**Amira Rose Davis**

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**Employment History**

Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies, Pennsylvania, State University, University Park, PA, June 2019-

Assistant Professor of History and Women’s, Gender and Sexualities Studies, Pennsylvania, State University, University Park, PA, June 2017-2019

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center and the Africana Research Center, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, 2016-2017

**Education**

Ph.D. History, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, December 2016

Advisors: N.D.B. Connolly and Ronald Walters

Dissertation: "Watch What We Do": The Politics and Possibilities of Black

Women's Athletics, 1910-1970

M.A. History, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, August 2013

*Advanced to Candidacy April 2013*

Fields of Study:

U.S. Social and Cultural History in the Long Twentieth-Century (Ronald Walters)

African American History and Critical Race Theory (Nathan Connolly)

Comparative Gender and Sexuality (Toby Ditz)

Comparative Racial Politics/Black Political Thought\* (Michael Hanchard)

\*Interdisciplinary Field in Political Science

B.A. History, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, May 2011

*McNair/Honor’s Thesis*: “From Jack Johnson to Michael Jordan”: Media

Representations of Black Male Athletes, 1908-1998

Advisor: Bryant Simon

B.S. Education, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, May 2011

**Publications**

**Books/Manuscripts**

*Can’t Eat a Medal: The Lives and Labors of Black Women Athletes in the Age of Jim Crow* (In Progress)

*All-American Welfare Queens: Race, Politics and Sports in the Time of Title IX*

(In Progress)

**Articles/ Book Chapters**

"The Female Jackie Robinson" and the Legacy of Support for Black Women Athletes. *42 Today: Revisiting the Legacy of Jackie Robinson* New York University Press. (In Press - forthcoming February 2020).

“To Write Themselves Whole: Black Women Athletes, Memoir and The Politics of Performance,” *Callaloo: A Journal of Afro-American and African Arts and Letters* (Under Review)

"The Right to Wear Silk: Black College Girls, Gendered Discourse and the Student Protests of the 1920s," *Gender & History,* (Submitted)

“Torchbearer: Michelle Cearcy and the Racial Politics of Visibility and Symbol at the 1977 National Women’s Conference,” in “Its Our Movement Now”: Black Women and the 1977 International Year of Women Conference (Under Review)

"No League of Their Own: Baseball, Black Women and the Politics of Representation," *Radical History Review,* Issue 125, May 2016

“On the Courts of Druid Hill: Lucy Diggs Slowe and the Rise of Organized Black Tennis” in *Baltimore Sports History: Stories from Charm City,*ed. Daniel Nathan. Sport, Culture, and Society Series, University of Arkansas Press, August 2016

**Exhibits Essays/Reviews**

Book Reviews completed for: *Journal for the History of Childhood and Youth, Journal of Sports History, and Journal of Issues in Sports and Society, Journal of American History, Journal of African American History*

Who was Stephan Girard?" “On Girard College” and “Jewish and African-American Relations in the Civil Rights Movement” in *Civil Rights in a Northern City: Philadelphia*: Digitized Archive Collection, Temple University Libraries: Philadelphia, 2011

**Public Essays/Trade Publications**

Olympic Icon Flo Jo Raced to the Top and Took Us With Her. *Zora for Medium,* February 2020

A Legacy of Incoherence. *The New Republic,* January 2020

Sixty Years Ago She Refused To Stand for The Anthem. *Zora for Medium,* October 2019

The French Open and Women's Tennis Have Women Worth Watching. *NBCTHink,* June 2019

Black Cheerleaders and A Long History of Protest. *Black Perspectives: A Blog of the African American Intellectual History Society,* January 2019

Black Athletes, Anthem Protests, and the Spectacle of Patriotism. *Black Perspectives: A Blog of the African American Intellectual History Society,* August 2018

**Select Invited Talks**

Title TBD, 34th Annual Black Experiences Keynote Lecture, Bucknell University, September 2020 (Scheduled)

"Contested Memory, Living History," Richards Center Annual Executive Tour, Charlottesville, VA, April 2020 (Postponed due to COVID-19)

Burn It all Down Live Podcast Recording," New Directions in Sports Scholarship and Journalism, University of Southern California- Annenberg School of Communication, Los Angeles, CA, March 2020 (Postponed due to COVID-19)

"Black Women in Sports- Where We Have Been and What's Next," University of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD, February 2020

"A History of Race and Football," National Football League, New York, NY, February 2020

"Cinderella Girls" A Brief History of Black Women in the Olympics," 14th Annual Cheron Mayhall "In Your Face" Lecture, Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR, February 2020

“Race, Protest and Sports” Critical Conversations Series, Bloomsburg University, November 2019

“Beyond A League of Their Own,” Towson University, October 2019

"We Need a New Playbook: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Sports- Burn It All Down Live" Shift: An Amend Together Conference, Vanderbilt University, September 2019

"Tracing Black Power from Birmingham to Bermuda," George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center- Executive Meeting, Richards Center, Penn State University, Bermuda, June 2019

"New Directions in Race in Sport," Building Critical Sport Communities New Directions in Sports Scholarship, Journalism, and Activism, Hofstra University and Columbia University, New York, NY, March 2019

“Shut Up and Dribble!”: Race, Sports, and Politics during the Trump Presidency," Sun Devils Athletics/ Arizona State University, March 2019

"The Cold War, The Olympics and Sports," Vanderbilt University's Sport and Society Initiative, National Press Club, December 2018

"A Divided America: Black Politics and the Struggle for Justice in Sports," Conversations in Black Freedom Studies, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, December 2018

“From "If You Let me Play" to #WatchmeWork: A Brief History of Women in Sports and Where We Go From Here," Huddle with the Lady Lions, Penn State Women's Basketball, November 2018

"Ringside Views," Philadelphia Museum of Art, October 2018

“Sights Unseen: Black Women Athletes and the (in)Visibility of Political Engagement”," Brown Bag Lecture Series, Southern Studies, University of Mississippi, October 2018

“Gender Equity in Sports: Myth or Reality?” Penn State University, Gender Equity Center, March, 2018

“A Political History of the Winter Olympics,” American University, Department of History, February 2018

“Political Intrigue, Celebration Capitalism, and Spotlight on Korea: A Roundtable on the Winter Olympics,” Rosa Luxemburg Center, New York City, February 2018

“Black Bodies, Global Games: Sports and the Pan-African Diaspora in the Era of Decolonization" Baylor University, Department of History, January 2018

Roundtable on Black Women and the 1977 IWY Conference, University of Houston, November 2017

Keynote Address, Undergraduate Research Exhibition- Africana Research Center, Penn State University, October 2017

Sports and Activism for The University of Notre Dame’s Black History Month Programming, February 2017

“Black Athletes Matter” Panel Participant, Black Matters Conference, University of Texas- Austin, September 2016

**Recent Conferences**

**Conference Organizer:**

Co-Organizer, "Racial Disposability at Penn State," Racial Disposability and Cultures of Resistance, Penn State Sawyer Seminar, Penn State University, October 2019

**Panel Organizer:**

Parties, Play and Pleasure: Black Women and the Politics of Embodied Activism in the 20th Century,The Eighteenth Annual Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities, Johns Hopkins University, June 2020 (Postponed due to COVID-19)

“Building a Black Pacific: Concepts and Complexities of Afro-Asian Solidarities in the Pacific World,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, November 7th-10th, 2019

“Sport and Pedagogies of Race and Gender” Sponsored by the Sports Studies Caucus, American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 9th-12th, 2017

“Black Women and Global Capitalism in the Post War Era” The Seventeenth Annual Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities, Hofstra University, June 2017

"Building the Ebony Tower: Reconsidering Black Colleges in the Age of Jim Crow" Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, April 7th-10th, 2016

**Chair/ Comment:**

Different Approaches to Liberating Minds and Bodies: Gender Activism in the 1970s, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington DC, April 2020 (Postponed due to COVID-19)

“The Black Athlete Across Time and Space” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2018

**“**Rethinking Violence in African American History: History, Memory, Trauma” Penn State University, October 6th-7th, 2017

**"**Hidden Histories of Reconstruction"Southern American Studies Association Biennial Conference, Atlanta, GA, February 19th- 21st, 2015

**Panelist/Presenter:**

“To Stomp, Shake and Agitate: Black Cheerleaders and Protest in the Mid-20th Century,”The Eighteenth Annual Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities, Johns Hopkins University, June 2020 (Postponed due to COVID-19)

Teaching Sports History, Roundtable, Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington DC, April 2020 (Postponed due to COVID-19)

“Radicalism in Sports- Past, Present, Future, Roundtable sponsored by Historians for Peace and Democracy and the Radical History Review, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, January 2019

“Shut Up and Play”: Sports, Labor and Activism in the Global Sports Industries”, Roundtable, Sponsored by the Labor and Working-Class History Association, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, January 2019

“and the Nation will Profit”: Black Athletes at the University of Hawaii and the Entanglement of Colonial Exchange,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, November 7th-10th, 2019

"Amateurism and College Sports," Intercollegiate Athletics Conference, Penn State's Center for the Study of Sports and Society, Penn State University, October 18th, 2019

Goodwill Girls and Global Games: Black Women Athletes and Paradox of Visible Citizenship”," Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, OAH, Philadelphia, April 4th-7th 2019

"Sports and Black Internationalism," Annual Meeting of the African American Intellectual History Society, AAIHS, University of Michigan, March 22nd 2019

"To Write Ourselves Whole: Black Women Athletes and Post-Career Memoirs," Association of Arts for the Present, New Orleans, October 17th-20th 2018

"Women, Athletic Protest and Global Articulations of Blackness in 1968," 1968 in the Americas, University College London's Institute of the Americas, June 2018

“A View from the Sidelines: Black Women Sportswriters in the Interwar Era,” American Historical Association, Washington D.C., January 4th-7th, 2018

“Suspicious Bodies: Black Women Olympians, Sex Testing, and the War on Drugs” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 9th-12th, 2017

“[From Goodwill Girls to Flo Jo Barbie: Global Games and the Commodification of Black Women's Athletic Bodies](https://berks.confex.com/berks/berks17/webprogrampreliminary/Paper1375.html) ” The Seventeenth Annual Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities, Hofstra University, June 2017

## “'Amateur no more': Earlene Brown, Roller Derby and African American Women's Push for Professional Sports, 1965-1980” State of the Field Round Table, The Seventeenth Annual Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities, Hofstra University, June 2017

"Privileges of Manhood, Protection of Womanhood: Fisk Student Protest of 1925" Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, April 7th-10th, 2016

"The Right to Wear Silk: Black College Girls, Gendered Discourse and the Student Protests of the 1920s," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 7th-10th, 2016

"'What we do with our Leisure': Organized Sport, Urban Reform and the Making of Modern Black Womanhood," Social Science History Association Conference, Baltimore, MD, November 12th-15th 2016

**Selected Fellowships and Awards**

Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, Alternate, 2020

William Appleman Williams Junior Faculty Research Fellowship, The Society of the History of American Foreign Relations, 2019, $2000

Sawyer Seminar Grant, Andrew Mellon Foundation, “Racial Disposability and Cultures of Resistance,” Co-author, Collaborative grant coordinated by Dr. Cynthia Young, Penn State University, 2017-2019, $250,000

Dean's Teaching Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 2015-2016, $10,000

Clarke Chambers Research Fellowship, University of Minnesota, 2015, $5000

Alexander R. and Avis M. Butler Award for Oral History Research, Johns Hopkins University, 2015, $900

Dr. David Robinson Teaching Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 2014, $8000

Fredrick Jackson Turner Graduate Award, Johns Hopkins University, 2013, 2015, $2000

Research Fellow, Program of Women, Gender, Sexuality, Johns Hopkins University,

2013, 2015, $2000

**Teaching Experience**

**Courses Taught (Penn State University)**

America in the 1960s

Edge Seminar: Global 1968

Intro to African American Studies

U.S. History, 1877- Present

Gender, Sexuality and Sport

Race and Sport

Civil Rights History

**Additional Courses Developed and Instructed:**

“National Pastimes: Sports in American History", Johns Hopkins University, Spring 2016

"Civil Rights on the Silver Screen", Johns Hopkins University, Intersession 2015

"Black Women, Feminism and Activism", Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2014

"Beyond the Playing Field: Race and Sports", Georgetown University, Summer Session 2014 (*In conjunction with the Institute for College Preparedness)*

**Relevant Employment**

Research and Digital Archives Assistant, Urban Archives, Philadelphia, PA, September 2010-May 2011

Public History Intern, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009-May 2010

**Selected Service**

Advisory Board Member, Jackie Robinson Museum, Board Member. New York City, 2019- Present

Advisory Member- Sports and Democracy Exhibit, National Archives and Records Administration, Consultant. Washington D.C. 2018- Present

Policies and Procedures Committee Member, Department of History, Penn State University, Elected 2018-Present

Graduate Committee Member, Department of African American Studies, Penn State University, 2019-Present

Public Engagement Committee, Society for the History of American Foreign Relations, 2020 - Present

AC14 Head Review Committee, College of Liberal Arts, Penn State University, 2020

Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Women’s History*, 2019

Manuscript Reviewer, *Oral History Review*, 2019

Elizabeth Taylor Article Prize Committee, Southern Association of Women Historians, 2018

Coffee Hour/ Speaker Series, Department of Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, Penn State University, 2018

Sawyer Seminar Postdoctoral Fellow Search, Sawyer Seminar Search Committee, 2018

Manuscript Reviewer, Bulletin of Latin American Research, 2017

Workshop Coordinator, Emerging Scholars Workshop, Penn State University, March 31st- April 1st 2017

Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Issues in Sport and Society,* 2016

Conference Organizer, A Time and Place: an Interdisciplinary Conference on Race and Racism, Johns Hopkins University, 2014-2015

Diversity Recruitment and Retention Team, Johns Hopkins University, 2012-2016

Graduate Student Parental Concerns Committee, Co-Founder, Johns Hopkins University, 2014-2016

Gender History Workshop Graduate Coordinator, Johns Hopkins University, 2014-2015

Twentieth Century Seminar Series Co-Founder, Johns Hopkins University, 2012

**Dissertations, Master’s Thesis and Honors Thesis Projects Supervised**

Paulina Rodriguez, PhD Student, Penn State University, "Deportistas!: A History of Latina/x Athletes in Twentieth Century United States." Graduate Student Advisor and Committee Chair, September 2018 – Present

Gabriel Green, PhD Candidate, Penn State University, Dissertation Committee Member,

March 2018 - Present

Tyler Sperrazza, PhD Candidate, Penn State University, "Defiant: African American Legal and Cultural Responses to Northern White Supremacy, 1865-1915." Dissertation Committee Member, September 2019 - May 2020

Samantha White, PhD Candidate, Rutgers University-Camden, "Shaping the Body:

African American Girlhood and Health, 1919-1940." Dissertation Committee Member

November 2018 – May 2020

Lily Murrary, Undergraduate Honors Student, Penn State University, ""How Far Out Can

We Go?”: An Analysis of Mid-Late Twentieth Century American Lesbian Activism.”

Honors Thesis Advisor, November 2018 - May 2020

Aaron Morris, Undergraduate Honors Student Penn State University, "Let My People Go:

Religion in the Black Freedom Struggle and Chicano Civil Rights Movements." Honors

Thesis Advisor, August 2019 - May 2020, *Best Thesis Award, Department of History*

Reilly Ebbs, Undergraduate Honors Student, Penn State University, "The Power of

Protests: An Analysis of Grassroot Groups’ Protest Tactics within the Civil Rights,

Women’s Liberations and Anti-Vietnam War Movements.” Honors Thesis Advisor, March 2018 - December 2018

**Select Recent Public Engagement**

Co-Host,“Burn It All Down: A Feminist Sports Podcast” 2017-Present

Interview, "Black Women in Sports History for American History TV," Television,

CSPAN-3. February 29, 2020

Interview, "NPR's Only a Game," Radio, WBUR/NPR. January 18, 2020

Interview, "The Takeaway," Radio, WNYC/NPR. January 14, 2020

Interview, "NPR's Only a Game," Radio, WBUR/NPR. November 1, 2019

Interview, "The Takeaway," Radio, WYNC/NPR. September 5, 2019

Interview, "NPR's Only a Game," Radio, WBUR/NPR. August 23, 2019

Interview, "Recapping the Women's World Cup," Television, Democracy Now! July 8,

2019

Interview, "NPR's Only a Game," Radio, WBUR/NPR. July 5, 2019

Interview, "Women's World Cup," Television, France 24. June 28, 2019

Interview, "Unapologetic: A Special on Black Women Athletes,", ESPN, February 10, 2019

Interview, "Arthur and Althea Documentary," Television, CBS Sports, December 12, 2018

Interview, "AJ Andrews Documentary," Women in Sports Film Festival. (December 5, 2018)

Interview on Paralympics, NPR’s The Takeaway, March 2018

Interview on Winter Olympics, NPR’s The Takeaway, February 2018

Interview for on History of Sports and Politics, NPR Podcasts, October 2017

Interview on Athletic Activism, NPR’s Code Switch, October 2017

Interview for Yes! Magazine, September 2017

Interview, BBC Sport, August 2016

*References available by request*