

Brian S. Williams

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2020- Assistant Professor, Department of Geosciences, Mississippi State University
2018-2019 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Geography, Dartmouth College

EDUCATION

- 2018 **PhD, Geography.** University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Advisor: Dr. Nik Heynen
Dissertation: *Bioaccumulation: Cotton, Chemicals, and the Political Ecologies of Racial Capitalism*
- 2013 **M.A., Geography.** The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Advisor: Dr. Kendra McSweeney
Thesis: *Perpetual Mobilization and Environmental Injustice: Race and the Contested Development of Industrial Agriculture in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta*
- 2008 **B.A., Anthropology,** highest honors. The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS
Minors: Human Rights and Spanish

RESEARCH INTERESTS

political ecology, environmental justice, food justice, health geography, science and technology studies, political geography, economic geography, historical geography, cultural geography, agri-food systems, critical race and ethnic studies, black geographies, environmental history, oral history, the U.S. South, Latin America.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journals

- 2019 Davis, J., Moulton, A., Van Sant, L., and **Williams, B.** Anthropocene, Capitalocene,...Plantationocene?: A Manifesto for Ecological Justice in an Age of Global Crises. *Geography Compass* (invited submission).
- 2019 **Williams, B.** and Riley, M. The Challenge of Oral History to Environmental History. *Environment & History*.
- 2018 **Williams, B.** "That We May Live": Pesticides, Plantations, and Environmental Racism. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 1(1), 243-267.
- 2018 Bledsoe, A., Eaves, L., **Williams, B.**, and Wright, W. Enacting Black Geographies, Introduction to a digital special issue on Black geographies. *The Southeastern Geographer* and Project Muse.
- 2017 **Williams, B.** Articulating Agrarian Racism: Statistics and Plantationist Empirics. *The Southeastern Geographer* 57(1), 12-29.
- 2017 Bledsoe, A., Eaves, L., & **Williams, B.** Introduction: Black Geographies in and of the American South. *The Southeastern Geographer* 57(1), 6-11.
- 2016 Steacy, C., **Williams, B.**, Petterson, C., & Kurtz, H. Placing the 'Analyst' in Discourse Analysis: Iteration, Emergence and Dialogicality as Situated Process, *The Professional Geographer* 68(1), 166-173.

Guest edited journal special issues

(w/Adam Bledsoe & LaToya Eaves), "Black Geographies and the United States South", *Southeastern Geographer* 57(1) (March 2017).

(w/Adam Bledsoe, LaToya Eaves, and Willie Jamaal Wright), Open-access Digital Special Issue: "Enacting Black Geographies", *Southeastern Geographer* (March 2018).

Book Chapters

Williams, B., Van Sant, L., Moulton, A., and Davis, J., "Grounding Racial Capitalism: Geographies of Land and Property in the Americas". *Forthcoming in The Sage Handbook of Historical Geography*.

Wright, W., McReary, T. **Williams, B.**, and Bledsoe, A., "Pigford et al., v. Glickman and the Limitations of the Politics of Recognition". *Forthcoming in Black Foodways*, edited by Hanna Garth & Ashanté Reese.

Book Reviews

2015 **Williams, B.** (review) *We Will Shoot Back: Armed Resistance in the Mississippi Freedom Movement*, Umojo, A. in *Environment and Planning D Open Site*.

2019 **Williams, B.** (review) *Racial Ecologies*, edited by Leilani Nishime and Kim D. Hester Williams. in *Environment & History*. (forthcoming)

Peer Reviews for

Annals of the American Association of Geographers (x4), *Antipode*, *Environment & Planning E: Nature & Space (x2)*, *Geoforum*, *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*, *Revista Estudios Socio-Jurídicos*, *Southeastern Geographer*.

Public Scholarship

Forthcoming Anti-Pod: A Radical Geography Podcast, w/ the Anti-Pod Production Collective (Akira Rodriguez, Alex Moulton, Allison Guess, Darren Patrick, Priscilla Vaz, and **Brian Williams**) (*first episode in preparation*)

2017 *Mississippi Agricultural Oral History Collection*. University of Georgia, Russell Library for Political Research and Studies

2015 Bacon, C., Bonta, M., Bryan, J., Clouser, R., Finley-Brook, M., Johnson, R., McSweeney, K., Mollett, S., Nolin, C., Offen, K., Pearson, Z., Pederson, A., Pine, A., Purdum, L., Raudel, C., Galeana Rodriguez, F., Taylor, M., **Williams, B.**, Wilmot, F., Wrathall, D., Ybarra, M. (2015). 7 Reasons to Scrap the \$1 Billion Aid Package to Central America. In *The Americas Program of the Center for International Policy*.

2010 "Cosecha: Weaving and the Coffee Harvest in Highland Guatemala", documentary project combining photography and interview data. Exhibited in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and Columbia, Missouri

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2018-20 **Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Department of Geography, Dartmouth College. (\$106,000)

2018 **Summer Doctoral Research Fellowship**, The Graduate School, University of

- Georgia (\$3,500)
- 2018 **Grant for the production of AntiPod (*w/the AntiPod production Collective*)**, The Antipode Foundation (\$1386)
- 2017 **American Association of Geographers Dissertation Research Grant**, The American Association of Geographers (\$1000)
- 2016 **Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award**, The National Science Foundation (\$15,000)
- 2016 **UGA Franklin College-University of Liverpool Doctoral Short-Term International Research Fellowship**, University of Georgia and University of Liverpool (for collaboration w/ Dr. Mark Riley) (\$3,250)
- 2015 **Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant**, The Graduate School, University of Georgia (\$1,350)
- 2013-15 **Graduate School Assistantship**, University of Georgia. *Competitive assistantship awarded through a university-wide selection process* (\$41,000)
- 2013 **Excellence in Graduate Recruitment Fund**, The Graduate School, University of Georgia (\$3,000)
- 2012 **Rayner Fellowship for Graduate Fieldwork**, Department of Geography, The Ohio State University (\$1,000)
- 2011-12 **University Fellowship**, The Ohio State University (\$27,708)
- 2004-08 **National Merit Semifinalist Scholarship**, The University of Southern Mississippi
- 2004 **Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant**

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2017 Antipode Geographies of Justice Summer Institute, Concordia University, Montreal, QC
- 2017 Audience Favorite Award, Geography Graduate Research Conference, University of Georgia
- 2016-17 Graduate School Travel Grant, University of Georgia
- 2016 Popular Vote Winner, 3 Minute Thesis Competition, Geography Graduate Research Conference, University of Georgia
- 2008 Anthropology Student of the Year, University of Southern Mississippi

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, *Mississippi State University*

- 2020 Geographies of the US South (GR 4263/6263), Spring
Culture, Place, and Power (GR 4990/6990), Human Geography (GR 2013), Fall

Instructor, *Dartmouth College*

- 2019 Introduction to Human Geography (Geography 01) and Race, Space, and Nature (Geography 80.07)

Instructor, *University of Georgia*

- 2018 Introduction to Human Geography (Geography 1101), Spring
2017 Introduction to Human Geography (Geography 1101), Spring

2016 Cultural Geography (Geography 1103), Spring

Lab Instructor, The Ohio State University

2013 Our Global Environment (Geography 2800), Spring

Teaching Assistant, University of Georgia

2017 Cultural Geography (Geography 1103), Fall

2015 Introduction to Human Geography (Geography 1101), Fall

Teaching Assistant, The Ohio State University

2012 The Geography of Latin America (Geography 3752), Fall

Guest Lectures

2015 University of Georgia, Geography 1101. Politics and Urban Design

2015 University of Georgia, Geography 1103. Economic Geographies

2014 University of Georgia, Geography 1101. The Green Revolution and Agrarian Resistance

2013 The Ohio State University, Geography 7102. Qualitative Research in Human Geography

2012 The Ohio State University, Geography 3752. Social Movements in Latin America

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Invited presentations

2019 “Good, Clean Cotton”: Chemical Intensification and Agrarian Racial Regimes in the U.S. South. Workshop for the Dartmouth College Geography Department Speaker Series.

2017 Plantations, Plots, and Pesticides: agro-environmental racism in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. Colloquium lecture at the Florida State University Department of Geography.

2017 ‘That We May Live’: pesticides, biopolitics, and environmental racism. Invited workshop presentation for the Dirty History workshop, University of Georgia.

2016 Pesticides, Plantations and Oral History. Presentation at the Sweat Equity Investment in the Cotton Kingdom Symposium. Mississippi Valley State University, Itta Bena, MS.

2014 Hunger in the Freeman World: Malthusianism and Productivism in the USDA and Beyond. Invited workshop presentation for the Food Place and Power interdisciplinary working group. Athens, GA.

Conference and workshop presentations

2019 Panelist, Towards a Global Geography of the Plantation. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG). Washington, D.C.

2019 Panelist, Creating a Soundscape of Radical Imagination: Podcasts as Scholarship. Annual Meeting of the AAG. Washington, D.C.

2019 Panelist, Welcome to the AAG Introductory Panel. Annual Meeting of the AAG. Washington, D.C.

2018 Food, land, and environmental justice in the Mississippi Delta: Making the

- connections. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the AAG. New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 Pesticides, Agro-Environmental Racism, and Social Reproduction in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. Paper presentation at the Southern Labor Studies Association annual conference. Athens, GA.
- 2017 Food Justice and Environmental Justice in the Mississippi Delta: Making the connections. Paper presentation at the Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG). Starkville, MS.
- 2017 ‘Good, Clean Cotton’: Plantation Ecologies and Environmental Racism. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the AAG. Boston, MA.
- 2017 Plantation Ecologies and Environmental Racism. Paper presentation at the Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. Lexington, KY.
- 2016 Life and Biocide: Pesticides as Developmental Commodities. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the AAG. San Francisco, CA.
- 2016 Bioaccumulating Agrarian Racism: The Environmental Politics of Pesticides in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. Workshop presentation at the Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. Lexington, KY.
- 2016 The Environmental Politics of Pesticides in Mississippi. Presentation at the University of Liverpool School of Environmental Sciences Graduate Student Conference. Liverpool, UK.
- 2015 Articulating the Agricultural Racial State: Statistics and Plantationist Empirics. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the SEDAAG. Pensacola, FL.
- 2015 Seeds, pesticides and racial politics: reconsidering commodification in political ecology. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the AAG. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 The Production of Hunger: 1960s Food Politics and Resistance to Freedom Struggles in the US South and Global South. Paper presentation at Redefining the Welcome Table: Exclusion and Inclusion in American Foodways, a Conference held by the Southern Foodways Alliance and the William Winter Institute. Oxford, MS.
- 2014 Hunger in the Freeman World: Malthusianism and Productivism in the USDA and Beyond. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of SEDAAG. Athens, GA.
- 2014 White Supremacist Ideology and Agro-‘industry’. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the AAG. Tampa, FL.
- 2013 White Supremacy, Agroindustry, and Contested Environmental Injustice in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the AAG. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013 Agro-industrial Development as White Supremacy in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of SEDAAG. Asheville, NC.

Sessions organized & facilitated

- 2018 Co-organizer, Agrifood (In)Justice: Centering Racial and Global Agrifood (In)Justice in Agrarian Practice. Paper session at the annual meeting of the AAG. New Orleans, LA. (w/Laura-Anne Minkoff-Zern).
- 2017 Co-organizer, Food Justice and the U.S. South: Remembering the Past,

- Cultivating the Future. Paper session at the annual meeting of SEDAAG. Starkville, MS. (w/ Catarina Passidomo).
- 2017 Co-organizer, 'In order to see the blues all 'round: honoring Clyde Woods'. Panel Session at the annual meeting of SEDAAG. Starkville, MS (w/ LaToya Eaves).
- 2016 Organizer and moderator, Welcome to the AAG Panel, Annual Meeting of the AAG. San Francisco, CA.
- 2016 Organizer, The new 'normal': states of mental being, graduate students and the Anglo-American academy. Plenary presentation by Linda Peake at the Annual Meeting of the AAG. San Francisco, CA.
- 2016 Session Chair, The Racial Politics of Agriculture, Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, Lexington, KY.
- 2015 Co-organizer, Agriculture and Race in the United States South, Annual Meeting of SEDAAG. Pensacola, FL. (w/ Heather Hyden)
- 2015 Organizer and moderator, Welcome to the AAG Panel, Annual Meeting of the AAG, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Co-organizer, Crisis in Central America Revisited, (4 sessions) Annual Meeting of the AAG, Chicago, IL. (w/ Kendra McSweeney and Zoe Pearson).
- 2015 Plenary chair and organizer, The Academic as Activist: Rewards and Perils, with Audrey Kobayashi, Annual Meeting of the AAG, Chicago, IL.
- 2014 Session chair, "Political Ecology and Race 1: Environmental Injustice and Activism," Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers. Tampa, FL.

DISCIPLINARY SERVICE

- 2017-2019 Communications Director, Black Geographies Specialty Group of the AAG.
- 2018 Conference programming committee, Southern Labor Studies Association Biennial Meeting; Athens, GA.
- 2017 Networking Committee, Black Geographies Specialty Group of the AAG.
- 2016 Member of the American Association of Geographers Task Force on Student Representation on the AAG Council.
- 2014-16 Chair, The Graduate Student Affinity Group of the AAG.
- 2014 Vice-Chair, The Graduate Student Affinity Group of the AAG.
- 2014 Member of the National Geographic Society's Geography Awareness Week Planning Group.
- 2012-13 Historian, The Graduate Student Affinity Group of the AAG.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2019 Moderator, Panel Discussion on Food Justice, Annual Sustainability and Social Justice Dinner, Dartmouth College.
- 2018-2019 Co-organizer (w/ Yui Hashimoto), Racial Capitalism Reading Group.

- Dartmouth College.
- 2016 Organizer, 'A Place for Everyone: Protecting Immigrants' Rights at UGA and in Athens,' a panel discussion, University of Georgia.
- 2015 Co-organizer (w/ Daniella Aiello), Marxist Feminism Reading Group, University of Georgia.
- 2014-15 Geography Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Student Association, University of Georgia
- 2012 Graduate & Professional Student Diversity Recruitment Initiative "Life at OSU" Roundtable, The Ohio State University
- 2008 Representative of Amnesty International to At the Top campus leadership organization, The University of Southern Mississippi
- 2007 Student government Spanish course representative, Swansea University
- 2005-06 Honors Student Association Representative, The University of Southern Mississippi

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2019 Judge, The Adam Brown '97 Memorial Fund Outstanding Student Paper Award, Dartmouth College
- 2015-16 Undergraduate Representative for the Geography Graduate Student Association, University of Georgia
- 2014 Graduate Representative for the Geography Graduate Student Association, University of Georgia
- 2014 Judge, Undergraduate Geography Research Competition, University of Georgia
- 2013 Panel discussion committee, Imagining Our Rivers, Imagining Our Future: The Olentangy in Columbus, The Ohio State University

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professional Organization Memberships

American Association of Geographers (AAG)
 Critical Ethnic Studies Association (CESA)
 Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG)
 Southeastern Division of the AAG (SEDAAG)

Other Relevant Work

- 2015 Volunteer, Mississippians Engaged in Greener Agriculture. *Shelby, MS.* (Summer)
- 2010-11 Landscaper and Spanish-English translator. Warren Hood Landscaping. *Hattiesburg, MS.*
- 2009 Volunteer Coordinator and Translator, Trama Textiles. *Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.*

Language Skills

English (Native)
 Spanish (Intermediate)