

SHANNEN DEE WILLIAMS, PH.D.

Associate Professor of History
University of Dayton

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. History, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, 2013
M. A. Afro-American Studies, University of Wisconsin at Madison, 2006
B.A. History, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Agnes Scott College, 2004

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Associate Professor of History, Faculty Affiliate in Religious Studies, University of Dayton, 2021- Present
Albert Lepage Assistant Professor of History, Villanova University, 2018-2021
Assistant Professor of History, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 2014-2018
Postdoctoral Fellow, History Department, Case Western Reserve University, 2013-2014
Lecturer, History Department, Southern Illinois University, 2012-2013
Adjunct Lecturer, History and Political Science Department, Christian Brothers University, Summers 2010, 2011

BOOK:

SUBVERSIVE HABITS: BLACK NUNS IN THE LONG AFRICAN AMERICAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE
(forthcoming from Duke University Press, April 2022)

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

“You Could Do the Irish Jig, But Anything African Was Taboo:’ Black Nuns, Contested Memories, and the 20th-Century Struggle to Desegregate U.S. Religious Life” in the *Journal of African American History*, 102, no. 2 (Spring 2017): 125-56.

“Forgotten Habits, Lost Vocations: Black Nuns, Contested Memories, and the 19th Century Struggle to Desegregate U.S. Religious Life” in *Journal of African American History*, 101 (Summer 2016): 231-260.

“Subversive Images and Forgotten Truths: A Selected Visual History of Black Women Religious” and “The Color of Christ’s Brides” in *American Catholic Studies*, 127 (Fall 2016): 14-21 and 93-103.

BOOK REVIEWS:

Review of *American Catholics: A History* by Leslie Woodcock Tentler, *English Historical Review* (forthcoming)

Review of *Desegregating Dixie: The Catholic Church in the South and Desegregation* by Mark Newman, *Journal of Southern History*, 85 (November 2019): 954-56.

Review of *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era* by Ashley Farmer, *Journal of African American History* (accepted for publication on Jan. 2, 2019)

Review of *The Blood of Emmett Till* by Timothy B. Tyson (online edition of *America Magazine* on April 26, 2017; print edition on May 29, 2017)

Review of *Talking to the Dead: Religion, Music, and Lived Memory Among Gullah/Geechee Women* by LeRhonda S. Manigault-Bryant, *Journal of African American History*, 101 (Fall 2016): 577-580.

Review of *Roy Wilkins: The Quiet Revolutionary and the NAACP* by Yvonne Ryan, *Journal of Southern History*, LXXXI (May 2015): 511-12.

SELECTED ONLINE ARTICLES:

“Reckoning with the Church’s Constellation of Unmarked Graves,” *Catholic News Service*, June 25, 2021. Online and print. *Editors’ choice selection.

“Why Every Catholic Should Make a Pilgrimage to Elmina Castle in Ghana,” *Catholic News Service*. February 24, 2021. Online and print. *Editors’ choice selection.

“Black Catholic Women like Amanda Gorman are Forgotten Prophets of American Democracy,” *Washington Post: Made by History*, February 10, 2021. Online and in print. Reprinted online in *Black Perspectives* on March 2, 2021.

“New Orleans’s Norman Francis Parkway Is an Act of Justice,” *Catholic News Service*, January 21, 2021. Online and print. *Editors’ choice selection.

“A Final Requiem for an Extraordinary Nun and Champion of Black Catholic History,” *Catholic News Service*, December 28, 2020. Online and print. *Editors’ choice selection.

“Why the Nation’s First Black Cardinal Matters,” *Catholic News Service*, November 29, 2020. Online and print, including the special edition of *The Catholic Standard*, vol. 70, no. 16, December 10, 2020.

“The Church Must Make Reparation for Its Role in Slavery, Segregation,” *National Catholic Reporter*, June 15, 2020. Online and print.

“If Racial Justice and Peace Will Ever Attained, It Must Begin in the Church,” *Catholic News Service*, June 10, 2020. Online and print.

“What A Forgotten Black Nun Can Teach Us about Racism and COVID 19.” *America Magazine*, online edition, April 23, 2020. This article was published in print on June 8, 2020 under the title, “An Unequal Burden.”

“The Black Catholic Nun Every American Should Know,” *Catholic News Service*, March 3, 2020. Reprinted online and in Catholic newspapers and magazines, including *America*, across the country in Feb.-March. 2020.

“Black History Is Catholic History,” *Catholic News Service*, January 19, 2020. Reprinted online and in Catholic newspapers across the country in Jan.-Feb. 2020. *Also included on the History News Network’s Top Ten List for February.

"Religious Orders Owning Slaves Isn't New—Black Catholics Have Emphasized This History for Years," *America Magazine*, August 6, 2019. (Published online and in print.)

“No Catholic MLKs?” *Catholic News Service*, November 2018. Reprinted in Catholic newspapers across the country, including in Philadelphia, Chicago, Trenton, NJ, and Wilmington, DE for Black Catholic History Month.

“Sister Antona Ebo’s Lifelong Struggle against White Supremacy, Inside and Outside of the Catholic Church,” *America*, November 22, 2017.

SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS:

First-Place for Best Regular Column, Racial Inequities, Catholic Press Association, 2021

Grant, Catholic Social Teaching and Justice Curriculum Development Seminar, Villanova Office of Mission and Ministry, May 2019

Nancy Weiss Malkiel Scholars Award, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation- Finalist, 2018

Henry Luce Research Fellow, Catholicism and the Common Good Colloquium at Duquesne University, 2017-19

Honorable Mention in the category of Best Essay Originating with a Scholarly Magazine, Catholic Press

Association for “Subversive Images and Forgotten Truths,” 2017

Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer, 2016 – Present

Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library, 2016-17

Professor of the Year, Award given by the Black Affairs Council and the Black Graduate Student Association at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, May 2013

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Fellowship for Religion and Ethics, Woodrow Wilson National Foundation, 2011-12
Erskine A. Peters Dissertation Fellowship, University of Notre Dame (Declined), 2011
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (Declined), 2011
Huggins-Quarles Award, Organization of American Historians, 2011
John Tracy Ellis Dissertation Award, American Catholic Historical Association, 2010
Albert J. Beveridge Research Grant, American Historical Association, 2010
Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism Research Travel Grant, University of Notre Dame, 2010
Dorothy Mohler Research Grant, Catholic University of America, 2010
Drusilla Dunjee Houston Memorial Award for Best Graduate Essay in History, Association of Black Women Historians, 2008
"Memphis State Eight" Best (First Place) Paper Prize, 9th Annual Graduate Conference in African American History, University of Memphis, 2007
Tom W. Shick Award for Excellence in the Study of African American History, UW-Madison, Dept. of Afro-American Studies, 2005
Michael J. Brown History Prize, Awarded to Outstanding Senior Student in History, Agnes Scott College, 2004

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION:

Manuscript Reviewer for the *Journal of African American History*, Fall 2021
Advisory Committee for *American Catholic Studies*, Spring 2021- Present
Black History Curriculum Advisory Committee, Imani Christian Academy, Pittsburgh, PA, Jan. 2021 - Present
Manuscript Reviewer for Fordham University Press, Spring 2021
Selection Committee for the McCullough Prize for Excellence in American Public History, The Carpenters' Company, Philadelphia, PA, Spring 2021
Advisory Committee on Race for National Catholic Educational Association, Fall 2020-Spring 2021
Reviewer of Applications for the NEH Public Humanities Program, 2020
Manuscript Reviewer for *Journal of Africana Religions*, Fall 2019
Proposal Reviewer for CFB and PBS's film documentary, *Say Amen: A History of the Black Church*, Spring 2019
Manuscript Reviewer for *The Black Scholar*, Spring 2017
Manuscript Reviewer for *American Catholic Studies*, Spring 2016

RECENT KEYNOTES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

"New Directions in African American Catholic Women's History," Presidential Roundtable, Annual Meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association, New Orleans, LA (January 2022, Principal Organizer)

"Why Black Catholic History Matters," Annual Meeting of the National Catholic Educational Association (April 6, 2021)

"The Real Sister Act: Why the Stories of U.S. Black Catholic Sisters Matter," DePaul University, Zoom (March 30, 2021)

"Why Black Catholic History Matters," University of Dayton, Global Voices Symposium, Zoom (March 3, 2021)

"Black Catholic Historical Truth Telling an Anti-Racist Practice," Georgetown University Campus Ministry, Zoom (March 16, 2021)

"In the Shadow of the Cross: Black Women in the Making of U.S. Catholicism," Rita Cassella Jones Lecture via Zoom, Fordham University (October 20, 2020)

"The Forgotten Till Generation: Black Catholic Youth and the Struggle to Desegregate Catholic Religious Life after World War II," American Society of Church History, Annual Meeting, New York, NY, (January 4, 2020)

"The Problem of Accepting Colored Girls as Postulants': White Catholic Sisterhoods and the Limits of Racial Charity in Post-World War II Chicago," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, (January 6, 2019)

"Still Mining the Forgotten: Black Catholic Sisters in American History," Critical Terms (ACHA): American, Roundtable Discussion, American Catholic Historical Association, Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, (January 4, 2019)

"Subversive Habits: The Untold History of Black Catholic Sisters in the United States," Annual Father Augustus Tolton Lecture, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL, (March 1, 2016)