

**FREDERICK KNIGHT**  
Department of History  
Howard University  
Frederick.Knight@howard.edu

## **EDUCATION**

Ph. D., History, University of California, Riverside, 2000  
M. A., History, University of California, Riverside, 1994  
B. A., *Summa Cum Laude*, History, Morehouse College, 1992

## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

### **Howard University**

Professor of History, 2024-Present  
Chair, Department of History, 2024-Present

### **Morehouse College**

Professor of History, 2023-2024  
Director, Institute for Research, Civic Engagement, and Policy, Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership, 2019-2022  
Director of General Education, 2016-2019  
Chair, History Department, 2011-2019  
Associate Professor of History, 2011-2023

### **Colorado State University**

Associate Professor, History Department, 2009-2011  
Assistant Professor, History Department, 2003- 2009

### **University of Memphis**

Assistant Professor, History Department, 1999-2003

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

*Black Elders: The Meaning of Age in American Slavery and Freedom* (University of Pennsylvania Press, February 2024)

*Working the Diaspora: The Impact of African Labor on the Anglo-American World, 1650-1850* (New York: New York University Press, 2010)

### **Work in Progress**

“Labor and Leisure,” *Cultural History of Old Age*, vol. 5, Corinne Field and David Troyansky, eds. (Under review, Bloomsbury Press)

“The Transformation of African Cultures and Spiritual Practices in the Americas,” *Cambridge History of the African Diaspora*, vol. 2, Aisha Finch, Rashauna Johnson, and Laurie Lambert, eds. (Under review, Cambridge University Press)

### **Refereed Articles and Book Chapters**

“Black Women, Eldership, and Communities of Care in the Nineteenth Century North,” *Early American Studies*, 17:4 (Fall 2019), 545-61.

“The Many Names for Jarena Lee: A Note on Historical Sources,” *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, 141:1 (January 2017), 59-68

“Sankofa: Slaves from the Gold Coast and the Evolution of Black Culture in North America,” *Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana*, New Series, 10 (2006-2007), 183-196

“In an Ocean of Blue: West African Indigo Workers in the Atlantic World to 1800,” in *Diasporic Africa: A Reader*, Michael Gomez, ed. (New York: New York University Press, 2006), 25-44

\*Translated and republished in *Diaspora Africana Nas Americas*, Isabel Cristina Ferreira Reis and Solange Pereira da Rocha, eds. (Belo Horizonte: Editora da UFRB, 2015)

“Labor in the Slave Community,” in *Blackwell Companion to African-American History*, Alton Hornsby, Jr., ed. (Oxford, England: Blackwell Press, 2005), 159-75

“Speakin’ Power: African and African-American Ideas of Work, Speech, Power and Transformation,” *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, 5:3 (2004)

“Justifiable Homicide, Police Brutality or Governmental Repression? The Los Angeles Police Shooting of Seven Members of the Nation of Islam,” Notes and Announcements, *Journal of Negro History*, 78:2 (Spring 1994), 182-96

\*Co-Winner of the 1993 Graduate Essay Contest, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History

\*Republished in *The Black Studies Reader*, Jacqueline Bobo, Cynthia Hudley, and Claudine Michel, eds. (New York: Routledge, 2004), pp. 139-52

### **Book Reviews**

Review of *African Americans & Africa: A New History* by Nemata Amelia Ibitayo Blyden, *Journal of American History* 107: 2 (September 2020), 438-39

Review of *The Voyage of the Slave Ship Hare: A Journey Into Captivity from Sierra Leone to South Carolina* by Sean M. Kelley, *Journal of American History*, 104: 1 (June 2017), 184-85

Review of *Slavery and Enlightenment in the British Atlantic, 1750-1807* by Justin Roberts, *Agricultural History*, 89:2 (Spring 2015), 331-32

Review of *Beyond Forty Acres and a Mule: African American Landowning Families Since Reconstruction* by Debra A. Reid and Evan P. Bennett, eds., *Agricultural History*, 87:4 (Fall 2013), 534-35

Review of *In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa's Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World* by Judith Carney and Richard Nicholas Rosomoff, *American Historical Review*, 116:4 (October 2011), 1064-66

Review of *Black Society in Spanish Florida* by Jane Landers, *Gulf South Historical Review*, 18:2 (Spring 2003), 111-13

"The Black Radical Tradition," Review Essay of *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition* and *Black Movements in America* by Cedric Robinson, *Patterns of Prejudice*, 26:2 (2002), 44-50

Review of *Black Rice: The African Origins of Rice Cultivation in the Americas* by Judith Carney, *UFAHAMU: A Journal of African Studies*, 29:2 (2001-2002), 161-63

Review of *Meatpackers: An Oral History of Black Packinghouse Workers and Their Struggle for Racial and Economic Equality* by Rick Halpern and Roger Horowitz, *The Oral History Review*, 28:1 (Winter/Spring 2001), 133-35

Review of *Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South* by Michael Gomez, *The Avery Review*, 3:1 (Spring 2000), 135-37

### **Other publications**

["How Black Grassroots Politics led to the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment," The Conversation, July 27, 2016](#)

["Voter ID laws: Why black Democrats' fight for the ballot in Mississippi still matters," The Conversation, August 22, 2016, 6](#)

["Georgia election fight shows that black voter suppression, a southern tradition, still flourishes," The Conversation, October 23, 2018](#)

### **SELECT PAPERS PRESENTED/ SEMINARS/ SYMPOSIA/ INVITED LECTURES**

Moderator, "Doing Diaspora: Migration and 'Haitian Diasporic Consciousness' in the United States, Haitian Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, October 7, 2023

Panelist, "Author Meets Engaged Reader: Roundtable on Michael L. Dickinson's *Almost Dead: Slavery and Social Rebirth in the Urban Black Atlantic, 1680-1807*," African American Intellectual History Society Annual Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina, March 10, 2023

Paper Presented, "Improvising Communities: African American Ethics of Care in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century," American Historical Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 6, 2023

Panelist, "The Life and Legacy of Sterling Stuckey," Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Williamsburg Virginia, November 6, 2019

Panelist, "Pedagogies of African(a) and Diaspora Studies in Predominately White Spaces," Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Williamsburg Virginia, November 7, 2019

Paper presented, "The Third Moment of the Sun: Black Generational Politics in Early America," Black Culture and Politics Here and Abroad: A Symposium in Memory of Sterling Stuckey, University of California, Riverside, April 25, 2019

Paper presented, "The Third Moment of the Sun: Black Elders and Generational Politics in Early America," 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Omohundro Institute Conference, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, June 17, 2018

Invited Lecture, "The Third Moment of the Sun: Black Elders and Generational Politics in Early America," The University of Minnesota, February 8, 2018

Participant, "Interrogating the French Empire: Exploring the Historical and Contemporary African Diasporic Engagement and Experience in France," UNCF/Mellon Seminar, Nantes, France, July 5-13, 2015

Moderator, "Race, Community, Slavery and Emancipation in the Caribbean: The Kimberly Hanger Memorial Session," Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 15, 2014

Respondent, "Writing/Creating from the Archive Panel," Callaloo Conference: Making Art, Authorship, and Critique, Emory University, October 17, 2014

Paper presented, "Black Elders in Early America," Library Company of Philadelphia, June 5, 2014

Paper presented, "Working the Diaspora: The Impact of African Labor on the Anglo-American World, 1650-1850," National Association of Labor Historians Annual Conference, Wayne State University, October 25, 2013

Paper presented, "W. E. B. Du Bois on Business and Economics," W. E. B. Du Bois Major Works Seminar, Clark Atlanta University, November 30, 2012

Moderator, "When Work Disappears Panel," African American and African Studies at Work in the World Conference, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia, April 8, 2011

Invited lecture, "Working the Diaspora: African Labor and Plantation Development in the Anglo-American Colonies," Africa~Diaspora Forum, New York University, November 19, 2008

Paper presented, "Africans Possessed: The Slave Trade from the Gold Coast and the Evolution of Black Culture in North America," Historical Society of Ghana, Accra, Ghana, August 2005

Paper presented, "Indigo Production in the Anglo-American Colonies," World History Workshop: Between the Local and the Global in the Pre-Modern World, University of California, San Diego, May 8, 2005

Paper presented, "In an Ocean of Blue: African Workers in the Atlantic World, 1650-1800," History Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, April 15, 2005

Paper presented, "The Forests Gave Way Before Them: African Workers on British North American and Caribbean Plantations, 1650-1800," Department of Black Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, February 24, 2005

Co-Facilitator, "Radical Historiography Working Group," Symposium on Cedric Robinson's Radical Thought: Towards Critical Social Theories and Practice, University of California, Santa Barbara, November 6, 2004

Paper presented, "Martin Delany, Slave Labor, and African-American Claims as Citizens," Africans, Culture, and Intellectuals in North America: P. Sterling Stuckey and the Folk. A Celebration of the Work and Legacy of P. Sterling Stuckey on the Occasion of His Retirement, University of California, Riverside, May 21, 2004

Paper presented, "Notions of Work, Speech, Power and Transformation in *Drums and Shadows*," African Literature Association Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, April 16, 2004

Paper presented, "Notions of Work, Speech, Power and Transformation in *Drums and Shadows*," Symposium on Enslavement and Colonialism in the Atlantic World, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, April 3, 2004

Paper presented, "Howard Thurman and the Dialectics of the Race Man Idea," The State of Black Studies: Methodology, Pedagogy and Research Conference, The Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean, City University of New York Graduate Center, February 7, 2003

Paper presented, "In an Ocean of Blue: The Uneven Legacies of Colonial South Carolina Indigo Plantations," Legacy of Slavery Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara, May 2, 2002

Paper presented, "Gender, Production and Reproduction on the Somerset Place (North Carolina) and Somerset Vale (Jamaica) Plantations, 1770-1840," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 14, 2002

Paper presented, "Gender, Production and Reproduction on the Somerset Place (North Carolina) and Somerset Vale (Jamaica) Plantations, 1770-1840," Carter G. Woodson Institute Colloquium, University of Virginia, April 3, 2002

Paper presented, "Clothing the Masses of a Ragged World: West African Cotton Workers in the English Americas, 1650-1830," Transatlantic Studies Conference: New Perspectives, Maastricht Centre for Trans-Atlantic Studies, Maastricht, Holland, October 14, 2000

Paper presented, "Raising the Royal Blue: West African Indigo Workers in the British Americas, 1650-1800," Crossing Boundaries Conference: The African Diaspora in the New Millennium, New York University, September 21, 2000

Paper presented, "The Africanization of the North American Slave Coast, 1750-1850," Center for Black Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, April 15, 1998

#### **OTHER SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY**

##### **Manuscript Reviews for:**

Cornell University Press

*Environment and History*

*Early American Studies*

*Journal of American History*

New York University Press

Yale University Press

Duke University Press

*William & Mary Quarterly*

## **Evaluator**

Peer reviewer, Applications for the National Endowment for the Humanities Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities, 2013

External reviewer, SUNY-Old Westbury Faculty Proposal for Black Studies Major, 2022

## **National Committees**

Selection Committee Member, Best Book in American History Prize (formerly known as the John H. Dunning Prize), American Historical Association, 2021-2023

National Advisory Board Member, Imagining America, 2021-present

Council Member, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, 2021-present

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Graduate Courses**

*Colorado State University:*

Readings in United States History to 1876

Research Seminar in United States History to 1876

*University of Memphis:*

Readings in African-American History

### **Undergraduate Courses**

*Morehouse College:*

History of African Americans to 1865

History of African Americans Since 1865

History of the African Diaspora to 1900

History of the Civil and Human Rights Movement

Honors in United States History

Honors in European and Non-Western History

United States History to 1876

World History: Topical Approach

*Colorado State University:*

African-American History Survey

Black Life in the Age of Jim Crow (Capstone Seminar)

Caribbean Civilizations

Civil Rights Movement

History of the African Diaspora (Capstone Seminar)

History of the United States to 1876

Slavery in the Americas  
Slavery and Power in North America (Capstone Seminar)

*University of Memphis:*  
African-American History Survey  
History of the United States to 1877  
Race, Slavery and Emancipation

### **FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

Virginia Museum of History and Culture Mellon Research Fellow, 2024-25

Huntington Library Short-Term Research Fellow, 2024-25

ACLS HBCU Faculty Research Grant, 2024-25

Visiting Professor, University of Shanghai, English-Language Summer Program, June 2015

Short-Term Fellowship, Program in African-American History, Library Company of Philadelphia, June 2014

P. Sterling Stuckey Post-Doctoral Fellowship and Lectureship in African-American History, History Department, University of California, Riverside, 2005

Post-Doctoral Research and Teaching Fellowship, Center for the Advanced Study of Race, Ethnicity and Society in Africa and the Atlantic World, Carter G. Woodson Institute, University of Virginia, 2001-2002

Research Fellowship, John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization, Brown University, Summer 2001

Dissertation Fellowship, Center for Black Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1997-1998

Eugene Cota Robles Distinguished Scholars Fellowship, University of California, 1992-1996

Lorenzo J. Greene Scholar, 1993 Graduate Essay Contest Winner, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History

Phi Beta Kappa, Delta of Georgia, Junior Year

Phi Alpha Theta