

DAVID PONTON III

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

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SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY GLOBAL STUDIES ▪ UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
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## EDUCATION

- 2017                      **Ph.D., History**  
Rice University, Houston, TX  
Certificate: Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality
- 2014                      **M.A., History**  
Rice University, Houston, TX
- 2009                      **A.B., Religion**  
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ  
Certificates: African American Studies; Social Studies Teacher Preparation, 6-12

## LEADERSHIP

- Director, Institute on Black Life (August 2024-present)
- Chair, Racial Justice Initiative (August 2024-present)
- Undergraduate Director, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, (August 2021-Present)

## PUBLICATIONS

### PEER-REVIEWED

*Houston and the Permanence of Segregation: An Afropessimist Approach to Urban History*, Austin: University of Texas Press (February 2024). <https://utpress.utexas.edu/9781477328477/>.

“An Afropessimist, Antidisciplinary Rejoinder to History, Its Human, and Its Anti-Blackness,” *Qui Parle* 31, no. 2 (December 2022): 231-95. <https://doi.org/10.1215/10418385-10052309>.

“An Afropessimist Account of History,” *History and Theory* 61, no. 2 (June 2022), 219-241.  
<http://doi.org/10.1111/hith.12261>.

Co-authored with Kelly Weber Stefonowich. “He Exists Because I Say He Exists’: The (Un)Making of Fitz’s Manhood and the Enduring Adaptability of Hegemonic Masculinity.” In *Gladiators in Suits: Race, Gender, and the Politics of Representation in Scandal*, edited by Simone Adams, Kimberly R. Moffitt, and Ronald L. Jackson II, 332-54. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2019.

“Private Matters in Public Spaces: Intimate Partner Violence against Black Women in Jim Crow Houston,” *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* 39, no. 2 (June 2018). <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/698453>.

“A Protracted War for Order: Police Violence in the Twentieth Century United States,” *History Compass* (May 2018).  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/hic3.12453>.

“Teaching and Learning Guide for ‘A Protracted War for Order’”: *History Compass* (June 2018).  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/hic3.12457>.

“Clothed in Blue Flesh: Police Brutality and the Disciplining of Race, Gender, and the ‘Human,’” *Theory & Event* 19, no. 3 (2016). <https://muse.jhu.edu>.

#### OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Co-authored with Haywood L. Brown, Cecil Howard, Patsy Sanchez, and Camille Blake, “Black Lives and the Police,” *Journal of the National Medical Association* 113, no. 2 (March 2021). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnma.2021.02.002>

#### IN PROGRESS

“Colorism and Police Killings of Black Men,” project and working manuscript with Dr. Elizabeth Korver-Glenn (Washington University in St. Louis).

- Preliminary summary available online: <https://sway.office.com/mxzjLEvVBodt9yqn>

“Doing History when Human Life is Modified by Race: Donald P. Lee’s Oral History Interview” *Race, Place, and Power in Houston: The Past and Megapolitan Texas* (under review).

“Houston’s Hidden History,” co-authored with Uzma Quraishi and Brian Behnken in *Race, Place, and Power in Houston: The Past and Megapolitan Texas* (under review).

#### BOOK REVIEWS

Lacy M. Johnson and Cheryl Beckett’s (eds.) *More City than Water: A Houston Flood Atlas* in H-Water, H-Net Reviews (forthcoming).

Peniel E. Joseph’s *The Third Reconstruction: America’s Struggle for Racial Justice in the Twenty-First Century* in *Journal of American History* 110, no. 3 (December 2023). <https://doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jaad341>.

Brian Jones’s *The Tuskegee Student Uprising: A History* in *Journal of Southern History* 89, no. 4 (2023): 770-771. <https://doi.org/10.1353/soh.2023.a909886>.

Walter Johnson’s *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States* in the *Journal of American History* 109, no. 1 (June 2022).

Peter B. Levy’s *The Great Uprising: Race Riots in Urban America during the 1960s* in *Journal of Southern History* 85, no. 1 (February 2019).

Julian Maxwell Hayter’s *The Dream is Lost: Voting Rights and the Politics of Race in Richmond, Virginia* in *Journal of Southern History* 84, no. 3 (August 2018).

Rashad Shabazz’s *Spatializing Blackness: Architectures of Confinement and Black Masculinity in Chicago* in H-Afro-Am, H-Net Reviews (June 2016).

Julie A. Gallagher’s *Black Women and Politics in New York City* in *New York History* (2013).

#### **PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH-RELATED SERVICE**

Peer review completed for article manuscript at *Crime & Delinquency*, March 10, 2023.

Peer review completed for article manuscript at *Journal of Southern History*, November 12, 2021.

Advisory Board Member, Center of the Study for Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Rice University 2022-present

## TEACHING

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR – University of South Florida, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies

2018-present                    **Undergraduate:** “Intro to the Black Experience,” “Racism in American Society,” “Seminar on Race and Police Violence,” “Segregation in the United States,” “Feminism and Black Male Studies”

**Graduate:** “Critical Race Theory,” “Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Black American History,” “Seminar on Race and Police Violence,” “Social Construction of Race and Racism,” “Afropessimism”

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR – University of South Florida, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies

2017-present

INSTRUCTOR – Rice University, History Department

Spring 2017                    “U.S. History, 1848-Present”

PRECEPTOR

Spring 2016                    “Black Women Writing their World,” Rice University

Fall 2015                        “Kind(s) of Black,” Rice University

Spring 2015                    “Black in School: Readings in Race and Education,” Rice University

Fall 2014                        “Black Men Writing their World: Du Bois, Baldwin and their Heirs,” Rice University

INVITED GUEST TEACHER

April 4, 2016                    “Crime in America,” Lone Star College-North Harris, Harris County, Texas

November 12, 2015            “Masculinities,” Rice University

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER – Ewing High School, Ewing Public Schools, New Jersey

2009-2012                    “United States History, 1787-1941” and “African American History”

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Spring 2014                    “The Atlantic Slave Trade and the Origins of Afro-America,” Rice University

Summer 2009 Teaching Assistant Manager, Princeton University Preparatory Program

Summer 2008 Senior Teaching Assistant, Princeton University Preparatory Program

#### SUPERVISED TEACHING

2008-2009 “United States History, 1877-Present,” Trenton Central High School, New Jersey

#### THESIS AND DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Defended, March 2023 <i>Director</i>	<b>Janae Thomas</b>   Ph.D. in Political Science “Hear My Cries: An Analysis of Domestic Violence Victims versus Florida’s ‘Stand Your Ground’ Laws”
Defended, March 2023 <i>Director</i>	<b>Jordan Battle</b>   M.L.A. in Africana Studies “Dreaming to Get Out: Jordan Peele’s Sunken Place, Frantz Fanon’s Zone of Non-being, and the (Im)possibilities of Black Art”
In progress <i>Director</i>	<b>Brittany Powell</b>   M.L.A. in Africana Studies ‘All my Life I had to Fight’: Examining the Pervasiveness of Policing in African American Literature”
In progress <i>Committee member</i>	<b>Lindsay Rustan</b>   Ph.D. in Educational Leadership “Excluded from Class: A Story of Authority, Race, and Relationships”
In progress <i>Committee member</i>	<b>Marcella Zulla</b>   Ph.D. in Anthropology “‘We Should Know Better’: Being and Becoming White in the Narratives of Italian Americans”
Defended, March 2023 <i>Committee member</i>	<b>Didier Salgado</b>   M.A. in Sociology “Deconstructing and Decolonizing Identities of ‘Gender’ and ‘Sex’ when Viewed as Anti-black: Black Narratives outside of the Binary”
Completed, Dec 2022 <i>Director</i>	<b>Amber Klee</b>   M.L.A. in Africana Studies “‘Goin’ to Chicago, sorry but I can’t take you’: A Literature Review of Blues and Afrofuturism and Depictions of Cross-Country Travel in Blues Music of the Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century”
Defended, Nov 2021 <i>Committee member</i>	<b>Keylon Lovett</b>   M.A. in Digital Journalism “The Media Reproduction of Racial Violence: A Content Analysis of News Coverage Following the Death of George Floyd Jr.”
Defended, March 2020	<b>Sharun Gonzales Matute</b>   M.A. in Latin American Studies

*Committee member*

“Race, Gender, and Power: Afro-Peruvian Women’s Experiences as Congress Representatives”

Defended, March 2019

**Ana Lucia Mosquera Rosado** | M.L.A. in Africana Studies*Committee member*

“The Peruvian Minstrel: An Analysis of the Representations of Blackness in the Performance of El Negro Mama from 1996 to 2014”

**OTHER EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

A.P. U.S. HISTORY EXAM READER

College Board

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Journal of Southern History, Houston, Texas

Aug 2012-Aug 2013, Jan 2016-April 2016

RESEARCH INTERN

Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ

Summer 2005

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

<b>Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship</b> University of South Florida	<b>2021</b>
<b>Blackness and Anti-Blackness Research Grant</b> Project: Argumentation Games to Cognitively Inoculate against Anti-Black Bias” with John Licato and Lindsay Fields University of South Florida	<b>2020</b>
<b>Blackness and Anti-Blackness Research Grant</b> Project: Colorism and Police Violence with Elizabeth Korver-Glenn (Washington University, St. Louis) University of South Florida	<b>2020</b>
<b>McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship</b> Florida Education Fund	<b>2020</b>
<b>John W. Gardner Award for Best Dissertation in the Humanities</b> School of Humanities, Rice University	<b>2017</b>

<b>Captain Charles Septimus Longcope Award for Best History Paper by a Graduate Student</b> History Department, Rice University	<b>2017</b>
<b>Space and Place in Africana Studies: An Institute on Spatial Humanities Theories, Methods, and Practice for Africana Studies</b> National Endowment for the Humanities	<b>2016</b>
<b>Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, alternate</b> National Academies of Science • Engineering • Medicine	<b>2016</b>
<b>Visionary Partner Dissertation Writing Fellowship</b> Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Rice University	<b>2016</b>
<b>William and Madeline Welder Smith Travel Award</b> Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin	<b>2016</b>
<b>John H. Jenkins Research Fellowship in Texas History</b> Texas State Historical Association	<b>2016</b>
<b>Gregory School Scholar-in-Residence Fellow</b> African American Library (Houston Public Library System) and the Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning (Rice University)	<b>2016</b>
<b>Friends of Fondren Graduate Research Award</b> Fondren Library, Rice University	<b>2014</b>
<b>Center for the Study of Religion Undergraduate Research Fellow</b> Princeton University	<b>2009</b>

**HOSTED DISCUSSIONS****A Conversation with Saidiya Hartman**

Co-hosted with Dr. Tangela Serls (Assistant Professor of Instruction in Women's and Gender Studies at USF) and Dr. McArthur Freeman (Associate Professor of Art and Art History at USF)

Spring 2022

**An Evening with MLK Jr. Commemorative Week Speaker: Angela Davis**

Organized by the University of South Florida's Undergraduate Lecture Series

January 2021

**INVITED TALKS**

**The Permanence of Segregation**

Fall 2024 Lyceum Lecture Series  
Pinellas County African American History Museum  
St Petersburg, Florida

September 20, 2024

**Racial Subordination & the Meaning of Democracy**

Sulphur Springs Museum and Heritage Center  
Tampa, Florida

April 7, 2024

**The Burning House**

Bland, Floyd, Tolan Lecture Series  
Houston Museum of African American Culture  
Houston, Texas

May 25, 2024

**The Persistent Problem of Segregation in the United States: Reimagining the Historian's Craft**

Trail Blazers Lecture Series  
College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, USF  
Tampa

March 30, 2023

**The Pessimism and Promise of Black History**

Cooley College of Law  
Florida

February 18, 2022

**Gender, Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights Movement**

Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies  
Houston

October 20, 2021

**"Mapping the Margins" Again: Intimate Partner Violence against Black Women in a Segregated City**

Center for Engaged Research & Collaborative Learning, Houston

September 13, 2016

**"It Was Like a Nightmare": Police Brutality in Houston, 1950-1967**

The African American Library at the Gregory School, Houston

September 10, 2016

**Race, Space, and Opportunity: Researching Segregation and Its Effects**

Center for Diversity Studies, Lone Star College-North Harris, Houston

April 4, 2016

**Nurturing the 21st-Century Classroom with Technology: Resources, Models, Exemplars**

EdTech Teacher Webinars

May 2011

**Interdisciplinary Instruction, Literacy, and Numeracy in the Classroom**

Program in Teacher Preparation, Princeton University

November 2009, 2010, 2011

## INVITED PANELS

### **The Black Family and the State**

USF College of Public Health

November 16, 2022

Tampa

### **Demystifying and Re-imagining Social Justice**

USF Residential Education

November 15, 2022

Tampa

### **Black Lives and the Police: The Forum**

USF Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity

August 11, 2020

Tampa

### **The Human Right to Physical Security: A Panel Discussion**

United Nations of Tampa Bay,

September 26, 2018

St. Petersburg, Florida

## CONFERENCES

“Teaching American Identity with Primary Sources,” Organization of American Historians, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 11-14, 2024.

“Segregation, Intimacy, and the Criminalization of Black Houston,” Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning, Houston, Texas, March 21-22, 2024.

Panel Commentator: “‘West of the Mississippi’: African Americans in the West from 1850 to 1930,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Jacksonville, Florida, September 19-24, 2023.

“Resisting History: An Afropessimist Approach to the 1967 TSU Police Attack,” National Council of Black Studies, Gainesville, Florida, March 16, 2023.

“Healing the Archival Wound,” Institute on Black Life Annual Conference, Sarasota, Florida, February 2, 2023.

“The Intellectual, Professional, and Ethical Value of the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality,” CSWGS 15th Anniversary Luncheon, Houston, Texas, October 30, 2019.

Panel Chair: “Black Women’s Articulations of Freedom,” African American Intellectual History Society, Ann Arbor, Michigan, March 22, 2019.

“The Nightmare at Texas Southern University,” Bowie State University Gloria Richardson Humanities Initiative, Bowie, Maryland, April 6, 2018.

“The Violence of Desegregation in Houston,” Texas State Historical Association, San Marcos, Texas, March 8, 2018.

“Teaching a Black Literary Canon at a Predominantly White Institution,” Co-presenter, Residential College Symposium, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, October 28, 2016.



“Clothed in Blue Flesh: Interrogating Police Brutality through Assemblage Theory,” Interdisciplinary Conference on Race, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey, April 18, 2015

“Exposing the Criminal-producing Assemblage,” Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Graduate Conference, Rice University, Houston, Texas, April 11, 2014

#### **PUBLIC TALKS**

“Re-imagining Blackness,” Humanities and Hops, USF Humanities Institute at Southern Brewing, Tampa, Florida, October 2022

“‘Bossed Up’: Beyoncé, Rihanna, and Nicki’s Ironic Feminisms,” Historians of Media, Rice University, Houston, Texas, August 28, 2015

#### **UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

Undergraduate Director, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, University of South Florida, 2021-present

Chair, CAS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, USF, 2022-present

Africana Studies Search Committee, USF, AY 2022-2023

Committee member, CAS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, USF, 2021-present

Advisory Board member, Institute on Black Life, USF, 2022-present

Representative, Rice Graduate Education for Minorities, 2016-present

Chair, Historians of Media, Rice University, 2015-2016

Graduate Representative, University Council, 2014-2015

Departmental Representative, Rice University Graduate Student Association, 2014-2015

Orientation Week Common Reading Facilitator, Rice University, August 2013, August 2015

Stage Manager, Ewing High School Musical Theater, Ewing, NJ, 2009-2012

#### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Playroom Volunteer, Child Assessment Center, Houston, Texas, 2015-2016

Archives Volunteer, The Transgender Center, Houston, Texas, 2015

Court Appointed Special Advocate, Mercer County CASA, Mercer County, New Jersey, 2009-2012

Princeton University Alumni Schools Committee Volunteer, 2009-2012

#### **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

GIS Short courses: Getting Started with ArcGIS; Census Geographies; Coordinate Systems and Projections; GIS Data Management; Mapping Tabular Data; Social Explorer and SimplyMap, 2013-present

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social

Research, 2013

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Southern Outages History Workshop 2019-present

Rice University Working Group on Family and Children,  
2016-2017

African American Intellectual History Society, 2016-  
present

American Historical Association, 2012-Present

Southern Historical Association, 2012-Present

Organization of American Historians, 2012-Present

National Council of Black Studies, 2022-present

National Education Association, 2009-2012

New Jersey Education Association, 2009-2012

Texas State Historical Association, 2017-Present