

**NIYA M. BATES**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

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**CURRENT POSITION**

**PhD Candidate**  
Department of History  
Department of African American Studies  
Princeton University  
129 Dickinson Hall  
Princeton, NJ 08544-101

**EDUCATION**

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|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>M.A.</b>        | <b>History, Princeton University</b><br>Major Field: 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century U.S. History<br>Minor Fields: Global Environmental History & Rural U.S. Cultural Landscapes                                       | <b>Sep 2022</b> |
| <b>M.A.</b>        | <b>Architectural History, University of Virginia</b><br>Thesis: “Blurred Lines: African American Community, Memory, and Preservation in the Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District” <a href="#">Full text available online.</a> | <b>May 2015</b> |
| <b>Certificate</b> | <b>Historic Preservation, University of Virginia</b>   | <b>May 2015</b> |
| <b>B.A.</b>        | <b>African American and African Studies, University of Virginia</b><br>Minor: Media Studies  | <b>May 2012</b> |

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books & Chapters**

- 2023 "Monticello is a Black Space" in *Segregation and Resistance in the American Landscape*, Eric Avila and Thaisa Way, editors, Washington DC: Dumbarton Oaks, 2023.
- 2018 Essay Contributor, *Thomas Jefferson's Monticello*, ed. Gaye Wilson and Sharon McElroy. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.), 2018.

**Articles & Essays**

- 2023 *(re)Reflector 01: The Black Press*, Katrina Spencer, ed. *Vinegar Hill Magazine*, March 27, 2023. <https://vinegarhillmagazine.com/rereflector-01-the-black-press/>.
- (re)Reflector 02: A Queen Celebrates Juneteenth and Black Freedom*, Katrina Spencer, ed. *Vinegar Hill Magazine*, May 24, 2023. <https://vinegarhillmagazine.com/rereflector-02-a-queen-celebrates-juneteenth-and-black-freedom/>.
- (re)Reflector 03: Preserving the History of Black Education*, Katrina Spencer, ed. *Vinegar Hill Magazine*, August 15, 2023. <https://vinegarhillmagazine.com/rereflector-03-preserving-the-history-of-black-education/>.
- 2021 Co-authored with Louis Nelson, “Race and Place in United States: Toward Repair,” in *Platform*, April 26, 2021.
- 2016 “Race and Architectural History: An Appeal,” in *Arris: Journal of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 27, 2016.

**National Register Nominations**

- 2020 Niya Bates, Muriel Branch, and Bill Obrochta. “Pine Grove Elementary School” National Register of Historic Places. DHR #024-5082, Cumberland, Va. Listed February 25, 2020..
- 2019 Niya Bates and Rebecca Kinney. “St. John School” National Register of Historic Places. DHR #002-1056, Cobham, Va. Listed January 14, 2019.

- 2015 Niya Bates, William Canup, and Camie Mess. "Buckingham Training School (Ellis Acres Memorial Park)" National Register of Historic Places. DHR #208-5001, Buckingham, Va. Listed February 15, 2015.

## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 Niya Bates, Jordy Yager, and Elizabeth Klaczynski, *Pride Overcomes Prejudice, Part II*, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
- 2019 Niya Bates, Christa Dierksheide, Mary Mason Williams, Brandon Dillard, and Emilie Johnson, *Monticello and the Legacies of Slavery* [traveling exhibition], Thomas Jefferson Foundation.
- 2018 Niya Bates, Christa Dierksheide, and Emilie Johnson, *Getting Word* Oral History Project [permanent exhibition], Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

## CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, & COLLOQUIA

- 2023 Panelist  
Panelist, "Honoring Monticello's Enslaved Community: From Getting Word to Sharing Stories," with Andrew Davenport, Peter Cook, and Thomas Woltz, African American Association of Museum Annual Conference. Nashville, TN. 11/27/2023.
- 2022 "Art and the Archive" invited lecture with Chet'la Sebree for Minor Cosmopolitanism Assembly. Berlin. 11/11/2022.
- 2020 "Working with Descendant Communities at Sites of Slavery," working group Co-Facilitator with Hannah Scruggs and Kate Schoen, National Council for Public History Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA. March 2020.
- 2019 "Getting Word: Descendant Engagement and Interpreting Slavery at Monticello," Keynote lecture, York University's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Public History Symposium: Access and Inclusion in Historic House Museums. Toronto, ON. 11/8/2019
- "Getting Word African American Oral History Project," Keynote panel with Gayle Jessup White, Andrew Davenport, and Christa Dierksheide. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eric Williams' Capitalism and Slavery conference. Liverpool, UK. 11/2/2019.
- Panelist, "Monticello: Archaeology and Narratives of Landscapes of Enslavement," Interpreting Landscapes of Enslavement colloquium, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections, Washington, D.C. 10/25/2019
- "Art of Interpretation" invited lecture with Chet'la Sebree for African American Worldmaking in the Long 19<sup>th</sup> Century. University of Potsdam, Germany. 10/11/2019.
- "Erasing Silences: Sally Hemings Monticello," panel with Gary Sandling, Emilie Johnson, and Geneviève Angio-Morneau. Association for State and Local History Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. 8/30/2019.
- 2018 "Melancholy Circumstance": The Short Life of James Hemings and Navigating Blackness in Early America," paper presentation for the European Early American Studies Association annual conference. King's College London. 12/15/2018.
- "Reclaiming Monticello," paper for Reclaiming Our Ancestors: Community Conversations about Racial Justice and Public History. University of Buffalo. 10/20/2018.
- "Engaging Descendant Communities," with Hannah Scruggs, Justin Reid. African American Association of Museums conference. Hampton, VA. 8/9/2018
- 2017 "Black Monticello: Reclaiming Spaces and Narratives of the Enslaved Through Archaeology," Keynote speaker with Jobie Hill. Archeological Society of Virginia Annual Conference, Natural Bridge, VA, October 2017.
- "Recontextualizing Black Landscapes," with Jobie Hill, Justin Reid, Justin Sarafin, and Jennifer Reut. Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, Lynchburg, VA, October 2017

## INVITED TALKS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- 2022 Member, National Design Congress, National Memorial for the Underground Railroad, hosted by Voices Underground, Lincoln University, and Nelson Byrd Woltz Architects, Chester County, PA. October 2022.
- 2020 Panelist, “Interpreting Slavery at Monticello with Niya Bates, Gayle Jessup White, and Brandon Dillard,” Monticello Live, Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Charlottesville, Va. 6/17/2020
- “Interpreting Slavery at Monticello: Changing the Narrative Through Oral History,” invited talk for Dumbarton Oaks Garden & Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop through the Mellon Urban Landscape Studies Initiative. 06/02/2020.
- Instructor: Slavery, “Embracing Our Narratives” Teacher Training Workshop for the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center. Charlottesville. 06/01/2020.
- “Monticello Live with Niya Bates”, Thomas Jefferson Foundation. Charlottesville, VA. 4/22/2020.
- “Historic Preservation as Reparations,” invited lecture for ManifestA at the University of Virginia. 4/10/2020.
- 2019 “Buckingham Training School and Historic Preservation,” guest lecture for Public History Seminar at University of Virginia. Charlottesville, Va. 9/30/2019.
- CreativeMornings Charlottesville: Preserve, invited lecture, Fralin Museum of Art, 5/10/2019.
- “Getting Word: Using Oral History and Plantation Records at Monticello” invited lecture for the Family History Center at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Washington, D.C. 4/27/2019.
- “The Quintessential Question: Slavery at Jefferson’s Monticello,” guest lecture for Investigating and Documenting Hidden Landscapes of Slavery, Rutgers University. 4/9/2019.
- 2018 “Monticello to Main St: Interpreting Slavery at Monticello,” guest lecture Hands on Public History, University of Virginia. 9/19/2018.
- “#MWF Live: Promoting the Rights of Marginalized People,” panel moderator for President Precinct’s Mandela Washington Fellows Live, Young African Leadership Initiative. Charlottesville, VA. 7/10/2018.
- “Interpreting Slavery at Monticello,” invited faculty, Summer Jefferson Symposium, UVA Lifetime Learning, 6/21-24/2018.
- “Getting Word African American Families of Monticello,” invited talk for the Central Virginia History Researchers Group. 4/10/2018.
- “Slavery at Monticello,” guest lecture for Thomas Jefferson’s Architecture, University of Virginia. 3/20/2018
- “Those Who Labor”: Enslaved Craftsmen and the Making of Monticello,” invited lecture for New Discoveries of Thomas Jefferson’s Architecture and Design symposium. University of VA. 3/16/2018.
- 2017 “*Getting Word* Oral History Project at Monticello,” invited lecture for UVA Reflection Conversation On-Grounds Teach-In, University of Virginia. 8/12/2017.
- “#MWF Live: Empowering and Engaging Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa,” panel moderator for President Precinct’s Mandela Washington Fellows Live, Young African Leadership Initiative. Charlottesville, VA. 7/7/2017.
- “Monticello and Difficult History,” invited talk with Brandon Dillard for the Mandela Washington Fellows at the Young African Leaders Initiative. Charlottesville, Va. 7/3/2017.
- “Monticello to Main St: Slavery at Monticello,” guest lecture for 19<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture, University of Virginia. March 2017.
- “Monticello to Main St: Transforming the Narrative for Today’s World,” guest lecture for Hands on Public History, University of Virginia. 3/22/2017

“Debunking Myths: Sally Hemings An American Love Story,” post-film panelist with Gayle Jessup White for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Maupintown Film Festival. 7/14/2017.

“Slavery at Monticello,” invited talk for The Little Keswick School. 2/24/2017.

2016 “Jefferson’s Monticello: A Paradoxical Landscape,” invited lecture for 19<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture, University of Virginia. 10/5/2016.

### Museum Trainings

Slavery at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello

Interpreting Slavery at Monticello

The Life of Sally Hemings

*Getting Word: Legacies of Slavery at Monticello Using Monticello’s Slave Narratives on Tour Interpreting Slavery for Children and Families*

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Thomas Jefferson Foundation	Senior Fellow of African American History	August 2020 – Present
	Director of African American History and Getting Word African American Oral History Project	May 2019 – July 2020
	Public Historian of Slavery and African American Life	June 2015 – June 2019
The Montpelier Foundation	Contract Architectural Historian	June 2015 – June 2016

### ACADEMIC TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2013 – 2015 Research Assistant and Grader, Black Fire Project UVA, Claudrena Harold.

2013 – 2015 Research Assistant, *Architecture and Empire in Jamaica*, Louis Nelson  
Research in “British Legacies of Slave-Ownership” Database hosted by UCL

### MEDIA

2023 Mathews, Channing. “(Re)Living Black Histories with Niya Bates.” *Vinegar Hill Magazine*, February 24, 2023. <https://vinegarhillmagazine.com/reliving-black-histories-with-niya-bates/>.

2022 Contributor, *The Lives Between the Lines*, Produced and Directed by Erik Duda. Charlottesville: Documentary Film. 2022.

2021 Armus, Teo. “Robert E. Lee Statue Removed in Charlottesville; It Had Become Focal Point of Deadly 2017 Rally.” *Washington Post*, July 11, 2021. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/charlottesville-robert-e-lee-statue-removed/2021/07/10/dbf689c4-df4e-11eb-ae31-6b7c5c34f0d6\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/charlottesville-robert-e-lee-statue-removed/2021/07/10/dbf689c4-df4e-11eb-ae31-6b7c5c34f0d6_story.html).

“Charlottesville Removes Confederate Statues,” Equal Justice Initiative, 07/13/2021.

“Universities, the Enslaved, and Repairing Damage,” interview with Jahd Khalil, Radio IQ, WVTF, 3/18/2021.

2020 “Our Founding Chefs,” interview with Stephen Satterfield for *High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America*, S1 E3. Netflix. 2020. <https://www.netflix.com/title/81034518>

“Descendants of people enslaved at Monticello work to reconnect with their families,” interview with Ben Hitchcock, *C-Ville Weekly*, 1/17/2020.

“Episode #1.2,” *Monty Don’s American Gardens*, S1 E2. BBC Two. January 2020.

2019 “African American Worldmaking in the Long Nineteenth Century,” interview with

Yasmin Künze & Verena Adamik, *Talking American Studies*. Podcast audio, 11/1/2019.

“Ta-Nehisi Coates: The Water Dancer,” interview with Ta-Nehisi Coates for *Oprah’s Book Club*, S1 E1. Apple Tv+ video. 11/1/2019. <https://apple.co/2QRYsKC>

“The Enslaved & the Virginia Freedom Seekers,” interview with Tanner Latham. *Following Harriet*. Podcast audio. 2019. <https://www.virginia.org/Harriet>

“When Black Chefs Created Plantation Food,” interview with Dan Pashman, *The Sporkful with Dan Pashman*. Podcast audio. 10/21/2019. <http://bit.ly/37F350F>

“The Complicated Business of Plantation Tourism,” interview with Joshua Johnson, *NPR’s 1A*, WAMU 88.5, 9/30/2019. <https://n.pr/34qM8VH>

“As plantations talk more honestly about slavery, some visitors are pushing back,” interview with Hannah Knowles, *The Washington Post*, 9/8/2019.

“Barbershop: Reckoning With The History Of Slavery,” interview with Michel Martin, *NPR All Things Considered*, 8/25/2019. <https://n.pr/33l9v1q>

“UVa begins project to identify, contact descendants of slaves,” interview with Ruth Serven Smith, *The Daily Progress*, 7/18/19.

“Two Charlottesville Women on Activist Wall Share Unique Bond,” interview with Madison Jones, *NBC29*, 8/3/2019. “Politics, Public History, and Memory,” interview with J.T. Roane, *Black Perspectives*, 4/17/2019.

2018 “Sally Hemings Remembered at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello,” interview with Geoff Bennett, *NBC Nightly News*, 10/07/2018

“When Slavery Is Erased From Plantations,” interview with Talitha LeFlouria, *The Atlantic*, 9/2/2018.

“Unearthing Sally Hemings’ legacy at Monticello,” interview with Jeffrey Brown, *PBS News Hour*, 8/1/2018.

“Removing the mask: Series unveils racial issues within the community,” *C-Ville Weekly*, 7/3/18.

“New Monticello exhibit takes a closer look at Sally Hemings, slavery and the healing power of truth,” interview with Sophia A. Nelson, *NBC BLK*, 7/1/2018.

“At Monticello, the descendants of slaves bring new understanding to the history of Jefferson’s home,” interview with Karin D. Berry, *ESPN The Undeclared*, 6/22/2018.

“Sally Hemings Descendants Visit New Exhibit: ‘We Knew Our Story Was Real’,” Interview with Hawes Spencer, *NPR*, VPM, 6/21/2018.

“Monticello’s new exhibits tell the stories of all the people who lived there,” interview with Jessica Luck, *C-Ville Weekly*, 6/21/18.

“Monticello Is Done Avoiding Jefferson’s Relationship With Sally Hemings,” interview with Farah Stockman, *The New York Times*, 6/16/2018.

“Untold No More,” interview with Samantha Willis, *Richmond Magazine*, 6/10/2018. “Trip From Charlottesville To Ghana Brings New Insights On Slavery And America,” interview with Jordy Yager, *NPR All Things Considered*. WVTF. 5/31/2018

“New Commissioners Will Focus on Untold Stories of UVA in the Age of Segregation,” Anne E. Bromley, 5/23/2018

- 2017 “To understand the US's complex history with slavery, look to Thomas Jefferson,” interview with David Smith, *The Guardian*, 8/18/2017.
- “In new presidential exhibits, slavery takes center stage,” interview with Alison Thoet, *PBS News Hour*, 3/23/2017.
- “The Lives of Enslaved People at Monticello,” interview with Clay Jenkinson, *The Thomas Jefferson Hour*, 3/23/2017.
- “Monticello restoration aims to tell Jefferson's complete story, slaves and all,” interview with Chip Reid, *CBS Evening News*, 3/7/2017
- “Monticello working to restore Sally Hemings' room, once a men's bathroom,” interview with Lauren Berg, *The Daily Progress*, 2/26/2017.
- “For decades they hid Jefferson’s relationship with her. Now Monticello is making room for Sally Hemings,” interview with Krissah Thompson, *The Washington Post*, 2/19/2019.
- 2016 “Local author spotlights under-the-radar female mathematicians at NASA,” interview with Joshua Adams, *C-Ville Weekly*, 12/23/2016.
- “Descendants of Thomas Jefferson's Slaves Spend the Night at Monticello,” interview with Harry Smith, *NBC Today Show*, New York, NY: NBC Universal, 09/18/2016.
- “New hires look to better tell story of African-American life at Monticello,” interview with Michael Bragg, *The Daily Progress*, WVIR TV, 07/17/2016.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Board Member, Saving Slave Houses Project, Since September 2023
- Member, Advisory Committee for African American Affairs, Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Since December 2022
- Board Member, AMMD Pine Grove Project, Since June 2022
- Founding Co-Chair, Descendants of Enslaved Communities at the University of Virginia, Since 2020
- Member, Cultural Atlas Advisory Group, University of Virginia, Since August 2019
- Board Member, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, Since January 2019
- Member, Presidents Commission on the University in the Age of Segregation, University of Virginia, Since May 2018
- Member, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Since 2016
- Member, African American Association of Museums, Since 2016
- Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Since April 2010
- Board Member, Preservation Piedmont, January 2017 to July 2019
- Member, Landscape Studies Advisory Group, University of Virginia Center for Cultural Landscapes, 2017

#### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 2019 Inside Out Charlottesville: This is What Community Looks Like, included in mural of 120 activists from the local community
- 2017 ASPEN Ideas Institute Festival 1 Scholar

2015 The Faculty Book Award, University of Virginia School of Architecture

**SKILLS LANGUAGES**

English: Native Language

Spanish: Proficient in reading and writing (University of Virginia)

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

19th century U.S. History

20th century U.S. History

African American Studies

Rural U.S. & Cultural Landscapes

Historic Preservation

Global Environmental History