

Leila K. Blackbird

Pozen Family Human Rights Doctoral Fellow
Department of History, The University of Chicago
blackbird@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION:

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

Dissertation: "The Middle Ground is a Shatter Zone: In the Wake of Settler Colonialism and Slavery on America's Third Coast,"

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

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

Graduate Certificate, Human Rights Practice, *The University of Chicago*; Certificate Expected June 2022.

Concentration: "Genocide in 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 Krueger (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: Systemic Racism in Public Education from *Brown v. Board* to Hurricane Katrina," Nikki L. Brown (Reader).

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION:

Université Paris-Sorbonne IV, Philosophie politique et éthique, Sciences Humaines et Sociales

Université d'Orléans, Droit européen et international, École de Droit, Économie et Gestion

Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών, Ιστορίας και Αρχαιολογίας, Φιλοσοφική Σχολή

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:

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

Lead Chair, NHPRC Grant Project, Life x Code, The 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 and Research Assistant, Disaster-STS Network, University of California Irvine

Ethics Chair and Editor-Archivist, Life x Code, The 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, Department of History, The Louise S. McGehee School

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

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

PUBLICATIONS:

"It Has Always Been Customary to Make Slavery of Savages': The Problem of Indian Slavery in Spanish Louisiana Revisited, 1769-1803," *The William & Mary Quarterly* 79, no. 4 (Anticipated Publication Autumn 2022).

"A Gendered Frontier: Métissage and Indigenous Enslavement in Eighteenth-Century Basse-Louisiane," *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* 45, no. 3 (Anticipated Publication Spring 2022).

"Kinship & (Be)Longing: Reimagining the Place of Black Life in the Louisiana Colonial Archive," with Jessica Marie Johnson, *Journal of Scholarly Editing* 40, no. 1 (Anticipated Publication Autumn 2022).

- "Bulbancha is Still a Place: Decolonizing the History of the Present," in *Louisiana Creole Peoplehood: Afro-Indigeneity and Community*, Black-Indigenous Futures & Speculations Series, Andrew Jolivéte, Darryl Barthé & Rain Prud'homme-Cranford, eds. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2022).
- 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.
- "The Plantation-to-Petrochemical Complex in Cancer Alley," in *Bulbancha is Still a Place: Indigenous Culture from Louisiana*, vol. 3 (New Orleans: Issuu/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).
- "[Life x Code](#): Digital Historians Against Enclosure – Electric Marronage and Black Keywords for Louisiana," with Jessica Marie Johnson (Digital Exhibit, The 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).
- "[Entwined Threads of Red and Black](#): The Hidden History of Indigenous Enslavement in Louisiana, 1699-1824" (MA Thesis, University of New Orleans, Winter 2019).
- "The Hidden History of Indigenous Enslavement," in *Bulbancha is Still a Place: Indigenous Culture from Louisiana*, vol. 2 (New Orleans: Issuu/POCZP, 2019).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & INVITED TALKS:

- Invited Talk, The Climate Crisis: Early Americanists Respond, Huntington-USC Early Modern Studies Institute and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Los Angeles & Philadelphia, Summer 2022.
- Panelist, "The Problem of Indian Slavery in Spanish Louisiana Revisited, 1769-1803," Law & Society Association, Annual Global Meeting: Rage, Reckoning & Remedy, Lisbon, Portugal, Summer 2022.
- Invited Talk, "The Plantation-to-Petrochemical Complex: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and Necropolitics in Cancer Alley, USA," Centre for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Nottingham Trent University, England, Spring 2022.
- Invited Talk, "Settler Colonialism and its Effects on the People and the Landscape: From Slavery to Climate Change," 4th Annual Indigenous Peoples Symposium, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, Tulane University, New Orleans, Spring 2022.
- Invited Participant, "New and Emerging Studies of the Spanish Colonial Borderlands Workshop," Huntington-USC Early Modern Studies Institute and the University of California Riverside, Los Angeles, Spring 2022.
- Panelist, "Keywords for Black Louisiana: Digital Histories of the Gulf Coast," American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Conference, New Orleans, Winter 2022.
- Invited Talk, "Sugar and Oil: Ecocritical Landscapes of Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and Their Afterlives in South Louisiana," Departments of History & Latin American Studies, Tulane University, New Orleans, Autumn 2021.
- Invited Talk, "Challenging Narratives of European Conquest and Commemoration," Centre for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Nottingham Trent University, England, Summer 2021.
- Panelist, "Keywords for Black Louisiana: Digitizing the Colonial Archive," Association for Documentary Editing, Annual Meeting: Representation & Recovery, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg & Boston, Summer 2021.
- Panelist, "The Violence of States: Displacement, Discrimination, and Changing Boundaries," Law & Society Association, Annual Meeting: Crisis, Healing & Re-Imagining, Chicago, Spring 2021.
- Panelist, "Keywords for Colonial Louisiana," Black World Seminar, The 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," 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 & Atlantic Seminar, The University of Chicago, Winter 2021.
- Panelist, "Electric Marronage," Black World Seminar, The 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.
- Invited 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 & Atlantic 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, and Kinship Across Colonial Empires and U.S. 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, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, Tulane University, New Orleans, 2019.
- Panelist, Louisiana State History Graduate 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, 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, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, 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, City of New Orleans Tricentennial Symposium, 2018.

AWARDS AND HONORS:

NHPRC Planning Grant, The 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 Award, University of California Davis (Declined)

Best MA Thesis Award, 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:

United States History I & II (core sequence)
America in World Civilization III (core sequence)
African American History I & II (elective sequence)
US History of White Supremacy
Atlantic Slavery & Memory

Black Power & the Civil Rights Movement
An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States
Militant Democracy & the Preventative State
Introduction to Critical Race Studies
North American Indigenous Histories

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

New Orleans Center for the Gulf South
Native American & Indigenous Studies Association
The Law & Society Association
The Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies
Rutgers Humanities Action Lab (HALs)

Louisiana Historical Association
American Historical Association
Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies
The Johns Hopkins Center for Africana Studies
The Bulbancha Intertribal Collective

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS:

ArcGIS, Omeka, Moodle, Canvas, Pearson, Microsoft, Mac iOS, Android, Linux, GIMP, Adobe, Zoom, APIs, SQL, Oracle, XML/HTML/TEI, information systems analysis, technical support, databasing, coding, networking, data-mining, social media, blogging, web analytics, graphic design, meta-data analysis, budget and project planning, statistical analysis, management, scheduling, task management, training, coaching and counseling, consensus building, tutoring, classroom instruction, conflict resolution, decision making, time management, delegating, innovation, multi-tasking, intercultural competence, diversity awareness, public speaking, research, research design, editing, documentary editing, proposal writing, grant writing, translation services, archival research, meeting facilitation, project collaboration, digital humanities

LANGUAGES:

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

REFERENCES:

- Belew, Kathleen.** PhD, Yale University. Assistant Professor of United States History and the College, The University of Chicago. Affiliate Faculty, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture.
- 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.
- Darensbourg, Jeffery U.** PhD, University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Monroe Fellow, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, Tulane University. Tribal Council Member, Alligator Band, Atakapa-Ishak Nation.
- 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. Assistant Professor of Atlantic History, The 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. NAIS Liaison, Newberry Library of Chicago.
- Miron, Rose.** PhD, University of Minnesota. Director, The D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies, The Newberry Library 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.