

# SIGNE PETERSON FOURMY

Department of History | University of Texas at Austin  
128 Inner Campus Drive, B7000 | Austin, TX  
713-825-8007 | [signe.fourmy@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:signe.fourmy@austin.utexas.edu)

---

## 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**, Co-Principal Investigator and 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

## COURSES TAUGHT:

### **The University of Texas at Austin, Department of History**

United States Constitutional History	The Domestic Slave Trade
Introduction to U. S. History, 1492-1865	Women, Sexuality, and Gender to 1865
African American History to 1860	Thinking Like an Historian
Introduction to African American History	History Capstone
Civil War & Reconstruction	Black Women on Trial

### **Pasadena Independent School District, South Houston Intermediate School**

2001-12 Social Studies Teacher

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

### **ARTICLES:**

“Last Seen: Teaching about Slavery through the Lens of the Domestic Slave Trade and Family Separation,” *Not Even Past*, September 7, 2023. <https://notevenpast.org/last-seen-teaching-about-slavery-through-the-lens-of-the-domestic-slave-trade-and-family-separation/>

“‘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)

Frances M. Clarke, Sarah Gleeson White, Elizabeth O’Brien Ingleson, Pamela Maddock, Dean J. Kotlowski, Rebecca Jo Plant, and Signe Peterson Fourmy, “New Digital Resources for Teaching in the COVID Age,” *Australasian Journal of American Studies*, vol. 41, no. 1 (July 2022): 59-80.

### **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. <https://networks.h-net.org/node/12840/reviews/1819996/fourmy-williams-american-slavery-very-short-introduction>

### **IN PROGRESS:**

Book Review: Kathleen M. Brown, *Undoing Slavery: Bodies, Race, and Rights in the Age of Abolition* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023) for *William & Mary Quarterly*. Expected submission July 2024.

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 Summer 2024.

“Slavery,” *Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies*, under contract, expected full draft October 2024.

### **CONFERENCES AND PRE-CIRCULATED PAPERS:**

“Teaching Banned History: The Last Seen Project and Collaborating with Educators,” Society of Civil War Historians, Raleigh, NC, June 20-22, 2024.

“Challenging Imperial Structures: Digital History and Collaborative Community-Based Projects,” American Historical Association, San Francisco, California January 4-7, 2024.

“‘[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 Reconstruction with Last Seen Ads,” National Council for History Education, Cleveland, Ohio March 7-8, 2024.

“The Domestic Slave Trade and Family Separation,” National Council for the Social Studies, Nashville, Tennessee, Texas December 1-3, 2023.

“The Domestic Slave Trade and Family Separation,” Texas Council for the Social Studies, Houston, Texas October 13-15, 2023.

“Teaching about Slavery and Family Separation” webinar, School District of Philadelphia, Tune Up Teaching Professional Development series, October 3 and 17, 2023.

“The Domestic Slave Trade, Civil War, and Reconstruction,” Austin Independent School District EDU Personalized Learning Conference, August 6-8, 2023.

“Reconstructing Enslaved Families,” Humanities Texas, Teaching Civil War & Reconstruction Teacher Institute, Houston, TX, June 20-23, 2023.

“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.

“Teaching Texas History Using Texas Originals” webinar, Humanities Texas, May 14, 2020.

“Teaching Slavery,” Humanities Texas, The Civil War Era Teacher Workshop, Ft. Worth, February 5, 2020.

“Teaching Slavery,” Humanities Texas, The Civil War Era Teacher Workshop, Dallas, February 6, 2020.

## **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS:**

Katy High School, History Honors Society, The Importance of History Education, April 25, 2024.

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 Motherhood, Resistance, & the Law,” invited by Shannon Duffy, Texas State University, April 2024.

“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.

## **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

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

## **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

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**

2024 Faculty Advisor, *Past in Progress*, Undergraduate-Student Online History Journal  
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*  
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