

Dr Mary Ellen Curtin

Associate Professor, Department of History, American University, Washington DC 20016

a) Education

Ph.D. History, Duke University 1992
B.A. History and English Literature, University of Rochester 1983, cum laude

b) 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

c) Honors and Awards

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

1. 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

Awards

Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, Texas State University 1998

d) Publications: Books

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

Ahead of Her Time: Barbara Jordan and the Politics of Race and Sex in America, under contract to the University of Pennsylvania Press. (2008) 100,000-120,000 words

Scholarly Articles

"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, 2013. Peer reviewed.

"'Please Hear Our Cries': The Hidden History of Black Prisoners in America," in *The Punitive Turn*, Deborah McDowell, ed. (University of Virginia Press, 2013.) peer reviewed.

"'Their Idol, Their Vision': Womanism, Feminism, and the Rise of Barbara Jordan," *The Journal of Women's History*, (accepted and forthcoming) peer reviewed.

"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. Conference proceedings.

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

"'Negro Thieves' or Enterprising Farmers?: Markets, Prison, and Black Community Regulation in Alabama, 1866-1877." *Agricultural History* 74 (Winter 2000): 19-38. Peer reviewed.

"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. Peer reviewed.

Review articles and Selected Book Reviews

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

“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.

“Coming of Age: Black Women’s History in the 1990s,” *Women’s History Review*, Vol 10, No. 2 (June 2001), 353-362.

Mark Colvin, *Penitentiaries, Reformation, and Chain Gangs: Social Theory and the History of Punishment in nineteenth-Century American South* and Alex Lichtenstein, *Twice the Work of Free Labor: The Political Economy of Convict Labor in the New South. Social History*, Vol. 24 No.2 (May 1999) 215-217.

Desmond King, *Separate and Unequal: Black Americans and the U.S. Federal Government. The Journal of Mississippi History*, (1998) 370-372.

Francis Edward Abernethy, *Juneteenth Texas: Essays in African American Folklore. Journal of Southern History*, Vol 64, no. 1 (Feb. 1998) 162-163.

William Banks Taylor, *Down on Parchman Farm. Times Literary Supplement*, Aug. 13, 1999

David L. Lightner, *Asylum, Prison and Poorhouse: The Writings and Reform Work of Dorothea Dix. Times Literary Supplement*, Oct. 15, 1999.

D.J. Mulloy, *Homegrown Revolutionaries: An American Militia Reader. Times Literary Supplement*, July 7, 2000.

Articles in other Publications

“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)

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

Invited Lectures

8/28/2013

“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.

“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.

Conference Presentations

Chair and Commentator for Panel, “The Intersection of Civil Rights and Labor Movements in the Postwar Urban South,” at the meeting of the *Southern Labor Studies Association*, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., March 6-8, 2015.

“Barbara Jordan and the Paradox of Black Female Ambition,” paper presented on panel entitled “African American Women in Twentieth Century Texas,” at the meeting of the *Texas Historical Association*, Fort Worth, Texas, March 1, 2013.

“The Fifth Ward and the Making of Barbara Jordan,” paper presented at conference entitled “The Past and Present of Race and Place in Houston, Texas,” held at Rice University, Feb. 25-27, 2013. Invited Participant.

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

Commentator on Panel, “Prisons, Policing and U.S. Empire,” at the meeting of the *American Studies Association*, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 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.

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. Invited participant.

“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.

h. 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 and has been shown many times since. 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.

NEH Consultant. Reviewed proposals and served on a panel for grants ranging from \$70,000 to \$1,000,000 as part of the *American Media Makers* (AMM) panel for the National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington D.C. Oct-Nov. 2013.

Manuscript Reviewer. Spring and Summer, 2013. Reviewed manuscript for *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in Georgia* by Talitha LeFlouria for UNC Press. Book is to be published in Winter 2015.

j. Teaching

Supervision of Major Seminar Thesis, Capstone to History Degree, 2011-2012

Elee Wakim, “Showdown in the Strait: Nuclear Blackmail, Conventional Deterrence, and the Threat of War”

Alex Calta. “Eye in the Sky: The Air Force, A Company, and the First Drone Spy Plane”

Chris Gabriele, “Now You See It, Now You Don’t!: Invisible Warplanes and the History of Stealth”

Jade Ryan, “Consuming Culture”

Kyle Garber, “Wrath Of The Norsemen: Viking Metal and the Second Viking Age Revival”

Alahna Sergi, “The Fight Against the Enemies of Freedom: the National Council of Jewish Women and the Defense of Civil Liberties in the 1950s”

Hilary Naiberk. “La Femme et La France: Images of Women and the French Revolution

Jean Hinkley, Gaelic Games in American Sporting Culture

Nate Cain, “What Kept Us Apart: the Social and Political Divisions of the German Anti-Nazi Resistance

Samantha Grody, “Gendered Identities in the US and the Dirty War in Argentina”

Meghan Sweeney, “Selling Smokers: Cigarettes and Sex in the Making of Modern Woman”

Nicole Orphanides, “Appearance and Assimilation: Jewish Immigrant Women Fitting In and Forming Identities, 1880-1920”

Megan Dees, “Mine is: a Diamond in the Rough: the Success of the M Street School”

Sebastian Godier, “McCarythism: a Journalism War an Investigation into the Power of the Press and its role in Senator McCarthy’s Crusade”

Jared Ferenczy, “Wholesome Entertainment for All: History of Censorship in the United States”

Independent Studies

Summer 2011— Mentor and Advisor for undergraduate recipient Ian Toller-Clark, recipient of the Dean’s Matthias Grant (CAS), a \$5,000 research fellowship. Summer 2012.

2012-2013—Supervised the Major Seminar paper of Ilyanna Kreske as an independent study.

Supervision of M.A. Thesis, Evan Phifer (2014-15)

Serving on PhD Committee of Anna Kaplan

k. Curriculum Development

New Classes created and taught at AU:

Ams 240 Poverty and Culture, part of the new Community Based Research Scholars curriculum at AU begun in the summer of 2014. Supervised the Research of 21 Freshman students into the history of UPO (United Planning Organization), an anti-poverty organization located in Washington D.C. that was formed in 1962. Students conducted oral histories with some founding members, created a newspaper archive of the organization, and completed an academic course.

Hist 479/679 Race and Politics in America Since 1945

This class draws upon my research project on Barbara Jordan and my knowledge of African American political history. Interdisciplinary.

HNRS 300 Race and Incarceration in America, from Slavery to the Present

This class draws upon my research on the history of convict labor in the United States and my training in black history and prison studies. Interdisciplinary.

Hist 220X Women in Modern America and Women in America Since 1850. I significantly revised this existing course to offer it as a new online summer class. This course has run for three summers in a row and I plan to offer it regularly.

l. College and University Service/Activities

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

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

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

Accepted into program for on-line Teacher Training, \$2500 grant. Spring 2011

Attendance at Anne Ferren Teaching Conferences, Spring 2011, 2012, 2013.

m. Memberships and Professional Activities

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

American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

American Studies Association

8/28/2013