

Leah M. Wright
lmwright@wesleyan.edu
Wesleyan University
Center for African American Studies
343 High Street
Middletown, CT 06459
Tel: 860.685.3573

EMPLOYMENT

Wesleyan University July 2009 – Present
Joint Appointment: History Department & Program in African American Studies

EDUCATION

Ph.D. History, Princeton University. August 2009
Dissertation: The Loneliness of the Black Conservative: Black Republicans and the Grand Old Party, 1964 – 1980

Committee: Kevin Kruse, Julian Zelizer, Eddie Glaude, Timothy Thurber (Virginia Commonwealth University)

M.A. History, Princeton University. October 2005
Fields: 20th Century U.S. History, African American History, South African History

B.A. History, cum laude, Dartmouth College. June 2003
Honors Thesis in History: Annelise Orleck and Craig Wilder (advisors)

PUBLICATIONS

Books in Progress

The Loneliness of the Black Conservative: Pragmatic Politics and the Pursuit of Power (manuscript).

Refereed Articles

“The Challenge of Change’: Edward Brooke, The Republican Party, and the Struggle for Redemption,” *Souls*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Winter/Spring 2011): 91-118.

“Conscience of a Black Conservative: The 1964 Election and the Rise of the National Negro Republican Assembly,” *Federal History*, (January 2009): 32-45.

Book Chapters in Edited Collections

“Making a ‘New Majority’: Black Republicans & The Nixon Administration,” *Painting Dixie Red: When, Where, Why, and How the South Became Republican*, Glenn Feldman, ed. (University of Florida Press, October 2011), pgs. 240-290.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Samuel Pierce, Jr.,” *Oxford African American Studies Center Online/African American National Biography*, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, eds. (Oxford University Press, October 2009): www.oxfordaasc.com, 750 words.

“Stanley S. Scott,” *Oxford African American Studies Center Online/African American National Biography*, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, eds. (Oxford University Press, October 2009): www.oxfordaasc.com, 750 words.

Review Essays in Progress

“Review of Alvin Tillery’s *Between Homeland and Motherland: Africa, U.S. Foreign Policy, and Black Leadership in America*,” Roundtable Discussion/Book Review, *H-Diplo* (January 2012).

Articles in Progress

“New Interpretations of Secondary Marginalization: Black Republicans & White Privilege” (with Tehama Lopez, Ohio University, Political Science).

“‘South Africa’s Newest Lobbyists’: Black Neo-Conservatives and Apartheid, 1979-1985.”

PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

“Desegregating Backlash: White Liberals and Black Citizens in the Making of Modern Conservatism.” Panel presentation accepted for the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 2012.

“Exploring Political Networks in the Post-Civil Rights Era.” Panel presentation accepted for the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago, Illinois, January 2012.

“‘The Time of the Black Elephant Has Come’: Black Republicans and Presidential Politics, 1976 – 1981.” History and Politics paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, Washington, September 2011.

“Black Presidential Appointees, Economic Rights, and Affirmative Action” Presentation for the Division II Social Sciences Faculty Luncheon Seminar, Wesleyan University, November 2010.

“Black Economic Civil Rights and the Nixon Administration.” History and Politics paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., September 2010.

“Examining the Alternatives: Reconsidering the Rise of the Republican Right.” Panel presentation for the Policy History Conference, Columbus, Ohio, June 2010.

“Africa on My Mind: Black Conservatives’ Perceptions and Politics for South Africa, 1979 – 1985.” Paper presented for Wesleyan University Workshop on Africa’s Global Past and Present: Rethinking Africa and the African Diaspora, Middletown, Connecticut, April 2010.

“Race and Modern Conservatism in the South.” Panel presentation for the Annual Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Louisville, Kentucky, November 2009.

“Richard Nixon and the Black Capitalism Initiative.” Paper presented for the Annual Meeting of the Business History Conference and European Business History Association, Milan, Italy, June 2009.

“Black Republican Pragmatic Politics in the 1960s.” Paper presented for the Annual American Political History Graduate Conference, Boston University, March 2009.

“Racial Ideology and Electoral Politics since the 1960s.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Birmingham, Alabama, October 2008.

“20th Century Black Republican Politics.” Paper presented at the Annual Theorizing Blackness Conference, City College of New York Graduate Center, April 2008.

“The Madness of Marcus Garvey’: Black Organizational Unity as a Reaction to the Garvey Movement.” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for African American History, Research, and Preservation, Seattle, Washington, February 2007.

INVITED LECTURES

“Journey from Student to Teacher.” Invited speaker for the 19th Annual Dwight L. Greene Symposium, Wesleyan University, November 2011.

“Conservative Soul Brothers? Ed Brooke, Arthur Fletcher, and the Black Republican Economic Civil Rights Agenda.” Invited lecture for the College of Social Studies Lunch Seminar, Wesleyan University, May 2011.

“Race and Political Strategy in Modern American History.” Invited paper presented for the Modern America Workshop, Princeton University, November 2008.

“Black Republicans and the 2008 Election.” Invited lecture at the Carl A. Fields Social Issues Roundtable, Princeton University, March 2008.

“The Black Community and the Republican Party: Diametrically Opposed?” Invited lecture presented at the Yale Black Solidarity Conference – NAACP Professor Speaker Series, Yale University, February 2008.

“Dilemmas in Blackness: Women, Gender, and Sexual Identity in the Black Power Movement.” Invited paper presented for the Women and Gender Research Colloquium, Princeton University, November 2005.

ORGANIZED LECTURES & CONFERENCES

Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Director, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/New York Public Library, “Excerpt from *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America*,” First Book Series Lecture, Center for African American Studies, Wesleyan University, November 2011.

Joshua Guild, Princeton University, “The Cultural Politics of Black Power in Brooklyn and London,” Guest Lecture, Center for African American Studies, Wesleyan University, February 2011.

“Celebrating Women’s Scholarship in the Academy.” Co-Chair of the Annual Graduate Women of Color Caucus Conference, Princeton University, May 2009.

MISC. SCHOLARSHIP

“Columbus Revealed.” Featured history expert for *Where We Live with John Dankosky*, WNPR Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network, Hartford, CT, October 2009: <http://www.cpb.org/program/where-we-live/episode/wwl-columbus-revealed>.

“Early and Often: Voting in America.” Featured call-in commentator for *BackStory with the American History Guys* Radio Program, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, October 2008.

RESEARCH GRANTS & AWARDS

Wesleyan Center for the Humanities, Faculty Fellowship	Spring 2012
Wesleyan University/Teagle Foundation Expository Writing Grant	Fall 2011
Wesleyan University Pedagogical Grant (African American Politics Database & Search Engine)	Fall 2011

Oberlin College Frederick B. Artz Research Fellowship	Summer 2011
Wesleyan University Lecture Committee/Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life Grant (Ted Shaw, NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc.)	Spring 2011
Woodrow Wilson Foundation /MMUF Dissertation Writing Fellowship	2008 – 2009
Social Science Research Council Doctoral Enhancement Grant	2008 – 2009
Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. Travel Grant, Business History Conference	Spring 2009
Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni Travel Grant	Summer 2009
Presidential Libraries/National Archives Research Grants from the Lyndon B. Johnson, George H.W. Bush, & Gerald Ford Libraries	2007 – 2008
Princeton University Graduate School/Center for African American Studies	2007 – 2008
Faculty-Graduate Seminar Research Grant	
Woodrow Wilson/MMUF Foundation Travel and Research Grant	2007 – 2008
Association of Black Princeton Alumni Graduate Service Award	Spring 2007
Princeton University Center for African American Studies Dissertation Grant	2006 – 2008
Princeton University Davis & Rollins Prizes in History	2003 – 2008
Princeton University Graduate School President's Fellowship and Research Prize	2006 – 2008
Social Science Research Council Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant	2006 – 2007
Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion, Religion and Public Life Seminar Research Grant	2006 – 2007
Social Science Research Council Pre-Doctoral Research Development Grant	2005 – 2007
Princeton University Institute for International and Regional Studies Grant (South Africa)	Summer 2004
Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanities & Social Sciences	2001 – 2003

COURSES

Wesleyan University

Lecture

Introduction to Modern African American History
 The 20th Century United States
 The Long Civil Rights Movement in 20th Century America

Seminar

Race, Rage, Riots, and Backlash: 20th Century Protest Movements
 The Long Civil Rights Movement – First Year Initiative
 Black Political Thought
 United States Political History Since 1945
 20th Century Black Conservatism

Senior Theses

Kevin Donohoe, “Arthur Schlesinger and the Politics of Cold War Liberalism”

Robin Tholin, “Cumulative Voting in Illinois: A Case Study of Minority Groups and Opinions”

Miriam Leshin, “The New Great Migration: Reinventing Race Relations in the New South?”

Maya Odum, “African-Americans in the Struggle Against Apartheid: Grassroots Organizing in Chicago, 1981-1994”

Senior Essays

Ines Farag, “From Rhapsodies to Empathies: Du Bois’ Constructions of Egypt Within the *The Crisis*”

Dean Karoliszyn, “The NBA’s Dark Period: Trends in Professional Basketball in the 1970s and 1980s”

Harrison Polans, “From the Ashes: The Post-Watergate Republican Resurgence”

Lucas Turner-Owens, “Historical Approaches to Addressing the ‘Black-White’ Achievement Gap”

Corinne Duffy, “‘Women in This House Are Not Monolithic’: Margaret Heckler and Republican Feminists in Congress, 1972-1980

Sofi Newmyer, “‘The Hollywood Ten’: History and Memory in the Cold War Era”

Misc. Pedagogical Training

Wesleyan University/Teagle Foundation Faculty Expository Writing Seminar (Fall 2011)

Princeton University

Lecture & Discussion

Black Power and Its Theology of Liberation, Teaching Assistant to Eddie Glaude Fall 2006

The United States since 1920, Teaching Assistant to Kevin Kruse Spring 2006

Undergraduate Advising

Princeton Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, Research Mentor Summer 2008

Students: Brittany Carter (University of Rochester); Felicia Moralez (Purdue University)

Princeton Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, Graduate Student Mentor Summer 2006

Princeton Writing Center, Graduate Fellow Fall 2006

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

General

Article reviewer, *Journal of Southern History* April 2010 – Present

Wesleyan University

Social Sciences Tenure-Track Representative, Academic Council/Faculty Executive Council 2010 – Present

Department of History, Honors Thesis Committee 2010 – Present

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF), Selection Committee 2010 – Present

Princeton University

Princeton Center for African American Studies, Graduate Initiatives Committee	2006 – 2009
Princeton University Program in American Studies, Graduate Student Affiliate	2007 – 2009
Princeton University, Office of Academic Affairs and Diversity, Diversity Fellow	2006 – 2009
Princeton University Graduate Women of Color Caucus, Co-Founder & Chair	2008 – 2009
Princeton University Black Graduate Caucus, President	2006-2007

Misc. Service

Miss Porter's School, National Board of Directors	2006 – 2010
---	-------------

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Historical Association
- Association for the Study of African American Life and History
- Organization of American Historians
- American Political Science Association