

William Robert Billups

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Faculty Position

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Florida, 2024–Present.

Education

Emory University, GA, PhD in History, 2024.

Dissertation Title: “‘Reign of Terror’: Anti–Civil Rights Terrorism in the United States, 1954–1976.”

Emory University, GA, MA in History, 2021.

University of Cambridge, UK, MPhil in American History, 2017–2018.

Master’s Thesis: “Religion’s Role in Georgia’s Segregationist Politics.”

University of Notre Dame, IN, BA in History, 2013–2017.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Martyred Women and White Power since the Civil Rights Era: From Kathy Ainsworth to Vicki Weaver,” *Journal of American History* 109, no. 4 (March 2023): 804–827.

“The Cost of Civil Rights: White Supremacist Violence and Economic Resistance against Koinonia Farm during the Civil Rights Era,” *Journal of Southern History* 89, no. 1 (Feb. 2023): 89–130.

Non-Peer-Reviewed Publication

“On the Heels of a Mob, James Meredith Integrated Ole Miss. He Left Lessons for Today,” *Washington Post*, Sept. 30, 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/made-by-history/2022/09/30/james-meredith-ole-miss/>.

Book Reviews

Lou Major, *Against the Klan: A Newspaper Publisher in South Louisiana during the 1950s* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2021), in *Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d’histoire* 57, no. 2 (Aug. 2022), 313–315.

Rebecca Brückmann, *Massive Resistance and Southern Womanhood* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2021), in *North Carolina Historical Review* 99, no. 1 (Jan. 2022), 118–119.

Claire Whitlinger, *Between Remembrance and Repair: Commemorating Racial Violence in Philadelphia, Mississippi* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2020), in *H-South*, Sept. 2020, <https://networks.h-net.org/node/512/reviews/6496779/billups-whitlinger-between-remembrance-and-repair-commemorating>.

Digital History Project

“Dynamiting Houses of God: Mapping White Supremacist Violence Against Houses of Worship, 1951–1977,” Sept. 6, 2019, (last updated June 13, 2024; best viewed in Google Chrome), <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/william.robert.billups/viz/DynamitingHousesofGodMappingAnti-CivilRightsViolenceAgainstHousesofWorship1954-1972/DynamitingHousesofGodMappingWhiteSupremacistViolenceAgainstHousesofWorship1951-1972>.

Fellowships and Research Grants

Ambrose Monell Foundation Funded National Fellowship in Technology and Democracy, Jefferson

Scholars Foundation, Charlottesville, VA, 2023–2024.
Arthur Schlesinger Jr. Research Fellowship, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library Foundation, Boston, MA, December 2023.
Visiting Scholars Research Grant, Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, November 2023.
Competitive Research Grant, James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, November 2023.
Research Travel Grant, Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, September 2023.
The Portal to Texas History Research Fellowship, University of North Texas Libraries, Denton, TX, April 2023.
Bordin/Gillette Research Fellowship, Bentley Historical Library, Ann Arbor, MI, April 2023.
Research Travel Grant, Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, April 2023.
Research Fellowship, Wardlaw Fellowship Fund for Texas Studies, The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, TX, July 2022.
Research Travel Grant, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Ann Arbor, MI, June 2022.
Research Grant, John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture, Duke University, Durham, NC, May 2022.
Short-Term Research Fellowship, Frances J. Summersell Center for the Study of the South, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, May 2022.
Lynn May Jr. Research Grant, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archive, Nashville, TN, April 2022.
Joseph and Eva R. Dave Research Fellowship, Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, Hebrew-Union College, Cincinnati, OH, May 2021.
Digital Dissertation Scholars Fellowship, Emory Center for Digital Scholarship and Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2020–2021.
Moody Research Grant, Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, TX, October 2020.
Lynn May Jr. Research Grant, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archive, Nashville, TN, April 2020.
Sarah Norton Research Grant, Sarah Norton Research Fund, University of Cambridge, UK, December 2018.
Social Justice in the Marketplace Research Grant, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame, IN, January 2017.
International Research Travel Grant, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame, IN, April 2015.
Social Justice in the Marketplace Research Grant, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame, IN, February 2015.

Awards

Outstanding Scholarly Research Award (awarded annually to three doctoral candidates across the graduate school for superior scholarly research), James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2024.
Best Paper by a Member of Phi Alpha Theta, University of Alabama Power and Struggle History Research Conference (Converted to online writing competition due to COVID-19), 2020.
Runner-Up for Best Paper on Southern History, University of Alabama Power and Struggle History Research Conference, (Converted to online writing competition due to COVID-19), 2020.
McLean Prize (History PhD Student with Most Distinguished First-Year Academic Record), Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2019.
O'Hagan Award for Best Thesis or Essay in Irish History, University of Notre Dame, IN, 2017.

ISLA Research Badge (for exceptional research outcome from an undergraduate project), University of Notre Dame, IN, 2015.

Undergraduate Library Research Award–Honorable Mention, University of Notre Dame, IN, 2014.

McPartlin Essay Award (Best Essay by a First-Year Student), University of Notre Dame, IN, 2014.

Invited Talks

“Far-Right Waco and the World: Texas's International KKK Organization and the Global Contexts Anti–Civil Rights Activism,” University of North Texas Libraries, Denton, TX, April 18, 2024.

“The Ku Klux Klan Abroad: US Influences on International White Supremacy during the Civil Rights Era,” Department of History, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, April 15, 2024.

“Meridian’s Civil Rights History in the Context of Its Architectural History,” Lunch & Learn, Meridian Architectural Trust, Meridian, MS, May 9, 2023.

“Dynamite and Civil Rights: White Supremacist Arsons and Bombings during the Mid-Twentieth Century,” Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, OH, March 22, 2022.

“Dynamiting a House of God: Attacks on Churches and Synagogues during the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, 1955–1971,” Phi Alpha Theta Chapter, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, Feb. 28, 2019.

Conference Panels Organized

“Black Banking and White Supremacy: Debating African American Financial Institutions’ Relationships with Racial Hierarchy,” *109th Annual Meeting*, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Pittsburgh, PA, (forthcoming, Sept. 2024).

“Gender in Modern White Supremacist Ideologies and Movements,” *137th Annual Meeting*, American Historical Association, San Francisco, CA, January 7, 2024.

Conference Presentations

“Stopping the Bus: Racial Violence and Civil Rights Politics in 1970s America,” *BOCA LONGA: U.S. History Consortium Conference*, Emory University, GA, April 6, 2024.

“Digital Martyrs and Mothers: Far-Right Memorials and Gender in Modern Antigovernment Ideologies since the 1990s,” *Conference on American History*, Organization of American Historians, Los Angeles, CA, April 1, 2023.

“Mobilizing against Klan Extremism: The White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan’s Campaign of Terror in Meridian, Mississippi, 1967–1968,” *BOCA LONGA: U.S. History Consortium Conference*, Boston University, MA, March 24, 2022.

“Financial Services and Civil Rights: How Black Bankers and Insurers in Atlanta Helped Koinonia Farm Survive Massive Resistance, 1956–1959,” *Capitalist Souths*, Held Online, May 21, 2021.

“Koinonia Farm’s Insurance-Debt Crisis: Violence, Insurance, and Economic Conflict during the U.S. Civil Rights Era,” *City University of New York History Graduate Student Conference*, Held Online, April 9, 2021.

“Making a Statement: Italian Female Unionists in ILGWU No.48 and Controlling Public Discourse,” *University of Notre Dame Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement Undergraduate Scholars Conference*, April 2017.

“The Triangle Fire: Italian American Perspectives,” *University of Notre Dame Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement Undergraduate Scholars Conference*, April 2015.

“The Triangle Fire: Italian American Perspectives,” *University of Notre Dame Department of History Undergraduate Conference*, April 2015.

“Historically Black Colleges’ and Universities’ Relationship with Civil Rights, Then and Now,”
University of Notre Dame Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement
Undergraduate Scholars Conference, April 2014.

Teaching and Work Experience

Research Assistant (Independent Contractor), *America: A Narrative History*, 13th ed. (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., forthcoming 2025), W. W. Norton & Co, New York, NY, 2023–2024.
Departmental Research Assistant, Emory Department of History, Atlanta, GA, 2022–2023.
Teaching Associate (Instructor of Record), “Making of Modern America: U.S. History since 1877,”
Emory Department of History, Atlanta, GA, 2021.
Teaching Assistant, “American Conservatism,” Emory Department of History, Atlanta, GA, 2020.
Teaching Assistant, “Europe in the Age of Empire,” Emory Department of History, Atlanta, GA,
2019.
Media Accessibility Manager, *Southern Spaces*, Atlanta, GA, 2019–2021.
Editorial Associate, *Southern Spaces*, Atlanta, GA, 2019–2021.
Teaching Assistant, Writing and Rhetoric Tutorial Program, Notre Dame, IN, 2015–2017.
Presentation Tutor, University Writing Center, Notre Dame, IN, 2015–2017.
Writing Instructor, TRIO/Upward Bound (Extracurricular Program for High School Students from
Low-Income Backgrounds), Notre Dame, IN, 2015–2016.
Writing Tutor, University Writing Center, Notre Dame, IN, 2014–2017.

Service and Other Involvement

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Southern Jewish History*, 2023.
Cofounder and Lead Organizer, Emory U.S. History Workshop, 2019–2021.
Treasurer, Emory Graduate History Society, 2019–2020.
Phi Beta Kappa (National Academic Honorary), 2017–Present.
Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honorary), 2015–Present.
Invited Participant, Higgins Labor Studies Program’s Work in Progress (Academic Workshop),
Notre Dame, IN, 2017.
Invited Participant, Higgins Labor Studies Program’s Public Intellectual Initiative, Notre Dame, IN,
2016–2017.
FAA Licensed ASEL High Performance Aircraft Pilot, 218 flight hours, 2017–Present.