**David Helps**

Department of History

University of Michigan

helps@umich.edu

734-389-9789

david-helps.com

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D. History**

University of Michigan, 2023 (anticipated)

* Dissertation: “Securing the World City: Policing, Migration, and the Struggle for Global Los Angles, 1973-1994”
* Exam Fields: US History Since 1848; Comparative Racial Formation; US in the World; Law, Crime, and Citizenship
* Committee: Matthew D. Lassiter (chair), Heather Ann Thompson, Matthew Countryman, Melissa Borja (American Culture), Melissa Burch (Anthropology)

**M.A. History**

University of Toronto, 2017

* Thesis: “Meeting the Neighbours: The Populist Internationalism of *America’s Town Meeting of the Air*, 1935-1950”

**B.A. Hon. History**

McGill University, 2016

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Graduate Student Instructor**

History Department, University of Michigan

September 2018 – present

* Immigration Law (300-level, cross-listed with Latino/a Studies, Islamic Studies); Terrorism in History (200-level); Crime and Drugs in Modern America (300-level); Modern Civil Rights Movement (200-level, cross-listed with African American Studies)

**Teaching Assistant**

Department of Visual Studies, University of Toronto (Mississauga)

September 2016 – April 2017

* Society and Spectacle; Popular Culture and the Politics of Identity

**OTHER ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Research Fellow**

Carceral State Project, University of Michigan

June 2018 – Present

**Research Assistant**

Dr. Janie Paul, Prison Creative Arts Project, University of Michigan

April 2022

**Research Intern**

Detroit Justice Center

May 2020 – July 2020

**Website Manager**

Carceral State Project, University of Michigan

December 2018 – May 2019

**Conference Assistant**

History Department, University of Toronto

May 2017

**Research Assistant**

Dr. Shanon Fitzpatrick, Department of History, McGill University

June 2015- August 2015

**PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES**

With Tania Balderas, Iuri Bauler Pereira, Kathleen Brown, et al, “Against Normalcy: A Collective Testimony of Student Workers Organizing During the Pandemic,” *International Labor and Working-Class History*, forthcoming.

“‘Neighborhood Nightmares’: Drug Dens, Financialization, and the Construction of the Crack Crisis,” *Journal of Urban History*, forthcoming.

# ‘“We Charge Genocide”: Revisiting black radicals’ appeals to the world community.’ *Radical Americas*, 2018, Vol. 3, No. 1, September 2018.

# “‘New York is Dying’: Policing Outdoor Sex Work in the Era of AIDS and Urban Renewal,” *Past Imperfect* Vol. 20, October 2017.

**PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES IN PROGRESS**

With Christine Hwang, “‘Discover the Opportunity Called Detroit’: Anti-Blackness and the Settler Colonial Logic of Predatory Cities,” *American Quarterly*, awaiting reader reports.

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

“In the Rubble: Picturing L.A.’s Housing Crisis” in Carribean Fragoza, Romeo Guzmán and Sabine Joudat, eds., *Writing the Golden State: The New Literary Terrain of California* (Angel City Press, forthcoming 2023).

**OP-EDS AND POLICY REPORTS**

With the GEO Abolition Caucus, “How do we keep our community safe? Policing is not the answer.” *The* *Michigan Daily*, May 17, 2022, <https://www.michigandaily.com/opinion/how-do-we-keep-our-community-safe-policing-is-not-the-answer/>.

“What Actually Killed Breonna Taylor?” *The Nation*, March 16, 2022, <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/breonna-taylor-gentrification/>.

With Alexander Stephens, “Unionization Can End America’s Supply Chain Crisis,” *Foreign Policy*, November 30, 2021, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/11/30/irca-pro-act-immigration-undocumented-unions-supply-chain/>.

“The ‘Global Policeman’ is Not Exempt From Justice,” *Foreign Policy*, August 13, 2021, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/08/13/united-states-philippines-duterte-icc-police-racial-justice-human-rights-black-lives-matter/>.

With Christine Hwang, “Detroit’s Carceral Landscape: Police, Politics, and Profit in America’s Blackest City—and How Detroiters are Reimagining the Future,” May 4, 2021, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c9840adc6f6243f59e33de21a0675d4d>.

With Jade Chowning, Erin Keith and Geoff Leonard, “Highway Robbery: How Metro Detroit Cops & Courts Steer Segregation and Drive Incarceration”interactive StoryMap, October 1, 2020, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2bc1a63675a24bf0990fe4f6900e393f>. Adapted from a Detroit Justice Center white paper.

“When Conservatives Called to Freeze Police Budgets,” *The Metropole*, July 22, 2020, <https://themetropole.blog/2020/07/22/when-conservatives-called-to-freeze-police-budgets/>.

“Covid-19 outbreaks at jails and prisons should make us rethink incarceration,” *Washington Post*, June 25, 2020, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/06/25/covid-19-outbreaks-jails-prisons-should-make-us-rethink-incarceration/>.

* Collected in the American Historical Association’s[*Bibliography of Historians' Responses to COVID-19*](https://www.historians.org/news-and-advocacy/everything-has-a-history/a-bibliography-of-historians-responses-to-covid-19)

“How U-M’s Center of Innovation at failed jail site will fail Detroiters,”Detroit *MetroTimes*, January 8, 2020, <https://www.metrotimes.com/detroit/opinion-how-u-ms-center-of-innovation-at-failed-jail-site-will-fail-detroiters/Content?oid=23542251>.

**ESSAYS AND BOOK REVIEWS**

“Rikers’ White Riot: On Jarrod Shanahan’s *Captives: How Rikers Took New York City Hostage*,” *The Metropole*, forthcoming.

“The Politics of Concrete,” *Protean Magazine*, July 21, 2022, <https://proteanmag.com/2022/07/21/the-politics-of-concrete/>.

“Broken Homes of the Drug War,” *Protean Magazine*, February 25, 2022, <https://proteanmag.com/2022/02/25/broken-homes-of-the-drug-war/>.

“A City’s History and Racial Capitalism” [Walter Johnson’s *The Broken Heart of America*], *Against the Current: A Socialist Journal*, January/February 2022, <https://againstthecurrent.org/atc216/a-citys-history-and-racial-capitalism/>.

“The Ballot or the Brick: On Elizabeth Hinton’s *America on Fire* and Vicky Osterweil’s *In Defense of Looting*,” *Monthly Review*, August 10, 2021, <https://mronline.org/2021/08/10/the-ballot-or-the-brick/>.

“Abolishing the Suburbs: On Kyle Riismandel’s *Neighborhood of Fear*,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 13, 2021, <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/abolishing-the-suburbs-on-kyle-riismandels-neighborhood-of-fear/>.

“Reading Mike Davis in Toronto: Police Violence and the Global City” [on the 30th anniversary of Mike Davis’s *City of Quartz*], *Los Angeles Review of Books*, November 22, 2020, <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/reading-mike-davis-in-toronto-police-violence-and-the-global-city/>.

“The Police: Gentrification’s Shock Troops” [Philip Conklin and Mark Jay’s *A People’s History of Detroit*], *Public Books*, November 3, 2020, <https://www.publicbooks.org/the-police-gentrifications-shock-troops/>.

“What Was the Rust Belt?: On Brett Story’s *Prison Land* and Rebecca J. Kinney’s *Beautiful Wasteland*,” *Cleveland Review of Books*, September 25, 2019, <https://www.clereviewofbooks.com/home/2019/9/25/6fepgr8nd0dcbb5e3nw4e9d2j70efv>.

**PODCASTS**

“Is Another World (City) Possible? Globalization Struggles in Los Angeles,” *Intervals*, Organization of American Historians, forthcoming.

“Policing Gold: Law Enforcement in the Shadow of the LA Olympics,” *Reverb Effect*, University of Michigan History Department, April 1, 2020, <https://lsa.umich.edu/history/history-at-work/reverbeffect/episode6.html>.

**PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS**

With Anne Gray Fischer, Nicole Navarro, and Danielle Wiggins, “Back to the Neighborhood: The Politics of Community Activism in the Post-Civil Rights City,” *American Political History Conference*, Purdue University, June 2022.

* Individual paper: ““The War on Drug Dens: Home Demolitions in Crack-Era Los Angeles”

Comment for Emily Brooks, “Coerced into Coercion Work: Patriotism, Policing, and Gender in World War II New York City,” *Urban History Writing Workshop*, Virginia Tech, December 2021.

“Crime, ‘Innocence,’ and the Abolitionist Terrain of Refusal,” *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*, November 2021. [Postponed from November 2020.]

With Lydia Crafts, Gerson Rosales, and Kevin P. Coleman, “Open Secrets and State Violence: Methodologies for Writing Histories of the Americas from Below,” *Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting*, June 2021.

* Individual paper: “The Stasi of South Central: Police Surveillance and Archival Recovery in Los Angeles, 1976-1985”

With Kalilou Barry, Michael Haggerty, Eshe Sherley, Benjamin Sorensen, and John Enyeart, “From the Prison to the Pandemic: Histories of Criminalization, Migration, and Essential Work in the U.S. and Europe,” *Labor and Working-Class History Association Annual Meeting*, May 2021.

* Individual paper: “Policing Precarity: The Criminalization of Spectacle Work at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics”

“‘Unite to End Police Terror!’: Los Angeles Human Rights Organizing between Black Inter-Nationalism and Western Universalism, 1976-85,” *African American Intellectual History Society Annual Meeting*, March 2021.

With Nicole Navarro, Brian Tochterman, and Samuel Zipp, “Out of the ‘Urban Crisis’: Redevelopment Schemes in the Southwest, Midwest, and Mid-Atlantic after 1980” panel, *Urban History Association Annual Meeting*, October 2020. [cancelled for covid-19]

* Individual paper: “The War on Drug Dens: Liberalism, Landlord Power, and ‘Crack House’ Demolitions in Los Angeles”

“Transcalar History,” *Categorical Imperatives: The Stakes of Scholarly Units of Analysis*, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, October 2020.

With Lydia Crafts, Kyle Longley, Lisa Namikas, and Albert Sanghoon Park, “U.S. Empire, Oral History, and Archives: Methodologies for Writing Histories from Below,” *Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting*, June 2020. [Cancelled for covid-19.]

* Individual paper: “Alternative Archives and the Archive of Alternatives: Police Spying in Late Cold War Los Angeles”

“Between ‘Tough on Crime’ and the Taxpayer Revolt: Los Angeles Police Expansion and the Origins of the Predatory State,” *Race, Law, and History Proseminar*, University of Michigan Law School, May 2019.

“Remembering the Yonge Street Rebellion: A Community-Based Learning Approach to the History of Police Violence,” *American History Workshop Annual Graduate Conference*, University of Michigan, May 2019.

With Katy Rossing, “Complicating ‘Community,’ Locating the Carceral State,” *Engaged Pedagogy Initiative Symposium*, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, April 2019.

“Welcoming the World, Policing the City: The Politics of Security at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles,” *American History Workshop Annual Graduate Conference*, University of Michigan, May 2018.

“Welcoming the World, Policing Their Own? South Central Los Angeles and the Politics of Security at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games,” *Northeastern University Annual Graduate Conference in World History*, March 2018.

“Imagining the Global Neighbourhood: The Populist Internationalism of *America’s Town Meeting of the Air*, 1942-50,” *Northeastern University Annual Graduate Conference in World History*, March 2017.

“Crime Doesn’t Pay: *True Detective Mysteries* and the Making of Model Americans,” *Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History Graduate Research Forum*, University of Toronto, January 2017.

**INVITED TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, AND WEBINARS**

“Disafilliate! Policing Can’t Be Fixed” webinar, Democratic Socialists of America Abolition Working Group, September 2022.

“Unions Engage Mass Movements: Alternatives to Policing” webinar, Labor Research & Action Network/Jobs With Justice, April 2022.

With Charles H.F. Davis III, Davarian L. Baldwin, Kamaria B. Porter, and Erin Corbett, “Between the Carceral University and Police-Free Futures” webinar, National Center for Institutional Diversity webinar, University of Michigan, April 2022.

With Allie Goodman, “What is the Carceral State? Policing Space in Southeast Michigan and Beyond,” Data Town Hall hosted by Accountability for Dearborn, March 2021.

“Bringing the War Home: Vietnam, Police Terror, and the White Power Movement, 1975-92,” “Terrorism in History” guest lecture, Department of History, University of Michigan, November 2019.

“Black Crime Politics During the War on Drugs: A View from Los Angeles,” “Crime and Drugs in Modern America” guest lecture, Department of History, University of Michigan, March 2019.

“The Urban Crisis and the Crisis of Liberalism: Stories from Watts,” “Crime and Drugs in Modern America” guest lecture, Department of History, University of Michigan, February 2019.

**OTHER PUBLIC AND DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Rackham Public Engagement Intern, Detroit Justice Center, May-July 2020.

Presenter, “Central American Migration and the U.S.-Mexico Border” workshop for K-12 teachers, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Michigan, November 2019.

Content Producer, “Nazi Ideals and American Society” collection, [*Experiencing History*](https://perspectives.ushmm.org/login)*: Holocaust Sources in Context*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, January-April 2019.

Contributor, *Sex Work in The Queen City: Mapping Toronto's Sex Trade History, 1865-1915* digital and physical exhibits, University of Toronto Robarts Library, December 2016.

**AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FUNDING**

Alfred J. Beveridge Grant, American Historical Association, $850, April 2022.

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, $34,000, March 2022.

Robert J. Donia Graduate Student Fellowship, Donia Human Rights Center, University of Michigan, $5,000, March 2021.

John Higham Research Fellowship, Organization of American Historians, $1,500, February 2021.

Sidney Fine Teaching Partnership Program, University of Michigan History Department, $4,000, March 2019.

Race, Law & History Fellowship, University of Michigan Law School, $2,500, September 2018.

Donald Matheson Springer Fellowship, University of Toronto, 10,000 CAD, July 2017.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Scholarship, 20,000 CAD per annum for four years, April 2017.

Rackham Fellowship and Graduate Student Instructorship Package, University of Michigan, $19,000 per annum for six years, April 2017.

Mary Coppin Scholarship, McGill University, 3,000 CAD, July 2015.

Arts Research Internship Award, McGill University, 4,000 CAD, May 2015.

McGill University Travel Bursary, 2,500 CAD, June 2014.

Mobility Undergraduate Travel Award, McGill University, 1,500 CAD, May 2014.

**CAMPUS SERVICE**

**Task Force Member**

Advancing Public Safety at the University of Michigan Task Force, January 2021- April 2021.

**Workshop Coordinator**

Migration and Displacement Interdisciplinary Workshop, May 2018- May 2020.

**Discussion Leader**

“The Unappointed Advisory Committee on Academic Freedom” teach-in, University of Michigan, November 2018.

**Workshop Organizer**

“Against the New Nativism: Teach-In on Migration and Borders,” University of Michigan, November 2018.

**Steering Committee Member**

American History Workshop Annual Graduate Student Conference, October 2017 – May 2018.

**Workshop Organizer**

“Learning to ‘Watch’ Images: Teaching the Migration Crisis with Photographs” workshop for K-12 teachers, University of Michigan, March 2018.

**Internal Reviewer**

*Past Tense* Journal, University of Toronto Graduate History Society

October 2016 – November 2016.

**ELECTIVE PEDAGOGY TRAINING**

Graduate Certificate, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan (in progress).

Sidney Fine Teaching Partnership, Department of History, University of Michigan

May 2019 – April 2020. Co-designed two undergraduate survey courses with Prof. Ian Shin.

Engaged Pedagogy Initiative, Center for Engaged Academic Learning, University of Michigan

January – May 2019.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Historical Association, American Studies Association, Labor and Working-Class History Association, Organization of American Historians, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Urban History Association