

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**RANDAL MAURICE JELKS, PH.D.**  
American Studies/  
African and African American Studies  
University of Kansas  
[rmjelks@ku.edu](mailto:rmjelks@ku.edu)  
[dr.jelks@gmail.com](mailto:dr.jelks@gmail.com)

Bailey Hall 213N, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd,  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
785.864.9476 (office)  
785.864.9476 (fax)  
616.822-2885 (mobile)

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### EDUCATION

BA, History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI April 1981  
M.Div., McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, June 1983  
Ph.D. History, Comparative Black History Program, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI December 1999  
*Dissertation:* Race, Respectability, and the Struggle for Civil Rights: A Study of the Afro-American Community of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1870-1954  
Dissertation Advisor: Darlene Clark Hine, Ph.D., John A. Hannah Professor of History

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### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Professor of American Studies and African and African American Studies, The University of Kansas, August 15, 2014-Present

Fulbright Distinguished Chair of American Studies, Masaryk University, Faculty of Social Studies, Sociology, January 23, 2015 to May 27, 2015

Visiting Guest Professor of American Studies, University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Bavaria, Germany July 2014

Associate Professor of American Studies and African and African American Studies, The University of Kansas August 15, 2008 – Present

Present American Studies, Director of Undergraduate Coordinator August 15, 2008-Present

Courtesy Appointments in History January 20, 2009-Present

2009 Courtesy Appointment in Religious Studies, February 10, 2009-Present

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Langston Hughes Visiting Professor of American Studies, The University of Kansas, January 17, 2008- May 15, 2008

Director of the Calvin College Abroad in Ghana Program, Calvin College August 1, 2007-December 15, 2012

Associate Professor of History/ Director of the African and African Diaspora Studies Minor, Calvin College July 1, 2004- June 30, 2006

Director of the Calvin College Semester Abroad in Ghana, Calvin College August 1, 2001-December 18, 2001

1999-2001, Associate Professor of History/ Director of Academic Multicultural Affairs, Calvin College

Calvin College, Assistant Professor of History/Director of Academic Multicultural Affairs, Calvin College July 1, 1996-June 30, 1999

Instructor in History/Director of Academic Multicultural Affairs, Calvin College August 1, 1992-June 30,

Adjunct Instructor, History and Sociology, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan August 1, 1991-December 15, 2012

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December 1983 – March 1990	Organizing Pastor, Lake Michigan Presbytery, Jubilee Congregation Presbyterian Church (USA), Grand Rapids, Michigan
September 1982 – 1983	Supply Minister, Pullman Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois
1980 – 1983	Coordinator Black Student Affairs, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois
September 1979 – June 1980	Researcher, Institute on the Church in Urban-Industrial Society, Chicago, Illinois

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### **Undergraduate Honors Thesis Director**

Zachary Essex Watson, *A Life Worth Living: Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen and the Acceptance of Catholicism in America, 1952-1957*, April 29, 2016 (KU History Department)

Earl H. Brooks, “John Coltrane, the Civil Rights Era, and Jazz Criticism of the 1950s and 1960s”, American Studies Honors Thesis, May 5, 2010 (KU American Studies Department)

Jennifer Hurst, “The Gray Space: An Examination of the Cultural Impacts of Race Laws on Black/White Biracial Identity in Literature,” McNair Scholars Program, July 5, 2010

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## **Graduate and Postgraduate Advising:**

### **PhD Committee Chair: Doctoral**

William Adams, (dissertation in progress)

*Daughters of Ida B. Wells Barnett: Chicago Black Women Activism, 1955-1987*

William Garcia, (Completed PhD Spring April 2022) co-chaired with Clarence Lang, Pennsylvania State University

*Making Black Public Humanities in South Florida: African Diaspora, Archives, and Public Histories*

Ivery Goldstein, (Dissertation in Progress)

*Americans with Disabilities: "Disability" as a Legal and Cultural Concept in American Studies*

Geoffrey Newman (Dissertation in Progress)

Shannon Spears, (Dissertation in Progress)

*Water Struggles: A Case Study in Solidarity in an African American and Native American Community*

Ariane Tulloch, (Completed PhD April 2022)

*Living in la Vida Negra: Being Afro-Latina in Miami: A Phenomenological Study*

Jenna Laura Lyons, *Preserve America: A Grounded Study of History, Heritage, and Tourism in Small Town* Co-chaired with Professor Jennifer Hamer, Pennsylvania State University (Ph.D. Defense May 11, 2021)

Rachel Schwaller, *The Economics of God: The Intersection of Christianity and Neoliberalism through the Lens of Scripture.* (Ph.D. Defense October 29, 2018)

Stephanie Krehbiel, *Let Us Be Broken Together: Discourses of Community and LGBTQ Mennonites.* (Ph.D. Defense passed with honors April 13, 2015)

Crystal Boson, *Digital Loa and Edible Faith: Hoodoo and the American Imagination* (Ph.D. Defense April 7, 2014)

Doretha Williams, Ph.D. Diss., American Studies *Kansas Grows the Best Wheat and the Best Race Women: Black Women's Club Movement in Kansas 1900-30* (defended Spring April 11, 2011, Co-chair)

### **Committee Chair: Masters**

Rachel Schwaller, M.A. American Studies "Ye Err, Not Snowing Scripture: Situating the American Bible in American Studies" (April 14, 2015)

Justine Greve, M.A. *American Studies "Jesus Didn't Tap: Masculinity, Theology, and Ideology in Christian Mixed Martial Arts,"* (March 7, 2013 Chair)

De'Von Lee, MA Thesis, African and African American Studies, "Belizean Racial Project: A Preliminary Exploration of a Racial Project" (Defended, August 29, 2012 Chair)

Elliott Reeder: April 10th 2012 MA, American Studies "Jero Takes Japan: Beyond the Habitus of Homogeneity" Chair

Qiang Zhao: May 14, 2012 MA, American Studies, "American Stories in China: Imagination, Academia, and Public Discourse" Chair

Tyler Branson, MA Thesis, American Studies "Steeped in Rhetoric, Digital Populism and the Tea Party Movement" (defended Spring 2011, April 19, 2011 Chair)

### **Other graduate committee service**

Phil Samuels, Ph.D. Diss., Department of Communications *Making Mandingo: Racial Archetypes, Pornography, and Black Male Subjectivity* Defended December 6, 2019

Ranya Ahmend, Department of Political Science, *Religion and Ideology as Determinants of Contentious Politics: Terrorism and Beyond* January 30, 2017

Kenton Ramsby, Ph.D. Diss., Department of English, *Mapping African American Short Stories, 1899- 2014* Defended with Honors April 14, 2015

Meagan Lease, Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination Committee, Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, February 25, 2014

Kenton Ramsby, Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination Committee, Department of English, October 25, 2013

Megan Williams, Ph.D. Diss. American Studies *Performing Lena: Race, Representation, and the Postwar Autobiographical Performances of Lena Horne* (Committee Member, defended April 2012)

Jo Zanice Bond de Perez, Ph.D. Diss. American Studies *Race, Place and Family: Narratives of the Civil Rights Movement in Brownsville, Tennessee and the Nation* (Defended, December 5, 2011 Committee Member)

Eric Washington, Ph.D. Diss., History, Michigan State University, "Heralding South Africa's Redemption: Evangelicalism and Ethiopianism in the Missionary Philosophy of the National Baptist Convention, 1880-1930." (Defended April 2010, Outside Committee Member)

Phia Salter, Ph.D. Diss., Social Psychology, Representations of Black History as Tools of Liberation and Oppression, (Defended September 2010, Committee Member)

Rebecca Barrett-Fox, Ph.D. American Studies dissertation "Pray Not for this People for their Good": Westboro Baptist, the Religious Right, and American Nationalism." (Committee Defended November 30, 2010 Committee Member)

Kojo Ruben Afagla Ph.D. Diss., American Studies "Reading Cook-Lynn: Anti-Imperialism, Colonial Resistance, and Native Empowerment." (Committee Member defended December 9, 2010)

Jeffrey Mack, Ph.D. Diss., English "Let the Exhorter Speak: Black Masculinity and the Slave Narrative" (defended Spring 2009 Outside Committee Member)

Sean Malone: April 10th 2012 MA, American Studies "Game Loving People as We Are": Harry Wright, Baseball, and Anglo-Saxonism" Committee Member

Ariane Tulloch, MA Thesis, Anthropology, "AFRO-MEXICANS: A SHORT STUDY ON IDENTITY" (defended Spring 2009, Committee Member)

## **RESEARCH RECORD**

### **Books**

*Letters to Martin: Meditations on Democracy in Black America* (Lawrence Hill Books, January 11, 2022)

Select Interviews:

PBS Books <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeJlb2-s-P8>

Schuler Books and Music Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Lansing, Michigan  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaPOtb1Bg28>

Busboys and Poets, Washington, DC <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9Gy2YIPUKg>

Seminary Coop Bookstore, Chicago <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQh1eMhHibw>

First Amendment Museum, Augusta, Maine

*Faith and Struggle in the Lives of Four African Americans: Ethel Waters, Mary Lou Williams, Eldridge Cleaver and Muhammad Ali* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2019)

### **Reviews**

Reading Religion Book Review A Publication of the American Academy of Religion  
<http://readingreligion.org/books/faith-and-struggle-lives-four-black-african-americans>

The Private Faith of Black Public Figures, from Ethel Waters to Muhammad Ali  
<https://religionandpolitics.org/2019/02/26/the-private-faith-of-black-public-figures-from-ethel-waters-to-muhammad-ali/>

Randal Jelks' book analyzes historic black figures <https://www.lansingcitypulse.com/stories/randal-jelks-quo-book-analyzes-historic-black-figures,116>

## Interviews

A Conversation with Dr. Randal Maurice Jelks <https://kristindumez.com/resources/a-conversation-with-rev-dr-randal-maurice-jelks/>

Author Explores African American Faith Stories <https://www.wbez.org/shows/worldview/author-explores-african-american-faith-stories/22533a60-4979-4560-afa1-1d28bd412629>

Black History, Religious Faith, And Political Struggle With Randal Jelks  
<https://www.wortfm.org/black-history-religious-faith-and-political-struggle-with-randal-jelks/>

Burning of Three Black Churches Serves As Reminder of Racism's Continuing Legacy <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/takeaway/segments/burning-three-black-churches-serves-reminder-racism>

In Conversation *Faith and Struggle* Randal Maurice Jelks with Tayari Jones (the Baton Foundation and the Auburn Avenue Research Library) <https://thebatonfoundation.org/events/faith-and-struggle/>

***Benjamin Elijah Mays, Schoolmaster of the Movement: A Biography* (University of North Carolina Press, 2012)**

2013 Black Caucus, American Library Association (BCALA) Award

2013 Lillian Smith Book Award

(Review Luther Spoehr, *History News Network* (hnn.us) May 26, 2012)

(Review Christopher Tucker *The North Carolina Historical Review* 89:4 October 2012, 452-453)

(Review Troy Jackson, *The Journal of American History* 99:4 March 2013, 1300)

(Review Anthony G. Reddie, *Internal Journal of Black Theology* 11:1 2013, 137-139)

(Review Lindsey Jones, *Journal of African American History* 101:1-2 Winter-Spring 2016, 194-196)

“Spiritual Leader” University of Chicago Magazine <https://mag.uchicago.edu/law-policy-society/spiritual-leader>

“Benjamin Mays’ Living Legend,” *Bates College Magazine* March 10, 2013 <https://www.bates.edu/news/2013/03/10/benjamin-mays-living-legacy/>

“Randal Jelks: Writing Benjamin Mays Back into History” *Faith and Leadership* Duke Divinity School <https://faithandleadership.com/randal-jelks-writing-benjamin-mays-back-history>

## Interviews

Listen to Interview About Legendary Morehouse President Dr. Benjamin Mays

<https://kazibookreview.wordpress.com/2012/06/05/listen-to-interview-about-legendary-morehouse-president-dr-benjamin-mays/>

MLK's Spiritual & Intellectual Father <https://www.kcur.org/post/mlks-spiritual-intellectual-father#stream/0>

Biography Focuses on the Intellectual Force Behind the Civil Rights

Movement <https://www.wabe.org/biography-focuses-intellectual-force-behind-civil-rights-movement/>

***African Americans in the Furniture City: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Grand Rapid* (University of Illinois Press March 2006)**

2006 State History Award, University and Commercial Press, Historical Society of Michigan

Smith, James Patterson. "Chronicling Grassroots African American Communities and Activists." *Journal of American Ethnic History* 26, no. 4 (2007): 88-92. Accessed April 6, 2021. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40543202>.

*The American Historical Review*, Volume 113, Issue 1, February 2008, Pages 223–224, <https://doi.org/10.1086/ahr.113.1.223>

*Journal of American History*, Volume 94, Issue 4, March 2008, Pages 1291–1292, <https://doi.org/10.2307/25095406>

*Journal of American Studies* 43 (2009) <https://doi.org/10.1017/S002187580999047>

*Michigan Historical Review*, vol. 32, no. 2, 2006, p. 141+. Gale Academic Onefile, Accessed 21 Nov. 2019.

Countryman, Matthew, J., "Black Urban Life Outside the Northern Ghetto: Review of Randal Maurice Jelks, *African-Americans in the Furniture City: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Grand Rapids*," H-Urban@hnet.msu.edu, November 2006

### **Book Chapters**

"A Methodist Life" in *42 Today: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy* edited by Michael G. Long, Foreword by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon New York University Press (February 2021)

[review in Publishers Weekly](#)

“Benjamin Elijah Mays” in *African American Lives* edited by Henry Louis Gates and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham (Oxford University Press, 2004), 572-573.

"I set out to learn how...the 66 Books of the Bible Were Produced": The Academic Formation of Benjamin E. Mays, 1917-1935 in *Walking Integrity: Benjamin Elijah Mays, Mentor to Generations* edited by Lawrence Edward Carter (Scholar University Press, 1995), 111-129

"The African-American Church," *Evangelisches Kirchenlexicon* (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans Publishing, 1995), 129-140

### **Journal Articles**

SPECIAL ISSUE: Zora's Legacy: Black Love as Critical and Creative Inquiry Guest Edited by Ayesha K. Hardison and Randal Maurice Jelks *The Langston Hughes Review* Vol. 26, No. 1, 2020

“Black Love After E. Franklin Frazier” Special Issue of *Women, Gender and Family of Colors* Guest Edited by Randal Maurice Jelks and Ayesha Hardison Volume 7 No.2 Fall 2019

"Masculinity, Religion, and Modernism: A Consideration of Benjamin Elijah Mays and Richard Wright." *Women, Gender, and Families of Color* 2, no. 1 (2014): 57-78.

“Up South and Down South Insurgents and Counterinsurgents in the Political Struggle to Define America: A Review Essay *American Studies* Fall/Winter 2009 Issue 50:3/4, 93-103.

“The Evolution of African Americans in Grand Rapids, Michigan”, *The Historical Society of Michigan Chronicle*” Vol. 28 No. 2 (Summer 2005), 16-20

“The Unmaking of Liberia: How a Grand Experiment Failed” A Review Essay *Books and Culture: A Christian Review* March/April 2005 Vol.11 No.2 , 38-40

“The Religious Dimension of the American Civil Rights Movement”: A Review Essay *Church History* 73:4 (December 2004), 828-843.

“Of Our Spirituals Strivings” Faith, Justice, and the Teaching of the Humanities; *Journal of the Institute for the Liberal Arts*, Vol. 2 2003, 1-5

“Benjamin Elijah Mays and the Creation of an Insurgent Negro Professional Clergy”, *The African Methodist Episcopal Church Review* 67:387 (July-December) 2002, 32-38.

“Slavery and Broken Souls: A Review Essay” *Books and Culture: A Christian Review* 7:6 (November/December 2001), 34-37

"Bolden v. Keith's Theater: Jim Crow Challenged," *Grand River Valley History*, Vol. 11, (Grand Rapids, Fall 1993), 10-15.

"The Character and Work of A Spiritual Workman Described: The Preaching of Lemuel Haynes and The Quest for Personal Freedom," *Fides et Historia: Journal of the Conference on Faith and History* XXVI:1, (Winter/Spring 1994), 126-33.



"Making Opportunity: The Struggle against Jim Crow in Grand Rapids, 1890-1927, *Michigan Historical Review* 19:2, (Fall 1993), 23-48.

## Essays, Reviews and Opinion Writings

### 2022

"How Misunderstanding Black Women Has Distorted Our Humanity" *The Common Reader: The Journal of the Essay*, July 12, 2022. Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri  
<https://commonreader.wustl.edu/c/how-misunderstanding-black-women-has-distorted-our-humanity/>

"King and Today's Global Democratic Struggle" *Politics & Religion* June 14, 2022  
<https://religionandpolitics.org/2022/06/14/king-and-todays-global-democratic-struggles/>

How to Tell Africa's History? <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/how-to-tell-africas-history/>

How Daily Meditation Can Lead to New Stories <https://www.writersdigest.com/be-inspired/how-daily-meditation-can-lead-to-new-stories>

Op-Ed: What did King, a Black clergyman, know about foreign policy? He knew plenty  
<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-01-17/martin-luther-king-democracy-foreign-policy>

### 2021

"The Struggle for Black Education: On Jarvis R. Givens's 'Fugitive Pedagogy.'" *Los Angeles Review of Books* December 28, 2021. <https://www.lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-struggle-for-black-education-on-jarvis-r-givenss-fugitive-pedagogy/>

"All Souls Rising" review essay *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019* edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha Blain *Los Angeles Review of Books*  
<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/all-souls-rising/>

### 2020

"Black Abolitionist Believed in Taking Up Arms" review essay *Force and Freedom: Black Abolitionists and the Politics of Violence* by Kellie Carter Jackson <http://bostonreview.net/race/randal-maurice-jelks-black-abolitionists-believed-taking-arms>

**2019**

Faith is the Root of Black Struggle <https://thenorthstar.com/author/dr-jelks>

THE COMPLEX AND HISTORICAL FAITH OF THE BLACK STRUGGLE  
<https://sojo.net/articles/complex-and-historical-faith-black-struggle>

At KU, Wilt Chamberlain helped change the world. Today's black athletes can't play ball  
<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/readers-opinion/guest-commentary/article236053983.html>

Haiti Is Not "in Crisis." Haitians Are Fighting for Governmental Accountability. (Cecile Accilien and Randal Maurice Jelks) <https://truthout.org/articles/haiti-is-not-in-crisis-haitians-are-fighting-for-governmental-accountability/>

2014 "Hey Religion Your Misogyny is Showing June 25, 2014

<http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2014/06/25/hey-religion-your-misogyny-is-showing/>

2013 "Remembering 'Letter from a Birmingham Jail,'" University of North Carolina Press Blog

<http://uncpressblog.com/2013/04/18/randal-maurice-jelks-remembering-letter-from-a-birmingham-jail/>

and History News Network April 28, <http://hnn.us/articles/remembering-letter-birmingham-jail>

2012 "What is the Black Church," Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race"

<http://religionandrace.org/what-is-the-black-church/>

2011 "The Civil War was not as altruistic as you may think," Grand Rapids Press April 12,

[http://www.mlive.com/opinion/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/04/guest\\_column\\_the\\_civil\\_war\\_was.html](http://www.mlive.com/opinion/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/04/guest_column_the_civil_war_was.html)

2010 "An Illiberal Education and Southern Politics," July 4, History News Network

<http://hnn.us/articles/128406.html>

2008 "Obama, Wright, and Trinity." *The Immanent Frame*. Social Science Research Council.

<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2008/05/19/obama-wright-and-trinity/>

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2001 "Slavery and Broken Souls: A Review Essay" *Books and Culture: A Christian Review*

1995 "Kings for a Day: The Million Man March in Perspective", *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, Vol. 10, No. 10,.

1993-94 Featured Essayist [The Grand Rapids Press](#), (Sunday Edition).

1992 "Waters of Babylon: To Be an African-American Presbyterian," *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, May.

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Review of *DEMOCRACY IN TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AMERICA: RACE, CLASS, RELIGION, AND REGION* by Ronald B. Neal, *The Journal of African American History* (2015) 100 (4): 800-802.

Review of *The Rise of Chicago's Black Metropolis* *Journal of American History* by Christopher Robert Reed, *The Journal of American History* (2012) 99 (3): 960-961.

Review of *Black Manhood and Community Building in North Carolina, 1900-1930* by Angela Hornsby-Gutting University Press of Florida, 2009, *The Journal of American History* 2009, 890-891

Review of *Hollywood Be Thy Name: African American Religion in American Film, 1929-1949* by Judith Weisenfeld, University of California Press, 2007 *American Studies Journal* 49:1/2, Spring-Summer 2009, 212-213

Review of *The Early Black History Movement, Carter G. Woodson, and Lorenzo Johnston Greene* by Pero Gaglo Dagbovie University of Illinois Press Urbana and Chicago 2007, *American Studies Journal*, 49:1/2, Spring-Summer 2009, 190.

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Review of *Uplifting the People: Three Centuries of Black Baptists in Alabama* By Wilson Fallin Jr. University of Alabama Press, 2007, *American Studies Journal* 48: 1 (October) 2008

Review of Colin Kidd, *The Forging of Races: Race and Scripture in the Protestant Atlantic World, 1600-2000* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006) in *The Journal of Southern Religion* (Volume X, 2007), <http://jsr.fsu.edu/volume10/jelks.htm>

“Memphis visit revealed breadth of King's work,” Review of Michael Honey, *Going Down the Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign* (W. W. Norton, 2007) *Grand Rapids Press* December 23, 2007

“Clarence Thomas tells story of deprivation, love, success,” Review of *My Grand father's Son: A Memoir* by Clarence Thomas, *Grand Rapids Press* I2, 11/25/07

“Despite separation, brothers share hope,” Review of *Brother, I'm Dying* by Edwidge Danticat, *Grand Rapids Press* I2, 11/18/07

"Review of Basil Davidson, *The African Genius*," H-Africa, H-Net Reviews, October, 2007. URL: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=94361200258666>.

“Poverty, racism marked Clarence Thomas' youth,” Review of *Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas* by Kevin Merida and Michael Fletcher, *Grand Rapids Press* J5, 8/19/07

Review of Will Coleman, *Tribal Talk: Black Theology, Hermeneutics, and African/American Ways of "Telling the Story"* in *Theology Today* 60:4 (January) 2004 566-567

Review of Jonathan Bass, *Blessed Are the Peacemakers: Martin Luther King Jr., Eight White Religious Leaders, and the "Letter from Birmingham Jail"*. Published by H-South (January 2004) <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=83321075790127>

Review of William H. Worger, Nancy L. Clark, and Edward A. Alpers, *Africa and the West: A Documentary History from the Slave Trade to Independence* published by H-Africa (July 2003)

<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~africa/reviews/>

Review of Jane Daily, *Before Jim Crow: The Politics of Race in Postemancipation Virginia* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000) in *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 103:3 (July) 2002, 278-281

Review Chad Berry. *Southern Migrants, Northern Exiles*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2000. Published by H-Net, H-South (August, 2001) <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/>

Review of Lamin Sanneh *Abolitionist Abroad: American Blacks and the Making of West Africa* H-Net Book Review for H-Net Review Africa (March 2001) [www2.h-net.msu.edu/~africa/reviews/](http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~africa/reviews/)

Pre-publication review for Longman Press forthcoming book, *African American Lives, American Stories* by Clayborne Carson, Emma Lapansky, and Gary Nash (January 2000)

Review of "Fire in the Bones: Reflections on African American Religious History and Song of Zion: The African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States and South Africa" *Christian Century Magazine*, October 16, 1996, 980-981.

Review, Making *Malcolm: The Myth & Meaning of Malcolm X* by Michael Eric Dyson, *The Christian Century Magazine*

Review, *A Feather on the Breath of God* by Sigrid Nunez, *Grand Rapids Press*, March 26, 1995.

Review, *Black Fire: An Autobiography of a Black Revolutionary* by Nelson Peery *The Grand Rapids Press*, February 28, 1995.

Review of *Race Matters* by Cornel West: *The Christian Century Magazine*, June 30-July 7, 1993.

"Review, *Freedom, Volume I: Freedom in the Making of Western Culture* by Orlando Patterson, *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, June 1992.

"Author Captures Drama of Blacks in American South," Review of *1959: A Novel* by Thulani Davis, *The Grand Rapids Press* August 16, 1992.

"Reciprocal Roles", Review of *Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or A Nightmare?* by James H. Cone, *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, February 1992.

Review, "Woodrow Wilson" by August Hecksher, *The Grand Rapids Press*, 26 January 1992.

Review, *Adam Clayton Powell: An American Dilemma* by Charles V. Hamilton. *Grand Rapids Press*, 29 December 1991.

Review, *The Content of Our Character* by Shelby Steele; *African-American Voices in the Academy* (Michigan State University Newsletter) vol. 1, No. 2, 1991.

## Scholarly Presentations

Organization of American Historians, "Howard Thurman, the Disinherited, and American Religion in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, April 18, 2021 <https://www.oah.org/meetings-events/oah21/view-meeting-session/3875>

### **Major Presentations**

"*The World is a Ghetto: Hip Hop From the Context of Chocolate Cities to the Politics of Global Blackness*," Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany June 1, 2015

"African Americans in a Global Context" Palacky University, Department of English and American Studies, Olomuc, Czech Republic April 27, 2015

"African Americans in a Global Context" University of Western Bohemia, Department of English and American Studies Plzen, Czech Republic (April 24, 2015)

"American Seeker Religiosity: An Examination of Eldridge's Cleaver's *Soul on Ice*, Black Radicalism and Black Emancipatory Faith Revisited," University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany, July 10, 2014

The Martin Luther King Jr. Series Lectures, Duke University Divinity School, April 1-2, 2014;  
"Benjamin Mays and Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Spiritual and Social Justice Imperative to Re-Think Everyday Violence;" "The Challenge and Discomfits of the Prophetic Life;" "The Forgotten People."

"The Social Gospel in Black and White: Benjamin Elijah Mays and the Redemption of America from Its Racist Past", W. David Baird Distinguished Lecture Series Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, October 16, 2013.

"Benjamin Elijah Mays, Historicist of the Black Church," University of Chicago Divinity School October 10, 2012

"Benjamin Elijah Mays, Freedom Struggles, and Modern Lessons from 1930s Black Churches," Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race Conference, "Black Church Activism and Contested Multiculturalism in Europe, North America, and Africa, Birbeck College, University of London May 29, 2012

"Writing Black Freedom Movements" Oxford Conference on the Book, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi March 22, 2012 <http://conferenceforthebook.tumblr.com/Speakers>

Mentors to Martin Luther King, Jr., Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia January 17, 2012 C-Span <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/303725-1>

### **"African American Migration to Grand Rapids and *the Arc of Justice*"**

Great Michigan Read Sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council and State Library of Michigan, Davenport University, January 12, 2012

### **"African American Migration to Grand Rapids and *the Arc of Justice*"**

Great Michigan Read Sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council and State Library of Michigan, Grand Rapids Public Library, October 18, 2011 <http://www.grpl.org/blog/?p=15116>

"Schoolmaster of the Movement: Benjamin Elijah Mays, A Mother's Faith, Modernity, and The Struggle For Civil Rights, University of Arkansas March 9, 2011 sponsored by Religious Studies & African

American Studies [http://cavern.uark.edu/rd\\_arsc/rlst/4624.php](http://cavern.uark.edu/rd_arsc/rlst/4624.php)

“Benjamin Elijah Mays Schoolmaster of *The Movement*: Liberal Arts Education, Vocation, and the Call of Democratic Social Engagement,” Swarthmore College sponsored by Black Studies and the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program February 5, 2009

“The Schoolmaster of the *Movement*: Benjamin Mays, Black Religion and The Black Freedom Struggle,” Yale University African American Studies, The Department of Religious Studies, and The Yale Divinity School February 3, 2009 Slifka Center <http://www.yale.edu/divinity/QSource/090201Q.htm>

“The Regeneration of Africa: The African Diaspora as Protestant Revivalist Community” Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil October 5-7 2005

Panel Chair/Commentator: Great Lakes History Conference: Session: Archival Riches: Doing Ethnic History in Grand Rapids Grand Rapids Public Library Unusual Collection October 29, 2005

“Afro-Michiganders before the Civil War” The Great Lakes History Conference October 30, 2004 Grand Valley State University Grand Rapids Michigan

Panel Chair: Southern Intellectual History Circle “American South through the Lens of Postcolonial Theory” College of Charleston February 26-28, 2004

Invited Participant “Lived Theology and Civil Courage Conference” University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. June 2003

Panel Chair: “Civil Rights Ministries: Cases from South Carolina” The Citadel Conference on the Civil Rights Movement in South Carolina Charleston, SC March 2003

Of Our Spirituals Strivings” Faith, Justice, and the Teaching of the Humanities; Institute for the Liberal Arts, Westmont College Santa Barbara California January 2003

“Teaching the Civil Rights Movement”, The Michigan Sociological Association, Ferris State University, Fall Conference November 1-2, 2002

The Missionary Enterprise: Sources for the Christian Missions in the Atlantic World, 1500-1800, A Workshop of The International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World Harvard University April 15-16, 2000

Africa: Roots of Conflict and Foundation for Peace: Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Nations October 14-17 1999

American Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism: An Historical Overview with George Marsden, Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History, University of Notre Dame June 1999\*

African American Artists and Writers in Europe, 1919-1939 Washington University, St. Louis, MO March 25-27 1999

"The Social Structure of Racial Caste in Nineteenth Century Grand Rapids, Michigan" The Association of Afro-American Life and History Meeting, Charleston, South Carolina, October 2-4, 1997

"I set out to learn how...the 66 Books of the Bible were Produced": The Academic Formation of an Afro-Baptist Liberal: Benjamin E. Mays, 1917-1935" Benjamin Elijah Mays Centennial Symposium, Lewiston, Maine October 28-20, 1994

"The Shape of Black Grand Rapids, 1910-1945: The Seeds of Ghettoization" The Dutch and Their Neighbors in Transition, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 8-9, 1993

"The Struggle Against Jim Crow In Grand Rapids, 1890-1927" The Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 1993

### **Fellowships**

2014 Distinguished American Studies Chair Fulbright American Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic (January –June 2015)

2006 Rockefeller Foundation Fellow National Humanities Center, Refereed Award 35,000 Research Park Triangle North Carolina September 1, 2006- June 1, 2007

2006 Visiting Scholar, National Endowment for the Humanities, Harvard University W. E. B. DuBois African and African American Research Institute Summer, Refereed Award 3,500 June 15 July 30, 2006

2006 United States Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Develop Africa and African Diaspora Studies Minor, Refereed Award 170,000 August 1, 2004- June 30,

2001 Louisville Institute Summer Research Fellowship "Benjamin Elijah Mays and the Creation of an Insurgent Negro Professional Clergy, 1930-1958" Refereed Award 8,000.00 May 15- August 1,

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### **Service Grants**

Project Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Media Makers Development in Conjunction with the Lawrence Arts Center *I, Too, Sing America: Langston Hughes Unfurled*, Award 50,000 dollars

Points of Light Foundation, Martin Luther King, Jr. Young Leaders Weekend, Award 5,000.00 October 2, 2004- June 30, 2005.

Ford Foundation Grant, Award 300,000, Pathways to Possibilities Program: an Urban Pre-College Program July 1, 1998- June 3, 2001

Calvin College Alumni Summer Stipend: Archival Research on Benjamin Mays and Black Religious Intellectuals June 1- August 1, 1998

Kellogg Foundation Grant, Award 7000, 000 for Pathways to Possibilities Program, an Urban Pre-College Program November 1 1995- June 30, 1998

## Interviews, Public Presentations, Documentary

- **Radiolab WNYC** The Vanishing of Harry Pace  
<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolab/projects/vanishing-harry-pace>
- Hidden History: The Struggle for Civil Rights and Beyond 1900s to present Health Struggles: Black Communities in the Struggle for Equitable Medical Care <https://youtu.be/nFDKilpzGas>
- Athletes & Activism: The Ali Legacy Sponsored the Negro League Baseball Museum  
<https://youtu.be/UmcHPsUH7Ik>
- The History of Grand Rapids in Black and Brown: A Conversation Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Public Museum February 22, 2021 <https://youtu.be/URbZUEVhIqc>
- Dr. Randal Maurice Jelks “With This Faith” Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum February 27, 2020  
<https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/dr-randal-jelks-with-this-faith>
- *Brushback: A Legacy of Black Baseball in West Michigan* WGVU35 Public Television Grand Rapids, Michigan July 2016 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Zwcv2JsToY>
- *Separate to Equal: The Creation of Truman Medical Centers* Interviewed August 2010  
<https://www.trumed.org/about-us/history/>
- *The Klan in Michigan* <https://www.theklaninmichigan.org/the-klan-in-michigan/the-film/>
- Coretta Scott King’s Legacy Midmorning Show with Kerri Miller, Minnesota Public Radio February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006  
<http://news.minnesota.publicradio.org/programs/midmorning/listings/mm20060130.shtml>
- Interview with Cheri Nebbe, Stateside, University of Michigan Public Radio April 8, 2004
- Interview with John Walters, University of Michigan Public Radio Ann Arbor, September 1995  
Topic: The Abolition of Jim Crow in Grand Rapids in response to the Michigan State Bar Association Twenty-Second Legal Milestone: Bolden v. Keith Theatre  
Aired: September 5, 1995 and December 14, 1995
- Interview with John Walters, University of Michigan Public Radio Ann Arbor, February 6, 1996  
Topic: "Fifty Years of Freedman's Progress: Black Grand Rapids in the Nineteenth Century"  
Aired February 7, 1996
- Interview with Phil Tower, WYCE Radio 88.1, Grand Rapids, Michigan



Topic: "Fifty Years of Freedman's Progress: Black Grand Rapids in the Nineteenth Century"  
Aired: February 11, 1996

- Interview with John Walters, University of Michigan Radio Ann Arbor, January 1997.  
Topic: "Racial Segregation in Michigan"
- Narrator of Video *Flashback: African American Trailblazers in Grand Rapids* produced by the Grand Rapids Historical Commission, the Grand Rapids Public Schools, and the Frey Foundation (released February 1997)

### **Honors and Awards for Research and Scholarship**

2013 Lillian Smith Book Award, Southern Regional Council, University of Georgia Libraries and Dekalb County Library/Georgia Center for the Book

2013 BCALA Literary Award, Black Caucus of the American Library Association

2013 Departmental Award, Department of African & African-American Studies University of Kansas for Scholarship

2006 State History Award, University and Commercial Press, Historical Society of Michigan for *African Americans in the Furniture City: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Grand Rapids*

The Michigan State Bar Association twenty-second Legal Milestone *Bolden v. Grand Rapids Operating Corporation* based on research from "Making Opportunity: The Grand Rapids African American Community Struggle Against Jim Crow" Ceremony and Dedication of Historical Marker, Grand Rapids Old Kent Bank Plaza. September 7, 1995

### **TEACHING AND MENTORING AWARDS**

2012 John C. Wright Graduate Mentoring Award, College of Liberal Arts and Science, University of Kansas

### **SERVICE AWARDS**

Calvin College Alumni Association Faith and Learning Award February 15, 2013

Grand Rapids Community College, Giants Award, Hattie Beverly Award Winner for Education, January 30, 2009

Calvin College Community Partnership Award May 15, 2004

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### **SERVICE RECORD**

Museum Studies Director/Full Professor, Member Search Committee Academic September 2011-2012

Spencer Museum of Art Academic Advisory Council April 2011 -Present

Committee on Undergraduate Studies and Advising, Co-Chaired Advising and Scholarship Subcommittee, 2010-2013

Langston Hughes Visiting Professor Committee, September 2008-Currently

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### **AMS DEPARTMENT**

2009-2012 AMS Undergraduate Coordinator

2009-Currently Personnel Committee

2009- Currently Co-Editor of *American Studies Journal*

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### **AAAS DEPARTMENT**

2012 Member of the KU Film Selection Committee, "Africa World Documentary Film Festival," Spencer Museum of Art, April 25-28,

2010 Making the Wright Connection: NEH Summer Workshop for High School Teachers, Faculty Presenter, University of Kansas, July 11-24,

2009 Kansas African Studies Center, "Teaching About Africa: Strategies and Methods," Faculty Presenter, June 9-19

2009 KU American Studies Hosted the Southern History Circle Meeting February 21-24,

Fall 2008 Difficult Conversation About Race Roundtable Discussion "Will Race Survive in the U.S.?: The Possibilities and Impossibilities of the Obama Phenomenon" Sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities

Fall 2008 "By the Coast of Elmina: Africans and African Americans and the Problem of Slavery," Kansas African Studies Center and the KU Langston Hughes Center

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### **Professional Service Outside the University**

2020-2023 Executive Council Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
Wesley Logan Prize, Organization of American Historians/Associations for the Study of African American History 2019-2022

John Hope Franklin Prize, American Studies Association 2016

Program Committee, Association for the Study of African American Life and Culture 2010-2011,

Southern Intellectual History Circle Program Committee 2009-Currently

Editorial advisory board, University of Georgia Press, "Politics and Culture in the Twentieth Century South," Jane Dailey and Bryant Simons, series editors, 2007-Currently

Co-editor and founder, *theblackbottom.com* <http://theblackbottom.com/>

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

African Studies Association

Association for African Studies Programs

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

Southern Historical Association

American Academy of Religion