

La TaSha B. Levy

Curriculum Vitae
Assistant Professor, Department of American Ethnic Studies
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS & EXPERIENCE

- 2016 – present Assistant Professor, American Ethnic Studies Department, University of Washington-Seattle
- 2018 – present Founder and Executive Director, Black Star Rising
- 2015 – 2016 Visiting Lecturer, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies, University of Virginia

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Doctor of Philosophy, African American Studies (2013)
Cornell University, Master of Professional Studies, Africana Studies (2007)
University of Virginia, Bachelor of Arts, African American and African Studies (2000)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

African American History and Culture; Black Politics; Black Intellectual Traditions; Black Women's Studies; Race and Racial Formation; and Twentieth Century Black Social Movements

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

"Black Conservative Dissent," in *The Black Intellectual Tradition: African American Thought in the Twentieth Century* edited by Derrick P. Alridge, Cornelius L. Bynum and James B. Stewart, University of Illinois Press, 2021.

"'Freedom is a Constant Struggle': Teaching the 1964 Freedom Summer Project," with Nicole Burrowes in *Teaching the Civil Rights Movement*, (co-author listed in alphabetical order; authored 3,000/5,000 words), edited by Hassan Jeffries, University of Wisconsin Press, 2019.

"Pan-Africanism in Theory and Praxis." In *Discourse on Africana Studies: James Turner and Paradigms of Knowledge*, edited by Scot Brown. New York: Diasporic Africa Press, 2016.

Refereed Articles

"[Beyond the 'Great Men' Canon of Black Intellectual History.](#)" *Black Perspectives*, June 11, 2019.

"Freedom Summer and Its Legacy in the Classroom," with Nicole Burrowes, Laura Helton, and Deborah McDowell. *Southern Quarterly*, 52, No. 1 (Fall 2014): 155 – 173. (authors listed in alphabetical order; authored 1500/6500 words)

Refereed Short Works

Book Review: Making Black History: The Color Line, Culture and Race in the Age of Jim Crow Jeffrey Aaron Snyder. *Journal of African American History*, Vol. 104, No. 2 (Spring 2019): 326-329.

Book Review: Rumor, Repression, and Racial Politics: How the Harassment of Black Elected Officials Shaped Post-Civil Rights America by George Derek Musgrove. *The Black Scholar: Journal of Black Studies and Research*, Vol. 41, No. 2 (Summer 2014): 103-107.

"Remembering Sixth PAC: Interviews with Judy Claude and Sylvia Hill, Organizers of the Sixth Pan-African Congress," *The Black Scholar: Journal of Black Studies and Research*, Vol. 37, No. 4 (Winter 2008): 39-47.

"Ward Connerly," "Glenn Loury," and "Black Conservatism." In *Encyclopedia of African American History: 1896 – Present: From the Age of Segregation to the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Paul Finkleman. New York and London: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Self-Published Articles on Medium

"[Beychella in Hotep History](#): How Beyoncé Snatched the African Origins of Ancient Egypt," *Medium*, August 3, 2018.

"[Beauty and Terror in Charlottesville: A Reckoning](#)" *Medium*, August 23, 2018.

Works in Progress

Book manuscript. "Race Matters in the GOP: Black Republicans and the Limits of Two-Party Competition"

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Black Opportunity Fund, University of Washington, (\$10,000 for wellness retreat for Black faculty), 2023.

Royalty Research Fund, University of Washington, (\$31,000 plus one quarter release for scholar award), 2021-2022.

First Book Seminar, Simpson Center for the Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Washington, (\$10,000 summer stipend), 2021.

Celebrate UW Womxn, University of Washington, March 2021.

Calderwood Seminar in Public Writing, Honors Program, University of Washington in collaboration with Wellesley College and the Calderwood Foundation, (supported teaching opportunity), 2020-2021.

Society of Scholars Fellowship, Simpson Center for the Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Washington, 2019-2020.

Career Enhancement Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, (6 months / \$15,000 stipend), 2019.

Teaching Fellowship, Telluride Association Summer Program, Cornell University, 2019.

Research Travel Grant, Gerald Ford Presidential Library and Museum, (\$1,500 award), 2018-2019.

Black Student Union Faculty/Staff Award for Outstanding Black Achievement and Excellence, University of Washington-Seattle, 2018.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS, cont.

Distinguished Teaching Award Nomination, University of Washington-Seattle, 2018.

Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2013-2015, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia.

Emerging Diversity Scholar Citation, 2013, National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan.

Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2011-2012, Ford Foundation and National Research Council of the National Academies.

Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Fellowship, 2009-2010, DFI program and Illinois Board of Higher Education.

National Council for Black Studies Conference Travel Grant, 2008, National Council for Black Studies and Ford Foundation.

Best First-Year Graduate Student Paper, Department of African American Studies, Northwestern University, 2006.

Graduate Student Essay Contest, 2005 and 2006, National Council for Black Studies.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American Ethnic Studies Department, University of Washington-Seattle (2017-present)

Courses Taught:

- Civil Rights and Black Power
- Introduction to African American Studies
- Calderwood Seminar for Public Writing: #BlackLivesMatter in Historical Context (Honors Department)
- Freedom Summer
- Introduction to African American History
- Historical Roots of #BlackLivesMatter
- Black Power on College Campuses: History of the Black Studies Movement
- History of the South Since the Civil War
- Black Aesthetics
- #BlackLivesMatter in Media and Popular Culture

Undergraduate Independent Study / Thesis Topics:

- Activism in the Digital Age: The African American Policy Forum
- Civil Rights Cold War (Honors Thesis Project, History Department, Winner of Best Paper Award)
- African American Education
- Seattle Black Panther Party
- African American Christianity during Slavery
- Race, Gender, and Medicine
- Historiography of Black Politics and Julian Bond
- #BlackLivesMatter and #AllLivesMatter (Honors Project, Department of Geography)

Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia (2013-2016)

Courses Taught:

- Historical Origins of #BlackLivesMatter: History of the NAACP
- Introduction to African-American and African Studies
- Freedom Summer
- Black Studies Movement
- Black Conservatism and Its Critics

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Discussant. "Black Soldiers and the Racial Debilitation of Slavery and the Civil War," by Frances O'Shaughnessy, History Colloquium, Department of History, University of Washington-Seattle, 2024.

Panelist. "Colonialism and Catastrophic Violence: Framing and Organizing in Our Current Moment," Teach-In, University of Washington-Seattle, November 2023.

*On Medical Leave. January 2023 – June 2023.

Keynote Speaker. "Beyond a Colorblind Constitution," University Libraries, University of Washington-Seattle, October 2022.

"AFAM@50: Extending Our Reach," Alumni Reflections, Black Studies Department, Northwestern University, May 2022.

Presenter. "Black Conservative Dissent," Center for an Informed Public, University of Washington-Seattle, February 2022.

Keynote Speaker. "Racism is Terrible, Blackness is Not": How BLM Cultivates Joy as Resistance," Black Lives Matter in School Week, Garfield High School, Seattle, WA, February 2022.

Guest Lecturer. Faculty Panel, Honors 100 B, Honors Program, University of Washington-Seattle, February 2022.

Speaker. "Black Liberation and Abolition," Black is Back Teach-In, Black Student Union, University of Washington-Seattle, October 2021.

Moderator. "From Apartheid to Racial Justice: Perspectives from South Africa, A conversation with Roelf Meyer," University of Washington Global Business Center, March 2021.

Presenter. Genome Sciences Association for the Inclusion of Minority Students, University of Washington-Seattle, February 2021.

Keynote Speaker. CARE (Consciousness and Racial Empowerment) MLK Day Celebration, Issaquah High School, January 2021.

Panelist. "Law and Disorder: Police Violence and Race in America," Humanities Washington, November 2020.

Panelist. "Why Race Matters: 2020 Election," Department of History, University of Washington-Seattle, October 2020.

Panelist. "Reading Julian Bond," Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies, University of Virginia, August 2020.

Lecturer. "Inventing Race: Origins and Meaning," National Radio Astronomy Observatory, August 2020.

Lecturer. "Understanding #BlackLivesMatter," National Radio Astronomy Observatory, July 2020.

Moderator. Keynote panel featuring Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Gross, "A Black Women's History of the United States," Third Annual Carter Center for K-12 Black History Education Conference, University of Missouri, July 2020.

Lecturer. Juneteenth and the Propaganda of History, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, June 2020.

Keynote Speaker. UVA Pathology/Medical Laboratories Virtual Juneteenth Celebration, June 2020.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS, cont.

Panelist. "Making History: Reflecting on the Legacy of James Turner and Black Student Activism, 1969 – 2019," Cornell University, April 2019.

Panelist. "Cultural Ignorance as Racial Violence: Lessons from #BlackLivesMatter," American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 65th Annual Meeting, October 2018.

Panelist and Contributor. "Teaching Freedom Summer," We Who Believe in Freedom: A Symposium on Teaching the Civil Rights Movement, The Ohio State University, June 2018.

Discussant. "To the Promised Land" with author Michael Honey, Seattle Town Hall, University Lutheran Church, May 2018.

Presenter. "The Strange Career of Black Republicans," How We Get Free: The Black Political Imagination, Faculty-Graduate Seminar, Department of African American Studies, Princeton University, December 2017.

Panelist. "Lessons from #BlackLivesMatter," Why Race Matters: Resistance and Resilience, Department of History, University of Washington-Seattle, 2017.

Discussant. "Playing while White" with author David Leonard, Elliot Bay Bookstore, Seattle, Washington, September 2017.

Presenter. "From Protest to Politics: Julian Bond as the People's Representative." 'Keep the Movement Coming On': A Symposium in Memory of Julian Bond, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, October 2016.

Panelist. "Black Studies/Chronicle of Higher Ed Controversy: Circumstances, Context, Meaning." Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2012.

Panelist. "The Black Community: Then and Now: Forging Links and Building a Legacy." 1968 + 40: The Black Student Movement at Northwestern and its Legacy, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2008.

Presenter. "Why #BlackLivesMatter," Charlottesville-Albemarle Chapter of the NAACP, Charlottesville, VA, 2015.

Panelist. "Teaching Race, Violence, and Trauma," Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, 2015.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Chair and Moderator, "Why the Black Radical Tradition Matters Now," with Keeanga-Yahmatta Taylor, Roderick Ferguson and Chandan Reddy. Reckoning with the Black Radical Tradition: A Conference in Honor of Jack O'Dell, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, University of Washington-Seattle, 2024.

"Understanding and Teaching the Civil Rights Movement: New Directions in Civil Rights Pedagogy," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 2020 (accepted).

"Teaching #BlackLivesMatter in Historical Context," Second Annual Carter Center Teaching Black History Conference, Carter Center for Black History Education, University of Missouri, 2019.

"Fear of a Black Woman Power" in the GOP: Excavating the Complex Politics of Black Republican Women," Association of Black Women Historians 40th Anniversary Symposium, Los Angeles, CA, 2018.

"Black Conservative Dissent in the Post-Civil Rights Era," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, (accepted) 2017.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, cont.

“Theorizing Race, Ideology and Domination: James Turner and the Africana School of Thought.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History 101st Annual Meeting, Richmond, VA, 2016.

“Novel Approaches to Teaching the Modern Civil Rights Movement,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History 100th Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 2015.

“Cultivating Black Power Conservatism: Thomas W. Matthew and the N.E.G.R.O. Philosophy of Black Capitalism.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History 98th Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL, 2013.

“Sisters on the Right: Black Women in the Republican Party.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History 97th Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, 2012.

“Polishing Black Power: Richard Nixon, Black Capitalism, and Black Power Republicans.” Twenty-Ninth Conference of Ford Fellows, Irvine, CA, 2012.

“Using the Master’s Tools: The Challenge of Black Republican Politics in the Post-Civil Rights Era.” Twenty-Eighth Conference of Ford Fellows, Irvine, CA, 2011.

“Where is Black Studies: Perspectives from Doctoral Students in the Field: A Roundtable Discussion.” National Council for Black Studies 34th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2010.

“Get Back and Get Busy: Black Women Organizers Remember Lessons and Legacy of the Sixth Pan-African Congress.” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Biennial Conference, Accra, Ghana, 2009.

“Black Conservatism in the Age of Obama: Crisis or Convergence?” Association for the Study of African American Life and History 94th Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH, 2009.

“From Anna Julia Cooper to Six-PAC: Black Women Activists of the Pan-African Congresses.” National Council for Black Studies 32nd Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2008.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Planning Committee. “Jack O’Dell and the Black Radical Tradition Symposium,” Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, University of Washington-Seattle, 2022-2024.

Co-Organizer. Rest as Resistance: A Wellness Retreat for Black Faculty, University of Washington-Seattle, 2023.

Co-Chair. Faculty Search Committee in African American Studies, Department of American Ethnic Studies, 2020 – 2021.

Planning Committee. Carter Center for K-12 Black History Education, University of Missouri, 2019-2020. (Increased registration from 300 in 2019 to over 1,000 in 2020.)

Reviewer. Royalty Research Fund, University of Washington, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2021, and 2022.

Committee Member. Race and Commemoration, President’s Office, University of Washington, 2020-2021.

Board Member. Center for Communication, Diversity and Equity, University of Washington-Seattle, 2018-2020.

Keynote Speaker. McNair Scholars Research Conference, Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity, University of Washington, May 2019.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE & OTHER ACTIVITIES, cont.

Guest Lecturer. Dream Project Spring BBQ for High School Students, Dream Project, University of Washington, May 2019.

Guest Lecturer. "Black Power on College Campuses," Dream Project, University of Washington, Seattle, May 2019.

Faculty Senator. (Representing American Ethnic Studies; Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies; American Indian Studies; and Law, Societies and Justice), Faculty Senate, University of Washington-Seattle, 2017-2019.

Session Co-facilitator. Women Investigating Race, Ethnicity, and Difference (WIRED) Conference, University of Washington-Seattle, 2018.

Invited Participant. John E. Sawyer Seminar on Capitalism and Comparative Racialization, Washington Institute for the Study of Inequality and Race, 2017-2018.

Guest Lecturer. "Understanding #BlackLivesMatter," Dream Project, University of Washington, Seattle, October 2017.

Facilitator. "Teach In: We Stand Together: Anti-Racism, Grassroots Activism and Global Solidarities," University of Washington-Seattle, 2017.

Panelist. "Faculty Perspectives," Faculty Fellows Program, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Washington-Seattle, 2016.

Committee Member. "Keep the Movement Coming On": A Symposium in Memory of Julian Bond. Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, October 2016.

Coordinator. "I Can't Breathe: A Forum on Black Pain, Racial Justice, and Healing," University of Virginia, 2014.

Co-organizer. "A Beautiful Struggle: Transformative Black Studies in Shifting Political Landscapes, A Summit of Doctoral Programs." Visibility Conference, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 2012.

Co-organizer. "Inaugural Meeting of Black Studies Graduate Collective." The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY, 2006.

Co-organizer. Africana Heritage Studies Association 38th Annual Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 2005.

SERVICE IN THE FIELD

Participant and Consultant. Julian Bond Papers Project, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies, University of Virginia, 2020 – present.

Panelist and Reviewer. National Endowment for the Humanities, 2021-2022.

Manuscript Reviewer. Manuscript to be Published with Basic Books, 2022.

Program Committee. Carter Center for Black History Education Conference, University of Missouri, 2020.

Blind Reviewer. *Journal of African American History*, 2018.

Survey Inquiry. Book Proposal, University of California Press, 2017.

SERVICE IN THE FIELD, cont.

Presenter. Woodson Fellows Retreat, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies, University of Virginia, 2016.

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Founder and Executive Director, [Black Star Rising Curriculum Design and Antiracist Activation](#), 2018 – present.

Academic Liaison. [The Unspoken Truths: American History Traveling Museum](#), 2019 – present.

Facilitator. [A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth Antiracist Activation Experience](#), 2020 – present.

Project Manager. Arthur Fletcher in Civil Rights History – Father of Affirmative Action Digital Archive, 2022 – present.

Keynote Speaker. “‘Who’s Afraid of Critical Race Theory?’: Understanding Race and Racism in These Times,” Black History Month Celebration, Northwest Justice Project, Seattle, WA, 2024.

Speaker. Ethnic Studies Institute, Washington Ethnic Studies Now, Seattle, WA, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Speaker. Unapologetic Black Joy for Families and Young Learners, King County Early Learning Coalition, Seattle, WA, 2023.

Keynote Speaker. Bastyr University 2nd Annual Juneteenth Celebration, virtual presentation, 2023.

Keynote Panel. Toasted Life, Juneteenth Virtual Celebration, June 2023.

Keynote Speaker. Smartsheet Corporation, Juneteenth Virtual Celebration, June 2022.

Speaker. “‘Black is Beautiful’ and Other Streams of Resistance: A Presentation for Docents.” School and Educator Programs, Seattle Art Museum, 2018.

Academic Liaison. Civil Rights South Seminar with Julian Bond, Office of the Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, 2014 – 2015.

Co-organizer. “Teaching the Civil Rights Movement,” A History Workshop for Virginia Teachers, The Center for Liberal Arts at the University of Virginia and The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, 2014.

MEDIA COVERAGE AND APPEARANCES

Kim Eckart, “UW Expert: Ketanji Brown Jackson confirmation hearings ‘will hold a mirror up to this nation’,” *UW Today*, March 21, 2022.

Kim Eckart, “‘An Occasion for Unapologetic Black Joy, Community Connection and Reeduction’: UW’s LaTaSha Levy Discusses Juneteenth,” *UW Today*, June 17, 2021.

Zubeyda Ahmed, “Placing #MeToo in Black History,” *The Seattle Globalist*, February 28, 2018.

Grace DeBusschere, “Professor talks academia, disrupting assumptions, and enacting social change: Dr. La TaSha Levy brings passion to UW American Ethnic Studies program,” *The Daily*, May 23, 2017.

Kim Eckart, “Class on Black Lives Matter Examines Ideas Behind the Slogan,” *UW Today*, April 28, 2017.

Monique Judge, “#BlackLivesMatter College Course Aims to Educate People Beyond the Hashtag and Slogan,” *The Root*, April 28, 2017.

MEDIA COVERAGE AND APPEARANCES, cont.

Sunny in Seattle, "Roundtable on Race," Sunny Joy McMillan, Alternative Talk, 1150AM, KKNW, November 2, 2017.

"What Black Lives Matter and Black Panthers Have in Common," Patricia Murphy and Katherine Banwell, Race and Equity, KUOW radio, May 19, 2017.

Left of Black, Season 2, Episode 33. Hosted by Mark Anthony Neal, John Hope Franklin Center for International and Interdisciplinary Studies, Duke University, 2012.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

African American History Intellectual Society (AAHIS); Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH); Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); National Council for Black Studies (NCBS); Organization of American Historians (OAH)