

LAURA HOOTON, PH.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Department of History, MSC 3H
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Academic Appointments

- 2024- **New Mexico State University (NMSU)**
Assistant Professor of History (2024-Present)
- 2021-2024 **Angelo State University (ASU)**
Assistant Professor of History (2021 – 2024)
Director of Ethnic Studies Minor (2023 – 2024)
Faculty Boards and Affiliations:
 Gender Studies Minor (2022-2024)
Faculty Adviser:
 History Society (2022-2024)
- 2018-2021 **The United States Military Academy at West Point (USMA)**
Assistant Professor of American History (2020-2021)
Postdoctoral Fellow in American History and Diversity Studies (2018-2020):
 Black History: 2019-2020
 Immigration History: 2018-2019
Creator and Project Director, Black History at West Point Project (2019-2021)
Faculty Boards and Affiliations:
 Dean's Diversity Committee

Education

University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

2018 Ph.D. History with an Interdisciplinary Emphasis in Black Studies
2013 M.A. History

University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

2009 B.A. History, minor in Literature/Writing (with Honors)

Academic Interests

African American History, Borderlands History, Black Studies, Comparative Race and Ethnicity, Immigration and Migration, Social Movements, United States History, Mexican History, Latin American History

Publications

Books

Almost All Aliens: Immigration, Race, and Colonialism in American History and Identity, Second Edition

Co-author with Paul Spickard and Francisco Beltrán (New York: Routledge, 2023)

Webmaster for companion website: www.routledge.com/cw/almostallaliens

Book Chapters & Journal Articles

“Little Liberia, the African American Agricultural Colony in Baja California” in *Farming across Borders: Transnational Agricultural History in the North American West*, ed. Sterling Evans (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2017).

“Black Angelenos with the ‘Courage to Do and Dare’: African American Community Organizers in Lower California” in *California History*, 94.1 (Spring 2017), 43-54.

Digital & Public History

“African Americans in Baja California: A Hidden History from the Early 20th Century” in *The Freedom Seeker* (Late-Summer 2019), newsletter of the Underground Railroad Education Center

Blackpast.org, peer reviewed online encyclopedia articles, 2012-2013.

Fred Luter, Jr., Samuel J. Battle (<https://www.blackpast.org/author/hootonlaura/>)

“Southwest Immigration 1950-1980” Module 3 in *The West Point Guide to Immigration & Ethnicity* (New York: Rowan Technology Solutions, 2019).

Reviews

Journal of American History (September 2022)

Hudson, *West of Jim Crow: The Fight against California’s Color Line* (University of Illinois Press, 2020)

New Mexico Historical Review (Fall 2021, 462-464)

Glasrud & Wintz, e.d., *Black Americans and the Civil Rights Movement in the West*, (University of Oklahoma Press, 2019)

Under Contract

Little Liberia: A Dream of Black Freedom in the US-Mexico Borderlands

Oklahoma University Press, Race and Culture in the American West series (Forthcoming Spring 2026)

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

External

- 2023-2024 David J. Weber Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America
Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University
- 2016 UC Consortium for Black Studies in California Travel Grant

Internal

NMSU

- 2025 Arts & Humanities Seed Grant
- 2024 Arts & Sciences Faculty Travel Award

ASU

- 2024 Hardeman Research Grant

USMA

- 2020, 2021 Department of the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal
- 2020 History Department Excellence in Teaching Award
- 2019 Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

UCSB

- 2017 Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Fellowship (First Alternate, 2016)
- 2016, 2017 Brython Davis Graduate Fellowship
- 2015-2017 Regent's Dissertation Fellowship
- 2016 Dean's Prize Teaching Fellowship
- 2016 Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant
- 2015 Center for Black Studies Research Grant
- 2015 Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship
- 2015 History Associates Graduate Fellowship
- 2015, 2017 Graduate Student Association Excellence in Teaching Award Nominee
- 2014 Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Alternate and Honorable Mention
- 2013 Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention

Invited Public Lectures and Presentations

- 2024 **Noon Lecture Series, Clements Center for Southwest Studies** (Dallas, TX, April)
"Little Liberia: Seeking Black Power and Profit in the Borderlands"
- Brown Bag, University of Texas at Arlington History Department** (Arlington, TX, Jan)
"Little Liberia: Seeking Black Power and Profit Across the Border"
- 2023 **Women's History Month Event, Angelo State University** (San Angelo, TX, March)
Presentation: "Las Soldaderas: A Celebration of Strong Women in the Mexican Revolution" (Theme: Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories)
- El Consulado General De Los Estados Unidos En Tijuana** (Virtual, February)
"Little Liberia: An African American Agricultural Community in Baja California"

- 2022 **History Lecture Series, Angelo State University** (San Angelo, TX, and virtual, October)
 Book talk co-presenter with Jason Pierce (*Daily Life in the American West* and *Almost All Aliens*, Livestream recording available: https://youtu.be/qRB-dyWxn_g)
- El Consulado General De Los Estados Unidos En Tijuana** (Virtual, February)
 Talk in English with Spanish translation
 “Pequeña Liberia: Una Comunidad Agrícola Afroamericana en Baja California”
 (Recording available on Consulate Facebook Page)
- History Lecture Series, Angelo State University** (San Angelo, TX, and virtual, February)
 “Bordering Equality: Little Liberia and African American Social Movements in Mexico” (Livestream recording available: <https://youtu.be/YaS1n2rjLCM>)
- 2021 **LibertyCon and Underground Railroad History Project** (Virtual, June)
 “Fighting White Supremacy in North American in the Wake of Tulsa”
- West Point Faculty Panel 2021** (West Point, NY, and virtual, April)
 “Black History Project at West Point” (Livestream recording available through West Point YouTube: <https://youtu.be/4JAXu563Vig>)
- 2016 **UCSB Department of History** (Santa Barbara, CA, November)
 Race in America Scholarly Roundtable, “An Unconventional Border Triangle: Los Angeles, Baja California, and Oklahoma”
- UCSB Lunch & Learn** (Santa Barbara, CA, November)
 “Borderlands and Black Studies: African Americans in Baja California”
- Lompoc Public Library** (Lompoc, CA, May)
 Presenter, The Abolitionists PBS Documentary for Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle Programming
- Bakersfield College** (Delano Campus, CA, March)
 “A Transnational Harvest of Gold: African American Agricultural Opportunities in Baja California”
 Event: African American Migrations in the American Far West & U.S.-Mexico Borderlands: A History of Allensworth in Local, Regional, and International Context (Cultural Historical Awareness Program)

Conference Presentations

Planned

- 2025 **New Mexico-Arizona History Conference** (Las Cruces, NM, September)
 Roundtable Presentation: Murales Fronterizos Digital Archive
- Western History Association Conference** (Albuquerque, NM, October)
 Panel Commentator: New Works on Race and Resistance in Black California
- American Studies Association Conference** (San Juan, Puerto Rico, November)
 Presentation: “Little Liberia: A Transnational and Polycultural Anti-White Supremacy Movement” (Panel: Cross-Racial and Cross-Ethnic Solidarity in Resistance to Internal Colonialism)

Completed

- 2025 **Collegium for African American Research** (Berlin, Germany, March)
Presentation: "Black Resistance in the Borderlands: Twentieth Century Black Social Movement Organizing in California" (Panel: Black Mobility and/as Resistance)
- 2024 **Western History Association Conference** (Kansas City, MO, October)
Presentation: "Black Resistance in the Borderlands: The Impact of the California Borderlands on Black Social Movements in the Twentieth Century" (Panel: Agency, Power, and Resistance in the California Borderlands: Challenging Traditional Borderlands Narratives Through A Diverse Historical Lens)
Panel Chair: South to Mexico: Transnational Migration and Colonization Across the Continental North American West
- 2023 **Western History Association Conference** (Los Angeles, CA, October)
Roundtable Member: Teaching Race and Ethnicity in the Current Moment
- 2022 **Western History Association Conference** (San Antonio, TX, October)
Roundtable Member: Teaching Race and Ethnicity in the Current Moment
Panel Commenter: Race Changes: Identity in Flux in the American West
Pacific Coast Branch – American Historical Association Conference (Virtual, January)
Panel Chair: Institutionalizing Historical Memory: Illuminating BIPOC Experiences in Public Health, Education, and Community Organizing
- 2021 **Arizona History Convention** (Virtual, April)
Panel Chair: Military, the Border, and Families
- 2019 **Collegium for African American Research Conference** (Orlando, FL, February)
Presentation: "Little Liberia and the International Community Welfare League: A Post Tulsa Race Riot Anti-White Supremacy Movement" (Panel: Space I)
- 2018 **Organization of American Historians Conference** (Sacramento, CA, April)
Presentation: "Co-Opting the Border: An African American Community Using the U.S.-Mexico Border to Fight Racial Injustice" (Panel: Historicizing the Golden State: New Directions in California History)
American Historical Association Conference (Washington, D.C., January)
Poster: "Co-Opting the Border: The Dream of African American Integration Via Baja California"
- 2017 **Western History Association Conference** (San Diego, CA, November)
Workshop: "New Directions in Black Western Studies"
Presentation: "Broadening the Horizons of the Black West: Mexico, the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands, and Immigration" (on workshop panel)

Pacific Coast Branch – American Historical Association (Northridge, CA, August)

Presentation: “Co-Opting the Border: The Dream of African American Integration Via Baja California” (Panel: Remembering and Recovering African American History)

Western Association of Women Historians Conference (San Diego, CA, April)

Presentation: “Little Liberia: The African American Agricultural Community in Baja California” (Panel: New Perspectives on African American History)

2016 **Maple Leaf & Eagle Conference** (Helsinki, Finland, May)

Presentation: “‘Opportunities in a New Country’: African American Identity, Cross-racial Cooperation, and Social Change in Baja California” (Panel: Land, Development, Disputes)

2015 **Western History Association Conference** (Portland, OR, October)

Presentation: “Co-Opting the Border: The Dream of African American Integration Via Baja California” (Panel: Bridging the Divide: Race, Violence, and Memory in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands)

Collegium for African American Research Conference (Liverpool, United Kingdom, June)

Presentation: “‘Mexico Offers Land to Members of Race’: Los Angelinos in Little Liberia, the African American Colony in Baja” (Panel: Black Communities)

2013 **Collegium for African American Research Conference** (Atlanta, GA, March)

Presentation: “Dreaming of ‘Asylum in Every County’: Motivations for Post-Reconstruction Black Migration” (Panel: Blacks in the West)

Accepted

2020 **Pacific Coast Branch – American Historical Association** (Virtual, Canceled)

Originally planned for August 2020, COVID Canceled

Presentation: “A ‘New Land of Golden Opportunity’: African Americans, Land, and Identity in the American West and Baja California” (Panel: Race, Land, and Belonging in North America)

Organization of American Historians (Chicago, IL, Canceled)

Originally planned for April 2020, COVID Canceled

Presentation with undergraduate student: Black History at West Point Project (Panel: Universities and Slavery: Undergraduate Research Projects)

Teaching

Courses Taught

NMSU

African American History, 1865-Present (focus: Black West – Fall 2025)

Race & Ethnicity Seminar (focus: Civil Rights)

U.S. History since 1865

U.S. History to 1865

ASU

American Immigration
Mexican American History
American Civil Rights
History of the United States since 1865
History of the United States to 1865
Independent Study and Honors Courses

USMA

Senior Seminar, Race and Institutions in America
American Civil Rights Movements
Army of the Republic: Leading Citizen-Soldiers
History of the United States
Senior Seminar, American Race Relations

UCSB (Instructor of Record courses)

History of American Immigration
The History of the North American Borderlands
The Civil Rights Movement, 1930 to the Present

Research-related Guest Lectures

2023 **Oklahoma State University** (Virtual)
 United States History Since 1985
 Presentation: Little Liberia: African Americans in Baja California

2020 **Claremont McKenna College, CA** (Virtual)
 Racism and Redress in America Seminar
 Presentation: Little Liberia and the Tulsa Massacre

Professional Service

Collegium for African American Research

2025-present **Secretary**

San Angelo Hispanic Heritage Museum & Cultural Center

2022-2023 **Member, events committee**

Western History Association

2021-2022 **Program Committee for 2022 Conference in San Antonio, Texas**
2018-present **Member, Committee for Race in the American West (CRAW)**

Advanced Placement (AP)

2023-2025 **US History Exam Reader**
2022 **Visiting Fellows Program in AP African American Studies**

California Education

- 2020 **Teacher Training Series, Invited Guest Speaker**
Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter
- 2016-2018 **Digital Delano: Preserving an International Community's History NEH Common Heritage Project**
Oral Historian and Consultant for African American History

Departmental and University Service

NMSU

- 2025-present **Webmaster for local murals website - Muralesfronterizos.com**
- 2025 **Reviewer – The Agora (undergraduate Student Journal)**

ASU

- 2021-2023 **Honors and Independent Study Courses**
- 2021-2022 **Member, Ethnic Studies Minor Creation Committee**

USMA

- 2020-2021 **Member, Department of History Diversity and Inclusion Committee**
Advised department leadership, including creating a multi-tiered multi-year plan.
Primary author/creator of department-wide diversity conversations and trainings.
- 2019-2021 **Campus Black History and Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Work**
Outreach conversations with sports teams about campus issues relating to race and ethnic, memory and memorialization, and history curriculum and teaching. Invited speaker for Spectrum Club (USMA LGBTQ+ organization) on the history of LGBTQ+ right movements. Guidance to student leadership about initiating conversations about racism and sexism at West Point (past and present). Led multiple Black History at West Point events February 2021: campus tours, movie night, instructor research panel.
- 2018-2021 **Student Outreach and Local History**
Planned and led local Black history, Immigration history, and Civil Rights day trips and helped lead multi-day trips. Mentor to undergraduates on student-led diversity and inclusion initiatives and on-campus history projects.
- 2018-2021 **Graduate Student/Instructor Mentor**
- 2018-2020 **HSU Freedom Scholar Essay Award Committee**

UCSB

- 2013-2018 **Graduate and Undergraduate Student Mentor**
- 2013-2017 **Graduate Student Training Panel Member**
- 2016-2017 **NEH Committee – History Department Graduate Student Representative**

Digital History and Technological Experience

Website Design

- Webmaster for new companion website for *Almost All Aliens*
- Black History at West Point Project website - initial creation, design, and information sharing

Digital Course Material

Author of “Southwest Immigration 1950-1980” in *The West Point Guide to Immigration & Ethnicity*, a primary source-driven digital history collection used in U.S. survey courses at USMA.

Technical Knowledge

2 years website building experience prior to attending UCSB. Some knowledge of website coding languages (JavaScript, CSS, HTML) and website design best practices.