

Leigh Alexandra Soares
214 Allen Hall, Mailbox H
Mississippi State, MS 39762
lsoares@history.msstate.edu | 617-694-1721

EMPLOYMENT

- 2019- Assistant Professor of History, Mississippi State University
- 2019-2020 Africana Research Center Postdoctoral Fellow for the Richards Civil War Era Center, The Pennsylvania State University

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D., History, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Dissertation: "Higher Ambitions for Freedom: The Politics of Public Black Colleges in the South, 1865-1915"
Committee: Kate Masur (Chair), Martha Biondi, Tracy Steffes, Henry Binford
Certificate: African American and Diaspora Studies
- 2013 M.A., History, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Major Fields: U.S. History; 19th/20th-Century Education, Reform, and the State
Minor Field: Black Visual Culture
- 2012 M.A., History, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
- 2010 A.B. (*cum laude*), History, Duke University, Durham, NC

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2020 Finalist, The C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize in Southern History
- 2017-2018 National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship
- 2017 AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research (declined)
- 2015 Graduate Research Grant, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
- 2014 History Department Research Grant, Northwestern University
- 2010-2011 Merit Fellowship, College of William & Mary
- 2006-2010 Reginaldo Howard Memorial Scholarship, Duke University

PUBLICATIONS

Cradles of Citizenship: Public Black Colleges and Political Engagement from Reconstruction to Jim Crow (manuscript in progress)

“‘Tuskegee is Her Monument’: Olivia Davidson and Black Women’s Leadership in Public Higher Education, 1870-1910” (manuscript in progress)

“Reconstruction-Era Politics Shaped Historically Black Colleges and Universities,” *Process*, Organization of American Historians, Feb. 19, 2018, www.processhistory.org/soares-reconstruction-hbcus/

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

“Progressive Era Reform and the Black Campus,” Food for Thought Series, Africana Research Center, Penn State University, University Park, PA, March 2020

“‘To Manage Our Own Seminary of Learning’: Black Leadership and Negotiations for Public Higher Education in the South, 1875-1900,” Emerging Scholar Speaker Series, Africana Research Center, Penn State University, University Park, PA, January 2019

Conference Presentations

Panel organizer: “Negotiating Emancipation in the Reconstruction South,” OAH Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2021

“Anchors of Reform: Public Black Colleges and Educational Activism, 1880-1920,” AERA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 2020 [conference canceled]

“Ruling the Rural Fountain of Knowledge: Public Black Colleges, Gender, and Leadership in the Post-Civil War South,” Southern Association for Women Historians Triennial Conference, Tuscaloosa, Ala., June 2018

“The Limits of Federal Support for Black Higher Education,” National Academy of Education/Spencer Fellows Conference, Washington, D.C., March 2018

“‘We Are Their Intellectual Equals’: Black Education During Virginia’s Readjuster Movement, 1880-1884,” History of Education Society Meeting, Little Rock, Ark., November 2017

“Professionalized and Pushed Aside: Women’s Narrowing Leadership at Public Black Colleges, 1870-1910,” Graduate Research Conference, Northwestern Black Graduate Student Association, Chicago, Ill., March 2017

Workshop Facilitation

New TA Conference Workshop Leader, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Evanston, Ill., September 2018

“Beyond ‘She Was Nice’: Making the Most of Student Evaluations,” Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Evanston, Ill., May 2018

“Mentoring Student Writing Before and After the Deadline,” Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Evanston, Ill., February 2018

TEACHING

2018-2019 Instructor, U.S. History, The Odyssey Project, Chicago, Ill.
2018-2019 Graduate Teaching Coordinator, History Department, Northwestern University
2017-2018 Graduate Teaching Fellow, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Northwestern University
2016-2017 Teaching Certificate Program, Searle Center, Northwestern University

Courses Taught

Mississippi State University

- HI 1063: Early United States History
- HI 8803: African American Political History
- AAS/GS/HI 3713: History of African American Women

Odyssey Project

- Power and Protest: U.S. History Since 1865

Northwestern University (Teaching Assistant)

- African American History to 1861
- U.S. History, Reconstruction to the Present
- Introduction to Native American History
- The Civil War and Reconstruction
- American Cultural History, Twentieth Century to Present

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2017-2019 Chair, History Graduate Teaching Committee, Northwestern University
2016-2017 Diversity Peer Mentor, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
2016-2017 President, History Graduate Student Organization, Northwestern University
2016-2017 Committee Co-Chair, Chicago Duke Women’s Forum
2014-2015 Prospective Student Coordinator, History Graduate Student Organization, Northwestern University
2012-2019 Evanston-North Shore Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
Southern Historical Association
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
Organization of American Historians
History of Education Society

