

Robert Trent Vinson

Lyon G. Tyler Department of History
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Academic Positions

2014-: Francis L. and Edwin L. Cummings Associate Professor, History and Africana Studies, The College of William and Mary

2011-14: University Associate Professor for Teaching Excellence, History and Africana Studies, The College of William and Mary

2010-11: Associate Professor of History, The College of William and Mary

2006-2010: Assistant Professor of History, The College of William and Mary

2002-06: Assistant Professor of History, Washington University in St. Louis

2002: Visiting Assistant Professor of History, University of Virginia

Administrative Positions

2017-: Conference Organizer, Tenth Biennial International Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, Williamsburg, Virginia Nov. 2019

2014, 2010: Program Director, Cape Town Summer Abroad Program, The College of William and Mary

2010-2013: Co-chair, The Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation, The College of William and Mary

Education

Ph.D. (with distinction): Howard University, 2001

M.A.: Howard University, 1995

B.A.: University of Nevada-Las Vegas, 1992

Publications

Books

The Americans Are Coming!: Dreams of African American Liberation in Segregationist South Africa (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2012)

Albert Luthuli (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2018)

In Progress

With Benedict Carton, Shaka's Progeny: Zulu Peoples and Imagery in Transnational American Popular Culture, Religion and Politics, 1820-2000 (scheduled for submission to Ohio University Press, May 2020)

With David Anthony and Robert Edgar, Crossing the Water: African Americans and South Africa, 1890-1965: A Documentary History (advance contract, Ohio University Press)

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

"Hidden in Plain Sight: Towards a History of Garveyite Women in South Africa and the Increased Visibility of Africa in Global Garveyism," in Ronald Stephens and Adam Ewing, eds. Global Garveyism: (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2019) (peer reviewed)

"Up From Slavery and Down with Apartheid!: African Americans and Black South Africans against the Global Color Line," *Special Issue, The Global South in the Black Atlantic*, Journal of American Studies 51, 2, May 2018) (peer reviewed)

"Albert Luthuli's Private Struggle: How an Icon of Peace Came to Accept Sabotage in South Africa," with Benedict Carton Journal of African History 58, 1, April 2018 (peer reviewed)

"Ethiopia Shall Stretch Forth From America to Africa: The Pan-African Journeys of Charles S. Morris," with Benedict Carton in Dorothy Hodgson and Judith Byfield eds. Global Africa (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2017) (peer reviewed)

"Garveyism, Abantu Batho and the Radicalisation of the African National Congress during the 1920s," in Peter Limb ed. The People's Paper: A Centenary History and Anthology of Abantu Batho (Johannesburg: University of Witwatersrand Press, 2012) (peer reviewed)

"Providential Design: American Negroes and Garveyism in South Africa" in Michal O. West, William and Martin and Fanon Che Wilkins, ed. From Touissant to Tupac:

New Directions in Diasporic African Studies (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009) 130-154. (peer reviewed)

“Zulus, African-Americans and the African Diaspora” with Robert R. Edgar, in Benedict Carton, John Laband and Jabulani Sithole ed. Zulu Identities: Being Zulu Past and Present (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009) 240-249. (peer reviewed)

“Zulus Abroad: Cultural Representations and Educational Experiences of the Zulu in America, 1879-1945,” with Robert Edgar, Journal of Southern African Studies 33, 1 (March 2007), 43-62. (peer reviewed)

“Sea Kaffirs: ‘American Negroes’ and the Gospel of Garveyism in Segregationist South Africa,” Journal of African History 47, 2 (July 2006), 281-303. (peer reviewed)

“Citizenship Over Race?: African Americans in American-South African Diplomacy, 1890-1925,” Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Comparative Studies 15 (April 2004), 13-32 (peer reviewed); updated and revised in the electronic journal World History Connected 1, 2, (January 2005).

“Poking Holes in the Sky: Professor James Thaele, American Negroes, and Modernity in 1920s Segregationist South Africa,” with Amanda D. Kemp, African Studies Review 44, 1, (April 2000) 141-159. (peer reviewed) To be reprinted in Tony Martin, ed. Global Garveyism (Dover: MA: The Majority Press, forthcoming)

“The Law As Lawbreaker: The Promotion and Encouragement of the Atlantic Slave Trade by the New York Judiciary System, 1857-1862,” Afro-Americans in New York Life and History 20, 2 (July 1996), 35-58.

Book Reviews

Keisha Blain, “The Pragmatism of Black Nationalist Women’s Global Politics” Journal of American Studies, (Spring/Summer 2019, Vol.5, No.1)

Andrew Barnes, “Christianity, Industrial Education and the Black Atlantic” Journal of Southern African Studies (May 2019, Vol. 45, No. 2)

Adam Ewing, “The Age of Garvey: How A Jamaican Activist Created a Mass Movement and Changed Global Politics” Black Scholar (Summer 2016, Vol. 46, No.2)

Carol Anderson, “Bourgeois Radicals: The NAACP and the Struggle for Colonial Liberation, 1941-1960” American Historical Review (January 2016 Vol. 121, Vol.1), 266-267.

Brenda Gayle Plummer, “In Search of Power: African Americans in the Era of Decolonization, 1956-1974” American Historical Review 119, 3 (June, 2014), 828-830.

Andrew Zimmerman, "Alabama in Africa: Booker T. Washington, the German Empire and the Globalization of the New South," Labor (2011)

Hakim Ali and Marika Sherwood, "Pan-African History: Political Figures from Africa and the Diaspora since 1787," H-South Africa Scholarly Discussion Network (2005). <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=10427>

Francis Njubi Nesbitt, "Race Against Sanctions: African Americans Against Apartheid, 1946-1994," Journal of American History 92, 2 (September 2005), 696-697.

James Meriwether, "Proudly We Can Be Africans: African Americans and Africa, 1935-61," International Journal of African Historical Studies 35, 2-3 (2002), 597-599.

Timothy J. Jukes, "Opposition in South Africa: The Political Leadership of Z.K. Matthews, Nelson Mandela and Steven Biko" The Negro History Bulletin, 60, 3, July-Sept. 1997, 21-22.

Select Conference Papers

African American Intellectual Historical Society

"Arthur Ashe, South Africa and Internal Debates in the Global Anti-Apartheid Movement," 2018

African Studies Association

"Garveyism as a Civil Religion in South Africa," 2001

"An African Empire": Professor James Thaele and Transatlantic Garveyism," 2003

"The Gospel of Garveyism: The prophetic religion of Garveyites in 1920s Segregationist South Africa," 2005

"Shaka's Progeny: Zulu Cultures and the Making of the Modern Atlantic World," 2011

"Albert Luthuli and the Politics of Liberation in Apartheid South Africa," 2014

"Female Garveyites in Segregationist South Africa," 2016

American Historical Association

"Models and Metaphors: African Americans and 20th Century South African Political Culture," 2004

"Banning the Black Peril: The South African ban of Jack Johnson's Boxing Films c.1910," 2006

"Representing Africa?: The Strange Career of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club," 2012

"From the Wilmington massacre to Bambatha's Rebellion: Charles Satchell Morris, Christianity and the Zulu regeneration of Africa c. 1900," 2014

American Studies Association

“Albert Luthuli, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Politics of Violence and Non-violence in Apartheid South Africa and Jim Crow America,” 2015

Association for the Study of the Worldwide Diaspora

“Beyond Race, Beyond Class: Towards a Gendered Analysis of Garveyism in Segregationist South Africa,” 2000

“A Siloam Pool: Liberationist Christianity amongst South African Garveyites,” 2003

“Garveyism in Global Perspective,” 2011

“We Are The Children of Shaka: Zulu Kings in 20th century African American nationalist movements,” 2013

“Albert Luthuli, Nelson Mandela and the Turn To Armed Struggle in Apartheid South Africa,” 2015

“Up From Slavery and Down with Apartheid: African Americans and Black South Africans Against the Global Color Line,” 2017

Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History

“Garveyism in South Africa,” 2006

“Zulus Abroad: Zulu-ness in 20th century American sport and culture,” 2008

“The Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club: Blacks in Blackface,” 2011

“Mandela before Mandela?” The Prophetic Politics of Chief Albert Luthuli,” 2013

Global Garveyism Conference

“The Strange Career of Dr. Wellington”: Indigenizing Global Garveyism in Segregationist South Africa,” April 2016

Northeastern Workshop on South Africa

“Hard back-boned Negroes”: The Black Atlantic, West Indians and the transmission of Garveyism into Cape Town’s black political culture, 1920-1930, 1999

“A Caribbean Diaspora in South Africa: West Indian Garveyites in Cape Town,” South Africa, 1910-1940, 2003

“From Comparative History to Transnational Studies: Charting A New Research Agenda,” 2005

“For Pleasure and Profit: The Zulu Cannibal Giants and the Negro Baseball Leagues,” 2010

“Albert Luthuli, Nelson Mandela and the Turn to Armed Struggle in Apartheid South Africa,” 2016

South African Historical Society

“Into the Looking Glass: Intertwined Histories of African Americans and the South African Zulu,” 2003

Southern Historical Association

“The Global Color Line: Garveyism in South Africa and the southern United States,” 2006

Southeastern Seminar on Southern African Studies

“Albert Luthuli, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Politics of Violence and Non-Violence in Apartheid South Africa and Jim Crow America,” 2015

Social Science Historical Association

“Albert Luthuli, Nelson Mandela and the Turn to Armed Struggle in Apartheid South Africa,” 2014

Transnational Christianities Workshop, Cambridge University

“Albert Luthuli’s Underground Struggle: How an Icon of Peace Accepted Violence in the ANC’s Turn to Armed Struggle,” 2016

University of Cape Town, South Africa

“Garveyism in South Africa: Implications for the Historiography of South African Nationalism,” 2000

University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies

“Marcus Garvey, the *Negro World*, and the Overlooked Religious Character of the UNIA,” March, 2013

University of the Western Cape, South Africa

“Re-conceptualizing Garveyism in South Africa,” 1998

Washington University in St. Louis

“Is this American History?: Global Dimensions of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club of New Orleans, 1908-1990,” 2002

“From Honorary Whites to Black Perils”: African Americans in South Africa and their implications for American Culture Studies,” 2004

Webster University

“Honorary Whites”: African American Exemptions from South African Racial Segregation c. 1890s, *Otherness: The Construction of Race*, 2003

The African Diaspora and South Africa: Directions for Future Study,” 2004

College of William and Mary

“The Tallest Tree in our Forest: Paul Robeson and the Long Civil Rights Movement”
Women’s/Black Studies Brownbag Seminar, 2010

Select Invited International and National Academic Lectures

Middlebury College, Vermont, April 2019

Lilliesleaf/Rivonia National Heritage Site, Johannesburg, South Africa, March 2019
 Cambridge University November 2018
 University of Pittsburgh March 2018
 College of Holy Cross October 2017
 University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, November 2016
 Duke University November 2016
 New York University November 2016
 Cambridge University September 2016
 George Mason University, November 2015
 Rutgers University, September 2015
 Brandeis University, February 2015
 University of Johannesburg, May 2015
 German Historical Institute, June 2015
 Colgate University, October 2014
 Virginia Commonwealth University, April 2014
 Michigan State University, March 2014
 St. Andrews University, Scotland, May 2013
 University of London, March 2013

Select Invited Public Lectures

Brookings Institution: 2007-present
 Virginia Executive Education Institute: 2009-present
 Virginia Department of Corrections: 2015-present
 National Institutes of Health: 2016-present
 The Young African Leaders Initiative, Presidential Precinct: 2016-present

Courses Taught

Africa

History of Africa before 1800
 History of Africa since 1800
 History of South Africa
 Modern History of South Africa (since 1870)
 Gender, Sexuality and Kinship in Africa
 The Rise and Fall of Apartheid

Transnational History

Introduction to Africana Studies
 History of the African Diaspora during the Atlantic Slave Trade Era
 History of the African Diaspora in the Age of Emancipation
 The Atlantic Slave Trade

History of Pan-Africanism

The Global Color Line: The U.S. Civil Rights Movement and the anti-Apartheid movement in South Africa

African Americans and Africa

Research Methods in Comparative and Transnational History (graduate course)

African American History

African American History before 1865

African American History since 1865

African American History in Global Context

The Long Civil Rights Movement

Service

Departmental Service: History

-Modern Europe Search Committee, 2004-05 (WUSTL)

-Modern Germany Search Committee, 2005-06 (WUSTL)

-African and African American Studies Post-doctoral Fellowship Committee, 2004-06 (WUSTL)

-Social Committee, 2007-2008, 2012-2014

-Africa Search Committee 2008-2009

-Africa Search Committee 2009-2010

-Graduate Committee, 2008-present)

-Department Affairs Committee, 2013-14

-Advisor, Myra Houser (comparative M.A. 2009); Benjamin Hurwitz (comparative M.A. 2009); Katherine Arnold, Senior Honors Thesis (Highest Honors 2009); Jonathan Shaw (comparative M.A. 2010), Blair Saunders, Senior Honors Thesis (Honors 2011); (Robin Crigler, 2014); Leigh Soares (M.A. thesis committee, 2012); Jennifer Mills (B.A. Honors Thesis committee, 2012); Mary Grech (B.A. Honors Thesis Committee, 2014); Bryan Casey (B.A. Honors Thesis Committee, 2014)

-Departmental Affairs Committee, 2012-2013

-Departmental Affairs Committee, 2015-2016

-Departmental Affairs Committee, 2018-2019

Program Service: Africana Studies

-Personnel Committee, Africana Studies Program 2013-

-Curriculum Committee, Africana Studies Program 2007-present (created new program)

-Advisory Board, Black Studies Program, 2007-present (leading role in merging African Studies and Black Studies)

-African Diaspora studies coordinator (2009-present)

-Personnel Committee (2013-2016)

Campus Service

- Center for the Humanities Advisory Board 2003-06 (WUSTL)
- Library Advisory Board 2003-2006 (WUSTL)
- Freshman Reading Program 2004-06 (WUSTL)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Lecture Committee 2004-2006 (WUSTL)
- Faculty Fellow for Robert Brookings College 2004-2006 (WUSTL)
- Diversity Committee 2008-2012
- Faculty Advisor, African American Male Coalition (including two campus-wide presentations)
- Faculty Advisor, AIDS Tanzania (including two campus-wide presentations on AIDS in Africa)
- Freshman Advisor, 2009-2010, 2013-2015, 2018-2019
- Steering Committee, The Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation, 2009-present
- Program Director, Cape Town Summer Abroad Service Learning Trip, Wendy O. Reves Center, July-August 2010, June-July 2014
- Search Committee, Dean of Arts and Sciences, College of William and Mary 2011-12
- Equal Opportunity Committee (2013-2015)
- Committee on Faculty Academic Awards and Prizes (2014-present)
- President's Committee on Diversity (2015-2016)
- President's Race and Race Relations Task Force (2015-2016)

Professional Service

- Board Member, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- Editorial Board, "African History and Cultures" series, Michigan State University Press
- Editorial Board, "African Diaspora" series, Michigan State University Press
- Editorial Board, *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies*
- Manuscript Reviewer for Harvard University Press, University of North Carolina Press, Michigan State University Press, Yale University Press and Routledge Press
- Manuscript Reviewer for the *American Historical Review*, *Safundi*, *Kronos*, the *South African Historical Journal*, *Compass*, *African Studies Quarterly*, the *Journal of West African History* and the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*
- Selection committee for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies, University of Virginia
- Selection committee for the National Endowment for the Humanities

Professional Memberships

African American Intellectual Historical Society
 American Historical Association
 Organization of American Historians
 African Studies Association
 South African Historical Society

Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
Association of Black Women Historians