

JUAN M. FLOYD-THOMAS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BLACK CHURCH STUDIES
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL
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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Doctorate of Philosophy in History, University of Pennsylvania.
M.A. Master of Arts in History, Temple University.
B.A. Bachelor of Arts, Rutgers College.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Black Church Studies, Vanderbilt University Divinity School.
Associate Professor of History, Texas Christian University.
Assistant Professor of History, Texas Christian University.
Assistant Professor of History, Virginia Tech.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Origins of Black Humanism in America: Reverend Ethelred Brown and the Unitarian Church (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

Black Church Studies: An Introduction with Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas, Stephen G. Ray, Jr., Ray, Carol Duncan, and Lynne Westfield (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007).

Making It Plain: Approaches to African American Religious History (under contract, Abingdon Press).

The Altars Where We Worship: The Religious Significance of Popular Culture with Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas and Mark G. Toulouse (under contract, Westminster John Knox Press; book proposal available).

"A City Called Heaven": A History of Black Religion in Harlem (under contract, Oxford University Press; book proposal available).

Blessed Assurance: A Narrative History of the Black Church in America (under contractual negotiations; book proposal available).

Journal Articles

“Rethinking ‘The Problem of the Color-Line:’ Black Ideological Diversity and the Foundations of Racial Uplift, 1895-1915” *NCBS International Journal of Africana Studies* vol. 8, no. 1 (Fall 2002), 77-94.

“The Burning of Rebellious Thoughts: MOVE as an Expression of Black Radical Humanism, 1970-2001,” *Black Scholar*, vol. 32, no. 1(Spring 2002), 11-21.

“Seeing Red in the Black Church: Marxist Thought and African American Christianity,” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion* (submitted for editorial review).

Book Chapters

“Confronting the Ten-Day Nation: The Transformative Power of Civil Rights Protest in Mass Media and Popular Memory” in Jonathan L Walton, ed., *Will The Revolution Be Televised?: Preachers, Profits and the Prophetic* (submitted).

“To Set the Captives Free: The Black Church Confronting the Prison-Industrial Complex” in Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Forrest Harris, and Frederick D. Haynes III, eds., *The Black Church's 11th Hour* (submitted)

“Subduing Kingdoms Through Faith: Just War Theory and the Need for a Black Christian Antiwar Movement” in Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Forrest Harris, and Frederick D. Haynes III, eds., *The Black Church's 11th Hour* (submitted)

“Economic Justice and Globalization in Black Church Studies: Confronting the ‘Malignant Kinship’ in the Post-Civil Rights Era” in Alton B. Pollard III, ed., *Black Church Studies: An Interdisciplinary Anthology* (submitted; under contract with Duke University Press).

“Emancipatory Historiography as Pedagogical Praxis: The Blessing and Curse of Theological Education for the Black Self and Subject,” in Lynne Westfield, ed., *Being Black, Teaching Black* (Nashville, TN Abingdon Press, 2008), 95-104.

“‘Lest We Be Scattered Abroad’: Nimrod, Marcus Garvey, Black Religious Humanism in Harlem, and the Legacy of Nimrod” in Anthony B. Pinn and Allen D. Callahan, editors, *African American Religious Life and the Story of Nimrod*. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2007), 53-68.

“A Jihad of Words: The Evolution of African American Islam and Contemporary Hip Hop” in Anthony B. Pinn, editor, *Noise and Spirit: The Religious and Spiritual Sensibilities of Rap Music*. (New York: University Press, 2003), 75-109.

Reference Works

1 entry in *The Encyclopedia of American Religion* (forthcoming)

3 entries in *The Encyclopedia of Unbelief*, Prometheus, 2007.

5 entries in *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*, Routledge, 2004.

1 entry in *Encyclopedia of American Studies*, Grolier Press, 2001.

Book Reviews

Review of Walter Earl Fluker, et al. eds., *The Papers of Howard Washington Thurman: Vol. 1: My People Need Me, June 1918-March 1936* in *The Journal of Southern History* (forthcoming).

Review of Shirley Elizabeth Thompson, *Exiles at Home: The Struggle to Become American in Creole New Orleans* in *Black Theology: An International Journal* (Spring 2010).

Review of Edward J. Blum, *W.E.B. Du Bois: American Prophet* in *Journal of American History* (June 2008).

Review of Clarence E. Hardy III, *James Baldwin's God: Sex, Hope, and Crisis in Black Holiness Culture* in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (December 2006).

Review of Mary Pat Fisher, *Religions Today: An Introduction* in *Teaching Theology and Religion* 7:1 (January 2004).

Review of Edward E. Curtis IV, *Islam in Black America: Identity, Liberation, and Difference in African-American Islamic Thought* in *Journal of American History* (September 2003).

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

“How Deep Is Our Love?: Economic Justice and Globalization in Black Church Studies,” The Church and the Black Experience Program at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, IL on February 26, 2010 (forthcoming).

“Making a Way out of No Way: Rev. Leon Sullivan’s Opportunities Industrialization Center Movement and the Quest for Economic Justice,” American Historians Association Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA on January 10, 2010.

“Seeing Red in the Black Church: Marxist Thought and African American Christianity,” Theology and Religious Reflection Section, /American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada on Saturday, November 7, 2009.

“We Have Spoken: The History of Prophetic Preaching,” Invited Speaker, *Then and Now—Preaching God, Justice and Hope* Kelly Miller Smith Institute Saturday Intensive on Preaching, Worship, & Culture, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN on October 31, 2009.

“The Impact of the Prison Industrial Complex on Black Children,” Workshop leader for Garnett Nabrit Lecture Series, American Baptist College, Nashville, TN on March 17-18, 2009.

“Seeking a New Religious Ideal: W.E.B. Du Bois on Religion and the Challenge of History,” Invited speaker, the 2009 Symposium for Black History Month, the Kelly Miller Smith Institute for Black Church Studies and the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN on February 5, 2009.

“Confronting the Ten-Day Nation: The Transformative Power of Civil Rights Protest in Mass Media and Popular Memory” in “Born in Struggle: Purposeful Activism or Photo Op” Panel discussion for the *“Where Do We Go From Here?” Black Church Traditions, Textures and Transformations*, Black Church Studies Forum at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA on January 24, 2009.

“Historical Perspective of Social Crisis Preaching” Plenary speaker, *Strengthening the Black Family: An Agenda for Homiletics in Black Preaching*, Symposium at Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN on October 16, 2008.

"It's Like God is 'Testing Me:' Approaches for Researching Religion and Hip-Hop," *Like a Prayer: A Series of Public Events on Popular Music and Religious Identity*, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN on October 7, 2008.

“Transformations: Prisons, Inmates and Communities” Workshop leader for Garnett Nabrit Lecture Series, American Baptist College, Nashville, TN, March 25-26, 2008.

“There Are No Children Here: How Young People Contributed to the Civil Rights Movement” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation speaker, Berea College, Berea, KY, January 21, 2008.

“Race and Gender in the Welfare Rights Movement: Confronting Poverty and Injustice in the American Welfare State” at JALT GALE-SIG *Gender and Beyond* Conference in Osaka, Japan, October 7, 2007.

“Studying ‘the Evidence of Things Not Seen:’ W.E.B. DuBois and the Modernist Vision of the Black Religious Experience” in “‘There Must Be a God Somewhere:’ Exploring the Varieties of Modern Black Religious Experience” workshop panel of 2007 Collegium of African American Religion (CAAR) Annual Conference in Madrid, Spain, April 19, 2007.

"To Set the Captives Free: The Black Church Confronting the Prison-Industrial Complex" presentation given at the Brite Divinity School's Black Church Studies Program's The State of the Black Church Summit, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX on March 23, 2007.

"The Black Church Confronting the Prison-Industrial Complex" at National Black Church Studies Consultation: *Preparing Prophets and Priests for the Black Church Tradition*, Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, February 1, 2007.

"Confronting the 'Malignant Kinship': Black Church Studies, Economic Justice, and Globalization in the Post-Civil Rights Era," Black Theology Group/American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 18, 2006.

“Black Church Studies, Economic Justice, and Globalization,” BCS Forum: Prospects and Implications for Academia, Church, and Society, The Program of Black Church Studies, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, February 1-2, 2006.

“‘Lest We Be Scattered Abroad’: The Black Radical Humanist Tradition in Early 20th Century Harlem” Biennial Meeting of the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) at University of Tours, France, April 24, 2005.

"The Tales We Tell and the Blues We Live: Mannish and Womanish Insights in Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*," Invited lecture given with Dr. Stacey Floyd-Thomas at 2005 Humanities Symposium, Loyola College, Baltimore, MD, March 2, 2005.

“Emancipatory Historiography as Pedagogical Praxis: The Blessing and Curse of Theological Education for the Black Self and Subject,” Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) in San Antonio, TX, November 2004.

“Fearing the ‘fate of St. Domingo:’ U.S.-Haiti Relations and Legacy of Unfinished Revolutions” Annual Meeting of the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society in New York City, NY on October 2004.

“Standing in the Valley of the Dry Bones: Anti-Black Racism, Anti-Semitism, and the Crisis of Bad Faith in W.E.B. DuBois’s Visit to Nazi Germany” Texas Christian University, Holocaust Memorial Week Symposium, April 14, 2004.

“‘The fate of St. Domingo awaits you:’ Thoughts on U.S.-Haiti Relations and the Unfinished Revolution,” talk given at Phi Alpha Theta and the TCU Department of History and Geography dinner, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX on March 24, 2004.

“‘Just Looking to Be Left Alone:’ MOVE and the Dilemma of New Religious Movements in Contemporary America,” Chi Delta Mu (XΔM), TCU Department of Religion luncheon, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX, March 2003.

“The Hidden Meaning of Fighting Words: Reflections on the Political Rhetoric and Actions of President George W. Bush,” *Politics and Ethics of War National Teach-In Against the War on Iraq*, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX, March 4, 2003.

“Rev. Leon Sullivan, the Great Society, and the Creation of the Opportunities Industrialization Center Movement, 1964-1974,” Afro-American Religious History Group/American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, November 2002.

“‘The Substance of Things Hoped For:’ Rev. Leon Sullivan and the Creation of the Opportunities Industrialization Center Movement, 1964-1967,” North American Labor History Conference (NALHC) Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI, October 2001.

“How America Underdeveloped the Third World: Race, Postwar International Relations, and the Troubled Discourse of Development,” *Crossroutes: The Meanings of Race for the 21st Century*, the Collegium of African American Research (CAAR) Annual Conference, Caligari, Sardinia, Italy, March 2001.

“‘A City Called Heaven:’ Harlem and the Roots of Racial Utopianism in the United States, 1890-1943,” Communities of the Black Atlantic Panel -“*Monuments of the Black Atlantic: History, Memory, and Politics*” Conference, College of William & Mary /Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) in Williamsburg, VA, May 2000.

“Gaining One’s Definition: Approaches Towards Understanding Liberation in African-American Islam,” Black Theology Group/American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 1999.

“Big Poppas, Deadbeat Dads, and Real Men: The Hip-Hop Generation’s Discourses on Masculinity, Fatherhood and Abortion,” Popular Culture and American Culture Association (PC/ACA) Annual Meeting, Valley Forge, PA, November 1999.

“What America Is’: The History of Racial State Formation in the United States,” Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) 84th Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI, October 1999.

“Creating a Temple and a Forum: The Harlem Unitarian Church as a Sacred Black Public Sphere,” Afro-American Religious History Group/American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, November 1998.

“Using the Master’s Tools: Rethinking Historical Discourses on Race, Class, and Culture in Robin D.G. Kelley’s *Hammer and Hoe*,” Center for Afro-American & African Studies (CAAAS), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, March 1998.

“Heaven Ain't Hard to Find': Prophets of Rage in the Last Days of Gangsta Rap," Religion and Popular Culture Program /American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 1997.

“The Burning of Rebellious Thoughts: MOVE as an Expression of African-American Theology, 1970-1996,” Afro-American Religious History Group /American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 1997.

“You Are Not Your Own': Rebuilding a Politics of Responsibility Amongst Black Scholars,” Verbal Assaults Panel - *The Black Image in the Black Mind* Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April 1997.

"To Live and Die for Hip-Hop: Gangsta Rap, Death Row Records, and the Strange Legacy of Tupac Shakur," Masculinity and Popular Culture Panel- *Body and Soul* Conference, Institute of Liberal Arts / Emory University, Atlanta, GA, March 1997.

"Modern Black Radical Thought," 8th Annual National Black Graduate Student Conference (NBGSC), Claremont Colleges, Claremont, CA, May 1996.

"Sadie Mossell Alexander and the Mythos of the Black Middle Class," *Lifting as We Climb* Conference, Center for African-American Culture and History, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, March 1996.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religious pluralism within modern American society; race, ethnicity, and religion in US history; interdisciplinary approaches to the academic study of religious thought; theories and methods for analyzing religious experience; media interpretations and cultural images of African American religion; the varieties of African American religious experience; and history of African American churches and sociopolitical reform.

COURSES TAUGHT

Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, TN

Seminary Courses (Masters and Doctoral levels)

Introduction to Black Church Studies

Religions of the African Diaspora

Critical Readings in African American Religion: W.E.B. Du Bois

Moral Philosophy of Black Popular Culture.

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TXUndergraduate Courses

U.S. History Survey Since 1877
 The African American Experience Since 1619
 The American Mind to 1877 (Honors Course)
 America Between World Wars, 1919-1941
 Ethnic Elements of American History to 1877
 Ethnic Elements of American History since 1877
 The Civil Rights Movement in America

Graduate Courses Taught:

Reading Seminar in US History—The New Deal;
 Research Seminar in US History—The Civil Rights Movement;
 Reading Seminar in World History—The Atlantic Slave Trade
 Research Seminar in US History—American Intellectual History

Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TXSeminary Courses (Masters and Doctoral levels) Taught:

The Church in the Midst of
 Pluralism: The Black Church in America;
 The Black Religious Experience in America;
 The State of the Black Church;
 The Black Church and the Civil Rights Struggle: Race, Religion, and the “Beloved
 Community;”
 Pan-African Origins and Retentions in North American Christianity— Ghana Study
 Seminar
 The Crossroads of Civilizations and Religions—Egypt Study Seminar

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VAUndergraduate Courses

History of the United States, 1865 to Present
 Recent America, 1917 to Present
 Religion in American Life
 Honors Colloquium: Utopian Thought in American Culture
 Black Studies Seminar: Black Nationalism
 Freedom and Authority in America
 Modern United States, 1877 to 1917
 Introduction to Black Studies

GRANTS

Co-Investigator, Louisville Institute General Grant Program. Black Religious Scholar
 Group, “Making It Plain: Doing Theology in the Black Community.” \$25000.
 Duration: Fall 2003-Summer 2006.

Co-Investigator, “Being Black/Teaching Black: An African-American Dialogue
 Concerning the Influences of Blackness in Theological Education Teaching
 Practices.” \$3000. Duration: Fall 2003-Summer 2005.

Primary Investigator, Wabash Center Summer Grant Program. “Researching and Writing *In the Shadow of Liberty: The Civil Rights Struggle in Postwar Philadelphia, 1945-1985*.” \$7000. Duration: Summer 2003.

Primary Investigator, Wabash Center Workshop on Teaching and Learning for African American Faculty. “Religious History as a Vehicle for Social Justice: Developing a Revisionist Approach to Teaching ‘Religion in American Life.’” \$2750. Duration: June 2002-June 2003.

Co-Investigator, College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Interdisciplinary Task Force, Globalizing Interdisciplinary Research Grant, Virginia Tech. “Black Nationalism and the Dilemma of Globalization.” \$3000. Duration: 2001.

Co-Investigator, Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching International Faculty Fellow Grant, Virginia Tech. “Developing Religion in American Life.” \$9000. Duration: May 2000-December 2001.

Primary Investigator, VA Tech History Department Research Grant, \$2500. Duration: October 1999-May 2001.

Primary Investigator, Mellon Summer Dissertation Fellow, \$2000. Duration: 1997.

HONORS/AWARDS

Thomas V. Fontaine Fellow – University of Pennsylvania.

Mellon Foundation Summer Fellowship Grant.

Future Faculty Fellow - Temple University.

James Dickson Carr Scholar – Rutgers University.

National Merit Scholar.

Garden State Scholar.

Golden Scroll Winner - American Academy of Achievement.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

American Historical Association (AHA)

American Society of Church History (ASCH)

Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH)

Black Religious Scholars Group (BRSBG)

Collegium of African American Research (CAAR)

National Council of Black Studies (NCBS)

Organization of American Historians (OAH)

Society for the Study of Black Religion (SSBR)

PROFESSIONAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Vanderbilt University Divinity School Master’s Admissions Committee, 2009-2010.

Texas Christian University Faculty Senate 2005-2008.

Chair, Faculty Governance Committee 2007-2008.

Texas Christian University History Department Undergraduate Committee 2002-2008

Consultancy with Abingdon Press and Cokesbury Bookstores, Inc. in Nashville, TN on the State of African American Religion/Black Church studies in the United States, Dec. 2003.

Virginia Tech History Department liaison for the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (CIS) 2001-2002
 University Libraries representative, Virginia Tech History Department 2001-2002
 Member, Virginia Tech History Department Mentoring Committee 2001-2002
 Member, Virginia Tech History Department Research Committee 2001-2002
 Faculty Associate, Center for Race and Social Policy at Virginia Tech 2001-2002
 Assistant Marshal, Virginia Tech Spring University Commencement 2001
 Undergraduate Advisor, Virginia Tech History Department 2000-Present
 Advisory Board Member, Christiansburg Institute 2000-Present
 Steering Committee Member, Afro-American Religious History Group-American Academy of Religion (AAR) 2001-2005
 Steering Committee Member, Black Religious Scholars Group 1997-present
 Steering Committee Member, “Backyard Talks” 2nd Annual Fontaine Society Symposium 1998
 Steering Committee Member, “Afric’s Sons and Daughters with Banner Red” Conference 1998
 Rutgers College Minority Scholar Host, 1990-1992
 Student Activities Coordinator, New Brunswick Cultural Center 1991-1992
 Voting Member, Rutgers College Program Council 1990-1993
 History Peer Advisor 1992-1993

VOLUNTARY/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Theologian-in-Residence, Friendship-West Baptist Church of Dallas, TX, 2008-present.
 Faculty advisor, TCU Chapter of NAACP, 2004-2008.
 Faculty advisor, African Heritage Organization (AHO), 2004-2008.
 Faculty advisor, Black Seminarians Union (BSU) – Brite Divinity School, 2003-2008.
 Faculty advisor, Enlightened Gospel Choir – Virginia Tech, 1999-2002.
 Faculty advisor, Caribbean Student Organization – Virginia Tech, 1999-2002.
 Trustee, Greater St. Stephen First Baptist Church, 2005-2006.
 Member, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Evangelism Ministry 1998-1999.
 Member, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Men's Usher Board, 1997-1999.
 Thomas V. Fontaine Society – University of Pennsylvania, 1996-2000.
 Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia Branch 1993 – 1997.
 Community Coordinator, NJ Citizen Action, 1993-1994.
 Director, WRSU New Music Department, 1990-1992.
 James Dickson Carr Society – Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, 1989-1993.