

Tyina L. Steptoe, PhD

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Postdoctoral Employment

Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Arizona, 2014-
Faculty Affiliate, Africana Studies Program
Promoted from assistant professor, 2017

Assistant Professor, Department of American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington, 2008-14

Education

Ph.D., 2008, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of History
Dissertation: "Dixie West: Race, Migration and the Color Lines in Jim Crow Houston, 1915-1945." Committee chair: Stephen Kantrowitz

M.A., 2002, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Afro-American Studies
Thesis: "'If You Ever Go to Houston, You Better Walk Right': The Houston Riot of 1917." Committee chair: Timothy Tyson

B.S., 1999, The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Radio-Television-Film

B.A., 1999, The University of Texas at Austin, Department of History

Publications (with awards)

Book

Houston Bound: Culture and Color in a Jim Crow City (Oakland: University of California Press, 2016).

- Kenneth Jackson Award for Best Book (North American), Urban History Association, 2016
- W. Turrentine Jackson Book Prize, Western History Association, 2017
- Julia Ideson Award, Friends of the Texas Room (Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library), 2017

Peer-reviewed articles

“Big Mama Thornton, Little Richard, and the Queer Roots of Rock ‘n’ Roll,” *American Quarterly* (forthcoming).

“‘Jody’s Got Your Girl and Gone’: Gender, Folklore, and the Black Working Class,” *Journal of African American History* 99, no. 3 (Summer 2014): 251-274.

- Letitia Woods Article Prize (honorable mention), Association of Black Women Historians, 2015
- Elli Kōngäs-Maranda Professional Prize (honorable mention), American Folklore Society, 2015

“Jazz, Migration, and Community in Interwar Houston,” *Journal of the West* 53, no. 3 (2014): 42-50.

Short articles and blog posts

“The Flood Blues,” Process: A Blog for American History, <http://www.processhistory.org/steptoe-the-flood-blues/>, September 15, 2017.

“Prince’s *Afromestizaje*,” All Music Books Blog, <http://www.allmusicbooks.com/amb-blog/princes-afromestizaje>, May 30, 2016.

“Beyoncé, Creoles, and Modern Blackness,” University of California Press Blog, <http://www.ucpress.edu/blog/20404/beyonce-creoles-and-modern-blackness/>, February 29, 2016. Re-posted on the All Music Books Blog, <http://www.allmusicbooks.com/amb-blog/beyonc%C3%A9-creoles-and-modern-blackness>, March 25, 2016.

“Cover Story: *Houston Bound*,” Campaign for the American Reader, <http://americareads.blogspot.com/2016/02/cover-story-houston-bound.html>, Feb. 9, 2016.

“‘Creole’ in Houston: Not Black, Not White, Different Than ‘Mixed,’” *Houston Chronicle*, December 20, 2015. Also posted as “When Louisiana Creoles Arrived in Texas, Were They Black or White?” *What It Means to Be American*, The Smithsonian and Zócalo Public Square - <http://www.whatitmeanstobeamerican.org/encounters/when-louisiana-creoles-arrived-in-texas-were-they-black-or-white/>, December 15, 2015.

“Inez Calegon and Houston’s Frenchtown Neighborhood,” University of California Press Blog - <http://www.ucpress.edu/blog/19321/inez-calegon-and-houstons-frenchtown-neighborhood>, October 11, 2015.

“Louisiana Houston,” *Oxford African American Studies Center*, ed. Bernadette Pruitt (Oxford University Press, 2014).

“An Ode to Country Music from a Black Dixie Chick,” *The Oxford American*, no. 54 (2006): 26-7. Reprinted in *The Presence of Others: Voices and Images That Call for Response*, 5th Edition, (NY: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008).

Book reviews

Review of *Racial Dynamics in Early Twentieth-Century Austin, Texas*, by Jason McDonald, *Journal of Southern History* LXXIX, No. 4 (November 2013): pp. 990-991.

Review of *Imagining the African American West*, by Blake Allmendinger, *Montana the Magazine of Western History* (Autumn 2006): pp. 81-82.

Encyclopedia entries

“Fifth Ward,” “Ida B. Wells-Barnett,” “Mary Church Terrell,” “Bennett College,” “Fisk University,” “Morehouse College,” and “Spelman College” on BlackPast.org: An Online Reference Guide to African American History, Quintard Taylor, ed.

Fellowships and Grants

Summerlee Research Fellowship for the Study of Texas History, Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University, 2012-2013

Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty, 2011-2012

Simpson Center Society of Scholars, University of Washington, 2011-2012 (declined)

Royalty Research Fund Scholars Program Award, University of Washington, 2010-2011

Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellowship, 2006-2007

Humanities Exposed Scholarship, Center for the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2005–2006

Gerald L. Davis Travel Grant, American Folklore Society, Fall 2004

Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1999-2000; 2007-2008

Honors and Awards

Kenneth Jackson Award for Best Book (North American) of 2016, Urban History Association

W. Turrentine Jackson Book Prize, Western History Association, 2017

Julia Ideson Award for *Houston Bound*, Friends of the Texas Room (Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library), 2017

Honorable Mention, Letitia Woods Article Prize for “Jody’s Got Your Girl and Gone,”
Association of Black Women Historians, 2015

Honorable Mention, Elli K ng s-Maranda Professional Prize for “Jody’s Got Your Girl
and Gone,” American Folklore Society, 2015

Comparative Ethnic Studies Essay Prize, American Studies Association, Fall 2010

Innovation in Teaching Award, College of Letters and Science, University of Wisconsin-
Madison, Spring 2006

Texas Achievement Honors Award, The University of Texas at Austin, 1994-1999

Honors Colloquium Award, The University of Texas at Austin, Fall 1994

Teaching

Fields

Comparative History of Race and Ethnicity; African American History; Cultural History;
Nineteenth and Twentieth-century U.S. History; History of the South; Interdisciplinary African
American Studies

Graduate reading seminars

U.S. Urban History, University of Arizona

American Ethnic History, University of Arizona

The Gilded Age and the Progressive Era, University of Arizona

Undergraduate lectures

Music and Ethnic America, University of Arizona

The South Since the Civil War, University of Arizona; University of Washington

U.S. Society and Institutions since 1877, University of Arizona

Introduction to African American History, University of Washington

Introduction to African American Studies, University of Washington

Music, Folklore, and Performance in African American Society, University of Washington

The Jazz Age, University of Washington

Undergraduate seminars

Music and Society (senior thesis capstone), University of Arizona

American Ethnic History, University of Arizona

The Jazz Age, University of Arizona

The Progressive Era and the Gilded Age, University of Arizona

Senior Capstone Seminar, University of Washington

Special course:

The Santa Fe Trail: In Search of the Multiracial West, two-week on-the-bus course with 35
undergraduate and graduate students, June 2005, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Graduate advising

Lora Key, PhD candidate, Department of History, University of Arizona. Co-advisor with Katherine Morrissey

Jalyn Wheatley, M.A. 2016, Department of History, University of Arizona. Major advisor

Service

Professional

Chair, Sara Jackson Award Committee, Western History Association, 2017; committee member, 2015-2016

Program Committee, Western History Association, 2014-2015

Chair, Huntington-WHA Ridge Fellowship Selection Committee, Western History Association, 2013; Committee member, 2011-2012

Program Committee, Experience Music Project Pop Conference, Seattle, WA, 2010

Peer Review: University of Oklahoma Press, *Souls – A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society*, *Oregon Historical Quarterly*; Oregon State University Press; Oxford University Press, Routledge Press; *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*

Department

Annual Peer Review Committee, Department of History, University of Arizona, 2017

Faculty Hiring Committee, Department of History, University of Arizona, 2017

Curriculum Committee, Department of History, University of Arizona, 2015-2017

Curriculum Committee, Department of American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington, 2009-2011

University

Faculty Advisor, Women of Purpose, University of Arizona, 2016-17

Reviewer, Royalty Research Fund, University of Washington, 2009

Program Committee, “Voting Rights and the Road to Freedom,” University of Wisconsin, Fall 2002

Planning Committee and Staff, “Journey to Selma,” University of Wisconsin, Summer 2002; Spring 2003

Search Committee, Dean of Advising, College of Letters and Science Student Academic Services, University of Wisconsin, 2002

Public/Community

“Houston Bound: How Migration Changed Notions of Race in the Bayou City,” Interview with Michael Hagerty on “Houston Matters,” Houston Public Media, September 21, 2017.

<http://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/shows/houston-matters/2017/09/21/238275/houston-bound-how-migration-changed-notions-of-race-in-the-bayou-city/>

Contributor to “Houston: A Segregated Disaster,” Interview with Daniel Denvir for “The Dig,” September 12, 2017, <https://www.blubrry.com/thedig/26906544/houston-a-segregated-disaster-in-a-segregated-city/>

Historical Advisor, “Who Do You Think You Are?” Forest Productions, Inc. Broadcast on TLC TV Network (Originally televised on April 3, 2016.)

Featured Guest (speaking on *Houston Bound*), KAZI Book Review, KAZI 88.7 FM (Austin, TX), December 28, 2015

Guest Instructor, Prisoner Education Network, 2009 – 2011

Co-host, “In Our Backyard,” W.O.R.T. 89.9 FM, 2001 – 2008

Cluster Facilitator, LeaderShape Institute, Summer 2002

Co-founder, TRUTH (Teaching Racial Understanding through History), 2001 – 2003

Presentations

Academic conferences

“Accordion City: Ethnic Mexicans, Creoles of Color, and Musical Hybridity in Houston,” Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Society, Northridge, CA, August 4, 2017.

“Sex, Race, and Early Rock ‘n’ Roll,” MoPop Conference, Seattle, WA, April 21, 2017.

“From Sara Travers to Sandra Bland: Black Women, Law Enforcement, and the Legacy of the Houston Riot,” Organization of American Historians, New Orleans, LA, April 6, 2017.

“Mexi-Cajun Blues: Accordions and Multilingual Voices in the Western South,” EMP Pop Conference, Seattle, WA, April 2016.

“Accordion Blues: Hybridity and Culture in the Western South,” Western History Association, Portland, OR, October 24, 2015.

“Big Mama’s Blues: Willie Mae Thornton and Female Masculinity,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Atlanta, GA, September 25, 2015.

“Big Mama’s Shuffle’: Willie Mae Thornton, Female Masculinity, and the Lavender Scare,” EMP Pop Conference, Seattle, WA, April 19, 2015.

“Soul Party’: Black and Mexican American Music in Civil Rights-Era Houston,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Memphis, TN, September 27, 2014.

Panelist, “Music, Entertainment, and the Civil Rights Movement,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Memphis, TN, September 27, 2014.

Chair, “Who Let Them In? Reconsidering Boundaries of Civil Rights and Black Freedom Movement Narratives,” American Historical Association, Washington, D.C., Jan 2, 2014.

“The Santa Fe Trail: Teaching the Multiracial West in a Traveling Classroom,” Western History Association, October 10, 2013.

Panelist, “State of the Field: African American History in the West,” Organization of American Historians, San Francisco, April 11, 2013.

Respondent, “Black Freedom Movements in Washington,” Race, Radicalism, and Repression on the Pacific Coast and Beyond, University of Washington, May 13, 2011.

“*Zydeco Sont Pas Sale*: Creoles of Color, Black Texans, and the Creation of Houston’s Frenchtown,” Organization of American Historians, Houston, TX, March 17, 2011.

“Catholics, Jews, and the Color Line in Jazz Age Houston,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 21, 2010.

“We Were Too White to Be Black and Too Black to Be White’: Migration and the Question of Race in Jim Crow Houston,” Southern Historical Association, Charlotte, NC, November 5, 2010.

"ABCs and C-D-E-Fs: High School Music Programs and the Cultivation of Jazz in Jim Crow Houston," EMP Pop Conference, Seattle, WA, April 17, 2010.

Respondent, “Methodologies of Visibility,” Dialoguing Difference 2nd Annual Conference: Technologies of Visibility, May 14, 2010, University of Washington.

“Sex/Love/Money: The Economics of Hip Hop Desire,” EMP Pop Conference, Seattle, WA, April 18, 2009.

“Jazz and Popular Music in Jim Crow Houston,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, April 5, 2006.

“Jody’s Got Your Girl and Gone,” The Future of Folk Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 15, 2005.

“Jody’s Got Your Girl and Gone’: Gender, Power, and the Black Home,” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, October 2004.

“Jody’s Got Your Girl and Gone’: Race, Gender, and a Black Folk Hero,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Milwaukee, WI, September 2003.

“When Cowboys Were in Vogue: The Myth of the Urban Cowboy,” “The West(s) in Film, Television, and History,” Film and History Society Conference, Kansas City, MO, November 2002.

“Government Repression of Political Organizing, Past and Present,” Building Unity Conference, University of Wisconsin System, Madison, WI, November 2001.

Roundtables

“Teaching Race on the Road,” Western Historical Association, St. Louis, MO, October 2006.

“The Traveling Classroom,” National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, Chicago, May 2006.

“Achieving the Multi-Cultural Classroom on a Predominately White Campus,” National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, Miami Beach, FL, June 2004.

“An Innovation in Academic Culture: Undergraduates Teaching Undergraduates at the University of Wisconsin,” National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, San Francisco, CA, June 2003.

Invited talks and community presentations

“Migration and the Making of a Multiethnic City,” School of Sociology Brown Bag, September 1, 2017.

Panelist, “White Supremacy, Monuments, and Memory,” University of Arizona, August 30, 2017.

Panelist, “100 Black Men, 100 Stories: Texas Stories Book Forum, Houston, TX, July 25, 2017.

Panelist, “A Conversation on Segregated Spaces,” Tucson Festival of Books, March 11, 2017.

“History of the Ku Klux Klan and White Nationalism in the U.S.A.,” Inauguration Day Teach-in and March, Tucson, AZ, January 20, 2017.

Panelist, “Communities of Color in Houston,” Lone Star Book Festival, Kingwood, TX, April 9, 2016.

Public lecture on *Houston Bound*, Gregory School for African American History, Houston, March 19, 2016.

- “Blaxican History: African American & Latino Cultural Connections in the Bayou City,” Summer Workshop on African American Texas History, Texas Southern University, Houston, July 10, 2015.
- “Houston Bound: Space, Sound and the Making of a Multiracial City,” Clements Center for Southwest Studies Brown Bag Lecture Series, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, February 13, 2013.
- “Migration, Culture and the Color Line in Jim Crow Houston,” Godbey Lecture Series, Dedman College, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, October 8, 2012.
- “Black Protest and the Blues Impulse,” YouthSource, Renton, WA, May 24, 2012.
- “Black Women in U.S. History,” Drug Enforcement Administration Black History Month Celebration, Seattle, WA, February 3, 2012.
- “Mammy, Jezebel, and Sambo: Gender, Black Stereotypes and U.S Politics,” YouthSource, Renton, WA, November 15, 2011.
- “Culture and the Color Line in Jim Crow Houston,” Diversity Research Institute Brown Bag Series, October 29, 2010.
- “Constructing Blackness in the United States,” University Beyond Bars/Prisoners Education Network, August, 21, 2010.
- “Hip Hop and Salsa: Gender in Music Communities,” Women Studies Department Brownbag Event, February 19, 2010, University of Washington, Seattle.
- “Racial Legacies of the Great Migration,” Phinney Neighborhood Association, Seattle, WA, February 12, 2010.
- “Slavery and Revolution in the Atlantic World, 1775-1811” University Beyond Bars/Prisoners Education Network, Monroe, WA, September 21, 2009.
- “Marcus Garvey and the African Diaspora,” Prisoners Education Network Juneteenth Celebration, June 20, 2009, Monroe, Washington.
- “Black Protest in the Jim Crow South,” University Beyond Bars/Prisoners Education Network, February 14, 2009.
- “Teaching the Great Migration,” All Eyes on History, Seattle, WA, February 10, 2009.

Predoctoral Employment

Project Assistant, Ethnic Studies Cluster, College of Letters and Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2007-2008

Teaching Assistant, Department of History, 2004-2005

Instructor, Pre-College Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence (PEOPLE),
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Summers 2004-2006

Academic Advisor, Honors Program, College of Letters and Science, University of Wisconsin-
Madison, Spring 2002

Student Services Coordinator, Pathways to Excellence Programs and Services, College of
Letters and Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2001-2002

Teaching Assistant, Department of Afro-
American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2000-2001

Managing Editor, Research Communications, Austin, Texas, 1998-1999

Professional Associations

American Studies Association

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Organization of American Historians

Western History Association