

WESTENLEY ALCENAT
Curriculum Vitae
Department of History, Bldg. E51-091
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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Cambridge, MA 02139

EDUCATION

Columbia University New York, NY
Ph.D., Candidate in History (2014-present)
Dissertation in progress: “The Elusive Quest: Black Emigration to Haiti and the Struggle for
Citizenship in a White Republic, 1815-1865.” Adviser: Prof. Eric Foner, PhD

Columbia University New York, NY
M.Phil., American History (2013)
M.A., American History (2012)

Macalester College St. Paul, MN
B.A., Political Science & History (2010)

Dissertation Committee

- Eric Foner, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History (Chair & Adviser)
- Christopher L. Brown, Professor of History
- Natasha Lightfoot, Assistant Professor of History
- Herbert S. Sloan, Professor of History, Barnard College
- James Brewer Stewart, James Wallace Professor of History Emeritus, Macalester College

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Nineteenth-Century U.S, Anti-slavery and Emancipation, American Civil War and Reconstruction Era, Transatlantic Abolitionism, Nineteenth Century Transnational U.S and Caribbean Histories, Black Atlantic and African Diaspora, Black Radicalism and Political Thought

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Visiting Scholar in History (2015-present)
Harvard University, Weatherhead Center for Int'l Affairs
Associate in The Global History Initiative (2015-present)
Columbia University
Academic Adviser, American Studies Program (2015-present)

Summer Research Program Instructor and Graduate Mentor (June-July, 2015)
Great Books Summer Program, Amherst College (July 2015)
Associate Academic Director

PUBLICATIONS

Book Reviews:

- Amber D. Moulton, Amber. 2015. The Fight for Interracial Marriage Rights in Antebellum Massachusetts. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press., in *Journal of Politics, Religion and Ideology* (forthcoming Vol. 16, No.2)
- Sara Fanning. 2014. Caribbean Crossing: African Americans and the Haitian Emigration Movement, NYU Press., in *Journal of Haitian Studies* (forthcoming, Vol 21, No.2)
- Ferrer, Ada. 2014. Freedom's mirror: Cuba and Haiti in the age of revolution. New York, NY : Cambridge University Press., in *Journal of Haitian Studies* (forthcoming Vol 21, No.2)

Articles:

- Alcenat, Westenley and Binnur, Özkececi-Taner. (2010) "Potential Roles for Turkey as Rising Regional Actor in Eurasia." *Insight Turkey*, Vol. 12, No.3. pp. 237-253
- Alcenat, Westenley. (2010) "Revamping the Welfare State: Obama and the Class Challenge of American Politics," *Macalester Civic Forum*: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 5. <http://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/maccivcf/vol4/iss1/5>

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

- "To Transplant in Alien Soil: Race, Migration, Nation, and Citizenship in the Age of the Haitian Revolution" *Graduate Center History Department Annual Conference: Crossing Borders: Negotiating Spaces, Identities, and Sources Across the Historical Disciplines* (March 18th, 2016)
- "Between Slaves and Citizens: The Limits of Black Citizenship in the Age of Revolution, 1789-1816" (April 13th, 2016)
Workshop: *Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism*
- "Liberation Historiography and the Gift of Black Souls: Why Black Lives Matter for Writing and Understanding American History"
Conference: *University of Michigan's 5th Annual Graduate Student Conference in U.S History: "Power, Politics, and Social Change: The Turbulent History of America's Present"* (May 13th-14th, 2016)
- "Searching for Zion: Black Emigration to Haiti and the Ever-Elusive Quest for American Citizenship, 1816-1865," (2014)
Conference: *Reworking Freedom Conference: Workshop on Re-Centering the Enslaved in Histories of the Americas.*
- Becoming American on Foreign Soil: Prince Saunders and African-American Emigration to Haiti, 1816-1824 (2011)
Conference: *Sixth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)*

INVITED TALKS/MEDIA

- "Between Slaves and Citizens: African American Emigrants in the Archives" Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) (April 6, 2015)
- Commentator at the Joint Seminar on "Reparatory Justice for Global Black Enslavement: The Greatest Political Movement of the 21st Century"
Speaker: Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies; Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Commission on Reparation and Social Justice.
Presented by: Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History; Weatherhead Initiative on Global History and the Program on the Study of Capitalism
Paper:
"Reparations As a Problem of Freedom in the Pursuit of Black Citizenship" by Wes Alcenat
- Commentator, on Jim Downs. (2015) "The Geography of Containment: Colonialism, Slavery, the American Civil War, and the Making of Epidemiology" in *Harvard Seminar: Approaches to Global History* (November 30, 2015)
- "Archival Research at the Gilder Lehrman Institute:" <https://vimeo.com/146012676>
- "Haiti, African-American History and Social Justice" *Black History Month Panel*. Columbia Secondary School; Manhattan: New York (February 2015)
- "History, Equality, Equity and Diversity in Education," *Riverdale Country School Service Learning Seminar*, Bronx: Riverdale, New York (October, 2014)
- "A Historical Question: Why is Haiti Poor?" *MIT Seminar: Theories and Methods in the Study of History*, (October 7, 2015)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- History of the Civil War and Reconstruction Columbia University EdX.org. (2014-15)
- The U.S in the Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction (Spring 2014)
- The History of the Modern Caribbean (Fall 2013)
- American Civilization Since the Civil War (Spring 2013)
- Black Urban Political History (Fall 2012)
- Merchants, Pirates, and Slaves in Atlantic Capitalism: 1600-1800 (Fall 2012)
- The American Radical Tradition (Spring 2012)
- History of the City of New York (Fall 2011)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Lapidus Center Short-Term Fellowship (2016-2017)	New York, NY
The Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery	
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History	New York, NY
Research Fellow (2015-2016)	

Silas Palmer Research Fellowship, Hoover Institution Archives & Library (2016)	Palo Alto, CA
Massachusetts Historical Society	Boston, MA
African-American Studies Research Fellowship (2015)	Princeton, NJ
Woodrow Wilson National Foundation Dissertation Travel and Research Grant (2014)	Philadelphia, PA
Library Company of Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA
Short-term Fellowship in American History (2014)	Brooklyn, NY
Social Science Research Council (SSRC)	Brooklyn, NY
Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant (2013)	New York, NY
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Columbia University York, NY	New York, NY
The Richard Hofstadter Fellowship (2010-15)	Philadelphia, PA
Society of Historians of the Early American Republic	Philadelphia, PA
Mellon undergraduate research fellowship (summer 2009)	Philadelphia, PA

HONORS

- Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships Honorable Mention (2015)

Macalester College
MN

Saint Paul,

- Global Citizenship Award (2010)
- Presidential Leadership Award (2010)
- History Dept. Yahya Armajani Endowed Prize (2010)
- Class Commencement Speaker (2010)

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Panels & Workshops

- Co-Organizer, U.S History Dissertation Workshop (2014-2015)
- Co-Organizer, “Reworking Freedom” Graduate Student Conference (Summer 2014)

Graduate History Association (GHA), Columbia University

- Co-Representative for Underrepresented and Students of Color (2015-present)
- GHA Representative, Columbia Graduate Student Association Committee (2011-12)

Columbia University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS)

- Finance Co-Chair, Graduate Students of Color Association (2014-present)

Columbia History Department, Faculty Job Search Committees

- 19th Century US History Search Committee (2014)
- African American History Search Committee (2014)
- Department Representative, Graduate Student Association Committee (2011-2012)

COURSES/THEMES PREPARED TO TEACH

- Atlantic Slavery, 1400-1900
- African-American History to 1877
- History of the Civil War & Reconstruction

- Comparative Revolutions in the Atlantic World
- Resistance in the Black Atlantic
- The Radical Tradition in U.S History
- The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Abolition
- Sugar and Cotton in the Making of Atlantic Capitalism

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Historical Association (AHA)
- Organization of American Historians (OAH)
- Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR)
- Association of Caribbean Historians (ACA)
- African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS)
- Association for the Study of the World African Diaspora (ASWAD)
- Black Gotham, Advisory Board Member (2014-present)
<http://kamauware.com/black-gotham/>

SKILLS

Computer

- Proficient in JSTOR, LexisNexis, Microsoft Excel, and Power Point
- Digital Humanities Center Research Associate (2013-15)

Languages:

- Competent in reading, writing and conversational French, fluency in Haitian Creole

REFERENCE

Eric Foner, PhD

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