

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
***Violet M. Showers Johnson***

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**APPOINTMENTS**

**Teaching**

Texas A&M University, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts: Professor, 2012-present

Agnes Scott College, Department of History: Professor, 2005-2012; Associate Professor, 1998-2005; Assistant Professor, 1992-1998.

Spelman College, Department of History: Part-time Associate Professor, Spring 2001.

Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Department of Modern History: Lecturer (US equivalent of Assistant Professor), 1983-1985

Teaching areas: US ethnic and immigration history; African American history; African history; and history of the African Diaspora.

**Administration**

Texas A&M University, College of Liberal Arts: Associate Dean for Faculty, 2017-present

Texas A&M University, Africana Studies Program, College of Liberal Arts: Director, 2012-2017

Texas A&M University, Liberal Arts Faculty Administrative Fellow (2016-2017 academic year)

Agnes Scott College Africana Studies Program: Director, 2011-2012

Agnes Scott College Women's Global Leadership Center: Founding Faculty Director, 2008-2010.

Agnes Scott College Department of History: Chair, 2002-2007.

Agnes Scott College Department of History: Interim Chair, 1999-2000.

Agnes Scott College Africana Studies Program: Founding Director, 1995-2002.

**EDUCATION**

**Boston College.** Ph.D. History, 1992.

Primary field: race, ethnicity and immigration in the United States, with particular focus on African American history and the history of immigrants of African descent.

Secondary field: Africa and the Diaspora.

**University of New Brunswick, Canada.** M.A. American History, 1983.

**Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.** B.A. (Honours in History), 1979.

**Middlebury College.** Intensive Spanish for Advanced Beginners, 1995

**AWARDS, HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

South Eastern Conference (SEC) Academic Leadership Development Fellowship, 2015-2016.

Glasscock Faculty Research Fellowship, 2013-2014.

Texas A&M University Innovation for Global Education Grant, July 2013

Alumna in the Humanities Guest Lecturer. Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. (April 2008).

Distinguished Alumna, Guest of Honour, and Distinguished Public Lecturer at the 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the Founding of Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. (February 2007).

Agnes Scott College Joseph R. Gladden Award in Recognition of Scholarly Achievement. (May 2005).

Agnes Scott College Vulcan Materials Company Teaching Excellence Award. (May 2002)

Listed in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* (Vol. 11, 2000).

Agnes Scott College Exchange Faculty to Kingo-Gakuin University, Nagoya, Japan. (June 2001).

Outstanding Woman, awarded by the Atlanta Women of Multi-Ethnicity and Nationality (W.O.M.E.N). (March 2004).

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Award for participation in NEH Institute: "Crossroads of Atlantic Cultures," Brazil (June 1998).

*Certificado de Merito* for outstanding performance in the Spanish Program of the Middlebury College Summer Language School (August 1995).

Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship (1991)

Fulbright Scholarship (awarded in Sierra Leone, West Africa) to pursue doctoral studies in the United States (1985).

University of New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Research Assistantship (1981).

Durham Prize for the most distinguished performance in the Honours Program of the Faculty of Arts, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone (June 1979).

## SCHOLARSHIP

### Publications

#### **Books:**

Co-edited with Gundolf Graml and Patricia Williams Lessane, *Deferred Dreams, Defiant Struggles: Critical Perspectives on Blackness, Belonging and Civil Rights* (Liverpool University Press, 2018).

With Marilyn Halter, *African & American: West Africans in Post-Civil Rights America* (NYU Press, 2014).

Co-edited with Isabel Soto, *Western Fictions, Black Realities: Meanings of Blackness and Modernities* (Lit Verlag and Michigan State University Press, 2011).

*The Other Black Bostonians: West Indians in Boston, 1900-1950*, Blacks in the Diaspora Series (Indiana University Press, 2006).

#### **Articles and Book Chapters:**

"The Black Presence in U.S. Immigration History," invited epilogue in *A Nation of Immigrants Reconsidered: The U.S. in an Age of Restriction, 1924-1965*, Maria Cristina Garcia, Madeline Hsu and Maddalena Marinari, eds. (University of Illinois Press, Forthcoming December 2018).

"When Blackness Stings: African and Afro-Caribbean Immigrants, Race, and Racism in Late Twentieth-Century America," *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Vol. 36, No.1, Fall 2016, 31-62.

“Meddling in the American Dilemma: Examining Race, Migrations and Identities from an Africana Transnational Perspective,” in *Ethnic Historians and the Mainstream: Shaping America’s Immigration Story*, Alan M. Kraut and David A. Gerber, eds. (Rutgers University Press, 2013), 157-174.

With Isabel Soto, “Blackness and Modernities: Varieties and Re-Examinations,” introduction essay in *Western Fictions, Black Realities*, 1-21.

“Fostering or Surrogate Mothering as an Immigration Tool: the Making of Transnational West Indian American Families in the First Half of the Twentieth Century,” *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement*, Special Issue, “Mothering and Migration: Transnationalism, Globalization, and Displacement,” Vol. 2, No. 2, Fall/Winter (2011): 197-208.

With Marilyn Halter, “Young, Gifted and West African: Transnational Migrants Growing up in America,” in *Helping Young Refugees and Immigrants Succeed: Public Policy, Aid, and Education*. Gerhard Sonnert and Gerald Holton, eds. (Palgrave, 2010), 113-127.

“Recreating Sustainable Communities in Exile: Leadership Roles of Sierra Leonean Refugee and Internally Displaced Women in Freetown, London, and Atlanta,” *The International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic, and Social Sustainability*, Vol. 5, No. 5 (2009): 287-300.

“‘What, Then, is the African American?’ African and Afro-Caribbean Identities in Black America,” *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (2008): 77-103.

“Racial Frontiers in Jamaica’s Non-racial Nationhood: Understanding Race and Identity through the Eyes of Jamaicans in the Diaspora,” in *Race and Nation: Ethnic Systems in the Modern World*. Paul Spickard, ed. (Routledge, 2005), 155-170.

“Family Homes and Historical Sites: Forums for Intercultural Teaching and Learning,” in *UNESCO Papers on Intercultural Education*. Johanna Lasonen and Leena Lestinen, eds. (Institute for Educational Research, Finland, 2003 (CD-ROM)).

With Gisela Norat, “The African Diaspora: Spanish Language Component,” in *A Languages Across the Curriculum Resource Primer*. Hans J. Rindisbacher and Roswitha Burwick, eds. (Ohio State University Foreign Language Publications, 2002 (CD-ROM)).

“Relentless Ex-colonials and Militant Immigrants: Protest Strategies of Boston’s West Indian Immigrants, 1910-1950,” in *The Civil Rights Movement Revisited: Critical Perspectives on the Struggle for Racial Equality in the United States*. Patrick B Miller, Therese Frey Steffen and Elisabeth Schafer-Wunsche, eds. (LIT VERLAG/Transaction Publishers, 2001), 9-20.

“Black Immigrants in the United States,” in *We Are A People: Narrative and Multiplicity in Constructing Ethnic Identity*. Paul Spickard and W. Jeffrey Burroughs, eds. (Temple University Press, 2000), 57-69.

“Pan-Africanism in Print: The *Boston Chronicle* and the Struggle for Black Liberation and Advancement, 1930-1950,” in *Print Culture in a Diverse America*. James Danky and Wayne Wiegand, eds. (University of Illinois Press, 1998), 56-84.

“Culture, Economic Stability and Entrepreneurship: The Case of British West Indians in Boston,” in *New Migrants in the Market Place: Boston’s Ethnic Entrepreneurs*. Marilyn Halter, ed. (University of Massachusetts Press, 1995), 59-80.

“The Transnational Orientation of West Indian Associations in Boston,” in *Colloquium Papers in Celebration of Black History Month* (Boston College Press, 1994), 13-20.

“The Ambivalent Role of British West Indians in the Black Struggle in America in the 1920s and 1930s,” in *Colloquium Papers in Celebration of Black History Month* (Boston College Press, 1992), 19-29.

“The State of American Studies at the University of Sierra Leone,” in *Newsletter of the Association of American Studies in Africa*, Vol.1, No.1 (1985): 12-15.

**Research in progress:**

“Black While Foreign: African and Afro-Caribbean Immigrant Encounters with Race and Racism in Late Twentieth-Century America.” (Book manuscript).

“The Wallet Protest in Guinea, West Africa: The African American Radical Tradition Abroad.” (Article).

**Recent Professional Meetings, Conferences, and Symposia (Since 2014)**

“Black While Foreign: African and Caribbean Immigrants and Racism in Late Twentieth-Century America,” Annual Conference of the National Council for Black Studies, Atlanta, March 2018.

“‘We Yay [Eyes] See Plenty’: Recounting an African War in an American Immigrant Community,” Australia Biennial National Oral History Conference, Sydney, Australia, September 2017.

“Diasporic Transnational Philanthropy: Development of Homeland or Nostalgic Sentimentalism?” Presented at the Kwame Nkrumah Pan African Intellectual and Cultural Festival, Accra, Ghana, July 2017.

“Beyond African American History: The Black Immigrant Experience as *American* Immigration History,” Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, New Orleans, April 7, 2017.

“‘Bad Native Blacks and Good Immigrant Blacks’: Divisive Narratives, Common Realities,” Conference of the Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies—Europe and the Americas (MESEA), University of Warsaw, Poland, June 22, 2016.

“Caribbean Memories, American Realities: The Making of Boston’s West Indian Community in the First Half of the Twentieth Century,” presented at conference—“Turning Tides: Caribbean Intersections in the Americans and Beyond,” University of the West Indies—St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago, February 18, 2016.

Invited panelist, panel—“African and African American Migrations Past and Present,” Immigrant America Conference, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, October 23, 2015.

“More than Bedtime Stories: Women’s Accounts in the History of the Afro-Caribbean Immigrant Experience in America in the First Half of the Twentieth Century,” presented at the Second Conference on Historians in the Margins, University Paris 13, June 2015.

“Movements Matter: Centering Migration and Immigration Histories in Africana Studies,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Council for Black Studies, Los Angeles, March 2015

“American Africans and the Development of Home and Homeland: The Case of Sisters of Sierra Leone of North Texas,” presented at the College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University—Qatar International Conference, Doha, Qatar, February 2, 2015.

“Writing Afro-Caribbean History into African American History in the 1920s and 1930s: the Claims, the Rows and the Legacy,” paper presented at the Conference on Black Historians and the Writing of History in the 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, Université Paris Diderot, Paris, France, June 12, 2014.

“Afro-Caribbean Mothers and the Formation of Transnational Identities in the Diaspora,” Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, University of Toronto, May 24, 2014.

**Recent Guest/Public Lectures, Speeches and other Invited Appearances (Since 2015)**

“African and Afro-Caribbean Immigrants in American History,” guest lecture delivered to the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teachers Seminar, University of Texas—Austin, July 13, 2018.

“From Silent Gaze to Vocal Protest: Remembering the Atlantic Slave Trade in West Africa,” keynote address presented at the Summer Workshop on African American Texas History (SWATH), Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, Houston, TX, July 12, 2018.

“Watering Roots, Shattering Silence: Standing up for Heritage in the African Diaspora,” keynote delivered at the Texas A&M University Black Graduate Students Network Black History Month Annual Dinner, February 25, 2018.

“Black Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century—Global, Inclusive and Transformative: the Business of CAAR,” President’s Inaugural Address at the International Biennial conference of the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR), Malaga, Spain, June 14, 2017.

“Black Immigrants’ Narratives on Blackness and Survival in Late Twentieth-Century America,” Spring Lecture, Department of English and American Studies, University of Wuppertal, Germany, May 3, 2017.

“Collective Consciousness, Group Responsibility and Individual Resolve: Ethical Issues in a Globalized 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” keynote address at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethics Week, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University—Qatar, April 2, 2017.

“‘We Lead, We Follow, We Shape’: Centering African and Afro-Caribbean Women in US History,” Women’s Research on Women symposium, Texas A&M University (March 29, 2017).

“Black While Foreign: African and Afro-Caribbean Immigrants, Blackness, Race and Racism in Twentieth-Century America,” Lone Star College-Montgomery Lyceum Black History Month Lecture Series, February 15, 2017.

“‘Living without Papers is Not the American Dream’: Stories of Undocumented West African Women in America,” contribution as panelist on special plenary panel at the Symposium on Immigration, California State university—Los Angeles, October 20, 2016.

“More than Winthrop’s City on the Hill: Centering Black Migrations in Boston’s History,” keynote lecture delivered at the Blacks in Boston Conference, Boston College, April 2, 2016.

With Marilyn Halter, “West Africans in America,” Auburn Avenue Research Library for African American Life and History, Atlanta, September 25, 2015.

With Marilyn Halter, “The New African Americans,” book talk presented at the Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, March 19, 2015.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### **Consulting and Review:**

Manuscript reviewer for:

Indiana University Press; University Press of Florida; Oxford University Press; Texas A&M University Press; *Journal of American History*; *The International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*; *Black Women, Gender and Families*; *Women and Therapy: A Feminist Journal*, *The High School Journal*; *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*.

Associate Editor, *The International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*, Vol. 5, No. 3 (2009).

External Reviewer, Spelman College Department of History, October 2015; and March 2003.

External Reviewer, Doctoral Program in Africana Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), January 2015.

External Reviewer, tenure and promotion review, University of Arkansas, September 2018.

External Reviewer, promotion review, University of Texas—Arlington, August 2018.

External Reviewer, promotion review, Kalamazoo College, April 2018.

External Reviewer, promotion review, Clemson University, October, September 2015.

External Reviewer, tenure and promotion review, Wheaton College, Massachusetts, November 2012.

External Reviewer, tenure and promotion review, Kalamazoo College, October 2010.

Peer Review Panelist, NEH Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Institutions with High Hispanic Enrollment and Tribal Colleges and Universities, August 2010.

Participant in the AAC&U planning of the October 2009 Integrative Learning Conference, November 2008.

Co-author of sections on Student Learning Outcomes of the Agnes Scott College "Compliance Audit Report" for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaccreditation review, August 2003.

Member of Scholars Working Group, Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education (ARCHE) Civil Rights Virtual Library and Exhibition Project, August 2001-June 2003.

Pre-screener, Fellowship Competition of the American Council of Learned Societies, 2000 and 2001.

Peer Review Panelist, NEH awards for Summer Seminars and Institutes, May 2000.

### **Boards and Committees:**

President, Collegium for African American Research (CAAR), September 2015-present

Convener and Co-Chair of the Planning Committee of the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference of the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR), March 13-16, 2013, Decatur/Atlanta.

Executive Board of the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR), 2005-2013.

Women's Colleges Coalition Task Force for International Initiatives, 2007-2010.

Atlanta-based Steering Committee of the Presbyterian University of East Africa (PUEA), Kenya, 2008-2010.

Nominating Committee of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, 2014-2016.

Faculty Advisory Committee of the Texas A&M University Press, 2013-present.

Editorial Board of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 2006-present.

Editorial Board of the Forum for European Contributions in African American Studies (FORECAAST) series, 2005-2013.

Program Committee of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, 1998-2005.

African American Initiatives Board, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA, 2002-2005.