

Bethany Bell

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(857) 278-9857

RESEARCH INTERESTS

African American History, 19th Century U.S., U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction, Slavery and Emancipation in the Atlantic World, U.S. South, Race and Space, The Built Environment, Historical Memory

EDUCATION

2027 **University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**
Ph.D., History
Graduate Certificate, Digital Humanities

2024 **University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**
M.A., History

Thesis: [*Dismantling the Master's House: How Freedom Seekers Claimed and Reshaped the Built Environment During the U.S. Civil War, 1861-1865*](#)

Advisors: Elizabeth Varon, Justene Hill Edwards

2016 **Boston University, Boston, MA**
M.A., Global Development Policy
Graduate Certificate, African Studies

2014 **University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR**
B.A., International Studies

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Digital Publications

2024 [*Fragments of Freedom in the Fine Print*](#), Ancestry.com, June 11, 2024

2023 [*Rhiannon Giddens' "Build A House": Homeplace Making in Black Memory and Imagination Part 2*](#), American Historical Association, August 24, 2023

2023 [*Beyoncé's "Formation": Homeplace Making in Black Memory and Imagination Part 1*](#), American Historical Association, July 26, 2023

- 2023 ["Florida's rejection of an AP course is the latest salvo in a very old war"](#),
The Washington Post
- 2022 ["In Their Own Words: Black Pioneers from UVA's North Grounds to the Pacific Northwest"](#), *Race and Slavery at UVA's North Grounds*

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 UVA AHSS Summer Research Fellowship
- 2024 UVA Department of History Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2024 Vernacular Architecture Forum Simpson Presenter Fellowship
- 2024 Dana White Fellowship, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University
- 2024 UVA Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Council Summer Research Grant

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Panels Chaired or Organized

- 2023 Organizer | *Beauty from Ashes: Black People and Radical Space Making during the Civil War and Reconstruction*
Association for the Study of African American Life and History (Jacksonville, FL), September 20-24

Papers Presented

- 2023 Presenter | *Dismantling the Master's House: How Freedom Seekers Reshaped the Built Environment During the U.S. Civil War, 1861-1865*, Association for the Study of African American Life and History (Jacksonville, FL), September 20-24
- 2024 Presenter | *Black Southerners Shaping and Claiming Space during the U.S. Civil War*, University of Memphis Graduate Association of African American History (Memphis, TN), February 15-16

**Awarded Third Place, Memphis State Eight Paper Prize*

Workshops/Roundtable Sessions

- 2023 Presenter | *Charlottesville's Court Square and the Central Virginia Slave Trade, 1831-1865*
Student Showcase: Participating in Democracy, Karsh Institute of Democracy, University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA), October 20
- 2023 Presenter | *Centering the Enslaved in Plantation Narratives*
Public History Symposium by Queen's University Belfast and American University (Washington, DC), October 3

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2023 - 2024 [The Memory Project](#), Karsh Institute for Democracy, University of Virginia
- 2023 - 2024 Archival research on Black land ownership in Reconstruction-era Cumberland County, Virginia
Dr. Lisa Goff (UVA) and Justin Reid (Griffin Blvd Archives),

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Sep - Dec 2015

Boston University; Boston, MA

- Led three weekly discussion sections for IR/GE 304: Environmentally Sustainable Development
- Collaborated with instructor to establish goals and monitor students' progress
- Integrated supplemental learning opportunities into the course discussions
- Provided one-on-one instruction during 10 office hours per week
- Reviewed, graded, and provided feedback for over 300 student assignments
- Maintained timely communication with more than 40 undergraduate students over the course of the semester

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Manager, Early Learning Innovation

June 2020 - Aug 2022

Acelero Learning (New York, NY); Remote

- Developed and managed work plans, timelines, and resources for innovative project re-imagining birth to five curriculum
- Developed, implemented, and managed virtual learning content for 5000+ Head Start students
- Created and conducted online teacher training for more than 300 Head Start teachers

Curriculum Associate

Apr 2020 - June 2020

Acelero Learning (New York, NY); Remote

- Compiled, created, and edited web-based educational content impacting 5000+ Head Start students across the country
- Collaborated with Senior VP to improve project processes and consistently meet deadlines

High School English Teacher

Sep 2018 - Mar 2020

U.S. Peace Corps; Eastern Province, Rwanda

- Taught English to more than 500 7th- and 8th-grade students in a rural community with class sizes ranging from 60-75 students
- Wrote think pieces for monthly volunteer and staff newsletter
- Effectively and professionally communicated in cross-cultural contexts
- Managed communication between 35 volunteers and administrative staff
- Collaborated with teaching staff to write a \$5000 library improvement grant application

Associate Research Analyst

Dec 2017 - May 2018

Calvin Edwards and Company; Atlanta, GA

- Wrote hundreds of survey questions for dozens of programs
- Revised and edited 100+ page research reports
- Compiled quantitative and qualitative data into reports on program impact
- Led recruitment, training, and onboarding of a new staff member

Project Manager, Global English Team

June 2016 - June 2017

Bridge International Academies; Boston, MA

- Managed the development of 30+ printed textbooks from inception to completion
- Formatted and edited 30+ English textbooks averaging 200 pages each
- Developed training manuals and led onboarding for new team members
- Led a series of professional development meetings and workshops for fellows
- Collaborated with numerous teams across sectors, offices, and countries.

Curriculum Writer, Global English Team

Jan 2016 - Apr 2016

Bridge International Academies; Boston, MA

- Wrote over 1,000 teacher guides for use in Ugandan primary schools.
- Outlined, researched, and wrote over 50 lessons in science textbooks for use in Ugandan primary schools.
- Prepared English, Literacy, and Writing content for use in lessons and exams.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Peer Review

2023

Peer Reviewer | *Essays In History*

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENT

University of Virginia

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| 2022-2024 | Secretary, Graduate History Students Association |
| 2023 - Present | Home Places: Mapping Black Virginia Working Group Digital Mapping and Genealogy Subcommittee |

Boston University

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| 2015-2016 | Dean's Ambassador, Pardee School of Global Studies |
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MEDIA COVERAGE

Andrew Ramspacher, "Remarkable' UVA Students Expand Possibilities Through Washington Post Partnership," *UVA Today*, March 13, 2023, <https://news.virginia.edu/content/remarkable-uva-students-expand-possibilities-through-washington-post-partnership>

LANGUAGES

French (Proficient)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)
American Historical Association (AHA)
Vernacular Architectural Forum (VAF)