

Dr Mary Ellen Curtin

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Education

Ph.D. History, Duke University

1992

B.A. History and English Literature, University of Rochester

1983, cum laude

Employment

American University, Department of History,

Assistant Professor (Term Faculty)

2010- Present

American University, Department of History, On-line Instructor

Summer 2011, 2012

American University, Department of History,

Part Time Instructor

2010

University of Notre Dame, Program in Washington D.C.

Part Time Instructor

2009-2010

The George Washington University, Washington D.C.

Part Time Instructor

2009-2010

Visiting Professor of African American History

2008-2009

University of Essex, United Kingdom

Lecturer in American History (permanent)

1998-2008

Texas State University, San Marcos Texas

Assistant Professor of History

1994-1998

Georgia Southern University

Visiting Assistant Professor of African History

1993-1994

University of South Florida

Visiting Assistant Professor in Women's History

1992-1993

Consulting Employment

Hired as a grant writer for successful NEH grant proposal by *TPT Productions* in 2008, and script consultant in 2011 for a documentary film on convict labor, entitled *Slavery By Another Name*, based on Douglas Blackmon's Pulitzer Prize winning book. I was also hired to evaluate and edit the final film version. I appear in the film as an expert historian. The documentary aired on PBS on Feb. 13, 2012. It was chosen as a finalist in the best US film documentary in the 2012 Sundance Film Competition. It also appeared at the Pan African Film Festival (2012) in Los Angeles and in numerous international competitions and settings.

Grants and Fellowships

Recipient, CAS Mellon Faculty Development fund, \$650, to cover transportation costs to the
Nov. 2012 meeting of the *American Studies Association* Spring 2012

Recipient, CAS Mellon Faculty Development Fund. \$1,243 to defray summer research expenses
for my book *Ahead of Her Time*. Nov. 2011

Recipient, \$2500 Grant to develop summer on-line course in
Modern American Women's History, American U. Spring 2011

Public Policy Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center
for Scholars, Washington, DC Summer, 2010

Fellowship in Residence, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars,
Washington, DC 2007-2008

Fellowship, Clements Center for the History of the Southwest,
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, Declined 2007-2008

Clements Center-DeGolyer Library Research Grant, Southern
Methodist University, Dallas, Texas Summer 2007

Fellowship, Arts and Humanities Research Board, UK Spring term 2001

Research Promotion Fund Grant, University of Essex 1999

Faculty Research Grant, Texas State University Summer 1995

Pre-Doctoral Dissertation Fellow, Carter G. Woodson Institute
for African and Afro American Studies, University of
Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 1990-1992

Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow
Wilson Foundation 1989-90

Charles T Laprade Graduate Fellowship, Duke University 1985-1988

Awards

Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, Texas State University 1998

Publications: Book

Black Prisoners and Their World: Alabama, 1865-1900, (Charlottesville: University
Press of Virginia, 2000)

Scholarly Articles and Other Publication

"State of the Art: The New Prison History," *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the
Americas* (2011) 8: (3), 97-108.

“Capitalism, the Womanist Way: The Story of Annie Malone” and “Crest of a Wave: The National Urban League and the Rising Tide of Urban Black America,” *The Woodson Review: ASALH Theme Magazine* (Vol. 5, 2009)

“Strong People and Strong Leaders: African American Women and the Struggle For Black Freedom,” in Vicki Ruiz and Eileen Boris ed., *The Practice of U.S. Women’s History: Narratives, Intersections, and Dialogues* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2007), 308-328.

“Barbara Jordan and the Politics of Insertion and Accommodation,” *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy (CRISPP)* Vol 7 Number 4 (Winter 2004): 279-303

“Reaching For Power: Barbara Jordan and Texas Liberals, 1966-1972,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 108 Number 1 (October 2004): 211-231.

“‘Negro Thieves’ or Enterprising Farmers?: Markets, Prison, and Black Community Regulation in Alabama, 1866-1877.” *Agricultural History* 74 (Winter 2000): 19-38

"The 'Human World' of Black Women in Alabama Prisons, 1870-1900," in *Hidden Histories of Women in the New South*, Betty Brandon, Elizabeth Turner, Virginia Bernhard, E. Fox-Genovese, and Theda Perdue eds. (Columbia, Mo: University of Missouri Press, 1994) pp. 11-30.

Book reviews published in [Gender and History](#), [The Journal of Southern History](#), [The Journal of Mississippi History](#), [Women’s History Review](#), [Times Literary Supplement](#), and [Social History](#).

Op-eds published in the *Atlantic* on-line, *Austin American Statesmen*

Pending Publications

Ahead of Her Time: Barbara Jordan and the Politics of Race and Sex in America, under contract to the University of Pennsylvania Press.

“Barbara Jordan and the Paradox of Female Ambition,” in *Texas Women/American Women: Their Lives and Times*, Stephanie Cole, Liz Turner, and Rebecca Sharpless eds. Under contract to University of Georgia Press. Forthcoming, 2012.

“‘Please Hear Our Cries’: Slavery, the Unfree, and the Hidden History of Black Prisoners in America,” in *The Problem of Punishment*, Deborah McDowell, Vesla Weaver, eds. (University Press of Virginia, forthcoming, 2012.)

“‘Their Idol, Their Vision’: Womanism, Feminism, and the Rise of Barbara Jordan,” *The Journal of Women’s History*, (accepted and forthcoming).

“Crime” in *Encyclopedia of African American History*, Stephanie Shaw and Joseph Trotter eds. Under contract with Facts on File.

Invited Lectures and Conference Presentations (Upcoming conferences included)

Invited to appear on a panel, “African American Women in Twentieth Century Texas,” at the meeting of the *Texas Historical Association*, Fort Worth, Texas, March, 2013.

Invited Participant, “The Past and Present of Race and Place in Houston, Texas,” conference to be held at Rice University, Feb. 25-27, 2013.

Invited to serve as Commentator for Panel, “Geneologies of the Carceral State,” at the meeting of the *American Historical Association*, New Orleans, January 2013

Invited to serve as Commentator on Panel, “Prisons, Policing and U.S. Empire,” at the meeting of the *American Studies Association*, San Juan, Nov. 2012

“Outside Influences: The Making of Barbara Jordan and her views on the Constitution,” on a panel entitled *New Paradigms of Practice: Black Women Lawyers Advancing Justice at the Intersection of Race and Gender*, presented at the American Society for Legal History, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, Nov. 11-13, 2011.

“Race, Gender, and Politics Since 1965: Remediating the Trifurcation of the Historian’s Vision,” *The Historical Society*, June 3-5, 2010, George Washington University, Washington D.C.

“Barbara Jordan and the Paradox of Female Ambition.” Invited Speaker, Lecture Series for Women’s History Month, University of Texas at Arlington, Women’s Studies Department, March 31, 2010.

Discussant, **Race, Politics and Culture: A Discussion of the Significance of the Obama Presidency,** symposium sponsored by University of Notre Dame, chaired by Professor Angela J. Davis, Professor of Law, American University, Thursday, September 24th, 2009, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington D.C.

“‘Please Hear Our Cries’: Slavery, the Unfree, and the Hidden History of Black Prisoners in America, 1910-1955,” **The Problem of Punishment: Race, Inequality, and Justice,** symposium at the Carter G. Woodson Institute at the University of Virginia, April 16-17, 2009.

“Their Idol, Their Vision: Womanism, Feminism, and the Rise of Barbara Jordan in Houston, Texas.” Invited Speaker, University of Houston, Women’s Studies Department, Lecture Series for Women’s History Month, March 30, 2009.

“Barbara Jordan and Race Leadership,” Lecture Series on Race and Women’s Studies, University of Delaware, May 7, 2008.

Invited Guest Speaker, Graduate Seminar in African American Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, April 2, 2008.

“Unlikely Allies”: Barbara Jordan, Muhammad Ali and Black Power Politics in Houston, Texas,” Organization of American Historians (OAH), New York City, March 28-30, 2008.

“Their Idol, Their Vision: Barbara Jordan and the Politics of Black Feminism,” Paper presented at the Social Science History Association (SSHA) Meetings, Minneapolis, MN, Nov. 2-5, 2006.

“Barbara Jordan, Black Womanhood, and the ‘Ripple Effect’ of Women’s Liberation,” Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, March 4-6, 2004.

Talking Like a Man,” Barbara Jordan and Representations of Gender and Race in Texas Politics, 1966-1972,” British Association of American Studies (BAAS) Conference, April 5-8, 2002.

“Reaching For Power: Barbara Jordan’s Path to Congress, 1962-1972,” American History Research Seminar, Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University, Feb. 13, 2002.

Teaching

Major Seminar (research seminar for History majors)

Surveys in U.S. History (Parts 1 and 2)

Survey of African American History

American Encounters, 1492-1865

Women in Modern America (also taught on-line, summer of 2011 and 2012)

Race and Politics in America Since 1945

Social Forces in Modern America

Work and Community

Black Women and Black Protest

Black America: 1877-1979;

From Abolitionism to Modern Feminism: Women and Social Movements in the US, 1830-1970

The Making of the Modern World, 1789-1989

Black Perspectives on the New South

Survey in African history (not taught recently)

Selected Service and Administrative Experience

Lecturer for OLLI (Osher Life Long Learning Institute) Oct 17, 2012

Elected to Executive Board, Southern Labor Studies Association (SLSA), a two year stint beginning in the Spring of 2012.

Advising for Major Seminar (2011-2012), individual student advisor, (Fall 2012)

Member, hearing panel for violations of University Academic Code (Oct. 2011)

Director, Undergraduate Studies, Department of History, University of Essex, 2001 to 2006

Director, First Year Studies, University of Essex, 2006-2007

Director, Compulsory First Year Course, “The Making of the Modern World” 2001 to 2007
History Coordinator, Areas Board of U.S. Studies Program, University of Essex, 2000-2007
Director, SOCRATES and International Studies Program, 2004 to 2006
Convener, Teaching Committee, Department of History, 2003 to 2006
Internal Member, Periodic Review Board, MA Gallery Studies, 2005
External Member, Validation Panel, BA Honors, History, Suffolk College, Ipswich, UK, 2004
Selection Committee, Graduate Teaching Fellows, Spring 2005
Selection Committee, Teaching Fellowship, Two Year Post, Spring 2005

References

Professor William Chafe, Department of History, Duke University, William.chafe@duke.edu
Professor Heather Thompson, Department of Afro American Studies, Temple University, hathomps@temple.edu
Professor Eileen Boris, Department of Women’s Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, boris@femst.ucsb.edu
Dr. Pete Daniel, Curator, National Museum of American History, pedaniel@aol.com
Dr. Tyler Anbinder, Department of History, George Washington University, anbinder@gwu.edu
Dr. Jeremy Krikler, Department of History, University of Essex, krikjm@essex.ac.uk