

TEONA WILLIAMS

EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, CT

PhD. History and African American Studies, December 2022

MPhil. and MA. History and African American Studies, 2020

Dissertation: "Okay Now: Gender and Ecology in the Black Radical Tradition 1920-1990."

Committee: Dr. Crystal Feimster and Dr. Paul Sabin (chairs), Dr. Laura Barraclough and Dr. Matthew Jacobson

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, MI

Msc. Environmental Justice from the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, 2017

Relevant Coursework: Qualitative Research Methods, African Cultural History, Geographic Information Systems, and Urban Environmental History

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

A.B., Environmental Studies and History, minor Africana Studies, May 2012

Relevant Coursework: International Environmental Policy, Political Thought in Africa and the Diaspora, and Environmental Law

WORK EXPERIENCE

Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow in Geography

2022-2024

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Assistant Professor in Geography

Starting Fall 2024

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Teona Williams, "‘Build A Wall Around Hyde Park’: A Political Ecology of Police Brutality on the Southside of Chicago," *Antipode*, March 2021 Winner of the 2018 Clyde Woods Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper in Black Geographies.

Book Chapters

- Teona Williams, "‘Islands of Freedom’: The Desegregation of Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains National Parks," in Mary Mendoza, ed., *Not Just Green, Not Just White: Race, Justice and Environmental History* (under contract with Kansas University Press)

Book Reviews and Editorials

- Teona Williams, "Rethinking Black Food Culture with Black Food Matters and Black Geographies," *Antipode* October 1, 2020.
- Teona Williams, "Police Violence and Environmental Justice," Op-ed, *Black Perspectives*, 2020
- Teona Williams, "Nature and the Great Migration in Chicago," Review of Brian McCammack, *Landscapes of Hope: Nature and the Great Migration*, *Black Perspectives*, 2017

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Center for Engaged Scholarship Fellowship 2021-2022: A dissertation fellowship awarded to PhD candidates who work in the fields of engaged scholarship.

Ford Dissertation Fellowship 2021-2022: A dissertation fellowship awarded to PhD candidates from underrepresented backgrounds to complete their dissertation.

SSRC Research Fellowship for MMUF fellows 2020-2021: A research fellowship awarded to Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows to complete dissertation research.

American Society for Environmental Historians Diversity Fellowship 2020-2021: A research fellowship awarded to PhD candidates who are researching at the intersections of race and the environment.

Harvard Schlesinger Library Research Fellowship 2020-2021: A research fellowship awarded to PhD candidates who are researching at the Schlesinger Library.

Medgar Evers Fellowship 2020-2021: A research fellowship awarded to PhD candidates who are researching at the Mississippi Department of Archives.

John Blum Research Award in American History 2020: A Yale graduate fellowship awarded to PhD candidates who are completing fieldwork in American history.

Race, Indigeneity, Transnational Migration Research Award 2019: A Yale research fellowship awarded to graduate students who are completing dissertation research in race and ethnic studies.

Yale History Predissertation Award 2019: A research fellowship awarded to History PhD students who are completing preliminary dissertation research.

Clyde Woods Best Graduate Paper Prize in Black Geographies 2018: An article prize awarded to the graduate students in the field of Black Geographies by the American Association of Geographers

Yale Beinecke Library Predissertation Award 2018: A fellowship awarded to PhD students who are completing preliminary dissertation research.

Dean's Emerging Scholars Fellowship 2017-2020: A competitive fellowship awarded to underrepresented graduate students at Yale.

Samuel Dana Trask Award 2017: The highest honor awarded to one student who displays a commitment to leadership and service at the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan

Rackham Merit Fellow 2015-2017: A competitive fellowship awarded to students to support their graduate education at the University of Michigan.

Watson Fellowship 2012-2013: A competitive national fellowship that provides \$25,000 for students to work on an independent project outside the United States for a year

Udall Scholarship 2011: A competitive national scholarship awarded to students who possess exceptional leadership abilities in the environmental field

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship 2010-2012: A competitive fellowship awarded to students to increase diversity in doctoral programs

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- In Sickness and In Healing: African American Medical History from Slavery to the Present, Fall 2019, Teaching Assistant for Dr. Carolyn Roberts

- African American History from Emancipation to Present, Spring 2020, Teaching Assistant for Dr. Lauren Meyer
- The Long Civil Rights Movement, Fall 2020, Teaching Assistant for Dr. Crystal Feimster
- American Energy History, Spring 2021, Teaching Assistant for Dr. Paul Sabin

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Roundtable: New Perspectives in Black Ecology,” American Society for Environmental Historians (ASEH) 2020, Virtual
- “Towards Critical Environmental Justice and Abolition Ecology in Environmental History,” ASEH 2020, Vancouver, Canada, (Postponed due to COVID-19)
- “Black Feminist Interventions on the Environmental Humanities,” The American Studies Association Conference 2019, Honolulu, HI
- “Hazardous Ecologies in Black Environments,” The Association for the Study of African American Life and History Conference 2019, Charleston, SC
- “Build A Wall Around Hyde Park: Nature and Policing on the Southside,” ASEH 2019, Columbus, OH
- “Spatializing Toxic Ecologies,” American Association of Geographers 2018, New Orleans, LA (Winner of Clyde Woods Prize for Best Graduate Essay in Black Geographies)
- “Imagining the Black Rural South: Law, Memory and Space in African-American Intellectual History,” Society for U.S Intellectual History 2017, Dallas, TX
- “The Color of Environmental Activism: Race in Shaping U.S Parks and Cities,” ASEH 2017, Chicago, IL
- “Hiking Along Color Line: Racism and Outdoor Leisure in the Jim Crow Era” Historically Black Colleges and Universities 4th Annual Climate Change Conference 2016, New Orleans, LA

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND COMMITTEES

Student Representative, Yale Graduate Schools of the Sciences and Arts Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plans

- Represented students in the planning and implementation of Yale Graduate School’s DEI plans

Diversity Committee for the History Department

- Served as student representative on the diversity committee for Yale University’s History Department

Dean Search Committee for the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment

- Served as student representative on the search committee for the School of Natural Resources and Environment Dean search

Vice President of Diversity, School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan

- Developed programming to support school’s DEI initiatives
- Represented students’ voices in the planning and evaluation of the School of Natural Resources and Environment’s DEI plans.

Chair, University of Michigan Political Action Committee, Students of Color of Rackham

- Developed direct action and community organizing student training
- Planned organization’s political events

Co-chair, University of Michigan Multicultural Leadership Coalition

- Facilitated organization’s monthly meetings
- Developed strategic plans around school's DEI initiatives

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND PUBLIC HUMANITIES WORK

Smithsonian Institute: Anacostia Community Museum, Washington, D.C.

2020-2021

Research Assistant in Food Justice

- Researched the growth of the welfare rights movement and poultry industry in D.C.
- Wrote curatorial materials including exhibition text on food policy and food processing
- Conducted oral histories of Haitian poultry workers on the Eastern Shore
- Collected and curated objects, images, and other ephemera for an upcoming exhibition

Office of Graduate Student Diversity and Development, New Haven, CT 2018- 2022
Fellow—Academic and Professional Development

- Developed a university-wide diversity and recruitment plan for Yale's Graduate School
- Academic mentor to students of color
- Designed and ran programming on preparing for the job market, applying for national fellowships, and writing diversity statements

Race, Indigeneity and Transnational Migration, New Haven, CT Summer 2020
Program Coordinator—Summer Research Opportunity Program

- Mentored five undergraduate students of color on their research projects
- Designed and ran programming on designing a research project, applying to graduate school, and applying for funding

Conservation International, Washington, D.C. Summer 2017
Beyond Protected Areas Geospatial Intern

- Developed a geospatial database on community-conserved areas in Africa and the Asia Pacific
- Developed a literature review for a paper on conservation interventions
- Created maps, graphs, and a presentation on the extent of community-conserved areas globally

The Environmental Grant makers Association Fellowship, Flint, MI. 2015-2016
Environmental Fellow

- Completed training in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Cultural Competency
- Conducted research on behalf of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Assisted the foundation on their DEI project through the Healing Our Waters Coalition

The Pew Charitable Trusts Washington D.C. 2013-2015
Communications Assistant

- Researched and drafted digital media content including news pieces that garnered over 100,000 views on the Pew website
- Worked with media outlets to secure coverage of campaign work, including EcoWatch and Mashable
- Developed various materials to support Pew's advocacy work
- Co-led workshop on securing digital media assets

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan Ann Arbor Food Access in Michigan Lab, Ann Arbor, MI 2015-2017

- Performed research assistant duties such as creating web profiles of people of color in the environmental field
- Wrote literature review on how residents navigate food insecurity
- Coded interviews with Black farmers in Michigan

University of Michigan Ann Arbor Master's Thesis, Ann Arbor, MI 2016-2017

- Devised a survey instrument on university's students' perceptions of outdoor recreation
- Analyzed 434 survey responses using descriptive statistics and probability modelling
- Wrote two article-length papers on students' attitudes towards outdoor recreation for publication

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Flint, MI Summer 2016

- Designed a research project on African Americans' attitudes towards city parks, including a survey and interview instrument
- Interviewed 10 key stakeholders, including government officials who work in park development in Flint
- Surveyed over 100 Flint residents' responses

- Drafted a report on Flint residents' access to city parks
- Devised programming for community partners

Thomas J. Watson Foundation, New York City, NY

2012-2013

- Designed a research study investigating communities of color access to ecotourism sites in India, South Africa, Brazil, Trinidad, and Jamaica

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Environmental Historians, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Association of American Geography, American Studies Association, Mellon Mays Foundation.

