

RENEE ROMANO
rromano@oberlin.edu
www.reneeromano.com

Academic Positions Held

City University of New York

Seminar 2 Consultant and Adjunct Professor, Macauley Honors College, 2024-present
Adjunct Professor of Museum Studies, CUNY School of Professional Studies, 2023-present

Oberlin College

Robert S. Danforth Professor of History, 2016-present
Co-Chair, Public Humanities Integrative Concentration, 2021-2023
Chair, Department of History, Oberlin College, 2015-2019
Professor of History, Comparative American Studies, and Africana Studies, 2014-present
Director, Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Institute, Oberlin College, 2010-2012
Associate Professor of History and African American Studies, Oberlin College, 2008-2014

Wesleyan University

Chair, African American Studies Program, 2003-2004, 2005-2007
Associate Professor of History and African American Studies, 2003-2008
Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies, 1996-2003

Other Positions

Co-Founder, Romano & Min Projects, 2024-

Co-founder of consulting group that provides help with research, content development, and planning for cultural organizations.

Education

Graduate Certificate, Museum Studies, Northwestern University, 2021
Ph.D., Stanford University, American History, 1996
B.A., Yale University, Summa Cum Laude, Distinction in History and Political Science, 1990

Books

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

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

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

Editor and Contributor (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).

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

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

Contributed 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).

Articles and Chapters in Books

“‘Much More than a Song’: The 1935 Campaign for a National ‘Dixie’ Memorial,” *Pacific Historical Review* 93: 3 (Summer 2024): 361-387.

“From Rumbblings to Roar: Racial Violence, Historical Justice and the Changing Public History of Slavery in the United States,” in Marty Blatt, ed., Violence and Public Memory (Routledge University Press, 2023), 79-101.

“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* 29:1 (September 2018): 126-153.

“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 Barbato, 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.

Digital Scholarship

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

Public Humanities Work

Strategic Advisor, The Black Sonic Music Archive, 2024-

Scholarly Advisor, Queer Harlem Renaissance Exhibit, New-York Historical Society, 2023-

Consultant, Master Planning Process, Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society, 2023-

Member, Maltz Museum of Jewish History Special Exhibitions Committee, 2023-

Team Member, People in Nature Experience, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, 2021-2024

Scholarly Advisor, “Eyes on the Prize Revisited,” documentary project, 2020-

Co-Director, Courage and Compassion Project on Japanese American Internment, 2015-2018

Scholarly Advisor, “The Mixed Heritage Families Project,” Brooklyn Historical Society, 2011-2015.

Advisor, Radio Diaries, Audio History and History of Now Project, 2009-

Consultant, May 4th 1970 Walking Tour and Visitor’s Center, Kent State University, 2009-2012

Editorial Projects

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

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

Visiting Fellow, Bard Graduate Center, Fall 2024

Berlin Fellowship, Widen the Circle, Summer 2024

Fellow, Institute of Public Knowledge, New York University, 2023-
 Excellence in Teaching Award, Social Science Division, Oberlin College, 2022
 OAH-Japanese Association for American Studies Residency, Tohoku University, Summer 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 Book Reviews (since 2008)

Review of Jill Oglie Titus, Gettysburg 1963: Civil Rights, Cold War Politics, and Historical Memory in America's Most Famous Small Town, *Journal of African American History* 8:4 (Fall 2023): 735-736.

Review of Claire Whitlinger, Between Remembrance and Repair: Commemorating Racial Violence in Philadelphia, Mississippi, *Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Book Reviews* (February 2021).

Review of Melanie S. Morrison, Murder on Shades Mountain: The Legal Lynching of Willie Peterson and the Struggle for Justice in Jim Crow Birmingham, *American Historical Review* 124:3 (June 2019), 1092-1093.

Review of "Robert Penn Warren's *Who Speaks for the Negro?*" website, *Public Historian* 40:4 (November 2018): 190-191.

Review of Erin Krutko Devlin, Remember Little Rock, *Arkansas Historical Review* 76:3 (Autumn 2017): 274-275.

Review of Pero Gaglo Dagbovie, What is African American History?, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 47:4 (Spring 2017): 570-571.

Review of Dell Upton, What Can and Can't Be Said: Race Uplift and Monument Building in the Contemporary South, *Journal of Southern History* 82:4 (November 2016): 990-991.

Review of Devery Anderson, Emmett Till: The Murder that Shocked the World and Propelled the Civil Rights Movement, *Journal of American History* 103:2 (September 2016): 511-512.

"The Pain of Passing," Review of Allyson Hobbs, A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life, *Reviews in American History* 44: 2 (June 2016): 264-269.

Review of Brandon Simeo Starkey, In Defense of Uncle Tom: Why Black People Must Police Racial Loyalty, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 46:4 (Spring 2016): 607-608.

Review of Salamishah Tillet, Sites of Slavery: Citizenship and Racial Democracy in the Post-Civil Rights Imagination, *Journal of African American History* 100:2 (Spring 2015): 344-345.

Review of Greg Carter, The United States of the United Races: A Utopian History of Racial Mixing, *Journal of American History* 101:2 (September 2014): 610.

Review of Karen Kruse Thomas, Deluxe Jim Crow: Civil Rights and American Health Policy, 1935-1954, *Social History of Medicine*, December 20, 2012.

Review of Adele Logan Alexander, Parallel Worlds: The Remarkable Gibbs-Hunts and the Enduring (In)Significance of Melanin, *Journal of American History* 99 (2012): 313-314.

Review of David Blight, American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era, *Civil War Book Review* (Winter 2012).

Review of Anastasia Curwood, Stormy Weather; Middle-Class African American Marriages Between the Two World Wars, *Contemporary Sociology*, 40:5 (September 2011): 573-574.

Review of James Miller, Remembering Scottsboro: The Legacy of an Informal Trial, *The Journal of Southern History*, 76:4 (November 2010): 1052-1053.

Review of Owen J. Dwyer and Derek H. Alderman, Civil Rights Memorials and the Geography of Memory, *The Alabama Review* 63:3 (July 2010): 228-230.

Review of Elizabeth M. Smith-Pryor, Property Rites: The Rhinelander Trial, Passing, and the Protection of Whiteness, *History News Network*, December 2009.

Selected Presentations

“Dan Emmett and Me: A Case Study of Race, Identity and Commemoration,” Bard Graduate Center, New York, October 2024.

“Designing Exhibits to Activate Change,” virtual presentation, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, November 2023.

“Challenging America’s Gun Narratives and Cultures: The Firearms Exhibit Project,” Current Perspectives on the History of Guns and Society, Wesleyan University, October 2023.

“Activating Climate Action: Harnessing the Power of Museums to Address the Climate Crisis,” Oberlin Club of Washington DC, May 2023.

“Whistling Dixie and Whitewashing Blackface: Race, Identity, and Commemoration in an Ohio Town”

Kendall Lecture Series, Oberlin, OH, May 2023

Feminist History: A Conference in Honor of Estelle Freedman, Stanford Univ., March 2022

Annual Conference of the American Studies Association, 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 University, March 2021

Roundtable Participant, “Historicizing Heterosexuality,” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, New York, January 2020.

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

Presentations on *Historians on Hamilton* at the National Archives, the New School of Social Research, the Society of Cincinnati, American Studies Association, Organization of American Historians,

Wesleyan Univ., Museum of the American Revolution, Mary Washington University, the Dole Institute, and on numerous podcasts

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

History 362 Annual Lecture, Wesleyan University, November 2017

“Re-Imagining the Humanities Lecture Series,” Penn State Erie, March 2016

14th Annual American Studies Lecture, University of Leicester, UK, October 2015

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

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

Public Writings

“The Trauma of Internment,” *Washington Post*, June 25, 2018.

“Hamilton’ and the Women’s March,” *Public Seminar*, January 30, 2017, <http://www.publicseminar.org/2017/01/hamilton-and-the-womens-march/>

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

Online exhibit, “*Loving v. Virginia* in Historical Context,” *Crossing Borders, Bridging Generations* at the Brooklyn Historical Society, June 2014.

“Hidden No More,” Brooklyn Historical Society Newsletter, Winter/Spring 2013 Newsletter.

“The Importance of Doing Recent History,” with Claire Potter, *History News Network*, October 29, 2012, <http://hnn.us/articles/importance-doing-recent-history>.

“The Fierce Urgency of Then: What We Can—and Must—Learn from the Past,” invited guest blog, *Friends of Justice*, August 6, 2010, <http://friendsofjustice.wordpress.com/2010/08/06/what-we-can-and-must-learn-from-the-past/>

Media Appearances

Interviews/Podcasts about Historians on Hamilton

American History HIT, May 19, 2024

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

“When Oberlin opened its arms to Japanese American Students,” PBS/WVIZ Ideastream, February 22, 2018.

Interviewed for “America’s Complicated Past Stirs Battle over Monuments, Memorials,” *The Takeaway*, National Public Radio, February 22, 2016.

Interviewed about *Racial Reckoning* by Daniel Hochheiser on “*Talkin Law*,” February 2015.

Interviewed for “Race and Criminal Justice: NYC, Ferguson, and Cleveland” on *The Takeaway*, National Public Radio, December 2014.

Discussion of *Racial Reckoning*, “The Takeaway,” National Public Radio, October 2014.

Interviewed about the Jim Crow Museum of Racial Memorabilia, “The Takeaway,” National Public Radio, April 26, 2012.

Interviewed about Pew Study on Intermarriage Rates, “The Takeaway,” National Public Radio, February 17, 2012.

Professional Service

Grant Reviewer, NEH Exhibit Planning and Implementation Projects, 2024

Grant Reviewer, National Humanities Center, 2023

OAH-JAAS Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2023-

Executive Board, Organization of American Historians, 2016-2019.

Program Reviewer, History Departments at Bucknell University and at Washington and Lee.

Grant Reviewer, NEH Media Projects, Spring 2020.

Grant Reviewer, NEH Media Projects Production, Spring 2018.

Grant Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar Project, Spring 2015.

Book Manuscripts reviewed for New York University Press, Harvard University Press, University of North Carolina Press, University of Florida Press, University of Georgia Press, University of Alabama Press, Cambria Press, University of Arkansas Press, Oxford University Press, University of Massachusetts Press, University of Mississippi, University of British Columbia Press

Article manuscripts reviewed for *Journal of American History*, *Meridians*, *Gender and History*, *Journal of Family History*, *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of Women’s History*, *History and Memory*

Organizer and Participant, “Teaching Nature, Race, and Ethnicity,” Mellon 23 Conference, Middlebury College, October 2010.

Board Member, “Publishing the Long Civil Rights Movement,” UNC Press, 2009.

New England American Studies Association 2008 Rudnick Prize Committee.

Member, New England American Studies Association Council, 2007-2008.

Liberty Legacy Award Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2007-2008.

Facilitator for secondary school student discussions of “Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks,” Real Arts Ways, Hartford, CT, 2006-2007.

Director and Presenter, “Race and Membership: The History of Citizenship in the United States,” Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers, Wesleyan University, August 2006.

Faculty Consultant and Presenter, Summer Institute on the Civil Rights Movement, Bridgewater State University, June 2006.

Director and Presenter, “Teaching the Civil Rights Movement: An Interdisciplinary Approach,” Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers, Wesleyan University, June 2005.

“Power and the Press: The Movements Shaped by the Press—Women, Anti-War, Civil Rights,” National History Day Summer Institute, Baltimore, MD, July 2004.

Consultant on incorporating Ethnic Studies into the curriculum, Connecticut College, April 2004.

Grant Reviewer, NEH Research Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges, Washington, D.C., August 2003

Member, Local Editorial Board, *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*, 2001-2003

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

“Going Beyond the African American Community, 1968-2002: Women, Latinos, Native Americans, Gays and Lesbians, and other Minorities,” 100 Years of the Civil Rights Movement, National History Day Summer Institute, Atlanta, July 2002

Courses Taught

Lectures

America at War: The United States in World War II
 American History from 1877 to the Present
 History and Practice of Whiteness in the United States
 History of the Southern Civil Rights Movement
 History of United States Foreign Relations
 Introduction to Modern African American History
 Introduction to the Public Humanities
 Japanese American Internment and Public History
 Race and Power: The Creation and Practice of American Democracy
 Women and the American Experience
 World War II in the United States and Japan

Seminars

American Society and Culture in the 1950s
 Contesting the Past: Historical Memory in the United States
 Deconstructing Disney
 Doing Local History: Community Based Learning in Elyria, OH
 History Honors Seminar and History Senior Projects
 Introduction to Historical Theories and Methods
 Museums: A Social, Political, and Institutional History
 Museum History and Theory (graduate-level class)
 People of New York (CUNY Macauley Honors College)
 Race and Sexuality in American History
 Race-ing the Environment
 Repairing the Past: Readings in Historical Justice
 Topics in African-American Family History

MA Program Teaching

Introduction to the History and Theory of Museums

Oberlin College Service

College Faculty Council, 2022-2023
 Founder and co-chair, Public Humanities Integrative Concentration, 2021-2023
 Chair, Winter Term Committee, 2019-2020, 2022-2023
 Arts and Sciences Academic Restructuring Committee, 2019-2020
 Steering Committee, Academic and Administrative Program Review, 2018-2019
 General Faculty Council, 2014-2016, 2019-2021
 Law and Society Program Committee, 2017-2023
 Mentor, Oberlin College Research Fellow Program, 2016-2018
 Chair, History Department, 2015-2019

Mentor, Oberlin Posse 7, 2013-2017
Committee on Teaching, Oberlin College, 2013-2016
Search Committee, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 2013-2014
Committee on Advising, Oberlin College, 2013-2014
Organizer, Faculty Environmental Justice Winter Term Workshop, January 2011
Director, Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Institute, 2010-2012
Educational Plans and Policy Committee, 2010-2012
Comparative American Studies Program Committee, 2009-
Gender, Feminist, and Sexuality Studies Program Committee, 2009-2012

Professional Affiliations

American Alliance of Museums
American Historical Association
National Council of Public History
Organization of American Historians

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