

**Dr. William I. Tchakirides**  
Public Historian, Researcher and Writer

## EDUCATION

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- 2020 Ph.D. in U.S. History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI  
Dissertation: “‘Accountable to No One’: Confronting Police Power in Black Milwaukee”  
Committee: Dr. Amanda I. Seligman (Chair), Dr. Joe Austin, Dr. Joseph Rodriguez,  
Dr. Robert S. Smith (Marquette University)
- 2011 M.A. in U.S. History, Public History Track, American University, Washington, D.C.
- 2006 B.S. in U.S. History, Suffolk University, Boston, MA

## Fields of Specialization

Applied: Public History, Digital Humanities, Oral History, Collections Research, Archives Management  
Academic: Policing & Punishment, Urban History, African American History, Social Movements

## EMPLOYMENT

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### Oral Historian

WYSO Public Radio, HBCU Radio Preservation Project, Remote, October 2023–Present

### Collections Researcher and Content Creator

Smithsonian Institution, Anacostia Community Museum, Washington, D.C., “D.C. Women in Conversation” Project, Contracted as WIT Historical Consulting, October 2022–October 2023

### Research Assistant and Content Creator

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., “Our Shared Future: Reckoning with Our Racial Past” Initiative, Contracted as WIT Historical Consulting, March 2021–April 2022

### Corporate Historian and Archivist

Northwestern Mutual, Milwaukee, WI, August 2014–January 2020

### Graduate Assistant

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee History Department, Milwaukee, WI, 2012–2018  
Project Assistant, Hmong Diaspora Studies Program, AY 2017–2018  
Project Assistant, Cultures & Communities Program, AY 2014–2015, 2015–2016, 2016–2017  
Research Assistant, *Encyclopedia of Milwaukee*, AY 2013–2014  
Project Assistant, *Encyclopedia of Milwaukee*, AY 2012–2013

### Archives Technician

American Geographical Society Library, Milwaukee, WI, 2012–2014

### Senior Library Assistant

American University, Washington, D.C., 2010–2011

### Website Designer/Developer

Golda Meir Library, UW-Milwaukee Libraries Digital Humanities Lab, Milwaukee, WI, 2013–2014  
Smithsonian Institution, Anacostia Community Museum, Washington, D.C., 2011  
American University History Department, Washington, D.C., 2011  
Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C., 2010–2011

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer Reviewed

With Robert S. Smith. "Brew City Bellwether: The Changing Landscape of the Black Family in Milwaukee." In *Contemporary African American Families: Achievements, Challenges, and Empowerment Strategies in the 21st Century*, edited by Dorothy Smith-Ruiz and Sherri Lawson-Clark, 123-140. New York: Routledge, 2016.

### Public Scholarship

"Accounting for Medical Examiners in Historical Autopsies of the Carceral State," *The Metropole*, April 1, 2021, <https://themetropole.blog/2021/04/01/accounting-for-medical-examiners-in-historical-autopsies-of-the-carceral-state/>.

In *Encyclopedia of Milwaukee*, edited by Margo J. Anderson and Amanda I. Seligman. Available online through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at <http://emke.uwm.edu/>:

"Betty Quadracci"	"Milwaukee Press Club"
"Beulah Brinton"	"Nelson P. Hawkes"
"Blood Center of Wisconsin"	"Newhall House Fire"
"British"	"Public Service Building"
"City of Pewaukee"	"Television"
"Digital Milwaukee"	"Village of Menomonee Falls"
"Dorothy Enderis"	"Village of Pewaukee"
"Filipinos"	"Village of Slinger"
"Germantown"	"We Energies"
"Hartford"	"Wisconsin Center"
"Junior League of Milwaukee"	"Yankee-Yorkers"
"Mary Blanchard Lynde"	"YWCA Southeast Wisconsin"
"Milwaukee Magazine"	"YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee"
"Milwaukee NAACP"	

### Op-Eds

"Long before Sterling Brown's Arrest, Milwaukee Struggled with a Policing Problem." *The Washington Post*. June 3, 2018. <https://wapo.st/2z6o92I>.

"Not Examined, but Rectified": Let Milwaukee Heed Khalif Rainey's Advice." *Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service*. August 17, 2016. <https://bit.ly/3YLojo6>.

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS

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- 2023 Web Developer, "Washington, D.C. Women Speak," Smithsonian Institution, Anacostia Community Museum, <http://anacostia.si.edu/dc womenspeak>.
- 2021 Researcher and Contributor, "Our Shared Future: Reckoning with Our Racial Past," Initiative Website, Smithsonian Institution, <http://oursharedfuture.si.edu/race>.
- 2017 Web Consultant, "200 Nights of Freedom," March on Milwaukee 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project, <http://200nightsoffreedom.org/>.
- 2015 Web Designer, UW-Milwaukee Cultures & Communities Program Website, College of Letters & Sciences, <https://uwm.edu/cultures-communities/>.
- 2014 Project Lead and Web Designer, *Stitching History from the Holocaust*, UW-Milwaukee Libraries Digital Humanities Lab, in partnership with Jewish Museum Milwaukee, <http://liblamp.uwm.edu/omeka/stitchinghistory/>.

- 2014 Web Designer, "Transforming Justice: Rethinking the Politics of Security, Mass Incarceration, and Community, Health," UW-Milwaukee, Center for 21st Century Studies Transdisciplinary Challenge Award, <http://uwm.edu/transformingjustice/>.
- 2014 Web Designer, The Technology & Humanities Camp (THATCamp) Milwaukee 2014, <http://milwaukee2014.thatcamp.org/>.
- 2013 Web Designer, "The Milwaukee Crime Map Project," Final Project for History-717, "History and the New Media."
- 2012 Web Designer, The Technology & Humanities Camp (THATCamp) National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, <http://ncph2012.thatcamp.org/>.
- 2011 Web Designer, "Community Documentation Initiative," Smithsonian Institution, Anacostia Community Museum, <http://cdi.anacostia.si.edu/>.
- 2010 Web Designer, *American Enterprise*, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, Pre-Exhibition Website, <http://americanenterprise.si.edu/>.

## ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

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- 2023 (In progress) Oral Historian, HBCU Radio Preservation Project, WYSO Public Radio and the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University.
- 2018 Oral History Committee Chair, "200 Nights of Freedom," March on Milwaukee 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project, developed with Wisconsin Historical Society, UW-Milwaukee Libraries, Wisconsin Black Historical Society, Marquette University Libraries, and Milwaukee County Historical Society.
- 2017 Project Lead and Interviewer, "African Americans in the Milwaukee Police Department Oral History Project," developed with UW-Milwaukee Archives and Wisconsin Black Historical Society, [https://collections.lib.uwm.edu/digital/collection/afam\\_police/search](https://collections.lib.uwm.edu/digital/collection/afam_police/search).

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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- 2019 R1 Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship, UW-Milwaukee
- 2019 Governor's Archives Award in Archival Achievement, Wisconsin Historical Society
- 2018 Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship, UW-Milwaukee
- 2017 Graduate Student Excellence Fellowship, UW-Milwaukee
- 2013 Graduate Student Travel Award, UW-Milwaukee
- 2012 Chancellor's Graduate Student Award, UW-Milwaukee
- 2011 Top Graduate Student Poster, National Council on Public History Annual Meeting
- 2010 Graduate Student Fellow, National Museum of American History
- 2010 Academic Merit Award, College of Arts and Sciences, American University
- 2006 History Department Book Prize, Suffolk University
- 2005 History Department Book Prize, Suffolk University
- 2005 Phi Alpha Theta

## TEACHING

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### University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, History Department

- 2018 Teaching Assistant (Instructor: Chia Youyee Vang), "Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam: History and Culture"
- 2016 Teaching Assistant (Instructor: Robert S. Smith), "Multicultural America"
- 2016 Instructor of Record, "African American History since the Civil War"
- 2015 Teaching Assistant (Instructor: Robert S. Smith), "Multicultural America"

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2022 Keynote, “‘Their Lies Already Fixed’: Race, Narrative, and Memory in the Policing of Milwaukee,” Michael Gordon Memorial History Graduate Conference, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, April 22.
- 2021 “Grounded Ways of Knowing Wisconsin’s Black Lives Matter Movement,” with Paul Newcomb, Pilar Sharp, and Eli Frank, Dr. Christina Heatherton’s Junior Colloquium in American Studies: “Grounded Ways of Knowing” course, Barnard College, May 30.
- 2021 “Protests and Public Life: Doing Public History in the Present,” with Paul Newcomb, Pilar Sharp, and Eli Frank, Jeremy Ault and Nicki Ciarro’s public history class, Escuela Verde, Milwaukee, WI, February 2021.
- 2020 “Milwaukee Fire & Police Commission: Accountable to Whom and for What? A Historical View,” Wisconsin ACLU, Milwaukee National Lawyers Guild, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 29.
- 2020 “Smart Justice during COVID-19: The History of Policing,” Wisconsin ACLU, Milwaukee, WI, July 22.
- 2020 “Why the Nation Erupted? Historicizing This Moment,” Panelist, Center for Urban Research, Teaching, and Engagement, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, June 11.
- 2019 “Doing Public History in Milwaukee across Institutional and Grassroots Settings: Challenges and Opportunities,” Washington College, Chestertown, MD, December 19.
- 2019 “Doing Public History Across Grassroots and Institutional Settings: Challenges and Opportunities,” UW-Milwaukee Libraries Digital Humanities Lab, Milwaukee, WI, December 16.
- 2018 “Lessons from the Long Black Freedom Struggle,” March on Milwaukee 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Body & Soul Healing Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November.
- 2017 “A Prince Among Slaves,” Film Discussion Facilitator, UW-Milwaukee Muslim Student Association, February 22.
- 2016 “Civilian and Police Relations in Milwaukee,” Medical College of Wisconsin, Wauwatosa, WI, August 1.
- 2016 “The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution,” Film Discussion Facilitator, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI, February 9.
- 2015 “Directions in Digital Humanities: ‘Stitching History from the Holocaust: A Digital Humanities Lab Project,’” with Rachel Baum and Ann Hanlon, UW-Milwaukee Libraries Digital Humanities Lab, Milwaukee, WI, March 4.
- 2015 “Museums and Memory on the Internet: Creating the Stitching History Digital Exhibit,” with Rachel N. Baum, E.J. Basa, and Allain Daigle, Jewish Museum Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, February 25.
- 2014 “Digital Humanities Methods: Omeka and Neatline,” UW-Milwaukee Libraries Digital Humanities Lab, Milwaukee, WI, November 12.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY & PARTICIPATION

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### Conferences Organized

- 2016 Communications and Logistics Assistant, Imagining America National Conference, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2014 Co-Coordinator, The Humanities and Technologies Camp, UW-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2014 Co-Coordinator, UW-Milwaukee History Graduate Student Conference, “Racial Formation, Racial Blindness,” UW-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2013 Co-Coordinator, Midwest Labor and Working-class History Graduate Student Colloquium, UW-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI.

### Papers Presented

- 2024 (Pending) “Mourning and Mobilizing: Confronting Carceral Memory when Cops Kill in Black Milwaukee,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, January 4, 2024.

- 2024 (Pending) "Confronting Police Memory Work in Milwaukee during the long 1960s," Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, April 11, 2024.
- 2023 "Blueprint for 'Broken Windows': Milwaukee and Weaponized Histories of Policing," "Blueprint for 'Broken Windows': Milwaukee and Weaponized Histories of Policing," Urban History Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, October 7, 2023.
- 2023 "Why Medical Examiner Assessments Matter When Police Kill: The Case of Jacqueline Ford," Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, March 31.
- 2022 "Chicago in the Making and Unmaking of Police Power in Milwaukee: Toward a Regional History of Carcerality," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 8.
- 2021 (Canceled due to pandemic) "Towards a Liberated Black Milwaukee: The Strategic Evolution of Police Accountability Mobilizations in a Midwestern City," Urban History Association Conference, Detroit, Michigan.
- 2020 "Black Cops, Cream City: Oral History and African American Policing in Milwaukee," Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, October 9.
- 2020 (Canceled due to pandemic) "Beyond the Grave: African American Resistance and the Deceased," Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 2018 "In King's Name: The League of Martin's Struggle to End Police Racism in Milwaukee," Association for the Study of African-American Life and History Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, October 5.
- 2016 "Brew City Bellwether: Lessons from Milwaukee, WI," National Council on Black Studies Annual Conference, Charlotte, N.C., March 17.
- 2014 "All Eyes on the Block: Racial Liberals and Community-based Crime Control in Milwaukee during the Mass Incarceration Era," Urban History Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, October 10.
- 2014 "Fighting Back against the Crime Menace,' Liberal Integrationists and the Criminalization of Milwaukee's Urban Spaces during the Reagan Era," Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 13.
- 2014 "A Conflicted Reality: Liberal Integrationists and the Criminalization of Urban Space in Milwaukee," UW-Milwaukee Graduate History Conference on Race and Ethnicity, Milwaukee, WI, February 15.
- 2013 "The Fight to Make Higher Education Relevant to Black College Students in Milwaukee," Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL, October 3.
- 2013 "Perceptions, Strategies, and Consequences: Addressing Crime in Milwaukee's Sherman Park Community, 1980-1992," UW-Milwaukee Urban Studies Program Annual Student Forum, Milwaukee, WI, April 27.
- 2013 "'Partiality Invested with Power:' Race, Police Brutality, and the Death of Ernest Lacy," Midwest Labor and Working Class History Graduate Student Colloquium, Milwaukee, WI, February 15.

#### **Posters Presented**

- 2011 "Interpreting the Lives of People of Color at Arlington House" (Voted Best Poster), Poster Session, National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Pensacola, FL, April 8.

#### **Roundtables Presented**

- 2023 (Pending) Organizer, "New Perspectives on Liberal Law and Order: Making and Resisting Police Power in the Interwar City," Urban History Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, October 7.
- 2019 "Federalism and Policing under the 'First White President,'" Labor and Working-Class History Association Annual Meeting, Durham, NC, May 31.
- 2017 Organizer, "To Defuse a 'Powder Keg': Historicizing the 2016 Milwaukee Uprising," Labor and Working-Class History Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, June 23.
- 2015 "Historicizing Channels and Landscapes of Power and Struggle in the Neoliberal City," Labor and Working-Class History Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., May 30.
- 2013 "Teaching Digital History and New Media," Working Group, National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Ottawa, ON, April 19.

- 2013 “University-NPS Partnerships and the Benefits of Creative Space: Placing Arlington House in Transnational History,” Roundtable, The Future of Civil War History: Looking Beyond the 150<sup>th</sup> Conference, Gettysburg, PA, March 14.

#### **Service Provided**

- 2013 Digital Drop-in, National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Ottawa, ON, April 19.  
2012 Outreach Coordinator, The Technology and Humanities Camp, Organization of American Historians and National Council On Public History Joint Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, April 18.

#### **Sessions Organized**

- 2021 (Canceled due to pandemic) Panel co-organized with Ian Toller-Clark, “Policing and Prisons in the Contested City,” Urban History Association Conference, Detroit, Michigan.  
2019 Roundtable co-organized with Joseph B. Walzer, “The Work of Freedom: Recent Histories of Revanchism and Resistance at the Grassroots,” Labor and Working-Class History Association Annual Meeting, Durham, NC, May 31.  
2012 Working group co-facilitated with Jordan D. Grant, “Public History Online: Using the Web to Collaborate and Share,” Organization of American Historians and National Council on Public History Joint Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, April 21.

#### **PODCAST & RADIO APPEARANCES**

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- 2020 “The History of Black-led Resistance to Over-Policing in Milwaukee,” *Evoking History*, August 2020, <https://open.spotify.com/episode/67fmycmbIE7ipFSOYtoKS5?si=5R-PwSAzT9K6D1cb3vA6Uw>.  
2018 “UW-Milwaukee Project Aims to Organize Oral History of Milwaukee Housing Marches,” WPR, March 30, <https://www.wpr.org/uw-milwaukee-project-aims-organize-oral-history-milwaukee-housing-marches>.

#### **INTERNSHIPS**

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##### **Smithsonian Institution, Anacostia Community Museum, Washington, DC**

Web Designer, *Community Documentation Initiative*, Website and Blog, June 2011–September 2011

##### **Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, Washington, DC**

Web Designer, *American Enterprise* Pre-Exhibition website, September 2010–June 2011

##### **Milwaukee County Historical Society, Milwaukee, WI**

Collections Processing Assistant, Brewery Collection, June 2010–August 2010

##### **National Park Service, Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, Arlington, VA**

Furnishing Plan Developer, Enslaved Quarters, January 2010–May 2010

##### **National Park Service, Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, Great Falls, MD**

Historical Interpreter, September 2009–December 2009

##### **Museum of African American History, Boston, MA**

Research Assistant, *Gathering Place for Freedom* Exhibition, January 2006–May 2006

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERING**

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Oral History Committee Chair, March on Milwaukee 50th Anniversary Project, Milwaukee, WI, 2017-2018

## **Media Coverage**

Alan Hovorka, "50 years on, activists capture Milwaukee's untold open housing marches stories," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, August 7, 2017,

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/2017/08/05/50-years-on-activists-capture-milwaukeees-untold-open-housing-marches-stories/542663001/>.

Margaret Cannon, "Oral history project captures voices of open housing marchers 50 years later," *Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service*, March 28, 2018, <https://milwaukeeenns.org/2018/03/28/oral-history-project-captures-voices-of-open-housing-marchers-50-years-later/>.

Walking Tour Creator and Guide, "From Marshall Clark to Dontre Hamilton: Connecting Racial Terror Lynchings and Police Violence in Milwaukee," Milwaukee, WI, Summer 2016

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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Advisory Board Member, UW-Milwaukee Libraries Digital Humanities Lab, 2015-2016

Affiliate, UW-Milwaukee Libraries Digital Humanities Lab, 2013-2014, 2014-2015

Graduate Student Liaison, UW-Milwaukee History Graduate Affairs Committee, 2012-2013

Consultant, UW-Milwaukee Digital Futures Grant, 2012

## **DIGITAL SKILLS**

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Web: HTML/CSS | Audio: Audacity | Exhibitions: WordPress, Omeka Collections: EMu, CONTENTdm  
Image Editing: Adobe CS | Familiarities: PHP, JavaScript, Drupal

## **LANGUAGES**

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English, fluent

Spanish, conversational

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

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### **Current**

Organization of American Historians

American Historical Association

Urban History Association

National Council on Urban History

### **Past**

Oral History Association

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Labor and Working-Class History Association