

**RENEE ROMANO**

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**Academic Positions Held**

*Oberlin College, 2008-present*

Robert S. Danforth Professor of History, 2016-present

Professor of History, Comparative American Studies, and Africana Studies, 2014-present

Associate Professor of History and African American Studies, 2008-2014

*Wesleyan University, 1996-2008*

Associate Professor of History and African American Studies, 2003-2008

Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies, 1996-2003

**Education**

Graduate Certificate, Digital Public Humanities, George Mason University, expected Summer 2002

Graduate Certificate, Museum Studies, Northwestern University, 2021

Ph.D., Stanford University, American History, 1996

MA, Stanford University, History, 1992

B.A., Yale University, Summa Cum Laude, Distinction in History and Political Science, 1990

**Administrative Experience**

Organizer and Co-Chair, Public Humanities Integrative Concentration, 2020-2022

Recruited committee to develop proposal and curriculum for an integrative concentration in Public Humanities; met with college governing bodies and potential community partners to develop range of community opportunities for students in the concentration; shepherded concentration proposal through college approval and endorsement process.

Steering Committee and Working Group Chair, Academic and Administrative Program Review, 2018-2019

Selected as one of the sixteen faculty members on Oberlin's AAPR Review; served as chair of the Quality Working Group; helped design metrics to measure quality of every academic unit; distributed and analyzed departmental questionnaires; summarized and analyzed findings; supervised subcommittee review of and recommendations about Winter Term; served as spokesperson for AAPR for alumni, trustees, and Oberlin faculty and staff.

Chair, Department of History, 2015-2019

Supervised department of fourteen faculty with over 100 majors and a budget of \$14,000 with several endowed funds; organized Program Review; ran tenure and promotion cases; oversaw revision of departmental procedures for promotion and of History major requirements; created new structure for granting History funds; developed new programs to cultivate majors; directed hiring of tenure-track and visiting faculty and of administrative assistant.

Executive Board, Organization of American Historians, 2016-2019

Served elected three-year term on board of the 3000-member national professional organization; participated in revisioning association for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and plans for new marketing campaigns; served on the Finance Committee and consulted on OAH budgetary planning and decisions; liaised with the Committee on Teaching.

Co-Director, Courage and Compassion Exhibit, 2016-2018

Organized and coordinated major travelling public history exhibit at Oberlin with a total budget of \$14,000; assembled steering committee; helped create exhibit content; worked with Communications to develop publicity materials; secured additional funding for public events; did outreach with local school officials, Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin Conservatory, media, and alumni; coordinated public programming, school trips, and public viewing hours.

Director, Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Institute, 2010-2012

Directed interdisciplinary institute with affiliated faculty and \$8000 programming budget; coordinated GSFS curriculum; secured Mellon-Postdoctoral Fellow in Gender and Public Health; organized two special GSFS module courses; planned public programming.

Director, Center for African American Studies (Wesleyan University), 2006-2007

Ran one of the oldest intellectual centers at Wesleyan, including planning year-long public programming; working with local community; and liaising with campus outreach initiatives.

Chair, African American Studies Program (Wesleyan University), 2003-2004, 2005-2007

Chaired interdisciplinary program with jointly appointed faculty members from across the humanities and social sciences; oversaw revision of major requirements; supervised several staff.

Member and Chair, Committee on the Status of Women in the Historical Profession, Organization of American Historians, 2001-2003 (Chair, 2001-2002)

Coordinated research on experience of women in history departments; worked with OAH to arrange child care at national meetings; advocated for women's issues within the organization.

**Other Administrative and Service Positions at Oberlin**

Chair, Winter Term Committee, 2019-2020

Arts and Sciences Reorganization Committee, 2019-2020

General Faculty Council, 2014-2016, 2019-2020

Law and Society Program Committee, 2017-

Mentor, Oberlin Posse 7, 2013-2017

Committee on Teaching, 2013-2016

Search Committee, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 2013-2014

Committee on Advising, 2013-2014

Educational Plans and Policy Committee, 2010-2012

Comparative American Studies Program Committee, 2009-2017

**Books (Monographs and Edited Collections)**

Editor (with Claire Potter), Historians on *Hamilton*: How a Blockbuster Musical is Restaging America's Past (Rutgers University Press, 2018).

*Includes co-written introduction and essay, "Hamilton: A New American Civic Myth?"*

Racial Reckoning: Prosecuting America's Civil Rights Murders (Harvard University Press, 2014; paperback, 2017).

Editor (with Claire Potter), Doing Recent History: On Privacy, Copyright, Video Games, Institutional Review Boards, Activist Scholarship, and History that Talks Back (University of Georgia Press, 2012).

*Includes co-written introduction and essay, "Not Dead Yet: My Identity Crisis as a Historian of the Recent Past"*

Editor (with Leigh Raiford), The Civil Rights Movement in American Memory (University of Georgia Press, 2006).

*Includes co-written introduction and essay, "Narratives of Redemption: The Birmingham Church Bombing Trials and the Construction of Civil Rights Memory"*

Race Mixing: Black-White Marriage in Postwar America (Harvard University Press, 2003, paperback published by University of Florida Press in April 2006).

### **Articles and Book Chapters**

"From Rumbblings to Roar: Racial Violence, Historical Justice and the Changing Public History of Slavery in the United States," forthcoming in Violence and Public Memory, Routledge University Press.

"The Strange Career of Interracial Heterosexuality" in Rebecca Davis and Michele Mitchell, ed., Heterosexual Histories (New York University Press, 2021), 69-95.

"Something Old, Something New: Black Women, Interracial Dating, and the Black Marriage Crisis," *Differences* 29:2 (September 2018): 123-156.

Foreword to Bill Shipp's, Murder at Broad River Bridge: The Slaying of Lemuel Penn by the Ku Klux Klan (new edition, University of Georgia Press, 2017), vii-xi.

"Beyond 'Self-Congratulatory Celebration': Complicating Civil Rights Anniversaries," *The American Historian* (November 2014): 29-32.

"Confronting the Legacies of Violence: Lessons from Kent State and Greensboro, North Carolina," in Laura Davis and Carole Barbatto, ed., Democratic Narrative: History and Memory (Kent State University Press, 2012), 159-175.

"Moving Beyond 'The Movement that Changed the World': Bringing the History of the Cold War into Civil Rights Museums," *The Public Historian* 31:2 (May 2009): 31-46.

"No Diplomatic Immunity: African Diplomats, the State Department and Civil Rights, 1961-1964," *Journal of American History* 87 (September 2000): 546-579.

"Immoral Conduct: White Women, Racial Transgressions and Child Custody Disputes, 1945-1985" in "Bad" Mothers: The Politics of Blame in 20th-Century America, ed. Molly Ladd-Taylor and Lauri Umansky (New York University Press, 1998), pp. 230-251.

### **Digital Projects**

"Whitewashing Blackface and Whistling Dixie: The Commemoration of Dan Emmett," <http://reneromano.net/education/whitewashing-blackface-and-whistling-dixie/index>, 2021.

### **Editorial Projects**

Co-editor (with Claire Potter), *Since 1970: Histories of Contemporary America* book series, University of Georgia Press, 2010-2016

### **Selected Fellowships and Awards**

Organization of American Historians/Japanese American Studies Japan Residency, June 2019

Appointed Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians, 2017

Professor Props Awards, Best Freshman Advisor, Oberlin College, 2014

Faculty Research Status Grant, Oberlin College, 2012-2013

Binswanger Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Wesleyan University, 2008

Mellon New Initiatives Grant, Wesleyan University, 2007

Faculty Fellow, Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, Fall 1998 and Fall 2004  
Mellon Summer Research Grant, Summer 2004  
Carol A. Baker Memorial Prize for Outstanding Junior Faculty in the PAC, Spring 1998  
Stanford Humanities Center, Dissertation Resident Fellowship, 1994-1995  
James W. Lyons Award for Service to the University, Stanford University, May 1994  
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, 1990-1994

**Recent Public Presentations (since 2013; full list available upon request)**

“Whistling Dixie and Whitewashing Blackface: Race, Commemoration, and Identity in an Ohio Town,” *Feminist History: A Conference to Honor Estelle Freedman*, Stanford Univ., March 2022.

“Whistling Dixie and Whitewashing Blackface: Erasing and Contesting Racism in an Ohio Town,” American Studies Association Meeting, virtual conference, October 2021.

Presenter, “New Approaches to Framing History for Public Audiences,” Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, virtual conference, April 2021.

“Can the Past Save Us? The Role of History in the Struggle for Racial Justice and Multiracial Democracy,” 2021 Lowell Harrison Distinguished Lecture, Western Kentucky Univ., March 2021.

“Understanding Blackface and Minstrel Shows: A History of Racism,” Mount Vernon, OH, 2019.

““But You Won’t Find Any Sources””: My Adventures as a Historian of America’s Recent Past,” Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan, 2019.

“King Monuments and Confederate Memorials: The Battle over the American Landscape,” Annual Meeting of the Japanese American Studies Association, Tokyo, Japan, 2019.

“Black-White Interracial Marriage: A History in Three Films,” Tohoku University; Sendai, Japan; Osaka University, Osaka, Japan, 2019.

“The *Hamilton* Phenomenon: Is it Good for History?”

University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA, October 2019

Park Synagogue East University Day Talk, Pepper Pike, OH, May 2019.

Dunham Tavern Museum, Cleveland, OH, January 2019

Roundtables and Panel discussions about *Historians on Hamilton*

The Dole Institute, University of Kansas, March 2021

The Museum of the American Revolution, April 2019

The National Archives, Washington, DC, September 2018

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, September 2018

Society of Cincinnati, Washington, DC, August 2018

Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, April 2018

New School for Social Research, New York, NY, March 2018

American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 2018

“Racial Reckoning: Prosecuting America’s Civil Rights Murders”

Osaka University and Tohoku University, 2019; University of Tennessee-Chattanooga,

Department of History, 2015; Friends of Library, Oberlin College, 2015; National Civil Rights

Museum, Memphis, TN, 2014.

“Negotiating Work and Family in the Age of a Super Woman: Making It in Academia without Killing Ourselves,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 2018.

“‘The Great Force of History’: Collective Memory, White Innocence, and Making Black Lives Matter”

362 Lecture Series, Wesleyan University, 2017; “Re-Imagining the Humanities Lecture Series,” Penn State Erie, 2016; 14th Annual American Studies Lecture, Univ. of Leicester, UK, 2015.

“The Limits of Commemoration: Civil Rights Memory and the Enduring Challenge of Innocence,” Plenary Address, Southern Association of Women Historians Conference, Charleston, SC, 2015.

“Jim Crow Justice: Race, Crime and Punishment in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Beyond,” Keynote Address, Hudson Public Library, Hudson, OH, 2015.

“Mobilizing Memory: How We Remember the Movement and Why It Matters”

Keynote Address, Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Dialogue, Kenyon College, 2014; Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY, 2012.

“Historical Memory and Contemporary Prosecutions of Civil Rights Era Crimes,” Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Memphis, TN, 2014.

Panelist, “The Place of May 4<sup>th</sup> and the May 4<sup>th</sup> Visitor’s Center in American History,” Kent State University, Kent, OH, 2013.

### **Public Writings and Media Appearances**

“Finally, A Movement is Disrupting White Innocence,” *Columbus Dispatch*, July 23, 2020.

Interviews/Podcasts about *Historians on Hamilton*

New Books in Music Podcast, October 25, 2018.

American Historical Review Podcast, August 17, 2018.

Sound of Ideas, NPR, Ideastream, 90.3, July 16, 2018.

“In the Past Lane,” Episode 71, May 23, 2018.

“The Trauma of Internment: What Lies Ahead for Children in Detention,” *Washington Post*, June 25, 2018.

“*Hamilton* and the Women’s March,” *Public Seminar*, January 30, 2017.

“Small Steps Towards Truth,” Harvard University Press Blog, January 18, 2017.

Interviews on *The Takeaway*, National Public Radio

“America’s Complicated Past Stirs Battle over Monuments, Memorials,” Feb. 22, 2016.

“Race and Criminal Justice: NYC, Ferguson, and Cleveland,” December 2014.

Discussion of *Racial Reckoning*, October 2014.

“The Jim Crow Museum of Racial Memorabilia,” April 26, 2012.

“New Pew Study on Intermarriage Rates,” February 17, 2012.

“Mobilization and Memory: How We Remember the Movement and Why It Matters,” Martin Luther King Day Address, Grafton Correctional Institution, Grafton, OH, January 2014.

Panel Participant, “Jungle Fever: 20 Years Later,” a panel sponsored by the Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn Arts Cinema, November 15, 2011.

“The Fierce Urgency of Then: What We Can—And Must—Learn from the Past,” invited guest blog, *Friends of Justice*, August 6, 2010.

### **Other Professional Service**

Scholarly Advisory, *Eyes on the Prize Revisited* documentary, 2021-  
Advisory Board, Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, 2021-  
Scholarly Advisor, *Buried Truths* Podcast, 2018-  
Fellowship Reviewer, National Humanities Center, 2020  
Program Reviewer, History Departments at Bucknell University and at Washington and Lee  
Grant Reviewer, National Endowment of the Humanities, 2003, 2015, 2018, 2020  
Posse Mentor, Oberlin Posse 7, 2013-2017  
8 Tenure or Promotion reviews  
28 book reviews; manuscript reviews for 15 presses and 10 journals (list available upon request)  
Scholarly Advisor, "The Mixed Heritage Families Project," Brooklyn Historical Society, 2011-2015.  
Advisory Board Member, May 4, 1970 Walking Tour and Visitor's Center, Kent State, 2009  
Historical Advisor, *Radio Diaries*, Audio History Project and History of Now Project, 2009-  
Liberty Legacy Book Prize Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2008-2009

### **Recent Courses Taught**

Deconstructing Disney  
History and Practice of Whiteness in the United States  
History at the Museum  
History Design Lab  
Introduction to Historical Methods  
Japanese American Internment and Public History  
Museums: An Institutional, Cultural, and Political History  
Race and Sexuality in American History  
Race-ing the Environment  
Repairing the Past: Readings in Historical Justice  
United States in World War II  
U.S. Foreign Policy  
U.S. History since 1877

### **Community Service**

Creator and Instructor, free online community course, "Subversive History: Learning the Past to Act in the Now," offered in Summer 2020 and Winter 2020-2021  
Founding Member, Knox Alliance for Racial Equality (KARE), Knox County, Ohio, 2018-  
Board Member, Flying Horse Farms (part of the Serious Fun Network), 2020-  
Founding Member, Families for Inclusive Schools, Mount Vernon, Ohio, 2018-2020  
Board Member, DuBois Project, Oberlin, Ohio, 2016-2018 (dedicated to improving math education)  
Board Member, Oberlin Heritage Society, Oberlin, Ohio, 2013-2014  
Giving Women, Oberlin Ohio, 2009-2022

### **Professional Affiliations**

American Historical Association  
American Studies Association  
American Alliance of Museums  
Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
Organization of American Historians  
National Council on Public History

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