

## DR. KAMI FLETCHER

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### EDUCATION

Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD

**Ph.D. in History** 2013

Major areas: African American History, Death and Cemeteries, Race and Gender Studies

Minor areas: African Diaspora, U.S. 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Dissertation: “The City of the Dead for Colored People: Baltimore’s Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1807-2012”**

Texas Woman’s University, Denton, TX

**M.A. in Women’s Studies** 2006

Area of interest: African American women, social movements

**Thesis: “The Niagara Movement: The Black Protest Reborn”**

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, AR

**Master’s in Public Administration** 2003

Areas of Concentration: County government

**Capstone: “Reform of Urban Counties: Redefining the Traditional Role of the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Department**

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, AR

**Bachelor of Arts in English** 2001

*Magna Cum Laude*

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Albright College, Reading, PA

**Associate Professor – History Department** 2019-Present

**Co-Coordinator of Women’s and Gender Studies** 2020-Present

Courses teaching: African American History I

African American History II

African Americans and the Great Migration

U.S. History Since 1865

U.S. Social History

History of Race and Ethnicity in U.S.

Cities of the Dead: Life & Memory in the Cemetery (co-taught)

Hangzhou, China

**Professor – Jinan University – JNC Study Abroad Platform** Summer 2018

Courses taught: Introduction to World Geography

Introduction to Modern Western Literature

Gender, Sexuality & Society

Delaware State University, Dover, DE

**Assistant Professor– History, Political Science, Philosophy Department  
(Promoted to Associate Professor in 2018)**

**2014-2019**

Courses taught: African American History to 1865  
Honors African American History to 1865  
African American History from 1865  
The Great Migration  
The Southern Plantation  
African American Deathways & Deathwork

Towson University, Towson, MD

**Visiting Assistant Professor – Interdisciplinary Studies Department**

**2013-2014**

Courses taught: Women in Perspective  
Maryland Plantations: Then and Now  
Introduction to American Studies

Towson University, Towson, MD

**Adjunct Instructor – History Department & Women’s and Gender  
Studies Department**

**2012-2013**

Courses taught: Women & Society: Introduction to Women’s Studies  
History of the U.S. since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century

Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD

**Adjunct Instructor – History Department & Women’s Studies Department**

**2010-2012**

Courses taught: Introduction to Women’s Studies  
African American History  
U.S. History to 1865

University of North Texas, Denton, TX

**Adjunct Instructor – Women’s Studies Department**

**2008-2009**

Courses taught: Women & Society: Introduction to Women’s Studies

Texas Women’s University, Denton, TX

**Adjunct Instructor – Women’s Studies Department**

**2006-2009**

Courses taught: Women: Images & Perspectives

## **PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS**

### **BOOKS**

Amanik, Allan & Kami Fletcher. Editors. [\*Till Death Do Us Part: American Ethnic Cemeteries as Borders Uncrossed\*](#). University Press of Mississippi, April 2020.

Fletcher, Kami. [\*The Niagara Movement: The Black Protest Reborn\*](#). Saarbrucken, Germany: VDM Verlag Dr. Muller, 2008.

**Under Contract**

Fletcher, Kami & Ashley Towle. Editors. *Southern Cemeteries, Imprints of Southern Culture*. University of Georgia Press (forthcoming 2023).

### **In Progress**

Fletcher, Kami. *Ain't She Got No People? Life & Death at Mount Auburn Cemetery*.

### **PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Fletcher, Kami. [“Are Enslaved African Americans Buried at Mount Harmon Plantation? Space and Reflection for National Mourning and Memorializing”](#) *Mortality*, (online ahead of print).

Fletcher, Kami. [“Real Business: Maryland’s First Black Cemetery Journey’s into the Enterprise of Death, 1807-1920.”](#) *Thanatological Studies*, Number 7 (April 2015): 53-85.

### **Revise and Resubmit**

Fletcher, Kami. “Black Women Undertakers of the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Were Hidden in Plain Sight” *Meridians*

### **BOOK CHAPTERS**

Fletcher, Kami and Tamara Waraschinski “Between Cultural Necrophilia & African American Activism: Life & Loss in the Age of COVID” In [Death, Grief and Loss in the Context of COVID-19](#) edited by Panagiotis Pentaris. Routledge, August 2021.

Fletcher, Kami. “Long Live Chill #LLC: Exploring Grief, Memorial & Ritual in African American R.I.P. T- shirt Culture.” In [Beyond the Veil: Reflexive Study of Death and Dying](#), edited by Kalliopi Christoduoulaki and Aubrey Thamann, New York: Berghahn Books, May 2021.

Fletcher, Kami. “Founding Baltimore’s Mount Auburn Cemetery and Its Importance to Understanding African American Burial Rights.” In [Till Death Do Us Part: American Ethnic Cemeteries as Borders Uncrossed](#). Edited by Allan Amanik and Kami Fletcher, Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, April 2020.

Fletcher, Kami. “When Did the n-word Become about Freedom of Speech? Understanding the Effects of When the n-word is Spoken in the classroom.” In [Postcolonial Composition Pedagogy: Using the Culture of Marginalized Students to Teach Writing](#), edited by Monique Akassi, 267-76, Ann Arbor, Michigan: Robbie Dean Press, 2011.

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

Kami Fletcher – [The Politics of Mourning: Death and Honor in Arlington National Cemetery](#) by Micki McElya in *African American Review* Vol 51.1 (Spring 2018).

Kami Fletcher – *Moses and the Monster and Miss Anne* by Carole Marks in *Southern Historian: A Journal of Southern History* Vol. 32, Spring 2011.

### **INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Lectures/Keynote Speaker**

Invited Speaker to North Burial Ground. “Baltimore’s Mount Auburn Cemetery.” February 23, 2022.

Invited Speaker to “Hard Histories at Hopkins” seminar series. Johns Hopkins University. “The Rise of the African American Undertaker & Funeral Directress in Baltimore, 1872-1920.” November 12, 2021.

Keynote speaker for “The Material Culture of Racial Justice and Healthcare Equity” seminar series. “Cemeteries and Death Work as Social Justice Activism.” University of North Carolina, Wilmington. November 5, 2021.

Invited panelists to the Library of Virginia’s Book Talk: Death and Rebirth in a Southern City: Richmond’s Historic Cemeteries. September 23, 2021.

Keynote speaker at the 2021 international conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal Death, Dying, Disposal International Conference. “A Fight for Burial Rights: The Importance of Autonomous Black Burial Grounds Then and Now”. September 2, 2021.

Invited Speaker for the Community College of Baltimore County’s “Invisible History Program.” June 22, 2021.

Invited Speaker to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, “Freedom Through Death: Founding Baltimore’s Mount Auburn Cemetery”. Zoom webinar. Sponsored by the Department of Science, Technology, and Science. March 26, 2021.

Invited Speaker to Georgia Southern University, [“Jim Crowing the Dead,”](#) Zoom webinar. Sponsored by the Department of History, February 24, 2021.

Keynote speaker during Experience Event at Case Western Reserve University. “African American Deathways & Deathwork IS Social Justice Activism”. Zoom webinar. September 21, 2020.

Invited Speaker at “African American Cemeteries: Remembering, Reclaiming, Resisting” sponsored by the Friends of Geer Cemetery, Duke University’s Forum for Scholars and Publics, and the International Comparative Studies at Duke University in Durham, NC. November 2019

Invited Speaker to Smith College, “Baltimore’s Mount Auburn Cemetery and the African American Funeral Directresses,” Northampton, MA April 2019

Keynote speaker for the Mount Harmon Plantation Special Speaker Series Program. “Slavery, Indentured Servitude & Tenant Farming at Mount Harmon Plantation” October 2018

Invited Keynote speaker at the Death Salon Boston 2018. Main Conference “Baltimore’s Mount Auburn Cemetery: Using the City’s First Autonomous Black Cemetery to Explore the African American Experience” September 2018

Invited Speaker at Delaware State University’s Racial Forum, “From Taking a Knee to Taking Down Statues” October 2017

Invited Lecture/Presentation at the Middletown Odessa Townsend Jean Birch Senior Center, “Harlem Migration and the Harlem Renaissance,” Middletown, Delaware, October 2017

Invited Speaker at University of Delaware, “Preserving Our Past: The Slave Dwelling Project in

Delaware,” April 2017

Invited Speaker at Delaware State University’s Miss DSU and Mr. DSU Initiative, “Reclaiming Your Royal Roots” September 2015.

Invited Speaker at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock’s Women’s History Month Celebration. “Black Women’s Activism in the Niagara Movement” March 2009.

Invited Speaker at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville’s Women’s History Month Celebration. “Black Women: Images in the Media and Visions of Change” March 2008.

### **Paper/Panel Presentations**

“Black Remembrance and the Remembrance of the Black Experience in America.” Chair of this panel at the 2022 Organization of American Historians in Boston, MA.

“Long Live Chill #LLC: Exploring Death, Memorial & Ritual in African American R.I.P. T-Shirt Culture” A paper presented at the 2019 biennial international conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal in Bath, England.

“Jim Crowing the Dead: Challenging the DeFacto and the DeJure” A paper presented at the 2019 Organization of American Historians in Philadelphia, PA.

“Giants Walk Amongst Us: The Death Work of Black Female Undertakers in Baltimore” A paper presented at the 2018 Southern Association of Women Historians Conference in Birmingham, AL.

“Black History, Heritage, and Scholarship: Setting the Table for a Sustainable Future” A roundtable member at the 2018 Society for Applied Anthropology Conference in Philadelphia, PA

“Black Burial Rights & Racialized Burial Borders: A Critique of American Identity at the Burial Ground” A paper presented at the 2018 American Historical Association Conference in Washington, DC.

“The Black Intellectual in Academia: Experiences and Approaches” A panelist at the 2017 African American Intellectual History Society annual conference in Nashville, TN.

“Memorialization, Community, and Collective Bodies at Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1871-1915” A paper presented at the 2016 Southern Historical Association in St. Pete Beach, FL.

“Segregated Black Burial Grounds in Antebellum Maryland As Places of Freedom and Protection” A paper presented at the 2016 Association for the Study of African American Life and Culture in Richmond, VA. (Panel Organizer)

“Lazarus Seeks Rest: Questions Raised by a Charles County Slave Cemetery” A panelist at the 2015 Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Conference in Cambridge, MD.

“ ‘I’m Afraid that When the Devil Come Take My Master’s Body, the Devil May Mistake and Get Mine:’ Slave Cemeteries, Colored Sections, and African American Death Ideology” A paper presented at the 2014 Organization of American Historians annual conference in Atlanta, GA.

“The City of the Dead for Colored People: Baltimore’s Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1807-2012” A paper presented at the 2013 John Gissendanner Symposium: Presenting Research and Scholarship in African

and African American Studies in Baltimore, MD.

“Creating Freedoms” A panelist at the 2013 Morgan State University History Day Celebration in Baltimore, MD.

“When Did the n-word Become about Freedom of Speech? Understanding the Effects of When the n-word is Spoken in the Classroom” A paper presented at the 2011 College Language Association annual conference in Atlanta, GA.

“Examining Women & Slave ship Mutinies, 1740-1840” A paper presented at the 2011 Association for the Study of African American Life & History annual conference in Richmond, VA.

“Help a Sista/Brotha Out: The Importance of Mentorship, Intellectual & Academic Support for Graduate Students” A panelist at the 2010 Association for the Study of African American Life & History annual conference in Raleigh, NC. (Panel Organizer)

“Guidelines for the Restoration & Preservation of Mount Auburn Cemetery” A research report presented at the Professional Development for Museums: Surviving and Sustaining the Past through Reflective Methods at Morgan State University in September 2010.

“A time for Change: Barack Obama in African American History” A panelist at the 2009 Texas Woman’s University Black History Month program.

“The Invitation Was Lost in the Mail” A Paper presented at the 2006 Niagara Movement at Harper’s Ferry Centennial Commemoration in Harper’s Ferry, WV.

“The Peculiar (Brazilian) Institution: A Historiography of Brazilian Slavery and Its Effects on the Construction of Race” A paper presented at the 2006 Southwestern Social Science Association annual conference in San Antonio, TX.

“Representations of Black Women in the Media: Humps, Laffy Taffy, and Gold Diggers” A panelist at the 2006 Texas Woman’s University African American Student Leadership Conference in Denton, TX.

“The Niagara Movement: The Black (Women’s) Protest (Re)born” A paper presented at the 2005 Association for the Study of African American Life & History annual conference in Buffalo, NY.

“Working Around the Clock: The Third Shift of the Minority Female Graduate Student” A paper presented at the 2005 Southwestern Social Science Association annual conference in New Orleans, LA.

“Willa Prescott Nedeed’s Tragic Destiny in Gloria Naylor’s *Linden Hills*” A paper presented at the 1999 Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society annual convention in St. Louis, MO.

## MEDIA APPEARANCES

[“Grief and Mourning in a Pandemic”](#) March 19, 2021 by Marty Moss-Coane, *Radio Times*, *WHYY*, *National Public Radio*

[“Amid protests, funerals offer a space for collective mourning – and fighting anti-Black oppression”](#) June 8, 2020 by James Vermes, *The Current*, *Canadian Broadcast Radio*

[“A pandemia deixará o maior luto da nossa história”](#) June 5, 2020 by Letícia Paiva, Claudia, Brazilian Women’s Magazine

[“The Coronavirus Has a Disparate Impact on Black Grief, Too”](#) May 29, 2020 by Fernanda Echavarrri, *Mother Jones*

[“Is Death Really ‘The Great Equalizer?’ African American Deathways and Inequality in America”](#) May 13, 2020 by Ellary Allis, *SevenPonds Blog*

[“All the Things We Have to Mourn Now”](#) May 1, 2020 by Joe Pinker, *The Atlantic*

[“Dr. Kami Fletcher: Homegoin’ and Death as Resistance”](#) November 28, 2019 by Susan Roth, Hey Human Podcast

[“The Lived Black Experience on Mount Harmon Plantation”](#) November 8, 2018 by Dr. Phoebe Stein, WYPR, *National Public Radio*

[“A Series of Burial Plot Twists”](#) Episode 17, 2017, The Rise of Charm City, Podcast

## GRANTS

2021-2022 George Washington University Institute for Data, Democracy & Politics Grant - \$20,000 (Co-PI)  
 2017-2018 Delaware State University Center for Teaching & Advancement Grant – \$332.00  
 2017-2018 Delaware State University Center for Teaching & Advancement Grant – \$1,897.88  
 2016-2017 Delaware State University Academic Enrichment Grant – \$5,640  
 2016-2017 Delaware State University Professional Development Grant – \$1,200  
 2016-2017 Delaware State University Center for Teaching & Advancement Grant – \$980.10  
 2016-2017 Delaware State University Professional Development Grant – \$1,200.00  
 2015-2016 Delaware State University Professional Development Grant – \$204.00  
 2015-2016 Delaware State University Academic Enrichment Grant – \$5,658  
 2014-2015 Delaware State University Academic Enrichment Grant – \$4,573

## HISTORICAL CONSULTANT

*John Dickinson Plantation*

**Historical Consultant on African Burial Ground Project** **2021-2022**

- Aiding in formally organizing the tour of the burial ground
- Researching the African Americans who lived and died on the plantation

*UK Research and Innovation Fellowship*

*“Future of Death: Designing End of Life Choice and Citizenship”*

**Research Advisory Board Member** **2020-2021**

- Provide direction in order to guide the direction of the project
- Provide feedback on stage design prototypes at all stages
- Provide feedback on policy recommendations for the project
- Provide advice on ethical considerations and the strategic development of the project

*Mount Harmon Plantation, Cecil County, MD*

**Historical Consultant on “Altered Journeys” Project** **2017-2019**

- Researched and wrote history of Mount Harmon Plantation that focused on the institution of slavery, indentured slavery, indentured servitude and tenant farming.
- Spearhead the survey and historical research of the slave graveyard.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

*African American Intellectual Historical Society* <http://www.aaihs.org>

**Academic Blogger** **2014-2017**

- Blog monthly about African American death ideology, cemeteries, plantation, pedagogy

**Steering Committee, Member** **2014-2015**

- Aided in the construction of the constitution, by-laws, sub-groups, committees

**Conference Committee, Member** **2015-2017**

- Organize, plan, execute annual conference

*Mount Auburn Cemetery Advisory Board, Baltimore, MD*

**Researcher** **JUN 2010-OCT 2010**

- Composed an original research report, “Guidelines for the Restoration & Preservation of Mount Auburn Cemetery,” designed as a guide to help restore and preserve Mount Auburn Cemetery

**SERVICE & OUTREACH**

**Member** – Organization of American Historians Sub-Committee on the Status of African American, Latino/a, Asian, and Native American Historians (ALANA), 2021-present

**Member** – National Council for Public History Sub-Committee on Curriculum and Training

**Co-Coordinator** – Women’s & Gender Studies Program, Albright College, 2020 - present

**Faculty Representative (elected position)** – Council for Inclusion, Thriving and Equitable Community, 2020-present

**Member** – Central Pennsylvania African American Museum, Albright College 2019-present

**President & Co-Founder** – [The Collective for Radical Death Studies, 2017](#)-present

**Member** – Delaware State National History Day Task force, Delaware Historical Society -2016-2018

**Chair** – Enrollment and Retention Committee, Delaware State University, History, Political Science, Philosophy Department. 2016-2019

**Chair** – Malcolm X: Life & Legacy Sub-Committee, Delaware State University, Black History Month, 2014-2015

**Advisor** – First Year Experience Program, Towson University, 2013-2014

**Member** – African and African American Studies Advisory Council, Towson University, 2013-2014

**Chair** – Gissendanner Symposium Committee, Towson University 2013-2014

Advisor, History, African American & Museum Studies Graduate Council, Morgan State University, 2013-2014

**Facilitator/Coordinator** – Film Series, Civil Rights and Economic Development Empowerment Summit, Dover, DE, October 2016

**Study Abroad Faculty Leader** – Created short term educational excursions to Canada (Toronto & Niagara Falls, Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia & Iceland), Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017

**ARCHIVAL/MUSEUM EXPERIENCE**

Mount Auburn Cemetery Holding, Baltimore, MD

**Coordinator**

**2011-2013**

Spearheaded and participated in digitizing deed books and death ledgers; created an excel database for the Mount Auburn Cemetery records

National Archives for Black Women’s History  
Mary McLeod Bethune Council House, Washington, D.C.

**Archives Technical Intern**

**JUL 2010-AUG 2010**

Processed, assessed, arranged, described and created a finding aid for the Edmonia White Davidson Collection

Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson Museum, Baltimore, MD

**Member of the Writing Team**

**2009-2010**

Researched and composed various panels relating to the life and activism of Dr. Lillie Carroll Jackson

**SPECIAL TRAINING**

Certificate of Maryland Online Training 2015, Community College of Baltimore County  
Faculty/Staff Training for Study Abroad Excursions, Delaware State University  
First Year Experience Advisor Training, Towson University

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

The Association for the Study of Death and Society

Journal’s [International Editorial Board](#) – *Mortality: Promoting the Interdisciplinary Study of death and Dying*

American Historical Association

Southern Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

Association of Black Women Historians

Association for the Study of African American Life and History