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BOOK

The Trinity: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Civil Rights in African American Memory, The University of North Carolina Press (June 2026)

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Tarrant County College, Fort Worth, TX

Professor of History (August 2025-Present)

Associate Professor of History (2021-2025)

Teach U.S. history and Humanities courses, including designing syllabus, lecturing, designing all exams and assignments, grading, and leading student study sessions. Serve as faculty advisor to the African American Student Organization and as an Embedded Faculty Liaison. Member of the Neighborhood Stewardship NWISE Team, and act as a mentor for the Student Connections Center.

Southern Methodist University, Center for Presidential History, Dallas, TX

Senior Fellow (2021-Present); Postdoctoral Fellow (2019-2021)

Publish and present on topics related to U.S., African American, and presidential history. Assisted in the planning and implementation of the Center's public programs. Co-hosted "[Race and the American Legacy](#)" history podcast. Managed student interns and mentored students of color.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Humanities, 2019

The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX

Dissertation: *Calculated Re-Vision: Kennedy, Johnson, and African American Views of Their Civil Rights Legacies*

Exam Fields (High Pass): American Presidents and Civil Rights, 1789 to Present; 18th-20th Century African American Literature & Criticism; American History Through Film

M.A. Public History, 1996

Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Thesis: *"Taste of Hand and Eye and Palate": Philadelphia's African-American Caterers, 1780-1890*

B.A. History and Anthropology, 1992

Penn State University, University Park, PA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The University of Texas at Dallas (Richardson, TX)

Instructor of Record, RHET and HIST / Graduate Teaching Assistant (2014-2018)

Instructor of record for U.S. History to Civil War and Introduction to Writing courses. Created and implemented syllabus, lectures, workshops and exams. Oversaw and graded all student assignments. Managed online course materials. Provided student feedback at office hours.

The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza (Dallas, TX)

Director of Education and Public Programs (2013-2014)

Associate Director of Education and Public Programs (2012-2013)

Curator of Education (2007-2012)

Directed all of the Museum's education and outreach programs. Launched YouTube page, monthly public program series, distance learning initiative, cell phone tour, and Teacher and Student Advisory Committees. Wrote, managed and evaluated successful Library of Congress, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Humanities Texas grants. Managed departmental budgets, full-time and volunteer staff. Member of senior leadership team.

The International Festival of Arts and Ideas (New Haven, CT)

Manager of Strategic Partnerships (2004-2006)

Coordinator of Volunteers (Summer 2004)

Responsible for \$1 million corporate fundraising goal. Initiated and maintained relationships with area universities, cultural organizations and businesses. Managed sponsor recognition via signage, website, publications and video. Designed Festival community outreach tools.

Greenwich Historical Society (Greenwich, CT)

Curator of Education (2001-2004)

Developed partnerships with community organizations, scheduled and implemented adult lectures, trips and workshops, as well as family festivals. Researched and led school tours and programs. Created new school and after school outreach programs. Planned and taught teacher workshops. Wrote and oversaw publication of program-related promotional materials.

The Baltimore Museum of Art (Baltimore, MD)

Manager of School and Teacher Programs (2000-2001)

Associate Educator for Close Encounters (1998-2001)

Served as interim docent coordinator, managing 120 volunteers. Facilitated all public programs, lectures, meetings and trips for African-American members group. Coordinated multi-visit Close Encounters program for Baltimore Public School students. Trained 30 docents to teach program. Taught 36 CE classes per year. Co-wrote *Close Encounters: A Curriculum*. Instituted first CE Teacher Workshop.

Maryland Public Television (Owings Mills, MD)

Community Outreach Project Assistant (1997-1998)

Managed logistics for statewide "Ready to Learn" (RTL) training program for daycare providers. Taught RTL workshops and trained new facilitators. Oversaw the state's *Reading Rainbow* storytelling contest. Represented the station at outreach events.

American Visions Magazine (Washington, D.C.)

Research Associate (1994-1995)

Performed all research, and maintained bibliographic database related to proposed book on the history of African American cuisine. Wrote articles for magazine.

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (Washington, D.C.)

Museum Technician (1993-1994)

Cleaned artifacts in archaeology and ethnography collections, created custom archival mounts, cataloged and maintained inventories in computer database. Relocated objects to new state-of-the-art facility.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

TCC Foundation R. Gordon and Louise Appleman Professional Development Award (2024)

African American Intellectual History Society Maria Stewart Prize for Best Journal Article (2024)

The University of Texas at Dallas Office of Graduate Education Arts and Humanities

Department Best Dissertation Award (2019)

The University of Texas at Dallas Arts and Humanities Department Frank R. Rossiter Book

Award for Best Student (2019)

The University of Texas at Dallas President's Teaching Excellence Award for Graduate Student

Teaching (2017)

The University of Texas at Dallas Graduate Education Dissertation Research Award (2017)

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum Theodore C. Sorenson Research Fellowship (2017)

Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation Moody Research Grant (2017)

Association for the Study of African-American Life & History Essay Prize Winner (1996)

Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Graduate Student Essay Winner (1996)

Howard University Hawthorne Graduate Fellowship (1995)

MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Trinity: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Civil Rights in African American Memory, The University of North Carolina Press (June 2026).

"Former Presidents Among Thousands at Rev. Jesse Jackson's Funeral," *Chris Jansing Reports, MS Now*, March 6, 2026.

Book Review: Cecil Williams and Claudia Smith Brinson, *Injustice in Focus: The Civil Rights Photography of Cecil Williams* (University of South Carolina Press, 2023) in *The Public Historian*, 47:5, November 2025, Number 4, 238-240.

"Remember JFK Not For His Assassination, But For His Civil Rights Advocacy," *Time Magazine*, Made by History, with Ellen Fitzpatrick, November 20, 2023.

"More Upset Than Most: Measuring and Understanding African American Responses to the Kennedy Assassination," *American Quarterly*, vol. 75, number 2, June 2023 (pp. 279-307).

“‘He Gave His Life for Us’: The Civil Rights Martyrdom of John F. Kennedy and Its Implications for Lyndon Johnson,” in *Mourning the Presidents: Loss and Legacy in American Culture*, eds. Lindsay Chervinsky and Matthew Costello (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2023).

“HISTORY This Week” Podcast—The Capitol Riots in Context,” *The History Channel*, January 19, 2021.

“SMU’s Center for Presidential History—Race and the American Legacy Podcast,” *Think with Krys Boyd*, KERA Public Radio, January 7, 2021.

“Public Health, Public History Podcast, Episode 3,” Institute for Thomas Paine Studies, September 7, 2020.

“Dallas-area Educators Explore JFK’s Civil Rights Role at Sixth Floor Museum,” *Dallas Morning News* interviewed by Andrea Gallo, August 2013.

“Book Review: John H. Slate and Willis C. Winters, *Dealey Plaza*,” *Dallas Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*, Fall 2013.

“Hercules and Hemings: Presidents’ Slave Chefs.” National Public Radio (NPR) *Morning Edition* interview with The Kitchen Sisters, February 19, 2008.

“Sarah Bush and Her Town,” curriculum for Greenwich Historical Society and Greenwich Public Schools, 2005.

“Slavery and Freedom in Fairfield County,” Newspapers in Education supplements, *The Stamford Advocate-Greenwich Time* newspaper, Fall 2004.

“Close Encounters: A Curriculum,” co-author, The Baltimore Museum of Art, 2001.

“Nineteenth Century Philadelphia Caterer, Thomas J. Dorsey,” *American Visions*, Aug 2000.

“The President’s Kitchen,” *American Visions* magazine, February 1995.

PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

El Centro College, Dallas, TX

HIST 1301: U.S. History to Reconstruction (Summer 2019)

The University of Texas at Dallas

RHET 1302: Introduction to Writing (Fall 2014-Spring 2017)

HIST 1301: U.S. History to the Civil War (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)

CONFERENCE PAPERS, INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Plenary Session: Teaching Presidential History Today—What Has Changed?” and “Can I Do My Job Without Getting Fired?” American Historical Association, Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses, The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX, October 25, 2025.

“Reconsidering Photography and Civil Rights,” panelist, Organization of American Historians Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2025.

- “Recognizing Right As Well As Reality: John F. Kennedy’s Civil Rights Address – June 11, 1963,” Dallas Public Library, Brown Bag Luncheon, Adult Speaker Series, June 18, 2024.
- “Cultural Histories of Election Years,” panelist, American Political History Conference, Vanderbilt University, June 7, 2024.
- “President Kennedy’s Civil Rights Legacy – African American Perceptions,” John F. Kennedy Presidential Library Virtual Forum discussion with Kellie Carter Jackson. November 21, 2023.
- “*Mourning the Presidents: Loss and Legacy in American Culture* Panel Discussion,” SMU McCord Auditorium, Dallas, TX, May 11, 2023.
- “On Track: Lessons Learned on My UTD Journey,” Keynote Speaker, Phi Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony, The University of Texas at Dallas, April 14, 2023.
- “Celebrating Women Success” panelist, Tarrant County College Northwest, Intercultural Network, March 30, 2023.
- Mourning the Presidents* panel discussion moderated by Michael Beschloss, White House Historical Association, February 22, 2023.
- “Meditations and Memoirs on Justice: Stories and Reflections About Black America: A Conversation with Randal Jelks and Brittany K. Barnett,” moderator, SMU Dallas Hall, Dallas, TX, March 19, 2022.
- “Dear Mr. President: African Americans Respond to Civil Rights Addresses by John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson,” Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Seminar on The American Presidency, SMU Center for Presidential History (Virtual), July 29, 2021.
- “Real Hatred: Exploring the Most Vehemently Despised Presidents in American History,” American Historical Association (Virtual Panel), May 18, 2021.
- MLK Symposium panelist following keynote presentation by historian Annette Gordon-Reed, Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture, January 18, 2021.
- “Living Legacy of White Supremacy at UT Dallas and Beyond – Teach In,” The University of Texas at Dallas, Arts and Humanities Department (Virtual Panel), August 6, 2020.
- “The Odds are Against Him in Our Community”: Lyndon Johnson's Civil Rights Leadership in African American Imagination,” Lyndon B. Johnson (Virtual Lecture) Summer Institute, LBJ Presidential Library and Museum, Austin, TX, July 21, 2020.
- “The New Kennedy: John Kennedy and Civil Rights, 1960-1963,” (Virtual Lecture) The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, June 11, 2020.
- “Right at Home: African Americans and the Presence of the President.” Texas Graduate Liberal Studies Symposium, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, 2018.

“Playing ‘the Civil Rights Game’: Black Intellectual Responses to President Johnson and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.” Society for U.S. Intellectual History, Dallas, TX, 2017.

“Looking for Lyndon: ‘All the Way’ as Shakespeare History Play.” University of Texas at Dallas, RAW Graduate Student Symposium, Richardson, TX, 2017.

“Women on the Horizon,” Dallas Book Festival reading and panel discussion, Dallas, TX, 2014.

“Hanging Out with the President: Using Technology in Museum Education.” American Association of State and Local History Presidential Sites and Libraries Conference, Little Rock, AR, 2014.

“Informal Educator Groups: Collaborating to Fuel Community Imagination,” Texas Library Association, Fort Worth, 2013.

“Reaching Waaay Out for Outreach: Distance Learning.” Texas Association of Museums, Irving, TX, 2011.

“Work with Me! Education Partnerships.” Texas Association of Museums, Irving, TX, 2011.

“No Need to Apologize: Presenting Difficult Subjects with Diplomacy.” American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, 2011.

“History Day the Dallas Way.” American Association of State and Local History Conference, Oklahoma City, OK, 2010.

“Voices of the Civil War Online.” Association of Connecticut History Meeting, 2003.

“Slavery: A Dialogue.” American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, 2003.

“Slavery: A Dialogue.” New England Museum Association Conference, Mystic, CT, 2003.

“Thomas Dorsey: African American Caterer.” Association for the Study of African-American Life and History Conference, Charleston, SC, 1996.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
American Studies Association
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
National Council on Public History
Organization of American Historians
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Current:
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society
Old City Park Conservancy, Board Chair (volunteer)
Remembering Black Dallas (volunteer)

Dallas County Equal Justice Initiative (volunteer)

Past:

American Association of State and Local History, Educators and Interpreters Committee
(professional service)

American Historical Association (Nancy Lyman Roelker Mentorship Award Committee Chair)

SMU Dedman College Black Student Mentoring Initiative (professional service)

Southern Historical Association (Membership Committee)

Informal Educators of Dallas County, Co-Founder (professional service)

Texas Association of Museums, Educator Committee (professional service)

Leadership, Education, and Athletics in Partnership (LEAP) New Haven (volunteer)

New Haven Sister Cities (volunteer)