

ALPHONSO F. SAVILLE, IV

asaville@upsem.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Emory University, Religion, 2017
- M.A. Memphis Theological Seminary, Religion, 2010
- B.A. New York University, Africana Studies and Creative Writing, 2002

PUBLICATIONS

The Gospel of John Marrant: Conjure, Christianity, and America's First Black Minister. (Durham: Duke University Press), forthcoming August 2024.

"I Know It Was the Blood: Prophetic Initiation and Retributive Justice in the Narratives of John Marrant, Nat Turner, and Frederick Douglass" *Journal of Africana Religions* 7, no. 2 (2019): 234-54.

"It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back" in *St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture, 1st Edition.* (Farmington Hills, MI: St. James Press), 2018.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Book Project: *The Problem of God and Slavery at Georgetown*

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Assistant Professor of American Religious History and Mission, Union Presbyterian Seminary (2024 – present)

Associate Research Fellow, The Crossroads Project
Center for Culture, Society, and Religion, Princeton University (2021 – 2024)

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow for the Study of American Religion and Slavery,
Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Georgetown University (2018 – 2021)

Adjunct Professor, History Department, Howard University (2018)

Thurgood Marshall Dissertation Fellow, Department of African and African American
Studies, Dartmouth College (2014 – 2016)

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS, INVITED LECTURES, AND PANELS

Panelist and Presenter: “Conjuring Christianity: Ritual, Myth, and Meaning in Early Black Religion”

Ways of Being: Evolving Religion in America Symposium

Jamestown Settlement and the Museum of the American Revolution at Yorktown (Spring, 2024)

Panelist: “Black Christian Abolitionists in Loyalist Nova Scotia”

Universities Studying Slavery Symposium

Dalhousie University and the University of King’s College, Halifax, Nova Scotia (Fall, 2023)

Convener and Moderator: The Sonic Souls of Black Folk: Sacred Sound and Black Religion in America

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute, Stanford University (Spring, 2023)

Panelist: “Towards a Religious Studies Approach to Reparations”

Envisioning Reparations: Historical and Comparative Approaches

Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, Cambridge University (Fall, 2022)

Convener and Moderator: A Meeting at the Crossroads: Transitions and Transformation in the Study of Black Religion

Center for Culture, Society and Religion, Princeton University (Spring 2022)

Invited Lecture: “From the Fields to the Faculty: Slavery and Religion at Georgetown”

Religion, Race, and Slavery in the Americas Lecture Series, Princeton University (Spring 2021)

Invited Lecture: “Let Us Break Bread Together: Black Interfaith Religion during Slavery”

Theology and Religious Studies Program, Marymount University (Fall 2020)

Respondent: A National Conversation on White Supremacy and American Christianity

Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty

National Press Club (Fall 2020)

Invited Lecture: “John Marrant’s Gospel Mission: Black Evangelicalism in the Age of Revolution”

Mellon Lecture Series

African American Studies Department, Georgetown University (Fall 2019)

Panelist: Foundry Series: Slavery from 1619 to the Civil War (Fall 2019)

American Civil War Museum (Fall 2019)

Panelist: Disrupt the Narrative: Centering African American Perspectives on Religious Freedom

Religious Freedom: African American Perspectives Symposium

Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute

Washington, DC (Spring 2019)

Panelist: The Burden of Ownership: Reclaiming Pedagogies for Social Justice
Universities Studying Slavery, Fall 2018 Symposium
Tougaloo College (Spring 2018)

Panelist: Religion, Violence, and the Moral Problem of Blackness
Exiting Violence: The Role of Religion(s)
The Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University (Fall 2018)

Panelist: Interfaith Dialogue and American Religious History
President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge
Gallaudet University (Spring 2016)

Invited Lecture: Paths to and through Graduate School
Dartmouth College (Fall 2014)

Invited Lecture: Pursuing an Academic Vocation through Doctoral Programs: A Conversation
Interdenominational Theological Seminary (Spring 2014)

Conference Paper: Secrets of God and Race: Vernacular Culture in Elijah Muhammad's Yakub
Myth
History of Religions Part II, Columbia University (Spring 2014)

Conference Paper: If I Speak in the Tongues of Men or Angels: John Marrant's Talking Book
New Voices Conference, Georgia State University (Spring 2014)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE

Honoring the Memphis 13, Devotion Speaker and Moderator Memphis Teacher Residency	2024
Panelist, White Supremacy and American Religion Black Nonbelievers Network	2020
Lecture Series Speaker Georgetown Prison Initiative	2019
Prison and Social Justice Ministry, Speaker Shiloh Baptist Church, Washington, DC	2019
Black History Program Keynote Speaker Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Centreville, VA	2018-19
Brush Harbor Bible Study, Presenter Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA	2018
Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships	2017

Academic Skills Center, Dartmouth College Interim Associate Director	2015-16
El Haaj Malik El Shabazz Center for Intellectual Inquiry, Dartmouth College Residential Fellow and Live-in Advisor	2014-15
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Emory University Graduate Mentor	2011-14
African American Studies Collective, Emory University Vice President, Co-founder	2011-14
Lullwater Graduate Colloquium Planning Committee, Emory University Graduate Student Representative	2013
“Alien Bodies: Race, Space, and Sex in the African Diaspora.” Emory University Conference Planning Committee, Chairperson	2013
Office of Community and Diversity, Emory University Publication Editor, Researcher	2010-12
Memphis Athletic Ministries Director of Education and Community Outreach	2004-10

HONORS AND AWARDS

Inductee, Martin Luther King, Jr. Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College	2024
The Crossroads Project Associate Research Fellowship, Princeton University	2021
The Lemon Project Postdoctoral Fellow, William and Mary University (declined)	2020
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Georgetown University	2018
John Fenton Dissertation Prize in the Comparative Study of Religion, Emory University	2017
Nelson Armstrong Award for Mentorship and Service, Dartmouth College	2016
Shabazz Center for Intellectual Inquiry Residential Fellow, Dartmouth College	2015
Thurgood Marshall Dissertation Fellowship, Dartmouth College	2014
TATTO Piedmont Fellow in Sustainability, Teaching, and Curriculum Emory University	2012
W.E.B. Du Bois Award, Candler School of Theology, Black Church Studies Program	2012
Latimer Scholarship, Memphis Theological Seminary	2010
The Alston Award, Memphis Theological Seminary	2010
Henry Logan Starks Scholarship, Memphis Theological Seminary	2009
Kemmons Wilson Scholarship, Memphis Theological Seminary	2008

COURSES TAUGHT

The Problem of God and American Slavery
 Black Religion and Protest
 Black Lives Matter
 Intro to the Black Diaspora
 The Black Church in African American Experience

Theories and Methods in Religious Studies
American Religious History