

CURRICULUM VITAE
Debbie Z. Harwell, Ph.D.

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University of Houston, SR2, Room 521

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, University of Houston, 2012. Dissertation: "‘Like a long-handled spoon’: How Wednesdays in Mississippi United Women across Regional and Racial Lines."

Ph.D. Student, History, University of Memphis, 2008.

M.A. Women’s Studies, Emphasis on Inequality and Social Policy, University of Memphis, 2007.

Thesis: "Wednesdays in Mississippi: Women as a Catalyst for Change, Summer 1964."

B.A. Speech Communication, *cum laude*, Texas Christian University, 1974.

Additional Training: Digital Story Telling Workshop and Facilitators Workshop, 2010 and 2013.

AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Instructional/Clinical Teaching Excellence Award, University of Houston, 2021.

Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence, Honors College, University of Houston, 2020.

Julia Cherry Spruill Prize, The Southern Association for Women Historians, for the best book on southern women’s history published in 2014, presented November 2015.

John O. King Graduate Student of the Year Award in History, University of Houston, 2012.

Murray Miller Travel Grant – Dissertation Research, 2011.

Murray Miller Travel Grant to Social Science and History Conference, 2009.

Margaret Swett Henson Award, best paper by history graduate student, University of Houston, 2009.

Fellowship/Research Assistantship, Center for Public History, University of Houston, 2009-2012.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Direct REACH student: Harrisburg and Milby: Intertwining Histories, 2023-24.

Direct CITE and Center for Public History Carey C. Shuart undergraduate and graduate interns, 100 Years of Stories: Documenting a Century at the University of Houston, 2020-2024.

Co-direct PURS/REACH students, Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey, 2021-2023.

Direct CITE grant internship with Hurricane Harvey/*Houston History* students, Summer 2020.

Oral History, University of Houston, 2020 to present.

Public History Writing, University of Houston, 2020-present.

Voices from the Storm, University of Houston, Honors College, 2018-2019.

Houston History: Migration and Immigration, Honors College, 2017-2021.

Houston History Since 1836, University of Houston, Honors College, 2012-present.

U.S. History Since 1877, University of Houston, History Dept. and Honors College, 2012-present.

Direct *Houston History* undergraduate and graduate student interns, 2011-present.

Direct Senior Honors Thesis, 2016-2017, 2018, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2023-24.

Introduction to Women’s Studies, University of Memphis, 2006-2008.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Managing Editor/Editor, *Houston History* and www.houstonhistorymagazine.org, published by the Welcome Wilson Houston History Collaborative, Center for Public History, University of Houston, 2009 to present (38 magazines).

Acting Director, UH-Oral History of Houston, Welcome Wilson Houston History Collaborative, Center for Public History, University of Houston, 2016 to present

PRESENTATIONS

- “Agents of Change,” organizer and moderator of panel discussion with Gene Locke, Graciela Saenz and Grace Conroy, University of Houston, MD Anderson Library, September 27, 2023.
- “John Lienhard, An Engine of Our Ingenuity,” organizer and moderator of panel discussion with John Lienhard, Cathy Patterson, Paul Pendergraft, and Mark DiClaudio, Houston Public Media, March 30, 2023.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change, Freedom Summer 1964,” Houston Community College West Campus, March 23, 2023.
- “Latino cARTographies,” organizer and moderator of panel discussion with Pamela Quiroz, Juana Guzman, Mikael Selley, Laura Lopez Cano, and Jesse Sifuentes, The Heritage Society, October 27, 2022.
- “How to Create Meaningful Oral History in Collaboration with Your Community,” workshop with Dr. Todd Romero and Samantah de Leon, Texas Oral History Association, Houston, TX, Sept. 9, 2022.
- “You can’t know where you’re going if you don’t know where you’ve been,” HERE, Honors College, University of Houston, May 16, 2022.
- “Houston Energy in Motion,” Houston Scholars Program, Honors College, University of Houston, October 20, 2021.
- “You can’t know where you’re going if you don’t know where you’ve been,” HTXelerator Leadership Workshop, Houston, Texas, September 11, 2021.
- “Three Cornerstones of Houston History: William S. Holland, Jack Yates High School, and the Turkey Day Classic,” organizer and moderator for panel discussion with members of the Yates High School Class of 1958, Harris County Historical Society, Feb. 9, 2021.
- “Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey Oral History Project,” Texas Oral History Association Conference, virtual meeting, Waco, Texas, September 12, 2020.
- “H₂O: Houston History is Omnipresent,” Post Oak High School, October 10, 2019, Houston, Texas.
- “*Houston History: A Window into Neighborhood Schools*,” Teach for America, Houston, Texas, May 28, 2019.
- “Data Visualization Project - Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey,” Emerging Trends in Educational Technology, University of Houston, May 3, 2019.
- “On the Road to Houston: A Story of Freedom, Agency and Cultural Identity,” African American Library at the Gregory School, Houston, Texas, February 9, 2019.
- “Water, Water Everywhere: A Synopsis of Houston Flooding,” Houston Scholars Program, Honors College, University of Houston, October 26, 2018.
- “Houston History Magazine: Connecting the Local to Global,” Teach for America, Houston, Texas, May 30, 2018.
- “Houston Women, Our Environmental Guardians,” HERE Program Honors College, University of Houston, May 17, 2018.
- “Houston History – A Series of Storms (175 in 180 years),” Post Oak High School, October 2017, Houston, Texas.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change,” History is Lunch, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi, August 16, 2017.
- “Houston’s Third Ward and Teaching in the Context of Local History” Teach for America, Houston, Texas, June 1, 2017.
- “Houston Women at the Heart of Change: A Long, Diverse Civil rights Movement,” HERE Program Honors College, University of Houston, May 16, 2017.
- “How Historians Do History,” Post Oak Montessori High School, Houston Texas, March 24, 2017.

- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change,” National Park Service and Mary McLeod Bethune Council House Book Discussion, Fredrick Douglass House, Washington, D.C., March 16, 2017.
- “Segregated Houston Through the Eyes of Rosalie Taylor,” Texas State Historical Association Conference, Houston, Texas, March 3, 2017.
- “Houston History Magazine: Connecting Local History to the Big Picture,” Teach for America, Houston, Texas, January 11, 2017.
- “Civil Rights History I,” Panel with W. Ralph Eubanks, Crystal R. Sanders, Joseph Rieff, and Jason Morgan Ward, Mississippi Book Festival, Jackson, Mississippi, broadcast on C-SPAN, August 20, 2016.
- “Houston History Magazine: Connecting Local History to the Big Picture,” Texas State Historical Association Conference Exploring Texas History, Houston, Texas, July 26, 2016.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change,” Lone Star History Day, Kingwood, Texas, June 23, 2016.
- “Houston Women at the Heart of Change: A Long, Diverse Civil rights Movement,” HERE Program Honors College, University of Houston, May 25, 2016.
- “Dredged to Excellence: 100 Years on the Houston Ship Channel,” Houston Property Rights Association, Houston, Texas, April 15, 2016.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change,” Lone Star Book Festival, Kingwood, Texas, April 9, 2016.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Opening Dialogues across Race, Region, and Religion Then and Now,” Welcome Wilson Houston History Collaborative Historically Speaking Series, organizer and moderator, University of Houston, March 7, 2016.
- “Houston’s Helping Hand: Remembering Katrina,” Welcome Wilson Houston History Collaborative Historically Speaking Series, organizer and co-moderator with Joseph A. Pratt, University of Houston, October 6, 2015.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Women's Ministry of Presence during Freedom Summer 1964,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Atlanta, Georgia, September 26, 2015.
- “Junior Historians: Detectives on the Case,” Junior Historians conference, Texas State Historical Association, Houston, Texas, March 28, 2015.
- “100 Years on the Houston Ship Channel: Houston History is Global History,” Texas State Historical Association Teacher Workshop, February 12, 2015.
- “Dredged to Excellence: 100 Years on the Houston Ship Channel,” Houston History Association Conference, October 11, 2014.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: White Gloves and Quiet Power as Catalysts for Change,” African American History Month, Baylor University, February 5, 2015.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: ‘Like a Long-handled spoon,’ Uniting Women across Race, Region and Religion,” Campus Diversity Committee, Baylor University, February 5, 2015.
- “Highlighting Local Contributors to African American History,” Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas, July 12, 2014.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi – The Conversation Continues: Local Women’s Activism in the Civil Rights Movement,” Tougaloo College, Jackson, Mississippi, June 27, 2014.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi – The Conversation Continues: Women Agents of Change” Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi, June 24, 2014.
- “Houston History: Why is My Neighborhood Important?” Localizing History Workshop for Houston Independent School District and University of Houston Department of Education, Houston, Texas, June 7, 2014.

- “Women, Religious Identity, and Reform: Wednesdays in Mississippi, A Case Study,” with Holly Cowan Shulman, Jewish Women’s University for a Day, Rice University, Houston, Texas, October 27, 2013.
- “Important Milestones in Houston History,” Post Oak Montessori High School, Houston Texas, September 9, 2013.
- “Houston History: A Walk down Memory Lane, Harris County Historical Society, Houston, Texas, February 5, 2013.
- “Houston History,” Bellaire Historical Society, Bellaire, Texas, November 8, 2012
- “Looking Back to Move Forward: The Origins of WorkingShop,” The John T. Biggers/Carroll Harris Simms Symposium on the Art of the African Diaspora, Inseparable: Art and Architecture, April 14, 2011.
- “An Insider and an Outsider: Jessie Ziegler and Texas Politics in the 1930s,” coauthor with Nancy Beck Young, The East Texas Historical Association Spring Meeting 2010 & West Texas Historical Association 87th Annual Meeting, Ft. Worth, Texas, February 2010.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Women Building Bridges of Understanding, Summer 1964.” Social Science and History Conference, Long Beach, California, November 2009.
- “‘Like a long-handled spoon’: How Wednesdays in Mississippi United Women across Regional and Racial Lines,” Wednesdays Women in Black and White, National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, Tennessee, March 2009.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Women Combating Injustice.” Second Annual Women’s History Month Symposium: “Women Making a Difference,” University of Memphis, Mar. 2008.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Women Building Bridges of Understanding, Summer 1964.” Gandhi-King Peace Conference, Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee, October 2007.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Women as a Catalyst for Change, Summer 1964.” First Annual Women’s History Month Symposium: “Women Making Change,” University of Memphis, March 2007.

PUBLICATIONS

- Wednesdays In Mississippi: Proper Ladies Working for Radical Change, Freedom Summer 1964*, University Press of Mississippi, Fall 2014. Winner 2015 Julia Cherry Spruill Prize for best book in southern women’s history presented by Southern Association for Women Historians.
- “Wednesdays in Mississippi: Uniting Women across Regional and Racial Lines, Summer 1964,” *Journal of Southern History*, August 2010.
- “Presidency and Traditions,” in *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Presidency*, Nancy Beck Young, ed., New York: Facts on File, Forthcoming, 2012.

Book Reviews:

- Western Lands, Western Voices: Essays on Public History in the American West*. Edited by Gregory E. Smoak. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2021).
- Democracy’s Capital: Black Political Power in Washington, D. C., 1960s-1970s* by Lauren Pearlman (University of North Carolina Press, 2019), *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 2021.
- Challenge and Change: Right-Wing Women, Grassroots Activism, and the Baby Boom Generation* by June Melby Benowitz (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2015), *Journal of Southern History*, February 2017.
- Unlikely Dissenters White Southern Women in the Fight for Racial Justice, 1920-1970* by Anne Stefani (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2015), *Journal of Southern History*, November 2016.

Crossing the Line: Women's Interracial Activism in South Carolina during and after World War II by Cherrisse Jones-Branch (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014), *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, July 2014.

Houston History Articles:

- “Twenty Years Discovering the Past at *Houston History Magazine*,” *Houston History* 21, no. 1, Fall 2023.
- “Sue Garrison: The Inspiration Behind Generations of Educators and Leaders,” *Houston History* 19, no. 2, Spring 2022.
- “San José Saints: Treating Patients from head to Toe,” *Houston History* 19, no. 1, Fall 2021, with Grace Conroy and Caitlyn Jones.
- “‘A Love Affair 50 Years and Counting’: OTC’s Economic and Cultural Contributions to Houston,” *Houston History* 16, no. 1, Fall 2018.
- “Air Alliance Houston: Working for clean Air and A Healthy Future,” A Conversation with Bakeyah Nelson and Debbie Z. Harwell,” *Houston History* 15, no. 1, Fall 2017. *Houston History* 12, no. 1, Fall 2014
- “Asian Americans: Expanding Our Horizons,” with Edward. C. M. Chen, *Houston History* 13, no. 1, Fall 2015.
- “Houston Pilots: Guardians of the Waterway,” *Houston History* 12, no. 1, Fall 2014.
- “MacGregor Park, A Southeast Houston Gem and Home to the MacGregor Park Junior Tennis Program,” with Jon Fairchild and Steph McDougal, *Houston History* 11, no. 3, Sum. 2014.
- “In the Service of Their Country: UH Connections,” with Aimee L. Bachari, *Houston History* 11, no 2, Spring 2014.
- “Rockin’ and Boppin’: Record Shops and Radio, 1940s-1960s,” *Houston History* 11, no.1, Fall 2013.
- “The Hall of Honor and the Move to Tier One Athletics,” *Houston History* 10, no.1, Fall 2012.
- “Hiding in Plain Sight: The UH Public Art Collection and Blaffer Museum,” *Houston History* 10, no.1, Fall 2012.
- “Blue Bell: The Cream Rises to the Top,” with Naveen Inampudi, *Houston History* 9, no. 2, Spring 2012.
- “Sonny Look: A Humble Showman,” *Houston History* 9, no. 2, Spring 2012.
- “Tatcho Mindiola, Jr.: A Visionary at the University of Houston,” *Houston History* 9, no. 1, Fall 2011.
- “Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder: Third Ward Art Treasure but a Memory,” *Houston History* v. 8 no. 2, Spring 2011.
- “William S. Holland: A Mighty Lion at Yates High School,” *Houston History* 8 no. 1, Fall 2010.
- “Miller Outdoor Theater . . . a uniquely Houston Experience for 87 Years,” *Houston History* 7 no. 2, Spring 2010.
- “Rodeo Art . . . More than One Way to Show a Cow,” *Houston History* 7 no. 3, Fall 2009.
- “Larry Gatlin: ‘Singing at the World's Biggest Rodeo Show,’” *Houston History* 7 no. 3, Fall 2009.
- “Long Before the Battle of the Sexes, There was Babe: The Babe Didrikson Zaharias Museum,” *Houston History* 6 no. 3, Summer 2009.

Public History Projects:

- “Celebrating a University: 100 Years of Stories,” Public Historians at Work with Mary Manning and Fujio Watanabe, Center for Public History, University of Houston, 2023.
- “Oral History Workshop Lunch and Learn,” Center for Public History, panel with Alex LaRotta and Amantha Rodriguez, University of Houston, April 29, 2022.

“From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter: Houston’s Community Organizing Against Black Racism” Episode 1, interview with Algenita Davis and Gene Locke, Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston, 2020.

“Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey,” website creator and contributor, Center for Public History, University of Houston, 2018-present.

Houston History Magazine Launch Panel Discussions: “Latino cARTographies: Mapping the Present, Past, and Future of Latino Art” (2022); “San José Clinic: Forever Healing” (2022); LGBTQ+ HOU: Bayou City Proud” (2021); “Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey” (2021); “Italians Plant Roots in Houston” (2019); “Latinos in Houston: Trabajando por la familia y comunidad” (2018).

Great Migrations Past and Present, a museum exhibit done with Dr. Irene Guenther and The Heritage Society, Houston, Texas, based on students’ creative projects on the Great Migration and Migration and Immigration to Houston, Summer 2017.

Asian Americans in Houston: A Kaleidoscope of Cultures, a museum exhibit done with The Heritage Society, Houston, Texas, based on magazine’s Fall 2015 edition.

Houston History: Archives, Magazine, Oral History, a display exhibit done with the Houston History Archives in Special Collections, University of Houston, M. D. Anderson Library, to showcase the Welcome Wilson Houston History Collaborative, 2015.

Remembering Camp Logan, video production as part of the exhibit *Postcards from the Trenches: Germans and Americans Visualize the Great War* at The Printing Museum, Houston, Texas, October 2014 to February 2015.

Hermann Park Conservancy: The Early Years, video production for exhibit at Julia Ideson Library, Houston, Public Library, Spring 2014.

“Wednesday in Mississippi: Civil Rights as Women’s Work,” website editor-in-chief, Center for Public History, University of Houston, 2014-present.

Houston History Magazine website, editor, Welcome Wilson Houston History Collaborative, Center for Public History, University of Houston, 2010-present.

SERVICE

Advisory board member for Old, Weird Houston Archival Festival, 2023-present

Member, UH History Department, Graduate Committee, 2022-present

Member, UH History Department, Communications Committee, 2021-2022.

Member, CLASS Academic Honesty Panel, 2019-20.

Member, Latino cARTographies Advisory Committee, UH Center for Mexican American and Latino/a Studies, 2020-present.

Member, 100 Years of Stories: Documenting a Century at the University of Houston Committee and Exhibit Curatorial Committee, Center for Public History, 2020-2023.

Member, UH Center for Public History Steering Committee, 2018-present.

Member, Resilient Houston: Documenting Hurricane Harvey Committee, UH, Center for Public History, 2017-present.

Member, Public History Curriculum Committee, UH Center for Public History, 2014-15.

Chair, Pop-up Museum, HHA Biennial Conference, 2016 and 2018.

Board Member, Houston History Alliance (HHA), 2014-20; Secretary 2019-20.

Oral History Workshops, Post Oak School, Houston, Texas, 2013, 2015-2017.

Consultant, Wednesdays in Mississippi Film Project, 2010-present.

MEMBERSHIPS

Harris County Historical Society
The Heritage Society
National Council on Public History
Southern Association of Women Historians
The Southern Historical Association
Texas Oral History Association