

# Nishani Frazier

Websites: <http://nishanifrazier.com/>  
<https://harambeecity.lib.miamioh.edu/>  
<https://gentrificationproject.lib.miamioh.edu/>  
Twitter: @spelmandiva  
E-Mail: blkhistorydiva@gmail.com

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## Education

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Ph.D. in History, Columbia University, New York, NY, October 2008  
M.A. and M. Phil, History, Columbia University, New York, NY, 2003  
B.A., English and History, Spelman College, Atlanta, GA

## Areas of Specialization

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U.S. History post 1865	Black Nationalism	Public History/Archives
African American History	Theory & Ethics in History Production	Digital Humanities
U.S. History, 1960s and 1970s	Oral History	Blockchain & History

## Academic Honors and Awards

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<i>Penn State Humanities Institute</i>	September 2020-Present
<i>Next System Project Fellow, The Democracy Collaborative</i>	September 2017-June 2020
<i>Fulbright Fellow– Norway, U.S. State Department</i>	August 2016-June 2017
<i>Philip and Elaina Hampton Fund for Faculty International Initiatives, Miami University</i>	Fall 2011 and Fall 2014
<i>Interpreting America's Historic Places Planning Grant, Co-Principle Investigator, National Endowment for the Humanities</i>	2009-2010
<i>Heanon Wilkins Fellow, Miami University</i>	2007-2008
<i>Mellon Teaching Associate Fellow, Bates College</i>	2006-2007
<i>Oral History Training Institute Grantee, Ohio Humanities Council</i>	Summer 2003
<i>Merit Summer Fellow, Columbia University</i>	Summer 2000
<i>Merit Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Columbia University</i>	2000-2001

## Academic/Teaching Experience

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Associate Professor, University of Kansas	2020 - Present
Associate Professor, Miami University	2008 - 2020
Visiting Assistant Professor & Heanon Wilkins Fellow, Miami University	2007 - 2008

### Courses Taught:

African-American Women's History & Feminist Thought	Survey of American History, Post 1865
U. S. in the 1960s and U.S. 1960s Historiography	U.S. in the 1970s
History Methodology	Introduction to African American History
Oral History: Theory and Practicum	History Honors
Graduate Seminar: History Research and Methodology	Digital History
1968: Global Revolution	Black History and Big Data
Black Feminist Thought and American History	Capitalism and the Black Experience

University Service: Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Planning Committee; Department Graduate Student Committee; Department Advisory Board; Department Speaker's Committee; Humanities Center Digital Humanities Committee; University Freedom Summer Commemoration Committee; Miami Museum of Art African American Children's Exhibit Committee; University Bridges Program; Altman Fellow: Urban Futures; AAUP Officer; Heanon Wilkins Fellowship for Faculty Diversity Committee.

## Professional Experience

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**Associate Curator of African American History,** 2003-2005  
Western Reserve Historical Society

Implement public programs and exhibitions related to Black Cleveland – subjects included the Underground Railroad, Civil Rights, 1970s – 80s School Desegregation, Louis and Carl Stokes; Solicit donations of individuals, organizations, artifacts, records, and other resources relevant to the African American community; Grant writing and fundraising; Advocate and Consult with local grass roots group for local, state, and federal preservation of Cozad-Bates House – a site believed to be an Underground Railroad site in danger of seizure. Process and arrange archival materials for research; Research, write, and lecture on subjects pertinent to local African American history; Conduct oral history and archival workshops in the community; Interact with the African American community through individuals, organizations, and events to publicize the African American Archives.

**John Hope Franklin Personal Assistant,** President's Initiative on Race 1997-1998

Respond to correspondence related to President's Initiative on Race; Recommend books, scholars, or teachers kits that provide useful information on racism, discrimination, or racial tolerance as related to President's Initiative on Race; Gather information on organizations considered as "promising practices" in race relations; Attend meetings and other events associated with public forums.

**John Hope Franklin Personal Assistant** 1996-1997

Arrange travel, maintain correspondence, filter invitation requests, other administrative duties related to Dr. John Hope Franklin; Assist John Hope Franklin Research & Archives with archival maintenance and transition of Franklin Papers to Duke University.

**Administrative/Archival Assistant,** 1994-1995  
**Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change**

Provide basic archival management and maintenance of civil rights papers; Research and provided information on Martin Luther King, Jr., the civil rights movement, and general African American history; Serve as Summer Scholars program supervisor.

## Publications

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Books:

*Harambee City: The Congress of Racial Equality in Cleveland, Ohio and the Rise of Black Power Populism* (University of Arkansas Press, 2017)

*Freedom on My Mind: The Columbia Documentary History of the African American Experience*, Manning Marable, Nishani Frazier, John McMillan, eds., (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003)

Policy Papers/Manuals:

“Black Folks Guide to Surviving Corona,” September 2020

“A ‘New Direction’: Community Wealth Building, Then and Now” *Next System*, May 2020.

Published Articles & Chapters:

“How State Surveillance Undermines Black Freedom Movements,” *Black Perspectives*, March 5, 2021, <https://www.aaihs.org/how-state-surveillance-undermines-black-freedom-movements/>

“We Love Through Time: A History of the Black Family,” in *Black Families: A Systems Approach*, (San Diego: Cognella, 2020)

David Garrow, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Politics of History,” *Black Perspectives*, June 7, 2019, <https://www.aaihs.org/david-garrow-martin-luther-king-jr-and-the-politics-of-history/>

“The FBI and Mischaracterization of Bayard Rustin,” *Black Perspectives*, December 7, 2017, <http://www.aaihs.org/the-fbi-and-the-mischaracterization-of-bayard-rustin/>

“The Return of Black Political Power: How 1970s History Can Guide New Black Mayors Toward a Radical City,” *Truth Out*, November 6, 2017, <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/42493-the-return-of-black-political-power-how-1970s-history-can-guide-new-black-mayors-toward-a-radical-city>

Nishani Frazier, Wesley Hogan, et al., “Pedagogical Tools for Teaching Civil Rights,” *FIRE!!!: The Multimedia Journal of Black Studies* (September 2015)

“The ‘Other’ Jim Jones: Rabbi David Hill, House of Israel, and Black American Religion in the Age of Peoples Temple,” *The Jonestown Report*, Volume 14 (October 2012)

“A McDonald’s That Reflects the Soul of a People: Hough Area Development Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio” in Laura Hill and Julia Rubig, eds., *The Business of Black Power* (Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press: June 2012)

“Building a Black Nation: CORE, Black Power, and the Community Development Corporation Movement” in Manning Marable and Elizabeth Hinton, eds., *The New Black History: Revisiting the Second Reconstruction* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan Critical Black Studies Book Series, October 2011)

“To Die For the People: Prophecy and Death in the Rhetoric of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Fred Hampton” in anthology *Homegoings, Crossings, and Passings: Life and Death in the African Diaspora* (New World African Press, August 2011)

Book and Film Reviews:

*The Power to Heal: Medicare and The Civil Rights Revolution*, H-FedHist, April 2020.

*The Gentleman from Ohio* by Louis Stokes, H-FedHist, January 2018, <https://networks.h-net.org/node/5299/reviews/1312626/frazier-stokes-gentleman-ohio>.

*Carry It On: The War on Poverty and the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama 1964-1972* by Youngblood Ashmore in *Journal of American Ethnic History* 30:4 (Summer 2011).

*Many Minds, One Heart: SNCC's Dream for a New America* by Wesley Hogan in *Journal of African American History*, Fall 2009.

## Work in Progress

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“Voices of the Displaced: The Fight Over Sound and Space Gentrification - In progress digital manuscript and site <https://gentrificationproject.lib.miamioh.edu/>

The gentrification project is a digital database which outlines practices and responses to gentrification. The goal of the anti-gentrification project is to preserve the history of black communities and urban spaces in danger of gentrification, unearth, and delineate the varied and multiple forces which operate to dispossess black people of housing, demonstrate responses/practices against gentrification, map known perpetrators and respondents, and document the multiple reports and references on the subject matter. Beginning Spring 2020, the project will operate a gentrification lab through the Introduction to African American History course to expand the current map of 239 by an additional 400+. Additionally, students will conduct oral history interviews to add to the site.

I'm currently outlining a proposal based on my own interviews with the intent to provide new theories of oral history practicum and to challenge assertions that gentrification improves neighborhoods and the lives of the people in them.

“Crazy Negroes: An Epistemology of Black Resistance” In progress digital site; second manuscript

Thomas Matthew wrote in his letter to *Ebony* magazine's editor that, “crazy niggers...had the guts to tell the honky pig to go fly a kite...and helped transform ‘niggas,’ negroes, and colored folks into black folks by practice as well as theory.” The letter stemmed from a recent special edition on the black male in September 1972, which featured the article “Crazy Niggers! Then and Now.” The crazy negro has spurred both the white and black imagination in family lore, newspaper articles, and magazine essays. What was a pejorative among whites that described black people who refused to accept societal subordination, became for black Americans a heroic symbol. This manuscript traces the roots of black militancy as an intellectual ideal and mythic imagination before its materialization in the classical long movement timeline in the form of black power. Currently, I'm working with Miami University Libraries to request an API for the Library of Congress's *Chronicling America* database.

“Cooking with Black Nationalism” third manuscript in research preparation

This history cookbook discusses various representations of nationalist ideology and identity as expressed within dietary restrictions and food recipes. The text is intended to be both functional and a serious study of how black nationalism has changed the culinary culture of various communities from the Nation of Islam and smaller groups like the House of Israel to nation-states like Guyana which also set guidelines for food import and export during its Black Power period.

“A Moment in Time,” future manuscript

A history of two men, Johnny Frazier and Ali Shambayati, during the 1960s and 1970s movement for freedom in Mississippi and Iran. It traces their early personal experiences and the events that led to activism in their individual countries. It will also attempt to search out what happened to Shambayati after he departed Britain and became

involved in protests and demonstrations to end the reign of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. It also seeks to explain what happened to Shambayati's family after his capture by the Savak.

## Journal/Book/Digital Referee

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*The Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics, and Culture*  
Oxford University Press (two manuscripts)  
*Journal of African American History*  
H-Fed Net

University of Georgia Press  
Stanford University Press – Digital Project  
Kent State University Press

## Presentations

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*Vienna American Embassy, February 2021*

Keynote: It is Our Duty to Fight- Black Lives Matter and the Black Power Movement

*Fulbright Association, February 2021*

Roundtable: John Hope Franklin- Redefining the American Story

*Oral History Association Conference, October 2020*

Conference Roundtable: Rethinking Oral History and Tradition: An Indigenous Perspective by Nepia Mahuika,

*Oral History Association Annual Conference, October 2020*

Conference Paper: Black Lives Open Forum

*St. Louis University, October 2020*

Teacher Workshop: Teaching Presences and Silences in US History

*Marquette University, October 2020*

Peace Maker in Residence Keynote: History of Non-Violent Organizing by Women in the Civil Rights Movement

*Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, October 2019*

Conference Paper: Cooking with Black Nationalism!: Black Spiritual and Folkloric Connections to Food

*Social Justice Institute, Case Western Reserve University, September 2019*

Keynote: Cleveland Cooperative Economics and Lessons from the Argentina Cooperative Movement in *The Take* documentary

*Sorbonne University- Paris, American Studies Department, December 2018*

Keynote: What Kind of Historian Are You?: How Midwest History Can Make a Movement

*Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, October 2018*

Conference Paper: Poor People's Campaign Lives On!

*International Oral History Association - Jyväskylä, Finland, June 2018*

Conference Paper: "You Don't Know Shit and You Can't Have Shit: Shared Authority and Embracing Silence in Freedom Movement Digital Work"

*Cleveland State University African American Studies Department, March 2018*

Presentation: Lonely are the Brave: School Desegregation in Cleveland

*Schomburg Conversations in Black Freedom Studies Series, December 2017*

Presentation: Black Power and CORE

(<https://www.facebook.com/SchomburgCenter/videos/10154998003095079/>)

*Regulator Book Store, November 2017*

Presentation: "Lonely are the Brave," excerpt from *Harambee City*

*Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, October 2017*

Conference Paper: Black Digital Protocols: Inserting Black Studies Back into Digital Humanities.

*Digital Humanities International Conference, Montreal, August 2017*

Conference Paper: "Power to the People: Recovery and Shared Authority in Civil Right Movement Digital Work"

*Vienna American Embassy, February 2017*

Keynote: Fighting for an Education: School Desegregation Struggles from 1960s to the Present

*Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, October 2016*

Roundtable: Reimagining Black Power Studies

*Irish American Studies Association, National University of Ireland in Galway,*

Conference Paper: Black in India: Cross Pollination of Indian and African American Activism April, 2014

*Cleveland State University, Cleveland Civil Rights 50 Years Later*

Keynote: Bruce Klunder and the Cleveland Civil Rights Movement 50 Years Later, March 2014

*National Conference of Black Political Scientists,*

Conference Paper: "Politics of Sex in the Civil Rights Movement", March 2014

*Miami University Institute for Learning in Retirement,*

Conference Paper: "The Many Faces of Rabbi Hill: American Black Power in Guyana, April 2013

*Organization of American Historians,*

Conference Paper: "Black Power is Green Power: Black Power Protest and the formation of Hough Area Development Corporation, April 2012

*Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History,*

Conference Paper: Hough Area Development Corporation and the Business of Black Power, October 2011

*Centennial Civil Rights Conference at University of Southern Mississippi,*

Presentation: "Oral History Talk with John Frazier," October 2010

*"Reflections, Relevance and Continuity: Caribbean and Global Perspectives of Black Power," University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago*

Conference Paper: "Can the Real Rabbi David Hill Stand Up?: Cleveland Conman and Black Power Activist or Guyana's PNC Henchman," Sept 2010

*Business History Conference*

Conference Paper: "Black Power is Green Power," March 2010,

*Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History Conference*

Conference Paper: Hopelessly Separated: The NAACP and Black Nationalism, Sept. 2009

*Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History Conference,*

Panelist Chair: Finding Freedom Summer, Sept. 2009

*Weekend University, Miami University*

Workshop: "Cause You Never Asked Me': Oral History Interviews as Primary Source," June 2009.

*Penny Lecture Series, Miami University*

Lecture: "Negroes Will Not Be Pacifists: CORE and the Early Signs of Black Power," April 2009.

*Western Reserve Historical Society*

Keynote: "Where Do We Go From Here?: The Meaning of Martin Luther King after the Election of Barack Obama," January 2009

*OAH Midwest Regional Conference*

Conference Paper: "Negroes Will Not Be Pacifists: CORE and the Early Signs of Black Power," July 2006

*Homegoings, Crossings, and Passings: An Academic Conference at Cleveland State University*

Conference Paper: "To Die For the People: Prophecy and Death in the Rhetoric of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Fred Hampton" in 2005

*Cleveland Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Conference*

Workshop: "Cause You Never Asked Me': Oral History Interviews as Primary Source," November 2004

*American Journalism Historians Association*

Conference Paper: "Conflict of Duty: Race Over Temperance in the Call and Post Writings of CORE Activist

Juanita

Morrow, and Religious Activities Editor, Ellen Perry," October 2004

*Cleveland Museum of Art and Western Reserve Historical Society*

Keynote: "Re-imagining King, His Holiday, and the I Have a Dream Speech," January 2004

*Building Connections: Ohio's Conference on History, Preservation, & Revitalization*

Workshop: "Documenting the Underground Railroad," November 2003

*Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History Conference*

Panel Commentator: Black Women and Political Activism, September 2003

*Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History Conference,*

Conference Paper: "Voices from the Underground: Documenting Black Life and Civil Rights from the Ground Up" September 2003

*Martin Luther King Celebration at Bates College*

Keynote: "Pimping King, Prostituting X, the Commodification of Black History," January 2003

*Black Feminism 2000 Conference, Columbia University*

Conference Paper: "Standing Against Traitors to the Race: Birth Control Opposition in the Black Community 1920-

1940," April 2000

*Makin' Whoopi Conference at Bates College*

Conference Paper: "Maid or Mammy: Historical Memory in the films Clara's Heart, Long Walk Home, and

Corinna,

Corinna," March 2000

## Thesis

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### Undergraduate Honors

*Sam Purvis, current advisee*

*Alexandra Fair, "All Things to All People: The Influence of Black Power Ideology on Healthcare Activism of Planned Parenthood, 1966-1973," Miami University (2014-2015)*

*Brittany Molnar, "Woodstock and Occupy Wall Street: American Youth Culture and Politics," Miami University (2011-2012)*

*Adrienne Chudzinski, "Media and the Civil Rights Movement," Miami University (2010-2011)*

*Paul Struebing, "Missing the Forest for the Fields: 1968 Democratic Primaries in Indiana, Oregon and Nebraska," Miami University (2010-2011)*

*Anthony Phillips, "The Conflict Within: SNCC, Black Integrationists, and Black Nationalists," Bates College outside examiner (2010-2011)*

### Graduate Exams & Theses

*Bre Madsen, current Masters Advisee – Study on African American institutionalization of disabled as precursor to school-prison pipeline.*

*Stephen Richardson, current Masters Advisee- A study on the history of "the talk" and black parental response to white violence*

*Adam Bruno, "Getting History Right: Conservatism and the Power of the Past in the Long Culture Wars, (Spring 2019)*

*Alexandra Fair, "The People Who Need Us Read Between the Lines: The Faces of Eugenic Ideology in the Post-WWII United States," (Spring 2019)*

*Remy Willocks, "Masculinity on Every Channel: The Development and Demonstration of American Masculinity of the Postwar Period via 1960s Television," (Summer 2019)*

*Eric Rhodes, "Opening the Suburbs After Open Communities: The Dayton Plan and the Fair-Share Era of Fair Housing, 1968-1981," (Spring 2019)*

*Adrienne Chudzinski, "Sites of Struggle: Civil Rights and the Politics of Memorialization," Miami University (Spring 2011)*

*Katie Stankiewicz, "Uncensored: Women's Roles and the Dismantling of the Hays Codes," Miami University (Spring 2011)*

*Susan Williams, "The Politics of Place: Grant Park, 1968-2008" (Spring 2010)*

## Professional Affiliation

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COVID Black, (May-September 2020)  
 Oral History Association, Nominating Committee, (2019-Present)  
 National Board, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (2019)  
 Co-Chair Academic Committee, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (2018-2019)  
 Life Member, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (2003-Present)  
 Academic Conference Committee, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (2015-Present)  
 Member, Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations  
 Member, Association of African American Museums (2003-2005)  
 Member, Black Women's Political Action Committee - Cleveland (2003-2005)  
 Member, Society of American Archivists (2003-2005)  
 Board Member, Coordinating Council for Women in History (2006-2008)

## Professional Development

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### Grant Investigator/Consultant

*National Endowment for the Humanities, Consultant*

Martin Luther King, Jr. Virtual Project, North Carolina State University, <https://vmlk.chass.ncsu.edu/>  
(2018-2019)

*National Endowment for the Humanities, Grant Advisor*

Pathways to Freedom Digital Narrative - Brooklyn's Freedom Dreams (decision forthcoming)

*National Endowment for the Humanities, Consultant*

"Orientation to the Mississippi Summer Project: An Interactive Quest for Social Justice," Interactive storytelling digital project for Freedom Summer (2014)

*Ohio Humanities Council (2013), Consultant*

Documentary on Oxford, Ohio and Freedom Summer.

*National Endowment for the Humanities, Co-Principle Investigator*

Interpreting America's Historic Places Planning Grant (Summer 2008-Fall 2010)

### Education/Archival Consultant

*Consultant, College Board/AP Exam (Fall 2015-Present)*

Workshop trainer for high school educators. Prepare teachers for rigors of AP Exam and college environment to help facilitate student advancement.

*Workshop Leader, Poly Prep Country Day School (Summer 2014)*

Summer workshop presentation to teachers interested in new historiographical trends in civil rights and black power studies.

*Workshop Leader, Bryn Mawr School (Summer 2013)*

Summer workshop presentation to teachers interested in new historiographical trends in civil rights and black power studies.

*Consultant, SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) Legacy Group (Spring 2010-2011)*

Informal group of former SNCC activists collecting archival papers and attempting to facilitate the preservation and digital availability of documents related to SNCC's history.

*Consultant, CORE Freedom Riders Conference (Spring 2010)*

Submitted a proposal in celebration of the Freedom Riders 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Advisory Board Member, King Library & Archives Mellon Planning Grant (Spring 2010)*

Particular emphasis was placed on how to make the Martin Luther King Papers at Stanford, Morehouse, King Library and Archives, and Boston College available online.

*Consultant, High on the Hog: A Culinary Journal from Africa to America, Jessica Harris (Spring 2010)*

Reviewed Jessica Harris' manuscript on African American Culinary History. Currently reviewed in the *New York Times* Book Section reviewed in the *New York Times* Book Section.

*Consultant, SNCC Conference Committee (Fall 2009)*

In preparation of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SNCC formation, worked with SNCC activists to obtain funding for the three-day conference.

#### University Committees

University Diversity Strategic Planning Committee (Spring 2019)

Chair's Advisory Committee (Fall 2018-2019)

Graduate Studies Committee (Fall 2010-Present)

Miami University Digital Humanities Working Group (Fall 2012-2014)

Speaker's Committee, Department of History (Academic year 2009-2010, Fall 2011)

Freedom Summer Conference Committee (Summer 2009-Fall 2010)

Heanon Wilkins Fellowship Committee (Spring 2010)

Working Group, Asian-American Film Festival (Spring 2010)

Steering Committee Chair "Freedom Summer: Unity and Change, Then and Now"

#### International Education/Travel

*China*: 6-week Chinese language and cultural study program (Summer 2010)

*Guyana*: 1-week research visit

International Conferences:	Montreal, Canada	Trinidad/Tobago	Jyväskylä, Finland
	Galway, Ireland	Vienna, Austria	Oslo, Norway
	Paris, France		

<i>Other Travel Sites:</i>	Amsterdam	Copenhagen	Prague	Dresden
	Dakar	Venice	Madrid	Barcelona
	London	Paris	Norway (multiple sites)	
	Cork/Dublin	Ireland		