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## BRETT V. GADSDEN

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Department of History  
Northwestern University  
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### EDUCATION

#### **Northwestern University, Evanston, IL**

Ph.D. in History, December 2006

M.A. in History, June 1998

#### **University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA**

M.A. in Political Science, September 1996

#### **James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA**

B.S. in Political Science, May 1991

### APPOINTMENTS:

Associate Professor of History, Northwestern University, September 2017 to present

Associate Professor of History, Emory University, August 2014 to August 2017

Associate Professor of African American Studies, Emory University, August 2012 to August 2017

Assistant Professor of African American Studies, Emory University, August 2006 to July 2012

### FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

*Program to Enhance Research and Scholarship (PERS) Grant*, Emory University, April 2016

*Kennedy Research Grant*, The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, November 2012

*Moody Research Grant*, The Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation, October 2012

*National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow*, September 2008-  
August 2009

*Woodruff Discretionary Research Grant*, Emory University, March 2008, December 2008

*James T. McKinstry Heritage and History Award*, Delaware Heritage Commission, Winter 2004

*Predoctoral Fellowship*, Smithsonian Institution, July-October 2004

*Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Research Related to Education*, 2003-2004

*University Scholar*, Northwestern University, 2003-2004

*Littleton-Griswold Research Grant*, American Historical Association, Summer 2003

*Research Grant*, Center for Legal Studies, Northwestern University, Summer 2003

*Graduate Research Grant*, Northwestern University, Spring 2002

*Grant-in-Aid*, Hagley Museum and Library, Fall 2001

*University Fellowship*, Northwestern University, 1997-2001

*Minority Scholar Fellowship*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1993-95

## PUBLICATIONS

### Monographs

*From Protest to Politics: The Making of the Second Black Cabinet, JFK to Nixon* (work in progress)

*Between North and South: Delaware, Desegregation, and the Myth of American Sectionalism* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013)

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“The Country Gains an Able and Devoted Public Servant”: Clifford Alexander and the Origins of Modern African American Executive Authority,” (work in progress)

“The Other Side of the Milliken Coin’: The Promise and Pitfalls of Metropolitan School Desegregation,” *Journal of Urban History*, vol. 36, no. 2 (March 2010), 173-96

“He Said He Wouldn't Help Me Get a Jim Crow Bus’: The Shifting Terms of the Challenge to Segregated Public Schooling, 1950-1954,” *Journal of African American History*, vol. 90, nos. 1-2 (Winter-Spring 2005), 9-28

### Biographical Sketches and Books Reviews

Review of Stephen Haynes, *The Last Segregated Hour: The Memphis Kneel-Ins and the Campaign for Southern Church Desegregation*, *Law and History Review*, vol. 33, no. 1 (February 2015), 259-61

Review of Andrew W. Kahrl, *The Land Was Ours: African American Beaches from Jim Crow to the Sunbelt South*, 11 March 2014, <http://southernspaces.org/2014/race-capitalism-and-rise-and-fall-black-beach-communities#sthash.x9RjF5W6.dpuf>

Review of Carl H. Nightingale, *Segregation, A Global History of Divided Cities*, *Journal of American History*, June 2013

Biographical Sketches: “Ethel Belton,” “Sarah Bulah,” “Littleton Mitchell,” and “Louis Redding,” in Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, eds., *African American National Biography* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008)

Review of Robert J. Cottrol, Raymond T. Diamond, and Leland B. Ware, *Brown v. Board of Education: Caste, Culture, and the Constitution*, *History of Education Quarterly*, vol. 44, no. 3 (Fall 2004), 470-72

Review of Hilary J. Moss, *Schooling Citizens: The Struggle for African American Education in Antebellum America*, *Journal of Southern History*, vol. 77, no. 2 (May 2011), 429-30

### Published Interviews

“Tuskegee Airmen: Brett Gadsden Interviews J. Todd Moye,” *Southern Spaces*, 30 September 2010, <http://www.southernspaces.org/2010/tuskegee-airmen-brett-gadsden-interviews-j-todd-moye>

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Black Freedom Struggles  
Race and American Political Development  
Race and the American Presidency  
The Georgia Civil Rights Cold Cases Project  
History of African Americans Since 1865  
African American Political and Social Thought  
History of African American Education

## **ACADEMIC CONFERENCES**

Moderator, "From Head Shops to Whole Foods: The Rise and Fall of Activist Entrepreneurs," Decatur Book Festival, Decatur, GA, September 2, 2017

"From Protest to Politics: Clifford Alexander and the Making of the Modern Black Executive," Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, April 7-10, 2016

Discussant, "Author Meets Critics: From Power to Prejudice," 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Baltimore, MD, November 14, 2015

Moderator, "Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America," Decatur Book Festival, Decatur, GA, September 5, 2015

"Rethinking Civil Rights Liberalism: The Figurative Use of Place in School Desegregation Movements," 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the British Association for American Studies, Newcastle, England, April 10, 2015

"The Forgotten South: Civil Rights History in Delaware," Decatur Book Festival, Decatur, GA, August 30, 2014

"'For and against Busing': Joseph Biden, Busing, and the Conservative Ascendancy" Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, April 10, 2014

Moderator, "From the Long Movement to the Wide Movement: Queering Histories of the Civil Rights/Black Power Era," Whose Beloved Community?, Atlanta, GA, March 28, 2014

Respondent, "Caribbean Studies, African American Studies, & Transatlantic Studies," "The Trans-Atlantic, the Diaspora, and Africa," 2013 Callaloo Conference, Oxford, UK, November 29, 2013

"The Sectional Imaginary and the History of Education," "History of Education Society Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, November 3, 2013

"Mom, Dad, I'm an English Major: A National Conversation on the Future of Liberal Education," American Association of Colleges and Universities, Atlanta, GA, January 25, 2013

Commentator, "From Civil Rights to the New Right: The Shift of Black Civil Rights Leaders to the Modern Republican Party," Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Mobile, AL, November 3, 2012

"Roundtable: What Difference do Schools Make? Evaluating the Place of Education in Urban History." Biennial Conference, Urban History Association, New York, NY, October 26, 2012

“Democrats, the Conservative Ascendency, and the Backlash Against Civil Rights,” 2012 Organization of American Historians/National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, April 20, 2012

“Geographic Sectionalism and the Black Freedom Struggle,” Southern Labor Studies Association Bi-Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 8, 2011

Chair and Commentator, “Book Spotlight: Freedom Flyers: The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II,” 2010 Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, October 29, 2010

“Rethinking the ‘Border’ Through a Consideration of School Desegregation in Delaware,” Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Raleigh, NC, September 30, 2010

Moderator, “The Double Victory of the Tuskegee Airmen,” AJC Decatur Book Festival, Decatur, GA, September 3, 2010

“Local People, Lawyers, and Evolving Meanings of Equality,” Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Long Beach, CA, November 15, 2009

“Victory Without Triumph: School Desegregation in Delaware,” Fall Fellows Forum, 2009 National Academy of Education Retreat and Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, October 23, 2009

“A Long Litigation Movement: School Desegregation in Delaware,” Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Cincinnati, OH, October 1, 2009

Moderator, “Obama: The Prequel,” Panelists: Joseph Crespino, Devin Fergus, Kent Germany, Decatur Book Festival, Decatur, GA, September 6, 2009

“‘Busing is a Phony Issue’: Joseph Biden and the Liberal Retreat from School Desegregation,” Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India, August 12, 2009

“‘Busing is a Phony Issue’: Joseph Biden and the Liberal Retreat from School Desegregation,” The Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India, August 3, 2009

“State of the Field: School Desegregation and White Flight,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, March 28, 2009

“Author Meets Critics: Kathryn M. Neckerman, *Schools Betrayed: Roots of Failure of Inner-City Education* (University of Chicago Press, 2007),” Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Miami, FL, October 23, 2008

“‘A Northern State with a Southern Exposure’: School Desegregation and the Social Construction of Region in Delaware,” Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, October 11, 2008

“‘The Other Side of *Milliken*’: Metropolitan School Desegregation and the Social Construction of Law and Space,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, January 4, 2008

“School Desegregation in a Metropolitan Context,” Subaltern Citizens and their Histories: Investigations from India and the USA Workshop, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, December 7, 2007

“‘It is Time the Divisive Busing Issue Be Laid to Rest’: Whites’ Rights and Opposition to School Desegregation,” Values and the Constitution, the Constitution and Values, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, September 17, 2007

Moderator, “New Approaches to Southern History,” Panelists: Joseph Crespino, Kevin Kruse, Matthew Lassiter, Decatur Book Festival, Decatur, GA, September 1, 2007

“Victory Without Triumph: Metropolitan Desegregation in Wilmington, Delaware, 1971-1978,” Biennial Conference, Urban History Association, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, October 21, 2006

“Neighborhood Schools, Community Control: Contrasting Investments in Community Across the Color Line,” The Newberry Library Urban History Dissertation Group, Chicago, IL, March 5, 2005

“The Ironies of Reform: Metropolitan Desegregation in Wilmington, Delaware,” National Museum of American History Fellow Colloquium, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, October 26, 2004

“‘Judge and Company’: The Subordination of Popular Interests in *Brown v. Board of Education*,” at Looking Back, Moving Forward: The Unfinished Business of *Brown v. Board of Education*, Hood College, Frederick, MD, March 19, 2004

“‘Judge and Company’: The Subordination of Popular Interests in *Brown v. Board of Education*,” at “Friendly Critic” Session, Annual Conference, History of Education Society, Evanston, IL, November 1, 2003

“‘All We Wanted Was a Bus for the Colored’: The Ironies of School Desegregation in Delaware, 1948-1978,” Fall Fellows' Forum, The Spencer Foundation, Atlanta, GA, October 2-4, 2003

“‘Judge and Company’: The Subordination of Popular Interests in *Brown v. Board of Education*,” at The History and Legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education* in Delaware Conference, Delaware State University, April 10, 2003

“Lifting As We Climb?: Club Women and the Making of an African American Elite,” Gender and Class in Afro-American History, Graduate/Faculty Colloquium, Women's Studies Program, Northwestern University, Fall 1999

## INVITED LECTURES

“Desegregating Delaware’s Schools and the Myth of American Sectionalism,” Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, DE, March 10, 2016

“Delaware State College, Desegregation, and the Long Arc of Racial Reform,” The Civil Rights Movement in Delaware: Its History—Its Legacy, Delaware State University, Dover, DE, October 3, 2014

“*Brown v. Board of Education: The Local Origins of a National Challenge*,” American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, April 23, 2013

“Joseph Biden, the Retreat from School Desegregation, and the Contested Nature of Emancipation,” Emancipation Symposium, Delaware Historical Society, Wilmington, DE, April 6, 2013

“Figuring Delaware in our National History and Challenging Sectional Mythologies,” Emancipation Semester History Workshop, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, February 26, 2013

“Where History and Journalism Meet: The Emory Civil Rights Cold Case Project,” The Institute for Liberal Arts Colloquium Series, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, January 24, 2012

“Where Lies Liberalism?: Joseph Biden and the Liberal Retreat from School Desegregation,” Black History Month Lecture, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, February 16, 2011

“‘Busing is a Phony Issue’: Joseph Biden and the Liberal Retreat from School Desegregation,” Learning the Lessons of America’s Racial Past through History and Literature: A Mini-Symposium, Longwood University, Farmville, VA, February 10, 2009

Commentator, “Discussing Civil Rights,” High Museum of Art Lectures, High Museum, Atlanta, GA, June 12, 2008

“A Case for Integration,” Black History Celebration Lecture, Barry University, Miami, FL, February 29, 2008

“To Segregate is to Stigmatize,” Forum: Desegregation and Affirmative Action: Looking Backward and Looking Forward, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA, February 12, 2008

“New Directions in Civil Rights History,” Social Science Retreat, Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP), Atlanta, GA, January 12, 2007

“Making Civil Rights: The Ironies of School Desegregation in Delaware,” Bringing Scholarship into the Classroom Colloquium, Clayton State University, Morrow, GA, November 13, 2006

## **SERVICE**

### **National**

- Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of American History*, Organization of American Historians (2017 to present)
- Advisory Editor, *American National Biography*, Oxford University Press (2015 to present)
- Fellow, National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education, Philadelphia, PA (2010-2012)
- Vice President, Board of Directors, Decatur Book Festival, Decatur, GA (2012 to present)
- Member, Board of Directors, Decatur Book Festival, Decatur, GA (2009-2012)

### **University**

- Member, Faculty Advisory Committee on Excellence and Diversity (2015 to present)

- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of African American Studies, (2015 to present)
- Co-Director, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Graduate Teaching Fellowship program (2012 to present)
- Member, Conference Steering Committee, Whose Beloved Community?: Black Civil and LGBT Rights Movements, Emory University (February 2013-March 14)
- Member, Commission on the Liberal Arts at Emory University, (2012-13)
- Selection Committee for the Visiting Scholars Program, James Weldon Johnson Institute (2008, 2010)
- College Affirmative Action Committee (2007-8)
- Search Committee, Historian of the Civil Rights Movement, Department of African American Studies (2007-8)

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Historical Association  
Organization of American Historians  
Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
Southern Historical Association