

CYNTHIA M. BLAIR

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2019- Director, African American Cultural Center, UIC
- 2018-2019 Interim Director, African American Cultural Center, UIC
- 2006- Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies and Department of History, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 2012-2014 Interim Head, Department of African American Studies, UIC
- 2008-2012 Associate Head and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of African American Studies, UIC
- 1999-2006 Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies and Department of History, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 1996-1999 Lecturer, Department of African American Studies and Department of History, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 1990-1992 Instructor, Harvard University

EDUCATION

- 1999 Ph.D., Harvard University, History of American Civilization
1989 M.A., Harvard University, History
1986 B.A., University of Michigan, American Culture and English

RESEARCH FIELDS

Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century African American History and Culture; Race and Sexuality; African American Women's History; Race and Urban Life; American Popular Culture.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

“I’ve Got to Make My Livin’”: *Black Women’s Sex Work in Turn-of-the-Century Chicago*, University of Chicago Press, 2010.

Winner of the 2011 American Studies Association Lora Romero First Book Publication Prize

Other Publications

“African American Women’s Sexuality,” Roundtable: *Intimate Matters at Twenty-Five: Reflections on the History of US Sexuality*, *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies*, 35: 1, 2014.

“‘We Must Live Anyhow’: African American Sex Work in Chicago, 1880-1920,” in Eric Arnesen, ed., *The Black Worker: Race, Labor, and Civil Rights since Emancipation*, forthcoming, University of Illinois Press, 2007.

“Prostitution in Chicago,” entry in *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, Janice L. Reiff, editors, University of Chicago Press, 2004.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Book Project: “Looking for ‘Moms’ Mabley: The Lives and Times of a Comic Persona”

Book and Documentary Project: “‘In a Time Like This’: Jamaican Immigrants in Post-War Chicago”

TALKS and PRESENTATIONS

“Staging Resistance: The Comic Strategies of Jackie ‘Moms’ Mabley, Presented at Annual Meeting of Historians of the Twentieth-Century United States, Liverpool John Moores University, UK, June 12-14, 2019.

“Storytelling and African American Women’s Biography,” Presented at Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Sacramento California, April 12, 2018.

“Policing of Black Women in the Urban Sex Trade: Historical Perspectives,” Panel Participant, Police Violence against Women, University of Illinois, Chicago, October 18, 2017.

“She Was Always an Old Woman: Jackie ‘Moms’ Mabley, Comedy, and the Body Politics of Black Women’s Performance in the 1930s,” Presented at Annual Meeting of Historians of the Twentieth-Century United States, University College of Dublin, Ireland, July 18, 2017.

“Race, Gender, Sexuality and Urban Space in the Hull House Maps and Papers Study,” NEH Faculty Seminar, Securing the Public Good, Jane Addams Hull House, University of Illinois, Chicago, November 17, 2016

“The Hidden Geography of African American Migration, Labor and Sexuality: Looking at Hull House Maps,” Invited Speaker, Rethinking Hull House Maps and Papers Public Forum, Jane Addams Hull House, University of Illinois, Chicago, May 19, 2016.

“A Question of Currency: Black Women's Sex Work in the 20th Century,” Invited Speaker, Rutgers University Institute for Research on Women, Poverty and Sexuality Symposium, April 7, 2016.

"The Woman in the Red Dress: Black Women's Bodies in the Work of Archibald Motley," Invited Speaker, Archibald Motley Symposium, Chicago Cultural Center, May, 2015.

"Looking for Moms Mabley," Presented at Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, St. Louis, MO, April 17, 2015.

Respondent, “Fixing *Birth of a Nation*: Hampton Institute, *The New Era* and the Ambiguities of Uplift,” by Allyson Field, Chicago Film Seminar, April 2014.

“The Woman in the Red Dress: Archibald Motley and Black Cultural Modernization in 1920s and ‘30s Chicago,” Invited Speaker, Archibald Motley Symposium, Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, March 2014

“African American Women and Sexuality,” Intimate Matters at 25: Reflections on the History of US Sexuality,” Roundtable at the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, San Francisco, California, April 13, 2013.

“Through the Lens of History, Darkly: The Difficulty of Re-envisioning Black Women’s Sexuality,” Presented at the Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, September 2012.

“‘They Work Hard for the Money’: Black Women’s Labors in the Turn-of-the-Century Sex Economy,” Invited Speaker, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Program in Gender, Race, and History, University of Michigan, April 1, 2010.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2015 Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, UIC

2011 Lora Romero First Book Publication Prize, American Studies Association

2009 Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy Faculty Fellowship, UIC

- 2000 Great Cities Institute Faculty Scholarship, UIC
- 1999 Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy Faculty Fellowship, UIC
- 1995 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Minorities
- 1994 National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Pre-doctoral Fellowship
- 1992 Carter G. Woodson Institute for the Study of African American and African Studies, University of Virginia, Pre-doctoral Fellowship
- 1992 Radcliffe Grant for Graduate Women
- 1991 National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Ten-Week Graduate Student Fellowship
- 1987-1992 Harvard University Fellowship

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Keynote Speaker, UIC Undergraduate Research Forum, April 2022

Teaching and Learning Committee, Department of Black Studies, UIC, 2016-Present

Graduate Advisory Committee, Department of History, UIC, 2020-2021

Co-Principal Investigator, Racialized Body Cluster, Chancellor's Cluster Hiring Initiative, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2011-Present

Graduate College Diversity Awards Committee, Graduate College, UIC, 2017-2020

Faculty Administrator Leadership Program, Office of the Provost and VCAA, Participant, 2019 Illinois Equity in Attainment, UIC Committee, 2018-2019

Executive Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UIC, 2017-2018

Steering Committee, Graduate Concentration in Work, Race, and Gender in the Urban World, Department of History, UIC, 2017-

Graduate Advisory Committee, History Department, UIC, 2016-2017

Co-Chair, Race and Disability Studies Search Committee, UIC, 2014-2015.

Race and Visual Culture Search Committee, UIC, 2013-2014.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member, Lawrence W. Levine Award Committee. Award given for the best book in American Cultural History, Organization of American Historians, 2018-2019.

Member, Mary Jurich Nickliss Award Committee. Award given for most original book in U.S. Women's and/or Gender History, Organization of American Historians, 2016-2017.

Reviewer, Session and Paper Submissions for 2017 Berkshire Conference on Women's History, 2016.

Occasional Manuscript Reviewer, University of North Carolina Press.

Occasional Manuscript Reviewer, University of Minnesota Press.

Occasional Reviewer, Gender and History Journal.

Occasional Reviewer, Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Instructor, Photo-Essay Workshop for Teens, Granville Summer Arts and Literacy Workshop, Granville, Montego Bay, Jamaica, West Indies, July-August 2015, 2016, 2017.

COURSES TAUGHT

Introduction to African American Studies
 African American Urban History
 African American History Survey
 Race and Sexuality in the United States
 History of Sexuality in America
 Blacks in Film
 African American Popular Culture
 The Racialized Body
 Reading Black Women Writing
 Motherhood in Twentieth-Century America

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
 American Studies Association

National Women's Studies Association
Organization of American Historians