

**HEIDI L. DODSON**  
*Curriculum Vitae*  
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## **EDUCATION**

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**Ph.D., History**, 2016, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dissertation: “*We Cleared the Land with Our Own Hands*”: *Space and Place in African American Community Building and Freedom Struggles in the Missouri Bootheel, 1890-1968*

**M.L.I.S.**, 2001, Library and Information Science, University of Texas-Austin

**B.S.**, 1996, Biology, with minor in Women’s Studies, Southeast Missouri State University

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

2019 “The River is Part of Our Life: African Americans and Water Landscapes in the Missouri Bootheel,” *Missouri Historical Review* 114, no. 1 (October 2019): 16-39.

2016 “Race and Contested Rural Space in the Missouri Delta: African American Farm Workers and the Delmo Labor Homes, 1940-1951,” *Buildings & Landscapes* 23, no. 1 (Spring 2016): 78-101.

### **Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Articles**

2019 “Tenant Farming and Sharecropping,” and “Rural Housing,” in *World of Jim Crow America: A Daily Life Encyclopedia* (Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press, 2019): 135-38.

2019 “Rural Housing,” in *World of Jim Crow America: A Daily Life Encyclopedia* (Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press, 2019): 365-67.

2017 Book review, *Slavery on the Periphery: The Kansas-Missouri Border in the Antebellum and Civil War Eras*. By Kristen Epps (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2016), *Missouri Historical Review* 112, no. 1 (October 2017): 76-78.

2016 Book review, *Been Coming Through Some Hard Times: Race, History, and Memory in Western Kentucky*. By Jack Glazier (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2012), *Journal of Social History*, 49, no.3 (Spring 2016): 757-58.

2014 Book review, *J. V. Conran and Rural Political Power: Boss Mythology in the Missouri Bootheel*. By Will Sarvis (Latham, MD: Lexington Books, 2012), *Agricultural History*, 88, no. 3 (Summer 2014): 451-453.

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## RESEARCH

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**The Pennsylvania State University** 2019-present

*Humanities Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, State College, PA*

- Writing book manuscript – *Following the River: Black Migration and the Politics of Place in the Missouri Delta*.
- Developing research-related digital mapping and public history projects.

**University at Buffalo** 2018-2019

*CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Scholarship*

- Engaged in research and writing.
- Planned and developed the Digital Scholarship Studio & Network, a joint endeavor between UB Libraries, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Graduate School of Education.
- Developed personal digital mapping research projects on rural African American migration and rural apartheid.
- Built digital scholarship campus networks through communication, programming, and consultation support.
- Taught digital humanities workshops.

**Center for Missouri Studies** 2018

*Environmental History Research Fellowship*

- Researched and wrote a scholarly essay on African American relationships to waterways in the Missouri Delta.
- Conducted

**Oral History Project (NEH): “Breaking New Ground: A History of African American Farm Owners since the Civil War”**

*Summer Research Fellow under Drs. Adrienne Petty and Mark Schultz* 2012

- Attended two-day oral history training.
- Carried out preliminary research to identify and communicate with African American farm families in Southeast Missouri.
- Conducted and processed 20 oral history interviews with African American farmers in Missouri.

**University of Illinois** 2011-2012

*Nicholson-Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH) Student Fellow*

- Participated in a weekly interdisciplinary research seminar with the theme “Borders.” This included presenting my own writing and research for critique.

*Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems Fellow* 2009-2010

- Engaged in a weekly interdisciplinary discussion of individual research projects and literature that focused on human interactions with the environment (broadly defined).

*Research Assistant – Dr. Orville Vernon Burton* 2007-2009

- Assisted Prof. Burton with activities associated with his role as founding director of the Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (I-CHASS).
- Located and created digital formats of primary documents for a website designed as a teaching and public history accompaniment to the book *The Age of Lincoln*.
- Researched a wide range of topics, including Abraham Lincoln and the history of voting rights.

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## TEACHING

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### University of Illinois

*Online Instructor – U.S. History since 1877* 2012-2014

- Communicated with students about course material through discussion boards, e-mail, and phone.
- Provided assignment feedback, exam study guides, and encouragement throughout course progress.
- Graded writing assignments and examinations.
- Made suggestions for course content improvements.

*Teaching Assistant (Dr. Adrian Burgos) – Constructing Race in America* 2011

- Led three discussion sections of 20-25 students.
- Encouraged students to critically think about how race has been socially constructed through close analysis of five books.
- Designed syllabus and lesson plans.
- Taught writing and historical analysis skills.
- Collaborated with the professor and other teaching assistants in creating exams and essay questions and evaluating students' experiences.

*Teaching Assistant (Dr. Augusto Espiritu) – U.S. History to 1877* 2010

- Led three discussion sections of 20-25 students.
- Encouraged students to think critically about U.S. history through group activities, readings, discussions, and textual analysis of primary documents.
- Designed syllabus and lesson plans.
- Helped students develop their writing and analytical skills.

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## PUBLIC HISTORY EXPERIENCE

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**OAH/NPS Lowell National Historical Park Historical Resource Study** 2019-2021

*Digital Humanities Consultant*

- Work with grant principal investigators and partners to develop interactive web and mobile maps that document and interpret the history of Lowell Historical National Park.

**Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History**

2017-2018

*Oral History Scholar-in-Residence, Chapel Hill, NC*

- Assisted with history-based community development initiatives in the historically African-American Northside neighborhood.
- Managed, developed, and launched an online oral history project (Oral History Trust).
- Co-authored successful NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant.
- Co-authored successful NEH Common Heritage Grant.
- Conducted oral history interviews.
- Supervised and trained oral history fellows and interns.

**Amistad Research Center**

2001-2003

*Reference Archivist, New Orleans, LA*

- Conducted tours of the Center, including the art gallery and manuscript exhibits.
- Assisted with exhibit development.
- Gave talks to university students and the public about historical research and African American history.
- Provided research assistance to researchers, faculty, and students in the New Orleans area and beyond.
- Planned and designed the reference and research component of a digital reference desk.

**Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas**

2000

*Senior Graduate Student Associate, Austin, TX*

- Cataloged and preserved the David Douglas Duncan photograph collection.

**Austin History Center, Austin, TX**

2000-2001

*Archives Volunteer, Austin, TX*

- Assisted with the development of a database for 250 panoramic photographs.
- Facilitated African American donations of archival material at Photo Heritage Day.
- Helped catalog *Austin American-Statesman* film negatives.

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**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**University of Virginia**

2003-2007

*Librarian for Life Sciences, Charlottesville, VA*

- Initiated and helped develop a digital herbarium project in collaboration with Mountain Lake Biological Station, the Biology Department, and other UVA Library departments.
- Taught library instruction classes to engineering, psychology, environmental sciences, and biology students.
- Provided reference and research assistance to faculty, staff, students, and the public.
- Created course and subject-specific research guides.

**Hope Center Youth and Family Services**

1997-1998

*Lead Counselor (Supervisor) and Counselor, Groveton, TX*

- Supervised staff of twelve counselors at residential placement facility for at-risk youth.
- Served as communication liaison between clients, teachers, and caseworkers.
- Organized camp-wide activities and off-site trips.
- Conducted staff training sessions.
- Facilitated groups and individual counseling.

**SUCCESSFUL GRANTS**

2018 Contributing author, NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant, “The Northside Digital Commons,” Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History, Chapel Hill, NC.

2018 Contributing author, NEH Common Heritage Grant, “Teachers, Artisans, and Entrepreneurs: Black Community and Work in the Southern Town,” Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History, Chapel Hill, NC.

**INVITED TALKS**

2019 “Building the Bootheel: African Americans Workers and Waterways,” Cape Girardeau Public Library, April 4, 2019, sponsored by the Center for the Missouri Studies.

2018 “Crossing into Peonage: Black Rural Workers and Racial ‘Dead Lines’ in the Missouri Bootheel,” Place, Race and Space Seminar, Hall Center for the Humanities, April 9, 2018, University of Kansas.

2011 “African American Farm Worker Communities in the Missouri Delta: Claiming Territory and Educational Facilities in the 1940s,” Washington University Special Collections, November 4, 2011, St. Louis, Missouri.

**CONFERENCE PAPERS**

2019 Panel co-organizer and presenter “Mapping as Methodology: Tracing African American Migration and Mobility in the Upper South,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), October 2019, Charleston, South Carolina.

2019 Roundtable presenter, “Overcoming Challenges and Breaking Down Barriers: Digital Scholarship Support Within and Beyond the University,” Association for Computing in the Humanities, July 2019, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

2019 Panel organizer and presenter, "Across Piney Woods, Delta, and Texas Landscapes: African American Mobility within the South," Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA), May 30-June 1, 2019, Durham, North Carolina.

2018 "Pinhook, Missouri: A Story of Strength, Struggle, and Displacement," Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration, April 2018, Durham, North Carolina.

2018 "Crossing in to Peonage: Black Rural Workers and Racial "Dead Lines" in the Missouri Bootheel," Invited Talk, Place, Race and Space Seminar, Langston Hughes Center and Hall Center for the Humanities, April 9, 2018, University of Kansas.

2017 "Black Educational Activism and White 'Grudging Compliance' in the Missouri Bootheel, 1948-1968," Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), September 2017, Cincinnati, Ohio.

2017 "Vanishing Black Landowning Communities: Uncovering the Connections between Place and Activism in the Missouri Delta," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, April 2017, New Orleans, Louisiana.

2016 "Pinhook, Missouri: Black Land Ownership, Migration, and Social Networks," Missouri Conference on History, March 2015, Chesterfield, Missouri.

2014 "Expanding Rural Public Space: Contested Geographies of African American Education and Housing in the Border South, 1940-1954," Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Conference, September 2014, Memphis, Tennessee.

2014 "Building New Communities: Black Town Development and Contested Geographies of Education and Housing in the Missouri Delta, 1940-1954," Triangle African American History Colloquium, March 1, 2014, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

2012 Standing Their Ground: Black Farm Workers' Educational Activism in the Missouri Delta, Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Conference, September 2012, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

2012 "African American Planning through Activism: Missouri Delta Farm Worker Communities in the 1940s," Cleanth Brooks Forum, St. George Tucker Society Conference, July 2012, Augusta, Georgia.

2012 "Standing Their Ground: African American Farm Worker Demands for School Facilities in the Missouri Delta," Vernacular Architecture Forum, June 2012, Madison, Wisconsin.

2011 "'We Won't Go Back to the Plantations': Claiming Homes and Territory in White Man's Country," Paper presented at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Conference, October 2011, Richmond, Virginia.

2010 "We Won't Go Back to the Plantations": African American Claims to Space and Place in the Missouri Delta," Paper presented at Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, November 2010, Chicago, Illinois.

2010 "Making a Home in White Man's Country: African American Claims to Space and Place in the Missouri Delta," Poster presented at Roots and Branches: Migrations to the Lower Ohio and Mississippi Valley Conference, March 2010, Center for Delta Studies, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

2008 "The Garden Spot of the World': African American Migration and Farm Ownership in the Missouri Delta," Paper presented at Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, October 2008, Miami, Florida.

2007 "A Changing Landscape: African American Migration to the Missouri Bootheel in the Early Twentieth Century," Paper presented at Missouri Conference on History, April 2007, St. Louis, Missouri.

2000 "African-American Archives in Texas: Mission Accomplished?" Paper presented at Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting, May 2000, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

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## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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2018 Research Fellowship, Center for Missouri Studies.

2016 Lewis E. Atherton Dissertation Prize, State Historical Society of Missouri.

2014 Best Paper Prize, "Building New Communities: Black Town Development and Contested Geographies of Education and Housing in the Missouri Delta, 1940-1954," Triangle African American History Colloquium, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

2014 Student Scholarship, Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching (HILT), Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH), University of Maryland.

2013 Travel Grant, Digital Humanities Data Curation Institute, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2012 Pamela H. Simpson Presenter's Fellowship, Vernacular Architecture Forum, Madison, Wisconsin.

2011 Travel Grant, Washington University Department of Special Collections, St. Louis, Missouri.

2009 Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, History Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2008 Social Science History Association Meeting, Rockefeller Graduate Student Travel Award.

2008 Jerome M. Clubb Scholarship, ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan.

2006 University of Virginia Library Faculty Research Grant.

2006 Richard S. Brownlee Fund Grant, State Historical Society of Missouri, 2006.

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**DIGITAL HUMANITIES WORKSHOPS (TAUGHT)**

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2019 (Co-taught) “Text Analysis Tools from the Hathi Trust Research Center,” University at Buffalo, May 2, 2019.

2019 (Co-taught) “Choosing a Web Platform: WordPress, Scalar, and Omeka,” University at Buffalo, April 22, 2019.

2019 “Oral History Tools & Methods,” University at Buffalo, March 7, 2019.

2018 “Storytelling with Data: Data into Spreadsheets,” University at Buffalo, February 11, 2018.

2018 (Co-taught) “ArcGIS Online and Story Maps,” University at Buffalo, November 8, 2018.

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**DIGITAL HUMANITIES WORKSHOPS (ATTENDED)**

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2019 (upcoming) “Integrating OHMS and Omeka), online, Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, October 29, 2019.

2019 “Introduction to Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS),” online, Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, August 20, 2019.

2019 “Social Network Analysis,” Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI), University of Victoria, British Columbia, June 10-14, 2019.

2019 “Black Spatial Humanities,” HILT, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), June 3-7, 2019.

2019 “Command-Line Fundamentals,” Digital Humanities Summer Workshops, University of Guelph, May 7-10, 2019.

2019 “Quantitative Analysis and The Digital Turn in Historical Studies,” University of Toronto, February 27-March 1, 2019.

2018 “Oral History and Podcasting,” Oral History Association Conference, October 10, 2018.

2018 "Digital Tools in Oral History," online, Baylor Institute for Oral History, May 2018.

2018 "Making Choices about Your Data," and "Digital Storytelling," Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria, British Columbia, June 2018.

2017 "Black Publics in the Humanities: Critical and Collaborative DH Projects, HILT, University of Texas at Austin, June 5-9, 2017.

2017 "Advanced Interviewing Techniques," online, Baylor Institute for Oral History, May 2017.

2017 Social Network Analysis workshop, American Historical Association Meeting, Denver, Colorado, January 5, 2017.

2016 "Make That Audio Doc," Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, 2016.

2016 "Critical Pedagogy and Digital Praxis in the Humanities," and "Geographical Information Systems in the Digital Humanities," Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, June 2016.

2015 THATCamp Community Archives, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 2015.

2014 "Refracting Digital Humanities: Critical Race, Gender and Queer Theories as (DH) Methods," HILT, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH), August 2014.

2014 "Making Maps that Tell Stories: An Introduction to Documentary Mapmaking," Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, March-April 2014.

2012 "Introduction to Documentary Studies," Duke Center for Documentary Studies, Durham, NC, September 11-October 30, 2012.

2012 Introduction to TEI Workshop, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 17-19, 2012.

2011 "GIS 102: Loading Data into ArcGIS," University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 2011.

2006 Introduction to ArcGIS, NCSA, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, December 2006.

2005 "Introduction to ArcGIS I," ESRI, Vienna, VA, April 2005.

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## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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2020 Invited panel chair and commentator, “Social Movements and Progressive Inequalities, 1850–1930,” Organization of American Historians, Washington, D. C., April 3, 2020.

2014-17 Volunteer, Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History, Chapel Hill, NC.

2011-12 Secretary, History Graduate Student Association, University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign.

2011-12 Student Coordinator, IPRH Labor and Working-Class History Reading Group, University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign.

2010 Planning Committee, Midwestern Labor and Working Class History Colloquium, University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign.

2010-12 Volunteer, Wesley Evening Food Pantry, Urbana, Illinois.

2009-10 Executive Committee, Graduate Symposium on Women’s and Gender History, Department of History, University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign.

2009 Bargaining Research Committee, Graduate Employee Organization, University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign.

2005-06 Faculty Mentor, Office of African American Affairs, University of Virginia, 2005-2006.

2004-06 Multicultural Issues Committee, University Library, University of Virginia, 2004-2006.

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## CURRENT PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
Oral History Association  
Southern Historical Association  
Labor and Working-Class History Association  
Association for Computing in the Humanities