

BRENT M. S. CAMPNEY

Professor of History | ✉ brent.campney@utrgv.edu

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, American Studies, Emory University, 2007

Master of Arts, American Studies, University of Kansas, 2001

Bachelor of Arts, American Culture, University of Michigan, 1998

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

A. Worley Brown Fellowship in Southern Studies, Laney Graduate School of the Arts and Sciences, Emory University, 2005-2006

Graduate Fellowship, Laney Graduate School of the Arts and Sciences, Emory University, 2001-2005

FACULTY POSITIONS

Professor, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Department of History, 2019-Present

Associate Professor, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Department of History, 2015-2019¹

Associate Professor, University of Texas-Pan American, Department of History and Philosophy, 2014-2015

Assistant Professor, University of Texas-Pan American, Department of History and Philosophy, 2008-2014

RESEARCH

Monographs

Hostile Heartland: Racism, Repression, and Resistance in the Midwest (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2019)

This is Not Dixie: Racist Violence in Kansas, 1861-1927 (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2015; pb. 2018)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“‘The Explosive Ingredients Are Here’: Mexican American Municipal Electoral Challenges in South Texas, 1963-1965,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 55:4 (Winter 2024): 239-254

“‘The Real Questions at Issue’: Anti-Black Lynching, the Exodusters, and the White Radical Retreat in Nebraska,” *Nebraska History* 105 (Summer 2024): 58-75

“‘Driven Out on the Old Charge of Being a Rebel’: White-on-White Sectional Violence and the ‘Long’ Bleeding Kansas,” *Civil War History* 70:1 (March 2024): 27-49

¹ In 2015, the University of Texas-Pan American merged with the University of Texas-Brownsville to form a new research university, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

- “‘Stamping Out Segregation in Kansas’: Jim Crow Practices and the Postwar Black Freedom Struggle,” *Great Plains Quarterly* 43:4 (Fall 2023): 359-383
- “‘The Veneer of Civilization Washed Off’: Anti-Black Posse-Lynchings in the Twentieth Century Rural Midwest,” *Indiana Magazine of History* 119:1 (March 2023): 1-26
- “‘Standing in the Crater of a Volcano’: Anti-Chinese Violence and International Diplomacy in the American West,” *California History* 98:3 (Fall 2021): 2-27
- “Police Brutality and Mexican American Families in Texas, 1945-1980,” *The Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science* 694 (March 2021): 108-121
- “‘A White-and-Negro Environment which is Seldom Spotlighted’: The Twilight of Jim Crow in Urban Kansas, 1960-1965,” *Pacific Historical Review* 90:1 (Winter 2021): 84-118
- “State Studies and the Whiteness of White-on-White Lynching,” *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 20 (January 2021): 104-113
- “‘Leave Him Now to the Great Judge’: The Short and Tragic Life of Allen Pinks; Free Black, Fugitive Slave, and Slave-Catcher,” *Kansas History* 42:4 (Winter 2019-2020): 210-223
- “Anti-Japanese Sentiment, International Diplomacy, and the Texas Alien Land Law of 1921,” *Journal of Southern History* 85:4 (November 2019): 841-878
- “‘The Infamous Business of Kidnapping’: Slave-Catching in Kansas, 1858-1863,” *Kansas History* 42:2 (Summer 2019): 154-171
- “‘What We Need Here Is Another Crystal City’: The Mexican American Civil Rights Movement in South Texas, 1963,” *New Mexico Historical Review* 94:2 (Spring 2019): 145-167
- “‘The Drift of Things in Southeast Missouri’: Demographic Transformation and Racist Violence, 1900-1930,” *Missouri Historical Review* 113:3 (Spring 2019): 185-205
- “‘The Most Turbulent and Most Traumatic Years in Recent Mexican-American History’: Police Violence and the Civil Rights Struggle in Texas in the 1970s,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 122:1 (July 2018): 32-57
- “‘A Bunch of Tough Hombres’: Police Brutality, Municipal Politics, and the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement in South Texas, 1981,” *Journal of the Southwest* 60:4 (Winter 2018): 787-825
- “‘This Negro *Elephant* is Getting to be a Pretty Large Sized Animal’: White Hostility against Blacks in Indiana and the Historiography of Racist Violence in the Midwest,” *Middle West Review* 1:2 (Spring 2015): 63-91
- “Race Always Mattered: Black-on-Black Mob Violence and Inter-Racial Relations in Kansas,” *American Nineteenth Century History* 16:1 (April 2015): 35-57
- “‘The Peculiar Climate of this Region’: The 1854 Cairo Lynching and the Historiography of Racist Violence against Blacks in Illinois,” *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 107 (Summer 2014): 143-170
- “‘Ever Since the Hanging of Oliphant’: Lynching and the Suppression of Mob Violence in Topeka, Kansas,” *Great Plains Quarterly* 33 (Spring 2013): 71-86

“‘A State of Violent Contrasts’: Lynching and the Competing Visions of White Supremacy in Georgia, 1949,” *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 95 (Summer 2011): 232-262

“‘Light is Bursting upon the World!’: White Supremacy and Racist Violence against Blacks in Reconstruction Kansas,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 41 (Summer 2010): 171-194

“‘Hold the Line’: The Defense of Jim Crow in Lawrence, Kansas, 1945-1961,” *Kansas History* 33 (Spring 2010): 22-41

“W. B. Townsend and the Struggle against Racist Violence in Leavenworth,” *Kansas History* 31 (Winter 2008-2009): 260-273

“‘This is Not Dixie’: The ‘Imagined South,’ the Kansas ‘Free State’ Narrative, and the Rhetoric of Racist Violence,” *Southern Spaces*, September 6, 2007, <http://www.southernspaces.org/2007/not-dixie-imagined-south-kansas-free-state-narrative-and-rhetoric-racist-violence>

Historiographical Essays and Chapters in Edited Collections

“‘Hold the Line’: The Defense of Jim Crow in Lawrence, Kansas, 1945-1961,” in *Embattled Lawrence: The Enduring Struggle for Freedom, Volume 2*, edited by Dennis Domer, (Lawrence: Watkins Museum of History, 2023): 146-161

“Remembering and Forgetting Racist Violence in Tulsa and on the Great Plains,” *Great Plains Quarterly* 41:1-2 (Winter/Spring 2021): 137-149

“‘The Most Turbulent and Most Traumatic Years in Recent Mexican-American History’: Police Violence and the Civil Rights Struggle in 1970s Texas,” in *An Honest Past: A Reprise of Scholarship on Violence, Race, and Ethnicity in Texas History* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 2020): 426-451

“‘Canadians Are Not Proficient in the Art of Lynching’: Mob Violence, Social Regulation, and National Identity” in *Global Lynching and Collective Violence, Vol. II: Europe and the Americas*, edited by Michael J. Pfeifer, (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2017): 115-145

“The Black Civil Rights Movement on the Border,” *Southern Spaces*, April 4, 2016, <http://southernspaces.org/2016/black-civil-rights-movement-border>

“‘A Little Different than in Alabama’: Sectional Narratives and the Rhetoric of Racist Violence” in *Bleeding Kansas, Bleeding Missouri: The Long Civil War on the Border*, edited by Jonathan Earle and Diane Mutti Burke, (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2013): 225-241

“‘Light is Bursting upon the World!’: White Supremacy and Racist Violence against Blacks in Reconstruction Kansas” in *Lynching beyond Dixie: American Mob Violence outside the South*, edited by Michael J. Pfeifer, (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2013): 81-109

“Brown, Black, and White in Texas,” *Southern Spaces*, March 13, 2012, <http://southernspaces.org/2012/brown-black-and-white-texas>

Research Awards, Career Honors, and External Grants

Dr. Héctor P. García Fellowship, The Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2024

James H. Madison Award from the Indiana Association of Historians for the best article published during the

previous year in the *Indiana Magazine of History*, 2024

Catarino and Evangelina Hernández Research Fellowship in Latino History, Texas State Historical Association, Austin, Texas, 2023

Research Grant from the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 2019

Article Award from the State Historical Society of Missouri for the best article published during the previous year in the *Missouri Historical Review*, 2019

Hertlein-Whitehead Visiting Scholars Program from the Special Collections and University Archives, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas, 2018

Alyce Hunley Wayne Travel Award from the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, 2018

Distinguished Faculty Award (honored in the inaugural year of the award) and Research Grant, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, 2017-2018

Jan Garton Prairie Heritage Book Award from Prairie Heritage, Inc., for *This Is Not Dixie: Racist Violence in Kansas 1861-1927*, 2017

Choice Outstanding Academic Title from the American Library Association for *This Is Not Dixie*, 2016

Lecture in the State Library of Kansas at the Kansas Legislature, Topeka, 2016, and a copy of *This Is Not Dixie* entered into the State Library

E. Merton Coulter Award from the Georgia Historical Society for the best article published during the previous year in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, 2012

INVITED SPEAKING EVENTS

“Rebecca Flores, the UFW, and Sanitation Reforms in the Fields, Hidalgo County, 1975-1983.” Presentation at the Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, October 16, 2024

“Anti-Black Violence in Lawrence and Kansas during the Long Reconstruction.” Presentation via Zoom at the Lawrence Public Library on June 9, 2022, as keynote speaker for “Community Remembrance Project,” sponsored by, among others, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Equal Justice Initiative

“Anti-Black Violence in Southern Illinois.” Presentation via Zoom at Sankofa Lecture Series, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, February 28, 2022

“Racist Violence and the Black Freedom Struggle in Kansas.” Presentation via Zoom at the Shawnee County Historical Society Sunday Presentations, Topeka, Kansas, February 6, 2022

“Racist Violence and Black Resistance in Kansas: *This Is Not Dixie*.” Presentation via Zoom at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, October 8, 2021

“Movement Families and the Black Freedom Struggle in Kansas.” Presentation at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, June 26, 2018

“‘I Ain’t Ever Going to Go to McAllen’: Police Brutality, Municipal Politics, and Racism in South Texas, 1981.” Presentation at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Distinguished Faculty Award Colloquium Series, Colloquium #2, Edinburg, Texas, November 7, 2017

“Bill Tuttle, *Race Riot*, and Writing Racist Violence.” Invited Panel Remarks, The Bill Tuttle Distinguished Lecture in American Studies at the American Studies Department, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, October 5, 2017

“The Black Freedom Struggle and the White Backlash in Kansas, 1960-1975.” Invited Lecture at the Center for Kansas Studies at Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, January 27, 2017

“Terror in the Heartland: Reflections on Brent Campney’s *This Is Not Dixie*.” Invited respondent, Roundtable Discussion at the Mid-America American Studies Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, March 4, 2016

“Black Resistance to White Supremacist Mobs in Kansas, 1880-1927.” Invited Lecture at the Kansas Studies Institute, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas, March 3, 2016

“The Decline of Lynching and the Rise of Police Brutality in Kansas, 1890-1916.” Invited Lecture at the Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri, February 3, 2016

“‘A Negro Hunting Ground?’: White Supremacy and Racist Violence in Kansas from the Civil War to the Exodus.” Invited Lecture at the Border Wars Conference, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri, November 10, 2011

CONFERENCES

Conference Panel Organizer

Co-organizer of the panel, “Words and Deeds: Rhetoric and Violence in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era.” Organization of American Historians, Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, April 2, 2022 (sponsored by the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era).

Co-organizer of the panel, “Transnational Responses to American Lynching during the ‘Long’ Gilded Age and Progressive Era.” Organization of American Historians, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 7, 2017 (sponsored by the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era).

Co-organizer of the panel, “American Culture and the Transition from Reconstruction.” 122nd Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Washington, D.C., January 3, 2008 (sponsored by the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era).

Conference Papers

“Evaluating *The Good Country*.” Delivered at the Ninth Annual Midwestern History Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 18, 2023

“Anti-Black Posse Killings in the Rural Midwest, 1910-1930.” Delivered by Zoom at the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 6-9, 2022

“Finding Movement Families in the Early Twentieth-Century Midwest: Theory and Method.” Delivered at the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 21-24, 2019

“‘Canadians Are Not Proficient in the Art of Lynching’: Mob Violence, ‘American Style’ Racism, and British Canadian Identity.” Delivered at the Organization of American Historians, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 7, 2017

“‘A White-and-Negro Environment which is Seldom Spotlighted’: The Twilight of Jim Crow in Kansas, 1960 to 1965.” Delivered at the Western History Association Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon, October 23, 2015

“‘Keep the Lower Rio Grande Valley for the White Race’: Racist Violence after the Hora de Sangre.” Delivered at the Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting, Corpus Christi, Texas, March 5, 2015

“‘I Am Not Going to Tolerate the Slightest Foolishness’: Police Resistance to Lynch Mobs and the Police as an Instrument of Violent White Supremacy.” Delivered at the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 21-24, 2013

“‘Trying to Set the Colored People Back a Hundred Years’: Racist Violence and the Consolidation of Jim Crow in Kansas, 1901 to 1930.” Delivered at the Western History Association Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, October 4-7, 2012

“‘Fight It Out on this Line’: Rethinking the Origins of Armed Black Resistance.” Delivered at the Southern Association of Women Historians, Fort Worth, Texas, June 6-9, 2012

“‘The Man Got His Just Deserts’: Racist Violence against Prosperous Blacks in Kansas, 1890 to 1910.” Delivered at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, 95th Annual Meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina, October 1, 2010

“‘We Cannot Say that We Regret this Man’s Death’: The Lynching of White Men in Kansas, 1865-1884.” Delivered at the 2010 Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., April 9, 2010

“Police Resistance, Telegraph Wires, and the Suppression of Racist Mobs: Kansas, 1890-1910.” Delivered at the 2009 Western History Association Meeting, Denver, Colorado, October 7-10, 2009

“‘No More Colored Men Will Ever Be Hung’: Black Jailhouse Defenses in Kansas, 1890-1910.” Delivered at the Civil Rights Century: NAACP Centennial Conference, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, February 7, 2009

“On Ethnic Violence and Resistance.” Delivered at the Institute of Sociology, College of Hakka Studies, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, June 4, 2008

“Mob Rule and the Threat of Violence.” Delivered at the Rupture, Repression, and Uprising: Raced and Gendered Violence along the Color-Line Conference, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, April 3-4, 2008

“From ‘Outrage’ to ‘Lynching’: Mob Killings and the Rhetoric of Racist Violence.” Delivered at the 122nd Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Washington, D.C., January 3, 2008

“From ‘Industrious Citizen’ to ‘Black-Hearted Fiend’: Representations of Black Victims of Racist Violence in the Republican Press of Kansas, 1865 to 1914.” Delivered at America’s 400th Anniversary: Voices from within the Veil Conference, Norfolk, Virginia, February 23, 2007

“William Bolden Townsend and the Struggle against Racist Violence in Kansas, 1888-1901.” Delivered at the Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation Fourth Annual Black History Conference, Seattle, Washington, February 3, 2007

“Lynching and Racial Violence in Kansas, 1890-1905.” Delivered at the Annual Race and Place Conference, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, March 13, 2004

“Colin Powell, *El Paso*, and American Whiteness.” Delivered at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, August 16, 2003

“Renegotiating White Supremacy: The New South and the Lynching of Caleb Hill, Jr., Irwinton, Georgia, 1949.” Delivered at the Lynching and Racial Violence in America Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, October 5, 2002