

Curriculum Vitae

(August 2026)

Sheila Curran Bernard

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Social Sciences 145
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Earned Degrees

M.F.A., Creative Writing, Goddard College, Plainfield, Vt.

B.S., *magna cum laude*, Communication, Boston University, Boston, Ma.

Educational Employment

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 2025-present | Glen Trotiner Professor of Visual Storytelling
Department of History
Director, Graduate Program in Public History (2023-present)
University at Albany, SUNY |
| 2014-2025 | Associate Professor
Department of History
Director, Institute for History and Public Engagement (2019-2021)
Director, Graduate Program in Public History (2016-2019; 2021-2022) |
| 2008-2014 | Assistant Professor
Department of History and Documentary Studies Program
Associate Director, Documentary Studies Program (2008-2014)
University at Albany, SUNY |
| 2008-2009 | Media Fellow
New York State Writers Institute
University at Albany, SUNY |
| 2005 (Fall) | Anschutz Distinguished Fellow/Lecturer in the Council of the Humanities
American Studies Program
Princeton University, New Jersey |
| 1995 (Spring) | Dorothy M. Healy Visiting Professor
Westbrook College, Portland, Me. (now University of New England) |

Other Employment

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1990-present | Independent contractor, projects for film, television, museum, web, and educational use;
also projects for print publication. |
| Prior to 1990 | Freelance and staff assignments, project-based, Boston, MA. |

Scholarly and Creative Activity

Works in Preparation

Film (co-writer): *Einstein's Incredible Universe* (IMAX-3D, 40 minutes), in production from Cosmic Picture Distribution; directed by Daniel Ferguson. Worldwide release anticipated 2026-27.

Documentary Storytelling, Sixth Edition. (New York, NY: Focal Press/Routledge), contracted for delivery July 2027.

Archival Submissions

Portal to Texas History, created and maintained by the University of North Texas Libraries: Acceptance of oral history archive: "DeKalb Oral Histories," transcribed and added biographical detail to interviews conducted by Joni Haldeman with 47 individuals (53 audio cassettes) in DeKalb, Texas, between 1988 and 1997. (Most of those recorded were born between 1897 and 1917.) Project begun in 2019 with support from the Summerlee Foundation. The completed project including digital audio files and roughly 1300 pages of transcript material is being processed for uploading to the website of the Portal. Accepted January 2026; to be online by November 2026.

Human Studies Film Archives, Smithsonian Institution: Acceptance of photographs taken by me during the production of a documentary film, *The Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific* (PBS 1983), primarily on location on Satawal, in the Federated States of Micronesia. The collection consists of still photos (112 Kodachrome slides, ~200 b/w images (negatives, contact sheets, some prints) taken between July and September 1982. These images include famed navigator Mau Pailug (*Hokule'a*), his family, and the navigators he was teaching. There are also shots of the film crew and scholars elsewhere (Dr. Patrick V. Kirch, Hawaii, and Dr. Roger Green, Fiji). These materials supplement a collection of motion picture footage and outtakes already in the archive. Accepted July 2026.

Books

Bring Judgment Day: Reclaiming Lead Belly's Truths from Jim Crow's Lies. (New York: Cambridge University Press, July 2024).

Awards: Finalist, Jazz Journalism Association Award in Biography/Autobiography; Special Recognition, ASCAP Foundation Deems Taylor/Virgil Thomson Book Award for Pop Music

Reviews: *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review) 92, no. 11 (June 1, 2024); *Living Blues* #291, 55, no. 4 (July 2024); *The Telegraph* (June 28, 2024); *The Spectator* 20 (July 2024).

Documentary Storytelling, Fifth Edition: Creative Nonfiction on Screen. (New York, NY: Focal Press/Routledge, July 2022). Each new edition is at least 30 percent new material from the previous edition. Translations: Chinese.

Archival Storytelling, Second Edition: A Filmmaker's Guide to Finding, Using, and Licensing Third-Party Visuals and Music, with Kenn Rabin. (New York, NY: Focal Press/Routledge, 2020)

Documentary Storytelling, Fourth Edition: Creative Nonfiction on Screen. (New York, NY: Focal Press/Routledge, 2016). Translations:

- Arabic, Japanese

Documentary Storytelling, Third Edition: Creative Nonfiction on Screen. (Burlington, MA: Focal Press/Taylor & Francis, 2010). Translations:

- Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Polish

Archival Storytelling: A Filmmaker's Guide to Finding, Using, and Licensing Third-Party Visuals and Music, with Kenn Rabin. (Burlington, MA: Focal Press/Elsevier, 2009)

Documentary Storytelling, Second Edition: Making Stronger and More Dramatic Nonfiction Films. (Burlington, MA: Focal Press/Elsevier, 2007). Translations in Chinese, Korean, Portuguese.
Excerpted in Richard Herrera (ed.), *Political Matinée: Hollywood's Take on American Politics* (Cognella, 2013): Chapter Two: Types of Film (pp. 117-122).

Documentary Storytelling for Video and Filmmakers. (Burlington, MA: Focal Press/Elsevier, 2004)

School: The Story of American Public Education. Narrative by, credit shared with producer/director Sarah Mondale. Edited by Sarah Mondale and Sarah Patton, based on scripts from the four-hour PBS series written by Bernard. (Boston, Ma: Beacon Press, 2001)

Articles

“‘Let It Shine on Me’: The songs of Lead Belly lit a path for the folk revival and beyond, but the legend of a guitar-toting killer, freed from prison by white song collectors, was fanciful at best.” Original article drawn from *Bring Judgment Day*. MOJO 369 (UK), August 2024.

“When Lead Belly Played Page Hall,” *UAlbany* mini magazine, music edition, Summer 2024.

“Come Prepared to Travel. Bring Guitar.” Excerpt of *Bring Judgment Day* in *Humanities*, vol. 45, no. 3 (Summer 2024, online only), the magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“10 Things Student Filmmakers Need to Know About Rights, Licensing, Fair Use, and Public Domain” (with Kenn Rabin), *Studentfilmmakers*, Spring 2024; Spring 2025

“Copyright and Public Domain: An Updated Primer” (with Kenn Rabin), *Documentary*, vol. 39, no. 2, Spring 2020.

“Keep a Close Watch,” *Documentary*, Spring 2016; Romanian translation, Docuart.

“A Conversation with Selma Archive Producer Kenn Rabin,” *The American Historian*, February 2015

“So You Want to Work in Documentary,” *Documentary*, September 2009

“Rights laws dysfunctional in media Wild West” (with Kenn Rabin), *Current*, January 2009

“Fair Dealing, Moral Rights and More” (with Kenn Rabin), *Shooting People*, November 2008

“The Ethics of Archival Storytelling” (with Kenn Rabin) IDA ezine, October 2008

“Creative License vs. Creative Arrangement,” Writers Store ezine, May 2007

“You Need Somebody There to Document It,” *DoubleTake/Points of Entry*, Spring 2007

“Casting Your Documentary,” *studentfilmmakers*, March 2007

“Watching Eyes on the Prize,” *DoubleTake/Points of Entry*, Fall/Winter 2006 “Objectivity and Intimacy,” *studentfilmmakers*, October 2006

“When the Levees Broke” *studentfilmmakers*, August 2006

“Story First,” *studentfilmmakers*, April 2006

“Eyes on the Rights,” *Documentary*, June 2005 “Documentary Storytelling,” Writers Store ezine, July 2004 “Collaborating on Documentaries,” Writers Store ezine, March 2004 “From Idea to Story,” *The Independent*, December 2003

“Know Narration's Nuances,” *Writer's Digest*, October 2003

Exhibit Review

Votes for Women. New York State Museum, in *The Public Historian*, 40.4, November 2018

Book Reviews

Review of Patricia Aufderheide, *Documentary Film: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press), in International Documentary Association ezine, March 2008

Review of Alan Rosenthal and John Corner (ed.), *New Challenges for Documentary*, 2nd edition (Manchester University Press, 2005), in *The Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*, October 2007

Review of Julianna Freehand, *The Only Woman on Board: The photographs, diaries, letters, and memorabilia of a Maine sea captain and his wife, 1859-1908*, revised edition (New England History Press, 1994), in *Maine in Print*, Spring 1995

Other Publications

Advisor to *Honest Truths: Documentary Filmmakers on Ethical Challenges in Their Work*, by Patricia Aufderheide, Peter Jaszi and Mridu Chandra (September 2009), report funded by the Ford Foundation.

Film Series: Prime Time National Carriage, PBS

Series development writer: *This Far by Faith: African American Spiritual Journeys* (PBS 2003, six hours). Produced by Blackside, Inc. and The Faith Project.

Writer, all episodes: *School: The Story of American Public Education* (PBS 2001, four hours). Produced by Stone Lantern Films and presented on PBS by KCET/Hollywood. Centerpiece of national public engagement/education campaign. Episode 1: The Common School (1770-1890); Episode 2: As American as Public School (1900-1950); Episode 3: Equality (1950-1980); Episode 4: The Bottom Line (1980-2001).

Series writer, all episodes; writer, episode 1; writer (shared credit), episodes 5 and 6: *I'll Make Me a World: A Century of African-American Arts* (PBS 1999, six hours). Produced by Blackside, Inc. Centerpiece of national public engagement/education campaign. Episode 1: "Lift Every Voice"; Episode 2: "Without Fear or Shame"; Episode 3: "Bright Like the Sun"; Episode 4: "The Dream Keepers"; Episode 5: "Not a Rhyme Time"; Episode 6: The Freedom You Will Take. Peabody Award.

Script consultant, episodes 3 and 4: *Liberty! The American Revolution* (PBS 1997, six hours). Produced by Twin Cities Public Television in association with Middlemarch Films. Credited on Episode 3: "The Times that Try Men's Souls" (1776-1777) and Episode 4: "Oh Fatal Ambition" (1777-1778).

America's War on Poverty (PBS 1995, three hours of five-hour series), episode writer, consultant. Produced by Blackside, Inc. Writer, Episode 2, "Given a Chance"; Consulting producer, Episode 3, "City of Promise"; Writer (shared credit), Episode 4, "In Service to America."

Eyes on the Prize II (PBS 1990, two hours of eight-hour series), producer/director/writer, "Two Societies" and "Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More," with Sam Pollard. Produced by Blackside, Inc.

The Ring of Truth (PBS 1988, two hours of six-hour series), co-producer, "Mapping" and "Change." Produced by Public Broadcasting Associates, Cambridge, Ma.

Individual Films, National Carriage PBS

Writer: *Slavery by Another Name* (PBS 2012, 84 mins), writer. Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Douglas A. Blackmon, produced by Twin Cities Public Television. Premiered in competition at the Sundance Film Festival. National prime time broadcast, first week audience of more than three million (broadcast and streaming). Centerpiece of "Created Equal," three-year, 500-community public engagement/education initiative from the NEH and the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History.

Script editor: *Wilhemina's War* (PBS *Independent Lens*, 2016, 60 minutes). Produced, directed and written by June Cross.

Writer (shared credit with producer/director Marilyn Ness): *Bad Blood: A Cautionary Tale* (PBS 2011, 60 minutes; theatrical release, 83 minutes). Produced by Necessary Films, New York.

Program development: *Miss America: A Documentary Film* (PBS prime time, *American Experience* 2002, 90 minutes). Produced by Orchard Films and Clio, Inc., New York, NY.

Writer (shared credit with producer/director Onyekachi Wambu): *Hopes on the Horizon: Africa in the 1990s* (PBS prime time, 2001, 120 minutes). Special produced by Blackside, Inc.

Writer: *Beyond Two Frontiers: The Neurolab Space Shuttle* (PBS 1998, 60 mins). Special produced by Dante Films and AETC, Atlanta, Ga.

Consulting writer: *A. Philip Randolph: For Jobs and Freedom* (PBS 1996, 90 minutes). Special produced by Dante Films.

Associate producer, production manager, additional editor, additional writer: *The Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific* (PBS 1984, 60 minutes). Produced by Sanford Low.

Film Series: National Carriage, PBS, Non-Prime Time

Project development: *Life by the Numbers* (PBS 1997, seven hour series on mathematics). Produced by WQED in Pittsburgh. Wrote initial treatments for two episodes.

Series consulting producer; also producer/director/writer of episode 4, "Signs and Symbols." *Out of the Past* (PBS 1993, eight-hour series on the rise and fall of the Maya and other civilizations). Coproduction of Cambridge Studios, WQED-TV, and the Pennsylvania State University.

Individual Films, other than PBS

Consulting writer: *Backpack Full of Cash* (theatrical, Stone Lantern Films, 2017). Special directed by Sarah Mondale, narrated by Matt Damon.

Writer: *Fear No More: Stop Violence Against Women* (Lifetime 2002, 60 minutes). Special produced by Maysles Films, New York.

Writer of interstitial material: *Lalee's Kin: The Legacy of Cotton* (HBO 2001, 90 minutes). Produced by Maysles Films and nominated for an Academy Award.

Editor (shared credit): *Yaz: The Final Swing* (WCVB-TV 1984, 60 minutes). Produced by Mugar Entertainment and aired locally in Boston.

Theatrical Release

Story by (shared credit): *Inside Story: The Science of HIV/AIDS* (theatrical and broadcast release December 2011, 90 minutes). Research-based fictional drama produced by Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership in partnership with Curious Pictures, South Africa as the centerpiece of an HIV/AIDS educational initiative. Targeted audience, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa, of more than 250 million people.

Giant Screen Films

Contributing writer, *Jerusalem* (IMAX-3D, 40 minutes, global theatrical release September 2013). A presentation of National Geographic, Cosmic Picture, and Arcane Films.

Script consultant, *Wired to Win: Surviving the Tour de France* (IMAX theatrical release, 2005, 40 minutes). Produced by the Partners Health Care System with funding from the National Science Foundation and Ortho-McNeil Neurologics.

Museum Media

Writer: *Arkansas: A Bright Future* (museum 2008, 10 minutes), writer. Multimedia presentation for permanent installation at the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center in Little Rock. Produced by Peace River Studios for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Program development: *45 Words: A Story of the First Amendment* (museum 2008, 15 minutes), program development. Film produced and exhibited by the Freedom Forum Newseum, Washington, D.C.

Classroom Media

Primary Source Investigator: American History, 12e (CD and online 2007), episode writer. CD-ROM and website that supplement Alan Brinkley's *American History: A Survey, 12/e* (McGraw-Hill, 2007). Produced by Historicus, Inc., Durham, NH.

Consultancies (selected)

The Film Posse, Middletown, Ct. (2024-present). *John Henry: Unmaking America's Real First Black Superhero*, feature-length documentary in development. (2024 NEH planning award rescinded by DOGE.)

Stone Lantern Films, Suffern, NY (2021-2023). *Rethinking Tourism*, in development.

Historical advisor, successful NEH proposal for *Who Will Write Our History* (2018), a feature documentary produced by Katahdin Productions, based on the book by Samuel D. Kassow.

Peace River Studios, Cambridge, Ma. (2010-2011). Orientation film installed at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve's new Nature Center.

Susan Froemke Productions, New York, NY (2008-2009). Rough cut of *The Audition*, a theatrical documentary about The Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions.

Urcunina Films, New York, NY (2006). Rough cut of *Pip & Zastrow: An American Friendship*, a 75-minute theatrical documentary.

Partners Healthcare System Office of New Ventures, Boston, Ma. (2006-2007).

Senior Media Consultant, initiatives to advance global health information programming. Roundtable, Waltham, Ma. (2002-2004), including their production of *The College Track* (PBS 2004).

Media (Interviews, selected)

Unique insights from *Bring Judgment Day* are featured in a two-part *Cool People Who Did Cool Stuff* podcast, "How a Man Named Huddie Ledbetter Beat Everyone Who Tried to Keep Him Down," featuring host Margaret Killjoy in conversation with guest Propaganda and producer Sophie Rae Lichterman. June/July 2026.

Creative Conversations with Roger Humphrey, featuring authors Rachel Rossano, Betsy Vereckey, and me. Episodes available at Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and YouTube. May 2026.

Interviewed by Bryan Reesman for a documentary featurette to accompany the Australian Blue-ray reissue of Gordon Parks' 1976 film, *Leadbelly* (Via Vision), June 2025.

Book featured in Andrew Hickey's *A History of Rock Music in 500 Songs*, Song 177, parts 1-4, 2025.

Interviewed by Bob Pavlovich for NPR's *Louisiana Considered*, January 30, 2025.

Interviewed by Jeff Harris for *Big Road Blues*, jazz 90.1 fm, Rochester, NY.

Interviewed by Mark Klobas, *New Books Network* (podcast), July 28, 2024.

Interviewed by Jim Shahan, Jr., for “University at Albany professor dives into musician Lead Belly’s History,” *Times Union*, July 18, 2024.

Interviewed by Tom Watters, Jazz FM Summer Book Club (UK), July 13, 2024.

Interviewed by Helen Rowe for “Biopic hits and flops: film-makers grapple with great lives at Cannes,” *Agence France-Press*, May 14, 2014.

Interviewed by Bill Buell for “Black film and discussion series probes civil rights struggle,” *The Daily Gazette*, January 31, 2014.

Featured, “From the Page to the Screen: *Slavery by Another Name*,” InReads, February 13, 2012.

Interviewed by Marissa Rosenbaum for “PBS Presents *Slavery by Another Name*,” *Lake Erie Lifestyle*, January 29, 2012.

Interviewed by Elisabeth Greenbaum Kasson for “How Do You Keep the Real in Reality? The Need for a Documentary Code of Ethics,” in *Documentary*, Winter 2010.

Interviewed by Maria Puente for “‘Waiting for Superman’: Is it the Next Hard-Hitting Documentary?” both in *USA Today*, September 22, 2010.

Interviewed by Mike McGroarty for “Blogs help textbook authors connect with users, potential adopters,” in *The Academic Author*, May 2009.

Presentations (selected)

2026

Panel (online), “Beyond ‘Woke’: Rethinking Lead Belly in the Era of Cowboy Carter,” with Caroline Randall Williams, Terika Singh Dean, and me. Panel for Folk Alliance International. April 2026.

Q&A following screening of director Gordon Parks’ 1976 feature, *Leadbelly*, at MoCA/CT, Westport, Ct. The event was part of *Art, Jazz + the Blues*, a series of public programs, including live performances, artist and scholar talks, a community conversation about art and music, film screenings, and educational workshops. February 2026.

2025

Q&A following screening of documentary (*Lead Belly: The Man Who Invented Rock & Roll*), at Boogie Woogie 2025, Marshall, Tx., music festival honoring the birthplace of Boogie Woogie and the legacy of folk and blues legend Huddie Ledbetter, September 2025.

Author event, Live and Learn Lunch Series, Jewish Cultural & Community Center, Albany, NY, October 2025.

Organizer and moderator, public staged reading of Robert Schenkkan’s *Building the Wall*, with the New York State Writers Institute Author’s Theatre, the Department of Music and Theatre, the Department of History, and others. September 17, 2025.

Featured speaker, Gifford History Speaker Series, Albany Academy, Albany, NY, April 9, 2025

Presentation, SUNY HistoryLab Historians Network Webinar, March 5, 2025

2024

Author event, Colonie Senior Services Centers, Albany, NY, December 6, 2024

Author event, in conversation with Dom Flemons, at the New York State Writers Institute, Albany, NY. October 31, 2024.

Author event, The Norman Williams Public Library, Woodstock, Vermont, September 27, 2024

Author event, The Norwich Bookstore, 291 Main Street, Norwich, Vermont, September 26, 2024

“Changing the Narrative: Revising the Lead Belly Legend,” UAlbany History Department colloquium series, February 21, 2024.

2023

Respondent, workshop, “Profiting Prisons,” a chapter from the forthcoming *Searching for Jane Crow: Black Women and Mass Incarceration in America from the Auction Block to the Cell Block*, with author Dr. Talitha LeFlouria. University of Texas at Austin, December 4, 2023, online.

2020

Discussant, “Community Reads” featuring historian Jill Lepore and her book, *This is America: The Case for the Nation*, Spencertown Academy Arts Center Festival of Books, September 2020. Online.

2019

Organizer, screening and discussion, *Driving While Black*, University at Albany and the New York State Writers Institute, with author Gretchen Sorin and filmmaker Ric Burns, November 2019.

Convener/moderator, “The Business of History,” Researching New York Conference, Albany, New York, November 2019.

Co-presenter, *Slavery by Another Name*, screening and Q&A with Douglas A. Blackmon, “Mass Incarceration and Slavery” Conference, Tougaloo College, Jackson, MS, October 2019.

Panelist, “Capitalism and Convict Leasing in the American South: A Symposium,” panelist. Rice University, Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, Houston, TX, April 2019.

Co-organizer, screening and discussion: *Grit*, with filmmaker Cynthia Wade. University at Albany and the New York State Writers Institute, April 2019.

2018

Organizer, public staged reading, *Possessing Harriet*, by Kyle Bass, commissioned by the Onondaga Historical Association. Opening-night event for the 2018 Researching New York Conference. November 2018.

Convenor and moderator, “Telling the Hard Stories: Slavery in New York,” convener and moderator, Researching New York Conference, Albany, New York, November 2018.

Organizer, conversations with Melanie Wallace, Senior Series Producer for *NOVA*, presented by UAlbany’s College of Arts and Sciences and the New York State Writers Institute, October 2018.

2017

Co-organizer, *Backpack Full of Cash*, New York State Writers Institute film screening and filmmaker Q&A, co-sponsored by the UAlbany Dept. of History, Documentary Studies Program, School of Education, and United University Professions, September 2017.

“Ennobling African-American Expression: Henry Hampton’s *I’ll Make Me a World*,” annual conference, International Association for Literary Journalism Studies, Halifax, Canada. May 2017.

Panelist, “Responsibilities of History Filmmakers,” panel at the History Film Forum, National Museum of American History and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC. With A. Scott Berg, Ed Ayers, Melissa Haizlip and Nancy Buirskey. March 2017.

Co-presenter, *Slavery by Another Name*, screening and Q&A, at the History Film Forum, National Museum of American History and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC. With Douglas A. Blackmon and Sam Pollard. March 2017.

2016

Featured speaker, “Structuring Reality: An Argument for Close Viewing.” Featured speaker, University at Albany’s College of Arts & Sciences annual faculty dinner, November 2016.

2015

Speaker, “Documentary Storytelling and *Slavery by Another Name: A Case Study*.” Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, NY, March 2015. Part of the NEH/Gilder-Lehrman’s *Created Equal* initiative.

2014

Panelist, *The Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific*, screening of the remastered film and Q&A, The Maples, Royalston, Ma., September 2014.

2013

Speaker, Q&A following screening of *Slavery by Another Name*, conducted via Skype, Austin Film Society, Austin, Tx, November 2013.

Moderator/panelist, “Shaping Real Life, Present and Past,” at *Having Our Say: Our History, Our Future*, the second national conference of the Dramatists Guild of America, Chicago, August 2013

Moderator/panelist, “Varieties of Historical Experience: Turning History into Drama,” at the 2013 Association of Writers & Writing Programs conference, Boston, Ma., March 2013.

2012

Panelist, *Slavery by Another Name*, screening and Q&A with Douglas A. Blackmon and Sam Pollard for the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, April 2012.

Panelist, *Slavery by Another Name*, screening and Q&A with Douglas A. Blackmon, for the Center for African American Studies and the Program in American Studies, Princeton University, March 2012.

Co-organizer, *New York Sings!*, Capital Repertory Theatre, Albany, NY, co-sponsored by the UAlbany Dept. of History and Researching New York, March 2012.

Panelist, *Slavery by Another Name*, screening and Q&A with Douglas A. Blackmon, for the New York State Writers Institute, University at Albany, SUNY, February 2012.

2011

Organizer, screening and discussion, *Raising Renee*, with filmmakers Jeanne Jordan and Stephen Ascher, University at Albany and the New York State Writers Institute, October 2011.

Speaker, “Broadening the Discussion: Bringing Stories of Liberation to Communities through Public Media and Public Engagement,” UAlbany Women’s Studies Department, March 2011.

2010

Organizer, screening and discussion, *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women*, followed by a master class the following day with filmmakers Harriet Reisen and Nancy Porter, the University at Albany and New York State Writers Institute, October 2010.

2009

Featured speaker, “Close Viewing: Strengthening Documentary Film Literacy,” for the Jean Everitt Journalism Lecture Series at Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Va., October 2009.

Guest speaker, Upstate Independents, Albany, New York, May 2009.

2008

Organizer, filmmakers Muffie Meyer and Ronald Blumer discussing New York history on film, New York State Writers Institute, November 2008.

Organizer, filmmaker Paul Stekler (PBS *Frontline*, “The Choice 2008”), New York State Writers Institute, October 2008.

Speaker, “Documentary Storytelling,” Smith College Model United Nations, Northampton, Ma., April 2008.

2007

Panelist/organizer: “The ethics of archival storytelling” and “Legal aspects of archival storytelling,” panels convened and co-moderated with Kenn Rabin at the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University School of Law, Palo Alto, Ca., October 2007.

2006

Guest presenter, *When the Levees Broke*, with filmmaker Sam Pollard. American Studies program, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, September 2006.

Presenter, “Two Societies,” from *Eyes on the Prize*, at the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pa., April 2006.

2005

Curator/moderator, “American Visions in Documentary” series, Princeton University, with visiting filmmakers Ric Burns (*Eugene O'Neill*), Susan Froemke (*Lalee's Kin*); Muffie Meyer and Ronald Blumer (*Benjamin Franklin*); and Stanley N. Katz, Sam Pollard and myself (*Eyes on the Prize*), as part of Anschutz Fellowship in American Studies, September through December 2005.

Speaker, “Archival issues,” presentation to Rockefeller College, Princeton University, November 2005.

Master Classes

Story consultation for the producers of *Kalla fakta*, a news and public affairs program from Sweden's TV4, September 22, 2025 (via Teams).

Trainer, ZeLIG School for Documentary, Television, and New Media (Bolzano, Italy). Three-year intensive program taught in German, Italian, and English. Week-long seminar for students of directing, October 23-27, 2023. Invited to teach in person but chose to present online.

Master class (online), American University Beirut, Lebanon, November 4 and 11, 2022.

Visiting filmmaker (online), Yale University Film and Media Studies Program, AFAM 216/FILM 433, October 11, 2022.

Trainer, ESoDoc (European Social Documentary), online, for the ZeLIG School for Documentary, Television, and New Media (Italy), May, August, September 2020.

“Archival Storytelling from Home,” webinar with Kenn Rabin, hosted by Filmmakers Collaborative, May 2020.

Master Class: “Documentary Storytelling.” DocNomads, Brussels, Belgium, November 11-18, 2017

Master Class: “Adding Drama to Documentary,” at the Docville International Documentary Festival, Leuven, Belgium, May 2015. Also judge, international documentary jury.

Featured speaker, “Documentary Storytelling,” 2011 Cinematography International Film Festival, Bydgoszcz, Poland, November 2011.

Featured speaker, “Documentary Workshop 1: The Art of Documentary Storytelling” and “Documentary Workshop 2: *Slavery by Another Name*: A Case Study,” at the Broadcast Educators Association (BEA) conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, April 2014.

Leader, two-day workshop in documentary storytelling, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport, Pa., August 2006.

“Documentary Storytelling” and “Telling the Hard Stories,” Nieman Conference on Narrative Journalism, Harvard University, Boston, Ma., December 2005.

Curator/moderator, “American Visions in Documentary” public series with visiting filmmakers Ric Burns; Susan Froemke; Muffie Meyer and Ronald Blumer; and Stanley N. Katz and Sam Pollard. Princeton University, September through November 2005.

Leader, four-day workshop in documentary storytelling with emerging filmmakers, University of Bergen, Norway, December 1994.

Juries

Louisiana Board of Regents, Awards for Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Social Sciences review. January-February, 2025.

New York State Council for the Arts/New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship Program, playwriting/screenwriting, May 2019.

Next Act/New Play Festival, Capital Repertory Theatre, Albany, New York, 2018 and 2019.

Documentary Features Competition, Camerimage International Film Festival, Bydgoszcz, Poland, 2017.

Warner International Playwrights Festival, Torrington, Ct., 2014-2016.

Docville International Documentary Festival, Leuven, Belgium, 2015.

Sheffield Doc/Fest, Sheffield, England, 2014 (online).

National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, New and Documentary Emmy Awards, 2014.

Documentary Shorts Competition, Camerimage International Film Festival, Bydgoszcz, Poland, November 2011.

Honors, Awards, Fellowships (selected)

Artist fellowship, Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, NY (2026)

Appointment as the Glen Trotiner Professor Visual Storytelling, University at Albany, July 2025

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service (2022)

President's Award for Excellence in Academic Service, University at Albany (2022)

National Endowment for the Humanities, Public Scholar Award, 2021–2022

Fellow, University at Albany Institute for History and Public Engagement (2016-17)

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activities, (2016)

President's Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activities, University at Albany (2016)

Guest Artist, John F. Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive (2017, 2016, 2011, 2010)

"Best Writing Team," SAFTA (South African Film & Television): *Inside Story* (2014)

Selection for U.S. Documentary Competition (one of 16 total), 2012 Sundance Film Festival: *Slavery by Another Name* (2011)

Golden Gate Award, San Francisco Film Society: *School* (2001)

Silver Hugo Award - Writing, Chicago International Television Competition: *School* (2001)

CPB/PBS Producers Academy Fellowship (2001)

Finalist, Nantucket Film Festival Screenwriting Competition, for *Ibsen & Laura* (1998)

Artist fellowship, MacDowell Colony for the Creative Arts, Peterborough, NH (1995 and 1992)

Artist fellowship, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Sweetbriar, Va. (1994)

Emmy Award for Excellence in a Craft: Writing (News and Documentary), for *Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More*, episode 11 of *Eyes on the Prize II* (1990)

CINE Golden Eagle: *School: The Story of American Public Education* (2001), *Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More* (*Eyes on the Prize II* (1990), *Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific* (1983)

Erik Barnouw Award from the Organization of American Historians: *I'll Make Me a World* (1999), *America's War on Poverty* (1996), *Eyes on the Prize II* (1990)

George Foster Peabody Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism: *I'll Make Me a World* (1999), *Eyes on the Prize II* (1990)

Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award: *America's War on Poverty* (1996), *Eyes on the Prize II* (1991)

Grants

SUNY Conversations in the Disciplines, for “The Archival Record in the Age of AI,” scheduled for February 2027

UAlbany's AI & Society Faculty Engagement Fellowship, 2026-27, to support and expand the CID mini-conference

NYS/UUP Individual Development Award, 2025

University Auxiliary Services, for 2025 Public History program fall social and orientation

University Auxiliary Services, for 2024 Public History program fall social and orientation

National Endowment for the Humanities (Co-PI w/E. Stern), Humanities Connection Planning Grant. Notified of award April 2021; turned my directorship over to R. Irwin effective September 1, 2021 because of conflict with NEH Public Scholars Award, notified August 2021.

Climate Solutions Acceleration Fund, Second Nature, w/ E. Stern, M.E. Mallia, T. Pardo, 2020

Summerlee Foundation, for DeKalb (Texas) Oral History Project, 2019

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (PI), for RISE 2019 conference, 2019

National Science Foundation (Co-PI w/C. Thorncroft), for RISE 2019 conference, 2019

University Auxiliary Services, submitted w/ J. Casper Roth, support for support for visiting filmmaker Cynthia Wade and her environmental documentary, *Grit*, 2019

Center for Experiential Education, submitted w/ J. Casper Roth, support for support for visiting filmmaker Cynthia Wade and her environmental documentary, *Grit*, 2019

UAlbany Center for Experiential Education, mini-grant for graduate public history program orientation and internship event at the Albany Institute of History and Art, 35th anniversary, 2018

University at Albany Faculty Research Awards Program, FRAP-A, 2017

New York Foundation for the Arts, Fellowship in Playwriting/Screenwriting, 2016

New York Foundation for the Arts, Geri Ashur Screenwriting Award, 2016

United University Professions Professional Development Committee, funds to defray cost of AWP conference attendance and presentation, 2014

Awarded to Capital Repertory Theatre, in partnership with University at Albany, principal, New York Council for the Humanities, for *New York Sings!* for event about New York's musical history, 2012

University Auxiliary Services program funds, support for visiting filmmakers Jeanne Jordan & Stephen Ascher, *Raising Renee*, 2011

New York Council for the Humanities, to support two-day event (including master class) with visiting filmmakers/authors Nancy Porter & Harriet Reisen, *Louisa May Alcott*, 2010

University Auxiliary Services program funds, support for visiting filmmakers/authors Nancy Porter & Harriet Reisen, *Louisa May Alcott*, 2010

Strategic Opportunity Stipend, New York Foundation for the Arts, 2010

Awarded to UAlbany: New York Council for the Humanities, “Along the Hudson-Champlain Corridor,” w/ M. Tremontozzi, S. McCormick, 15 events with radio and web components, 2009

Awarded to Boston Film & Video Productions: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), production support, *The Untold Story of the Ellis Island Hospital*, wrote proposal film treatment and consulted on body of proposal, 2004

Awarded to the First Amendment Forum: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), *45 Words: The Story of the First Amendment*, wrote proposal for Freedom Forum Newseum, 2004

Awarded to Roundtable Media: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), development support, *Slam Dunk: A Basketball History of the 20th Century*, co-wrote proposal and wrote proposal film treatment for Roundtable, 2002

Awarded to Clio, Inc.: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), production support, *Miss America: A Documentary Film*, wrote proposal film treatment, 2000

Awarded to Blackside, Inc.: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), production support, *This Far by Faith*, six-hour series, proposal written with Blackside team, 1998

Awarded to Steeplechase Films: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), development support, *Leadbelly: The Life & Legend*, wrote proposal and proposal film treatment for Steeplechase Films, 1998

Awarded to Blackside, Inc.: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), production support, *I'll Make Me a World*, six-hour series, proposal written with Blackside team, 1995

Teaching

Teaching Fields

U.S. history, history and media, documentary film, narrative, history on screen, history on stage, public history, professional development, proposal writing, topics

Courses Taught

University at Albany, Undergraduate

Civil Rights: A Documentary Approach
Documentary Studies Seminar and Field Practicum
History and Theory of Documentary Film
Introduction to Documentary Studies
Narrative and Historical Media
Topics: Theatrical Documentary and the War in Iraq
Topics: Theatrical Documentary and U.S. History
Topics: Convict Labor, Peonage, and the Chain Gang
Readings & Practicum in [Historical] Nonfiction Media Storytelling

University at Albany, Graduate

Introduction to Public History
Narrative and the Historical Imagination
Practicum in College Teaching: Writing the Successful Proposal
Readings in U.S. History/Readings in Culture and Society:
 Convict Labor, Peonage, and the Chain Gang
 Race, Medicine, and Public History
Seminar and Practicum in History and Media
Practicum in Historical Narrative

Taught at Other Institutions

History on Film

Graduate Examinations and Thesis Advising (University at Albany)

Dissertation Committees

Committee Member

Samantha Misa (completed 2024)

Erica Nuckles (completed 2018)

Devin Lander (begun March 2022)

Aaron Noble (begun March 2022)

PhD Examinations

2021: Devin Lander

2021: Aaron Noble

2020: Jeffrey Aldrich

2019: Danielle Funicello

M.A. Thesis Advisor

2014: Alexandra Prince

M.A. Examinations (these were replaced with capstone coursework effective Fall 2023)

2023: Daniel Salage (chair)

2023: Aimee Ciaramboli (chair)

2022: Meghan Willis (chair)

2021: Thomas Boomhower

2021: Victoria Waldron (chair)

2020: Nathaniel Hellman (chair)

2020: Brendan Hoyt

2020: Dana Kerdesky (chair)

2017: Sue Boland (chair)

2014: Bonnie Byrd

2014: Benjamin Himmelfarb (chair)

2014: Emma Poggioli

2012: Sarah Kraft

2011: Anthony Bucci

2011: Michael Fiske

2010: Brendon Noto

SERVICE

University at Albany

Institutional Service

2026-present	Planning committee, SUNY Conversations in the Disciplines, for “The Archival Record in the Age of AI,” scheduled for February 2027
2026-present	Planning committee, exploring the potential for a new undergraduate major in Film & Media Arts
2025	Speaker with three other faculty members at gathering for the New Faculty Academy (September)
2024-2025	Member, CHATS Working Committee
2023, 2024	President's Excellence in Academic Service Award Selection Committee

2023	Abstract review, proposals to submit to the 2023-24 Carnegie Fellows Program
2023-present	Member, Commencement Marshal selection committee
2019-2021	Undergraduate Academic Council's Interdisciplinary Studies Committee
2019-2021	Director, Institute for History and Public Engagement (College of Arts & Sciences)
2019-2020	Planning and steering committees, <i>RISE 2019: Transforming University Engagement in Pre- and Post-Disaster Environments: Lessons from Puerto Rico</i> . National three-day conference, November 18-20, 2019 at UAlbany.
2019	Committee member, tenure and promotion, UAlbany Department of Music & Theatre
2018-2019	Development, UAlbany version of EPA online climate adaptation resource toolkit with plans to serve New York State and eventually, Puerto Rico
2018	Committee for the 25th anniversary of the College of Arts & Sciences
2016-2018	Faculty Senate, Department of History, CAS; also member subcommittee: Council on Libraries, Information Systems, & Computing (LISC); Excellence Awards committees
2016-2018	Ad hoc committee on the role of arts & humanities at a public research university
2015-2017	CAS Online Teaching and Learning Ad Hoc committee
2015	University faculty exhibitor, Black Arts and Cultural Festival (August)
2013-14	CAS Faculty Council, Frap-A review committee; Frap-B review committee
2013	Exhibitor, UAlbany College Engagement Fair (October)
2009-14	Guest speaker, ITLAL events
2009	Proposal assistance, Hudson 400 events, Office of Community Engagement

History Department

2023-present	Director, Graduate Program in Public History
2023-present	Graduate Committee
2025	Co-chair, History Department chair appointment recommendations
2021-2022	Director, Graduate Program in Public History
2021-2022	Graduate Committee
2016-2019	Director, Graduate Program in Public History
2016-2019	Graduate Committee
2016-2018	Digital Scholarship Initiative (former humanities working group)
2016-present	Ad hoc committee member, tenure and promotion (various faculty)
2015	Compact Planning Committee
2014-15	Ad-Hoc Committee on Enrollment and Retention
2014	Undergraduate Recruitment
2014, 2019	Persico and Sherry Penney Awards reviews committee
2013-present	Ad-hoc social media manager
2013-14	Digital Humanities Working Group
2013-14	Committee for Community-Engaged History
2013-14	Graduate Committee
2013	CAS Departmental Strategic Plan Committee
2013	Persico Doctoral Award review committee
2012-14	Planning Committee, revisions to M.A. concentrations
2012-14	Committee for Community-Engaged History (established IHPE)
2011-13	Undergraduate Committee
2011-12	Search Committee, Environmental History
2011-12	New Hire Faculty Mentor
2010-11	Organizing committee, History Department Research Colloquium
2010	History Department Hiring Plan committee
2010	Search Committee, U.S. History
2009-11	Judge, National History Day
2009-10	Search Committee, U.S. History
2008-present	Coordinator, Public Programs with Visiting Filmmakers and Speakers
2008-11	Information Officer
2008-09	Planning & Implementation Committee, M.A. Concentration in History & Media

Documentary Studies Program

2010-15	Adjunct Hiring Committee
2012	Director, Documentary Studies Program, Fall 2012
2008-14	Program Revision Task Force; Planning and Curriculum Expansion Committee
2008-14	Webmaster, created and maintained program website
2008-14	Associate Program Director

Professional Service

2026	Historian, proposal to the Texas Historical Commission's Untold Program to establish an official marker in Bowie County to honor Huddie Ledbetter's time there.
1993-2023	Nine-time proposal reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities
2022	External evaluation, tenure case, Yale University
2021	External evaluation, tenure case, American University
2020	Reviewer, 2021-22 cycle, Whiting Public Engagement Program, Whiting Foundation
2015	Book proposal review, Bloomsbury Publishing, New York
2012-2014	Manuscript review, Southern Illinois University Press
2012	Museum exhibit review, tenure review for Indiana University/Purdue University
2010	Proposal reviewer, The Arts Center of the Capital Region
2007-2009	Advisor, <i>Best Practices in Documentary Ethics</i> , American University Center for Social Media
2004-2009	Manuscript reviewer, Focal Press
2008	Grant proposal reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Prior	Former board member, New England Women in Film & TV; also Boston Film/Video Fdn

Professional development

Attendee, CATLOE workshops on Brightspace learning management system (January, August 2023)
Attendee, "Course Design," Institute for Community Engaged Classes, Siena College and UAlbany Center for Experiential Education (2018)
Attendee, "Common Problems Project Workshop" SUNY Plattsburgh, held at UAlbany (2018)
Attendee, "CAS Public Engagement Colloquium" (2018)
Participant, University at Albany's Institute for Teaching, Learning and Academic Leadership (ITLAL):
 "Writing a Teaching Statement" (2012), "Decoding the Disciplines" (2012), "Conceiving and Managing a Course with a Writing Focus" (2011), "Gaming as a Way to Challenge and Engage Students" (2011), "Academy on Team-Based Learning" (2010), "Academy on Blended Learning" (2010), "Academy on Web-Enhanced Learning" (2009),
Attendee (2018, 2013, 2011) national conference of the Dramatists Guild of America
Attendee, forum on Community Engaged Scholarship at Research Universities (April 2012)
Guest artist (competitively selected), 2017, 2016, 2011, 2010 Kennedy Center Summer Playwriting Intensive

Professional Memberships

American Historical Association, Dramatists Guild of America, Filmmakers Collaborative, International Documentary Association, Museum Association of New York, National Council on Public History, Organization of American Historians