

# MENIKA DIRKSON

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## **Employment**

**Fall 2021- Spring 2022:** Visiting Assistant Professor, African American History, Loyola University Maryland

## **Education**

**2016-2021:** Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), History, Temple University

**Dissertation Title:** “Hope and Struggle in the Policed Inner-City: Black Criminalization and Racial Capitalism in Philadelphia, 1914-1978”

**Advisor:** Bryant Simon

**Committee:** Lila Corwin Berman, Harvey Neptune, Elizabeth K. Hinton (Outside Reader), and Timothy J. Lombardo (Outside Reader)

**2013-2015:** Master of Arts (M.A.), History, Villanova University

**2009-2013:** Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), History, Cultural Studies, & Latin American Studies, Villanova University

## **Publications**

“The ‘Otherside of America’: Understanding Murder Through the Lens of Race, Space, and Hypersegregation,” *The Metropole*, Urban History Association, forthcoming June 2021.

“B’more Authentic: Teaching Difficult History In The College Classroom,” *The Metropole*, Urban History Association, February 3, 2021, <https://themetropole.blog/2021/02/03/bmore-authentic-teaching-difficult-history-in-the-college-classroom/>.

“Rivalry in the Trenches: Philadelphia’s PAL and the Black Panther Party’s Efforts to Mold Black Youth into Their Own Image,” *The Metropole*, Urban History Association, September 23, 2020, <https://themetropole.blog/2020/09/23/rivalry-in-the-trenches-philadelphias-pal-and-the-black-panther-partys-efforts-to-mold-black-youth-into-their-own-image/>.

“Celia, A Slave,” “Lynching and Public Mutilation,” “Scottsboro Boys,” “Tawana Brawley,” “Tuskegee Experiment,” in *Encyclopedia of Racial Violence*, edited by Sowande Mustakeem and Douglas Flowe (New York: ABC-CLIO, forthcoming).

### **Conferences, Lectures, & Roundtables**

**April 2020:** “The Machinations of La Sayona: Race, Marriage, and Fidelity in Colonial Venezuela, 1792-1794” at the 2020 PCA-ACA Conference in Philadelphia, PA (cancelled)

**April 2020:** “Safe Streets, Inc.: The “Hustle” to End Black Gang Violence in Philadelphia, 1969–1976” at the 2020 Organization of American Historians Conference in Washington, D.C. (virtual conference)

**March 2020:** “Afro-Venezuelan and Proud!: A Historiography of the Black Experience in Venezuela” at the 2020 Southeastern Conference of Latin American Studies in Austin, TX

**June 2019:** “One-Way Trip, U.S.A.: In Search of Black West Indian Immigrant Women to America” at the 28th Annual World History Association Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico

**November 2018:** Knowledge Exchange Presentation: “Safe Streets, Inc.: The ‘Hustle’ to End Black Gang Violence in Philadelphia, 1969-1976” at Thomas Jefferson University at East Falls

**November 2018:** “Philly PAL vs. the Black Panther Party: Molding Black Youths into Our Own Image” at the 15th Annual History Graduate Student Conference at Loyola University Chicago

**April 2018:** Roxboro Roundtable: “Forging Trust: Cooling Tensions between African Americans and the Philadelphia Police, 1970-1979” at Thomas Jefferson University at East Falls

**March 2018:** “Slavery by way of Marriage: The Issue of Slave and Free Status for Married Couples in Colonial Venezuela, 1792-1794” at the 40th Annual Susman Conference at Rutgers University-New Brunswick

**March 2018:** “Green with Envy, Red with Rage: Why White Supremacist Byron De La Beckwith Murdered Medgar Evers” at the 23rd James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference at Temple University

**March 2018:** “Tensions Between Philadelphia’s Black Community and the Police, 1970-1979” at the 9th Annual Graduate History Conference at Louisiana State University

**April 2017:** “An Analysis of Deepa Mehta’s film, 1947: Earth” at the Women, Gender, and Sexualities Conference at Villanova University

**March 2017:** “Tensions Between Philadelphia’s Black Community and the Police, 1970-1979” at the 22nd James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference at Temple University

**September 2016:** Invited Lecture, “Race: An Introduction,” for Dr. Krista Malott’s Fall Course, COU 3400-001: Culturally Competent Counseling at Villanova University

**April 2015:** “Slavery by way of Marriage: The Issue of Slave and Free Status for Married Couples in Colonial Venezuela, 1792-1794” at the Women, Gender, and Sexualities Conference at Temple University

**April 2015:** “From Dollar Princess to Art Collector: The Story of Princess Eugenia Ruspoli” at the 26th Annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Student Research Conference at Villanova University

**March 2014:** “Is Any Exhibit Worthy of Stirring up Horrid Pain, Anger, and a Fiery Debate?: The Controversy of Without Sanctuary” at the 19th Annual James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference at Temple University

### **Experience**

**Spring 2018-Fall 2020:** Instructor of Record at Temple University’s Department of History

- HIST 0859-001; 002: The Making of American Society: Melting Pot or Culture Wars?,  
Fall 2020
- HIST 0829-721: History & Significance of Race in America, Summer 2020

- HIST 0859-711: The Making of American Society: Melting Pot or Culture Wars?, Summer 2019
- HIST 0829-001; 002: History & Significance of Race in America, Spring 2019
- HIST 0834-001; 002: Representing Race, Fall 2018
- HIST 0834-711: Representing Race, Summer 2018
- HIST 0834-001; 002: Representing Race, Spring 2018

**Spring 2019:** Research Assistant to Dr. Heather Ann Thompson for her book project, *Bullet and Burn: The Philadelphia MOVE Bombing and Law and Order America*

**Fall 2018:** Research Assistant to Dr. Claudio Saunt for his 2020 book project, *Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory*

**Fall 2017:** Teaching Assistant at Temple University's Department of History

- HIST 0848-002: American Revolutions, Fall 2017
- HIST 0849-001: Dissent in America, Fall 2017

**Fall 2014-Spring 2015:** Teaching Assistant at Villanova University's Department of History

- HIS 1165-003: Global Markets, Equality and Inequality, Spring 2015
- HIS 1150-002: Slavery in the Modern World, Fall 2014
- HIS 2291: African American History during Slavery, Fall 2014

**Spring 2014:** Research Assistant to Dr. Timothy McCall in Villanova University's Department of History

Project: [Historic Pietro da Cortona Painting the Focus of Collaborative Restoration Project at Villanova University](#)

### **Awards & Fellowships**

**Spring 2021:** Temple University Department of History, John S. Kramer Prize

**Spring 2021:** Temple University Graduate School, Dissertation Completion Grant

**2016-2020:** Temple University Graduate School, Future Faculty Fellowship

**2018-2019:** Winner of the Philadelphia Foundation's Nessa Forman Grant Award for the project, "Lights, Sirens, and Bloody Concrete: Tensions between Philadelphia's Black Community and the Police, 1970-1979"

**2018-2019:** Winner of Thomas Jefferson University's Arlen Specter Center Research Fellowship for the project, "Forging Trust: Cooling Tensions Between African Americans and the Philadelphia Police in Community Centers, 1970-1979"

**June 2014:** Mellon Scholar at the Library Company of Philadelphia. Participant in an archival research workshop on African American History prior to 1900 under the mentorship of Dr. Erica Armstrong-Dunbar.

**2014:** 1st Place Winner in U.S. History at the 19th Annual James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference at Temple University

**2014:** Winner of Villanova University's 2014 Graduate Student Research Fellowship for the project, "Can You Help Me Find My People?: Finding Former Slave Families in the Christian Recorder, 1864-1870"

### **Interviews & Media**

**July 2020:** Guest on *Leading by History Podcast*, Season 2 Episode 10: The Black Gods and the Inner City

**February 2020:** Guest on G-town Radio's *Wake Up Call*, Episode: The Silencing of Police-Involved Shootings in the Media

**November 2019:** Guest on G-town Radio's *The Power of Food* with Roslyn Thomas and Anuj Gupta, Episode: Thanksgiving

**August 2019:** Guest on G-town Radio's *Wake Up Call*, Episode: The Recent Standoff in Nicetown-Tioga

**July 2019:** Guest on G-town Radio's *Wake Up Call*, Episode: The Social Construction of Race and Institutional Racism

**August 2018:** Guest on *Hour of History Podcast*, Episode 36: American Genocide: Dictators of the Americas

**January 2018:** Guest on *Hour of History Podcast*, Episode 11: Police, Philadelphia, and the 1970s

### **Community Service**

**2019-2021:** President of the Graduate Students of Color Association (GSCA) at Temple University

**2018-2019:** Researcher and Historian for the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Investigated and authored narratives on their ten most prominent cases, including *Halderman v. Pennhurst (1974)*.

**2018-2019:** Conference Chair for the 24th Annual James A. Barnes Graduate Student History Conference at Temple University

**2017-2019:** Vice President of the Graduate Students of Color Association (GSCA) at Temple University

**2016-Present:** Social Media Volunteer for the Friends of Joseph E. Coleman Library in Philadelphia, PA

### **Languages**

Spanish (professional proficiency)

Portuguese (limited proficiency)