

LAURA HOOTON, PH.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Department of History, MSC 3H
New Mexico State University
P.O. Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003

Breland 240
Office: (325) 942-2120
hooton@nmsu.edu
www.laurahooton.com

Academic Appointments

- 2024- **New Mexico State University (NMSU)**
Assistant Professor of History (2024-Present)
History Director of Graduate Studies (Fall 2025-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

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

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

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)

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

External

- 2025 Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico African-American Historical Research Endowment Fund (Grant Awardee – Black History Spotlights)
- 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

- 2026 College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Outreach Award
- 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

- 2026 **Black History Month Programming, Camp Naco** (Virtual, February)
"Early 20th Century African Americans in Mexico"
- 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

- 2026 **Western History Association Conference** (Portland, OR, October)
 Presentation: "Little Liberia: A Borderlands Polycultural Anti-White Supremacy Movement" (Panel: Unsettling White Power: White Supremacy and Multiracial Resistance in the California Borderlands)
 Roundtable Member: Teaching the Black West through Local Narratives and Untold Stories (Presentation title: "Black New Mexico Spotlights: Teaching Black Western History in the Borderlands")

Completed

- 2025 **American Studies Association Conference** (San Juan, PR, November)
 Presentation: "Little Liberia: A Transnational and Polycultural Anti-White Supremacy Movement" (Panel: Cross-Racial and Cross-Ethnic Solidarity in Resistance to Internal Colonialism)
Western History Association Conference (Albuquerque, NM, October)
 Panel Commenter: New Works on Race and Resistance in Black California
New Mexico-Arizona History Conference (Las Cruces, NM, September)
 Presenter: "Murales Fronterizos" (with other project collaborators)
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

Historians & History

Claiming a Multiracial Past (Honors course)

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

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

Course Projects and Publications

Fall 2025 **New Mexico Black History Spotlights** (African American History, 1865-Present)
 Each student created a single 200-word description with photographs of a person, place, event, or organization related to Black History in New Mexico, which were printed on individual banners. The entire exhibit was student-created. The exhibit was initially on display on the first floor of the Branson Library at NMSU – with an estimated attendance at the opening event of 150 people. In February they will be moved to Zuhl Library and used for events for Black History Month at NMSU. In March they will be moved to the Brannigan Library in Las Cruces, with an additional event for the community. Funded through the African-American Historical Research Endowment Fund held within the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico.

Certificate of Completion Certifications and Training

Completed Digital Accessibility Certification Course - ASU Summer 2023
 Certificate in College and University Teaching (CCUT) – UCSB
 Certificate of Completion, Summer Teaching Institute for Associates (STIA) – UCSB
 Trained in Reacting to the Past Pedagogy (active learning through role play)

Guest Lectures and Seminars

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

2019 **USMA** (West Point, NY)
Ethnicity, Race, and Nation Seminar
 Guest lecture for two lessons - Nations: An Introduction, Whiteness as Race

2017 **UCSB** (Santa Barbara, CA)
The Chicano Movement
 Guest lecture: Black and Brown Civil Rights Intersections

2016 **UCSB** (Santa Barbara, CA)
World History Since 1700
 Guest Lecture: The Industrial Revolution

2015 **UCSB** (Santa Barbara, CA)
 The American People, Colonial Through Jackson Era

Guest Lecture: Slave Trade, Slave Culture, Slave Resistance

2014 **UCSB** (Santa Barbara, CA)
Guest Lecture: The Problem and Possible Solutions of the Color Line: 1890-1920

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

2024-present **Editor, NMSU History Department Newsletter**
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.