

Ashley Towle
University of Southern Maine
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1. Employment and Education

Professional Appointment

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Southern Maine, Fall 2022-Present

Lecturer, Department of History, University of Southern Maine, Fall 2018- Spring 2022

Instructor, Department of History and Political Science and Honors Program, University of Southern Maine, Fall 2015-Spring 2018

Education

Ph.D., History, University of Maryland, 2017

Dissertation: "Dying Free: African Americans, Death, and the New Birth of Freedom, 1863-1877"

M.A., History, University of Maryland, 2015

B.A., History, Gettysburg College, *summa cum laude*, 2009

2. Research and Scholarly Activities

Peer-Reviewed Publications

African Americans, Death, and the New Birth of Freedom: Dying Free in the Civil War and Reconstruction. Lexington Books, Spring 2023.

Grave History: Death, Race & Gender in Southern Cemeteries from the Antebellum to the Post-Civil Rights Era. Edited volume with Dr. Kami Fletcher. The University of Georgia Press, forthcoming Fall 2023

Co-authored with Adam J. Schmitt, "Representations of Reconstruction: Social Transformations and Textbook Portrayals of the Past" In *Teaching Emancipation and Reconstruction, 1861-1876*, edited by Matthew Campbell. New York: Peter Lang Publishers. Forthcoming.

“Randolph Cemetery and the Politics of Death in the Post-Civil War South.” In *Cultures of Memory in the Nineteenth Century: Consuming Commemoration*, edited by Katherine Haldane Grenier and Amanda R. Mushal. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

Popular Publications

“‘Do not scorn what is brought in love’: The Complicated Relationship of Joshua and Fanny.” Appendix in *Passing Through the Fire: Joshua Chamberlain in the Civil War*, by Brian Swartz, El Dorado Hills: Savas Beatie, 2021.

“A Tale of Two Cemeteries: African American Memorial Efforts at Arlington and Chalmette,” *Emerging Civil War*, April 2019, <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2019/04/20/emerging-scholar-ashley-towle/>

Reviews

Review of Karen Stokes, ed., *Incidents in the Life of Cecilia Lawton: A Memoir of Plantation Life, War, and Reconstruction in Georgia and South Carolina* (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2021), in *Civil War Monitor*, April 7, 2021 <https://www.civilwarmonitor.com/book-shelf/stokes-ed-incidents-in-the-life-of-cecelia-lawton-2021>.

Review of Stanley Harrold, *American Abolitionism: Its Direct Political Impact from Colonial Times into Reconstruction* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 2019), in *Civil War Monitor*, October 9, 2019 <https://www.civilwarmonitor.com/book-shelf/harrold-american-abolitionism-2019>.

"National Museum of African American History and Culture." *American Journalism*, 34, no.1 (2017): 119–120.

Presentations and Conference Papers

“‘The Invisible Army:’ African-American Religious Life and Death,” New England Historical Association, October 2020.

Emerging Scholars and Professionals Program, American Civil War Museum, May 2019

Chair, Freedom Through Death: Analyzing the Legacy of the Civil War and Jim Crow in Southern Cemeteries, Organization of American Historians, April 2019

“To Repose with Their Comrades:” African Americans, National Cemeteries, and the Post-Civil War South,” New England Historical Association, April 2019

“Randolph Cemetery and the Politics of Death in the Post-Civil War South,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association, February 2017

“‘We Are Killed All the Day Long’: The African-American Press, Death, and the Legacy of the Civil War,” Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, November 2016

“‘In the Cold Valley and Shadow of the South Land’: African Americans and the Creation of National Cemeteries,” Southern Historical Association, November 2016

“‘Our Mournful Wails Over the Bodies of Our Murdered Dead’: Testifying and Writing About Racial Violence in the Reconstruction South,” Emerging Scholars Workshop, Pennsylvania State University, April 2016

“‘We are Killed All the Day Long’: African Americans’ Reactions to Violence in the Gulf South,” Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, October 2015

“‘In the Cold Valley and Shadow of the South Land’: African Americans and the Creation of National Cemeteries,” Brooks Dissertation Forum, St. George Tucker Society, July 2015

“Death Rights: Depictions of African-American Dead in the Reconstruction South and the Struggle for Suffrage and Equal Rights,” Southern American Studies Association, February 2015

Respondent to “Thomas Jefferson: Antislavery Lawyer(?)” Early American Seminar Series, University of Maryland, March 2014

“Barbecues and Bloodshed: Reconstruction and the Struggle for Political Power in St. Landry Parish,” University of Maryland History Graduate Student Association Conference, February 2014

“‘If I Had My Justice’: Freedwomen, Former Masters, and Bastardy in the Postbellum South,” University of Alabama History Graduate Conference on Power and Struggle, March 2012

“‘If I Had My Justice’: Child Support Cases between Freedwomen and Former Masters in the Postbellum South,” University of Maryland History Graduate Student Association Conference, February 2012

“‘Damned Black Alligator’: Culture, Race, and Violence in Reconstructing Red River Parish,” Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College, July 2009

Invited Talks

“African-American Politics and White Violence in the Era of Reconstruction,” Midcoast Senior College, November 2020

“‘A Most Extraordinary Noise’: New Orleans and the Birth of Jazz,” Portland Ovarations, February 9, 2020

“Precious and Adored,” a book talk with Tilly Laskey, Portland Public Library, June 2019

“In Pursuit of ‘Absolute Justice:’ Oliver Otis Howard, the Freedmen’s Bureau, and the Era of Reconstruction,” Midcoast Senior College, April 2019

“Maine during the Civil War,” Scarborough Historical Society, February 2019

“Freedom and Emancipation in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*,” Westbrook High School, December 2018

Research Grants

Center for Collaboration and Development Gap Funding Mini Grant, University of Southern Maine, 2021

University of Maryland College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Student Travel Award, 2016

Lewis P. Jones Research Fellowship in South Carolina History, University of South Carolina, 2015

Mellon Research Fellowship, Virginia Historical Society, 2015

University of Maryland College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Student Travel Award, 2014

University of Maryland History Department Dissertation Prospectus Development Award, 2013

Research Experience

Graduate Assistant, Freedmen and Southern Society Project, University of Maryland, 2010-11, Spring 2012, Spring 2013-Spring 2014

Graduate Assistant, “O Say Can You See”: Early Washington, D.C. Law and Family Project, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities at University of Maryland, Spring 2014

Independent researcher for:

Professor Max Grivno (University of Southern Mississippi), 2014

Professor Thavolia Glymph (Duke University), 2013

Professor Eric Foner (Columbia University), 2012

3. Teaching

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Entry Year Experience 199: The History of Sexuality

History 121: United States History to 1800
 History 122: United States History 1800-1900
 History 123: United States History 1900-Present
 History 131: United States History to 1877
 History 142: African American History 1865-Present
 History 200: Reference, Research, and Report Writing
 History 300: History Internship
 History 356: Civil War and Reconstruction
 History 364/WGS 355: History of Women in the United States
 History 394: The History of Death and Dying in the United States
 History 400: Senior Capstone, Riots, Rebellions, and Revolutions in the United States
 Honors 115: Power, Pleasure, and Private Matters: Sexuality in United States History
 Honors 215: Thinking in Honors
 Honors 415: Honors Capstone

Teaching Grants

Summer Flexible Course Design Working Group, Center for Technology Enhanced Learning, University of Southern Maine, 2020

Open Educational Resources Textbook Development Grant, Center for Technology Enhanced Learning, University of Southern Maine, 2020

Osher Map Library Teaching with Maps Fellowship, Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine, 2019

Title III Mini-Grant, University of Southern Maine, 2019

4. Service

University Service

Faculty Senate, University of Southern Maine, Fall 2022-Present

Women and Gender Studies Council, University of Southern Maine, 2019-Present

- Curriculum Committee, 2019-2020
- Chair, Programming Committee, 2020-present

Honors Program, Faculty Honors Council, University of Southern Maine, 2016-Present

- Curriculum Committee, 2018-Present
- Promotion and Tenure Review committee member for
 - Assunta Kent
 - Patricia Hager

Hiring Committee, Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of US History, University of Southern Maine, Fall 2018

Professional Service

Article Manuscript Reviewer, *Maine History Journal*, 2022

Article Manuscript Reviewer, *Meridians*, 2021

Committee Member, Gavin Gilder, History PhD Comprehensive Exams, University of Maine, 2020

Article Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 2018

Southern Association for Women Historians, Graduate Student Representative, 2014-2016

Community Service

Historical Consultant for Women's Suffrage Mural, Maine Arts Commission, 2021

Professional Memberships

American Historical Association

New England Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

Society of Civil War Historians

Southern Historical Association