

**LAURA BRANNAN FRETWELL**

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**EDUCATION**

**George Mason University**

PhD, History and Art History, 2019-2025 (expected graduation)

Dissertation: *Forgetting the Freed: The Buried Histories of Richmond's Chimborazo Park, 1861-1961*

Advisor: Dr. Alison Landsberg

Committee: Dr. Yvette Richards Jordan, Dr. Michael O'Malley, Dr. Cynthia Kierner

Major Field: U.S. History; Minor Fields: Memory Studies and Public History, Women and Gender in America

**Georgia State University**

M.A. in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, (2019)

Thesis: *Buried Histories: A De-Colonial, Feminist View of Space, Land, and Universities*

**Furman University**

Bachelor of Arts in History, (2016)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

HIST 390: The Digital Past, Instructor of Record, George Mason University (Spring 2024)

HIST 100: Western Civilization, Graduate Teaching Assistant, George Mason University (Fall 2019)

HIST 389: Cold War America Graduate Teaching Assistant, George Mason University (Spring 2020)

WGSS 2010: Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Instructor of Record, Georgia State University, (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

“Layering Public Park Histories: Using GIS to Uncover the Effects of Restoration Idea[1]s in Post-war Urban Spaces in Germany and the U.S.” with Eliane Schmid, *European Journal of Geography*, Under Consideration.

Review of Gerald Horne, *The Apocalypse of Settler Colonialism: The Roots of Slavery, White Supremacy, and Capitalism in Seventeenth-Century North America and the Caribbean*. *Journal of Colonialism & Colonial History* Volume 20, Number 1, (Spring 2019) <https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/40121>

## DIGITAL WRITTEN WORK

“New Historical Marker at Chimborazo Park Honors African American Residents from 1865-1877,” *Church Hill Association Newsletter*, September/October 2024. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1omt3-T0cTOdPu5JcgKG0af0d8PNcgLhu/view?usp=sharing>

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

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

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

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

“Harriet Tubman,” *The Enslaved Naturalist*, 2021, <https://jmjp.gmu.edu/the-enslavednaturalist/tubman/>

“Statues and Residential Space,” *Divided Union*, 2020, <https://dividedunion.org/statues-andresidential-space/4/>

“Website Review: Freedom Narratives,” *World History Commons*, 2020, <https://worldhistorycommons.org/freedom-narratives>.

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

“Layering Public Park Histories: Using GIS to Uncover the Effects of Restoration Idea[1]s in Post-war Urban Spaces in Germany and the U.S.,” Organizer and Presenter with Eliane Schmid, Spatial Humanities Annual Meeting, Bamberg, Germany, September 2024

“Digital Curations and Connections: Teaching Omeka S in the Undergraduate Classroom”, Organizer and Presenter, Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C, August 2024

“Commemoration versus Community: The Establishment of the National Park Service’s Chimborazo Medical Museum in Richmond, Virginia in the 1950s”, Presenter, Black Plac(e)ing Futures Symposium at Georgetown University, April 2024, Washington, D.C.

“Construction and Destruction: Forgetting the Freed for the ‘Park and the People’”, Presenter, Organization of American Historian Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 2024

“Commemoration versus Community: The Establishment of the National Park Service’s Chimborazo Medical Museum in Richmond, Virginia in the 1950s”, Presenter, Virginia Forum Annual Meeting, Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Richmond, Virginia, April 2024

“Omeka S & Spatial History” Invited Lecture Series at the University of Luxembourg’s Introduction to Spatial Studies & Digital Methods for the Humanities Course, March 2023

“Construction and Destruction: Forgetting the Freed for the ‘Park and the People’”, Presenter, Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina, November 2023

“Buried Histories of Chimborazo Park” Invited Talk at Chimborazo Visitor Center, Richmond National Battlefield Park, National Parks Service, Richmond, Virginia, October 2023

“Forgetting the Freed: Digital Historical Research in the U.S.”, Invited Talk for the Centre for Contemporary and Digital History’s Research Seminar at the University of Luxembourg, Belval, Luxembourg, May 2023

“Managing a Digital Public History Project: The History and Culture Access Consortium Project”, poster with Timmia King for the National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, April 2023

“Mapping Mobility in Slavery and Freedom: The Ethical Issues and Methodological Process of Datafying Slavery’s Archive”, poster for “Datafication in the Historical Humanities” Conference, Annual Meeting of German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C., June 2022

“Digital Cultural History” Virtual Roundtable for Organization of American Historian Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, March 2022

“Confederate Statues and Residential Space: A Case Study of Richmond’s Monument Avenue”, Presenter, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 2022

“Bringing Women to Light Using Omeka”, Presenter, Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Conference Annual Meeting, virtual, Virginia Technical University, March 2021

“Gendering the Runaways: Feminist Theories of Physical and Archival Resistance” , Presenter, Southeastern Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, virtual, March 2021

“Statues and Space: A Case Study of Richmond’s Monument Avenue”, Presenter, Chesapeake Digital Humanities Conference, virtual, February 2021

“Using Quantitative Data to Disrupt Historical Narratives and Archives” Roundtable, Ask Historians Conference Annual Meeting, virtual, September 2020

“Intersectionality and Institutional Legacies”, Invited Lecture for George Mason University’s Museums, Race, and Conflict course, virtual, September 2020

“Balm Over Gilead: The NMAAHC As a Site of Conscience”, Presenter, Association of African American Museum Conference Annual Meeting, virtual, August 2020

“Buried Histories: Knowing and Unknowing Colonialisms”, Presenter, National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, November 2019

“Buried Histories: A De-Colonial, Feminist View of Space, Land, and U.S. Universities”, Presenter, Southeastern American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2019

“A Biopolitical and Feminist View of Land: The Coordinates of Power on U.S. Universities”, Presenter, National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2018

“Slavery, Settler Colonialism, and Schools”, Presenter, Issues in Critical Investigation Symposium at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, October 2018

“Imagined Immigrants: A Cartographic Analysis of U.S. (Im)migration Issues”, Presenter, Critical Juncture Abstract Symposium at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2018

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

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Office of the Provost’s Doctoral Research Fellowship, George Mason University, 2024-2025

Dean's Challenge Graduate Scholarship, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, George Mason University, 2024-2025

Office of the Provost's Dissertation Summer Research Fellowship, George Mason University, 2024

Department of History and Art History Travel Research Fellowship, George Mason University, 2024

Residential Fellowship, Center for Humanities Research, George Mason University, 2023

Office of the Provost's Dissertation Summer Research Fellowship, George Mason University, 2023

Visiting Research Fellowship, Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH), University of Luxembourg, 2023

Cosmos Scholars Research Fund, Cosmos Club Foundation, Washington, D.C., 2023

Department of History and Art History Travel Research Fellowship, George Mason University, George Mason University, 2022

C.W. Bright Pixel Prize for Best History & New Media Project, George Mason University, 2022

Department of History and Art History Travel Research Fellowship, George Mason University, 2022

Department of History and Art History Travel Research Fellowship, George Mason University, 2021

Research Fellowship, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History & New Media, George Mason University, 2021-2023

HASTAC Scholar Fellowship, Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory, 2020-2022

Digital History Fellowship, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History & New Media, George Mason University, 2020-2021

Department of History and Art History Travel Research Fellowship, George Mason University,, George Mason University, 2019

Diane Fowlkes Research Award, Georgia State University, 2018

Graduate Research Assistantship, Georgia State University, 2017-2019

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Search Committee, Director of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, George Mason University, 2022-2023

Co-President, History Graduate Student Organization (HGSO), George Mason University, 2022-2023

Treasurer, History Graduate Student Organization (HGSO), George Mason University, 2022-2023

Co-President, Students Promoting Engagement through Activism and Knowledge (SPEAK), Georgia State University, 2018-2019

## **PUBLIC HISTORY EXPERIENCE**

Richmond National Battlefield Park, National Parks Service, Richmond, Virginia *Historical Consultant & Public Facilitator*, 2024-

Chimborazo Park Conservancy, Richmond, Virginia *Historical Consultant*, 2023-

## **DIGITAL HISTORY EXPERIENCE**

Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, George Mason University *Graduate Research Assistant*, 2021-2023

John Mitchell Jr. Program for History, Justice, and Race, George Mason University *Digital Humanities Coordinator*, 2020-2024

## **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS**

Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, George Mason University, Affiliate, 2023-  
American Historical Association, Member, 2021-

Organization of American Historians, Member, 2022-

Southern Historical Association, Member, 2023-

## **LANGUAGES AND SKILLS**

Languages: English, Spanish, intermediate

Programming and Web Development Languages: R, HTML, CSS

Tools: QGIS, ArcGIS, Leaflet, Airtable, Palladio, GitHub

CMS: Omeka, Omeka S, WordPress