

June 2020

ALLYSON VANESSA HOBBS

Department of History, Stanford University
450 Serra Mall, Building 200, Stanford, CA 94305
ahobbs@stanford.edu
allysonhobbs.com

CURRENT POSITIONS

Stanford University, Associate Professor, Department of History, September 2008 - present
Director, African and African American Studies, January 2017 – present
Kleinheinz Family University Fellow in Undergraduate Education, 2019-2024

Affiliated with:

American Studies (Committee-in-Charge Member)
Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (Core Affiliated Faculty)
Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (Researcher)
Center for Institutional Courage (Research Advisor)
Ethics in Society (Faculty Affiliate)
Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (Program Committee)
Masters in Liberal Arts Program (Faculty Advisor)
Michelle R. Clayman Institute for Gender Research (Faculty Fellow)
Stanford Center for Law and History (Affiliated Member)
Urban Studies (Faculty Affiliate)

The New Yorker.com, Contributing Writer, November 2015 – present
<https://www.newyorker.com/contributors/allyson-hobbs>

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Ph.D., History, March 2009, with distinction

Dissertation: “When Black Becomes White: The Problem of Racial Passing in American Life”

Committee: Professors Thomas Holt (Chair; History, University of Chicago), George Chauncey (History, Yale University), Jacqueline Stewart (Cinema and Media Studies, University of Chicago)

Harvard University, A.B., Social Studies, June 1997, magna cum laude

Received magna cum laude distinction on senior honors thesis on the Highlander Folk School and its involvement in the civil rights movement
(Thesis advisor: Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham)

PUBLICATIONS

Book

A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, October 2014).

Book Prizes from the Organization of American Historians

- Frederick Jackson Turner Award for Best First Book in American History
- Lawrence Levine Award for Best Book in American Cultural History

Public Recognition

- “Summer Reading Issue,” Harvard University Press, July 12, 2017
- “What Our Writers Are Reading This Summer,” *The Paris Review*, June 30, 2017
- Featured in the *New York Times Book Review* Paperback Row, April 29, 2016
- *A New York Times Book Review* Editor’s Choice, November 2014
- Listed as recommended reading on racial boundaries by the *New York Times*, June 16, 2015
- *A San Francisco Chronicle* “Best Book of 2014”
- *A Root* “Best 15 Nonfiction Books by Black Authors in 2014”
- A “Book of the Week” by the *Times Education*, October 30, 2014
- Reviewed by *The New York Times Book Review*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Times Higher Education*, *Harper’s Magazine*, *Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Library Journal*
- Featured on “All Things Considered” (NPR), BBC World Service, C-SPAN’s Book TV, TV News One with Roland Martin, The Tavis Smiley Show (PRI), “Crosscurrents” (KALW/NPR), The Joe Madison Show (Sirius XM), The Mixed Experience, Genealogy Live Talk Radio with Bernice Bennett, The Moncrieff Show (Newstalk Radio, Ireland)
- KCSB Reads Book of the Month, December 2016 (FM 91.9 in Santa Barbara, CA)
- Named a “Summer Read” by *The Voice*, Britain’s most influential black newspaper
- Ranked #2 on *Library Journal*’s U.S. History Best Sellers List from September 2014 to May 2015

Articles and Book Chapters

Special Forum, “A Second Gilded Age?” *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (April 2020).

“Passing,” Edwards, Erica, Roderick Ferguson, and Jeffrey Ogbar, eds. *Keywords for African American Studies* (New York: New York University Press, November 2018).

“New Histories: Passing and Post-Racialism,” Godfrey, Mollie and Vershawn Young, eds. *Neo-Passing: Performing Race After Jim Crow* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, March 2018).

Introduction to Wallace Thurmond, *The Blacker the Berry* (originally published in 1929; re-released in January 2018 by Penguin Press).

“A History of Loss,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 9, 2015.

“Conclusion: A Paradigm Shift in Fits and Starts.” Christ, Birte and Greta Olson, eds. *Obama and the Paradigm Shift: The Measure of Change*. (Heidelberg: Winter, 2012).

Reviews

Review of Michelle Obama, *Becoming*, *San Francisco Chronicle* (November 2018).

Review of Lori L. Tharps, *Same Family Different Colors: Confronting Colorism in America's Diverse Families*, *New York Times Book Review* (October 2016).

Review of Mary Niall Mitchell, *Raising Freedom's Child: Black Children and Visions of the Future After Slavery*, *Journal of American Ethnic History* (Winter 2012).

Encyclopedia Entries and Bibliographies

“Racial Passing.” *Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies* (New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

“Bicycling” and “Public Broadcasting” in *The Encyclopedia of Chicago History* (2004).

Other Writing

“What Does It Mean to Be *Black Like Us*?” introduction to Rachel Atkins’ award-winning play, *Black Like Us*, (Original Works Publishing, 2016).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Far from Sanctuary: African American Travel in Twentieth Century America
(second book project; forthcoming from Penguin Press, delivery date: fall 2023)

To Tell the Terrible: Black Women's Testimonies of Sexual Violence
(this is a short book that will expand on a *New Yorker* article that I wrote as part of a series on the #MeToo Movement; forthcoming from Penguin Press, delivery date: winter 2020)

Searchers in the New South, co-written with Nell Freudenberger
(Novelist Nell Freudenberger and I have been visiting cities that are taking concrete steps to confront our country's painful history with race. We also are interested in exploring our own family histories.)

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES AND SPECIAL LECTURES

Keynote Address, Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, University of Buffalo, July 19, 2019.

African American Digital Scholarship Symposium, Stanford University, April 29, 2017.

“The Urgent Need for Historians in the Time of Trump,” Western Association of Women’s
Historians Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, April 27, 2017

“Exhuming the Bodies: Deepening Our Lives through Storytelling,” Emerging Scholars
Workshop at the George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center, Penn State University,
March 31, 2017

“A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in America Life,” Inaugural Guilbeau Lecture
in the History Department at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, March 8, 2017

INVITED BOOK TALKS

Morning Forum, Los Altos, CA, October 16, 2018

University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL, February 26, 2018

SAP, Black History Month Event, Palo Alto, CA, February 21, 2018

Genentech, Black History Month Event, San Francisco, CA, February 2, 2018

Brown University, Providence, RI, October 5, 2017

University of Texas-Dallas, Dallas, Texas, April 20, 2017

Fenwick & West LLP, Black History Month Event, San Francisco, CA, February 15, 2017

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, February 10, 2017

Powerhouse Books, Brooklyn, NY, June 15, 2016

Stanford Sierra Camp, Lake Tahoe, NV, May 27-29, 2016

Williams College, Williamstown, MA, April 18, 2016

Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA, April 11, 2016

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, March 25, 2016

Featured in Brigham Young University’s Humanities publication, Fall 2016

Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, March 22, 2016

Kepler’s Books, Menlo Park, CA, March 15, 2016

The Harriet Beecher Stowe House, February 27, 2016

Miami University, Cincinnati, OH, February 25, 2016

Emory University, Atlanta, GA, February 15, 2016

Stanford National Black Alumni Association, San Francisco, CA, February 11, 2016

National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN, December 2015

Miami International Book Fair, November 20-21, 2015

Chicago Humanities Festival, October 25, 2015

Texas Book Festival, Austin, TX, October 17-18, 2015

Rice University, Houston, TX, October 15, 2015

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, September 17, 2015

Menlo College Speakers Series, Menlo Park, CA, Fall 2015
National Archives, Washington, DC, February 27, 2015 (recorded for Book TV on C-SPAN)
Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA, February 7, 2015
The Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA, December 6, 2014
African and African American Studies & Center for Comparative Studies of Race and Ethnicity,
Stanford University, Stanford, CA, October 2, 2014
Festival of Books, Morristown, NJ, September 27, 2014

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “When 80-Year-Old Parents Divorce,” *New York Times*, February 13, 2020.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/13/opinion/parents-divorce.html>
Listed as a “Most Popular” article on the New York Times’ website
- “*Becoming* by Michelle Obama: How the Girl from the South Side Grew,” *San Francisco Chronicle*,
November 17, 2018.
<https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/books/becoming-by-michelle-obama-how-the-girl-from-the-south-side-grew>
- “One Year of #MeToo: The Legacy of Black Women’s Testimonies,” *The New Yorker.com*, October
10, 2018.
<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/personal-history/one-year-of-metoo-the-legacy-of-black-womens-testimonies>
- “Summer Road-Tripping While Black,” *New York Times Sunday Review*, September 2, 2018
https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/31/opinion/sunday/summer-road-tripping-while-black.html?imp_id=663260137&action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage
- “A Visit to Montgomery’s Legacy Museum,” *The New Yorker.com*, July 17, 2018.
(co-written with Nell Freudenberger)
<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/personal-history/a-visit-to-montgomerys-legacy-museum>
- “A Firsthand Look at the Horrors of Immigration Detention,” *The Washington Post.com*, June 25,
2018.
(co-written with Ana Raquel Minian)
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2018/06/25/a-firsthand-look-at-the-horrors-of-immigration-detention/?utm_term=.07dbab7a5873
- “An Academic Conference Featured 30 White Men and One White Woman. How Should
the University Respond?” *The Washington Post.com*, March 26, 2018.
(co-written with Priya Satia)
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2018/03/26/an-academic-conference-featured-only-white-men-how-should-the-university-respond/?utm_term=.07484a365942
- “After One Year of Trump, America is Losing Its Soul,” *The Root.com*, January 20, 2018
<https://www.theroot.com/after-1-year-of-trump-america-is-losing-its-soul-1822230154>

- “On Philando Castile, Terror, and the Trauma that Remains,” *The Root.com*, June 21, 2017
http://www.theroot.com/on-philando-castile-terror-and-the-trauma-that-remains-1796311248?utm_medium=sharefromsite&utm_source=The_Root_facebook
- “Trump and Black History Month,” *The New Yorker.com*, February 22, 2017
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/trump-and-black-history-month>
- “The Power of Looking: Emmett Till to Philando Castile,” *The New Yorker.com*, August 5, 2016
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-power-of-looking-from-emmett-till-to-philando-castile>
- “Charleston and America, One Year Later,” *The New Yorker.com*, June 17, 2016
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/charleston-and-america-one-year-later>
- “Muhammad Ali and His Audience,” *The New Yorker.com*, June 10, 2016
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/ali-and-his-audience>
- “The Lorraine Motel and Martin Luther King,” *The New Yorker.com*, January 18, 2016
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-lorraine-motel-and-martin-luther-king?intcid=mod-latest?reload>
- “Auld Lang Syne and Four Generations of My Family,” *The New Yorker.com*, December 28, 2015
<http://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/auld-lang-syne-and-four-generations-of-my-family>
- “One Hundred Years Later, *The Birth of a Nation* Still Hasn’t Gone Away,” *The New Yorker.com*, December 13, 2015
<http://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/hundred-years-later-birth-nation-hasnt-gone-away>
- “Why Aren’t We Inspired by Hillary Clinton?” *The New Yorker.com*, September 23, 2015
[#1 most popular article for three days; remained in the top 20 most popular articles for over a week](http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/why-arent-we-inspired-by-hillary-clinton)
- “Actually, Hillary, Hearts Do Change,” *The New Yorker.com*, August 27, 2015
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/actually-hillary-hearts-do-change>
- “Barack Obama’s Second Inaugural in Charleston,” *The New Yorker.com*, June 29, 2015
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/barack-obamas-second-inaugural-in-charleston>
- “Rachel Dolezal’s Unintended Gift to America,” *The New York Times*, June 17, 2015
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/17/opinion/rachel-dolezals-unintended-gift-to-america.html?_r=0
- “Why We Can’t Look Away from Violence Against African Americans,” *History News Network*, June 11, 2015

<http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/159653>

“Pay Tribute to the Black Women Who Spoke Out About Sexual Violence,” *New York Times*,
“Room for Debate,” May 26, 2015
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/05/26/how-should-americans-remember-reconstruction/pay-tribute-to-the-black-women-who-spoke-out-about-the-sexual-violence>

“The ‘White’ Student Who Integrated Ole Miss,” *cnn.com*, February 5, 2014
http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/05/living/black-white-ole-miss-integration/index.html?hpt=li_c2

Quoted in Linton Weeks, “The Future of American History,” *npr.com*, July 29, 2015
<http://www.npr.org/sections/npr-history-dept/2015/07/29/421624129/the-future-of-american-history>

Quoted in Peter Morris and Stefan Fatsis, “Baseball’s Secret Pioneer,” *slate.com*, February 4, 2014
http://www.slate.com/articles/sports/sports_nut/2014/02/william_edward_white_baseball_s_first_black_player_lived_his_life_as_a_white.single.html

Quoted in Felicia Lee, “In a Novelist’s World, You Choose Your Race,” *New York Times*, August 11, 2014
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/12/books/jess-rows-your-face-in-mine-explores-racial-reassignment.html?_r=0

INVITED LECTURES AND EVENTS

“Quiet As It’s Kept: Passing Subjects, Contested Identities,” Vassar College, April 5-6, 2019.

“The Value of History in the Era of Fake News,” Nevada Humanities/Vegas Valley Book Festival, November 16, 2018

Morristown Festival of Books, Morristown, NJ, “In Conversation with Ibitahj Muhammad about *Proud*, October 13, 2018

“Experiments in Learning: The One-Unit Class,” sponsored by the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, October 2, 2018

“Far From Sanctuary: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights,” Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, February 13, 2017

“Discovering the History of Racial Passing in the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of African American Arts and Letters,” presented in conjunction with the building-wide exhibition, “Gather Out of Star-Dust: The Harlem Renaissance & The Beinecke Library,” Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT, February 10, 2017

Morristown Festival of Books, Morristown, NJ, “In Conversation with Colson Whitehead about *The Underground Railroad*,” (Colson Whitehead won the National Book Award for *The Underground Railroad*), October 1, 2016

“First Lecture,” Stanford University, September 21, 2016

“The Future of the American Past,” National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC, May 19-21, 2016 (I was a blogger for the session, “Who Is Black America?”)

“What Matters to Me and Why,” Stanford University, February 17, 2016

“Being a Public Intellectual,” National Center for Development and Faculty Diversity Series, Virtual Conference, November 12, 2015

“Far From Sanctuary: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights,” American Political History Workshop, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, October 29, 2015

“The Chosen Exile of Racial Passing,” Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL, October 25, 2015

“Great Teaching Showcase,” Stanford University, October 2, 2015, the inaugural event in the “Year of Learning,” a year-long series of events and initiatives for the Stanford community to engage faculty, students, staff, and alumni in thinking about the past, present, and future of teaching and learning at Stanford, hosted by the Office of the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning

“The Chosen Exile of Racial Passing,” Stanford + Connects, Stanford Alumni Association, Washington, DC, September 27, 2015

“All of the Women Are White, All of the Men are Black, But Some of Us Are Brave,” panel discussion presented by The Feminist Press, BookCourt Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY, September 16, 2015

“Community Voices: A Public Dialogue” on *Portraits and Other Likenesses from the SFMOMA*, Museum of the African Diaspora, August 20, 2015
“Every Thursday during *Portraits and Other Likenesses from SFMOMA*, a creative thinker from the Bay Area cultural community will reflect on the exhibition’s themes of identity, representation, space and diaspora and how these themes inspire their own practice.”

Presentation on the film, “Korla,” a documentary by John Turner and Eric Christensen, on John Roland Redd, an African American man who successfully passed as an Indian musician from New Delhi, India, Museum of the African Diaspora, August 20, 2015

“A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life,” National Archives, Washington, DC, February 27, 2015

“A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life,” guest lecturer, Great Books Summer Program, Stanford University, June 24, 2014

- “The Chosen Exile of Racial ‘Passing,’” TEDxStanford, Stanford University, May 10, 2014
Named one of the fifty best talks by black women
- “Choosing Exile,” “Faces” Conference, University of California-Berkeley, April 11-12, 2014
- “The State of Black America 150 Years after the Emancipation Proclamation: Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going,” invited speaker, The St. Clair Drake Memorial Lecture, Stanford University, April 18, 2013. Moderated by Tavis Smiley. *This program was taped for Tavis Smiley’s radio program and aired on NPR in August 2013*
<http://www.tavissmileyradio.com/listen-now/>
- “The Future of Affirmative Action: A Discussion of *Fisher v. Texas*,” Faculty Women’s Forum, Stanford University, January 23, 2013
<http://gender.stanford.edu/news/2013/whats-at-stake-fisher-v-university-texas>
- “The Problem of Passing and Identity in Gilded Age America,” guest lecturer, Gilder Lehrman Summer Seminar on the Gilded Age, Stanford University, Summer 2010-2012, 2014, 2015
- “When Black Becomes White: A History of Racial Passing in American Life,” Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Connecticut College, New London, CT, February 6, 2012
- “A White Man’s Chance: Racial Passing in the Age of Emancipation,” Beyond Freedom: New Directions in the Study of Emancipation, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University, New Haven, CT, November 11-12, 2011
- “The Problem of Passing in the ‘Post-Racial’ Era,” Obama and the Paradigm Shift: The Measure of Change in the U.S. and Germany, University of Giessen, Giessen, Germany, July 2011
- “When Black Becomes White: A History of Racial Passing in American Life,” Stanford Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL, March 13, 2011
- “Is Passing Passé in the ‘Post-Racial’ Era,” Ethics at Noon Speaker Series, Ethics and Society Program, Stanford University, February 25, 2011
- “When Black Becomes White: The Problem of Racial Passing in American Life,” Faculty Seminar Series, Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University, May 13, 2010
- “W. E. B. Du Bois: Scholar, Artist and International Activist,” Guest Lecturer, Great Books Summer Program, Stanford University, July 7, 2009

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, “Great Escapes: African American Migrants, Motorists, and Runaway Slaves and the Search for Freedom,” American Historical Association, January 3-6, 2019
- Presenter, “Safe Travels: African American Women and the Myth of the ‘Open Road’ in Mid-

Twentieth Century America,” European Social Science History Conference, Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, April 4-7, 2018

Presenter, “Far from Sanctuary: African American Women, Travel, and the Road to Civil Rights,” Berkshires Conference on Women’s History, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, June 1-4, 2017

Presenter, “Memories of Muhammad Ali,” Muhammad Ali in Un/Expected Spaces, University of Turku, Turku, Finland, May 18-19, 2017

Panelist, “Far from Sanctuary: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights,” Southern American Studies Association, William & Mary University, Williamsburg, VA, March 3, 2017

Presenter, “Far from Sanctuary: African American Women, Travel, and the Road to Civil Rights,” International Symposium on Gender Studies, Warsaw, Poland, December 3, 2016

Panelist, “Race and the Limits of Leisure: Black Travel and Tourism in the Age of Jim Crow,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Richmond, Virginia, October 5-9, 2016

Panelist, “Far from Sanctuary: African American Travel in Mid-Century America,” Cars In/Out of Culture: Mobility, Materiality, Representation, Oxford, England, September 13-15, 2016

Panelist, “Far from Sanctuary: African American Travel in Twentieth-Century America,” Historians of the Twentieth Century United States, Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, Netherlands, July 6-8, 2016

Co-organizer, “Marking Race, Making History: A Conference in Honor of the Career of Thomas Holt,” University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, April 29-30, 2016

Panelist, “Traveling as Trauma: Following the 1950 Negro Motorist Guide,” European Social Sciences History Conference, Valencia, Spain, March 30-April 2, 2015

“Racial Passing and Whiteness,” Conference on Nordic Whiteness, National Library of Norway, Oslo, Norway, November 11, 2015

Chair, “Writing Wrongs,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, October 8-11, 2015

Chair, “From Dissertation to Book,” Ford Foundation Conference, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, September 26, 2015

Chair and Organizer, “Life Beyond Boxes: Fashioning and Refashioning American Identity in the Long Twentieth Century,” roundtable discussion, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO, April 16-19, 2015

Invited speaker, “Passing ‘Un-Conference,’” Brown University, Providence, RI, March 13, 2015

- Commentator, “Look, Listen, and Dream: Politics and Culture in African American Women's History,” Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Toronto, Canada, May 22-25, 2014
- Panelist, “The 1950 Negro Motorist Travel Guide: A Microhistory of the Great Migration,” European Social Science History Conference, Vienna, Austria, April 23-26, 2014
- Panelist, “‘Making History and a Race’: Racial Passing in the Civil Rights Era,” American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18, 2012
- Panelist, “‘A Grave Social Question Has Arisen’: Interracial Encounters in Post-Emancipation Era Washington, D.C.,” Southern Association of Women Historians Conference, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, June 6-9, 2012
- Panelist, “‘Ought We to Visit Her?’: Interracial Encounters in Post-Emancipation Era Washington, D.C.,” Western Association of Women Historians Conference, Berkeley, CA, May 3-5, 2012
- Organizer and Panelist, “‘To Tie Me to One of My Parts Is to Loose Me’: Jean Toomer, Racial Identity and Family Ties in 1920s Washington, D.C.,” American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, October 2011
- Panelist, “‘A Grave Social Question Has Risen: Interracial Encounters in Reconstruction-Era Washington, D. C.,” Berkshires Conference on the History of Women, Amherst, MA, June 2011
- Panelist, “‘Everybody Has People, Everybody’: Family Life and the Problem of Racial Passing in Jim Crow America,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, March 2011
- Commentator, “Blurred Boundaries: Color and Class in the Rural South,” Intersecting Identities in African American History and Culture, Triangle African American History Colloquium, Chapel Hill, NC, February 19, 2011
- Poster Presenter, “Veiled Aristocrats: The Problem of Passing in Oscar Micheaux’s Early Race Films,” Poster Session, American Historical Association, Boston, MA, January 2011
- Panelist, “‘Who Are Your People?’: Family Life and the Problem of Racial Passing in Jim Crow America,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL, November 2010
- Panelist, “‘Is Passing Passé in the ‘Post-Racial’ Era,” Critical Whiteness Studies Symposium, Project on Rhetoric of Inquiry, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, September 2010
- Panelist, “‘Boundaries Lost and Found: The Meaning of Racial Passing in the Early Civil Rights Era,” American Historical Association, Atlanta, GA, January 2007
- Presenter, “‘No One Ever Told Me About My Father . . . Only that I Resemble Him in Every Aspect’: Racial Passing and Family Relationships in Jim Crow America,” Social History Workshop (co-sponsored by the Reproduction of Race and Racial Ideologies Workshop), University of Chicago, June 2006

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, 2021-2022

Kleinheinz Family University Fellow in Undergraduate Education, 2019-2024

Part of the Bass University Fellows Program designed to honor faculty who have demonstrated a sustained commitment, at the highest levels, to undergraduate education

Member of the Selection Panel for the David McCullough Prize for Excellence in American Public History, 2018

Member of the Jury for the Museum of African American History Stone Book Award, 2018

Member of the Jury for the Pulitzer Prize in History, 2018

Elected to the Organization of American Historians Nominating Board, 2018

Member of the HistoryMakers Higher Education Advisory Board, 2016-2018

Freedom Fighter Award, NAACP/Silicon Valley Chapter, April 2017

Writer-in-Residence, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, March 2017

Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians, 2016-19

William H. and Frances Green Faculty Fellow, Stanford University, 2015-16

AAAS/CCSRE Faculty Research Fellow, Stanford University, 2014-15

Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2013-14

Clayman Institute for Gender Research Fellowship, Stanford University, 2011-12

Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellowship Alternate, 2011

CCSRE Junior Faculty Development Program, Fall 2010

Stanford University, Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Department of History, 2007-08

Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellowship, 2007 (declined)

Erskine A. Peters Dissertation Year Fellowship Finalist, University of Notre Dame, 2007 (declined)

TEACHING AWARDS

St. Clair Drake Teaching Award, Stanford University, May 2017

Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize, Stanford University, June 2013

Hoefer Faculty Mentor Prize, Stanford University, April 2013

The Graves Award in the Humanities, February 2012

St. Clair Drake Teaching Award, Stanford University, May 2010

Hoefer Faculty Mentor Prize, Stanford University, April 2010

Von Holst Prize Lectureship in History, University of Chicago, 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

“Defining a New Field: The Urgency of Black Women’s Intellectual History,” Stanford University
Lectures in Structured Liberal Education (SLE), Spring 2018, 2019

“Hamilton: An American Musical,” Stanford University, Spring 2018
A one-unit lecture course

“American Road Trips,” Sophomore College, Stanford University, Summer 2017

“Michelle Obama and American Culture,” Stanford University, Spring 2017
A one-unit lecture course

“Reflections,” Stanford University, Winter 2017
Co-facilitated a seminar that “provides an opportunity for students to pause and reflect upon who they are and what they want out of their lives to assist them in making choices more thoughtfully and intentionally in their time as undergraduates at Stanford.”

Bing Honors College, Stanford University, Summer 2016
This program prepares rising Stanford seniors to write theses

“Racial Identity in the American Imagination,” Stanford Humanities Institute, Stanford
University, Summer 2016 and Summer 2017
This program invites rising high school juniors and seniors to explore critical questions in the humanities

“On the Road: The History of Travel in Twentieth-Century America,” Stanford University,
Fall 2016, Winter 2016, and Summer 2016 (sophomore seminar)

“Race in American Memory,” Stanford University, Fall 2015 and 2016 (Thinking Matters course; co-
taught with Shelley Fisher Fishkin)

“Reimagining America: Cultural Memory and Identity Since the Civil War,” Stanford University, Spring 2013 (Thinking Matters course; co-taught with Shelley Fisher Fishkin)

“African American Women’s Lives,” Stanford University, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Spring 2016, Summer 2016 (freshman seminar)

“Topics in Twentieth Century United States History,” Stanford University, Spring 2011, Spring 2013, 2017 (graduate seminar)

“Racial Identity in the American Imagination,” Stanford University, Winter 2009, Spring 2010, Winter 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2016 and 2017 (undergraduate/graduate seminar and Masters in Liberal Arts seminar)

“American Identities: Research Seminar in the Major,” Stanford University, Fall 2010, Winter 2011, Spring 2012, Winter 2016 (required research seminar for history majors)

“From Freedom to Freedom Now: African American History, 1865-1965,” Stanford University, Winter 2010, Spring 2011 (undergraduate lecture course)

Teaching Consultant, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Chicago, 2006-2007

INTERVIEWS, TV, RADIO, AND NEWS APPEARANCES

“Soul Music,” BBC Radio interview on my *New Yorker.com* article, “Auld Lang Syne and Four Generations of My Family,” September 19, 2016

BBC Radio Interview on African American Travel, June 13, 2016; aired on November 29, 2016 on BBC Radio 4.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b083p88f>

“Racial Passing,” Top of Mind, BYU Radio interview with Julie Rose, March 25, 2016

“Color Lines: Racial Passing in America,” BackStory with the American History Guys, January 15, 2016
<http://backstoryradio.org/shows/color-lines/>

“The Value of Diversity,” interview with Lauren Schiller, host of Inflection Point (a program about “women changing the status quo”), NPR/KALW, September 24, 2015
http://cpa.ds.npr.org/kalw/audio/2015/09/show_16_hobbs.mp3

“Racial Passing in the U.S.A.: Historian Allyson Hobbs on the History of Racial Passing,” interview with Robert Pollie, The 7th Avenue Project: Thinking Persons’ Radio, NPR affiliate/Central Coast Public Radio, June 28, 2015

“Before Rachel Dolezal, What Did It Mean to ‘Pass?’” interview by Randy Dotinga, *Christian Science Monitor*, June 22, 2015

BBC News Radio, June 18, 2015

Nerding Out, MSNBC.com, June 17, 2015

All Things Considered, NPR, June 16, 2015

The Takeaway, NPR/WNYC, June 16, 2015

The Melissa Harris-Perry Show, MSNBC, June 13, 2015

“Crossed Lines,” interview with Lydialyle Gibson, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, May-June 2015

“The Civil War on the 150th Anniversary of Its Final Battle,” The Tavis Smiley Show, PBS, April 9, 2015

“A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life,” C-SPAN Book TV (recorded at the National Archives), February 27, 2015

NewsOne Now with Roland Martin, February 27, 2015

“The gains and losses of racial ‘code-switching,’” Crosscurrents, NPR/KALW, January 27, 2015

The Madison Show, SiriusXM, November 13, 2014

Genealogy Live Talk Radio with Bernice Bennett, November 7, 2014

The Tavis Smiley Show, October 31, 2014

Moncrieff, News Talk Radio (Ireland), October 30, 2014

The Mixed Experience with Heidi Durrow, September 19, 2014

“A Chosen Exile: Black People Passing in White America,” All Things Considered, National Public Radio, October 7, 2014

Light Girls documentary, directed by Bill Duke, April 10, 2014 (aired on the OWN network)

“The State of Black America 150 Years after the Emancipation Proclamation: Honoring the Past, Defining the Future,” invited speaker, The St. Clair Drake Memorial Lecture, Stanford University, April 18, 2013. Moderated by Tavis Smiley.
This program was taped for Tavis Smiley’s radio program and aired on NPR in August 2013

“What’s at Stake in the *Fisher v. University of Texas* Case?” *Stanford Report* (January 25, 2013)

“Searching for a New Soul in Harlem: Allyson Hobbs on Racial Passing and Racial Ambiguity During the Harlem Renaissance,” *Stanford Report*, February 27, 2012

C-SPAN, “Lectures in History,” *American History TV*, July 2011

PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Created and Host the “Stanford Community Hour,” a Zoom session that aims to support students during the COVID pandemic on Sundays with special guests including Jelani Cobb, Karine Jean-Pierre, Professors Kevin Kruse, Ruha Benjamin, Nikky Finney, Heather Ann Thompson, Margot Canaday, Nicole Fleetwood, Fred Moten, Jennifer Nash, and Alondra Nelson

Chair of Search Committee for a Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute and a Historian of the Modern Civil Rights Movement, 2018-2019

Advisor, The Project on Addressing Sexual Violence Through Institutional Courage
<https://www.jjfreyd.com/project-on-institutional-courage>

Elected to the Organization of American Historians Nominating Board, 2018

Elected to the Faculty Senate, Stanford University, 2017-2019

Director, African and African American Studies, Stanford University, 2017-2020

Member, Committee for the Review of Undergraduate Majors (C-RUM)

Faculty Advisor, Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity, “Women of Color in the Academy: Staying Fit Mind, Body, and Soul,” a networking and professional development workshop, March 9-11, 2017

Nineteenth Century United States Search Committee/Diversity Officer

Native American History Search Committee/Diversity Officer

Diversity Committee, History Department

The Contemporary Research Group, Stanford University

Faculty Adviser, The U.S. History Workshop (a forum for graduate students to present works-in-progress)

Invited to serve as a judge for the PEN Literary/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction August 2016 (declined)

Invited to serve on a symposium to review a book written by Rogers Brubaker (Professor of Sociology and University Chair at UCLA) (declined)

Academic Exchange, week-long academic mission to Israel and the Palestinian Authority to discuss the history of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, August 21-28, 2016

Internal Advisory Board, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, 2016-2017

Governance Board, Thinking Matters Program, Stanford University

Governance Board, Writing and Rhetoric Requirement, Stanford University

Faculty Advisory Committee, Masters in Liberal Arts Program, Stanford University

Advisory Board, *American Yawp*, a free, online American history textbook

Reviewer for *American Quarterly*

Reviewer for *The Journal of American History*

Faculty Women's Forum, September 2012-present

Blurbs Requested and Written for the Following Books:

Traci Parker, *Department Stores and the Black Freedom Movement* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2018)

eds., Jennifer Brier, Jim Downs, and Jennifer Morgan, *Connexions: Histories of Race and Sex in America* (Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 2016)

Karl Jacoby, *The Strange Career of William Ellis: The Texas Slave that Became a Mexican Millionaire* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2016)

OTHER UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Speaker, Stanford Sierra Camp, April 2019

Faculty Leader, "The Civil Rights Routes: Jackson to Montgomery," Stanford Travel/Study Program, June 2018

Faculty Fellow, Distinguished Careers Institute, Stanford University, 2017-2018

Interviewer, A Conversation with Danica Roem, the first openly transgender woman to be elected to a state legislature, sponsored by Stanford Women in Politics, May 2, 2018

Created and facilitated "Dinner Debriefs," informal dorm discussions about race, identity, and belonging, Stanford University, Spring 2017

Moderator, "Still Separate and Unequal," Education Panel, Stanford Black Alumni Summit, Chicago, IL, April 2017

"The Oscars 2017," dorm discussion in Meier Hall, Stanford University, March 6, 2017

"The Black Panther Party at 50 at the Oakland Museum of California," Exhibit Discussion, Stanford University, February 21, 2017

Conceptualized and obtained funding for “Learning Expeditions” for senior African and African American Studies majors (first trip is to Washington, D.C. to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture)

Panel Discussion on “Surviving Graduate School” with Postdocs and Graduate Students of Color, Spring 2016

“The Great Migration,” Lecture in Introduction to African and African American Studies

“Real Talk,” Lunch and discussion with students in African and African American Studies

Crothers Global Citizenship Speaker, May 17, 2016

Otero Women’s Leadership Initiative, March 8, 2016

Larkin Book Talk/Dorm Discussion, February 1, 2016

Voice and Influence Program Speaker, Clayman Institute, February 2016 & April 2017

Faculty Advisor, “Voices,” public service and social action organization of undergraduate African American women, 2009-2012

Mellon-Mays Faculty Advisor, 2010-present

Faculty Advisor, Stanford/CCNY Summer Research Program

Pre-Major Advisor, 2010-11

Expert Reviewer, Bedford/St. Martin’s African American History textbook, September 2010

Co-organizer, Globalizing Black History: Intellectuals, Politics and New Approaches to Transnationalism Conference, Stanford University, May 21, 2010

Faculty Sponsor, United States History Workshop for Graduate Students, Stanford University, 2008 - present

Faculty Lecturer, Ernest Houston Johnson Scholars Program, 2011-2013

Faculty Lecturer, The Great Books Summer Program, 2009, 2014

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
American Studies Association
Berkshire Conference of Women Historians
Organization of American Historians
Southern American Studies Association

Southern Association of Women Historians
Southern Historical Association
Western Association of Women Historians