

January 2016

ALLYSON VANESSA HOBBS

Department of History, Stanford University
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CURRENT POSITION

Stanford University, Assistant Professor, Department of History, September 2008 - present

Affiliated with:

African and African American Studies (Advisory Committee Member)
American Studies (Committee-in-Charge Member)
Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (Core Affiliated Faculty)
Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (Researcher)
Michelle R. Clayman Institute for Gender Research (Faculty Affiliate)
Ethics in Society (Faculty Affiliate)
Feminist Studies (Program Committee)
Masters in Liberal Arts Program (Faculty Advisor)
Urban Studies (Faculty Affiliate)

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Ph.D., History, March 2009, with distinction

Dissertation: "When Black Becomes White: The Problem of Racial Passing in American Life"

Committee: Professors Thomas Holt (Chair; History, University of Chicago), George Chauncey (History, Yale), Jacqueline Stewart (Cinema and Media Studies, University of Chicago)

Harvard University, A.B., Social Studies, June 1997, magna cum laude

Received magna cum laude distinction on senior honors thesis on the Highlander Folk School and its involvement in the civil rights movement
(Thesis advisor: Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham)

PUBLICATIONS

A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, October 2014).

Book Prizes from the Organization of American Historians

- Frederick Jackson Turner Award for Best First Book in American History
- Lawrence Levine Award for Best Book in American Cultural History

Public Recognition

- A *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice, November 2014
- Listed as recommended reading on racial boundaries by the *New York Times*, June 16, 2015
- A *San Francisco Chronicle* "Best Book of 2014"
- A *Root* "Best 15 Nonfiction Books by Black Authors in 2014"
- A "Book of the Week" by the *Times Education*, October 30, 2014
- Reviewed by *The New York Times Book Review*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Times Higher Education*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Library Journal*
- Featured on "All Things Considered" (NPR), BBC World Service, C-SPAN's Book TV, TV News One with Roland Martin, The Tavis Smiley Show (PRI), "Crosscurrents" (KALW/NPR), The Joe Madison Show (Sirius XM), The Mixed Experience, Genealogy Live Talk Radio with Bernice Bennett, The Moncrieff Show (Newstalk Radio, Ireland)
- Interviewed by the *Christian Science Monitor*
- Named a "Summer Read" by *The Voice*, Britain's most influential black newspaper
- Ranked #2 on *Library Journal's* U.S. History Best Sellers List from September 2014 to May 2015

"A History of Loss," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 9, 2015.

"Conclusion: A Paradigm Shift in Fits and Starts." Christ, Birte and Greta Olson, eds. *Obama and the Paradigm Shift: The Measure of Change*. (Heidelberg: Winter, 2012).

Review of Mary Niall Mitchell, *Raising Freedom's Child: Black Children and Visions of the Future After Slavery*, *Journal of American Ethnic History* (Winter 2012).

"Passing." Edwards, Erica, Roderick Ferguson, and Jeffrey Ogbar, eds. *Keywords for African American Studies* (New York: New York University Press, forthcoming).

"The Chosen Exile of Racial Passing." Godfrey, Mollie and Vershawn Young, eds. *Passing While "Post-Racial": Performance and Identity Production in Neo-Passing Narratives* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, forthcoming 2016).

"Racial Passing." *Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies* (New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Far From Sanctuary: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights (second book project; under contract with Harvard University Press; expected delivery date, fall 2018; expected publication date, fall 2019)

“‘Too White A Skin’: Sketches of the Life of Josephine Willson Bruce,” article in progress, solicited for publication by *The Journal of Southern History*

INVITED BOOK TALKS

Stanford Sierra Camp, Lake Tahoe, NV, May 27-29, 2016
Williams College, Williamstown, MA, April 11, 2016
Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, April 2016
Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA, April 11, 2016
Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, March 25, 2016
Kepler’s Books, Menlo Park, CA, March 15, 2016
The Harriet Beecher Stowe House, February 27, 2016
Miami University, Cincinnati, OH, February 25, 2016
Emory University, Atlanta, GA, February 15, 2016
National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN, December 2015
Miami International Book Fair, November 20-21, 2015
Chicago Humanities Festival, October 25, 2016
Texas Book Festival, Austin, TX, October 17-18, 2015
Rice University, Houston, TX, October 15, 2015
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, September 17, 2015
Menlo College Speakers Series, Menlo Park, CA, Fall 2015
National Archives, Washington, DC, February 27, 2015 (recorded for Book TV on C-SPAN)
Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA, February 7, 2015
The Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA, December 6, 2014
African and African American Studies & Center for Comparative Studies of Race and Ethnicity,
Stanford University, Stanford, CA, October 2, 2014
Festival of Books, Morristown, NJ, September 27, 2014

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

I am a contributing writer to *The New Yorker.com*.

“The Lorraine Motel and Martin Luther King,” *The New Yorker.com*, January 18, 2016,
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-lorraine-motel-and-martin-luther-king?intcid=mod-latest?reload>

“Auld Lang Syne and Four Generations of My Family,” *The New Yorker.com*, December 28, 2015,
<http://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/auld-lang-syne-and-four-generations-of-my-family>

- “One Hundred Years Later, *The Birth of a Nation* Still Hasn’t Gone Away,” *The New Yorker.com*, December 13, 2015
<http://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/hundred-years-later-birth-nation-hasnt-gone-away>
- “Why Aren’t We Inspired by Hillary Clinton?” *The New Yorker.com*, September 23, 2015
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/why-arent-we-inspired-by-hillary-clinton>
#1 Most Popular article for three days; remained in the top 20 most popular articles for over a week
- “Actually, Hillary, Hearts Do Change,” *The New Yorker.com*, August 27, 2015
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/actually-hillary-hearts-do-change>
- “Barack Obama’s Second Inaugural in Charleston,” *The New Yorker.com*, June 29, 2015
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/barack-obamas-second-inaugural-in-charleston>
- “Rachel Dolezal’s Unintended Gift to America,” *The New York Times*, June 17, 2015
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/17/opinion/rachel-dolezals-unintended-gift-to-america.html?_r=0
- “Why We Can’t Look Away from Violence Against African Americans,” *History News Network*, June 11, 2015
<http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/159653>
- “Pay Tribute to the Black Women Who Spoke Out About Sexual Violence,” *New York Times*, “Room for Debate,” May 26, 2015
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/05/26/how-should-americans-remember-reconstruction/pay-tribute-to-the-black-women-who-spoke-out-about-the-sexual-violence>
- “The ‘White’ Student Who Integrated Ole Miss,” *cnn.com*, February 5, 2014
http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/05/living/black-white-ole-miss-integration/index.html?hpt=li_c2
- Quoted in Linton Weeks, “The Future of American History,” *npr.com*, July 29, 2015
<http://www.npr.org/sections/npr-history-dept/2015/07/29/421624129/the-future-of-american-history>
- Quoted in Peter Morris and Stefan Fatsis, “Baseball’s Secret Pioneer,” *slate.com*, February 4, 2014
http://www.slate.com/articles/sports/sports_nut/2014/02/william_edward_white_baseball_s_first_black_player_lived_his_life_as_a_white.single.html
- Quoted in Felicia Lee, “In a Novelist’s World, You Choose Your Race,” *New York Times*, August 11, 2014
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/12/books/jess-rows-your-face-in-mine-explores-racial-reassignment.html?_r=0
- “Bicycling” and “Public Broadcasting” in *The Encyclopedia of Chicago History* (2004)

INVITED LECTURES

- “The Future of the American Past,” National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC, May 19-21, 2016
- “What Matters to Me and Why,” Stanford University, February 17, 2016
- “Being a Public Intellectual,” National Center for Development and Faculty Diversity Series, Virtual Conference, November 12, 2015
- “Racial Passing and Whiteness,” Conference on Nordic Whiteness, National Library of Norway, Oslo, Norway, November 11, 2015
- “Far From Sanctuary: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights,” American Political History Workshop, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, October 29, 2015
- “The Chosen Exile of Racial Passing,” Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL, October 25, 2015
- “Great Teaching Showcase,” Stanford University, October 2, 2015, the inaugural event in the “Year of Learning,” a year-long series of events and initiatives for the Stanford community to engage faculty, students, staff, and alumni in thinking about the past, present, and future of teaching and learning at Stanford, hosted by the Office of the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning
- “The Chosen Exile of Racial Passing,” Stanford + Connects, Stanford Alumni Association, Washington, DC, September 27, 2015
- “All of the Women Are White, All of the Men are Black, But Some of Us Are Brave,” panel discussion presented by The Feminist Press, BookCourt Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY, September 16, 2015
- “Community Voices: A Public Dialogue” on *Portraits and Other Likenesses from the SFMOMA*, Museum of the African Diaspora, August 20, 2015
“Every Thursday during Portraits and Other Likenesses from SFMOMA, a creative thinker from the Bay Area cultural community will reflect on the exhibition’s themes of identity, representation, space and diaspora and how these themes inspire their own practice.”
- Presentation on the film, “Korla,” a documentary by John Turner and Eric Christensen, on John Roland Redd, an African American man who successfully passed as an Indian musician from New Delhi, India, Museum of the African Diaspora, August 20, 2015
- “A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life,” National Archives, Washington, DC, February 27, 2015
- “A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life,” guest lecturer, Great Books Summer Program, Stanford University, June 24, 2014
- “The Chosen Exile of Racial ‘Passing,’” TEDxStanford, Stanford University, May 10, 2014
Named one of the fifty best talks by black women

- “Choosing Exile,” “Faces” Conference, University of California-Berkeley, April 11-12, 2014
- “The State of Black America 150 Years after the Emancipation Proclamation: Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going,” invited speaker, The St. Clair Drake Memorial Lecture, Stanford University, April 18, 2013. Moderated by Tavis Smiley. *This program was taped for Tavis Smiley’s radio program and aired on NPR in August 2013*
<http://www.tavissmileyradio.com/listen-now/>
- “The Future of Affirmative Action: A Discussion of *Fisher v. Texas*,” Faculty Women’s Forum, Stanford University, January 23, 2013
<http://gender.stanford.edu/news/2013/whats-at-stake-fisher-v-university-texas>
- “The Problem of Passing and Identity in Gilded Age America,” guest lecturer, Gilder Lehrman Summer Seminar on the Gilded Age, Stanford University, Summer 2010-2012, 2014, 2015
- “When Black Becomes White: A History of Racial Passing in American Life,” Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Connecticut College, New London, CT, February 6, 2012
- “A White Man’s Chance: Racial Passing in the Age of Emancipation,” Beyond Freedom: New Directions in the Study of Emancipation, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University, New Haven, CT, November 11-12, 2011
- “The Problem of Passing in the ‘Post-Racial’ Era,” Obama and the Paradigm Shift: The Measure of Change in the U.S. and Germany, University of Giessen, Giessen, Germany, July 2011
- “When Black Becomes White: A History of Racial Passing in American Life,” Stanford Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL, March 13, 2011
- “Is Passing Passé in the ‘Post-Racial’ Era,” Ethics at Noon Speaker Series, Ethics and Society Program, Stanford University, February 25, 2011
- “When Black Becomes White: The Problem of Racial Passing in American Life,” Faculty Seminar Series, Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University, May 13, 2010
- “W. E. B. Du Bois: Scholar, Artist and International Activist,” Guest Lecturer, Great Books Summer Program, Stanford University, July 7, 2009

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist, “Far From Sanctuary: African American Travel in Mid-Century America,” Cars In/Out of Culture: Mobility, Materiality, Representation, Prague, Czech Republic, May 8-11, 2016.
- Panelist, “Traveling as Trauma: Following the 1950 Negro Motorist Guide,” European Social Sciences History Conference, Valencia, Spain, March 30-April 2, 2015
- Chair, “Writing Wrongs,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, October 8-11, 2015

Chair, "From Dissertation to Book," Ford Foundation Conference, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, September 26, 2015

Chair and Organizer, "Life Beyond Boxes: Fashioning and Refashioning American Identity in the Long Twentieth Century," roundtable discussion, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO, April 16-19, 2015

Invited speaker, "Passing 'Un-Conference,'" Brown University, Providence, RI, March 13, 2015

Commentator, "Look, Listen, and Dream: Politics and Culture in African American Women's History," Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Toronto, Canada, May 22-25, 2014

Panelist, "The 1950 Negro Motorist Travel Guide: A Microhistory of the Great Migration," European Social Science History Conference, Vienna, Austria, April 23-26, 2014

Panelist, "'Making History and a Race': Racial Passing in the Civil Rights Era," American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18, 2012

Panelist, "'A Grave Social Question Has Arisen': Interracial Encounters in Post-Emancipation Era Washington, D.C.," Southern Association of Women Historians Conference, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, June 6-9, 2012

Panelist, "'Ought We to Visit Her?': Interracial Encounters in Post-Emancipation Era Washington, D.C.," Western Association of Women Historians Conference, Berkeley, CA, May 3-5, 2012

Organizer and Panelist, "'To Tie Me to One of My Parts Is to Loose Me': Jean Toomer, Racial Identity and Family Ties in 1920s Washington, D.C.," American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, October 2011

Panelist, "A Grave Social Question Has Risen: Interracial Encounters in Reconstruction-Era Washington, D. C.," Berkshires Conference on the History of Women, Amherst, MA, June 2011

Panelist, "'Everybody Has People, Everybody': Family Life and the Problem of Racial Passing in Jim Crow America," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, March 2011

Commentator, "Blurred Boundaries: Color and Class in the Rural South," *Intersecting Identities in African American History and Culture*, Triangle African American History Colloquium, Chapel Hill, NC, February 19, 2011

Poster Presenter, "Veiled Aristocrats: The Problem of Passing in Oscar Micheaux's Early Race Films," Poster Session, American Historical Association, Boston, MA, January 2011

Panelist, "'Who Are Your People?': Family Life and the Problem of Racial Passing in Jim Crow America," Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL, November 2010

Panelist, “Is Passing Passé in the ‘Post-Racial’ Era,” Critical Whiteness Studies Symposium, Project on Rhetoric of Inquiry, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, September 2010

Panelist, “Boundaries Lost and Found: The Meaning of Racial Passing in the Early Civil Rights Era,” American Historical Association, Atlanta, GA, January 2007

Presenter, “‘No One Ever Told Me About My Father . . . Only that I Resemble Him in Every Aspect:’ Racial Passing and Family Relationships in Jim Crow America,” Social History Workshop (co-sponsored by the Reproduction of Race and Racial Ideologies Workshop), University of Chicago, June 2006

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians, 2016-19

William H. and Frances Green Faculty Fellow, Stanford University, 2015-16

AAAS/CCSRE Faculty Research Fellow, Stanford University, 2014-15

Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2013-14

Clayman Institute for Gender Research Fellowship, Stanford University, 2011-12

Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellowship Alternate, 2011

CCSRE Junior Faculty Development Program, Fall 2010

Stanford University, Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Department of History, 2007-08

Ford Foundation Diversity Dissertation Fellowship, 2007 (declined)

Erskine A. Peters Dissertation Year Fellowship Finalist, University of Notre Dame, 2007 (declined)

TEACHING AWARDS

Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize, Stanford University, June 2013

Hoefer Faculty Mentor Prize, Stanford University, April 2013

The Graves Award in the Humanities, February 2012

St. Clair Drake Teaching Award, Stanford University, May 2010

Hoefer Faculty Mentor Prize, Stanford University, April 2010

Von Holst Prize Lectureship in History, University of Chicago, 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

“The Open Road: The History of Travel in Twentieth-Century America,” Stanford University, Winter 2016 and Summer 2016 (sophomore seminar and summer course for Stanford Summer Humanities Institute)

“Race in American Memory,” Stanford University, Fall 2015 (Thinking Matters course; co-taught with Shelley Fisher Fishkin)

“Reimagining America: Cultural Memory and Identity Since the Civil War,” Stanford University, Spring 2013 (Thinking Matters course; co-taught with Shelley Fisher Fishkin)

“African American Women’s Lives,” Stanford University, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Spring 2016, Summer 2016 (freshman seminar)

“Topics in Twentieth Century United States History,” Stanford University, Spring 2011, Spring 2013 (graduate seminar)

“Racial Identity in the American Imagination,” Stanford University, Winter 2009, Spring 2010, Winter 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2016 (undergraduate/graduate seminar and Masters in Liberal Arts seminar)

“American Identities: Research Seminar in the Major,” Stanford University, Fall 2010, Winter 2011, Spring 2012, Winter 2016 (required research seminar for history majors)

“From Freedom to Freedom Now: African American History, 1865-1965,” Stanford University, Winter 2010, Spring 2011 (undergraduate lecture course)

Teaching Consultant, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Chicago, 2006-2007

INTERVIEWS, TV, RADIO, AND NEWS APPEARANCES

“Color Lines: Racial Passing in America,” BackStory with the American History Guys, January 15, 2016
<http://backstoryradio.org/shows/color-lines/>

“The Value of Diversity,” interview with Lauren Schiller, host of Inflection Point (a program about “women changing the status quo”), NPR/KALW, September 24, 2015
http://cpa.ds.npr.org/kalw/audio/2015/09/show_16_hobbs.mp3

“Racial Passing in the U.S.A.: Historian Allyson Hobbs on the History of Racial Passing,” interview with Robert Pollie, The 7th Avenue Project: Thinking Persons’ Radio, NPR affiliate/Central Coast Public Radio, June 28, 2015

“Before Rachel Dolezal, What Did It Mean to ‘Pass?’” interview by Randy Dotinga, *Christian Science Monitor*, June 22, 2015

BBC News Radio, June 18, 2015

Nerding Out, MSNBC.com, June 17, 2015

All Things Considered, NPR, June 16, 2015

The Takeaway, NPR/WNYC, June 16, 2015

The Melissa Harris-Perry Show, MSNBC, June 13, 2015

“Crossed Lines,” interview with Lydialyle Gibson, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, May-June 2015

“The Civil War on the 150th Anniversary of Its Final Battle,” The Tavis Smiley Show, PBS, April 9, 2015

“A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life,” C-SPAN Book TV (recorded at the National Archives), February 27, 2015

NewsOne Now with Roland Martin, February 27, 2015

“The gains and losses of racial ‘code-switching,’” Crosscurrents, NPR/KALW, January 27, 2015

The Madison Show, SiriusXM, November 13, 2014

Genealogy Live Talk Radio with Bernice Bennett, November 7, 2014

The Tavis Smiley Show, October 31, 2014

Moncrieff, News Talk Radio (Ireland), October 30, 2014

The Mixed Experience with Heidi Durrow, September 19, 2014

“A Chosen Exile: Black People Passing in White America,” All Things Considered, National Public Radio, October 7, 2014

Light Girls documentary, directed by Bill Duke, April 10, 2014 (aired on the OWN network)

Chinese Social Sciences Today, March 5, 2014

“The State of Black America 150 Years after the Emancipation Proclamation: Honoring the Past, Defining the Future,” invited speaker, The St. Clair Drake Memorial Lecture, Stanford University, April 18, 2013. Moderated by Tavis Smiley.
This program was taped for Tavis Smiley’s radio program and aired on NPR in August 2013

“What’s at Stake in the *Fisher v. University of Texas* Case?” *Stanford Report* (January 25, 2013)

“Searching for a New Soul in Harlem: Allyson Hobbs on Racial Passing and Racial Ambiguity during the Harlem Renaissance,” *Stanford Report*, February 27, 2012

C-SPAN, “Lectures in History,” *American History TV*, July 2011

PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Advisory Committee, Masters in Liberal Arts Program, Stanford University
Governance Board, Writing and Rhetoric Requirement, Stanford University
Advisory Board, *American Yamp*, a free, online American history textbook
Reviewer for *American Quarterly*
Reviewer for *The Journal of American History*
Faculty Women's Forum, September 2012-present
Mellon-Mays Faculty Advisor, 2010-present
Faculty Advisor, Stanford/CCNY Summer Research Program
Pre-Major Advisor, 2010-11
Expert Reviewer, Bedford/St. Martin's African American History textbook, September 2010
Co-organizer, Globalizing Black History: Intellectuals, Politics and New Approaches to Transnationalism Conference, Stanford University, May 21, 2010
Faculty Sponsor, United States History Workshop for Graduate Students, Stanford University, 2008 - present
Faculty Advisor, "Voices," public service and social action organization of undergraduate African American women, 2009-2012
Faculty Lecturer, Ernest Houston Johnson Scholars Program, 2011-present
Faculty Lecturer, The Great Books Summer Program, 2009, 2014
Researcher, Black Metropolis Research Project, Chicago, IL, 2004-2007
"Mapping the Stacks" Special Project; explored holdings and created finding aids for unprocessed materials in Vivian Harsh Research Collection at Carter G. Woodson Regional Library, Chicago, IL

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
American Studies Association
Berkshire Conference of Women Historians
Organization of American Historians
Southern Association of Women Historians
Southern Historical Association
Western Association of Women Historians
Western Historical Association