

Brandon James Render
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Updated 8/2025

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of History
Director, African American Studies Program
University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), El Paso, Texas 2025 - Present

Assistant Professor, Department of History
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 2022 - 2025

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 2022

Dissertation: “Colorblind University: Racial Inequity and Higher Education
in the Twentieth Century”

Dissertation Committee: Peniel E. Joseph (Chair), Ashley D. Farmer, Erika M.
Bsumek, and Liliana M. Garces

M.A., American History, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky 2015

B.A., History; Social Studies, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky. 2011

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

Short-Term Research Fellowship, New York Public Library 2024-25

Tanner Humanities Center Internal Faculty Fellowship, University of Utah 2024-25

William A. Elwood Fellowship in Civil Rights and African American Studies,
University of Virginia 2023-24

Supporting Diverse Voices Book Proposal Development Grant,
Princeton University Press 2022-23

Mitchem Dissertation Fellowship, Marquette University 2021-22

Dean’s Prestigious Fellowship Supplement, University of Texas at Austin 2021-22

National Humanities Without Walls Predoctoral Fellowship	2021
Mary Jo Small Fellowship, Society for the Future of Higher Education	2020-21
Reimagining Professional Development Grant, Texas Career Engagement, University of Texas at Austin	2020
The Gilder Lehrman Institute Scholarly Fellowship	2020
John Hope Franklin Center Research Travel Grant, Rubenstein Library, Duke University	2020
Graduate Student Assembly Travel Award, University of Texas at Austin	2020
Professional Development Award, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin	2019
Texas Handbook of Women Summer Fellowship, Texas State Historical Association	2019
Graduate Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, University of Texas at Austin	2018-19
Provost's Graduate Excellence (GSII) Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin	2017-22

BOOK MANUSCRIPT & PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

(Under Contract) *Colorblind Universities: The Making and Unmaking of Race in Higher Education*. University of North Carolina Press.

(In Progress) "The Life and Death of Race-Based Affirmative Action at Harvard University."

(Under Review) "A Common Intellectual Experience: Multiculturalism and the Western Culture Debate at Stanford University." *Journal of African American History*.

(In Progress) "Welcome to East Austin: The Community United Front, Black Power, and the American Dream."

"'We Want a Quota!': Black Student Enrollment at the University of Texas at Austin, 1969-1978," *Journal of Civil and Human Rights* 8:1 (Spring/Summer 2022).

BOOK REVIEWS AND DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

“‘X’ Marks the Spot: African American Intellectual History,” *The Carryall: US Cultural and Intellectual History*. March 27, 2025. <https://thecarryall.org/x-marks-the-spot/>.

Review of John Frederick Bell, *Degrees of Equality: Abolitionist Colleges and the Politics of Race* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 2022). *Journal of Nineteenth Century History*.

“Black Studies and the Story of Survival,” *Black Perspectives*. https://www.aaihs.org/black-studies-and-the-story-of-survival/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=black-studies-and-the-story-of-survival

Author Interview with Chad L. Williams, *The Wounded World: W.E.B. Du Bois and the First World War* (New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2023). *Black Perspectives*. <https://www.aaihs.org/w-e-b-du-bois-and-the-first-world-war-an-interview-with-chad-l-williams/>

“‘A Common Intellectual Experience’: Black Student Activism and the Origins of the Stanford Canon Debate,” *Black Perspectives*. <https://www.aaihs.org/black-student-activism-and-the-origins-of-the-stanford-canon-debate/>.

Review of Adam Lee Cilli, *Canaan, Dim and Far: Black Reformers and the Pursuit of Citizenship in in Pittsburgh, 1915-1945* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2022). *Black Perspectives*. February 7, 2023. <https://www.aaihs.org/new-challenges-new-ideas-and-black-reformers-of-pittsburgh/>.

“‘Welcome to East Austin’: Black Power and the American Dream,” *Black Perspectives*. https://www.aaihs.org/welcome-to-east-austin-black-power-and-the-american-dream/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=welcome-to-east-austin-black-power-and-the-american-dream.

Review of Jeremi Suri, *Civil War By Other Means: America’s Long & Unfinished Fight for Democracy* (New York: Public Affairs, 2022) October 15, 2022. *Not Even Past*. <https://notevenpast.org/roundtable-review-of-jeremi-suris-civil-war-by-other-means/>.

“*Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and the History of Colorblind Admissions,” *Black Perspectives*. <https://www.aaihs.org/students-for-fair-admissions-v-harvard-and-the-history-behind-colorblind-admissions/>.

Review of David W. Levy, *Breaking Down Barriers: George McLaurin and the Struggle to End Segregated Education* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2020). *Western Historical Quarterly*, Volume 53, Issue 1, Spring 2022.

“The University of Texas’s ‘Racial Geography Tour,’ Designed by Dr. Edmund Gordon,” *Journal of Civil and Human Rights* 7:2 (Fall/Winter 2021).

Review of E. James West, *Ebony Magazine and Lerone Bennett, Jr.: Popular Black History in Postwar America* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2020). *Journal of African American History*, Volume 106, Number 4, Fall 2021.

“Humanities Without Walls Summer Workshop: A Reflection,” *Not Even Past*, October 5, 2021. <https://notevenpast.org/humanities-without-walls-a-reflection/>

“The racial inequality embedded in one of the country’s liberal cities,” *Washington Post*, September 27, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/09/27/racial-inequality-embedded-one-countrys-liberal-cities/>

Review of Justin Gomer, *White Balance: How Hollywood Shaped Colorblind Ideology and Undermined Civil Rights* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2020). *Black Perspectives*. <https://www.aaihs.org/how-hollywood-shaped-colorblind-ideology-and-undermined-civil-rights/>

Review of Nancy K. Bristow, *Steeped in the Blood of Racism: Black Power, Law and Order, and the 1970 Jackson State Shooting* (New York: Oxford, 2020). *Black Perspectives*. <https://www.aaihs.org/steeped-in-the-blood-on-the-may-15th-1970-jackson-state-killings/>

“The ‘New Jim Crow’ in Austin/Travis County,” Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas-Austin, May 2019.

Review of Ta-Nehisi Coates, *We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy* (New York: One World Publishing, 2017). *Not Even Past*. <https://notevenpast.org/we-were-eight-years-in-power-by-ta-nehisi-coates-2017/>

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

“The Colorblind Counterweight to Affirmative Action,” Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah, January 2025.

“Colorblind Universities and the Future of Higher Education,” Invited Talk, Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Utah State University, February 2024.

“Welcome to East Austin: Black Power and the American Dream,” Society for United States Intellectual History Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 2023.

“Welcome to East Austin: Black Power and the American Dream,” Invited Talk, Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, October 2023.

“From Protest to Policy: Racial Ideologies and the Black Student Movement, 1968-78,” Invited Talk, North Carolina State University History Department, February 2023.

“Colorblind University: A History of Racial Inequity in Higher Education,” Invited Talk, Princeton University History Department, December 2022.

“A History of Student Activism at the University of Texas,” Black History Bike Ride Juneteenth Social Ride, Austin, Texas, June 2022.

“Colorblind, Gender-Neutral: Anti-Discrimination Policies in the United States,” Gender Symposium, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, March 2022.

“Colorblind University: Racial Inequity and Higher Education in the Twentieth Century,” Mitchem Dissertation Fellowship Public Presentation, Marquette University, January 2022.

“Toward a Black Student Movement: A Race-Conscious Revolution on Campus,” Invited Talk, Eastern Kentucky University History Department, November 2022.

“Toward a Black Student Movement: A Race-Conscious Revolution on Campus,” Invited Talk, California State University-East Bay, November 2022.

“Toward a Black Student Movement: A Race-Conscious Revolution on Campus,” Invited Talk, University of Utah History Department, October 2022.

“Anti-Racism in Action: Building Sustainable Equity Initiatives in Higher Education,” Society for the Future of Higher Education (SFHE) Annual Meeting, July 2021.

“‘Our Beloved Southland’: Black Protest, White Ministers, and Law and Order in the Civil Rights Era,” British Association of American Studies (BAAS) Annual Conference, April 2021.

“Reframing the Stanford Canon Debate: Curriculum Reform and Black Student Activism,” African-American Intellectual History Society Annual Conference, March 2021.

“Colorblindness in Crisis: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Black Student Movement,” Loyola University-Chicago History Department Graduate Student Conference, February 2021.

“A Roundtable Discussion on Anti-Racism Action Plans,” (co-organizer) Anti-Racism Action Committee, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin, October 2020.

“The Eleven Demands: Black Radical Student Activism at the University of Texas in the 1960s,” Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, February 2020.

“From the Black Panthers to the Movement for Black Lives: Black Radicalism in the Mainstream Media,” American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting, New York, NY, January 2020.

“The Black Panthers, the Movement for Black Lives, and the Migration of Ideas,” Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH) Annual Meeting and Conference, Charleston, SC, October 2019.

“Afro-Americans for Black Liberation and the Struggle for Race-Consciousness,” Fugitive Futures: Graduate Students of Color Un-settling the University, Austin, TX, March 2019.

“The Lexington, Kentucky Civil Rights Movement,” Ohio Valley History Conference, Cookeville, TN, October 2016.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Graduate Level, Instructor

“Proseminar in Modern American History,” HIST 7510

Upper Division, Instructor

“Black Political Thought,” HIST 3910

“African American History Since 1890,” HIST 4700

“Recent America: The United States Since 1945,” HIST 3750

“African American History, 1619-1890,” HIST 4690

Lower Division, Instructor

“American History,” HIST 1700

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

Upper Division, Instructor

“Age of Fracture: United States Social and Intellectual History Since 1945,” HIST 4953 (Spring 2022)

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Lower Division, Instructor

“Early African American History, 1619-1863,” HIS16-364 (Spring 2021)

DEPARTMENT-LEVEL SERVICE

Black Studies Search Committee, Ethnic Studies

University of Utah

August 2024—Present

19th Century Latin American Historian Search Committee, History Department
University of Utah
July 2023—February 2024

Undergraduate Committee, History Department
University of Utah
August 2023—Present

Member, History Graduate Student Executive Council
History Department, University of Texas at Austin
September 2020 – August 2021

Co-Founder/Member, Anti-Racism Action Committee
History Department, University of Texas at Austin
June 2020 – May 2022

COLLEGE-LEVEL SERVICE

Faculty Awards Committee, College of the Humanities
University of Utah
September 2022 – Present

UNIVERSITY-LEVEL SERVICE

Conference Planning Group Member, Digital Humanities Utah 8
University of Utah
June 2023 – February 2024

Faculty Mentor, Bennion Center for Community Engagement
University of Utah
September 2022 – December 2023

EXTERNAL SERVICE

Member, Grants Committee
Society for U.S. Intellectual History-African American Intellectual History Society
July 2023—Present

Regular Contributor, *Black Perspectives*
African American Intellectual History Society
September 2022 – May 2023

Programming Committee
Society for the Future of Higher Education
February 2022 – July 2023

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Member, The Society for US Intellectual History (S-USIH)
August 2023 – Present

Member, Board of Directors, Society for the Future of Higher Education (SFHE)
Member: July 2020—Present
Board of Directors: July 2021—July 2024

Member, American Historical Association (AHA)
December 2019 – December 2021

Member, Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)
June 2019 – Present

Member, African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS)
January 2017 – Present