

*Curriculum Vitae*

**Mari Nagasue Crabtree**

African American Studies Program / College of Charleston / Charleston, SC 29424  
crabtreemn@cofc.edu

**AREAS OF INTEREST**

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African American cultural history; African American literature; racial violence, trauma studies, and memory studies; humor, deception, and irony in African American popular culture; Afro-Asian political and cultural connections; the African American protest tradition

**EDUCATION**

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PhD, History, Cornell University, 2014

Dissertation: “The Devil is Watching You: Lynching and Southern Memory, 1940–1970”

Advisors: Nick Salvatore, Robert L. Harris, Jr., Russell J. Rickford, Kenneth A. McClane

MA, History, Cornell University, 2010

Fields: African American History, US History, African American Literature

AB, Black Studies, Amherst College, 2003

Honors: magna cum laude

Advisors: Jeffrey B. Ferguson, David W. Blight

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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College of Charleston (2014–present)

African American Studies Program, associate professor (2020–present)

African American Studies Program, assistant professor (2014–2020)

History Department, affiliate faculty (2015–present)

Princeton University (2019–2020)

Department of African American Studies, visiting research scholar

Cornell University (2007–2014)

Department of History, teaching assistant and instructor

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**Books**

*My Soul is a Witness: The Traumatic Afterlife of Lynching, 1940–1970*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (in production; publication date: 2022).

**Articles and Book Chapters**

- “Periodizing Lynching, Contextualizing Violence.” In *Reconstruction at 150: Reassessing the Revolutionary “New Birth of Freedom,”* edited by Orville Vernon Burton and J. Brent Morris. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press. (in production; publication date: 2022).
- “The Value of Integrating African American Archives into Undergraduate African American Studies Curricula.” In *Ethnic Studies in Academic and Research Libraries*, edited by Raymond Pun, Melissa Cardenas-Dow, and Kenya S. Flash. Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries. (in production; publication date: 2021). [co-authored with Aaisha Haykal]
- “The Ethics of Writing History in the Traumatic Afterlife of Lynching.” *Rethinking History* 24, no. 3–4 (2020): 351–367. doi:10.1080/13642529.2020.1846968.
- “The Art and Politics of Subterfuge in African American Culture.” *Raritan: A Quarterly Review* 38, no. 1 (Summer 2018): 69–92.

### **Book Reviews**

- Review of *Lynching: Violence, Rhetoric, and American Identity*, by Ersula J. Ore. *American Historical Review* 107, no. 3 (December 2020): 717–718.
- Review of *Sounding the Color Line: Music and Race in the Southern Imagination*, by Erich Nunn. *African American Review* 50, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 85–87.
- Review of *Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home: Racial Violence in Florida*, by Tameka Bradley Hobbs. *Journal of Southern History* 82, no. 4 (November 2016): 950–951.
- Review of *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South*, by Talitha L. LeFlouria. H-Afro-Am, H-Net Reviews. June, 2016.
- Review of *Black Woman Reformer: Ida B. Wells, Lynching, and Transatlantic Activism*, by Sarah L. Silkey. *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 114, no. 2 (Spring 2016): 261–263.

### **Digital Projects and Online Publications**

- “Stick to the Script?! No, Stick It to the Man!” *Contemporaries* (22 June 2021): <https://post45.org/2021/06/stick-to-the-script-no-stick-it-to-the-man/>.
- “Enduring Histories of Anti-Black Violence.” *Historian Speaks* (blog) 20 July 2020. <https://historianspeaks.org/f/enduring-histories-of-anti-black-violence--mari-crabtree>.
- “The Black and White Views of Charleston’s Racially Charged Murder Trials.” *Mother Jones* 1 December 2016. <http://motherjones.com/politics/2016/11/charleston-trial-dylan-roof-walter-scott-michael-slager>.
- “The History of Jim Crow,” *Backlist*, May 2016. <http://backlist.cc/lists/jim-crow>.
- Freedom on the Move: A Database of Fugitives from North American Slavery*, research assistant for Prof. Edward Baptist, digital humanities project, 2013–2014. <http://freedomonthemove.org/>.
- “African Americans and Emigration,” “Mound Bayou,” and “Marcus Garvey and the UNIA” in *The American Yawp: A Free and Online, Collaboratively Built American History Textbook*. 2015. <http://americanyawp.com/>.

“Elegy and Effigy,” *The Appendix: A New Journal of Narrative and Experimental History*, 2, no. 2 (May 2014). <http://theappendix.net/issues/2014/4/elegy-and-effigy>.

### **Works in Progress**

“Shuffling Like Uncle Tom, Thinking Like Nat Turner: Humor, Deception, and Irony in the African American Cultural Tradition” (book manuscript; expected completion date: 2023).

“Photography, Memory, and the Ephemerality of History” (article manuscript; expected completion date: 2021)

### **Podcasts**

“Watching Films Critically with Mari Crabtree,” *School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs Teaching and Learning Team Podcast*, episode 3, February 17, 2019, <https://tlt.cofc.edu/2019/02/18/episode-3-watching-films-critically-with-mari-crabtree/>.

“Not Just in February: Black History Month Interview with Prof Mari Crabtree,” *PhDivas Podcast*, season 3, episode 18, February 27, 2017, <https://soundcloud.com/phdivas/mari-crabtree>.

### **AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS**

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| 2019–2020 | Visiting Research Scholar (Postdoctoral Research Fellowship), Princeton University, Department of African American Studies.   |
| 2018–2019 | Interdisciplinary Research Group, College of Charleston.  |
| 2018      | Faculty Research Grant, College of Charleston.  |
| 2017      | Faculty Research Grant, College of Charleston.  |
| 2016–2017 | ExCEL Faculty of the Year Award for the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs, College of Charleston.  |
| 2016      | Faculty Research Grant, College of Charleston.<br>Pedagogy and Teaching Grant for New Course Development, College of Charleston.  |
| 2015      | Faculty Research Grant, College of Charleston.<br>Pedagogy and Teaching Grant for New Course Development, College of Charleston.  |
| 2013–2014 | Society for the Humanities and Humanities Dissertation Writing Group Grant, Cornell University.   |
| 2013      | Walter and Sandra LaFeber Research Assistance Fund, Cornell University.   |
| 2012–2013 | Society for the Humanities and Humanities Dissertation Writing Group Grant, Cornell University.   |
| 2012      | George B. Kirsch Scholarship, Cornell University.<br>Travel Grant from the John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture, Duke University.<br>Burney Parker Research Fellowship, Baylor University. |

- Joel and Rosemary Silbey Fellowship, Cornell University.
- 2011–2012 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University.  
American Studies Graduate Research Grant, Cornell University.
- 2011 Graduate School Research Travel Grant, Cornell University.
- 2010–2011 Society for the Humanities and Humanities Dissertation Writing Group Grant,  
Cornell University.  
American Studies Graduate Research Grant, Cornell University.
- 2010 Daughters of the American Revolution Fellowship, Cornell University.  
Society for the Humanities Graduate Travel Research Grant, Cornell University.
- 2009–2010 American Studies Graduate Research Grant, Cornell University.  
Forris Jewett Moore Fellowship, Amherst College.
- 2008–2009 Forris Jewett Moore Fellowship, Amherst College.
- 2007–2008 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University.  
Forris Jewett Moore Fellowship, Amherst College.

## CONFERENCES AND COLLOQUIA

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- 2021 “Pausing Lives Mid-Stride: Ethically Representing Lynching in the Absence of Consent,” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History Virtual Conference*, September 25.  
“Black Revolutionary Laughter,” *Modern Language Association Convention*, online, January 7–10.
- 2020 “Don’t Call Me Tuffy No More. I Want Y’all to Call me Kuroyama,” *American Studies Association Meeting*, Baltimore, MD, November 12–15. [cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic]  
“Memories Lost and Found: Robert F. Williams, Afro-Asian Political Solidarity, and the Photograph,” *Japanese Association for American Studies Annual Meeting*, Sapporo, Japan, June 13. [cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic]  
“On Treachery: the Politics of Deception in the African American Literary Tradition,” *Rethinking the Black Intellectual Tradition: Black Studies at Fifty*, Amherst College, Amherst, MA, April 11. [cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2019 “Ghostly Encounters: Black Geographies of Resistance and the Specter of Lynching in the US South,” *American Studies Association Meeting*, Honolulu, HI, November 7.  
“Periodizing Lynching, Contextualizing Violence,” *Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA, April 4.
- 2018 “Lynching in the American Imagination,” *School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs Junior Faculty Colloquium*, respondent: Nicole Guidotti-Hernandez, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, April 5.

- “Swapping Lies and Other Hokum,” *African American Intellectual History Society Conference*, Waltham, MA, March 31.
- 2017 “Passing, Subversion, and Narratives of Lynching in Mat Johnson’s *Incognegro* and George Schuyler’s *Black No More*,” *American Studies Association Meeting*, Chicago, IL, November 10.
- “Liberating the Spirit, Securing the Body: James Baldwin, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Discourses of National Redemption,” *African American Intellectual History Society Conference*, Nashville, TN, March 25.
- “Lynching in the American Imagination,” *Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference*, Charleston, SC, February 2.
- 2015 “On Subterfuge: Deception, Subversion, and Critique in African American Culture,” *Aesthetics Work Group*, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, October 23.
- “The Ghosts of Lynchings Past: Haunting, Otherworldly Justice, and the Memory of Lynching in the American South,” *Palmetto Connections Symposium*, University of South Carolina, Beaufort, Beaufort, SC, April 18.
- 2014 ‘Till I Get Satisfied: Lynching, Memory, and the Delta Blues,” *Annual Association for the Study of African American Life and History Convention*, Memphis, TN, September 25.
- Yale Public History Institute Summer Seminar*, Yale University, New Haven, CT, July 20–24.
- 2013 “Lynching Reincarnated: Imagining and Re-Imagining Racial Violence in the Civil Rights Era,” *History Colloquium*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, November 26.
- “Developing an Ear for Silence: Lynching and Erasure in Southern Memory,” *Historical Disobedience: Transgressive Subjects, Methods, and Stories*, *History + Conference*, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, November 1.
- “Specters of Lynching in the American South,” *Syracuse Graduate History Conference: Violence and Resistance*, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, March 29.
- “‘How Blue Can You Get?’: The Blues Sensibility and Confronting the Legacies of Lynching,” *National Council for Black Studies National Conference*, Indianapolis, IN, March 14.
- “Haunting: Ghost Stories, Deathbed Confessions, and Otherworldly Justice for Lynching Survivors,” *History Colloquium*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, February 14.
- 2012 “Anatomy of a Lynching,” *History Colloquium*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, October 4.
- 2011 “Reading Lynching as Trauma,” *Americas Colloquium*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, April 25.
- “‘Asia for the Asiatics’: Imperial Japan and W.E.B. Du Bois’s Anti-Colonial Crusade,” *National Council for Black Studies National Conference*, Cincinnati, OH, March 19.

- 2009 “‘Asia for the Asiatics’: Pan-Asianism and W.E.B. Du Bois’s Relationship to Imperial Japan,” *Americas Colloquium*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, February 3.

## INVITED LECTURES

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- 2022 “Lynching’s Afterlives: Memory, Trauma, and the Sensibility of the Blues,” Black Lives Signature Series, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, March 3.
- 2021 “Black Protest and White Supremacist Violence in the Second Reconstruction,” *National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for School Teachers*, theme: “America’s Reconstruction: America’s Untold Story,” Charleston, SC, July 22.
- “The Long Afterlife of Lynching in African American Southern Memory,” Department of African American Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, March 31.
- 2020 “The Second Reconstruction,” *National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for School Teachers*, theme: “America’s Reconstruction: America’s Untold Story,” Charleston, SC, July 25, 2020. [cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2019 “The Ethics of Memorializing Anti-Black Spectacle Violence,” History Workshop, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, October 15.
- “Ghosts, Haunting, and the Traumatic Afterlife of Lynching,” *Slavery, Violence, and the Archive Conference*, Davidson College, Davidson, NC, February 23.
- 2016 “Liberating the Spirit, Securing the Body: James Baldwin, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Discourses of Redemption,” Friends of the Library Faculty Lecture and Lunch Series, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, November 9.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### College of Charleston (2014–present)

African American Studies Program and History Department, assistant and associate professor

FYSE 102: When Bruce Lee Meets Bruce Leroy: Afro-Asian Political and Cultural Connections (Spring 2017)

AAST 200: Introduction to African American Studies (Fall 2014–Spring 2019, Fall 2020)

AAST 280: Introduction to African American Music (Spring 2015/2019, Fall 2015)

AAST 300: The Life and Writings of James Baldwin (Fall 2018)

AAST 300: Mongrel America: Miscegenation, Passing, and the Myth of Racial Purity (Spring 2015, Fall 2016)

AAST 340/HIST 321: Remembering and Forgetting: Race, Violence, and American Memory (Fall 2015, Spring 2017/2021)

AAST 360: Mass Incarceration and Its Roots (Spring 2016/2017/2018/2019/2021)

HONS 381: Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar: Lynching in the American Imagination  
(Spring 2018)

AAST 381: Internship in African American Studies (Spring 2015/2021,  
Fall 2015/2017/2018/2020)

AAST 400: Independent Study: Anti-Racist Feminist Pedagogy (Fall 2016)

AAST 401: Capstone in African American Studies (Spring 2016/2018/2021)

### **Princeton University (Spring 2020)**

Department of African American Studies, visiting research scholar

AAS 230/ENG 231: Remembering and Forgetting: Race, Violence, and History in the US  
(Spring 2020)

### **Cornell University (2008–2014)**

Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, instructor

Historical Memory, Historical Trauma (Spring 2013)

Mongrel America: Miscegenation, Passing, and the Myth of Racial Purity (Spring 2011,  
Fall 2012)

American Studies Department, teaching assistant

Popular Culture in the United States, 1950 to the Present (Spring 2014)

American Cinema (Fall 2013)

Varieties of American Dissent (Spring 2009)

History Department, teaching assistant

Introduction to American History, 1865–present (Spring 2010)

Obama and Lincoln (Fall 2009)

The History of Evolution (Fall 2008)

Summer College, teaching assistant

Democracy and Its Discontents (Summer 2008/2009/2010/2011/2012/2013)

## **SERVICE AND COMMITTEE WORK**

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### **Professional Service**

Reviewer, *Journal of Urban History*, 2020–2021.

Conference panel chair, “The Black Pacific: Race, Gender, and Empire Beyond the Atlantic World,” *African American Intellectual History Society Conference*, Ann Arbor, MI, March 22, 2019.

Organizer and moderator, “The Second Reconstruction,” *National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for School Teachers*, theme: “America’s Reconstruction: America’s Untold Story,” Charleston, SC, July 25, 2018.

Conference panel chair, “Black Humor and Black Thought,” *African American Intellectual History Society Conference*, Waltham, MA, March 31, 2018.

Conference panel chair, “James Baldwin, Howard Thurman, Ta-Nehisi Coates and Visions of Black Liberation,” *African American Intellectual History Society Conference*, Nashville, TN, March 25, 2017.

Conference panel moderator, “Slavery’s Long Legacy,” *Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference*, Charleston, SC, February 3, 2017.

Conference panel chair, “Site Specific, Circular Sites: Mapping Art in the Mobile Caribbean City,” *Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Biennial Conference*, Charleston, SC, November 5, 2015.

Conference panel chair and judge, “The United States in the Nineteenth Century,” *Phi Alpha Theta Carolinas Regional*, Bluffton, SC, April 18, 2015.

## **Departmental/University Service**

### **Campus-Wide Committees**

Research Committee for the Center for the Study of Slavery in Charleston, committee member, 2019–2021.

Innovative Teaching and Learning in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, chair, 2015–2019.

Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program, faculty associate and Wells Fargo Distinguished Lecture Series organizer, 2015–2019.

Library Committee, secretary, 2016–2017.

Planning Committee for Ta-Nehisi Coates Visit, Race and Social Justice Initiative, committee member, 2016–2017.

### **Campus-Wide Activities**

Graduate Diversity and Inclusion Council, “Experiences of Students of Color at Predominantly White Universities,” panelist, March 28, 2019.

“The Long Afterlife of *Brown v. Board*: A Commemoration of the Landmark Supreme Court Decision and Its Legacies,” organizer, March 27, 2019.

Race and Social Justice Initiative, Film Screening and Discussion of *An Outrage*, panelist, October 10, 2017.

Contemporary Issues Conversation Series, “Remembrance or Reverence?: Confederate Monuments in Context,” moderator, September 26, 2017.

Race and Social Justice Initiative, Student Seminar with Ta-Nehisi Coates, organizer and moderator, March 21, 2017.

Peer Educators, “Unfair Justice: A Screening of *13<sup>th</sup>* for Discussions on Justice,” moderator, January 16, 2017.

Teach-In on Post-Election America, organizer and panelist, December 5, 2016.

Faculty Liberal Arts and Sciences Colloquium, “Crime and Punishment,” Fall 2016.

Office of Sustainability Greenbag Lunch Series, “Institutional Racism,” panelist, April 6, 2016.

“The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness,” moderator, February 13, 2016.

College Reads Discussion of *Freedom Summer*, discussion leader, August 24, 2015.

Faculty Liberal Arts and Sciences Colloquium, “Friendship and Enmity,” May 2015.



## Departmental Committees

Search Committee for Visiting Professor of African American Studies, committee member, 2021.

Search Committee for Visiting Professor of African American Studies, committee member, 2019.

Search Committee for African American Studies Director, committee member, 2016.

Search Committee for Visiting Professor of African American Literature, committee member, 2016.

## Departmental Activities

African American Studies Conseula Francis Emerging Scholar Lecture Series, organizer, 2015–2019, 2021.

African American Studies Book Discussion Series, organizer and moderator, 2016–2019.

African American Studies Film Series, organizer, 2015–2019.

African American Studies Artist Lecture Series, organizer, 2015–2016.

Teach-In on Police Brutality, organizer/moderator/panelist, September 10, 2015.

## Community Service

Charleston People’s Budget Coalition, panelist, “Rethinking Public Safety,” October 26, 2020.

Charleston Civil Rights Film Festival, moderator, “*Human Flow*: A Panel Discussion,” April 26, 2018.

Board of Directors for the Carolina Youth Action Project, secretary, 2017–2019.

Charleston Civil Rights Film Festival, moderator, “*Scarred Justice*: A Conversation with Director Judy Richardson and Historian Mari Crabtree,” April 20, 2017.

Hiring Team for Girls Rock Charleston lead organizers, committee member, 2016.

## Professional Memberships

African American Intellectual History Society

American Historical Association

American Studies Association

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Modern Language Association

Organization of American Historians

## REFERENCES

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Edward Baptist, Cornell University  
History, 433 McGraw Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853  
Phone: (607) 255-1881, Email: eeb36@cornell.edu

Eddie S. Glaude, Princeton University  
African American Studies, 103 Stanhope Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544  
Phone: (609) 258-1419, Email: esglaude@princeton.edu

Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández, Emory University  
English, N302 Callaway Memorial Center, Atlanta, GA 30322  
Email: [nguidot@emory.edu](mailto:nguidot@emory.edu)

Tera Hunter, Princeton University  
History, 110 Dickinson Hall  
Phone: (609) 258-8904, Email: [thunter@princeton.edu](mailto:thunter@princeton.edu)

Russell J. Rickford, Cornell University  
History, 322 McGraw Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853  
Phone: (607) 255-4752, Email: [rickford@cornell.edu](mailto:rickford@cornell.edu)