

DIANA IRENE WILLIAMS

Department of History, Wellesley College
Wellesley, MA 02481
617.765.4899

diana_williams@post.harvard.edu

<http://www.dianairenewilliams.com>

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Ph.D., History of American Civilization, 2007.

University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
M.A., History, 2001.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
M.A., English, 2000.

Harvard-Radcliffe College, Cambridge, MA
A.B., History, *magna cum laude*, 1995

DISSERTATION

“They Call It Marriage”: the Louisiana Interracial Family and the Making of American Legitimacy
Committee: Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Nancy Cott, Susan O’Donovan, and Werner Sollors,

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Legal History Fellow, Hurst Summer Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2007
Raoul Berger Fellowship in Legal History, Harvard Law School	2006
Finalist (top five), Louis Pelzer Award Competition, <i>Journal of American History</i>	2005
Harvard Law School, Mark DeWolfe Howe Fund in Civil Rights, Writing Grant	2003
Boston Athenaeum, Mary Catherine Mooney Research Fellowship	2003
Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Summer Writing Grant	2003
Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Mellon Minority Research Grant	2003
Ford Foundation Minority Dissertation Fellowship	2002
Council On Library and Information Resources, Mellon Fellowship (declined)	2002
Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Mellon Minority Dissertation Fellowship (declined)	2002
Littleton-Griswold Research Grant in Legal history, American Historical Association	2002
Mellon Summer Seminar in Gender Studies, Radcliffe Institute	2002
New York Historical Society, Research Grant	2002
Cushwa Ctr. for the Study of American Catholicism, Notre Dame U., Research Grant	2001
Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Research Grant	2001
Philip Hofer Prize in Book Collecting, Harvard University	2001
Graduate Prize Fellowship, Harvard University	1997
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship.	1997
Andrew W. Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship	1994

EMPLOYMENT

History Department, Wellesley College

Assistant Professor beginning fall 2008

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow 2007-8

Teaching areas include nineteenth century U.S. history, women's history, and race.

Committee on Degrees in History and Literature, Harvard University

Tutor, 1999-2006.

Developed syllabi for and taught interdisciplinary junior tutorials; directed senior honors theses.

Committee on Degrees in Folklore and Mythology, Harvard University

Thesis Advisor, 2004-5.

Directed undergraduate thesis on Strom Thurmond in local and national mythology.

Departments of Afro-American Studies and History, Harvard University

Teaching Assistant, *The Age of Jim Crow* (Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham), 2002.

Teaching Assistant, *African American Women's History* (Professor Higginbotham), 2000.

Departments of History and Women's Studies, Harvard University

Teaching Assistant, *American Women and Gender, 1890-present* (Professor Ruth Feldstein), 2001.

Department of Afro-American Studies, Harvard University

Coordinator, A.B. Honors Thesis Workshop, 1998-2000.

Held monthly meetings for senior thesis writers; led exercises to combat writer's block.

Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA

Instructor, July 1998-99

Led discussions and provided feedback on writing to prepare underrepresented students for grad. school.

History Department, University of California at Berkeley

Teaching Assistant, *U.S. History to the Civil War* (Professor Jon Gjerde), 1996.

Grader, *African-American History since the Civil War* (Professor Leon Litwack), 1996.

PUBLICATIONS

Entries on Louis A. Martinet, Charles S. Sauvinet, Blanc François Joubert, and Louise de Mortié in *African American National Biography*, forthcoming, Oxford University Press.

"Building the New Race: Jean Toomer's Eugenic Aesthetic." In *Jean Toomer and the Harlem Renaissance*, edited by Geneviève Fabre and Michael Feith, 188-201. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2000.

Review of *Revolution, Romanticism, and the Afro-Creole Protest Tradition, 1718-1868*, by Caryn Cossé Bell, *Journal of American Studies of Turkey* 7 (Spring 1998): 91-3.

"Interracialism and the Plessy Case." *The Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Journal* (1995): 10-20; synopsis of undergraduate honors thesis, "New Orleans in the Age of Plessy v. Ferguson: Interracial Unions and the Politics of Caste," advised by John McGreevy.

PRESENTATIONS

“*Plaçage*, Travel Narratives, and the Law of Cohabitation in Antebellum New Orleans.” Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Minneapolis, June 2008.

“‘Captured by a Army of Octoroons’: Interracial Louisiana and the Civil War.” American Historical Association Conference, Washington, D.C., January 2008.

“‘Some might look white and be colored, and some may be dark and might be white:’ State Colorblindness and the Plessy Paradox.” Latina and Latino Critical Theory (LatCrit) Conference, October 2007.

Roundtable on “Variations on a Theme: Miscegenation in a Comparative Perspective,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, July 2007.

“‘Religion Law’ vs. Civil Law: Interracial Marriage and Jurisdictional Conflicts in Pre-Civil War Louisiana.” Legal History Colloquium, Harvard Law School, December 2006.

“‘Would You Refuse to Recognize the Duties that the Marriage Laws Impose Upon Us?’ Interracial Marriage, Lay Trusteeism, and Canon Law in 1840s Louisiana.” North American Religions Colloquium, Harvard Divinity School, November 2006.

“‘A Marriage of Conscience’: Interracial Marriage in Antebellum Louisiana.” Invited Presentation, the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, Notre Dame University, October 2006.

“The Myth of Racial Democracy in Creole Louisiana: Case Studies from the Nineteenth Century.” Conference on Race and Democracy: New Challenges in the Americas, sponsored by the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies and the Latin American Center, University of California, Los Angeles, April 2006.

“Family Drama: Race and the Political Economy of Inheritance in Antebellum Louisiana.” Political Economy Workshop/Charles Warren Center occasional paper series. Harvard University, March 2006.

“Before *Plessy*: Racial Determination in Louisiana Civil Rights Cases.” Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2005.

“Quadroon Balls and the Sexual Contract,” Invited Presentation, Gendered Resistance Conference, Miami University of Ohio, October 2005.

“How the Tragic Octoroon Became Ethnic.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, October 2004.

“‘The Code Has Now No Color.’” Association for the Study of African-American Life and History Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, November 2004

“Plessy’s Antecedents: The Octoroon and Louisiana Civil Rights Law, 1866-1896.” Panel organizer and panelist “Whiteness, Blackness, and Interracialism,” Organization of American Historians, Boston, Spring 2004.

“Putting *Plaçage* in Its Place: Towards a Demythification of a Louisiana ‘Institution,’” Invited Plenary Address, Ford Fellows Conference, San Juan, PR, October 2003.

“Marriage and the Crisis of Legitimacy in Reconstruction Louisiana.” Panel organizer and panelist, “The Race for the Altar: Regulating Sex and Marriage 1830-1930,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, January 2003.

“Acts of Legitimation: Making Private Marriages Public in Reconstruction Louisiana.” Conference of Ford Fellows, Albuquerque, NM, October 2002.

“They Call it Marriage: Interracial Families in Louisiana and the Gendered Nexus of Race and Rights.” Panel on “Mistresses and *Ménagères*: Ordering Gender and Race in 19th C. Louisiana, Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Storrs, CT, June 2002. Also panel organizer.

“Interracial Families and the Regulation of Marriage in Louisiana, 1862-1877.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., October 2001.

“A Moot Wife? Interracial Families and the Regulation of Marriage in Louisiana.” Departmental Colloquium, History of American Civilization, Harvard University, 2001.

Discussant, “A Conversation with John Hope Franklin.” Plenary Session, Social Science Research Council/Mellon Minority Fellows Conference, Rice University, June 2001.

“‘They Call it Marriage’: Interracial Families in 19th Century Louisiana.” Future of African-American Studies Conference, Harvard University, 2000.

“Jim Crow and *La Race Créole*.” Social Science Research Council/Mellon Minority Fellows Conference, Hampton University, VA, 1997.

“Creoles of Color: A Case of Mixed-Race History?” Guest lecture at UC-Berkeley for Ethnic Studies course, “People of Mixed Racial Descent,” Feb. 1997.

SERVICE AND RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Harvard College, Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Cambridge, MA
Graduate Student Coordinator, 1997-2002.

Editor, Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship Journal, 1999, 2000.

Advised and mentored prospective minority Ph.D’s; assisted with graduate school applications.

Harvard College, Latinas Unidas, Cambridge, MA
Faculty Advisor, 2000-2002.

Assisted with grant applications for undergraduate group for Latina women.

Harvard College, Pforzheimer House, Cambridge, MA
Resident Tutor, 2000-2002.

Provided academic and non-academic advising to undergraduate students; organized film series on race and race relations; ran events for senior thesis writers; edited the house facebook.

Mason Tillman Associates, Oakland, CA
Summer Intern, 1997.

Authored history chapter and collected data, including oral histories, on minority-owned businesses in Nashville, TN for disparity study.