

Vannessa Velez

PhD Candidate, History Department
Stanford, CA 94305-1234
vvelez07@stanford.edu

Education

Stanford University

PhD in History, June 2025 (expected)

City College of New York

B.A. in History, June 2017

Mellon Mays Fellow | Phi Beta Kappa | Summa Cum Laude

Research

Dissertation: “No Promised Land: Environmental Governance and Environmental Inequality in Globalizing Atlanta, 1945-1990” (In Progress)

Research Fields: 20th Century U.S. History, Critical Environmental Studies, Histories of Racial Capitalism, American Studies, Histories of Science and Technology, Anthropocene Studies, and Urban Studies

Research Methods and Skills: Digital and physical archival research, digital mapping, text and data analysis, data scraping and visualization

Grants and Fellowships

Sept 2024 - Present	University of Pennsylvania Provost’s Predoctoral Diversity Fellowship
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Sept 2017 - Present	Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Fellowship Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education Stanford University
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Sept 2017 - Present	Mellon Mays Graduate Initiative Fellowship Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
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Sept 2023 - May 2024	MIT SHASS Predoctoral Diversity Dissertation Fellowship
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Sept 2023 - Aug 2024	Clifford Roberts Graduate Fellowship Eisenhower Institute, Gettysburg College
April 2022	Diversity Dissertation Research Opportunity (DDRO) Award Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education Stanford University
April 2022	The Norall Family Scholarship Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association
Sept 2022 - June 2023	Stanford Humanities Center Dissertation Fellowship
Dec 2021	Graduate Research Opportunity (GRO) Award School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University
Dec 2020 - June 2021	African Studies Interdisciplinary Research Workshop Grant The Center for African Studies (CAS), Stanford University
Sept 2020 - June 2021	Research Workshop Grant for the Critical Orientations to Race and Ethnicity (CORE) Workshop Stanford Humanities Center
Sept 2020 - June 2021	Diversity and Inclusion Fund (DIF) Workshop Grant Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education Stanford University
Sept 2019 - June 2020	The Geballe Research Grant for the Critical Orientations to Race and Ethnicity (CORE) Workshop Stanford Humanities Center
Sept 2019 - June 2020	Diversity and Inclusion Fund (DIF) Workshop Grant Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education Stanford University
May 2019	Stanford Community Impact Award Stanford Alumni Association
June 2016 - June 2017	Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT) Fellow Phillips Academy — Andover

May 2017	Archival and Historical Research Seminar and Fellowship Center for Jewish History
June 2016	The Evelyn Abdalah Menconi Travel Grant Arab American National Museum
May 2015 - June 2017	Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow City College of New York

Teaching Experience

Areas of Expertise:

- ❖ Topics: U.S. History, African American Studies, Race and Ethnic Studies, Global American Studies, Urban History, Science and Technology Studies, Historical Research Methods, and Interdisciplinary Humanities Research Methods
- ❖ Tools for digital humanities instruction: Social Explorer (mapping), Knight Lab tools (storytelling), and Omeka (archiving)

Instructor of Record

Summer 2023	Imagineering the American City History (151C) Stanford University
Summer 2019	We Know of Broken Promises: African Americans and the Arab-Israeli Conflict Freedom Summer Collegiate Program at the Rosedale Community Youth Center in Rosedale, Mississippi Course Accredited by Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi

Teaching Assistantships

- ❖ As a teaching assistant I was responsible for running fifty-minute discussion sections (typically 2-3 sections, with 10-20 students each) for each lecture course. Part of my duties also included developing a discussion section syllabus and weekly course assignments. I participated in crafting the midterm and final exams, and served as the course grader for all students in my discussion sections.

Winter 2020	Nineteenth Century America (History 150B) Cross listed: Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies/American Studies Teaching Assistant for Richard White Stanford University
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Fall 2019	American Prophet: The Inner Life and Global Vision of Martin Luther King Jr. (History 168D) Cross listed: Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies/American Studies Teaching Assistant for Clayborne Carson Stanford History Department
Summer 2019	The Gilded Age and its Modern Parallels Teaching Assistant for Richard White The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History & Stanford University ❖ This special course was part of the Gilder Lehrman Summer Institute, a prestigious professional development program that brings top U.S. history teachers from across the country to work with leading scholars at the nation's top research universities. Participants engage with cutting-edge scholarly literature, methods, and strategies from various fields of U.S. history, which they then incorporate into their own syllabi and classrooms.
Winter 2019	Nineteenth Century America (History 150B) Cross Listed: Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies/American Studies Teaching Assistant for Richard White Stanford University
Fall 2018	Colonial and Revolutionary America (History 150A) Cross listed: American Studies Teaching Assistant for Jonathan Gienapp Stanford University

Course Development Assistantships

- ❖ Advanced graduate students at Stanford, who have completed all of their departmental teaching requirements, may apply to become Course Development Assistants (CDAs). This program matches graduate students with faculty to co-develop and co-teach courses, ranging from undergraduate IntroSems to graduate level courses. CDAs also receive pedagogical training through the office of Undergraduate Education in classroom and academic technology and inclusive teaching practices.

Winter 2024	Racial Identity in the American Imagination (African & African American Studies 355D) Cross listed: History/Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies/ American Studies Course Development Assistant for Allyson Hobbs Stanford University
Winter 2024	African American Women's Lives (History 54N) Course Development Assistant for Allyson Hobbs Stanford University
Winter 2024	Black Women, Trauma, and the Art of Resistance (History 360A) Course Development Assistant for Allyson Hobbs

Stanford University

- Winter 2023 Research Seminar for History Majors (History 209S)
Course Development Assistant for Jim Campbell
Stanford University
- Winter 2023 Graduate Research Seminar: New Directions in the Study of Race in
American History (History 468A/468B)
Course Development Assistant for Allyson Hobbs
- Winter 2023 African American Women's Lives (History 54N)
Course Development Assistant for Allyson Hobbs
Stanford University

Pedagogical and Professional Training

- Winter 2023 Course Development Assistant Training in Inclusive Pedagogy, Course
Design, and Classroom Technologies
Stanford's Office of Undergraduate Education
- Winter 2018 -
Spring 2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training
Community Associates Program
Stanford's Graduate Life Office
- Fall 2019 -
Spring 2022 EDGE (Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education) Mentor
Training in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Summer 2019 Pedagogies of Freedom Training: Course Design and Development
for Justice and Empowerment in Underserved Communities
Freedom Summer Collegiate & Millsaps College
- Summer 2019 Practical Pedagogies for Teaching with the Past and Present
in the Mississippi Delta
Rosedale Community Youth Center & Freedom Summer Collegiate

Conferences, Symposiums, and Invited Talks

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- July 13, 2024 Roundtable Panelist, "Transhemispheric Seminar, Race and Technology."
REDI (Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion). Viña del Mar (Chile), Society
for History of Technology (SHOT), July 9-14, 2024.
- May 30, 2024 Invited Presenter, "Sinner and Saint in the Black Mecca: Maynard Jackson
and the Rise of Infrastructural Municipal Management in Devolving
America, 1968-1981." Jefferson Scholars National Fellowship, Spring
Conference. University of Virginia, May 29-31st, 2024.

April 6, 2024	Invited Presenter, “Geographies of the Gate City: Capitalizing on Atlanta’s Post-War Environment, 1943-1959.” BOCA-LONGA Conference. Emory University, April 5-7, 2024.
Dec 7, 2023	Presenter, “No Promised Land: New Interdisciplinary Methods & Environmental History.” MIT SHASS Fellowship.
March 14, 2023	Presenter, “Imagineering Atlanta(s): Transportation Infrastructure and Environmental Inequality in Globalizing Atlanta.” Stanford Humanities Center.
May 13-14, 2021	Graduate Student Organizer, “Covid-19, Blackness, and the Anthropocene Invention, Existence and Black Studies Beyond the Hu/Man.” Emerging Scholars Conference, Program in African American Studies at Stanford University.
Sept 23, 2020	Co-Moderator, “Black Studies and African Studies: Institutional Histories and Futures.” Panelists: Dr. Clayborne Carson, Dr. Allyson Hobbs, Dr. Ato Quayson and Dr. Richard Roberts. Stanford’s Center for African Studies & Stanford Humanities Center.
April 12, 2019	Graduate Student Organizer, “‘But What Does Wonder Do?’: A Conference of Emergent Black Studies.” Emerging Scholars Conference, Program in African American Studies at Stanford University.
Nov 22, 2019	Organizer, “Nothing to Lose but Our Chains: Organizing and Activism in the Black Bay.” Panelists: Dr. Clayborne Carson, Dr. Johnetta Richards, and Dr. Rickey Vincent. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University.

Department and University Service

Fall 2019 - Spring 2022	Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Mentor for New PhD Students Office of the Vice Provost of Graduate Education, Stanford University
March 2019	Graduate Recruitment Coordinator for Prospective History PhD Students in U.S. History and Latin American History Stanford History Department
Fall 2019 - Spring 2020	Graduate Student Coordinator for the United States History Workshop Stanford History Department

Fall 2018 - Spring 2019	Graduate Student Representative to the History Department Stanford University
Fall 2018 - Spring 2019	Graduate Representative to the Search Committee for the Director of the King Institute and Professor in African American History Stanford University
Spring 2018	Graduate Diversity Recruitment Volunteer Diversity & First-Gen Office, School of Humanities and Sciences Office of the Vice Provost of Graduate Education Stanford University
Spring 2019	Graduate Diversity Recruitment Volunteer Diversity & First-Gen Office, School of Humanities and Sciences Office of the Vice Provost of Graduate Education Stanford University
March 2021 - June 2021	Graduate Student Coordinator for the Stanford Environmental and Climate History (SECH) Workshop Stanford History Department
January 2021 - June 2021	Graduate Student Coordinator of the Global Black Studies Reading Group Center for African Studies Stanford University
June 2018 - August 2021	Graduate Student Coordinator for the Critical Orientations to Race and Ethnicity (CORE) Workshop Stanford Humanities Center
March 2018 - June 2023	Stanford Graduate Community Associate The Graduate Life Office (GLO) Stanford University

Professional Experiences

Dec 2024 - Present	Executive Board Member & Grant Writer JustData (STEM Education Non-Profit)
Dec 2024 - Present	Planning Board Member & Grant Writer National Technical Association - Northeast (U.S.) Chapter

Jan 2022 - Present	Digital Archivist for the History Grad Student Archive Stanford History Department
May 2024 - Present	Research Mentor Lumiere Education
July 2024 - Aug 2024	Special Collections Assistant MIT Museum
Sept 2023 - May 2024	Lab Member, Data + Feminism Lab Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) Massachusetts Institute of Technology
June 2023 - Aug 2023	Graduate Program Assistant Stanford-CUNY Exchange Program Stanford University
July 2022 - June 2023	Teaching Assistant Scholar Launch
April 2022 - June 2023	Graduate Coach InGenius Prep
Oct 2020 - June 2021	Graduate Student Program Assistant African and African American Studies Program Stanford University