

Taylor Prescott

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Education

Ph.D. Candidate in Atlantic History, University of Pennsylvania (Aug. 2020-May 2025)
Philadelphia, PA

Dissertation Title: *Sovereigns and Exiles, Recaptives and Revolutionaries: A Study of Black Interethnic Exchange in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Sierra Leone (1775-1850)*

M.A. in Global and Comparative History, Georgetown University (Aug. 2017-May 2019)
Washington, DC

MA Capstone: "From Subversives to State Actors: White Perceptions of the Jamaican Maroons Before, During, and After the Second Maroon War" (1795-1796)

B.A. in History, Fisk University (Aug. 2013-May 2017)
Nashville, TN

Presentations

"Riots, Revolts, and Refugees: Reframing the Province of Freedom as a Theater of Black Resistance and Warfare during the Age of Revolution (1786-1800)" at the French Colonial Historical Society Conference at the University of Virginia (May 2024)

"Interethnic Exchange in Sierra Leone: A History of Temne Sovereigns, Nova Scotian Migrants, and Jamaican Maroon Exiles, 1787-1807" at The Pennsylvania State University's "Black Experiences in the Wider Atlantic: Approaches, Methods and the Archive" Research Symposium (April 2024)

"Situating Sierra Leone's Riot of 1837 within African and Atlantic Contexts" at Yale University's "Race and Slavery in the Atlantic World" Workshop (October 2023)

"Sierra Leone as a Site of Diaspora, Dislocation, and Homegoing (1787-1850)" at The Association for Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora in Accra at the University of Ghana's Cedi Conference Centre (August 2023)

"Reckoning with Unfreedom in Freetown During the Age of Revolution" at the "Imagining Emancipation in the Atlantic World: 1750-1888" Workshop at the Centre for Political Thought at the University of Exeter (June 2023)

"Cooperation, Contestation, and Identity Formation: A Study of Black Life in Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century Sierra Leone, 1787-1834" for Caribbean Crucible: The Making of the Atlantic World Conference at Columbia University (April 2023)

Commentator on Grant Stanton's Paper "Somerset's Boston, Boston's Somerset" at the University of Pennsylvania's History Graduate Colloquium (February 2023)

"Jamaican Maroons: A Study of Subversion, Symbolism, and Complicity from 1800-1850" at the 21st Annual International Transatlantic History Conference on Spectacle and Power in the Transatlantic World at the University of Texas at Arlington (October 2021)

"Roles, Reactions, and Reasoning: Examining Constructions of Jamaican Maroon Identity." Workshop, Graduate Colloquium in History, University of Pennsylvania (November 2020)

"A People Without Counterparts: The Construction of Maroon Identity in Jamaica" at the University of West Indies at Mona in Kingston, Jamaica. (March 2020)

Research Experience

Huntington Library Exchange Fellowship with New College, Oxford (July 2024)

- Assembled archival materials from New College, Oxford for the purpose of completing my dissertation.

Lapidus Center Fellowship at the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center (Sept-Dec 2023)

- Collected and organized archival materials that enabled me to delineate the social and political contours of eighteenth and nineteenth century Sierra Leone.

Interamericas Fellowship at the John Carter Brown Library (July-Sept. 2022)

- Engaged in extensive archival research and participated in generative discussions with scholars throughout the world.

Research Assistant to Dr. Steven Pincus at the University of Chicago (Jan. 2020)

- Assisted Dr. Pincus in locating and digitizing archival documents at the National Library of Jamaica.

Fulbright Research Award to Jamaica (Sept. 2019 to March 2020)

- Conducted archival research, interviewed members of Maroon communities, and integrated ethnographic data into my scholarship.

Assistant Archivist at the John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library (Fall 2013-Fall 2014)

- Assisted Mrs. Mattie McHollin in archiving information on African Americans artists.

Professional Experience

Residential Assistant for the Hotchkiss School Hersey Scholars Program at Harvard University (Summer 2023)

- Helped a group of Hotchkiss highschoolers navigate the archives at Harvard's Houghton Library and the Boston Public Library.

Communications Civic Engagement Intern at the Netter Center for Community Partnerships (Summer 2021)

- Educated a group of West Philadelphia high-school students about the political process and the importance of voting.

Children's Defense Fund Nashville Freedom Schools (Summer 2017)

- Taught a class of African American seventh graders about the history of civil rights in the United States

Service to the Discipline

- Peer-Reviewer for *The Trotter Review* (2024)
- Organizer and Panelist for “Moving Bodies, Moving Archives” Workshop with Alexandra Zborovsky at the University of Pennsylvania (2024)
- Reviewed Margaret Burnham’s *By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow’s Legal Executioners* (New York, W.W Norton & Company, 2022), *African American Intellectual History Society* (2022)
- Reviewed Vincent Carretta’s *Equiano, the African: Biography of a Self-Made Man* (Athens, University of Georgia Press, 2022), *African American Intellectual History Society* (2022)

Honors

- Inaugural Recipient of the Penn Global Research Dissertation Grant (2024)
- Recipient of the Penfield Dissertation Research Award (2024)
- Recipient of the Gilder Lehrman Scholarly Fellowship (2023)
- Recipient of the Africana Summer Fellowship Institute at the University of Pennsylvania (2021)
- Recipient of the Fontaine Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania (2020)
- Recipient of the MAGIC Scholarship at Georgetown University (2017-2018)
- Graduated Magna Cum Laude at Fisk University (2017)

Affiliations

- American Society for Legal History
- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- French Colonial Historical Society