

BROOKE ALEXIS THOMAS

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111 Van Dyck Hall
16 Seminary Place
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

EDUCATION

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey **2017–Present**

Doctoral Candidate Department of History

Dissertation: “‘To Capture a Vision Fair:’ Black Sorority and the shift from Respectability Politics to Public Policy, 1935-1975”

Committee: Dr. Deborah Gray White (chair), Dr. Donna Murch, Dr. Rachel Devlin, Dr. Kali Nicole Gross

The University of South Alabama **August 2016**

Master of Arts in History

Thesis: “More Than Girls Selling Cookies: Black Girl Scouts in Response to Black Power, 1970-1977”

Thesis Committee: Dr. Donald DeVore (Chair), Dr. Martha Jane Brazzy, Dr. Kern Jackson

Spelman College **May 2013**

Bachelor of Arts in History with Honors

Concentrations: African American and European History

FELLOWSHIPS, ASSISTANTSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Fellowships

Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship *Rutgers Univ. School of Arts and Sciences, 2022-2023*

Excellence Fellowship, *Rutgers Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2017-2018, 2021-2022*

Rutgers-Newark Teacher Scholar Teaching Assistantship *Dept of History, Rutgers University-Newark, 2020-2021*

Melton McLaurin Graduate Research Fellowship *Department of History, University of South Alabama, 2015*

Mahan-Brandon Research Fellowship *Gender Studies Program, University of South Alabama, 2015*

Melton McLaurin Graduate Research Fellowship *Department of History, University of South Alabama, 2014*

Graduate Teaching Assistantship *Department of History, University of South Alabama, 2014–2016*

Leadership Alliance Summer Early Research Identification Program *The University of Chicago, Summer 2012*

UNCF/Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship *Spelman College 2011- 2013*

Grants

History Department Grant Award *Department of History, Rutgers University, 2022*

School of Graduate Studies Travel Grant *School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers University, 2021*

MMUF Travel and Research Grant *The Institute for Citizens & Scholars, June 2021*

Awards

Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award, *Department of History, Rutgers University, Fall 2019*

Robert E. Brunhouse Award for Outstanding Graduate Student *Department of History, Univ of South Alabama, 2016*

E. Lewis B Curtis Award for Outstanding Scholarship *University of South Alabama, 2015*

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Mentor, Bridge to Doctorate Educational Opportunity Fund Summer Institute **Summer 2022**

Division of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement Rutgers University

Instructor, “The Power of Place” and “Introductory Analysis: A Long Black Freedom Struggle” **Summer 2021**

W. E. B. DuBois Institute, Princeton University

Instructor, “African American History II, 1865–present”

Department of History, Rutgers University - Newark

Spring 2021

Graduate Mentor, Bridge to Doctorate Educational Opportunity Fund Summer Institute

Division of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement Rutgers University

Summer 2020

Teaching Assistant, “Culture of the 1960s” and “Famous Trials”

Department of History, Rutgers University

September 2018–May 2019

“Culture of the 1960s”

“Famous Trials”

Teaching Assistant, U.S. History to 1877 and U.S. History since 1877.

Department of History, University of South Alabama

August 2014–May 2016

PUBLICATIONS

Thomas, Brooke. “Mary McLeod Bethune Statue in the U.S. Capitol Is an Important Commemoration of Black Women’s Political Activism in the Federal Government.” *Mary McLeod Bethune Statue in the U.S. Capitol Is an Important Commemoration of Black Women’s Political Activism in the Federal Government* (blog), October 22, 2021. <http://abwh.org/2021/10/22/mary-mcleod-bethune-statue-in-the-u-s-capitol-is-an-important-commemoration-of-black-womens-political-activism-in-the-federal-government/>

Orozco Roberto, Carie Rael, and **Brooke Thomas** “‘We the People’: Student Activism at Rutgers and Livingston College, 1960–1985,” in *Scarlet and Black, Volume Three: Making Black Lives Matter at Rutgers, 1945–2020*, ed. Carey, Miya, Marisa J. Fuentes, and Deborah Gray White. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2021.

Rael, Carie and **Brooke Thomas** “Twenty-Twenty Vision: New Jersey and Rutgers on the Eve of Change,” in *Scarlet and Black, Volume Three: Making Black Lives Matter at Rutgers, 1945–2020*, ed. Carey, Miya, Marisa J. Fuentes, and Deborah Gray White. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2021.

Adams Beatrice, Roberto Orozco, and **Brooke Thomas** “A Second Founding: The Black and Puerto Rican Student Revolution at Rutgers–Camden and Rutgers–Newark” in *Scarlet and Black, Volume Three: Making Black Lives Matter at Rutgers, 1945–2020*, ed. Carey, Miya, Marisa J. Fuentes, and Deborah Gray White. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2021.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

(Roundtable) “New Directions in the study of the Black South” Association for Study of African American Life and History Annual Meeting, September 2022

“To Demonstrate a Practical Way of Doing the Job” The Mississippi Health Project and the New Deal 1935-1942” Association for Study of African American Life and History Annual Meeting, September 2022

“To Demonstrate a Practical Way of Doing the Job” The Mississippi Health Project and the New Deal 1935-1942 Black Atlantic Dissertation Working Group, Rutgers University, October 2021

(Invited Talk) “Livingston: A Governor, a College, and the Long Echoes of Slavery at Rutgers” January 18, 2022

“...Most of whom are professional women, mothers, housewives, and voters’: The Alpha Kappa Alpha National Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs, 1939–1948” Black Atlantic Dissertation Working Group, Rutgers University, November 2020

“To Make Black Girls Aware of Their Surroundings, Problems and Culture:” The 1970 Conference on Black Girl Scouting and Black Power, Brown University Graduate Conference, February 2019

“More than Girls Selling Cookies: Black Girl Scouts in Response to Black Power, 1970–1977,” Susman Graduate Conference, March 2018

“More than Girls Selling Cookies: Black Girl Scouts in Response to Black Power, 1970–1977,” University of South Alabama Spring Graduate Research Forum, April 2016

“More than a Social Butterfly: African American Women in Atlanta from 1950–1969,” Spelman College Research Day, April 2013

“Substance over Style: Reconsidering Chicago’s Black Elite, 1920–1960,” UNCF/Mellon Mays Southeastern Regional Conference, November 2012

“Substance over Style: Reconsidering Chicago’s Black Elite, 1920–1960,” Chicago Research Symposium, August 2012

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Scarlet and Black Project

January 2022- Present

Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice, Rutgers University- New Brunswick

Graduate Student Researcher for a textbook on the experiences of African Americans in New Jersey from the transatlantic slave trade to the present.

Scarlet and Black Project

June 2018–May 2020

Rutgers University- New Brunswick

Graduate Student Researcher for *Scarlet and Black, Volume Three: Making Black Lives Matter at Rutgers, 1945–2020* for Rutgers University Press.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Convenor, Black Atlantic Dissertation Working Group

August 2021- Present

Committee on Minority Student Affairs Graduate Education Committee Representative

August 2020 – May 2021

Warren Susman Conference Planning Committee, Rutgers University Department of History

2019

- Logistics chair for the 2019 Rutgers University History Department’s 41st Annual Susman Graduate Student Conference.

Graduate History Association Graduate Student Association Vice Representative

August 2018–May 2019

Interpreting American History Committee Member

August 2018–May 2019

- Chairperson, Interpreting American History Deborah Gray White Lecture

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CONSULTANT, HISTORY STUDIO

JUNE 2022

- *Research Consultant for History Studio with Dr. Erica Dunbar*

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

AUGUST 2021– MAY 2022

- *Graduate research assistant for Dr. Melissa Cooper, Rutgers University*

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

JANUARY 2014–AUGUST 2014

- *Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, The University of South Alabama*

AFFILIATIONS

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History

The Association of Black Women Historians

REFERENCES

Dr. Deborah Gray White (Academic Advisor)
Board of Governors Distinguished Professor of History
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
dgw@history.rutgers.edu

Dr. Donna Murch
Associate Professor of History
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
dmurch@history.rutgers.edu

Dr. Rachel Devlin
Professor of History
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
rachel.devlin@rutgers.edu