

Laura Brannan Fretwell, PhD Candidate

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Department of History and Art History
George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Education

- George Mason University** *Fairfax, VA*
PhD candidate in History and Art History, 2019-2025 (expected)
Dissertation: *Forgetting the Freed: The Buried Histories of Richmond's Chimborazo Park, 1817-1959*
- Georgia State University** *Atlanta, GA*
Master of Arts in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2017-2019
Thesis: *Buried Histories: A De-Colonial, Feminist View of Space, Land, and Universities*
- Furman University** *Greenville, SC*
Bachelor of Arts in History, 2012-2016
GPA: 3.3

Research Fellowships

- Residential Fellow** *Fairfax, VA*
Center for Humanities Research, George Mason University
August 2023-December 2023
- Summer Research Fellow** *Fairfax, VA*
Office of the Provost, George Mason University
May 2023-August 2023
- Visiting Research Fellow** *Luxembourg*
Graduate student exchange fellowship in digital historical methods
Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH), University of Luxembourg
March 2023-May 2023
- Digital History Fellow** *Fairfax, VA*
Omeka S trainer and Project Coordinator for the National Museum of African American History and Culture's History and Culture Access Consortium project
Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media (RRCHNM), George Mason University
May 2020-Present

Digital Humanities Coordinator*Arlington, VA*

John Mitchell Jr. Program for History, Justice, and Race
 George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
 January 2020-Present

Georgia State University*Atlanta, GA*

Oxford Bibliographies, "Settler Colonialism and African Americans"
 Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Tiffany King
 Aug 2017-Aug 2018

Skills

Research, organizational, writing, archival
 Proficient in Omeka S, WordPress, R programming, Tropy, HTML, CSS, Tropy
 Qualitative and quantitative data management, transformation, and visualizations

*Teaching Experience***George Mason University***Fairfax, VA*

Teaching Assistant, HIST 100 Western Civ and HIST 389 Cold War America
 Aug 2019-May 2020

Georgia State University*Atlanta, GA*

Instructor, WGSS 2010: Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
 Aug 2018-May 2019

*Conference Presentations***Southern Historical Association**

November 2023

Charlotte, North Carolina

"Construction and Destruction: Forgetting the Freed for the 'Park and the People'"

National Council on Public History

April 2023

Virtual Poster Presentation, "Managing a Digital Public History Project: The History and Culture Access Consortium Project"

"Datafication in the Historical Humanities"

June 2022

Virtual Poster Presentation, German Historical Institute

"Mapping Mobility in Slavery and Freedom: The Ethical Issues and Methodological Process of Datafying Slavery's Archive"

Organization of American Historians

March 2022

Boston, Massachusetts

Roundtable: "Digital Cultural History"

- American Historical Association** January 2022
New Orleans, Louisiana
“Confederate Statues and Residential Space: A Case Study of Richmond’s Monument Avenue”
- Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Conference** March 2021
Virtual Panel
“Bringing Women to Light Using Omeka”
- Southeastern Women’s Studies Association** March 2021
Virtual Panel
“Gendering the Runaways: Feminist Theories of Physical and Archival Resistance”
- Chesapeake Digital Humanities Conference** February 2021
Virtual Panel
“Statues and Space: A Case Study of Richmond’s Monument Avenue”
- Ask Historians Conference** September 2020
Virtual Roundtable
“Using Quantitative Data to Disrupt Historical Narratives and Archives”
- Association of African American Museum Conference** August 2020
Virtual Roundtable
“Balm Over Gilead: The NMAAHC As a Site of Conscience”
- National Women’s Studies Association** November 2019
San Francisco, California
“Buried Histories: Knowing and Unknowing Colonialisms”
- Southeastern American Studies Association** March 2019
Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
“Buried Histories: A De-Colonial, Feminist View of Space, Land, and U.S. Universities”
- National Women’s Studies Association** November 2018
Atlanta, Georgia
“A Biopolitical and Feminist View of Land: The Coordinates of Power on U.S. Universities”
- Issues in Critical Investigation** October 2018
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
“Slavery, Settler Colonialism, and Schools”
- Critical Juncture Abstract** April 2018
Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

“Imagined Immigrants: A Cartographic Analysis of U.S. (Im)migration Issues”

Southeastern Women’s Studies Association March 2018
 Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina
 “Queen Elizabeth II, Champion of Feminism or Colonialism? A Foucaultian
 Analysis of *The Crown*”

Associated Colleges of the South’s Gender Studies February 2016
 Southwestern University, Austin, Texas
 “Faithful, Futile, and Feminine? Women Missionaries in Colonial Southern
 Africa”

Invited Talks

“Forgetting the Freed: Digital Historical Research in the U.S.” May 2023
 30 minutes lecture, Centre for Contemporary and Digital History, University of
 Luxembourg

“Intersectionality and Institutional Legacies” September 2020
 90 minutes lecture and discussion for Museums, Race, and Conflict course

Blog Posts and other Publications

“Best of the Web: Washington Chronicles,” in *Washington History: Magazine of the
 DC History Center. Volume 35, Number 1*, digital history website review, Spring 2023.

“Lorraine Brown: A Feminist Founder of George Mason” in *Mapping the
 University*, narrative essay, 2021
<https://mappingtheuniversity.rrchnm.org/narratives/gmu-loorraine-brown/>

“Mock ‘Slave Sale’ Fundraisers at Mason and Old Dominion” in *Mapping the
 University*, narrative essay, 2021
<https://mappingtheuniversity.rrchnm.org/narratives/slave-sales/>

“Parking Lots and Protests: The Mallory House Incident in 1971” in *Mapping the
 University*, narrative essay, 2021
<https://mappingtheuniversity.rrchnm.org/narratives/mallory-house/>

“Harriet Tubman,” in *The Enslaved Naturalist*, digital history exhibit, 2021
<https://jmjp.gmu.edu/the-enslaved-naturalist/tubman/>

“Statues and Residential Space,” in *Divided Union*, collaborative blog post, 2020
<http://dividedunion.org/>, <http://dividedunion.org/statues-and-residential-space/4/>

“Mobility in Slavery and Freedom,” blog post, 2020
http://laurabrannan.org/projects/mobility_in_slavery_and_freedom.html

Website Review, "Freedom Narratives," in World History Commons,
World History Commons, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media,
 2020
<https://worldhistorycommons.org/freedom-narratives>.

Book Review of *The Apocalypse of Settler Colonialism: The Roots of Slavery, White Supremacy, and Capitalism in Seventeenth-Century North America and the Caribbean*
 The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019
Journal of Colonialism & Colonial Histories Vol. 20 No. 1
<https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/40121>

Honors and Awards

- 2023** Graduate Student Research Travel Fund, George Mason University
- 2023** Research Fall Fellowship, Center for Humanities Research, George Mason University
- 2023** Office of the Provost's Dissertation Research Fellowship, George Mason University
- 2023** Graduate Student Exchange Program, University of Luxembourg
- 2023** Cosmos Scholars Research Fund, Cosmos Club Foundation
- 2022** Graduate Student Research Travel Fund, George Mason University
- 2022** C.W. Bright Pixel Prize for Best History & New Media Project
- 2022** Graduate Student Research Travel Fund, George Mason University
- 2021** Graduate Student Conference Travel Fund, George Mason University
- 2020** HASTAC Scholar Fellowship, Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory, 2020-2022 Cohort
- 2019** Graduate Student Conference Travel Fund, George Mason University
- 2018** Diane Fowlkes Research Award, Georgia State University

Academic Service

History Graduate Student Organization (HGSO)

Co-President May 2022-May 2023
 Lead and organize events with graduate students at the history department
 George Mason University

History Graduate Student Organization (HGSO)

Treasurer May 2021-May 2022
 Organize and maintain finances with graduate students at the history department
 George Mason University

Students Promoting Engagement through Activism and Knowledge (SPEAK)

Co-President May 2018-May 2019
 Organize and coordinate with graduate students at the WGSS department
 Georgia State University

