

Leila K. Blackbird
Pozen Family Human Rights Doctoral Fellow
PhD Candidate, Department of History, The University of Chicago
blackbird@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION:

PhD Candidate, *The University of Chicago*; History, United States & Atlantic; Degree Expected 2025.

Dissertation: “Embodied Violence in the Shatter Zone: Settler Colonialism and Slavery on America’s Third Coast,”

Committee: Matthew Kruer, Rashauna Johnson (Co-Chairs); Kathleen Belew, Jessica Marie Johnson (Readers).

Examination Fields: “US Pre-1900: Colonization through Reconstruction,” Field Advisor: Matthew Kruer; “History of the Present: State Violence & Human Rights,” Field Advisor: Kathleen Belew; “Postcolonial Theory & Ecocriticism,” Field Advisor: Dipesh Chakrabarty.

Graduate Certificate, *The University of Chicago*; Human Rights Practice; Certificate Expected June 2023.

Concentration: “Genocide & International Human Rights Law,” Field Advisor: Kathleen Cavanaugh.

Master of Arts, *The University of Chicago*; History, United States & Atlantic; Degree Conferred August 2020.

Qualifying Paper: “The Plantation-to-Petrochemical Complex: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and Their Afterlives in South Louisiana,” Tara Zahra and Matthew Kruer (Readers).

Master of Arts, *University of New Orleans*; History, Global & International – Atlantic; Degree Conferred December 2018.

Thesis: “Entwined Threads of Red and Black: The Hidden History of Indigenous Enslavement in Louisiana, 1699-1824,”

Committee: Andrea C. Mosterman (Chair); Mary Niall Mitchell, D. Ryan Gray, Charles Chamberlain III (Readers).

Bachelor of Arts, *University of New Orleans*; History, United States – African American; Psychology; Degree Conferred May 2017.

Capstone Thesis: “The Crisis of Orleans Parish Public Schools: Public Education from *Brown v. Board* to Hurricane Katrina,” Nikki L. Brown (Reader).

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION:

Université Paris-Sorbonne IV, Political Philosophy and Ethics, Human and Social Sciences (semester abroad)

Université d’Orléans, European and International Law, School of Law, Economics and Management (semester abroad)

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, History and Archeology, School of Philosophy (semester abroad)

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Longue durée US history; Black and Indigenous studies; settler colonialism and slavery; Louisiana and the Atlantic world; subaltern studies, postcolonialism, and ecocriticism; historical trauma, state violence, and genocide; human rights and the history of the present; critical theory and epistemics; digital and spatial humanities

APPOINTMENTS:

Academic Advisor, Stolen Relations, an NEH-funded Project, Brown University

Teaching Assistant, Social Sciences Collegiate Division, Master’s Office, The University of Chicago

Teaching Assistant – Core Intern, Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity, The University of Chicago

Coordinator, US History & Culture Workshop, Department of History, The University of Chicago

Founding Vice-President, FGLI Graduate Student Affinity Organization, The University of Chicago

Teaching Assistant – Core Intern, Department of History and the College, The University of Chicago

Lead Chair, Black Keywords for Louisiana, an NHPRC-funded Project, Johns Hopkins University

Teaching Assistant, Department of Critical Race & Ethnic Studies, The University of Chicago

Teaching Assistant – Lecturer, Departments of Human Rights & Political Science, The University of Chicago

Doctoral Fellowship Coordinator, The Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, The University of Chicago

Consultant, Disaster-STS Network, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Irvine

Ethics Chair and Editor-Archivist, Life x Code, Johns Hopkins University

Research Assistant, *The American Historical Review (AHR)*, American Historical Association (AHA)

Chair, Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Department of History, The University of Chicago

Elected Board Member, History Graduate Student Association (HGSA), The University of Chicago

Doctoral Fellow, The Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, The University of Chicago

Post-Graduate Researcher, The Ethel & Herman L. Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies

Post-Graduate Researcher, Humanities Action Lab (HALs), Rutgers University

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of History & Philosophy, University of New Orleans

Instructor of Record, Department of History, The Louise S. McGehee School

Contributing Editor, *Bulbancha is Still a Place*, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, Tulane University

Contributing Editor, *New Orleans Historical*, University of New Orleans & Tulane University

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

- "Kinship & (Be)Longing: Reimagining the Place of Black Life in the Louisiana Colonial Archive," with Jessica Marie Johnson, *Journal of Scholarly Editing* (Anticipated Publication, Autumn 2023).
- "It Has Always Been Customary to Make Slaves of Savages": The Problem of Indian Slavery in Spanish Louisiana Revisited, 1769-1803," *The William & Mary Quarterly* 80, no. 3 (Accepted for Publication, Summer 2023).
- "A Gendered Frontier: Métissage and Indigenous Enslavement in Eighteenth-Century Basse-Louisiane," *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* 56, no. 2 (Winter 2023): 205-212.

Chapters:

- "Bulbanca is Still a Place: Decolonizing the History of the Present," in *Louisiana Creole Peoplehood: Afro-Indigeneity and Community*, Black-Indigenous Futures & Speculations Series, Rain Prud'homme-Cranford, Darryl Barthé, & Andrew Jolivéte, eds. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2022).
- "The Plantation-to-Petrochemical Complex in Cancer Alley," in *Bulbanca is Still a Place: Indigenous Culture from Louisiana*, vol. 3 (New Orleans: POCZP, 2021).
- "How Making Space for Indigenous Peoples Changes History," with Caroline Dodds Pennock, in *What is History, Now?*, Helen Carr & Suzannah Lipscomb, eds. (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2021).
- "The Hidden History of Indigenous Enslavement," in *Bulbanca is Still a Place: Indigenous Culture from Louisiana*, vol. 2 (New Orleans: POCZP, 2019).

Book Reviews:

- Review of *A Kingdom of Water: Adaptation and Survival in the Houma Nation*, by J. Daniel d'Oney, *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* 62, no. 2 (Spring 2021): 225-227.

Museum & Digital Exhibits:

- "[Life x Code](#): Digital Historians Against Enclosure – Electric Marronage and Louisiana Colonial," with Jessica Marie Johnson (Digital Exhibit, Johns Hopkins University, Winter 2020).
- "[Climates of Inequality](#) – Standing Up on River Road: Black Activism in South Louisiana," with Mary Niall Mitchell (Museum & Digital Exhibits, Rutgers University, Fall 2019).

On-going Digital Humanities (DH) Projects:

- "[Stolen Relations](#): Recovering Stories of Indigenous Enslavement in the Americas," a National Endowment of the Humanities Funded Project, PI: Linford D. Fisher, Brown University.
- "[Keywords for Black Louisiana](#): Kinship and Longing," a National Historical Publications and Records Commission Funded Project, PI: Jessica Marie Johnson, Johns Hopkins University.

Scholarly Podcasts:

- "The Plantation-to-Petrochemical Complex: In the Wake of Settler Colonialism and Slavery on America's Third Coast," *Intervals*, Public History Podcast of the Organization of American Historians (Anticipated Spring 2023).
- "From Human Ecology to Human Rights: Indigenous Resistance and Environmental Injustice," with Leah S. Horowitz, *Entitled*, Podcast of the International Human Rights Lab, The University of Chicago (Anticipated Fall 2022).

Theses & Dissertations:

- "[Entwined Threads of Red and Black](#): The Hidden History of Indigenous Enslavement in Louisiana, 1699-1824" (MA Thesis, University of New Orleans, Winter 2019).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & INVITED TALKS:

- Invited Roundtable Participant, "Indigenous Legal Histories in the Americas: Native Epistemologies, Self-Determination, Settler-Colonial Courts, Constitutional Debates, and International Tribunals," with Linford D. Fisher, Law & Society Association (LSA), Annual Global Meeting: Separate & Unequal, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Summer 2023.
- Invited Roundtable Participant, "Indigenous Histories and Borderland Geographies," with Estevan Rael-Gálvez, Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) 127th Annual Meeting, El Paso, Spring 2023.
- Program Committee Co-Chair, Displaced Indigeneity, Unsettling Histories: Conference on Forced Migration, Kinship and Belonging, Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies, University of Glasgow, UK, 2023.
- Presenter, "A Gendered Frontier: Métissage and Indigenous Enslavement in Eighteenth-Century Basse-Louisiane," *Interdisciplinary Approaches to France and the Francophone World*, The University of Chicago, Winter 2023.
- Invited Lecturer, "Federal Indian Law: State Violence & Human Rights in Historical Context," *Militant Democracy & the Preventative State*, Departments of Political Science & Human Rights, The University of Chicago, Autumn 2022.
- Peer Reviewer, *64 Parishes – Encyclopedia of Louisiana*, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH), Autumn 2022.
- Selection Committee Member, 2023 Humanities Awards, Best in Digital Humanities, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH), New Orleans, Autumn 2022.
- Co-Organizer, *Keywords for Black Louisiana 2022 Summer Workshop*, a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)-funded project, Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies, New Orleans, Summer 2022.

Panelist, "Original Nations, Law, and Dissenting Perspectives," Law & Society Association (LSA), Annual Global Meeting: Rage, Reckoning & Remedy, Lisbon, Portugal, Summer 2022.

Invited Panelist, "The Plantation-to-Petrochemical Complex in Southeast Louisiana: Reflections on Embodied Research," The Climate Crisis: Early Americanists Respond, EMSI & McNeil Center, Philadelphia, Summer 2022.

Invited Speaker, "Enslaved Together: The Problem of Indian Slavery in Spanish Louisiana Revisited," Black Ethnicities in the United States, the Department of History, Dartmouth University, Hanover, Spring 2022.

Invited Speaker, "The Plantation-to-Petrochemical Complex: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and Necropolitics in Cancer Alley," Centre for the Study of Religion and Conflict (CSRC), Nottingham Trent University, UK, Spring 2022.

Panel Organizer, "Black Keywords for Louisiana," Black World Seminar, Johns Hopkins University Center for Africana Studies & the Department of History, Baltimore, Spring 2022.

Invited Speaker, "Settler Colonialism and its Effects on the People and the Land," 4th Annual Indigenous Peoples Symposium, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South (NOCGS), Tulane University, New Orleans, Spring 2022.

Invited Participant, "New and Emerging Studies of the Spanish Colonial Borderlands Workshop," Huntington-USC Early Modern Studies Institute (EMSI) and the University of California Riverside, Los Angeles, Spring 2022.

Invited Speaker, "How Making Space for Indigenous Peoples Changes History," North American Indigenous Histories, the Department of History & Philosophy, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Winter 2022.

Panel Organizer, "Keywords for Black Louisiana: Digital Histories of the Gulf Coast," American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Conference, New Orleans, Winter 2022.

Invited Speaker, "Sugar and Oil: Ecocritical Landscapes of Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and Their Afterlives in South Louisiana," with Robin McDowell, Department of History, Tulane University, New Orleans, Autumn 2021.

Invited Panelist, "Challenging Narratives of European Conquest and Commemoration," Centre for the Study of Religion and Conflict (CSRC), Nottingham Trent University, UK, Summer 2021.

Panelist, "Keywords for Black Louisiana: Digitizing the Colonial Archive," with Jessica Marie Johnson, Association for Documentary Editing (ADE), Annual Meeting: Representation & Recovery, University of Mary Washington, Boston, Summer 2021.

Panelist, "The Violence of States: Displacement, Discrimination, and Changing Boundaries," Law & Society Association (LSA), Annual Global Meeting: Crisis, Healing & Re-Imagining, Chicago, Spring 2021.

Panelist, "Keywords for Colonial Louisiana," Black World Seminar, Johns Hopkins University Center for Africana Studies & the Department of History, Baltimore, Spring 2021.

Invited Participant, Newberry Consortium for American Indian and Indigenous Studies (NCAIS), Spring Methods Workshop, Oklahoma State University, Tulsa, Spring 2021.

Panelist, "Environment and Climate Change: Indigenous Perspectives," Newberry Consortium for American Indian and Indigenous Studies (NCAIS), Annual Graduate Conference, Chicago, Winter 2021.

Presenter, "It Has Always Been Customary to Make Slaves of Savages': The 1769 Proclamation of Spanish Louisiana Gov. Don Alejandro O'Reilly," US History & Culture Seminar, The University of Chicago, Winter 2021.

Discussant, "Negotiating the Wild Coast: Indigenous-European Interactions in Early Seventeenth-Century Guayana" by Susanah Romney, Empires & Atlantics Seminar, The University of Chicago, Winter 2021.

Panelist, "Electric Marronage," Black World Seminar, Johns Hopkins University Center for Africana Studies & the Department of History, Baltimore, Autumn 2020.

Presenter, Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) Seminar, Northwestern University Center for Native American and Indigenous Research (CNAIR), Chicago, Autumn 2020.

Panelist, "Cancer Alley and Indigenous Climate Refugees," 8th Annual Rising Voices Summit, Lummi Nation & Northwest Indian College, Seattle, Summer 2020.

Participant, Newberry Consortium for American Indian and Indigenous Studies (NCAIS), Spring Methods Workshop, Oklahoma State University, Tulsa, Spring 2020.

Discussant, "The Warrior, the Voyager, and the Artist: Three Lives in an Age of Empire" by Kate Fullagar, Empires & Atlantics Seminar, The University of Chicago, Spring 2020.

Presenter, "The Plantation-to-Petrochemical Complex: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and Their Afterlives in South Louisiana," United States History Seminar, The University of Chicago, Winter 2020.

Panelist, "Violence, Assimilation, Identity & Kinship Across Colonial Empires & US Nation-Building," Newberry Consortium for American Indian and Indigenous Studies (NCAIS), Annual Graduate Conference, Chicago, Winter 2020.

Consultant, Initiative on Climate + Environmental Justice, Museum and Digital Exhibits, Rutgers Humanities Action Lab (HALs), New Brunswick, 2019.

Consultant, 2nd Annual Indigenous Peoples Symposium: Sovereignty and the State, the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South (NOCGS), Tulane University, New Orleans, 2019.

Panelist, "Ethnohistories of South Louisiana," LSU History Conference, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 2019.

Presenter, American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Conference, Chicago, Winter 2019.

Exhibitor, The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), Annual Meeting, on behalf of the Provost of the University of New Orleans, New Orleans, 2018.

Exhibitor, Midlo Center & the New York Tenement Museum, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, 2018.

Consultant, 1st Annual Indigenous Peoples Symposium: Indigenous Spaces & French Expectations, the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South (NOCGS), Tulane University, New Orleans, 2018.

Panelist, New Orleans Tricentennial History Conference, University of New Orleans, 2018.

Exhibitor, Louisiana Historical Association (LHA) Annual Meeting, Midlo Center, New Orleans, 2018.

Chair, University of New Orleans & The Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies Volunteer Committee, The City of New Orleans Tricentennial Symposium, 2018.

AWARDS AND HONORS:

NHPRC-Mellon Planning Grant, Johns Hopkins University
Best PhD Essay, Center for Study of Race, Politics & Culture
Mellon Research Award, The University of Chicago
Pozen Fellowship Award, The University of Chicago
Provost Fellowship, University of California Davis (declined)

Best MA Thesis, University of New Orleans
Provost Award, University of New Orleans
Diplomatic Scholarship, Consulate General of France
Global Ambassador Award, UNO Honors College
President's Scholarship, University of New Orleans

COURSES TAUGHT OR DESIGNED:

HIST 2501 United States History I (core seq.)
HIST 2502 United States History II (core seq.)
HIST 3551 African American History I (elective seq.)
HIST 3552 African American History II (elective seq.)
HIST 4991 Special Studies: White Supremacy
HIST 4991 Special Studies: Black Power & Civil Rights

HIST 4/5991 North American Indigenous Histories
HMRT 21005 Militant Democracy & the Preventative State
HMRT 24823 International Human Rights Law & Practice
CRES 12200 Introduction to Critical Race Studies
HIST 13700 America in World Civilization III (core seq.)
RDIN 12300 Indigeneity: History & Anthropology

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Louisiana Historical Association (LHA)
American Historical Association (AHA)
The Law & Society Association (LSA)
The Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies
Rutgers Humanities Action Lab (HALs)
Association for Documentary Editing (ADE)

New Orleans Center for the Gulf South (NOCGS)
Native American & Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)
Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies (NCAIS)
The Organization of American Historians (OAH)
The Johns Hopkins Center for Africana Studies
The Bulbancha Intertribal Collective

LANGUAGES:

English (ILR5), Louisiana French (ILR5), French (ILR4), Spanish (ILR3), Kouri-Vini Creole (ILR3), Haitian Creole (ILR3), Greek (ILR2), Chahta (ILR2), Portuguese (ILR1), Catalan (ILR1), Houma (ILR1), Ishakkoy (ILR1), Tsalagi (ILR1), Western Apache (ILR1), Eastern Apache (ILR1)

REFERENCES:

- Belew, Kathleen.** PhD, Yale University. Associate Professor of United States History, Northwestern University. Former Assistant Professor of United States History and the College, The University of Chicago.
- Bradley, Mark Philip.** PhD, Harvard University. Bernadotte E. Schmitt Distinguished Service Professor of International History, The University of Chicago. Deputy Dean, Division of Social Sciences. Editor, *The American Historical Review*.
- Cavanaugh, Kathleen.** PhD, London School of Economics and Political Science. LLM, The Queen's University of Belfast. Senior Professor, The University of Chicago. Executive Director, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights.
- Chakrabarty, Dipesh.** PhD, Australian National University. Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of History and South Asian Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago.
- Gray, D. Ryan.** PhD, The University of Chicago. Associate Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of New Orleans. Co-Chair, Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies.
- Johnson, Jessica Marie.** PhD, University of Maryland, College Park. Associate Professor of Atlantic History, Johns Hopkins University. Ford Fellow, Hutchins Center for African American Studies, Harvard University. Director, Life x Code.
- Johnson, Rashauna.** PhD, New York University. Associate Professor of United States History and the College, The University of Chicago. Board Member, the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora.
- Kruer, Matthew.** PhD, University of Pennsylvania. Assistant Professor of Early North American History and the College, The University of Chicago. NCAIS Liaison, Newberry Library of Chicago.
- Montoya, Teresa.** PhD, New York University. Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Departments of Anthropology and Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity, The University of Chicago.
- Mosterman, Andrea C.** PhD, Boston University. Associate Professor of Early American and Atlantic History, Interim Chair of the Department of History & Philosophy, University of New Orleans.