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## JUSTENE HILL EDWARDS

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Corcoran Department of History  
University of Virginia  
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### CURRENT APPOINTMENT

2016 - **University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**  
Assistant Professor 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.  
**Dissertation:** "Felonious Transactions": Legal Culture and Business Practices  
of Slave Economies in South Carolina, 1787-1860."

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

2008 **Florida International University, Miami, FL**  
*M.A.* in African New World Studies.  
**Master's Thesis:** "Enslaved African Women and the Gendered Landscape  
of Enslaved Labor and Civic Activities in Eighteenth-Century Newport, Rhode Island."

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

2002 **Universitat de les Illes Balears, Palma de Mallorca, Spain**  
Completed a semester of study during the fall of 2002. All coursework was  
completed in Spanish.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

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

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

- 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.

## Works-In-Progress

*The Black Bank: The Freedman's Bank and the Challenges of Black Economic Equality in Reconstruction America*. Book-length monograph on the history of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company. It explores how the bank's short tenure and failure influenced the economic prospects of African Americans during the period of Reconstruction.

"Slavery's Capitalism and the Promise of Liberty," in *Capitalism and the American Revolution*, eds. Tom Cutterham and Katherine Smoak-Radburn. This book chapter examines how enslaved people understood the politics of capitalism and ideas of liberty during the Revolutionary war.

"Slavery and Legal Education at UVA." This book chapter considers the early history of UVA's curriculum and discusses the ways in which slavery was a component of the legal education.

"The Language of Blackness and Racial Identity in American History." This article interrogates the changing landscape of language that people of African descent in the United States, and scholars of the African American experience, have used to discuss Black identity. It considers how scholars and the public have captured the complexities of Blackness—especially at times of heightened racial strife in American society.

## MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

- 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."

## FELLOWSHIPS

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

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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

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.

## INVITED TALKS AND LECTURES

2021 “Juneteenth and the Politics of Race,” Bechtel Global Corporation.

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.

#### UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA INVITED LECTURES

- 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, Charlottesville, VA (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

- 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).
- 2021 “Paternalism, Control, and Capitalism in Antebellum South Carolina,” Business History Conference 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 MODERATOR

- 2021 “The History of Juneteenth,” Jefferson-Madison Regional Library (Virtual).
- 2020 “Slavery on the Economic and Legal Fringes of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America,” Business History Conference, Charlotte, NC.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### 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

## DOCTORAL COMMITTEE SERVICE

- Daniel Sunshine, University of Virginia, In Progress.
- Chloe Porche, University of Virginia, In Progress.
- Jake Calhoun (Advisor), University of Virginia, In Progress.
- Amanda Gibson, College of William & Mary, In Progress.
- Lauren Haumesser, “The Party of Patriarchy: Democratic Gender Politics and the Coming of the Civil War,” University of Virginia, Defended 2018.
- Melissa Gismodi, “The Search for Zion: Rachel and Andrew Jackson,” University of Virginia, Defended 2017.

## MASTER’S THESIS ADVISING

- Michelle Colbert, “A Blight on Our State’: Politics and Place in the Making and Remaking of Georgia’s Stone Mountain,” Department of Architectural History, University of Virginia.

## UNDERGRADUATE THESIS ADVISING

- Rebecca Alemayhu, “Doing the Work: Black Women’s Leadership in Houston’s Civil Right Movement, 1944-1965,” Program in Political and Social Thought, 2021.
- Deanna Knox, “The Life of A Jezebel: Sexual Exploitation of Enslaved Women in the Antebellum South,” Department of History, 2018.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2021- Trustee, Business History Conference.
- 2021- K. Austin Kerr Prize Committee Member, Business History Conference.
- 2021 External Honors Examiner, Department of History, Swarthmore College.
- 2019- Trustee, Midland School.
- 2019 - Book Manuscript Reviewer, Cambridge University Press.
- 2017 Article Reviewer, *The William & Mary Quarterly*.
- 2017 Symposium Co-Organizer, “To ‘Joy: A Symposium on Black Feminist Histories, in Honor of Tera W. Hunter.”

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2020- Faculty Advisor, Bridge to the Doctorate Program.
- 2017-18 University of Virginia, Faculty Search Committee Member, Modern Europe.

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- 2020- Rotunda Advisory Board Member, University of Virginia Press.
- 2020 Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures, Mellon Humanities Fellowship Selection Committee Member.

## **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (Proficient)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Business History Conference  
Organization of American Historians  
Southern Historical Association