

ROBERT T. CHASE

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2013-present Assistant Professor, Department of History, Stony Brook University
- 2011-2013 Public Historian, Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, College of Charleston
- 2010-2011 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University
- 2009-2010 Postdoctoral Fellow in African American Studies, Case Western Reserve University, Department of History
- 2008-2009 Postdoctoral Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America, William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University

EDUCATION

- 2009 *Ph.D.* History, University of Maryland, College Park
Major Field: U.S. History; Special Field: 20th Century/Race
Dissertation: "Civil Rights on the Cellblock: Race, Reform, and Violence in Texas Prisons and the Nation, 1945-1990"
Honors: EB and Jean Smith Award for Best Dissertation in Political History, University of Maryland, College Park
Dissertation Committee: Professors Gary Gerstle (advisor), James Gilbert, Sonya Michel, Ira Berlin, John Laub
- 1999 *M.A.* History, George Mason University,
Major Field: U.S. Political Cultural History; Minor Field: Modern European History
Advisors: Professors Lawrence Levine and Roy Rosenzweig

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

U.S. History (19th and 20th centuries); U.S. Social, Labor, and Political History; Southern and Sunbelt History; African American and Chicano/a history; radicalism; political violence; history of prisons and policing; civil rights; and Black and Brown Power movements.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate seminars

- Spring 2015 "Transnational Histories of Power: Nation, Race, Citizenship, and Nationalist Revolutions" Stony Brook University
- Spring 2011 "Prisons and Policing in 19th and 20th Century America" Case Western Reserve University

Undergraduate Seminars

- Fall 2014 “Surveillance State: A History of Domestic Spying in the U.S.” Stony Brook University
- Spring 2014 “Power! Race and Radicalism” Stony Brook University
- Fall 2013 “From Gunfighter Nation to Garrison State: Guns, Race, Violence, and Masculinity in U.S. History” Stony Brook University
- 2011 & 2013 “Carceral Studies: Prison, Policing, and Race in U.S. History” Stony Brook University and Rutgers University
- Spring 2012 “Black Power Movement” College of Charleston
- 2007-2008 “Civil Rights Movement: New Directions in 20th Century Civil Rights” University of Maryland

Undergraduate Lecture Courses

- 2013-2015 “U.S. History since 1919” Stony Brook University
- 2013-2014 “Unsettled Decade: The Sixties,” Stony Brook University
- 2010 “U.S. History since 1945” Rutgers University

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscript

Civil Rights on the Cell Block: Prisoners’ Rights Movements and the Construction of Carceral States, 1945-1995, in preparation for University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Press, “Justice, Power, and Politics” series.

Co-edited Anthology

Sunbelt Prisons: New Histories of Incarceration, Immigration Detention/Deportation, and Resistance, in preparation for University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Press, “Justice, Power, and Politics” series. Co-edited anthology and symposium co-sponsored by the Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University, and the Center for the American West, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2011-2012

Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals

“We Are Not Slaves: Rethinking the Carceral State through the Lens of Prisoners Rights,” special issue “Historians and the Carceral State,” *Journal of American History*, Vol 102, Issue 1, June 2015, 73-86.

“Self Taught, Cell Taught-Chicano Movement Behind Bars: Urban Chicano Prisoners in Rural Prisons,” special issue on “Urban Spaces and the Carceral State,” *Journal of Urban History*, September 2015, Vol 41(5): 836-861.

“Class Resurrection: The Poor People’s Campaign of 1968 and Resurrection City,” *Essays in History*, Volume 40, Virginia: The University of Virginia, 1998.

Chapters in Books

“‘Rioting Peacefully’: Rethinking Sunbelt Prison Rebellions during the 1970s,” in Robert T. Chase and Norwood Andrews, eds., *Sunbelt Prisons and Carceral States: New Histories of*

Incarceration, Immigration Detention/Deportation, and Resistance (UNC, Chapel Hill Press), in preparation

“‘Slaves of the State Revolt’: Southern Prison Labor and the Prisoners’ Rights Movement in Texas, 1945-1980” in Robert Zieger, ed., *Life and Labor in the New, New South: Essays in Southern Labor History since 1950* (University of Florida Press, 2012).

Op-eds

“Where are America’s Memorial to pain of Slavery and Black Resistance?,” CNN.com, July 4, 2015.

“Confederate Flag Deserve History’s Harsh Verdict,” CNN.com, June 24, 2015.

“We are Not Safe: Gun Laws and Race in Florida,” *Orlando Sentinel*, August 13, 2013.

“We are Not Safe: Gun Laws and Race in America,” *Counterpunch*, Weekend Edition, July 19, 2013.

Book Reviews

Black Silent Majority: The Rockefeller Drug Laws and the Politics of Punishment, by Michael Javen Fortner (Boston: Harvard University Press, 2015). *Rutgers School of Law and School of Criminal Justice Reviews in Books*, Spring 2016.

From Slave Abuse to Hate Crime: The Criminalization of Racial Violence in American History, by Ely Aaronson (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014). *Journal of Southern History*, Fall 2015.

States of Delinquency: Race and Science in the Making of California’s Juvenile Justice System, by Miroslava Chavez-Garcia (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012), *Journal of American History*, Vol. 102, Issue 1, June 2015, 284-285.

Published Public History

“On the Border of Freedom and Slavery: The Hampton Plantation, the Northampton Ironworks, and the Transformation of Labor, 1740-1948,” 318-page Historical Resource Study (HRS) commissioned by the National Park Service (NPS), January 2013.

Trevilians Station: A Civil War Battlefield Brochure, National Park Service, 1993

Edited Journal

Editor-in-Chief for: *The Maryland Historian*, “Slavery and the Atlantic World,” Volume 28, Numbers 1-2, Fall/Winter, 2003

Policy Papers

South Korea’s Defense Budget, Defense Budget Project [now known as the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CSBA)], Washington, D.C. 1994

Japan's Defense Budget, Defense Budget Project, listed in Arms Control in Print in the July/August 1993 issue of *Arms Control Today*, June 1993

Other Publications

“The Spying Game: The Repeated Incidents and Intelligence Failures of the U.S.S. Liberty and the U.S.S. Pueblo,” paper resulting from 1991 Summer internship now held at the U.S. Navy Historical Center Library, Washington, D.C., Vertical Files, U.S.S. Liberty File, and at the Hoover Institute of Stanford University, James Ennes and Lloyd “Pete” Bucher Papers

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Faculty Advisor for the undergraduate project "Increasing Community Policing and Civic Education," awarded Third Place in the “Think Big” competition for the College of Arts and Sciences, Stony Brook University.

E. B. and Jean Smith Dissertation Prize in Political History, University of Maryland, College Park, 2009

Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University, 2010-2011

Postdoctoral Fellow in African American Studies, Department of History, Case Western Reserve University, 2009-2010

Clements Center Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America, Southern Methodist University, 2008-2009

Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Maryland, Spring 2008

Baylor University, Institute for Oral History, Transcription Grant, Fall 2007. To transcribe, archive, and make public (after book publication) my 40 oral histories with Texas prisoners

Fellowship-in-Residence, Vanderbilt University, History Department, Fall 2007

Larry J. Hackman Research Residency Grant, New York State Archives, 2006-2007

Dissertation Writing Fellowship Award, University of Maryland, History Department, Spring 2006

University of Maryland, Department of History, Travel Grant for Dissertation Research; Austin, Texas (Spring-Fall 2005)

University of Maryland, The Graduate School, Ilene H. Nagel Travel Award; Albany, New York (March, 2005)

Center for Historical Studies, University of Maryland, Dissertation Research and Writing Fellowship Award, 2004-2005

Walter Rundell Outstanding Graduate Student in American History Award, University of Maryland, History Department, 2003-2004

President, History Graduate Student Association (HGSA), University of Maryland, 2003-2004. Wrote successful proposals (\$5,000) to fund the *Maryland Historian* and the inaugural History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) Lecture, featuring Columbia University Professor Robin D.G. Kelley and his address “Jazz Folk Here and There: A Transatlantic Conversation,” December 1, 2003.

University of Maryland Fellow, 2000-2001; 2003-2004.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS & MEDIA APPEARENCES

On-Air Media Guest (Radio and Television)

MSNBC, Tamron Hall show, “History and the Confederate Flag,” June 22, 2015

Brian Lehrer show, WYNC, “History and the Charleston Massacre,” June 19, 2015

Joy Cardin show, Wisconsin public radio, “The Debate over the Meaning of the Confederate Flag,” June 26, 2015.

Fresh Outlook, cable news talk show, on-air guest and historian, five appearances, 2015

Charleston Massacre, June 27, 2015

Baltimore and police brutality, May 2, 2015

North Charleston and police brutality, April 11, 2015

Ferguson and Justice Department Report, March 28, 2014

Ferguson and Justice Department Report, March 14, 2015

“Prison Radio Show,” KPFT 89.1, Houston, Texas, Pacifica Radio network, June 12, 2009, interview and discussion on history of prisoners’ rights movement; three subsequent interviews from 2010-2014

Newspaper Media Interviews

“The Charleston Church Shooting and the Meaning of Terrorism,” *Newsweek*, June 19, 2015

“As South Carolina Honors Victims, Alabama Lowers its Flags,” *Washington Post*, June 24, 2015

“It’s N-word and Onward for Obama: Use of Epithet Signals New Engagement on Race Issues,” *National Journal* (Canada), June 23, 2015.

“The U.S. Historian Robert Chase Discusses History of Violence and the Confederate Flag,” *Berliner Zeitung*, June 24, 2015

“The U.S. Historian Robert Chase Discusses History of Violence and the Confederate Flag,”
Frankfurter Rundschau, June 24, 2015

Documentaries

Historian for the documentary film: “All Me: The Life and Art of Winfred Rembert.,” Ducat Industries, documentary film for art exhibit at Adelson Gallery, New York, NY, August 2010. The film focuses on Rembert’s youth, African American life and labor in Georgia, and his incarceration and work on a “chain gang” from 1964 to 1970

Historian for the documentary film: “Behind The Walls,” a 2009 documentary film on the Tennessee State Penitentiary, March 2009

CONFERENCE COMMENTARY & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Plenary roundtable-“Writing the History of the Carceral State,” Organization of American Historians (OAH), April 2015.

State of the Field - “Building Critical Prison Studies: Current Scholarship and New Directions” invited panelist at American Studies Association, annual meeting, Puerto Rico, November 2012.

“Debating Mass Incarceration and the ‘New Jim Crow,’” invited talk at “From Black Modern to Post Blackness: A Retrospective Look at Identity” conference, Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University, November 2011.

“Civil Rights on the Cell Block: Race, Violence and the Construction of the US Carceral State, 1945-1990,” invited talk at the Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, England, April 2010.

“Forced Labor in the South After Slavery: The Long Duree,” roundtable participant at the “After Slavery Race, Labor, and Emancipation” Charleston conference, March 2010.

“Working and Living Behind Bars: The Politics and Economics of Mass Incarceration,” roundtable participant at plenary session at the Labor and Working-Class Historical Association (LAWCHA) “Laborlore” Chicago Conference, May 2009.

“The American Working Class Behind Bars: Problems and Possibilities for Building the Labor Movement Then and Now,” roundtable participant at plenary session at the Labor and Working-Class Historical Association (LAWCHA) and Southern Labor Studies Conference, Duke University, Terry Stanford Institute for Public Policy, May 2007.

Presentations

"Turnkeys and 'Turned Out': A Prison-Made Civil Rights Movement," Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), September 2014.

"Behind the Walls: Tennessee's Prison Hostage Crisis at the Walls Prison, 1985", Rethinking Prisons conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, May 2013.

"Rioting Peacefully" in Carceral States: Rethinking Sunbelt Prison Rebellions after Attica, 1970–85," American Historical Association annual conference, New Orleans, January 2013.

"From the City to the Cell Block: Urban Chicanos in Texas Rural Prisons," Urban History Association, November 2012.

"Slaves of the State Revolt: How a Divided System of Southern Prison Labor Created a Prison-Made Civil Rights Movement," presented at the Historical Society's 2010 Conference "Historical Inquiry in the New Century," George Washington University, Washington, DC, June 3-5, 2010.

"Cell Taught, Self Taught: How Chicano Inmates Confronted the Carceral State, 1964-1980," for the panel "New Directions in Mexican American History," at the Historical Society's 2010 Conference "Historical Inquiry in the New Century," George Washington University, Washington, DC, June 3-5, 2010.

"Rioting Peacefully: The Prisoners' Rights Movement and Rethinking 1970s Activism," presented at the American Historical Association annual meeting, January 2010.

"Jail House Attorneys, Building Tenders, and Slaves of the State: The Evolution of a Prison Made Civil Rights Movement," presented at the Law and Society Association annual conference, Denver, CO, May 2009

"Invisible Economy under Chained Hands: The Internal Prison Economy and Prison Violence," presented at the Western Historical Association (WHA) annual meeting, 2006.

"Class over Status Politics: A Black Community's Response to Busing in Prince George's County Maryland, 1954-1995," presented at George Mason University, Graduate Student Symposium, Spring 1998.

"Using Oral Histories for the Study of Social Movements and Civil Rights: The Poor People's Campaign of 1968, A Thirty Year Perspective," presented at Conference on Innovative Perspectives in History, Virginia Polytechnical Institute (Virginia Tech.), Spring 1998.

Chair & Commentary

Chair for the panel "Race, Violence, and Liberal Policy in Post-World War II Urban America" at the 2010 Policy History Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 3-5, 2010.

Commentary on "Public Governance from the American Revolution through the New Deal," by Professor Gary Gerstle. University of Maryland, Colloquium, Spring 2003.

Organizer of Conferences, Community and Public History Events

“From the Color Line to the Carceral State: Prisons, Policing, and Surveillance in the 20th and 21st Centuries,” Stony Brook University and Fairfield University, October 27-28, 2015.

Organized a two-day conference of seven of the nation’s leading scholars on the history of prisons, policing, and drugs alongside seven activists, civil rights attorneys, and criminal justice professionals.

“The Fire Every Time: Reframing Black Power across the Twentieth Century and Beyond,” Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, College of Charleston, September 20-22, 2012.

Organized a conference of sixty scholars and activists for a two-day conference on rethinking Black Power in the era of Barack Obama’s presidency.

“Sunbelt Prisons and Carceral States: New Frontiers of Incarceration, Immigration Detention/Deportation, and Resistance,” Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University, March 24, 2012.

Organized a conference of scholars, formerly incarcerated activists, civil rights attorneys, and Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson to discuss the problem of mass incarceration and the carceral state in the American Southwest.

“Prisons, Race, and Reentry: Confronting the Carceral State in Ohio,” Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Social Justice Initiative, April 15, 2010.

Co-Organized with the ACLU, Ohio a documentary film screening and participated in a public roundtable panel discussion with formerly incarcerated activists and the former Director of the Ohio Correctional Department.

“Prisoners’ Rights and the Law,” Clements Center for Southwestern Studies, Southern Methodist University (SMU), April 6, 2009.

Organized a documentary film screening and participated in a public roundtable panel discussion that invited participation from members of the Dallas community on the historical and contemporary problem of prisons and race in the Texas prison system

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EA Archaeology, 2011-2013

Historian

Researched and wrote “On the Border of Freedom and Slavery: The Hampton Plantation, the Northampton Ironworks, and the Transformation of Labor, 1740-1948,” January 2013. This publication is a 318-page Historical Resource Study (HRS) commissioned by the National Park Service (NPS) on slavery and slave labor at the second largest slave plantation and industrial ironworks in the state of Maryland.

***The Maryland Historian*, 2003-2004**

Editor-in-Chief

Edited and published the special issue, “Slavery and the Atlantic World,” dedicated to Professor Ira Berlin. The issue introduced new scholarship on the Atlantic World and its ties to slavery and the slave trade in Northern and Southern America and the Caribbean.

American Public History Workshop, 2002**Historian and Principal Investigator**

Researched and wrote a research design for the National Park Service as part of a larger historical resource study (HRS) on the local community living on the grounds of the Manassas Civil War battlefield from 1840 to 1875, with particular emphasis on enslaved and free African Americans.

International Technology and Trade Associates (ITTA), Inc. Washington, D.C., 1995-2000**Project Manager & Senior Research Analyst**

Consultant to foreign governments and international companies, particularly those in the Asia-Pacific region, concerning U.S. government policy as it related to international crises, economic development, defense and foreign policy, political economic issues, export control laws, and newly emerging technologies. Researched, wrote, edited, proof-read, and managed major research projects on U.S. public policy, particularly foreign policy, defense and national security, foreign trade and government export control policies.

Defense Budget Project, Washington, D.C., 1992-1994**Everret Fellow and Analyst**

Responsible for writing reports on defense expenditure in the Asian-Pacific region leading to publications on Japan and South Korea's defense budgets. Compiled an index and summary of the 1993 Defense Authorization Act reporting requirements. The report was created for and used by the presidential Clinton Transition Team, journalists, and members of Congress. Reported on Congressional hearings and worked with Congressional staff and the press with request for research and information.