

Matthew Delmont

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Employment

Director, School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, Arizona State University,
2017-present

Professor of History, Arizona State University, 2016-present

Associate Professor of History, Arizona State University, 2014-2016

Associate Professor of American Studies, Scripps College, 2012-2014

Assistant Professor of American Studies, Scripps College, 2008-2012
Affiliated faculty of History and Africana Studies

Education

Ph.D., American Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI, 2008

M.A., American Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI, 2004

B.A., Social Studies, *magna cum laude*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2000

Research and Publications

Books

To Live Half American: African Americans at Home and Abroad during World War II (in progress,
awarded Guggenheim Fellowship to support research)

Making Roots: A Nation Captivated (University of California Press, 2016)

Why Busing Failed: Race, Media, and the National Resistance to School Desegregation (University of
California Press, American Crossroads series, 2016)

*The Nicest Kids in Town: American Bandstand, Rock 'n' Roll, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in 1950s
Philadelphia* (University of California Press, American Crossroads series, 2012)

Digital Projects:

“Black Quotidian: Everyday History in African-American Newspapers”: <http://blackquotidian.com/> (over
40,000 page views since January 2016)

Website companion project for *Making Roots*: <http://makingroots.net/> (over 6,000 page views since
August 2016)

Website companion project for *Why Busing Failed*: <http://whybusingfailed.com> (over 15,000 page views since November 2015)

Website companion project for *The Nicest Kids in Town*. Initiated at NEH Digital Humanities Seminar at USC (Summer, 2011): <http://nicestkids.com> (over 60,000 page views since February 2012)

Articles (Peer Reviewed):

“Alex Haley, Storyteller,” *Transitions Magazine*, Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University, Number 122, 2017.

“Television News and the Making of the Boston Busing Crisis,” *Journal of Urban History*, Volume 43, Issue 2, March 2017.

“Buses From Nowhere: Television and Anti-busing Activism in 1970s Urban America,” *Urban History*, Volume 43, Issue 4, November 2016, <http://scalar.usc.edu/anvc/urban-sights-visual-culture-and-urban-history/buses-from-nowhere-television-and-anti-busing-activism-in-1970s-urban-america>

“Dancing Around the ‘Glaring Light of Television’: Black Teen Dance Shows in the South,” *Southern Spaces*, September 2015, <http://www.southernspaces.org/2015/dancing-around-glaring-light-television-black-teen-dance-shows-south>

“Working Towards a Working-Class College: The Long Campaign to Build a Community College in Philadelphia,” *History of Education Quarterly*, Volume 54, Issue 4, November 2014.

“‘Miserable Women on Television’: Irene McCabe, Television News, and Antibusing Politics,” *Camera Obscura: Feminism, Culture, and Media Studies*, Volume 29, Number 3, Fall 2014.

“Drone Encounters: Noor Behram, Omer Fast, and Visual Critiques of Drone Warfare,” *American Quarterly*, Volume 65, No. 1, March 2013.

“They’ll Be Rockin’ on Bandstand, in Philadelphia, PA”: Dick Clark, Georgie Woods, and the Value of Rock ‘n’ Roll,” *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, Volume 24, No. 4, December 2012.

“Making Philadelphia Safe for ‘WFIL-adelphia’: Television, Housing, and Defensive Localism in Postwar Philadelphia,” *Journal of Urban History*, Volume 38, No. 1, January 2012.

“The Plight of the ‘Able Student’: Ruth Wright Hayre and the Struggle for Equality in Philadelphia’s Black High Schools, 1955-1965,” *History of Education Quarterly*, Volume 50, No. 2, May 2010.

“Michael Jackson & Television before *Thriller*” *Journal of Pan-African Studies*, Volume 3, No. 7, March 2010.

“Race to the Top: Marathon Participation, Leisure Credentials, and Meritocracy,” *Columbia Journal of American Studies*, Volume 7, No. 1 2006.

Edited Special Issues (Peer Reviewed):

“Rethinking the Boston Busing Crisis,” co-edited with Jeanne Theoharis, special issue of *Journal of Urban History*, Volume 43, Issue 2, March 2017.

“Urban Sights: Urban History and Visual Culture,” solo guest editor, online special issue of *Urban History*, Volume 43, Issue 4, November 2016, <http://scalar.usc.edu/anvc/urban-sights-visual-culture-and-urban-history/index>

“Sonic Visions: Popular Music on Television,” co-edited with Murray Forman, special issue of *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, Volume 25, No. 3, September 2013.

“Visual Culture and the War on Terror,” solo guest editor, forum in *American Quarterly*, Volume 65, No. 1, March 2013.

Chapters & Research Notes:

“Black Quotidian: A Digital Humanities Approach to Teaching African American History,” *Kalfou*, Volume 2, No. 2, Fall 2016.

“Music on Television,” *Sage Handbook on Television Studies* (London: Sage, 2014), pp. 287-296.

Newspaper/Web Articles & Op-Eds:

“Why America Forgot About ‘Roots,’” *The New York Times* op-ed, May 27, 2016:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/28/opinion/why-america-forgot-about-roots.html>

“Rethinking ‘Busing’ in Boston,” O Say Can You See? (Smithsonian National Museum of American History), December 27, 2016: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/rethinking-busing-boston>

“‘Does It Count?’ Scholarly Communication and African American Digital History,” *Perspectives on History*, Newsmagazine of the American Historical Association, November 2016:

<https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/november-2016/does-it-count-scholarly-communication-and-african-american-digital-history>

“*Hairspray*’s Revealing Portrayal of Racism in America,” *TheAtlantic.com*, December 7, 2016:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/12/hairsprays-revealing-portrayal-of-racism-in-america/509741/>

“Policy and Possibility in the Movement for Black Lives Platform,” *Black Perspectives*, September 17, 2016: <http://www.aaihs.org/policy-and-possibility-in-the-movement-for-black-lives-platform/>

“Why ‘Busing’ Was a Fake Issue,” Brookings Institute Chalkboard, July 13, 2016:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2016/07/13/why-busing-was-a-fake-issue/>

“The Cast of the Original ‘Roots’ Knows All About Hollywood’s Diversity Problem,” *Mother Jones*, June 2, 2016: <http://www.motherjones.com/media/2016/06/original-roots-hollywood-race-problem>

“Project Showcase: Black Quotidian,” *History@Work* (National Council on Public History), May 2, 2016: <http://ncph.org/history-at-work/project-showcase-black-quotidian/>

“Bernie Sanders and the Unsung Struggle for Civil Rights in the North,” *TheAtlantic.com*, April 27, 2016: <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/04/bernie-sanders-and-a-civil-rights-turning-point/479739/>

“When Black Voters Exited Left,” *TheAtlantic.com*, March 31, 2016: <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/03/exit-left/476190/>

“The Lasting Legacy of the Boston Busing Crisis,” *TheAtlantic.com*, March 29, 2016: <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/03/the-boston-busing-crisis-was-never-intended-to-work/474264/>

“When Jackie Robinson Confronted a Trump-Like Candidate,” *TheAtlantic.com*, March 19, 2016: <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/03/goldwater-jackie-robinson/474498/>

“Jim Crow Must Go,” *Salon.com*, February 3, 2016: http://www.salon.com/2016/02/03/jim_crow_must_go_thousands_of_new_york_city_students_aged_a_one_day_boycott_to_protest_segregation_and_it_barely_made_the_history_books/

“The America of ‘Bandstand,’” *Washington Post*, Sunday, April 22, 2012.

Book Reviews:

Review of Ansley Erickson, *Making the Unequal Metropolis*, *Journal of Southern History*, Volume 83, No. 2, May 2017.

Review of Wesley Lowery, “*They Can’t Kill Us All*: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America’s Racial Justice Movement” for *Boston Globe*, November 11, 2016: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/2016/11/10/gripping-fraught-account-covering-police-shooting-deaths-movement-for-black-lives/B8GucH5hHAZug0KkfZZndL/story.html>

Review of Patrick Phillips, *Blood at the Root: A Racial Cleansing in America* for *Boston Globe*, September 23, 2016: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/books/2016/09/22/recalling-racial-cleansing-georgia-country/6y8CE3A6xYUURaEFxeCuCL/story.html>

Review of Gayle Wald, *It’s Been Beautiful: Soul! and Black Power Television* for *Journal of American History*, Volume 102, No. 4, March 2016.

Review of Thomas Bynum, *NAACP Youth and the Fight for Black Freedom, 1936-1965* (University of Tennessee Press, 2013) for *American Historical Review*, Volume 119, No. 3, June 2014.

Review of Devorah Heitner, *Black Power TV* (Duke University Press, 2013) for *Journal of American History*, Volume 101, No. 1, June 2014.

“The Color of the West,” review essay (5000 words) of five books, *American Quarterly*, Volume 63, No. 4, December 2011.

“Youth of Color and the City,” review essay (4500 words) of four books,
American Quarterly, Volume 61, No. 4, December 2009.

Review of Mina Yang, *California Polyphony: Ethnic Voices, Musical Crossroads*
(Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2008) for *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, Volume 21,
No. 2, June 2009.

Review of Ronald Cohen, *Alan Lomax: Selected Writings 1934-1997*
(New York: Routledge, 2005) for *ECHO: A Music-Centered Journal* (UCLA), Volume 7, No. 1,
Fall 2005. <http://www.echo.ucla.edu/volume7-issue1/reviews/delmont.html>

Review of Kelly Schrum, *Some Wore Bobby Sox: The Emergence of Teenage Girl's Culture*,
(New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004) for *Participations: Journal of Audience and Reception*
Studies, 2005. http://www.participations.org/volume%202/issue%201/2_01_delmont_review.htm

Teaching Experience

Arizona State University

African-American History (graduate course)
Race and Culture in U.S. History (graduate course)
Introduction to College Teaching (graduate course)
U.S. Cultural History Since 1865

Scripps College

Introduction to American Studies
Race in Media and Popular Culture
Race and Gender in Popular Culture (graduate course offered at Claremont Graduate University)
Race in U.S. Urban/Suburban History
History of Multiracial People and Relations in U.S. History
American Studies Methods Seminar
CORE I: Histories of the Present: Human Nature & Human Difference
CORE I: Histories of the Present: Violence
CORE 3: Oral History: Theory, Method, & Practice

Conference Presentations

“Why Busing Failed: Race, Media, and the National Resistance to School Desegregation,” American
Educational Research Association, April 2017

- “Writing for the Public,” Organization of American Historians, April 2017
- “Selling Roots: The Creation and Circulation of an American Phenomenon,” Organization of American Historians, April 2017
- “Why Busing Failed,” American Historical Association, January 2017
- “Making *Roots*: The Creation of an American Phenomenon,” American Studies Association, November 2016
- “*Why Busing Failed*: Digital History Project,” History of Education, November 2016
- “*Making Roots*: A Digital Project on a Cultural Phenomenon,” Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, October 2016
- “Television News and the Making of the Boston ‘Busing Crisis,’” Urban History Association, October 2016
- “Speaking *Roots*,” American Historical Association-Pacific Coast Branch, August 2016
- “The Other History of Television and Civil Rights,” Television, Race, and Re-Visioning the American Dream Symposium at Brown University, December 2015
- “Governor Claude Kirk, Media, and the Politics of Busing,” Grantee Meeting, Center on the American Governor, Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, December 2012
- “Television and the Backlash to Busing for School Desegregation,” (Panel organizer) American Studies Association annual meeting, San Juan, November 2012
- “American Bandstand, Race, and Postwar Consumer Citizenship,” (Panel organizer) American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch, San Diego, August 2012
- “Television and Anti-busing Backlash in Pontiac, Michigan,” (Panel organizer) California American Studies Association conference, Claremont, 2012
- “*The Mitch Thomas Show* and Black Music Television before *Soul Train*,” Popular Culture Association annual meeting, Boston, 2012
- “‘They’ll Be Rockin’ on Bandstand, in Philadelphia, P.A.’: Imagining National Youth Culture on American Bandstand,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual meeting, Boston, 2012
- “Low-Power FM Radio and the Grassroots and Legislative Fight for Independent Media,” American Studies Association annual meeting, San Antonio, 2010
- “‘As We See It’: Television, Busing, and Desegregation in the 1970s,” American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch, Santa Clara, 2010
- “Making Philadelphia Safe for ‘WFIL-adelphia’: Television, Segregation, and Media Citizenship in Postwar Philadelphia,” American Studies Association annual meeting, Wash D.C., 2009

“*American Bandstand* and School Segregation in Postwar Philadelphia,”
American Studies Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, 2007

“*They Shall Be Heard: Teenagers, Television, and Education in early-1950s Philadelphia*,”
Popular Culture Association national conference, Boston, 2007

Selected Lectures and Panel Discussions

“Scenes in the Hold: *Roots* and the Middle Passage,” invited speaker
Duke University, 2016

“Writing Race and Education History on the Web,” invited speaker
Brown University, 2016

“*Making Roots: A Nation Captivated*,” invited speaker
Oakland Book Festival, 2016

“*Why Busing Failed*,” invited speaker
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Black Freedom Studies series, 2016

“*Why Busing Failed*,” invited speaker
City University of New York Center for Humanities, 2016

“Race, Media, and Digital Humanities,” invited speaker
Columbia University, 2016

“*Why Busing Failed*,” invited speaker
Education Writers Association national conference, 2016

“Race, Media, and Digital Humanities,” invited speaker
John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities at Brown University, 2015

“Digital Humanities and Civil Rights in the North,” invited speaker
NEH Seminar on “Rethinking Black Freedom Studies from the Jim Crow North to the Jim Crow West” at Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 2015

“True Witness: Civil Rights Panel Discussion,” invited panel participant
Panel Discussion before “True Witness: a Civil Rights Cantata,” Scripps College, 2013

“The War on Terror and Visual Culture,” invited speaker
University of Southern California, 2013

“How *American Bandstand* Created the American Teenager,” invited speaker
Claremont Discourse Lecture, Honnold Library, 2012

“Getting to the Ph.D. finish line,” invited panel participant
Mazon Seminar, Department of American Studies and Ethnicity, USC, 2012

“History from the Ground Up & History for Grown-Ups,” invited speaker
Museum of History and Art Ontario, California – panel on Smithsonian traveling exhibit “The Working White House: 200 Years of Traditions and Memories,” 2012

“How Television Thwarted Busing for School Desegregation,” invited speaker
Schooling in Mass Societies series at Munroe Center for Social Inquiry, Pitzer College, 2011

“Remembering American Bandstand, Forgetting Philadelphia,” invited speaker
Clemson University, 2010

“The Youth Vote in the 2008 Election,” invited panel discussant
California African American Museum, 2009

Fellowships and Awards

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, 2017 (deferred state date to 2018)
Scripps College Faculty Research Grant, 2011-2014
Research Grant, Center on the American Governor, Eagleton Inst. of Politics, Rutgers University, 2012
Fellow, Digital Humanities + American Studies NEH Summer Institute at USC/Vectors, 2011
Scripps Associated Students Professor of the Year, 2010-2011
Mary W. Johnson Faculty Achievement Award for Research, 2009-2010
Mary W. Johnson Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching, 2008-2009
Dissertation Fellow, Brown University Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, 2007-2008
Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University Graduate School, 2007-2008
George D. McDowell Research Fellowship Honorable Mention, Temple University Urban Archives, 2006
Lily G. Schwartz Research Fellowship, Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center, 2006

Service

Arizona State University:

Associate Director of Research, School of Historical, Phil. & Religious Studies, 2016-2017
History Promotion & Tenure Committee (chair), 2016-2017
SHPRS Promotion & Tenure Committee, 2016-2017
University Promotion & Tenure Committee, 2016-2017
Director of Graduate Studies for History, 2015-2016
Director of Graduate Studies for American Studies, 2015-present
University Graduate Council, representative of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 2015-2017
President’s Academic Council, 2015-present
Diversity and Inclusivity Committee for College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, 2016-present
Senate Library Liaison Committee, 2016-2017

Claremont Colleges:

Chair of Scripps American Studies Program & Co-chair of Intercollegiate American Studies Program
at Claremont Colleges, 2010-2014
Appointments, Promotion & Tenure Committee, 2011-2012; 2013-2014 (chair)
Scripps College Academy (college-readiness program) Steering Committee, 2011-2014
Diversity Coordinating Committee, 2009-2011
Africana Studies Programming Committee, 2009-2011

Profession:

California American Studies Association, Program Committee, 2012
Pacific Coast Branch of American Historical Association, Program Committee, 2012

Memberships

American Studies Association, Member
Organization of American Historians, Member
American Historical Association, Member
Association for the Study of African American Life & History, Member
Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Member