

Afua Cooper, Ph.D.

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POSITION

Full Professor: Joint Appointment in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Dept. of History (60%) and the Dept. of Sociology and Social Anthropology (40%). Cross-appointed to the Gender and Women's Studies Program, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dalhousie University. My designation is **Black Studies Professor**.

Immediate Past James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, 2011-2017. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Dalhousie University. The James R. Johnston Chair is an endowed, national, and senior academic chair. It was created for the development and promotion of research and scholarship pertaining to Black Studies in Canada, and further, to establish a bridge between the academy and the local, national, and international Black communities.

Visiting Professor: Dept. of Inter-American Studies, University of Bielefeld, Germany. June 2018.

Sessional Faculty: The Spoken Word Program, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Banff, Alberta, Canada, April 2017.

Co-ordinator: Black and African Diaspora Studies Minor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dalhousie University.

Founder and past president, Black Canadian Studies Association, an association dedicated to African Canadian Studies knowledge mobilization.

Founder: Dalhousie Black Faculty and Staff Caucus.

Poet Laureate: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2018-2020.

Film: *Heart of a Poet: The Poetry of Afua Cooper*. Director, Sobaz Benjamin. 2018.

Residencies

Doris McCarthy Writer-in-Residence, Ontario Heritage Trust, Summer 2017. During this summer residency, I worked on my new poetry manuscript "Those Who Left Without Saying Goodbye."

Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto. One-week residency exploring the Atlantic slave trade and slavery by examining the pertinent documents and rare books at the Fisher, March 2016.

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax, Nova Scotia. One-week residency exploring Black history-themed artifacts housed at the museum, February 2014. At the completion of the residency, I wrote a poem titled “15 Ships.” This poem details the departure of the Black Loyalists from Nova Scotia in 1792 to Freetown, Sierra Leone. It was later made into a videopoem for the *Black Halifax* project.

Co-Creator of *Black Halifax: Stories From Here*. www.blackhalifax.com
Black Halifax is an online, multimedia project that celebrates and commemorates Halifax’s 300 year-old Black history. This initiative is captured in the form of short video stories.

The Afua Cooper papers are housed at the Thomas Fisher Rare Books Library at the University of Toronto.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, University of Toronto

Fields: African Diaspora Studies, Black Canadian history, Slavery and freedom, Underground Railroad, African history, Canadian social history, Black youth and education, Caribbean history, African American history, Gender and Women’s studies, Canadian Immigration history, Black literatures and oratures

Current Research

Slavery and the law, Abolition and Freedom in the Black Atlantic, Black Abolitionist press, Black Women’s History and Historiography, Maroon and Black Loyalist studies, Black Culture and Consciousness, Black Canada and the Global 1960s, Dub Poetry as Resistance.

LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

English and Jamaican: Mother tongues

French: High Intermediate at Université Laval; Advanced Level at Université Sainte-Anne; complementary studies at Alliance Française, and France Langue (Martinique).

Research competency in French.

Spanish: Working Knowledge.

BLACK STUDIES MOBILIZATION AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Under my leadership and guidance specific actions for Black Studies mobilization were undertaken at Dalhousie University. I have been successful in these endeavours. Thus, they are major accomplishments. Their impact is not only on Dalhousie but also on the Canadian academy and society at large. Some of these actions are pioneering within the Canadian academy.

James R. Johnston Distinguished Lecture Series: 2012-2017

An integral part of my work as Johnston Chair was public outreach. As a result, I engaged in several activities that highlighted and promoted Black Studies in diverse fora. The distinguished lecture series was one such effort. I conceptualized, organized, and curated the speakers' series and invited the speakers based on their leadership roles, and achievements in and contributions to local, national, and international Black Studies. This was a way of not only showcasing the diverse breadth of Black Studies, but also the series attracted the local Black community to Dalhousie University campus, as hundreds of African Nova Scotians, who might otherwise not have visited the campus came to attend the lectures. This series has enriched the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the university itself, and the community at large. It has been a major contributor to the university's diversity, equity, and inclusivity mandate. Below is a summary of the series with the distinguished speakers listed:

- Jan. 2012: Dr. Burnley Rocky Jones, "The Struggle for Human and Civil Rights by African Nova Scotians, 1961-2011," Dalhousie University.
- Feb. 2012: Prof. Isaac Saney, "Race and Revolution: Lessons from Cuba," Dalhousie University.
- Feb. 2012: Donna Byard Sealey and Juanita Peters, "Storied Lives, Black Nova Scotian Women Narratives," Dalhousie University.
- March 2012: Dr. Hakim Adi, "White Man's Burden: The New Scramble for Africa," Dalhousie University.
- Nov. 2012: Dr. Kevin Hewitt, "Early Cancer Detection Research," Dalhousie University.
- Feb. 2013: Dr. Afua Cooper, Shauntay Grant, Valerie Mason-John, "Three Black Women Speak," Literary Readings and Performances, Dalhousie University.
- March 2013: Senator Donald H. Oliver, "Blacks in Canadian Society: Discrimination, Racism, and the Quest for Equality," Dalhousie University.
- Oct. 2013: Dr. Carol B. Duncan, "Religion, Multiculturalism and African-Canadian Identity," Dalhousie University.
- Nov. 2014: Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard, "Killing us Softly: Challenging the everyday effects of racism and violence on the health and well-being of African Canadians," Dalhousie University.
- Nov. 2015: Dr. Marcia Chatelain, "Teaching in the Age of #BlackLivesMatter: Social Media, Social Justice, and Social Change in the Classrooms and Communities," Dalhousie University.
- Nov. 2015: Anthony Morgan, LL.B. "True Black Strong and Free: The Roots and Routes of Black Resilience against State Violence," Dalhousie University.
- Oct. 2016: Dr. Carolyn Cooper "Mek We Talk Bout De Bottom of De Sea: Submerged Narratives in Caribbean Literature and Popular Culture," Dalhousie University.

The Black and African Diaspora Studies Minor

I have contributed to the diversity of Dalhousie University's curriculum and institutional building by developing a Black and African Diaspora Studies minor. This minor was launched in September of 2016. It is interdisciplinary in scope, and thus includes relevant courses across the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences spectrum, and from the University of King's College. SOSA 2005: "Introduction to African Canadian Studies," was developed as the flagship course for the minor. At its first offering, 66 students took this

course. Another core course is PHIL 2165.3 “Philosophy and the Black Experience.” A new course, “HIST 2280: African Nova Scotian History,” was also developed. I teach both SOSA 2005 and HIST 2280. From the minor, students are introduced to the interdisciplinary scholarship on African peoples throughout the world. This Black Studies minor, as far as research indicates, is the first Black Studies minor in all of Canada. <https://www.dal.ca/academics/programs/undergraduate/black-african-diaspora.html>

The Formation and Establishment of the Black Canadian Studies Association (the BCSA)

Over the course of the past nine years, I created and developed a national and international network of Black Canadian Studies scholars. Under my leadership and guidance, the Black Canadian Studies Association was formed, and to date has held five full conferences and two workshops. Attendance to these conferences has been gratifying. For example, for the 2015 conference, over the course of four days, one thousand persons attended this conference. The Association has been formalized with an executive, and a growing membership. The BCSA is now a member of the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences. Membership in the Congress will strengthen the mandate of the BCSA and provide important structural support. The BCSA maintains a listserv and a website, both dedicated to nurturing and advancing Black Canadian Studies.

The creating of the BCSA has made a foremost contribution in creating, legitimizing, and advancing the field of Black studies in Canada, and has widened the meaning of “Canadian Studies.” Further, the BCSA won SSHRC for the 2013 and 2015 conferences production. The BCSA currently maintains a website at: <https://www.africancanadianstudies.com/>

Selected Black Canadian Studies Conferences and Workshops held in the Past Six Years

June 2019: “Asserting Black Life, Insisting on Black Freedom, Imagining the Decolonial: Demanding Reparations and State/Institutional Accountability.” Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Vancouver, BC.

May 2018: “Reparations Start with a Formal Apology: Demanding National and Institutional Accountability.” Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Regina, SK.

May 2017: “Blackness, Indigeneity, Colonialism, and Confederation: 21st Century Perspectives.” This third Biennial Black Canadian Studies Association Conference, Brandon University was called co-organized, and chaired by myself in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts, Brandon University. This conference explored the achievements, challenges, contributions, histories and futures of African Canadians at Canada's 150th anniversary.

May 2015: This second biennial Black Canadian Studies Association conference “Community, Empowerment and Leadership in Black Canada,” was held under my

leadership at Dalhousie University. There were over 1000 attendees. The aim of the conference was to ignite Black leadership in Canada and to further assess how leadership was realized historically and examine it in its contemporary formation.

May 2013: “Where are you From? Reclaiming the Black Presence in Canada,” “Black Canadian Studies Association first biennial conference, Brock University, May. As Chair of the Black Canadian Studies Association I helped in the conceptualization, organization, and realization of this conference. This conference addressed the erasure of Black people from Canadian historical consciousness and historiography.

Lord Dalhousie Scholarly Panel on Slavery and Race, 2016-2019

Former Dalhousie University’s president, Dr. Richard Florizone, appointed me to chair a scholarly panel to investigate the university’s founder, George Ramsay, the Ninth Earl Dalhousie, his and the university’s relationship to slavery, race, and anti-Blackness in Nova Scotia.

The scholarly panel was mandated “to examine and better understand the complicated and controversial questions surrounding Lord Dalhousie’s historic links to the institution of slavery and racial injustice. The panel will gather the historical facts on Lord Dalhousie’s statements and actions with regards to slavery and race; interpret those facts in both their historical and modern context; and recommend actions that Dalhousie could take to respond to this legacy.” The panel has recently wrapped up its work with the *Report on Lord Dalhousie’s History on Slavery and Race*. In addition to chairing the panel, I was the lead author of the report. Under my leadership the university also joined the Universities Studying Slavery Consortium. This is a body of institutions of higher learning that was formed to address the issue of slavery, race, and its historical and contemporary aftermath, in academic life, and society at large.

The Dalhousie Black Faculty and Staff Caucus (DBFSC): Co-chair and founder 2013-2018.

I organized and created this caucus under the aegis of the Johnston Chair.

The mission of the DBFSC is “to promote a greater sense of community, advocate progress and maintain ongoing support for all Black faculty and staff at Dalhousie University in an effort to enhance cultural diversity within the university and support the academic mission of Dalhousie University.” To date, we have been instrumental in supporting the academic and professional development of faculty and staff, establishing and maintaining a mentorship and communication network, and working with the university to meet equity goals within areas of recruitment and retention. The DBFSC has become an important entity in Dalhousie’s mission to advance diversity and inclusiveness. Members of the caucus have since made submissions to all the major equity and anti-discrimination commissions at Dalhousie University over the course of the past four years. Our recommendations have been included in the **Belong Report**, The **Backhouse Report**, and the **Hewitt and Bombay Report**. We maintain a website at the following URL: <https://www.dal.ca/sites/dbfc/about.html>

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Co-author. *The Promised Land: History and Historiography in Chatham-Kent's Historical Settlements*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014). This publication was a finalist for the **Ontario Speaker of the House Book Award, 2015** 193-209. *The Hanging of Angélique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montréal* (Toronto: HarperCollins, 2006). Nominated for the **Governor General's Award in Non-fiction**.

Co-author, *The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Toronto!* (Toronto: Natural Heritage Publisher, November, (2002).

Co-author. *"We're Rooted Here and They Can't Pull Us Up": Essays in African Canadian Women's History*, (Reprint, 1999; Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1994). **Winner of the Joseph Brant Award for Best History Book** Published in Ontario.

Selected Journal Articles and Book Chapters

"Deluded and Ruined": Diana Bastian, Enslaved African Canadian Teenager and White Male Privilege," accepted for publication on *Brock Education Journal*, 27, 1, 2017, 1-9.

"At Ontario Underground Railroad Sites, Farming and Liberty: Slaves fleeing the American South established new lives in Canada," *New York Times*, 24 Feb. 2017. **The New York Times has a readership of three million (including one million digital subscribers)**.

"Black Canada and the Law: Black Parents and Children in the Legal Battle for Education in Canada West, 1851-1864," eds. Awad Ibrahim & Ali A. Abdi, *Disruptive Learning Narratives in Academia: Experiences of Racialized and Marginalized Educators* (McGill Queen's University Press, 2016) 19-42.

"The Voice of the Fugitive: A Transnational Abolitionist Organ," in *A Fluid Frontier: Slavery, Freedom and the Underground Railroad in the Detroit River Borderlands*, eds. Karolyn Smardz and Veta Tucker (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2016) 135-153. **Winner of the History Society of Michigan Book Award, 2016**.

"A New Biography of the African Diaspora: The Odyssey of Marie-Joseph Angélique, Black Portuguese Slave Woman in New France, 1725-1734," in Darlene Clark Hine, ed. *Global Conversations: New Scholarship on the History of Black Peoples* (University of Illinois Press, 2009) 46-73. Reprinted in eds. Marlene Epp & Franca Iacovetta, *Sisters of Strangers? Immigrant, Ethnic, and Racialized Women in Canadian History* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016) 23-43.

Articles in Progress

"At the Edge of Slavery: Chloe Cooley and the Myth of Canadian Freedom."

"An Accomplished Woman': Mary Bibb Cary and the Making of a Black Transnational Identity."

"Nova Scotia's Black Loyalists and the Atlantic's Revolutionary Tradition."

Young Adult Fiction

“To Learn...Even a Little,” *Hoping for Home: Stories of Arrival in the Dear Canada Series* (Scholastic Canada, 2011) 171-192. French Translation: “Avoir La Chance de m’instruire,” *Cher Journal, Terre d’accueil, terre d’espoir* (Scholastic Canada, 2012) 177-198.

My Name is Henry Bibb: A Story of Slavery and Freedom (Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2009).

My Name is Phillis Wheatley: A Story of Slavery and Freedom (Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2009).

Non-Fiction and Creative Writing

Short fiction and Poetry as a part of “Writing Black Canadas,” in *Transition: The Magazine of Africa and the Diaspora* (Harvard University) Fall, 2017.

“Black Blood,” in the *Canada Writes Series*, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Canada Council for the Arts (Dec. 2013) [online].

<http://www.cbc.ca/books/canadawrites/2013/12/bloodlines-black-blood-by-afua-cooper.html>

“Moon Woman,” in eds. Dede Crane & Lisa Moore, *Great Expectations: Twenty-Four True Stories about Childbirth* (Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 2008) 67-84.

Poetry

Copper Woman and Other Poems (Toronto: Natural Heritage Books, 2006).

Utterances and Incantations: Women, Poetry and Dub (Toronto: Sister Vision Press, 1999).

Memories Have Tongue (Toronto: Sister Vision Press, 1992) **Shortlisted for the Casa de las Americas Award, 1992.**

Forthcoming Publications

Black British Columbians: Past and Present, eds. Afua Cooper & Handel Wright (**under contract with Fernwood Books.**)

“The Spook Who Sat by the Door:’ Creating Black Studies at a Canadian University,” ed. Handel Kashope Wright, *Nuances of Blackness and/in the Canadian Academy* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press).

“The Miracle of Ann Maria Jackson, Slave Fugitive and Heroine of the Underground Railroad,” accepted for publication in Ronald Cummings, ed. *Harriet’s Legacies: Race, Historical Memory and Futures in Canada*. (McGill-Queen’s University Press, Spring 2020).

“Black Matters: Poetry & Photography in Dialogue,” Afua Cooper and Wilfried Rausert. A book of poetry, photography and graffiti art about and from the African Diaspora.

Magazines and Encyclopedia Entries:

“African Canadian History,” eds. Mwallimu J. Shujaa & Kenya Shujaa, *Sage Encyclopedia of African Cultural Heritage in North America* (Sage Publications, 2015) 44-45.

Guest Editor, “Celebrating the International Year for People of African Descent,” *Heritage Matters*, A Publication of the Ontario Heritage Trust, Nov. 2011.

Guest Editor, The Bicentenary of the Abolition of the British Slave Trade: A Canadian Perspective,” *Directions, Canadian Race Relations Publication*, (Summer 2007).

“Marie-Joseph Angélique: Canadian Slave Woman,” *The Canadian Encyclopedia; Historica Canada* [online].

“Massacre of the Innocents: The European Trade in African Captives.” Canadian Council of Churches Publication, *From Chains to Freedom: Journeying Toward Reconciliation, 2007 Racial Justice Resource*, 14-17 [online].

“The Legacy of Slavery,” *Sway Magazine*, Summer 2007.

“Bibb, Mary,” and “True Band Society,” *Oxford Companion to Canadian History* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2005) 72, 623-624.

“Paradigms of Power: Black Women and the Practice of History in Canada,” in eds. Marguerite Alfred & Pat Staton. *Black Women in Canada, Past and Present: Teaching Resources* (Toronto: Green Dragon Press) 56-68.

“Ball, Richard Amos,” *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* 15 (1921-1930).

“Sussanah Maxwell Stokes,” *DCB*, 15 (1921-1930).

Preface

“Performing Miracles: Black Writers Matter,” for *Black Writers Matter*, ed. Whitney French. (Regina: University of Regina Press, 2019) ix-xi.

Selected literary Works in which my work has been included or where I have been interviewed.

“Innovator: Dr. Afua Cooper, James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies,” *Dal Magazine*, Spring 2017.

Jon Tattie, “Uncovering Canadian Slavery,” *Chronicle Herald*, 21 May 2017. This article commemorated by work on Canadian slavery as part of the discussion on Canada's 150th commemoration of Confederation.

Holly Pike, “Childhood and Slavery: An Interview with Afua Cooper on Young Adult Fiction,” *Postcolonial Text*, 11, 1 (2016) 1-12.

Winfried Siemerling, *The Black Atlantic Reconsidered: Black Canadian Writing, Cultural History, and the Presence of the Past* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015).

Lisa Tomlinson, “Memories Have Tongue: A Conversation with Afua Cooper,” in *Jamaica in the Canadian Experience: A Multiculturalizing Presence*, Carl James & Andrea Davis, eds. (Halifax: Fernwood Publishing, 2012) 106-114.

Stephanie McKenzie, & Teri-Ann McDonald, eds. *Documenting Presence, Community, Courage and Dignity, Maroon and Mi'kmaq: An International Exchange* (Corner Brook, NFDL: Pierian Arts, 2013).

Introduction to Queen Nzinga Maxwell book of poetry, *Afrokon Wombvoliushan* (San Jose, Costa Rica, 2012).

Donna Bailey Nurse, “Up From Slavery,” *What’s a Black Critic to Do II: Interviews, Profiles and Reviews of Black Writers* (Toronto: Insomniac Press, 2011) 203-214.

George Elliot Clarke, *Directions Home: Approaches to African-Canadian Literature* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011).

Introduction to Lansana M. Sekou’s book of poetry, *Nativity* (Sint Maarten: House of Nehesi, 2010), vii-xix.

Andrew Wallace, “The Case for All-Black Schools,” *This Magazine*, 8 July 2009.

Emily Allen Williams, “An Evolving Dub Poet with a Historical Foundation,” in *Beyond the Canebrakes: Caribbean Women Writers in Canada* (New Jersey, African World Press, 2008) 313-323.

Keith B. Mitchell, “A Still Burning Fire: Afua Cooper’s Triptych of Resistance,” in ed. E.A. Williams, *Beyond the Canebrakes*, 37-56.

Nigel Thomas, ed. *Why We Write: Conversations with African Canadian Poets and Novelists—Interviews* (Toronto: TSAR, 2006) 74-88.

Makeda Silvera, ed. *The Other Woman: Women of Colour in Contemporary Canadian Literature*, Interview with Afua Cooper (Sister Vision, 1995) 293-309.

online

Emily Allen, “Afua Cooper,” *Historica Canada*

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/afua-cooper/>

Meres Weche, *Afrotoronto*, “Copper Woman: An Interview with Afua Cooper.”

<http://afrotoronto.com/content/articles/43-books/432-copper-woman-an-interview-with-afua-cooper>

Books/articles/dissertations on Afua Cooper’s Work

Lisa Tomlinson, *The African-Jamaican Aesthetic: Cultural Retention and Transformation Across Borders* (Amsterdam: Rodopi Press, 2017).

Cristina Santos & Tracy Crowe Morey, “Exile as Inclusion or Writing ‘Dangerously’: Afua Cooper’s The Hanging of Angelique,” *Interdisciplinary Journal of Portuguese Diaspora Studies* 4, 1, (2015).

Sergio Luz E Souza, Master's thesis, "I'm a Decent Criola": Representation of Women in Afua Cooper's and Alzira Rufino's Poetry," Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, 2014. Published under the same title by Lambert Academic Publishing, 2016.

Kerstin Knopf, "Oh Canada": Reflections of Multiculturalism in the Poetry of Canadian Women Dub Artists, *Revue E-Journal: Literature, History of Ideas, Images and Societies of the English Speaking World*," 3, 2, (2005).

Christian Habekost, *Verbal Riddim: The Politics and Aesthetics of African-Caribbean Dub Poetry* (Amsterdam: Rodopi Press, 1993).

Review and Reading of Manuscripts.

Whitney French, ed. *Black Writers Matter* (Regina, University of Regina Press, 2019).

Robyn Maynard, *Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present* (Halifax, NS.: Fernwood Publishing, 2017).

Harvey Amani Whitfield, *Black Slavery in the Maritimes* (Peterborough, ON.: Broadview Press, 2017).

Burnley "Rocky" Jones & James W. Walker, *Burnley "Rocky Jones, Revolutionary: An Autobiography* (Halifax, NS.: Fernwood, 2016).

Diana Watt & Adele D. Jones, *Catching Hell and Doing Well" Black Women in the UK-The Abasindi Cooperative* (London, UK: The Institute of Education Press, 2015).

El Jones, *Live from the African Resistance* (Halifax, NS.: Fernwood, 2014).

EDITORIAL BOARD EXPERIENCE

Book Series Editorship, 2017-

Henry and Mary Bibb Series of Black Canadian Studies, University of Regina Press.

Book Series Editorial Board Membership, 2015-present

Ruth Simms Hamilton African Diaspora Series, University of Michigan Press.

Black Atlantic Cultural Series: Revisioning the Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts, University of the Virgin Island.

Online Journal, 2014-present.

Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education and Society.

CONFERENCES

2019. Protests and Pedagogy: The Legacy of the Sir George Williams University Affair. Concordia University, Montreal, Feb.

2018. Black Power: Cultural and Political Movements in the Black Americas. University of Bielefeld, Germany, Oct.

2017. Blackness, Indigeneity, Colonialism, and Confederation: 21st Century Perspectives. Third Biennial Black Canadian Studies Association Conference, Brandon University, May.

2017. "Lord Dalhousie and Dalhousie University and the Intersection of Race and Gender," 3rd Biennial Black Canadian Studies Conference, Brandon University, May.

2017. "Blackness Rejected: The Canadian Federal Government and the 1911 Order-in-Council Banning Black Migration to Canada," keynote presentation at Mikinaakominis, TransCanadas: Literature, Justice, Relation conference, University of Toronto, May.

2017. "Black Professors Matter": Challenging Inequality in Canadian Academe," Plenary, Canadian Sociological Association, at Congress for Humanities And Social Sciences," Ryerson University, May.

2017. Moderator: "Robin D. G. Kelley and Fred Moten in Conversation," Women and Gender Studies Institute, University of Toronto, April. Kelley and Moten are two leading theorists and scholars in African Diaspora Studies.

2017. "Slavery and Memory in Canada," *Entangled Black Americas*, University of Bielefeld, Germany, Jan.

2016. "Decolonizing the Curriculum in Academe," Plenary speaker at the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies Conference 2016, OISE, Nov.

2016. "Deluded and Ruined,' Diana Bastian, Enslaved Nova Scotia Teenager," White Privilege Symposium, Brock University, Sept.

2015. "Black Halifax, Canada, 1783-1983: Race, Migration, Culture and Storytelling," Caribbean and Atlantic Studies Conference, Texas A & M University, Oct.

COURSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT

The courses I designed and taught for the past 20 years have been informed by my research areas of expertise and my concern with Black emancipatory projects, questions of citizenship, and my commitment to racial and social justice in education. For example, my course on the North American Civil Rights Movement, came out of the broader question of social movements. This course charts and compares the civil rights movement in both the United States and Canada, and in both instances reveal Black people as architects of their own emancipation, who further contribute not only to their own liberation but that of others. The courses I create and teach are also informed by my desire to help students make meaning out of their own realities.

Dalhousie University: 2011-present.

- ❖ Colonialism and the Body.
- ❖ The North American Civil Rights and Black Power Movement.
- ❖ Introduction to African Canadian Studies.

- ❖ Slavery and Freedom in the Americas
- ❖ African Nova Scotian History

Simon Fraser University, Dept. of Women's Studies: 2007-2008.

- ❖ Exploring African Canadian Women's History.
- ❖ The Black Autobiographical Tradition: Memory, Body, and Surprising Narratives.

University of Toronto: 2004-2006.

- ❖ Beyond Multiculturalism in Canada,
- ❖ Black Women's History, 1700-1900, History Dept.
- ❖ Documenting Freedom: The Abolitionist Movement in the Anglo-American World.
- ❖ African Canadian History: From Colonial Contact to Present Time.
- ❖ Topics in Feminist History, Women Studies Program. New College. 1999.

Caribbean History: Pre- and post-emancipation.

Ryerson University, Dept. of Sociology: 2001-2004.

- ❖ Introduction to the Caribbean.
- ❖ Families in the Caribbean.

MENTORING AND SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Over the past seven years, I have sat on the committee of 17 doctoral, master's, and senior undergraduate students. I have been direct supervision to five of these students. This includes a doctoral student at the University of Trier, Germany, who is completing a dissertation on comparative Black North American history. Additionally, I have mentored numerous students at every level of the student ladder at Dalhousie and across Canada in my role and work as Black Studies professor and chair of the Black Canadian Studies Association. Additionally, as senior faculty, I have mentored junior faculty, both tenured and non-tenured.

EXHIBITS CURATED OR CO-CURATED

Freedom City: Uncovering Toronto's Black History

I was responsible for the Underground Railroad segment of this exhibit.

Black Communities in British Columbia, 1858-2008. Solo curation.

Enslaved Africans in Upper Canada. Curated in conjunction with the Archives of Ontario.

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Solo curation.

I'll Use My Freedom Well: The Story of Josiah Henson. Co-curated

Uncle Tom's Cabin Museum, Dresden, Ontario.

The Underground Railroad, Next Stop: Freedom! Co-curated

A Glimpse of Black Life in Victorian Toronto: 1850-1860. Solo curation.

Online Exhibit

Black Halifax: Stories from Here: co-created and co-curated www.blackhalifax.com

Royal Ontario Museum Outreach Exhibits Initiative, 2012-present

Member of Consultative Committee for the *Of Africa* Reconciliation Program, Royal Ontario Museum, with the African Canadian community, 2012-present; and Recipient of

the “Apology” on behalf of the African Canadian community from the ROM, Nov. 2016. The apology was given as a result of the controversy surrounding the *Into the Heart of Africa* exhibit showcased by the ROM in 1989-1990. The Black community deemed the exhibit racist.

Selected Media Outreach: Television, Radio, Print Media, and On-line Fora

Various media outlets call on me on a continuous basis to provide a Black scholarly perspective, expertise and commentary on various issues pertaining to the Black world. These issues include Black Canadian history, Black studies scholarship, slavery, #blacklivesmatter, gun violence, racial profiling, culture, curriculum and social justice, Black learners and the pursuit of education, Blacks and citizenship, and race, and identity. I am a sought-after speaker and public intellectual, and thus have given numerous interviews on local, regional, national, and international radio and television, and have been featured in diverse print and online media. The following are but a small sample of my media contributions.

<https://www.thestar.com/halifax/2018/12/12/panel-suggests-apology-from-dalhousie-university-for-founders-ties-to-slavery-racism.html> Dec. 2018.

“The Doc[umentary] Project,” Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)
<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/docproject/afua-cooper-on-the-men-talking-politics-outside-the-corner-store-and-how-they-changed-her-forever-1.4182630> July 2017.

“Herstory,” CBC, August 2017.

“Slavery, Racism, and Lord Dalhousie” Halifax’s Examineradio, podcast #125. August 2017.

<https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/featured/examineradio-125-rally-round-the-statues/>

Colonial Canada Had Slavery for More than 200 Years. And Yes, it Still Matters.

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2017/06/17/slavery-canada-history_n_16806804.html

Black History in Canada: A Live, Interactive Round Table, CBC online television, May 2017.

<http://www.cbc.ca/2017/canadathestoryofus/black-history-in-canada-a-live-interactive-roundtable-1.4114896>

“Addressing a Complex History: The Lord Dalhousie Panel,” Dal Magazine, Spring 2017.

<http://dalmag.dal.ca/2017/06/addressing-a-complex-history/>

“Here’s My Canada,” at Historica Canada on the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation.

<http://www.heresmycanada.ca/videos/heres-my-canada-dr-afua-coopers-canada/>

Afua Cooper appointed Black Studies series editor at the University of Regina Press.

https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/news-events/news0/2017/05/29/afua_cooper_appointed_editor_of_the_henry_and_mary_bibb_series_of_black_canadian_studies_university_of_regina_press.html

"Why are politicians passing the buck as black men are killed?" CBC.ca

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OTHER IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS

Researcher: **AudioVisual Media Lab for the Study of Culture and Society (AMLAC & S)**, University of Ottawa, 2010-present.

My expertise at this lab is on Black abolitionism, Cultures of Resistance, and the Underground Railroad. I worked on the **Promised Land Project** with a focus on the Black communities of South-Western Ontario and Eastern Michigan. The book, *The Promised Land: History and Historiography of the Black Experience in Chatham-Kent’s Settlement and Beyond* was published in 2014 by the University of Toronto Press.

Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Professor of Women’s Studies, Simon Fraser University, 2008-2009.

I administered the teaching, community outreach, and research activities of the Woodward Chair. Such activities included the exhibit **Black Communities in British Columbia, 1858-2008**, and the workshop **Knowledge Production and the Black Experience in Canada**.

Community Outreach

A long-standing tradition of the Woodward Chair is to bridge the gap between the lay and academic communities. This is done by engaging in active outreach which deals with an aspect of the Chair’s expertise. I delighted in continuing this tradition in three crucial ways. First, I curated an exhibit on the Black British Columbian historical experience. Second, I called and chaired a workshop on Black Canadian Studies. And third, I gave regular lectures, readings, and presentations.

1. The Exhibit

2008 marked the 150th anniversary of the founding of British Columbia as a colony and province and I wanted to include the Black community in this historic occasion. I therefore curated an exhibit called **Black Communities in British Columbia: 1858-2008** that looked at the contributions of the historic and historical Black British Columbian community with its roots in California and the Pacific Northwest, and the contemporary African Canadian community. However, before I launched the exhibit, I struck a committee made up of persons from the Simon Fraser University community and

the Vancouver Black community to discuss the means through which the project could be realized. Ultimately, the exhibit told the story of BC's Black communities through photographs.

Black Communities was launch with much excitement and anticipation. Over 200 members of the public turned up at this opening at the Teck Gallery, Harbour Centre, Vancouver. Dr. Michael Stevenson, president of SFU gave the opening remarks. The launch was reported in major print, audio, and visual media. As a tool of community outreach the exhibit was a huge success. It was grounded in solid academic and archival research and used the popular medium of photography to tell a riveting story. As important, it brought to light a relatively unknown and ignored part of BC's past. The exhibit is now on display at the City of Vancouver Archives.

These public showings will have enabled hundreds of people to become aware of some aspects of Black Canadian history.

2. Black Studies Workshop

My second outreach Project was a workshop titled **Knowledge Production and the Black Experience in Canada**. This was held from 1 to 3 May 2009 at the Segal Business School, SFU downtown campus. I called and chaired this workshop. Out of this initiative, the Black Canadian Studies Association was born.

3. Lectures and Readings

My third community outreach initiative was continuous. This involved giving lectures and presentations on the global histories of Black people, Women and gender history, and poetry readings to diverse communities within the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, and the United States Pacific Northwest.

Associate Director: Ryerson Caribbean Research Centre, Ryerson University, 2002-2004.

My duties included conducting a feasibility study on the setting up of a Caribbean studies major at Ryerson University; working across disciplines to ensure that the Caribbean was represented in curricular offerings within the Faculty of Arts; organizing a lecture series on Caribbean epistemologies and the transnational nature of Caribbean Studies, and liaising with other Caribbean Studies Program at various institutions. An integral part of my responsibilities was to conceptualize and supervise a research agenda on Caribbean studies.

Creative Director and Member: The Dub Poets Collective, 2002-2010

In 2002, I co-founded the Dub Poets Collective and since that year until 2010 served as creative director. The DPC was an artist collective with the mandate to use dub poetry as a vehicle for community development and social change. Moreover, the DPC intended to centre dub poetry and its culture within the Canadian literary movement. Therefore, as creative director, I conceptualized, created and organized cultural and literary events such as readings, book fairs, festivals, workshops, flash mobs, literary competitions, monthly and weekly reading series, and other programming, in Toronto and region, and Canada at large. I assisted in curating and organizing the international dub poetry festivals in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2009. As creative director and member, I programmed events by using poets from the collective, and other poets to perform in schools, libraries, daycare centres, universities, community centres, seniors' homes, local restaurants, barber shops

and hair dressing salons, and in other diverse sites. The DPC has collaborated with arts councils, the Writers Union of Canada, the League of Canadian Poets to bring literary and cultural events to various communities in such places as Peterborough, Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, Mississauga, and Ottawa, Ontario. In addition, I have done international outreach with such bodies as the British Council and the Jamaica Poetry Society to bring poets to Canada to be part of readings and festivals. In my work to engage local communities through the arts, I have partnered with several Ontario school boards, Ontario College of Arts, York University, the University of Toronto, local restaurants and churches, community organizations such as MayWorks, Dance Immersion, St. Christopher House community centre, Burke's Book Store, publishers such as HarperCollins and Natural Heritage Books, and with media outlets like the Share newspaper and the CBC radio and television. By the end of my tenure with the DPC, I had used my talents, energy, and skills to program at least 200 poets, Canadian and international, in diverse forms of literary and cultural events. I have thus worked with a host of community groups and organizations to realize the Dub Poets Collective mandate.

Co-ordinator and Chief Knowledge Officer: The Ontario Bicentenary, The Act to Abolish the British Slave Trade, 1807-2007, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, 2007-2008.

I took on the task of co-ordinating the Province of Ontario's Initiative to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the British Slave Trade. My work as co-ordinator and advisor involved setting up a community advisory group chaired by the Hon. Jean Augustine, liaising with the Ministry and the Ontario public; identifying and working with key university and community groups on Bicentenary issues; advising the government on appropriate commemorative endeavours; ensuring that 33 community organizations receive funding for various projects including the plaquing of five historical sites in Ontario; planning a three-day youth conference on the Slave Trade and the African Diaspora; developing program and research material on slavery, the slave trade, and their legacies; implementing a lecture/arts program that involved the academia, cultural community groups, and artists; leading the project development in collaboration with several government ministries; working with the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa, to plan and promote the "Routes to Freedom" Conference commemorating the Bicentenary; providing expert advice on two exhibits; and acting as ambassador-at-large for the Bicentenary initiative. The Province committed one million dollars for commemorative projects.

Partners for the Bicentenary Initiative included the Harriet Tubman Institute on the Global Migrations of African Peoples, York University, Tropicana Community Services, Caribbean Studies Program, University of Toronto, the CARICOM Consular Corps, the Consulate General of the United States, Toronto, African Canadian Heritage Association, Ontario Heritage Trust, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa, Canadian Association of Black Journalists, and Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants.

Chair: Committee to Commemorate the Abolition of the Slave Trades, 1807, 1808 (CMAST), 2006-2009.

In 2006 I founded and chaired CMAST, a community-based organization, with the specific objective to raise public awareness about and promote education of the

Bicentenary of the Abolition of the British and United States Slave Trades. CMAST took on the task of planning and organizing commemorative events and worked with numerous groups and organizations, including universities and community associations, to hold various educational outreach activities such as lectures, conferences, and cultural events. It was largely through the efforts and outreach of CMAST that the Ontario government was inspired to launch its own Bicentenary program. In 2007, focusing on the British Bicentenary, we embarked on a public lecture program that featured distinguished scholars and experts who spoke on various aspects of the slave trade, African history, and African Diaspora studies. Some of these speakers include Drs. Ray Winbush, Melanie Newton, Carol Duncan, and Abdullah Hakim Quick. Some partners for the year-long program were the City of Toronto, the Elementary Teachers of Toronto, the Toronto District School Board, the Consulate General of Jamaica, Toronto, Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism, Network, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Toronto, Dub Poets Collective, Writers Union of Canada, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and the Caribbean Studies Program, University of Toronto. In 2008, CMAST paid attention to the United States Bicentenary and held a three-day conference on that issue. We worked with the Consulate General of the United States, Toronto, and the Centre for the Study of the United States, University of Toronto, to realize this event. We invited American historians Drs. Colin Palmer (Princeton University) and Kate Larson (Simmons College) to give various presentations. We partnered with the Toronto Catholic District School Board and held a one-day teach-in with professors Larson and Palmer that brought together over 400 high school students. A graduate seminar titled “American Slavery: Myth and Memory” was also organized with the invited historians and Dr. Elspeth Brown of the Centre for the Study of the United States, at the UT. Finally, the three-day event concluded with a public lecture held at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. The American Consular General, Mr. John Nay, gave opening remarks. CMAST continues to engage in community outreach regarding the slave trade in particular and Black history in general. It held a film and literary festival in October of 2009 that featured films, lecturers, and performers from across the African Diaspora.

Historian and Consultant: **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**, 2002-2003.

I worked as a consultant with CBC television for their docu-drama, *Freedom's Land: Canada and the Underground Railroad*,” in which I also appeared as an expert. The CBC used my research on slavery and the Antebellum Black freedom movement for this presentation.

Historian, Consultant and Researcher: **Parks Canada**, 1999-2002. I was hired by Parks Canada in 1999 to work on the federally mandated research project on the Underground Railroad to Canada. With fellow researchers and historians, Adrienne Shadd and Karolyn Smardz Frost, I conducted extensive research in libraries and archives across Central and Eastern Canada, and the United States. I compiled an extensive database on underground railroad epistemologies. The research efforts culminated in the first exhibit on the UGRR's in Canada titled **The Underground Railroad, Next Stop: Freedom!**

Researcher, Historian, and Consultant: **Ontario Heritage Trust**, 2005-2011. Along with Karolyn Smardz Frost and Adrienne Shadd, I conducted new research for the Ontario

Heritage Trust for the new exhibit on Black abolitionist leader Josiah Henson that was installed at the Uncle Tom Cabin's Museum, Dresden, Ontario. We researched the Black histories of South Western Ontario, Toronto Region, the states of Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan and reconceptualized the place of Josiah Henson in these histories and his role in the history making of the United States, Canada, and that of the Black Atlantic. The new exhibit, launched in 2006 titled **I'll Use my Freedom Well** combined text, images, and sound to create a stunning portrayal of the life and times of Henson. In 2007 and 2011 Ontario Heritage Trust once again used my expertise to research and edit two special editions of their journal *Heritage Matters*. These issues are: "From Slavery to Freedom: Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Slavery Trade," August 2007, and Celebrating the International Year of the People of African Descent," 2011.

Creative Writer and Author

In addition to my contributions as a scholar and historian, I have contributed to Canadian literary culture as a creative writer. I have published books and articles in such genres as young adult fiction, essay-writing, poetry, and non-fiction. Moreover, I have participated in numerous national and international literary festivals such as the International Festival of Authors, the Northern Lights Folk Festival, the Windsor Bookfest (Canada), the St. Martin Book Fair (St. Martin), the Havana Poetry Festival (Cuba), International Festival of Authors, Toronto, the Cali (Colombia) International Book Fair, and the Kingston-on-the-Edge literary festival (Jamaica). I have held writer-in-residence positions, within North America and beyond. For my literary work, I have won grants from the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts. I received and been nominated for such awards and prizes as the Governor General's Award, The Premier of Ontario Award for Excellence in the Arts, and the Chalmers Fellowship. I have also sat on literary juries at local, provincial, and national levels. As a creative writer, I have made significant contributions to Canadian, women's, Caribbean, post-colonial, and African Diaspora literature. My work has been recognized through the granting of awards and distinctions by national and international literary associations. Moreover, it has also received critical attention from both academic and creative writers. My installation as Halifax's Poet Laureate in 2018 points to the impact of my literary work.

RECENT LITERARY READINGS

"Journey back to Birchtown," July 2019.

"John Brown Day," Lake Placid, NY, May 2019.

"Mayworks," Halifax, May 2019.

National Metropolis Conference, Halifax. March 2019.

International Women's Day Celebration, Women in Technology. Halifax Public Library Main Branch, March 2019.

Ghana Independence Day Celebration, Halifax, NS, March 2019.

Flag Raising Ceremony to Commemorate African Heritage Month, Halifax City Hall. Feb. 2019.

"Poetry and Pedagogy," Concordia University, Feb. 2019.

"An Evening with Halifax Poet Laureate, Afua Cooper," Halifax, NS, Jan. 2019.

“Poetry at Osu,” Accra, Ghana, Jan. 2019.
 Bringing Equity to Architecture, Halifax, NS, Jan. 2019.
 “Heart of a Poet: An Afternoon with Afua Cooper,” Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Feb. 2018.
 “Afua Cooper at Welthaus,” Bielefeld, Germany, June 2018.
 “Afua Cooper at Each One Teach One,” Berlin, Germany, June 2018.
 Caribbean Diaspora Day, Halifax, NS, August 2017.
 Calgary Spoken Word Festival, April 2017.
 Faculty of Spoken Word Program at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity reading, April 2017.
 Bus Stop Theatre, Halifax, May 2017.
Entangled Americas Reading, University of Bielefeld, Germany, Jan. 2017.
 Lapidus Center for Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery, Schomburg Library, New York, Oct. 2015. This reading was for the premier of the film *Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess*.
 Feria Internacional del Libro Y Las Culturas de Cali, Colombia, Oct. 2015.
 “15 Ships.” A reading at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Halifax, to commemorate the departure from Halifax of the 15 ships carrying Black Loyalists to Freetown, Sierra Leone, March 2014.

SELECTED AWARDS, HONOURS, GRANTS, AND RECOGNITION

The People’s Choice Award for the Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival, Halifax, for my video *Heart of a Poet: The Poetry of Afua Cooper*, 2019.
 2019. The Daniel G. Hill Award for Contributions to the Arts, History, and Education Development, Ontario Black History Society.
 2018. Recognition by Prime Minister, the Hon. Justin Trudeau for my work in shaping “Canada into the country it is today.”
 2017. Canadian Trailblazers Award, Historica Canada.
 2017. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) website feature for my work in Black Studies. “Bringing Black Canadian History out from the Shadows.”
 2016. Honouree: 100 Accomplished Black Women, Ryerson University.
 2015. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Conference and Workshop Grant, PI, “Community, Empowerment and Leadership in Black Canada,” Black Canadian Studies Association Conference, Dalhousie University.
 2015. Ontario Speaker of the House Book Award, finalist, *The Promised Land: History and Historiography in Chatham-Kent’s Historical Settlements*.
 2015. Honouree: Nova Scotia Human Rights Award for Leadership in Education.
 2015. Honourary Nana (chief) of the Ga People of Ghana, Nile Valley Foundation, Edmonton, Community Award.
 2015. City of Toronto Bob Marley Award.

MEMBERSHIP

Canadian Historical Association
 Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences
 The Writers Union of Canada
 The Writers Federation of Nova Scotia

