DAVID HELPS

Haven Hall Room 1629

University of Michigan

[helps@umich.edu](mailto:helps@umich.edu)

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. History, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), 2023 (anticipated)

* 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 Burch, Melissa Borja

M.A. History, University of Toronto, 2017

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

Educator, J. Steckle Heritage Homestead

June 2014 – August 2014 and May 2016 – August 2016

**OTHER ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

Research Intern, Detroit Justice Center

May 2020 – July 2020

Research Team Leader, Detroit’s Carceral Landscape, Documenting Criminalization and Confinement initiative, University of Michigan

January 2020 – Present

Graduate Student Fellow, Policing and Social Justice Lab/Documenting Criminalization and Confinement initiative, University of Michigan

June 2018 – present

Website Manager, Documenting Criminalization and Confinement initiative, University of Michigan

December 2018 – May 2019

Conference Assistant, History Department, University of Toronto (St. George)

May 2017

Research Assistant to Dr. Shanon Fitzpatrick, Department of History, McGill University

June 2015- August 2015

**REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**

# ‘“We Charge Genocide”: Revisiting black radicals’ appeals to the world community.’ *Radical Americas*, 2018, Vol. 3, No. 1, September 2018. [Available for download [here](https://www.scienceopen.com/document_file/55d4b4f7-c788-4468-a15d-d970216ae3fe/ScienceOpen/RA-3-9.pdf).]

# “‘New York is Dying’: Policing Outdoor Sex Work in the Era of AIDS and Urban Renewal,” *Past Imperfect* Vol. 20, October 2017. [Available for download [here](https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/pi/index.php/pi/article/view/29341/21355).]

**BROAD-AUDIENCE PUBLICATIONS**

With Christine Hwang, “Detroit’s Carceral Landscape: How Police, Politicians, and Private Capital Dispossess the City’s Poorest” interactive StoryMap, forthcoming November 2020.

“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/>.

* Republished by *Bunk History* and *History News Network*

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

**BOOK REVIEWS**

“Reading Mike Davis in Toronto: Police Violence and the Global City” [Mike Davis, *City of Quartz*], *Los Angeles Review of Books*, forthcoming November 2020.

“The Police: Gentrification’s Shock Troops” [Philip Conklin and Mark Jay, *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?” [Brett Story, *Prison Land* and Rebecca J. Kinney, *Beautiful Wasteland*], *Cleveland Review of Books*, September 25, 2019, <https://www.clereviewofbooks.com/home/2019/9/25/6fepgr8nd0dcbb5e3nw4e9d2j70efv>.

**OP-EDS AND POLICY PAPERS**

With Jade Chowning, Erin Keith and Geoff Leonard, “Highway Robbery: How Metro Detroit Cops & Courts Steer Segregation and Drive Incarceration”interactive StoryMap, September 15, 2020, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2bc1a63675a24bf0990fe4f6900e393f>. Adapted from a Detroit Justice Center white paper.

“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>.

**PRESENTATIONS**

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

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 2021. [postponed from October 2020.]

“The War on Drug Dens: Liberalism, Landlord Power, and ‘Crack House’ Demolitions in Los Angeles, 1984-90,” *Urban History Association Annual Meeting*, October 2021. [Postponed from October 2020.]

“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.]

“Alternative Archives and the Archive of Alternatives: Police Spying in Late Cold War Los Angeles,” *Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting*, June 2020. [Cancelled for covid-19.]

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

“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.

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

**OTHER PUBLIC AND DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCE**

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

Proposed, wrote, recorded, edited and narrated an episode of the *Reverb Effect* podcast, January-March 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.

**CAMPUS SERVICE**

Co-coordinator, Migration and Displacement Interdisciplinary Workshop, May 2018- May 2020

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

Co-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

Co-organizer, “Learning to ‘Watch’ Images: Teaching the Migration Crisis with Photographs” workshop for K-12 teachers, #NoHumanIsIllegal exhibition launch, 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

**AWARDS AND FUNDING RECEIVED**

With the Carceral State Project, “Documenting Criminalization and Confinement,” Humanities Collaboratory Project Grant, $250,000, University of Michigan, May 2019.

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 School of Graduate Studies, $10,000, July 2017.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Scholarship, $20,000 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, July 2015.

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

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

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

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Historical Association

American Society of Legal Historians

American Studies Association

Organization of American Historians

Urban History Association