

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

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Chapters

- 2023 "Monticello is a Black Space" in *Segregation and Resistance in the Landscapes of the Americas*, Eric Avila and Thaisa Way, editors, Washington DC: Dumbarton Oaks, 2023.
- 2018 Essay Contributor, *Thomas Jefferson's Monticello*, ed. Gaye Wilson and Sharon McElroy. 2nd 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 & Historic Markers

- 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

- 2024 Co-organizer, "Black Landscapes Workshop," with Hannah Scruggs at Bremo Plantation. Sponsored by Dumbarton Oaks. Fluvanna, Va. 10/10-13/ 2024.
- Panelist, "Mapping Memory: Communing with the Landscape," with Anna Arabindan-Kesson, Joy Banner, and Jo Banner. "Past is Presence: Monument Lab Summit" Annual Symposium. Philadelphia, PA. 7/18/2024.
- Panelist, "Descendant Communities & the Land in Virginia," with Hannah Scruggs, Auriana Woods, and Justin Reid. African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS) Annual Conference. Charlottesville, VA. 3/8/2024.
- 2023 Panelist, "Honoring Monticello's Enslaved Community: From Getting Word to Sharing Stories," with Andrew Davenport, Peter Cook, and Thomas Woltz, African American Association of Museums Annual Conference. Nashville, TN. 8/27/2023.
- Panelist, "Forming Independent Organizations," with James French, Margott Williams, and Lawana Holland-Moore, National Trust for Historic Preservation Social Innovation Lab. Washington, D.C. 3/16-18/2023.
- 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 7th 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. 75th 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 19th 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

2024 “Preserving Rural Black Virginia,” for Mikro Systems Black History Month Programming. 2/21/2024.

2023 Panelist, “Black Wine Ventures in Central Virginia,” with Tasha Durrett and Matt Harmon for Jefferson Madison Regional Library. 3/16/2023

“My Historic Preservation Journey,” for the Building Goodness Foundation International Women’s Day Program. 3/8/2023

“Black History in the Southwest Mountains,” for Piedmont District Baptist Association Black History Program for the Youth. 2/25/2023

“Black History in the Southwest Mountains,” for Grace Episcopal Church and the Keswick Heritage Fund. 2/5/2023

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.

“#MWFLive: 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 19th 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 3rd 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 19th 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

MEDIA

- 2024 Subject matter expert, *Pine Grove: More Than A School*. Produced by Janelle Proulx and Tyler Kirby. Documentary Short. 2024.
- Subject matter expert, "2. Field Pea Soup and The Real Mac 'N' Cheese," *Masterclass Original Series: José Andrés*. S1. E2. Masterclass. 2024 https://www.masterclass.com/classes/field-pea-soup-and-the-real-mac-n-cheese?utm_campaign=Share&utm_medium=Copy&utm_source=episode_page
- 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.
- "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.
- Subject matter expert, "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

Current & Ongoing

- Advisor, Center for Cultural Landscapes at the University of Virginia, Since September 2024
- Board Member, Outsider Preservation Initiative, Since September 2024
- Board Member, Saving Slave Houses Project, Since September 2023
- Member, Advisory Committee for African American Affairs, Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Since December 2022
- Board Member and Founding Co-Chair, Descendants of Enslaved Communities at the University of Virginia, Since 2020
- Board Member, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, Since January 2019
- 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

Previous

- Board Member, AMMD Pine Grove Project, June 2022 – December 2023
- Member, Presidents Commission on the University in the Age of Segregation, University of Virginia, 2018 - 2023
- Board Member, Preservation Piedmont, 2017 to 2019
- Member, Landscape Studies Advisory Group, University of Virginia Center for Cultural Landscapes, 2017

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2024 Junior Fellow, Garden and Landscape Studies. Dumbarton Oaks.
- 2023 Special Scholarship (annual conference), Association of African American Museums and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Nashville, TN.
- 2022 Dissertation Research Fellowship, Sawyer Seminar on “Reimagining the American Landscape: Race and the Future of Public History”, Mellon Foundation and the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia
- 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 and Princeton University)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

U.S. History
African American Studies
Rural U.S. & Cultural Landscapes
Historic Preservation
Global Environmental History