

Tyina L. Steptoe, Ph.D.

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Postdoctoral Employment

Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Arizona, 2017-
Faculty affiliate in Africana Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and the Graduate
Interdisciplinary Program in Applied Intercultural Arts Research

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Arizona, 2014-2017

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
Minor: Folklore, Music, and Popular Culture

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

Writing Projects and Publications

Book

Houston Bound: Culture and Color in a Jim Crow City (University of California Press, 2015).

Peer-reviewed articles

"Big Mama Thornton, Little Richard, and the Queer Roots of Rock 'n' Roll," *American Quarterly* 70.1 (March 2018): 55-77.

"Mexican Americans and the Power of Culture in Houston," *Modern American History* 2 (2018): 65-69.

"The Great Migrations and Black Urban Life in the United States, 1914-1970," in *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*, Oxford University Press (2018).

"'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.

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

Book chapters

“Beyoncé’s Sonic Borderlands: Music and the Racial Geography of the Western South,” in *The Lemonade Reader: Beyoncé, Black Feminism and Spirituality*, edited by Kinitra D. Brooks and Kameelah L. Martin (New York: Routledge, May 2019).

“It’s Brisket, Mija: A Culinary Journey in Three Acts,” in *Culinary Mestizaje*, edited by Rudy Guevarra, Jr. and Felipe Hinojosa (under contract with Rutgers University Press).

“Accordion City: Creole/Tejano Hybridity in Houston,” in *Race, Place, and Power in Houston, Texas*, edited by Alexander X. Byrd and Emily Strauss (under contract with Louisiana State University Press).

Short articles and blog posts

“What’s Going On’ at 50 – Marvin Gaye’s Motown classic is as relevant today as it was in 1971,” [The Conversation](#), May 17, 2021; republished in the May 21, 2021, edition of *The Denver Post*.

“Hip-hop is the Soundtrack to Black Lives Matter Protests,” [The Conversation](#), June 25, 2020.

“Soul Salsa,” *The American Historian* 19 (February 2019).

“Ella Baker Makes a Plea for Black Lives (Aug. 6, 1964),” [Time](#), July 9, 2018.

“Sandra Bland, Black Women, and Texas Law Enforcement,” [Black Perspectives](#) July 13, 2018.

“The Flood Blues,” [Process: A Blog for American History](#), September 15, 2017.

“Prince’s Afromestizaje,” [All Music Books Blog](#), May 30, 2016.

“Beyoncé, Creoles, and Modern Blackness,” University of California Press Blog, February 29, 2016. Re-posted on [All Music Books Blog](#), March 25, 2016.

“Cover Story: *Houston Bound*,” [Campaign for the American Reader](#), February 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, December 15, 2015.

“Inez Calegon and Houston’s Frenchtown Neighborhood,” [University of California Press Blog](#), 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).

Reviews

Black Diamond Queens: African American Women and Rock and Roll, by Maureen Mahon, *Journal of African American History*, forthcoming.

Dom Flemons Presents Black Cowboys, by Dom Flemons, *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 69, no. 4 (Winter 2019).

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

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

Honors and Awards

Ted and Shirley Taubeneck Superior Teaching Award, Humanities Seminars Program, University of Arizona, 2021

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

W. Turrentine Jackson Book Prize for *Houston Bound*, 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 Köngäs-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

Fellowships and Grants

Faculty Small Grant, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona, 2021

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

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

Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2006-2007

Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, University of Wisconsin, 1999-2000; 2002-2003

Presentations

Academic conferences

“A Keynote Roundtable on Borders and Borderlands: Considering Texas History in a New Context,” Texas State Historical Association, Austin, TX, February 28, 2020.

“Brown Eyed Handsome Man: Race, Sex, and Rock ‘n’ Roll,” Western History Association, Las Vegas, NV, October 19, 2019.

“The Drag Blues,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Charleston, SC, October 5, 2019.

Moderator, “A Place to Call My Own: Urban Migration and Black Metropolitan History,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Charleston, SC, October 3, 2019.

“I Seen a Man Die: Mourning and Masculinity in the City of Syrup,” Pop Music Conference, Seattle, WA, April 13, 2019.

“Hip Hop’s Queer Masculinities,” Pop Music Conference, Seattle, WA, April 27, 2018.

Panelist, “Historians in the Twittersphere: Crafting Social Media Identities and History Publics,” Organization of American Historians, Sacramento, CA, April 13, 2018.

Chair and respondent, “Wall of Muted Sound: Sonic Histories of Silences and Speaking Out,” American Studies Association, Chicago, IL, November 11, 2017.

“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,” Pop 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,” 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.

Invited talks

"Beyoncé and *Lemonade*," Department of English, Michigan State University, September 23, 2021.

"Segregated Houston: Black Life Beyond the Hedges" (with Dr. Frank Guridy), Rice University, April 14, 2021.

"Black Neighborhoods in Houston," KHOU-11 Lecture Series, Houston, Texas, March 3, 2021.

"LGBTQ Fifties: The Early Years of R&B," KXCI Tucson Community Radio/ LGBT Institute at the University of Arizona, February 27, 2021.

"Expanding the Archive: Hidden Histories of Race in Houston," Center for Texas Studies, Texas Christian University, February 6, 2021.

"Juneteenth to Black Lives Matter: Politics and Culture in Houston's Third Ward," Arnold Ventures, June 30, 2020.

"Cornrows and Cowboy Hats: Beyoncé's Polycultural World," South by Southwest, Austin, TX, March 14, 2020. *Canceled due to COVID-19.*

"Brown-eyed Handsome Men: Sex, Race, and Rock 'n' Roll in the West," and "Hidden Histories of Race in the Jim Crow Era," Wellesley College, February 19-20, 2020.

"Chuck Berry, Freddy Fender, and the Sex Scandals That Rocked Pop Music," Fred Fox School of Music, University of Arizona, January 31, 2020.

"Using Music to Teach Civil Rights History," Gilder Lehrman Civil Rights Seminar, Memphis, TN, July 10, 2019.

"Decolonizing the Archive," Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies, Memphis, TN, July 9, 2019.

Keynote speaker, Claremont McKenna College's Mellon Mays Program, Claremont, CA, May 1, 2019.

"Polycultural Music and Race in Jim Crow Houston," Africana Studies Program Black History Month Lecture, University of Arizona, February 20, 2019.

“From Little Richard to Beyoncé: Cultural Blending in Music,” SBS Downtown Lecture Series, Tucson, AZ, October 11, 2018.

“History in the Key of Life: Listening to Houston’s Polycultural Pasts,” Calaboose African American Museum, San Marcos, Texas, February 22, 2018.

Book talk, *Houston Bound: Culture and Color in a Jim Crow City*, Center for the Study of the Southwest, Texas State University, February 22, 2018.

Keynote, “From Lightnin’ to *Lemonade*: Redefining Culture in America’s Most Diverse City,” Houston Eats! University of Houston, February 2, 2018.

Panelist, “Strange Fruit and Lemonade: Music, Race, Gender, Class, Place,” Texas State University, October 26, 2017.

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

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

“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, TX, 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.

“Hip Hop and Salsa: Gender in Music Communities,” Gender and Women’s Studies Department Brownbag Event, February 19, 2010, University of Washington, Seattle.

“Culture and the Color Line in Jim Crow Houston,” Diversity Research Institute Brown Bag Series, October 29, 2010.

“Teaching the Great Migration,” All Eyes on History, Seattle, WA, February 10, 2009.

Media

Interview, [“Juneteenth: 1865-2021,”](#) KHOU News Special, June 2021.

Producer/host, “Juneteenth,” *The Blues Review*, 91.3 FM KXCI Tucson Community Radio, June 19, 2021.

Interview with Jarrell Mason, [Beyond the Album Cover](#), podcast, April 24, 2021.

Producer/host, “What’s Going On Fiftieth Anniversary Special,” *The Home Stretch*, 91.3 FM KXCI Tucson Community Radio, April 21, 2021.

Producer/host, “Music of the Black West,” *Afternoon Music Mix*, 91.3 FM KXCI Tucson Community Radio, February 26, 2021.

Interview on [“Sam Lightnin’ Hopkins”](#) for *Great Day Houston*,” KHOU-11, February 25, 2021.

Producer/host, “Clash Call and Response,” *Your Morning Brew*, 91.3 FM KXCI Tucson Community Radio, February 5, 2021.

Interview with Amaris Encinas and Elvia Verdugo, “The Past Century of Race, Riot and Protest in the United States: A Brief Timeline,” [The Daily Wildcat](#), July 7, 2020.

Producer/host, “Juneteenth and Freedom Struggles in the Americas,” *The Home Stretch*, 91.3 FM KXCI Tucson Community Radio, June 19, 2021.

Guest social media correspondent, Arizona Historical Society, June 19, 2020.

Interview with Kyle Mittan, “Black Lives Matter and Pandemic Bring Juneteenth Into Focus,” [University of Arizona News](#), June 17, 2020.

[“Houston Bound: How Migration Changed Notions of Race in the Bayou City,”](#) interview on *Houston Matters*, Houston Public Media, September 21, 2017.

[“Houston: A Segregated Disaster,”](#) interview on *The Dig* podcast, September 12, 2017.

Interview on *Houston Bound*, [KAZI Book Review with Hopeton Hay](#), KAZI 88.7 FM (Austin, TX), December 28, 2015.

Public presentations

“History at UA,” Tucson High School, Tucson, AZ, September 12, 2019.

Moderator, “Kindred, Black Culture, and Picturing Social Change,” Tucson Festival of Books, March 11, 2018.

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

“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.

“Constructing Blackness in the United States,” University Beyond Bars/Prisoners Education Network, August 21, 2010.

"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, February 14, 2009.

Service

Professional

Book series co-editor, “Cultures of Resistance,” University of South Carolina Press

2022 Program committee co-chair, Western History Association; committee member in 2015, 2018

Pop Conference Advisory Board, 2020 -

Chair, nominating committee, Pacific Coast Branch, American Historical Association, 2019-2020

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

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

Program committee, Pop Conference, Seattle, WA, 2010

Peer review: University of Arizona Press; Duke University Press; Oregon State University Press; Oxford University Press; Routledge Press; University of Nebraska Press; University of Oklahoma Press; University of Texas Press; *Louisiana History*; *Oregon Historical Quarterly*; *Souls – A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society*; *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*

University

Co-chair, Beyond Juneteenth, University of Arizona, 2022-

Executive Committee, Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Applied Intercultural Arts Research, 2021-

Strategic Priorities Faculty Initiative (SPFI) review committee, 2021-

Promotion and tenure committee for Maurice Magaña, Department of Mexican American Studies, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona, 2021

Strategic plan committee, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, 2019-2021

SPFI hiring committee, Department of History, UArizona, Spring 2021

Brown bag seminar committee, Department of History, 2018-2020

Faculty search committee (ethnomusicology), Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Applied Intercultural Arts Research and Fred Fox School of Music, 2019

Graduate committee, Department of History, 2018-2020

Faculty advisor, Men and Women of Purpose, UA Athletic Program, 2016-2018

Panelist, “Re-Orientation for Freshmen History Majors,” September 16-18, 2019

Promotion and tenure committee for Dr. Katie Hemphill, Department of History, 2019

Strategic Priorities Faculty Initiative search committee, Department of History, 2018-2019

Annual peer review committee, Department of History, 2017 and 2018

Faculty hiring committee, Department of History, 2017

Curriculum committee, Department of History, 2015-2017

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

Budget committee, Women Investigating Race, Ethnicity, and Difference (WIRED), University of Washington, 2011-2012

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

Community/public outreach

Producer/host, *Soul Stories* on 91.3 FM KXCI Tucson, 2019-

Planning committee and co-host, AP US History (APUSH) Quiz Bowl, Tucson, AZ, 2018-2019

Host, Jazz According to SOUL – Juneteenth fundraiser, Tucson, AZ, May 26, 2019

Adviser/researcher for the television program, “Who Do You Think You Are?” Forest Productions, TLC, 2015-2017

Guest instructor, Prisoner Education Network/University Beyond Bars, 2009-2011

Co-host, *In Our Backyard*, 89.9 FM WORT Madison Community Radio, 2001-2008

Professional Associations

American Historical Association

American Studies Association

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Western History Association