre-circulated paper presentation at University of Chicago US History Workshop, April 23, 2020.
Cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Keynote address, University of Massachusetts History Graduate Students Association Conference, March 26, 2020.
Cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2019 “Violence,” Political Concepts: Retouch, Cogut Institute for the Humanities, December 6-7, 2019.
- 2019 “Believe Black Women” History Department at Rhode Island College, Providence, RI, April 10, 2019.
- 2018 “Silence: Old and New Black Feminist Historical Methods,” part of the “New Directions in Black Feminist Studies,” University of Oregon, December 5-7, 2018. *Cancelled due to illness.*
- 2018 Panelist, Special panel convened by the ASA programming committee: Roundtable Discussion on Sarah Haley’s *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity*, American Studies Association, November 8-11, 2018. *Cancelled due to illness.*
- 2018 “Ordinary Violence,” pre-circulated paper presented at the seminar “In/Civility,” (seminar leaders Kyla Wazana Tompkins and Tavia Nyong’o) at the Annual Meeting of C19, Albuquerque, NM, March 22-24, 2018.
- 2017 “Domination as Sexual Culture in the Age of Jackson,” paper presented at Andrew Jackson at 250: Revisiting Race, Politics and Culture in the Age of Jacksonian Democracy,” Yale University, December 1-2, 2017.
- 2017 “Sex and (Un)freedom in Historical Perspective,” keynote remarks presented at “Should it be Legal to Exchange Sex for Money?: A Public Health Perspective,” Boston University School of Public Health, November 29, 2017.
- 2017 “As His Wife: The Strange Story of Ann Maria Barclay and her Shadow Freedom,” Africana Studies Colloquium Series, Brown University, February 15, 2017.
- 2016 “No Shadow of Law: The Suspension of Rape and Consent for Enslaved Women in Antebellum Louisiana,” pre-circulated paper presented as part of the “Sexuality in African American Communities and Cultures” series, presented by the Faculty-Graduate Seminar at the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University, November 15, 2016.

- 2016 “Affective Objects,” pre-circulated paper presented at the “Philology/Sexology Workshop,” at the University of Toronto, September 29-30, 2016.
- 2016 Lesbian Studies in Queer Times, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan, April 13-16, 2016.
- 2016 “On Desire: Archives, Affect, and Unruliness in the History of Enslaved Women’s Sexuality,” in “Black Sexualities Symposium,” presented by the American Studies Department, George Washington University, April 5, 2016.
- 2015 “Radical Pedagogies in the ‘Neoliberal’ University,” roundtable presentation, Barnard College Scholar & Feminist Conference, New York, NY, February 27-28, 2015.
- 2015 “Consent is Sexy: Affective Objects in Slavery’s Past and Present,” in “New Perspectives on African American Intellectual History,” workshop of the African American Intellectual History Society, Mississippi State University, November 20-21, 2015.

CONFERENCES

- 2020 “The Queer Practice of Antiracist Collaboration,” Roundtable presentation, American Studies Association, November 2020.
Cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2020 “Black/Transnational Feminisms and the Question of Sexuality,” National Women’s Studies Association, November 2020.
Cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Chair, “Black Legal Thought in the 19th century,” African American Intellectual History Society, University of Texas at Austin, March 6-7, 2020.
Cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2019 Organizer, R-E-S-P-E-C-T-A-B-I-L-I-T-Y: Black Women’s Studies Since *Righteous Discontent*, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and America, Brown University, forthcoming September 19-20, 2019.
*note: In this conference, I invited 14 of the leading scholars in the field of African American women’s history to Brown, where they reflected on the field and shared new research over a two-day symposium.
- 2019 Chair, “Captivity and Ransom in the Mediterranean,” Mediterranean Seminar, May 3, 2019.
- 2017 “Untimely Objects: Feminism and/in/eclipsed by the ASA,” roundtable, American Studies Association, Chicago IL, November 9-12, 2017.

- 2017 Chair, “Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice: Ongoing Projects,” National Humanities Council, Boston, MA, November 4-5, 2017.
- 2017 “Into Our Archive(s): Practicing African American Women’s History Across the Centuries” roundtable, Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Gender and Sexualities, Hempstead, NY, June 2, 2017.
- 2017 “‘As His Wife’: Redefining Wifeliness in the Face of Unfreedom,” African American Intellectual History Society Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, March 24, 2017.
- 2015 Chair, “Institutional Feelings: Practicing Women’s Studies in the Corporate University,” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2015 “Carmelite, Statu Liber: Sexual Labor in the Space Between Slavery and Freedom in Antebellum New Orleans,” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., paper delivered in absentia.
- 2015 “The Thrill: The Affective Life of Racialized Sexual Commerce in Antebellum New Orleans,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 “The Thrill: The Affective Life of Racialized Sexual Commerce in Antebellum New Orleans,” on the panel “New Work from the Queering Slavery Working Group,” Society for the History of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, Raleigh, SC.
- 2015 “‘No Shadow of Law’: Enslaved Women and the Suspension of Rape and Consent in Antebellum Louisiana,” *Consent in Early America*, Oxford University, Oxford, UK.
- 2015 “Impossible Promises: Ephemeral Objects in New Orleans’ Antebellum Sex Trade,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- 2014 “The Thrill: Spectacular Risks and the Affective Life of Racialized Sexual Commerce in Antebellum New Orleans,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013 “Fantasies of Consent: Black Women’s Sexual Labor in the Long 19th Century,” Black Sexual Economies Conference, Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, MO.
- 2009 “On Butches and Bulldaggers: Reading *The L Word’s* ‘Tasha,’” Nathan I. Huggins Symposium, Harvard University, Cambridge MA.
- 2009 “Breaking the Habit: Intersectionality, Black Lesbian Subjectivity, and the Problem of Dual Identity Theorizing,” National Women’s Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

CAMPUS/COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 “Race and Slavery,” as part of “*Race &* in America: A Campus Conversation Series,” September 9, 2020.
- 2018 #MeToo// What’s Next in Healing and Activism with Tarana Burke,” presented by the Brown University Sexual Harrassment and Assault Resources Office, the Brown University Title IX Office, and the RISD Title IX Office, February 14, 2017.
- 2017 “Reflections on Charlottesville,” at “Charlottesville: Perspectives on the Origins and Implications of White Nationalism in the U.S.,” part of the “Reaffirming University Values: Dialogue and Discourse” series, September 6, 2017.
- 2017 “The History and Present of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice: Building Capacity,” Tougaloo Modern Slavery Conference, Tougaloo, MS, March 7-8, 2017.
- 2016 “Let Us Be Brave,” at the History Department’s Post-Election Teach-In, November 17, 2016.
- 2016 “Sex, Violence, and the Ordinary,” in “What I’m Thinking About Now” series, presented by the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America at Brown University, October 18, 2016.

TEACHING

- Loss, Political Activism and Public Feelings: Between Fact and Affect (Cogut Collaborative Humanities Course, co-taught with Juliet Hooker), (HIST 1971F), Fall 2020.
- American Slavery, lecture course (History 1515), Spring 2018, Spring 2020.
- Lesbian Memoir, capstone seminar (HIST 1972G), Spring 2020.
- The Intellectual History of Black Women, lecture course (HIST 1571), Fall 2019, Summer 2021.
- Narratives of Slavery, First-year Seminar (History 0557C), Fall 2017, Fall 2019.
- Consent: Race, Sex and the Law, capstone seminar (HIST1972F), Spring 2017, Spring 2018.
- Slavery, Race and Racism, First-year Seminar (History 0557B), Fall 2016.

ADVISING

Dissertation Committees

- Maggie Goddard, “Objective Pleasure: Embodied Aesthetics at the Site of the Pelvis,” American Studies.
- Kristen Maye, “Black Studies Toward a Poetics of Black Critique,” *Africana Studies*.
- Eleanor (Nell) Lake, “Mother, Nurse, Housewife, Maid: The Enduring Moral Politics of ‘Women’s Work’ in America,” American Studies.
- Heather Sanford, “Palatable Slavery: Food, Race, and Freedom in the Colonial British Atlantic,” History Department; PhD granted 2020.
- Virginia Thomas, “Dark Trees: Family Photo Albums, Lynching Violence, and Racial Reproduction in the US South,” American Studies; PhD granted 2019.

Comprehensive Oral Examinations

- Sarah Christensen, “Histories of Gender and Sexuality,” History, 2020.
- Melaine Ferdinand-King, “Black Feminisms,” *Africana Studies*, 2020.
- Stephanie Wong, “Theories of Race, Gender and Sexuality,” History, 2020.
- Mike Simpson, “US History,” History, 2020.
- Kristen Maye, “Black Feminist Theory,” *Africana Studies*, 2018.
- Eleanor (Nell) Lake, “Gender and Work,” American Studies, 2018.
- Sherri Cummings, “African American History,” History 2017.

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

- Ella Altidor, History, class of 2021
- Aisha Zamor, *Africana Studies and English*, class of 2019

Undergraduate Advising

- Thesis advisor, Lyle Cherneff, Gender and Sexuality Studies, class of 2021
- Thesis advisor (second reader), Clare Boyle, Comparative Literature, class of 2020.5
- Thesis Advisor to Isabella Kres-Nash, History Department, class of 2018.
- Thesis Advisor to Amani Hayes-Messinger, American Studies and Ethnic Studies, class of 2018.5
- Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award, with Ellen Cola '20, “Historicizing Bondwomen’s Sexuality and the Violence of Slavery,” 2017.
- Mentor to Mikayla Harden (University of Texas), Leadership Alliance, 2017.

SERVICE

Professional Service

- Program Committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), 2020-2021.

Department and University Service, ongoing

Committee on Academic Standing, 2020-present.

John Carter Brown Library Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) Committee, 2020-present.

Planning and Priorities Committee (History Executive Committee), History Department, 2019-present.

Founder and convenor, Brown Gender History Workshop, 2018-present.

First-year Advisor, 2017-2018.

TEAM advising, participant and facilitator, 2017-present.

Board of Advisors, Database of Indigenous Slavery in the Americas, 2017-present.

John Carter Brown Library Academic Advisory Committee, 2016-present.

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Advisory Board, Brown University, 2016-present.

Black Feminist Theory Working Group, Pembroke Center for Research on Women and Gender, Brown University, 2016-2018.

University service, episodic

Facilitator, Virtual Book Talk with Evette Dionne, Sarah Doyle Women's Center, October 30, 2020.

Faculty Speaker, Feminist Killjoy Series, Sarah Doyle Women's Center, March 8, 2018.

Panelist, Workshop on Trigger and Content Warnings, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, December 11, 2017.

Facilitator, Inclusive Teaching Workshop, History Department, December 11, 2017.

Faculty speaker, President's Leadership Council, November 17, 2017.

Faculty speaker, Graduate Programs Preview Day (HUG graduate student recruitment event), Monday, October 30, 2017.

Panelist, John Carter Brown Library Family Weekend Program, October 14, 2017.

Panelist, Faculty of Color Panel, Third World Transition Program (TWTP),
August 30, 2017.

PUBLIC HISTORY

Interview with Annette Gordon-Reed, as part of EX LIBRIS series at the
Providence Athanaeum, September 25, 2020.

Interview for *The Dig* podcast, as part of “Slavery’s Hinterlands” symposium,
May 3-4 2019.

Consultant, U.S. History curriculum, The Choices Program, Brown
University School of Professional Studies, 2017-2018.

Guest blogger, *African American Intellectual History Society* Blog, 2016-2018.

Regular contributor, *African American Intellectual History Society* Blog, 2014-2016.

Facilitator, “ICA Reads: *Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankine,”
Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA, 2016.

Research Consultant to Patricia McGregor, director, “The House that Will Not
Stand,” Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven, CT, 2015-2016.

Research Consultant to Andrea Cheng, author and illustrator, *Etched in Clay: The Life
of Dave, Enslaved Potter and Poet* (New York: Lee and Low Books, 2012), 2011.