

**W. Bryan Rommel-Ruiz, Ph.D.**  
**Professor of History**

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**Faculty Positions**

**The Colorado College**

**Professor of History, 2013-Present**  
 Associate Professor of History, 2003-2013  
 Assistant Professor of History, 1999-2003  
 Instructor of History, 1997-1999  
 Visiting Instructor of History, 1996-1997

**Education**

**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**  
*PhD., History, 1999*

“Atlantic Revolutions: Slavery and Freedom in Newport, Rhode Island and Halifax, Nova Scotia in the Age of the American Revolution”

*A.M. -- History*  
 December 1995

**University of California, Berkeley**  
*A.B. – Honors in History*  
 December 1992

**Areas of Scholarship and Teaching**

Atlantic World; Black Atlantic, United States History, 1776-Present; US South; African American History, 1500-Present; American Popular Culture; Film and History; World History

**Academic Awards and Honors**

John and Harriet Parker Campbell Professor of American Constitutional History, 2007-2009

Social Science Executive Council Research Grants, The Colorado College, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007

Faculty Research Fellow, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University, 2001

Research Fellow, The Gilder Lehrman Institute for the Study of American History, 2001

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor, 2000 – 2002

Dean's Research Grant, The Colorado College, 1997-1998  
 Minority-Scholar-In-Residence (Riley) Fellow, The Colorado College, 1996-1997  
 Hayes-Fulbright Research Fellowship (Canada), 1996-1997 (Declined)  
 Rackham Merit Scholar Fellowship (University of Michigan), 1993 – 1999  
 Rackham Dissertation Grant (University of Michigan), 1995 – 1996  
 Consortium for Institutional Cooperation Dissertation Grant, 1995  
 Center for African and African American Studies Research Grant, 1995  
 Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society)

## Publications

### Books:

*American History Goes to the Movies* (New York: Routledge, 2011).

*From Atlantic to Southern: The Transformation of Charleston, 1670-1877*  
 (Athens: The University of Georgia Press) Under Contract.

*No Escaping the Past: The American South in Film and History* (In Progress).

### Articles and Essays:

"Vindictive Ferocity': Virginia Responds to the Nat Turner Rebellion," in  
*Enemies of Humanity: The Nineteenth Century War on Terrorism*, Isaac Land ed.  
 (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2008).

["Colonizing the Black Atlantic: The African Colonization Movements in Post-War Rhode Island and Nova Scotia."](#) *Slavery and Abolition* (December, 2006)

["Re-Imaging and Re-Imagining History: African American History in Hypertext."](#)  
*Rethinking History: A Journal of Theory and Practice* (September, 2006).

["Redeeming Lincoln, Redeeming the South: Representations of Abraham Lincoln in D.W. Griffith's \*The Birth of a Nation\* and Historical Scholarship"](#), in  
*Hollywood's White House*, Peter C. Rollins and John O'Conner eds. (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2003).

"Did the Counterculture Hinder America's Effort During the Vietnam Conflict? No." In *History in Dispute*, Vol. VI, the Cold War, Ed. D. Showalter, P. du Quenoy (Detroit: St. James Press, 2000).

"Was Lyndon Johnson's Presidential Administration an Extension of John F. Kennedy's? - Yes," in *History in Dispute*, Vol. VI, the Cold War, ed. D. Showalter, P. du Quenoy (Detroit: St. James Press, 2000).

"Rethinking Margin and Center: African American History in Cyberspace,"  
*Computers in the Historical Classroom Conference Proceedings*, 1999.

## Manuscript Reviews:

*American Historical Review*. Anonymous reviewer about Black Loyalists in Sierra Leone.

*Slavery and Abolition*. Anonymous reviewer for submitted essay about race and the African Colonization Movements.

*Journal of the Early Republic*. Anonymous reviewer for submitted essay about slavery in Nova Scotia.

*Hollywood's America: United States History through Its Films, Third Edition*. Steven Mintz and Randy Roberts, eds. Reviewed for Brandywine Press.

*The African American Experience*. Joseph Trotter. Reviewed for Houghton Mifflin.

## Book Reviews:

Ousmane K. Power-Greene, *Against Tide and Wind: The African American Struggle Against the Colonization Movement* (New York: New York University Press, 2014), *Journal of American History* (Fall, 2015).

Vincent Brown, *The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008). Common-place.org (May, 2009).

Harvey Amani Whitfield, *Blacks on the Border: The Black Refugees in British North America, 1515-1860* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2006). *The Journal of the Early Republic* (Fall, 2007).

Beth A. Salerno, *Sister Societies: Women's Antislavery Organizations in Antebellum America* (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2005) and Eric Burin, *Slavery and the Peculiar Solution: A History of the American Colonization Society* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2005). *The Journal of the Early Republic* (Spring 2007).

Elizabeth Mancke, *The Fault Lines of Empire: Political Differentiation in Massachusetts and Nova Scotia, ca.1760-1830* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005). *The Journal of the Early Republic* (Winter 2007)

Simon Schama, *Rough Crossings: Britain, The Slaves, and the American Revolution*, (New York: Harper Collins, 2006). *The New York Journal of American History* (Fall, 2006).

David Brion Davis, *In the Image of God: Moral Values and our Heritage of Slavery*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001). *Religious Studies Review*.

*The Black Loyalist Directory: African Americans in Exile after the American Revolution.* Edited and Introduction by Graham Russell Hodges. Transcription and Index by Susan Hawkes Cooke. *New York History* (March 1997).

## Conference and Academic Presentations

"The Politics of Festivals: Racial Consciousness, West Indian Emancipation, and Historical Agency in the Nineteenth Century Black Atlantic," *Slavery & Its Aftermath in the Atlantic World Symposium*," University of Illinois, Chicago. Chicago, Illinois. October, 2012.

"Japan's Discovery of the West." Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning. September, 2012.

"The Scientific Revolution: From the Black Death to Benjamin Franklin." Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning. December, 2011.

"Westward Expansion: From Colonial Settlement to the Mexican-American War." Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning. September, 2011.

"The Road to Secession: The South's Second Declaration of Independence." Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning. May, 2011.

"Race, Slavery, and American Cinema: The Cases of D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* and David Wolper's *Roots*." University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. October, 2010.

"The Influence of the Ancients: The Legacy of Classical Western Philosophy and the American Revolution." The Thomas MacLaren School. Colorado Springs, Colorado. February, 2010.

"Are We Finally Free? Black Freedom Struggles in Nova Scotia Following American Independence," *Slavery and Black Freedom in Nova Scotia Symposium*, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia. June, 2009.

"Race, Violence, and the Making of Liberal Democracy in Nineteenth-Century Providence, Rhode Island." American Studies Association Conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. October, 2007.

"Urban Violence and the Making of Race in Providence, Rhode Island, 1824-1842." The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii. July, 2007.

"Negotiating Politics and Festivals: Liberalism, Race, and Historical Memory in the Black Atlantic" American Studies Association. Oakland, California. October, 2006.

"Reconciling The Horror: Virginia's Response to The Nat Turner Rebellion." The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. Corvallis Oregon. August, 2005.

"'The Feeling Against the Colored People Was Very Bitter': Emancipation, Race, and Historical Memory in Nova Scotia." New England Historical Society. April, 2005.

"Creoles and Colonization: African Colonization Movements in Post-War Rhode Island and Nova Scotia," Society of Historians of the Early American Republic Conference. Providence, Rhode Island. July 2004.

"Creoles and Colonization: African Colonization Movements in Post-War Rhode Island and Nova Scotia." Slavery and Slave Trade Conference, Colonial Society of Massachusetts. Boston, MA. April 2004.

"Film and History: Cinema, Ideology, and Representations of the Past," University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Colorado Springs, CO. November 2002.

"Mythologizing America: Ideology and History in Western History and Film." The American West(s) in Film, TV, and History Conference. The Film and History League. Kansas City, Missouri. November 2002.

"Redeeming the Nation: Lincoln, Race, and Reconstruction in Civil War Films and Historiography." The Southwest Regional American Culture Association/ Popular Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March, 2001.

"Redeeming Lincoln, Redeeming the South: Representations of Abraham Lincoln in D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* and Historical Scholarship." The Presidency in Film and Television Conference, Sponsored by the Film and History League, Los Angeles, California, November 2000.

"'This Country Is As Much Ours As It Is The Whites': Slavery, Freedom and Race in Revolutionary Rhode Island and Nova Scotia." The Omohundro Institute Of Early American History and Culture Conference, Toronto, Ontario, June 2000.

"Atlantic Revolutions: Slavery and Freedom in the Revolutionary North Atlantic." The Organization of American Historians Conference, St. Louis, MO, March 2000.

"Rethinking Margin and Center: African American History in Cyberspace." Computers in History Classrooms Conference, Skidmore College, June 1999.

"Subjects and Citizens: Atlantic Africans in Revolutionary Newport and Halifax." The Consortium for Intercollegiate Cooperation annual meeting, University of Illinois – Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, November 1996.

"'Negroes and Persons Inimical to the American Cause': African Americans and the New York Revolutionary Committees, 1775 – 1781." The British Studies Conference on Multicultural Britain, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 1996.

## Teaching

### The Colorado College

- The New South: Modernity, Race, and the Transformation of Southern Life
- Film and History
- Advanced Seminar: Modernity
- The American Past: Survey in American History, 1607-Present
- Colonial British America
- The American Revolution
- The Early Republic: US History, 1789-1861
- Slavery and Antislavery Movements in American History
- Black History Since the Civil War
- Slavery and Freedom in American History, 1607-Present
- The Old Dominion: Virginia from Settlement to Nat Turner's Rebellion
- Studying History: Historiography and Methodology
- The Old South: Settlement, Slavery, and Secession
- Encountering the Past: The Founding Generation
- Advanced Seminar: The Senior Essay and Thesis
- Contesting Colonialism: Resistance, Rebellion, and Revolution in the Americas
- Western Civilization: Myth and History
- Western Civilization: The Atlantic World
- American Revolutions: The Revolutionary Experience in American History from Independence through the Civil Rights Movement
- American History, American Cinema: Historians, Hollywood, and Representing the American Past
- Advanced Seminar in American Labor History
- Society, Culture, and History: Comparative Civilizations from the Ancient Period to the Present
- Advanced Seminar: Race and Power in Early American History
- Race in America, 1607-Present

- Defining and Redefining the Self: Identity Construction in Historical and Psychological Perspective
- Historical Research and Methodology
- Advanced Seminar: Religion, Witchcraft, and the Occult
- Myth and History

### **The University of Michigan**

- Graduate Student Coordinator: Summer Research Opportunities Program for Minority Undergraduate Students; Summer Institute for Rackham Merit Fellows (1995 – 1996)
- Graduate Student Assistant: United States History, 1865 – Present (1995)

## **Institutional and Professional Service**

### **1996 - Present: The Colorado College**

- Curriculum Committee, Chair, 2014-2015
- Cognate Representative, Race and Ethnic Studies Search, 2014-2015
- Minority Concerns Representative, Anthropology Search Committee, 2012-2013
- Writing Center Committee, 2010-Present
- Associate Chair, Department of History, 2007- 2009, 2014-Present
- Priddy Summer Bridge Program: Instructor and Mentor, 2004-2008
- Faculty Executive Committee, Personnel Subcommittee, 2004-2005
- Faculty Executive Committee, Governance Subcommittee, 2002-2003
- Curriculum Committee, Chair, 2001 – 2002
- Writing Portfolio Assessment, 2011-2014
- Social Science Executive Committee, 2007- 2009
- Minority Concerns Representative, English Search Committee, 2008
- Cognate and Women's Concerns Representative, Race and Ethnic Studies Search Committee
- Curriculum Committee, 1999-2001, 2013-15, Chair, 2014-15
- American Cultural Studies, Steering Committee, 1999-2003
- Urban Studies Advisor, 2000 –2003
- Minority Concerns Representative, Sociology Search Committee, 2001 - 2002

- Instructor, The Daniels Program for High School Student Outreach
- Social Science Representative, Humanities-Academic Technology Specialist Search Committee
- Minority Concerns Representative, Interim-Interdisciplinary Librarian Search Committee
- Minority Concerns Representative, Legal Council Search Committee
- Panelist on African Americans in Colorado Springs' History for Junior and Senior High School Students held at the U.S. Air Force Service Academy, 1998
- Minority Concerns Representative, Sociology Search Committee 2000- 2001
- Social Science Search Committee, Academic Technology Specialist, Social Science Division
- The Colorado College Faculty Representative for the Wye Faculty Seminar on Citizenship and the American Polity
- Minority Concerns Committee, 2005-2006
- Minority Concerns Committee, 1998-2000

## **Professional Service**

Graduate Student Assistant, The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Conference, Ann Arbor, MI, 1996.

## **Professional Organizations**

- Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
- Society of Historians of the Early American Republic
- Organization of American Historians
- American Historical Association
- American Studies Association
- The Film and History League
- Phi Alpha Theta