

Martin Anthony Summers

Department of History
Boston College
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Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
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Education

Ph. D. in U.S. History, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, May 1997.
Dissertation: "Nationalism, Race Consciousness and the Constructions of Black Middle-Class Masculinity during the New Negro Era, 1915-1930."
Advisor: David Levering Lewis

B. A. in History-Social Sciences Education, Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia, May 1990.

Professorial Experience

- 2020- Professor, Department of History and African and African Diaspora Studies Program, Boston College
Affiliate member of Medical Humanities, Health, and Culture Program
Affiliate member of Women's and Gender Studies Program
- 2009-2020 Associate Professor, Department of History and African and African Diaspora Studies Program, Boston College
- 2006-2008 Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Texas at Austin
Affiliate member of Center for African and African American Studies
Affiliate member of Center for Women's and Gender Studies
- 2004-2006 Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Oregon
- 2000-2004 Director, Center for the Study of African American History and Culture, Boston College

Director,

Research Interests

African American History
History of Medicine
Race and Mental Illness
Gender and Sexuality

Courses Taught

Twentieth-Century World (NJIT)
U.S. as a World Power (NJIT)
Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in America (NJIT)
Readings and Problems in African American History (Rutgers-Newark)
African American History I and II (NJIT, Rutgers-Newark, UO)
History of American Masculinities (UO, Boston College)
Black Migrations: Movement and Mobility in the African Diaspora (UO, Boston College)
Black Radical Thought and Politics in 20th Century U.S. (UO)
Race, Gender, and the State in the Americas (UO – team taught with Carlos Aguirre)
Jazz Age America: The United States in the 1920s (UO)
Gender and Sexuality in African American History (UO, UT-Austin, Boston College)
U.S. Since 1865 (UT-Austin)
Introduction to African American History (UT-Austin)
Health and Disease in African American History (UT-Austin, Boston College)
History of Medicine and Public Health in the African Diaspora (Boston College)
Introduction to African Diaspora Studies (Boston College)
Health and Disease in US History (Boston College)
The Body in History (Boston College)
African Diaspora and the World II (Boston College)

Current Research

Inner City Blues: African American Mental Health and Social Policy in Twentieth-Century Urban America (book-length research project)

Publications

BOOK

Madness in the City of Magnificent Intentions: A History of Race and Mental Illness in the
. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Manliness and Its Discontents: The Black Middle Class and the Transformation of Masculinity, 1900-1930. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004.

*Received AHA-PCB's 2005 Pacific Coast Branch Book Award

EDITED BOOK

Precaious Prescriptions: Contested Histories of Race and Health in North America.

Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014. Co-edited with Laurie Green and John McKiernan-Gonzalez.

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Diagnosing the Ailments of Black Citizenship: The African American Medical Profession and the Politics of Mental Illness, 1895al Illn

“‘A Maze of Unintelligibility’: Psychotherapy and African American Patients at Saint Elizabeths Hospital, 1900-1940,” Dorothy Bernstein Lecture in the History of Psychiatry, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 2014.

“Melancholy and the ‘Madness of Fanaticism’: The Multiple Narratives of Black Insanity in Antebellum America,” National Humanities Center Public Lecture, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, April 2014.

“‘Broken Fragments of the Primitive Life’: Race and Dynamic Psychiatry in the Early Twentieth Century U.S.,” 3rd Annual Peggy Pascoe Memorial Lecture, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, November 2013.

“Remaking Men: Patriotism, Citizenship, and Black Middle-Class Masculinity during World War I,” Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy 2004-5 Speakers Series, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 2005.

“‘The Fruit and Flower of a Loyal Race’: Black Discourses of Patriotism and Manliness during World War I,” 24th Annual Gender Studies Symposium, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon, March 2005.

“Diasporic Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transnational Production of Black Middle-Class Masculinity,” Fisher Center for the Study of Women and Men, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York. February 2003.

“The Persistent ‘Problem’ of the Body in Discourses and Performances of Black Masculinity,” Black Masculinities Symposium, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, November 1997.

“Free Men and Citizens, Producers and Sex Machines: Historical Perspectives on African American Male Experiences,” Children’s Defense Fund/Institute for the Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and Caribbean Conference on African American Males, Clinton, Tennessee, September 1994.

CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIA PRESENTATIONS

“Race, Community Control, and Mental Health Care in Chicago: The Woodlawn Mental Health Center in the Black Freedom Struggle,” African American Intellectual History Society Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, March 2019.

“Melancholy and the ‘Madness of Fanaticism’: The Multiple Narratives of Black Insanity in Antebellum America,” European Association of American Studies Annual Meeting, Constanta, Romania, April 2016.

Chair and roundtable participant. “Precarious Prescriptions: Contested Histories of Race and Health in North America,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2014.

“Therapeutic Culture and the Racial Topography of a Nineteenth-Century Insane Asylum,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2012.

“The Government Hospital for the Insane and African American Perceptions of the State in Post-Reconstruction Washington, D.C.,” American Association of the History of Medicine Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, April 2012.

Commenter. “The New Negro and the Modern Girl: Politics and Gea # Medicine

“The ‘best humane institution on the face of the Globe’? The Government Hospital for the Insane and African American Perceptions of the State in Post-Reconstruction Washington, D.C.,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., April 2010.

“The Transnational Dimensions of Race and Psychiatry, from the 1840s to the 1930s,” Radcliffe Fellows’ Presentation, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 2008.

“Voice and Representation in Histories of Mental Illness: Saint Elizabeths Hospital as a Case Study,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, San Jose, California, April 2005.

Panel organizer. “Disease, Health, and the State in the Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century United States: Charting the Colonial Connections,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, January 2005.

“Suitable Care of the African When Afflicted With Insanity’: Race and the Insane Asylum in the Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth Century United States,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, January 2005.

Chair and commenter. “Mapping Men and Asian America,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2004.

Chair and commenter. “Black Manhood and Masculinity in the Nineteenth-Century United States,” American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch Annual Meeting, Vancouver, B.C., August 2001.

“Hegemony, Agency, Historicity: Keywords in the Research Agenda of African American Men’s Studies,” American Men’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 2001.

Branch Annual Meeting participant. “Personal Narrative” (

“Primitives and Producers: Modernism, Masculinity and Cultural Production in the Harlem Renaissance,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, April 1997.

“Workers and Citizens: The Great Migration, World War I, and the Constructions of African American Masculinity,” Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, New Brunswick, New Jersey, April 1995.

“Performing Manliness: Masculinity, the Public Sphere and the Rituals of Performance in the Garvey Movement,

Edwin A. Taylor (2003-06). "Engendering Peace: Masculinity, Femininity, and the Good Friday Negotiations in Northern Ireland." Ph.D. dissertation, Political Science, University of Oregon. (Outside member)

Bryan Duncan (2004-05). "Literary Labor: Resistance and Reform in American Literature, 1936-1945." Ph.D. dissertation, English, University of Oregon. (Outside member)

Leah Deane (2008-2013). "That Mess on Campus: The New Left, the New Right, and the Campus Politics of Sexuality in Berkeley and Austin." Ph.D. dissertation, History, University of Texas at Austin. (Outside member)

Adam Rathge (2012-2017). "Cannabis Cures: American Medicine, Mexican Marijuana, and the Origins of the War on Weed, 1840-1937." Ph.D. dissertation, History, Boston College. (Chair)

Julia Bates (2015-2018). "The Occlusion of Empire in the Reification of Race: A Postcolonial Critique of the American Sociology of Race." Ph.D. dissertation, Sociology, Boston College. (Third reader)

Marya Mtshali (2014-2018). "Gray Matter: The Roles of Race, Gender, and Racialized Gender Ideologies in the Management of Racial Difference in Heterosexual Black/White Intimate Relationships." Ph.D. dissertation, Sociology, Boston College. (Third reader)

Joshua Truelove (2019-present). "The Strike, the Boom, and the Radicals: Comedians in Ronald Reagan's America." Ph.D. dissertation, History, Boston College. (Chair)

Departmental and University Service Service

19th and 20th-Century U.S. History Search Committee, Department of History (2009-10)
New Directions in African Diaspora Studies Lecture Series Coordinator, African and African
Diaspora Studies Program (2009-10)
AADS Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee, AADS Program (2010, 2012, 2015)
Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship Selection Committee, AADS Program (2009-10)
Institute for Liberal Arts Governing Board (2009-2013)

University of Texas at Austin

Strategic Planning Committee, Center of African and African American Studies (2006-07)
African American History Search Committee, Department of History (2006-07)
Committee to Bring in Promising Scholars, Department of History (2008)
Conference Co-organizer, "Making Race, Making Health: Historical

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African American Intellectual History Society (2017-present)

Berkshires Conference on Women's History (2010)

*2011 Conference Program Committee, Politics, State, and the Law Subcommittee,
member

Central Lunatic Asylum for the Colored Insane Historical Project, Advisory Board Member
(2010-present)

Reviewer, NEH Collaborative Research grant proposal (2001)

Reviewer, National Humanities Center (2013, 2014)

Manuscript reviewer, University of North Carolina Press, University of Minnesota Press

Manuscript reviewer, *Gender and History*, *Journal of American History*, *Radical History Review*, *Culture, Society & Masculinities*, *Journal of the Civil War Era*, *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*