

SIGNE PETERSON FOURMY

Department of History | University of Texas at Austin
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

2022-present **University of Texas at Austin**, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Department of History
2018-2022 **University of Texas at Austin**, Lecturer, Department of History

EDUCATION:

2020 **The University of Texas at Austin**, Doctor of Philosophy, United States History
Dissertation: *They Chose Death Over Slavery: Enslaved Women and Infanticide in the Antebellum South*
Committee: Daina Ramey Berry (chair), Jacqueline Jones, Robert Olwell, Jennifer L. Morgan (NYU), and Paul Finkelman (Gratz College)
2001 **University of Houston Law Center**, Doctor of Jurisprudence
1998 **University of Notre Dame**, Bachelor of Arts, American Studies

DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS:

2020-present **Villanova University**, Director of Research & Analysis, Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery, funded by the National Historical Publications & Records Commission
2022-present **University of Texas at Austin**, Principal Investigator, The Texas Domestic Slave Trade Project, funded by the National Historical Publications & Records Commission-Mellon Planning Grants for Collaborative Digital Editions

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

COURSES TAUGHT:

The University of Texas at Austin, Department of History

Introduction to African American History
Introduction to United States History, 1492-1865
Black Women on Trial
Civil War & Reconstruction
The Domestic Slave Trade
Thinking Like an Historian
United States Constitutional History
History Capstone

Pasadena Independent School District, South Houston Intermediate School

2001-12

Social Studies Teacher

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE:

CONSULTING:

The Texas Domestic Slave Trade Project

2018-2022 Researcher and Consultant for Legal History

Humanities Texas

2019-2022 *Pivotal U.S. Elections Series*, Curriculum Writer and Content Reviewer

2020 *Teaching with Texas Originals*, Curriculum Writer

2020 *Teaching Texas History Using Texas Originals* Webinar, Faculty Presenter

2020 *The Civil War Era Teacher Workshop*, Ft. Worth, Faculty Presenter

2020 *The Civil War Era Teacher Workshop*, Dallas 2016, Faculty Presenter

2012-19 Mentor Teacher, Mentoring Early Career Teachers

2016 *PBS Latino Americans Series*, Curriculum Writer

2013 *America at War*, Content Consultant

Teaching Texas Slavery Project

2019-20 Participating Humanities Master Teacher

Owens-Thomas House and Slave Quarters, Telfair Museums, Savannah, GA

2019 Eighth-Grade Tour Content and Curriculum, Consultant and Reviewer

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

The University of Texas at Austin, Department of History

Spring 2016 Supplemental Instructor, Era of the American Revolution

Fall 2015 Teaching Assistant, United States History, 1865-present

Spring 2015 Teaching Assistant, Intro to African American History

Fall 2014 Teaching Assistant, United States History, 1492-1865

RESEARCH ASSISTANT:

The University of Texas at Austin

2018-20 Ashley D. Farmer, Department of History

2014-20 Daina Ramey Berry, Department of History

2015 Kali N. Gross, Department of African and African Diaspora Studies

DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois

2016 Thomas Foster, Department of History

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS:

EXTERNAL:

- 2021 Richards Civil War Era Center Postdoctoral Scholar, *Finalist*
- 2019 William Nelson Cromwell Foundation Early Career Scholar Fellowship, American Society for Legal History
- 2019 Littleton-Griswold Research Fellowship, American Historical Association
- 2018 Robert Eldridge Seiler Fellowship, Supreme Court of Missouri Historical Society
- 2018 Summer Visiting Research Fellowship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2016 Society of Historians for the Early American Republic Graduate Student Travel Grant

INTERNAL (University of Texas at Austin):

- 2023 Scholarly Activity Grant, Department of History
- 2019 Professional Development Travel Grant, Department of History, UT Austin
- 2019 Doctoral Student Travel Grant, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, UT Austin
- 2017 Dolph Briscoe Center for American History Graduate Fellowship (Year-Long), UT Austin
- 2017 Professional Development Award, Office of Graduate Studies, UT Austin
- 2017 Summer Travel Research Grant, Department of History, UT Austin
- 2016 Research Fellowship (Year-Long), Department of History, UT Austin
- 2015 Travel Research Grant, Department of History, UT Austin
- 2015 Summer Travel Research Grant, Department of History, UT Austin
- 2014 Travel Research Grant, Department of History, UT Austin

PUBLICATIONS:

ARTICLE:

“‘She Had Smothered Her Baby on Purpose’: Enslaved Women and Maternal Resistance,” *Age of Revolutions*, July 2022. <https://ageofrevolutions.com>

Co-Authored with Daina Ramey Berry, “Improper Intimacy: Slavery & Infidelity in Montgomery County, Texas,” *Journal of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society* 10, no. 4 (Summer 2021): 7-21. [https://www.texascourthistory.org/Content/Newsletters/TSCHS%20Summer%202021%20\(3\).pdf](https://www.texascourthistory.org/Content/Newsletters/TSCHS%20Summer%202021%20(3).pdf)

BOOK CHAPTER:

“‘A Mixture of Love and Pain’: Teaching Enslaved Women’s Labor, Motherhood, and Reproductive Resistance,” in *Engaging the African Diaspora in K-12 Education*, Kia L. Caldwell and Emily Chavez, eds. (New York: Peter Lang Publishers, 2020), 29-42.

BOOK REVIEWS:

Book Review, Nikki M. Taylor, *Driven Toward Madness: The Fugitive Slave Margaret Garner and Tragedy on the Ohio*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2016. *Not Even Past*, April 3, 2019.

<https://notevenpast.org/driven-toward-madness-the-fugitive-slave-margaret-garner-and-tragedy-on-the-ohio-by-nikki-m-taylor-2016/>

Book Review, Heather Andrea Williams, *American Slavery: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. H-War, H-Net Reviews. May 2018.

<http://www.hnet.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=44309>

IN PROGRESS:

Article: “‘If She Were Guilty of Giving Birth to a Child and Destroying It’: Age and Mental State as Factors in the Criminal Prosecution of an Enslaved Girl for Infanticide,” expected full rough draft Spring 2023.

Article: “‘Guilty of the Offence Wherewith She Stands Charged’: Enslaved Women Prosecuted for Infanticide in Antebellum Virginia,” expected full draft Spring 2024.

CONFERENCES AND PRE-CIRCULATED PAPERS:

“‘[Y]ou would never see a child from her’: Enslaved Mothers and Infanticide,” Menstruation, Corpses, and Murder Charges: Reproduction and Medical Knowledge in the Nineteenth-Century United States, The Berkshire Conference for Women Historians, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA, June 28-July 2, 2023.

The Last Seen Project: Finding Family After Slavery, Practices of Emancipation Conference, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago, June 18-20, 2022.

“‘To Hide the Shame of Her Daughter’: Examining the Double-Edged Sword of Enslaved Motherhood and Infanticide,” New Perspectives on Motherhood in the Nineteenth-Century US, Southern Association for Women Historians, Lexington, KY, June 9-12, 2022.

“‘Should the slave Lucy die for her offence?’: *Commonwealth of Virginia v. Lucy, a Slave*,” The Lives of the Dead in the Shadow of American Slavery, Organization of American Historians, Boston, MA, March 31-April 3, 2022.

“‘To Hide Her Shame’: Madness, Moral Agency, and Enslaved Motherhood,” pre-circulated paper, University of Texas at Austin, Institute for Historical Studies, New Works in Progress Series, respondent Dr. Sasha Turner, The Johns Hopkins University, November 2020.

“‘She Bears the Evidence Upon Her Body’: The Production of Evidence of Infanticide through the Physical Examination of Enslaved Women’s Bodies,” pre-circulated paper, University of Texas at Austin, Institute for Historical Studies, New Works in Progress Series, respondent Jacqueline Jones, April 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19).

“‘Entitled to a Vigorous Legal Defense: ‘You Are Invited to Attend and Defend Said Negro Slave if You Think Proper,’” pre-circulated paper, Early Americanists in Texas, Austin, TX, November 2019.

“‘Guilty of the Offence Wherewith She Stands Charged’: Enslaved Women Prosecuted for Infanticide in Antebellum Virginia,” UNTAMED: Women and the Law Symposium, Jamestown, VA, September 2019.

“‘A Hard Kind of Freedom’: Enslaved Women, Reproductive Resistance, and Infanticide,” Reading Bodies, Violence, and Disability: Enslaved Women’s Reproduction, Resistance, and Identity, Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, Long Island, NY, June 2017.

“The Effective Assistance of Counsel? Enslaved Women, Infanticide, and Criminal Prosecution,” Lawyers, Litigants, and the Legal Culture of Slavery in the Upper South, Society for Historians of the Early Republic Conference, New Haven, CT, July 2016.

“‘Moved and Seduced by the Instigation of the Devil’: Enslaved Women and Infanticide in the 19th Century American South,” Claiming Geographies of Freedom: Slavery and Resistance in the Antebellum

South and Southwest, Association for the Study of African American Life and History Centennial Meeting (ASALH), Atlanta, GA, September 2015.

“‘Moved and Seduced by the Instigation of the Devil’: Enslaved Women and Infanticide in the 19th Century American South,” Claiming Geographies of Freedom: Slavery and Resistance in the Antebellum South and Southwest, 22nd Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Conference, Austin, TX, March 2015.

K-12 TEACHER WORKSHOPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

“Teaching with Last Seen Ads,” Pasadena Independent School District, Pasadena, TX, February 20, 2023.

“Finding Family After Slavery: Using Last Seen Ads in the Classroom,” National Council for the Social Studies, Philadelphia, PA, December 2-4, 2022.

“Finding Family After Slavery: Using Last Seen Ads in the Classroom,” Texas Council for the Social Studies, Denton, TX on October 14-15, 2022.

“Finding Family After Slavery: Using Last Seen Ads in the Classroom,” Humanities Texas virtual workshop for teachers, September 28, 2022.

“Difficult Conversations and Teaching about Slavery in the K-12 Classroom, part 2,” School District of Philadelphia, virtual workshop for teachers, September 16, 2022.

“Difficult Conversations and Teaching about Slavery in the K-12 Classroom, part 1,” School District of Philadelphia, virtual workshop for teachers, August 25, 2022.

School District of Philadelphia Principal’s Convening, August 3-4, 2022.

“Teaching with Last Seen Ads,” Texas Council for the Social Studies, Round Rock, TX, November 11-12, 2021.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS:

Civil Rights and Wrongs, Zinn Education Project and Teaching Reconstruction, KOOP 91.7FM, Austin’s Community Radio, February 17, 2022.

Digital Archives and the Last Seen Project, Haddonfield Memorial High School, invited talk, July 26, 2021.

Roundtable with Joe Madison, Juneteenth and the Last Seen Project, Sirius XM, June 17, 2021.

Interview with Chase McCarter, H-CivWar and H-CivWar YouTube channel, April 1, 2021, podcast, <https://networks.h-net.org/node/4113/discussions/7511884/civil-war-era-digital-humanities-interview-series-ep-6> , video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4ja-DnE8bl>

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, “Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery,” February 11, 2021.

New Jersey State Library. “Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery,” December 4, 2020.

INVITED CLASS LECTURES:

“Enslaved Women and Infanticide,” *Gender, Slavery, and Freedom*, invited by Daina Ramey Berry, the University of Texas at Austin, October 2017.

“Strange Fruit: Lynching in Post-Emancipation America,” *Introduction to African American History*, invited by Daina Ramey Berry, the University of Texas at Austin, April 2017.

“African Americans and the American Revolution,” *Era of the American Revolution*, invited by Robert Olwell, the University of Texas at Austin, April 2016.

“Strange Fruit: Spectacle Lynching in America,” *Introduction to African American History*, invited by Daina Ramey Berry, the University of Texas at Austin, October 2015.

“Strange Fruit: Spectacle Lynching in America,” *Introduction to African American History*, invited by Daina Ramey Berry, the University of Texas at Austin, May 2015.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

- 2022-23 Faculty Member, Perry Prize Committee (UT); Faculty Advisor, *Past in Process*, undergraduate online journal
- 2021-22 Faculty Advisor, Young Texas Historians (UT); Faculty Member, Perry Prize Committee (UT)
- 2020 Peer Reviewer, Oxford University Press
- 2018-20 AHA Career Development Student Advisory Committee, UT Austin
- 2016-20 Graduate Student Representative, Southern Association of Women Historians National Membership Committee
- 2015-20 Event Coordinator, UT Austin, Department of History, *The Littlefield Lectures*
- 2018-19 Exam Proctor, University of Texas at Austin Law School
- 2013-14 First Year Graduate Student Representative, UT History Graduate Student Council

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS:

- American Historical Association
- American Society for Legal History
- Association for the Study of African American Life and History
- Association of American University Women
- The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians
- Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
- Southern Association of Women Historians
- The Southern Historical Association