

CHARLENE J. FLETCHER

Frances Shera Fessler Assistant Professor of History
Department of History, Anthropology, and Classics
Butler University
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EDUCATION

- 2020 **Ph.D., History**, Indiana University–Bloomington
2014 **MA, History**, Brooklyn College
2009 **MA, Criminal Justice**, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
2006 **BS, Criminal Justice**, Martin University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023-Present Assistant Professor of History, Affiliate Faculty in Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (RGSS) and Peace and Conflict Studies, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN
2021-Present Community Scholar, Center for Africana Studies and Culture, Indiana University, Indianapolis
2020-2021 ACLS Emerging Voices Postdoctoral Research Associate in Slavery and Justice, Brown University, Providence, RI
2015-2016 Assistant Instructor, Indiana Women’s Prison/Indiana University
2010-2014 Lecturer/Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Social Science, LaGuardia Community College-CUNY
2009-2013 Adjunct Lecturer, School of Criminal Justice, Monroe College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021-2023 Curatorial Director, Conner Prairie Museum, Fishers, IN
2015-2018 Editorial Assistant, *American Historical Review*, Bloomington, IN
2016 Research Assistant, Department of Gender Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
2014 Metadata Consultant, History IT, Indianapolis, IN
2013-2014 Intern, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC
2007-2011 Director of Criminal Justice Programs, The Doe Fund, Incorporated, New York, NY

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts Accepted

Fletcher, Charlene J. *Confined Femininity: Race, Gender, and Incarceration in Kentucky, 1865-1920*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, under contract).

Fletcher, Charlene J., Cherstin M. Lyon, Elizabeth M. Nix, and Rebecca K. Shrum, *Introduction to Public History: Interpreting the Past, Engaging Audiences, 2nd Edition*, (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2026).

Book Chapters

“Home Ain’t Always Where the Heart Is: African American Women, Confinement, and Domestic Violence in the Gilded Age Bluegrass,” in *Slavery and Freedom in the Bluegrass State: Revisiting My Old Kentucky*. (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2023).

Refereed Journal Articles

Fletcher, Charlene J. "Borderland Business: Slavery and Convict Leasing in Antebellum Kentucky." *Journal of Arizona History* 64, no. 3 (2023): 331-339. muse.jhu.edu/article/913313.

Fletcher, Charlene J., Alessandra LaRocca Link, and Matthew E. Stanley. "Black and Indigenous Histories of the Ohio Valley," *Ohio Valley History* 20, no. 5 (2020): 1-6. muse.jhu.edu/article/771366.

Book Reviews

Fletcher, Charlene J. "Reaching Back: Convict Leasing and the Trusty System in the Nineteenth Century," *Journal of Civil and Human Rights* 1 January 2022; 8 (1): 68–72. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5406/23784253.8.1.07>

Fletcher-Brown, C. Review of *Liberty's Prisoners: Carceral Culture in Early America*, by Jen Manion, *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 115, no. 3 (Summer 2017): 419-421.

Web-Based Publications

Fletcher, Charlene. "Looking Back: Convict Leasing and the Trusty System." *Black Perspectives*. January 14, 2020. <https://www.aaihs.org/looking-back-convict-leasing-and-the-trusty-system/>

Fletcher-Brown, Charlene. "Early Stories of Domestic Violence Raise Awareness, Foster Healing." *The Blog of the Kentucky Historical Society*. November 4, 2016. <http://history.ky.gov/early-stories-of-domestic-violenceraiseawareness-foster-healing/>

Fletcher-Brown, C. Multiple Submissions in *Significant People in African American History*, BlackPast.org. <https://www.blackpast.org/author/fletcher-browncharlenej/> (2014-2015)

Fletcher-Brown, C. "The Palmer Raids" *1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War*. http://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/Palmer_Raids (2014)

Fletcher-Brown, C. "U.S. Race Riots" *1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War*. http://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/U.S._Race_Riots (2014)

PUBLIC HISTORY, MEDIA, AND CONSULTING

2023-Present Speaker, Advancing Racial Equity (ARE) Speakers Bureau, Indiana Humanities

2022-Present Facilitator, Powerful Conversations on Race, Spirit and Place, Indianapolis, IN

2021-Present Consultant, Southeast Kentucky African American Museum & Cultural Center, Hazard, KY

2020-2022 Chief Historian, *The Oldest Profession Podcast*, Old Pro Productions, Inc., New York, NY

2019 Consultant, Screenplay of *Alice + Freda Forever*, Berlanti Productions

Selected Exhibitions & Media

2024 Interviewee, *Major Taylor: Champion of the Race*, Indiana Public Media, PBS Documentary

2023 *Promised Land as Proving Ground*, Permanent Exhibition, Conner Prairie Museum, Fishers, IN

2020 Interviewee, *WAVE Country with Dawne Gee*, NBC Affiliate, Louisville, KY

2018 Interviewer, *AHR Interview*, *Black Panther* Discussion Series, American Historical Association

2018 Interviewer, *AHR Interview*, *Carceral Studies* with Dr. Elizabeth Hinton, American Historical Association

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2024	Research Grant in Modern Italian History, Cesare Barbieri Endowment for Italian Culture
2024	Fellow, Italian Diaspora Summer Seminar, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
2024	Butler Awards Committee, Research Grant
2024	Butler Awards Committee, Short-Term Workshop Grant
2022	Lerner-Scott Prize, Organization of American Historians, Honorable Mention
2020	ACLS Emerging Voices Postdoctoral Fellowship
2019	President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship, Indiana University
2018	Quinn Fellowship, Doris G. Quinn Foundation
2017	Catherine Prelinger Award, Coordinating Council of Women in History
2017	Scholarly Fellowship, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
2017	Wiseman Fellowship, Indiana University
2017	Woodburn Dissertation Fellowship, Indiana University
2016	Research Fellowship, Filson Historical Society
2016	Scholarly Research Fellowship, Kentucky Historical Society
2016	Grant-In-Aid for Research in the History of the Midwest, Indiana University
2015	Frederick W. & Mildred C. Stoler Research Fellowship, Indiana University
2014	Louise McNutt Fellowship, Indiana University

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND INVITED TALKS

“Borderland Business: Slavery and Convict Leasing in Antebellum Kentucky,” Roundtable on Crime and Punishment: A Comparative Look at the South and West, Western History Association Annual Conference, October 2024

Faculty, *Content Warning: Engaging Trauma and Controversy in Research Collections*, NEH Institute for Higher Education Faculty, Institute for Advanced Study, Indiana University, July 2024

Panelist, Civil War History Day, Kentucky Historical Society, October 2023

“Clubwomen – A Seat at the Table: African American Women and the Right to Vote,” Conversations in Indiana African American History and Culture, Freetown Village and Indiana Landmarks, August 2023

“Imagining Caroline: Interpreting Freedom, Choice, and Enslavement,” National Council for Public History Annual Meeting, April 2023

“For Whose Protection? Black Women and Confinement in the Late-19th Century,” 2022 Thornbrough Lecture, Indiana Association of Historians/Indiana Historical Society, October 2022

“Inequitable Advocacy: Race and the U.S. Sex Workers Rights Movement,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, July 2021

“For Whose Protection? African American Women and Gender Violence in the 19th and 20th Centuries,” Organization of American Historians (OAH) Annual Meeting, Virtual Conference, April 2021

“Mother Love, Mother Loss: Black Women’s Maternal and Mental Health in the 19th Century,” Race, Medicine, and Social Justice Workgroup, Brown University, February 2021

“Home Ain’t Always Where the Heart Is: Women, Confinement, and Domestic Violence in the Gilded Age Bluegrass,” Taft Research Center, University of Cincinnati, February 2021

Panelist, “Police Violence, Mass Incarceration, and the Criminal Justice System,” READ: Racial Education, Activism, and Discussion, University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign, October 2020

“Confined Femininity: Race, Gender, and Incarceration in Kentucky, 1865-1920,” Emerging Scholars Speakers Series, George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center, Penn State University, January 2020

“All Whiskey Ain’t Bourbon: The Home as a Site of Confinement,” Brandeis School of Law, University of Louisville, February 2020

Panelist, “Vulnerability and Resistance: People,” Southern Summit on Philanthropy and the Academy, Center for the Study of the American South, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, September 2019

Invited Scholar, “Southern Summit 2.0,” Center for the Study of the American South, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, May 2019

“Home Ain’t Always Where the Heart Is: Women, Confinement, and Domestic Violence in the Gilded Age Bluegrass,” for the exhibition *Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence*, Greenberg Steinhauser Forum in American Portraiture, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., April 2019

Panelist, “Talk What You Know Testify What You See: Fannie Keyes Harvey and the 1897 Kentucky Penitentiary Scandal,” on panel “Prison, Power, and Protest in Black History,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Annual Meeting, October 2018

Panelist, “History Cafe” for the exhibition *Photographing Freetowns: African American Kentucky Through the Lens of Helen Balfour Morrison*, Kentucky Historical Society, September 2018

Panelist, “Borderland Business: Slavery and Convict Leasing in Civil War Era Kentucky,” Organization of American Historians (OAH) Annual Meeting, Sacramento, CA, April 2018

“Confined Femininity: Race, Gender, and Incarceration in Kentucky, 1865-1920,” African-American Genealogical Society of Kentucky General Meeting, Kentucky Historical Society, August 2016

Panelist, “Crossroads: The Future of Graduate History Education,” Drew University/Indiana Women’s Prison, September 2016

“Race and Resistance: Black Soldiers, Law Enforcement, and Civil Unrest in Charleston, South Carolina, 1918,” on the panel “African American Agency in the Struggle for Freedom and Equality,” Indiana Association of Historians Annual Meeting, March 2015

COURSES TAUGHT

Butler University

- GHS 210 Freedom and Movement in the Transatlantic World
- HST 205/TI 204: Topics in History
- HST 218: Introduction to African American History and Africana Studies (developed and added to curriculum)
- HST 303 Introduction to Public History
- HST 335 Civil War
- HST 352 The Oldest Profession: The History of Sex Work in America (developed and added to curriculum)

Indiana University, Indianapolis

- A140: Introduction to Africana Studies
- H505: Professional Development for Historians

Brown University

- AFRI 1310: Say Her Name: Black Women and the Carceral State Since 1865
- HIST 0654C: The Oldest Profession: Race, Gender, and the Politics of Sex Work

Indiana Women's Prison/Indiana University, Bloomington

- Graduate Readings in History

LaGuardia Community College – City University of New York

- SSJ 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice
- SSJ 102: Criminology
- SSJ 202: Corrections and Sentencing

Monroe College

- CJ 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice
- CJ 105: Introduction to Corrections
- CJ 202: Prisons and Rehabilitation
- CJ 292: Seminar in Criminal Justice
- CJ 492: Field Experience in Criminal Justice II
- EN 205: Business Writing
- LA 103: Introduction to Political Science
- LA 240: Criminology
- LA 241: Juvenile Delinquency
- LA 243: Introduction to Human Services

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Butler University

2024-2027 Faculty Senate

2023-Present Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (RGSS) Program Steering Committee

2024-2026 Faculty Co-Director, Hub for Black Affairs and Community Engagement

2024 Member, Search Committee, Lecturer in History, Department of History, Anthropology, and Classics

LaGuardia Community College – CUNY

2013-2014 Member, Periodic Review Team

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society

2023-2026 Member, Editorial Board

National Council for Public History

2023-2026 Elected Member, Board of Directors

2023-2026 Member, Curriculum and Training Committee

2022-2025 Chair, Book Prize Committee

Organization of American Historians

2021-2025 Member, Marketing and Communications Committee

***Digital Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* – IUPUI and Indianapolis Public Library**

2021-2026 Member, Editorial Board

Association of Black Women Historians

2021-2023 National Publications Director

2017-2019 Graduate Student Representative

State and City of New York

2009-2011 Member, Service Provider Advisory Council (SPAC), New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Albany, NY

2007-2011 Member, New York City Discharge Planning Collaboration and Upper Manhattan Reentry Task Force

LANGUAGES

English: Native Speaker

Italian: Basic Speaking, Reading, and Writing

Spanish: Intermediate Reading, Basic Speaking

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association (AHA)

American Association for Italian Studies

Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH)

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

Italian American Studies Association (IASA)

National Council for Public History (NCPH)

Organization of American Historians (OAH)

Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (SHGAPE)

Society for Italian Historical Studies

Southern Historical Association (SHA)

Southern Association of Women Historians (SAWH)