

BLAIR M. PROCTOR, PhD

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EDUCATION

PhD in African American and African Studies (AAAS), Michigan State University, Summer 2017

- ❖ Specialization in Historical Sociology and African Diaspora Studies
- ❖ Dissertation Committee: Dissertation Chair Glenn A. Chambers, History; Steven J. Gold, Sociology; Galen Sibanda, Linguistics; Danny Mendez, Romance and Classical Studies
- ❖ *Blurred Consciousness: How Blackness and Space Shapes Identity Formation among South African Coloureds and New Orleans Creoles*. A Dissertation, Michigan State University, ProQuest: 10281989. ProQuest, LLC, 2017.

Master of Urban and Environmental Planning (MUEP), Arizona State University, Summer 2007

- ❖ Capstone Research Project, *Central South Corridor: South Mountain Village, Phoenix, Arizona*

Bachelor of Science, Planning (BSP), Arizona State University, Summer 2005

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Research in progress:

- ❖ *Blurred Consciousness: Creoleness & Colouredness in colonial Louisiana and imperial Cape Town, 1520-1820*
Converting dissertation into a book manuscript.

Teaching Interests:

- ❖ African Diaspora Studies
- ❖ African American Studies
- ❖ Africana Studies (African American & African Studies)
- ❖ Intersectionality Research Methodologies (Race/Gender/Queer Theory)
- ❖ Critical Race Theory (CRT)
- ❖ Historical Sociology Research Methodologies
- ❖ Historical Research Methods
- ❖ Qualitative Research Methods
- ❖ Sociology (Race and Ethnicity/Migration Studies)
- ❖ Critical Rhetoric (African American & African Diasporic Literature and Culture)
- ❖ Urban Planning (Urban Studies/Community Development/Race, Place, and Space)
- ❖ Interdisciplinary Studies
- ❖ Global Studies

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS), Georgia Tech, Spring 2016

Lead Tutor

- ❖ Monitored sport specific study halls while serving as an academic mentor for Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Tech (GT) students. Duties included teaching and reinforcing study skills for academic growth and achievement.

The Writing Center, Michigan State University, Fall 2014 - Spring 2015

Consultant

- ❖ Applied multi-cultural pedagogy skills and provided services as a writing tutor for MSU undergraduate and graduate level students.
- ❖ Facilitated workshops for various classes, student organizations, and educational fraternities promoted services offered through The Writing Center and also discussed specific types of writing documents such as resume and cover letters, video media, and other genres of writing that consultants can assist for potential clients.

Coordinator

- ❖ Supervised writing center consultants that worked at MSU Student Athletic Support Services (SASS) and performed administrative duties such as maintaining timesheets, attended staff meetings, and reported to supervisor about activities related to SASS.

MasterCard Foundation Scholars (MCFS) Program, Michigan State University, Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Graduate Assistant

- ❖ Co-mentored 33 African students at both the undergraduate and graduate level. The MCF Scholars came from various countries throughout continental Africa.
- ❖ Duties included event planning, set up media for weekly cohort seminars, and prepared for weekly meetings, which focused on developing leadership among the Scholars.
- ❖ MCFS promoted pedagogical practices focused on building a scholar cohort and enhancing student learning.

ISS 335, National Diversity & Change, Michigan State University, Spring 2013

Substitute Teacher

- ❖ Class discussions and interpretations were centered on Dr. Ronald Hall's 2006 journal article "The Bleaching Syndrome among People of Color: Implications of Skin Color for Human Behavior in the Social Environment."

Dr. Ronald Hall, Colorism: Skin Bleaching Project, Michigan State University, Spring 2013

Research Assistant

- ❖ Assisted Dr. Hall on his mixed-method research project (quantitative and qualitative), and focused on the concept of *colorism* from a global perspective.
- ❖ Assisted in Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) quantitative statistical research for the quantitative portion of his study. Research also included editing research questions, attending bi-weekly meetings, and collaborating with a fellow graduate student.

PUBLICATIONS

Article, "Coloured South African Consciousness: Blurring the Lines of Identity Formation and Space," in the edited volume *New Frontiers in the Study of the Global African Diaspora: Between Uncharted Themes and Alternative Representations*. Glenn A. Chambers and Quito Swan, co-ed. Michigan State University Press, 2017.

Article, "Coloured South African Politics and the New Orleans Afro-Creole Protest Tradition," in the edited volume *The African World in Dialogue: An Appeal to Action!* Teresa N. Washington, ed. Oya's Tornado's Books, 2016.

Website, The Underground Railroad (UGRR)

- ❖ Associated with the Fact Check Team, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Researcher, Writer, and edited website launched by the Charles Wright Museum, Detroit Michigan, November 2013. Link to the UGRR website: <http://ugrr.mmaps.magjan.com/136-chwmaah.html>

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

TIAA-CREF Ruth Simms Hamilton Merit Fellow, Spring 2016

- ❖ Awarded by Michigan State University, The Graduate School. Many descendants of the African Diaspora traveled back to Africa, specifically to South Africa for the purpose of seeking freedom, furthering the experiences of "circularity" and "communities of consciousness" among peoples of African descent, as asserted by the late Dr. Ruth Simms Hamilton in *Routes of Passage*. This fellowship assisted in my dissertation completion for my doctoral program and furthering knowledge production, adhering to the late Ruth Simms Hamilton's legacy in African Diaspora Studies.

Summer Support Fellowship (College of Arts and Letters), Summer 2014

- ❖ Nominated by AAAS Director—supported research and travel expenses to conduct pre-dissertation anthropological qualitative research methods in Westbury, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Foreign Language and Areas Studies Program (Summer FLAS), Summer 2013

- ❖ Received funding to support two summers of intensive isiZulu training to fulfill the foreign language requirement for doctoral study.

Domestic Internship, AAAS893 - MSU, Summer 2013

Detroit, Michigan, Charles Wright Museum – UGRR Fact Check Team, Researcher/Writer

- ❖ Edited the Underground Railroad (UGRR) website, launched on November 2013 by the Charles Wright Museum. Duties included editing text, fact checking, researching site locations to verify accuracy of literature, and searched the locations of historical sites where the Underground Railroad occurred using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coordinates. Link to the UGRR website: <http://ugrr.mmaps.magjan.com/136-chwmaah.html>

Study Abroad Program, International Internship, AAAS893c – MSU, Summer 2013

University of South Africa (UNISA) Pretoria, Gauteng, South Africa

- ❖ Along with the AAAS cohort, assisted Dr. Sekepe Matjila with a project pertaining to developing a visual display showing African American intellectuals who collaborated with Black South Africans during the early twentieth century. Collaboration involved proposals and demands for civil rights and global Black liberation from colonialism and racism. Provided suggestions for the visual design that would be displayed at UNISA.

Planning Intern, October 2004 – April 2005

City of Mesa Planning Division

- ❖ Performed due diligence, compiled initial research, which included numerous former case files, managed Geographic Information Systems (GIS) planning documents, stick files, zoning and annexation maps for documentation in written reports. Duties also included operating the City of Mesa website in the Planning Division.

PRESENTATION & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

University of Pretoria: Pretoria, South Africa, May 22, 2014

- ❖ 4th Apartheid Archive Conference: Race, Space, Location, Dislocation: Then and Now
Podium Presentation: *Blurred Consciousness: The Complexities of Race, Color, Identity and Space of Coloured South Africans*. Presentation based on my final paper for Migration Studies (HST854): *Blurred Consciousness: The Coloured Narrative of Westbury, South Africa*.

Northwestern Michigan College: Traverse City, Michigan, November 13, 2013

- ❖ International Affairs Class (Professor Jim Bensley)
Panel Discussion and Presented Research Paper: *Blurred Consciousness: The Complexities of Race, Color, and Identity of Coloured South Africans*.

University of South Africa (UNISA): Pretoria, South Africa, May 28, 2013

- ❖ UNISA: College of Education: Department of Language, Arts and Culture
Panel Discussion and Presentation: *How South African languages can be developed, nurtured, and used as a medium of teaching for Africans?*

University of South Africa (UNISA): Pretoria, South Africa, May 21, 2013

- ❖ Graduate Seminar Series 2013: Deconstructing the African Vision for Africa's Renewal's
Panel Discussion and Presented Research Paper: *Race and Color Still Matters: The Unique Black Identity in the United States*.

University of South Africa (UNISA): Pretoria, South Africa, May 21, 2013

- ❖ UNISA: Panel Discussion: Black Visions, Black Identity
Interactive workshop with UNISA graduate students on African American identities, experiences, and engaged the work of graduate students studying African American and African Studies at Michigan State University (MSU) in the United States.

Michigan State University (MSU): East Lansing, Michigan, April 10, 2013

- ❖ Race in the 21st Century: The 8th National Conference\
The eighth *Race in 21st Century America Conference* brought to campus leading scholars, community activists, public officials and residents, representing racial, ethnic, gender, and ideological diversity, and participated in an important conversation with the MSU community about the problem of race in America. Panel Discussion and Presented Research Paper: *Race and Color Still Matters: The Unique Black Identity in the United States*.

PODCAST

Chasing Color, resident expert.

- ❖ Weekly talks involve discussing topics centered on race and skin-color along with co-host Pamela Lawrence, creator of Revolution of Race:
<https://revolution-of-race.com/ror-chasing-color>

COMMUNITY SERVICE, MENTORING & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Academic Mentor

- ❖ Write recommendation letters, mentor, and professional coach for a mentee that is in the process of applying for doctoral programs.

Volunteer, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS), Phoenix, Arizona, May 19, 2017

- ❖ Participated in helping feed 1,050 homeless people at the CASS facility.

Volunteer, Westbury Youth Centre: Westbury, Johannesburg, South Africa, Summer 2016/2014

- ❖ Volunteered at the Westbury Youth Centre (WYC) in conjunction with conducting pre-dissertation research in summer 2014 and dissertation research during summer 2016. Duties involved setting up the computer room at the WYC facility and mentored WYC students. In summer 2016, I mentored and conducted a workshop with Westbury students interested in entrepreneurship.

Volunteer, Care4U2: Johannesburg, South Africa, June 21, 2014

- ❖ Awarded a certificate for assisting the non-governmental organization (NGO) Care4U2 members in facilitating a fundraiser in order to continue respite and outreach for improving the lives of disabled children.

Volunteer, Detroit Community Day: Detroit, Michigan, April 19-20, 2013

- ❖ Participated in the annual "Detroit Community Day," a community development event where MSU African American college students spoke and emphasized to Detroit high school students the importance of higher education.

President, SANKOFA - AAAS Graduate Student Organization, Fall 2012 – Spring 2013

- ❖ Organized programming for AAAS graduates, AAAS minors, the MSU campus, and the greater Lansing community.

Treasurer, National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Fall 2000 – Spring 2001

- ❖ University of Arizona Chapter, Treasurer

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

City of Phoenix, January 2006 – July 2012

- ❖ Planner I, Public Transit Department (PTD), October 2007 – July 2012
- ❖ Planner I, Development Services Department (DSD), January 2006 – October 2007

PROJECTS

Maryvale Village Core Plan, January 2012 – May 2012

- ❖ The *Maryvale Village Core Plan* was a collaborative effort that included various directors within the City of Phoenix, Planners that worked for various departments within the City of Phoenix along with the ASU Stardust Program (Center for Affordable Homes), various non-profit organizations, private consulting firms, and other stakeholders (local businesses and potential clients) that would provide service and amenities to the community. I provided updates in a monthly report to my supervisor and reported during our monthly team meetings within my former department. This project was important because my work focused on African American and Latino communities that have been historically marginalized in Phoenix. These residents were provided a space where they could voice their concerns and depended on the non-profit organizations to represent and advocate for the Maryvale residents.

- ❖ This project was part of the City of Phoenix *20 Year Plan*. Qualitative approaches included assisting the City of Phoenix Planning Department principal planner with facilitating focus groups in order to collect data from residents (predominantly African American and Latino) that lived in the Maryvale Village, West Phoenix (a section of Phoenix, Arizona). The sole purpose of the monthly focus groups was to inquire what the community wanted, brainstorm, and provided input for improving their neighborhood. These meetings included brainstorming sessions, and reporting from the community representatives.

Bus Bay Priority Study Update, August 2011

- ❖ Crafted scope-of-work requirements to be included in Request for Proposals (RFP) document for qualified candidates to submit Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) to the City of Phoenix Public Transit Department (PTD) for review. Chosen consultant was responsible to update the 2004 Bus Bay Priority Study. This study adheres to the Transit 2000 Plan which was passed in 2000 to fulfill the promise of performing transit improvements throughout the City of Phoenix.

East Baseline Park-and-Ride, May 2011

- ❖ Created scope-of-work requirements for future development of a park-and-ride facility along with the planning team. The scope-of-work includes conceptual phase with 30% of site plan submittal to PTD. The second phase was initiated following Federal Transit Administration (FTA) environmental approvals and land acquisition. This facility serves the South Mountain community in Phoenix, Arizona and incorporated the Central-South Mountain Plan. This park-and-ride serves Phase I of the planned RAPID Central-South Mountain bus route. Collaborated with planning team to facilitate focus groups.

HOPE VI Redevelopment, March 2010

- ❖ Organized a proposal that outlined recommendations and strategies as to how public transit can best serve Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere: Sixth Phase (HOPE VI) and other redevelopment projects.

Property Management Plan, December 2009

- ❖ Developed a plan which discussed how PTD would be responsible for monitoring numerous parcels owned by PTD for various uses. Cost comparison analysis was provided in the plan which displayed an assessment between Real Estate costs and Public Transit costs in regards to managing PTD-owned properties. This plan included a Microsoft Excel database and GIS map which listed all of the properties owned by PTD.