
JUSTENE HILL EDWARDS

Corcoran Department of History
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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

2022- University of Virginia, *Charlottesville, VA*
Associate Professor, Corcoran Department of History

2016-22 Assistant Professor, Corcoran Department of History

Specializations: African American History to 1877; History of American Slavery;
History of American Capitalism.

EDUCATION

2015 Princeton University, *Princeton, NJ*
Ph.D. in History.

2010 Princeton University, *Princeton, NJ*
M.A. in History.

2008 Florida International University, *Miami, FL*
M.A. in African New World Studies.

2004 Swarthmore College, *Swarthmore, PA*
B.A. in Spanish.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

[*Savings and Trust: The Rise and Betrayal of the Freedman's Bank*](#)
(Forthcoming, October 2024, W.W. Norton)

Inequality in America: A Concise History (In Progress, Under Contract, W.W. Norton).

2021 [*Unfree Markets: The Slaves' Economy and the Rise of Capitalism in South Carolina*](#) (April 2021, Columbia University Press, Columbia Studies in the History of U.S. Capitalism).

Academic Articles and Book Chapters

"Slavery and Antislavery," in Nicholas Guyatt, ed., *The Oxford Illustrated History of the United States* (In Progress, Oxford University Press).

"Teaching the Laws of Slavery, 1826-1865," in *The History of Legal Education at the University of Virginia*, eds. Meggan Cashwell and Randall Flaherty (Under Review).

2023 ["This Slavery Business is a Horrible Thing": The Economy of American Slavery in the Lives of the Enslaved.](#) *Business History Review* 97, vol. 2 (Summer 2023): 307-334.

2017 ["Felonious Transactions: Legal Culture and Business Practices of Slave Economies in South Carolina, 1787-1860."](#) *Enterprise & Society* 18, no. 4 (December 2017): 772-783.

Book Reviews

2023 *Only the Clothes on Her Back: Clothing and the Hidden History of Power in the Nineteenth-Century United States* by Laura F. Edwards on H-Net Material Culture.

2021 *Counterlife: Slavery After Resistance and Social Death* by Christopher Freeburg, in *The Journal of African American History* (Forthcoming).

2022 *An Intimate Economy: Enslaved Women, Work, and the Domestic Slave Trade* by Alexandra Finley, in *The Journal of American Ethnic History* 41, no. 3 (Spring 2022).

2022 *The Ledger and the Chain: How Domestic Slave Traders Shaped America* by Joshua Rothman, in *The Journal of Southern History* 88, no. 1 (Feb. 2022), 152-153.

2021 *Savannah's Midnight Hour: Boosterism, Growth, and Commerce in a Nineteenth-Century American City* by Lisa L. Denmark, in *Business History Review* 94, no. 4 (2021), 861-864.

2019 *American Aristocrats: A Family, A Fortune, and the Making of American Capitalism* by Harry S. Stout, in *The Journal of Southern History* 85, no. 2 (May 2019), 423-424.

2016 *The Business of Slavery and the Rise of American Capitalism, 1815-1860* by Calvin Schermerhorn, in *Common Place* (Spring 2016).

2015 *Northern Men with Southern Loyalties: The Democratic Party and the Sectional Crisis* by Michael Todd Landis, in *Law and History Review* 33, no. 4 (November 2015), 1011-1013.

Popular Publications

2022 "The Freedman's Bank Forum obscures the bank's real history," *The Washington Post*, October 27, 2022.

2022 "The Language of Blackness and Racial Identity in American History," *The American Historian*, Spring 2022.

FELLOWSHIPS

2023-26 Mellon New Directions Fellowship, Mellon Foundation.

2022-23 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, Carnegie Corporation of New York.

2019 Sesquicentennial Associateship, University of Virginia (Fall 2019).

2014-15 Consortium Dissertation Fellow, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

2013-14 Quin Morton Teaching Fellowship, Princeton Writing Program, Princeton University.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 2022 Outstanding Researcher, Office of the Vice President of Research, University of Virginia.
- 2021 Outstanding Faculty Award, Office of Engagement, University of Virginia.
- 2017 Finalist, SHEAR Dissertation Prize, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic.
- 2017 Finalist, Herman E. Krooss Prize for Best Dissertation in Business History, Business History Conference.
- 2016 Finalist, C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize, Southern Historical Association.

GRANTS

- 2023 University of Virginia, Karsh Institute of Democracy Arts & Sciences Faculty Summer Support Grant.
- 2022 University of Virginia, Greer Research Award, Corcoran Department of History.
- 2022 University of Virginia, College of Arts & Sciences AHSS Research Grant.
- 2021 University of Virginia, College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Summer Stipend.
- 2020 University of Virginia, College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Summer Stipend.
- 2018 University of Virginia, Pavilion Seminar Course Grant.
- 2018 University of Virginia, College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Summer Stipend.
- 2017 University of Virginia, Page-Barbour Fund Award, Conference: "To Joy: A Symposium on Black Feminist Histories."
- 2017 University of Virginia, College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Summer Stipend.
- 2014 Program in American Studies, Summer Research Prize, Princeton University.
- 2014 Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. Travel Grant, Business History Conference.
- 2013 Center for African American Studies Travel Grant, Princeton University.
- 2013 Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. Travel Grant, Business History Conference.
- 2012 Center for African American Studies, Dissertation Research Grant, Princeton University.
- 2011 Center for African American Studies, Dissertation Research Grant, Princeton University.

2009 Program in American Studies, Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Prize, Princeton University.

2009 Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Summer Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Princeton University.

INVITED TALKS

2024 “Capitalism and Slavery in South Carolina,” Modjeska Simkins School for Human Rights (Virtual).

2024 “The History of Slavery in New England,” Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT (virtual).

2024 “Democracy, African American Women, and the Law,” The Links Inc., Charlottesville, VA.

2023 ““The Failed Economic Promise of Freedom in Reconstruction America,” University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

2023 “‘A Bank of Our Own’: The Freedman’s Bank and the Challenges of Economic Equality in Reconstruction America,” Iberia African American Historical Society (Virtual).

2023 “The Failed Economic Promise of Freedom in Reconstruction America,” History of Value in Nineteenth-Century America, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

2022 “Democracy, African American Women, and the Law,” The Links Inc., Charlottesville, VA.

2022 “Slavery, Capitalism, and Empire,” Conversations in Black Freedom Studies, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Virtual).

2022 “Lives of the Unfree: Activism and Survival,” Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville, VA.

2022 “Capitalism and Slavery in Colonial South Carolina,” Modjeska Simkins School for Human Rights (Virtual).

2022 “Slavery’s Capitalism in the Making of 19th-Century America,” University of North Texas Black History Month Lecture Series (Virtual).

2022 “Slavery, Race, and Capitalism in the Antebellum United States,” University of North Carolina – Charlotte, Capitalism Studies Seminar (Virtual).

2021 “The History of Voting Rights in America,” Bechtel Global Corporation (Virtual).

2021 “The Economy of the Freedman,” University of Iowa-College of Law (Virtual).

2021 “Slavery’s Capitalism and the Fraught Promise of Liberty in Revolutionary America,” Inquire Capitalism Research-In-Progress Luncheon, University of Florida Department of History (Virtual).

- 2021 “Juneteenth: A History,” Bechtel Global Corporation (Virtual).
- 2021 “Unfree Markets: The Slaves’ Economy and the Rise of Capitalism in South Carolina,” University of Oxford Early American Republic Seminar, University of Oxford (Virtual).
- 2021 “Capitalism, the Racial-Wealth Gap, and the Afterlife of American Slavery,” University of New Hampshire Lecture Series on “Confronting the Racial Wealth Gap,” (Virtual).
- 2021 “Capitalism in the Economic Lives of Enslaved People,” Alexandrian Society, Virginia Commonwealth University (Virtual).
- 2021 “Race and the Capitalist History of America’s Universities,” Drexel University (Virtual).
- 2020 “Race and Inequality in America,” New Canaan Library, New Canaan, CT (virtual).
- 2020 “The History of Slavery in New England,” New Canaan Library, New Canaan, CT (virtual).
- 2020 “Money, Capital, and Slavery in America,” Midland School, Los Olivos, CA.
- 2018 “The Slaves’ Economy in Capitalist Perspective,” University of Delaware History Workshop.
- 2017 “Slavery, Cotton, and the Slaves’ Economy in the Antebellum South,” University of North Carolina, Charlotte.
- 2017 “Carry on a Traffic with the Negroes”: The Politics and Legalities of the Slaves’ Economy in Late-Antebellum South Carolina,” University of Maryland Early American Seminar Series.
- 2017 “‘Felonious Transactions’: Legal Culture and Business Practices of Slave Economies in South Carolina, 1787-1860,” Herman E. Krooss Dissertation Prize Panel, Business History Conference.
- 2016 “The Law of Slave Economies in Antebellum South Carolina,” Harvard University-Brown University Comparative Slavery Working Group, “Slaves and the Law: Comparative Questions and Approaches,” Brown University.
- 2016 “The Trade Between Bond and Free”: The Slaves’ Economy and Plantation Profitability in Antebellum South Carolina,” McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2015 “Roundtable in Honor of Richard Dunn,” McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2015 “Crimes of Economy: Slave Economies and the Legal Culture of Early-Nineteenth Century South Carolina,” 19th-Century History Workshop and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University.

2014 "Racial Competition in the Charleston Labor Marketplace, 1790-1820," Race, Across Space and Time Mellon-Sawyer Symposium, University of Pennsylvania.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA TALKS AND LECTURES

- 2022 "Race and Religion in the Anthropocene," Religion, Secularity, and Public Life After Charlottesville, University of Virginia.
- 2022 "Slavery's Expansion in the Jeffersonian Imagination," Summer Jefferson Symposium, University of Virginia.
- 2022 "The Freedman's Bank and the Challenges of Black Economic Equality in Reconstruction America," Corcoran Department of History Works-in-Progress Colloquium.
- 2021 "Unfree Markets: The Slaves' Economy and the Rise of Capitalism in South Carolina," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Virginia.
- 2021 "'Unfree Markets: The Slaves' Economy and the Rise of Capitalism in South Carolina,'" Early America Seminar/Civil War Seminar.
- 2021 "Race and Capitalism in American Society," Anti-Racism Workshop, University of Virginia Multicultural Student Services (Virtual).
- 2021 "The Evolving Language of Slavery and Race in American History (and Historiography)," University of Virginia Library (Virtual).
- 2020 "Thomas Jefferson and William Short: The Politics of African-American Property Ownership as Freedom," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Virginia (virtual).
- 2020 "Slavery and Capitalism in Modern Perspective," The Virginia Club of New York (virtual).
- 2020 "Enslaved on Grounds: Slavery at the University of Virginia," Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA.
- 2020 "Jefferson, Land, and Liberty," Summer Jefferson Symposium, University of Virginia (virtual).
- 2019 "Violence, Accounting, and Slaves with Money in South Carolina," University of Virginia, Movement and Directions in the History of Capitalism Workshop.
- 2017 "Properties of Property," Political Thinking at the Margins Conference, University of Virginia.
- 2016 "Negroes Publicly Cabaling in the Streets': Law, Regulation, and the Slaves' Economy in Colonial South Carolina," Early America Seminar, University of Virginia.

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “Mistrust, Gilded Age Corruption, and the Failure of the Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company,” Business History Conference, Providence, RI.
- 2024 “Black Childhoods, Intellectual History & Repair: A Discussion,” African American Intellectual History Society Annual Conference, Charlottesville, VA.
- 2024 “Black Majority in the Age of Black Lives Matter,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2023 “Authors Meet Readers: Property, Civil Rights, and Power in the Nineteenth Century,” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2022 “Reinventing Sources: Using Legal Sources,” Business History Conference Mid-Year Meeting (Virtual).
- 2021 “‘The Thrift of the Colored People’: The Freedman’s Bank and the Challenges of Black Economic Equality During Reconstruction,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting (Virtual).
- 2018 “Enslaved Women, Money, and the Law in Antebellum South Carolina,” Society for the Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 2017 “Slave Economies in the Rhetoric of Plantation Capitalism in South Carolina, 1830–1860,” Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX.
- 2016 “Black Markets: The Slaves’ Economy and Plantation Capitalism in South Carolina, 1820-1860,” Histories of Capitalism, 2.0, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

CONFERENCE PANEL MODERATOR

- 2022 “The Business of Slavery,” Business History Conference (Virtual).
- 2021 “Perspectives on Purchasing Freedom,” Society for Historians of the Early Republic Annual Meeting (Virtual).
- 2021 “Neglected History: Lives of Enslaved Laborers on the Monticello, Montpelier and Highland Plantations,” Scottsville Library (Virtual).
- 2020 “Slavery on the Economic and Legal Fringes of 19th-Century America,” Business History Conference, Charlotte, NC.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

- 2023 “Save the Small Sums,” With Good Reason, NPR.
- 2021 Panelist, “Lincoln’s Dilemma,” Apple TV+.
- 2021 Interview on “New Books Network: African American Studies.”

- 2020 Panelist, “Access to Wealth: Challenging Perceptions” on “Racism: Challenging Perceptions,” Virginia Public Media/PBS.
- 2019 Interview on “History vs. Podcast,” Mental Floss.
- 2018 Interview on “Lucy Worsley: America’s Biggest Fibs,” BBC.
- 2017 Interview on “Truth, Power, and Politics with Neal Conan.”

TEACHING PORTFOLIO

University of Virginia

African American Women’s History
 African American History to 1865
 African American History to 1877 (graduate)
 American Slavery
 American Slavery and the Law
 Capitalism and Slavery (undergraduate and graduate)
 Inequality in America

Princeton University

Representing American Slavery

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Scholarly Organizations

- 2023- Member, Committee on Minorities, Southern Historical Association.
- 2023- Chair, DEI Committee, Business History Conference.
- 2022-23 2023 Annual Meeting Program Committee, Southern Historical Association.
- 2022- Advisory Board Member, John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History, University of Virginia.
- 2021-22 Program Committee, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR).
- 2021-24 Trustee, Business History Conference.
- 2021-24 K. Austin Kerr Prize Committee Member, Business History Conference.
- 2019-22 Trustee, Midland School.

Academic Journals

- 2023- Editorial Board Member, *The Journal of the Civil War Era*.
- 2023- Editorial Board Member, *Enterprise & Society: The International Journal of Business History*.

Peer Reviewer

- 2024 Book Manuscript Reviewer, Palgrave MacMillian.
- 2023 Article Reviewer, *LABOR: Studies in Working-Class History*.
- 2022 Article Reviewer, *Journal of Women's History*.
- 2022 Article Reviewer, *Journal of the Civil War Era*.
- 2022 Fellowship Reviewer, Chateaubriand Fellowship Program, French Embassy in the United States.
- 2022 Manuscript Reviewer, University of Virginia Press.
- 2021 Hench Postdoctoral Colloquium Manuscript Reviewer, American Antiquarian Society.
- 2021 Manuscript Reviewer, University of Chicago Press.
- 2021 External Honors Examiner, Department of History, Swarthmore College.
- 2019 Manuscript Reviewer, Cambridge University Press.
- 2017 Article Reviewer, *The William & Mary Quarterly*.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2021-22 Faculty Search Committee Member, History of Africa to 1900.
- 2020- Faculty Advisor, Bridge to the Doctorate Program.
- 2017-18 Faculty Search Committee Member, Modern Europe.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2023-26 Editorial Board Member, University of Virginia Press.
- 2022- Consulting Historian, "Modeling a Racial Caste System: Algorithmic Exposure of Virginia's Jim Crow Laws."
- 2020 Mellon Humanities Fellowship, Institute of the Humanities and Global Culture, Selection Committee Member.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021-22 Consulting Historian, USS Constitution Museum.
- 2015 - 16 National History Center, Program Coordinator – Historians on the Hill, Washington, DC.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Proficient)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Business History Conference
Organization of American Historians
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
Southern Historical Association