

William C. Van Norman, Jr.
Assoc. Prof. of History
951 Madison Dr.
Wilson Hall 2014
MSC 2001 Dept. of History
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
(540) 568-7318
vannorwc@jmu.edu

Scholarship:

Publications:

Books

Shade Grown Slavery: The Lives of Slaves on Coffee Plantations in Cuba Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2013.

Articles, Chapters and other publications

“Transformations of the Cuban Plantation System and the Transatlantic Slave Trade During the Long Nineteenth Century” in *Social Struggle and Civil Society in Nineteenth Century Cuba* Richard E. Morris ed. (Routledge Press, Taylor and Francis Group, 2023).
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003154716>

“Special Edition in Honor of the Life and Work of Richmond F. Brown” Wm. Van Norman and Matt Childs, eds. *The Latin Americanist*, 2018.

“The Process of Cultural Change Among Cuban Bozales During the Nineteenth Century.” *The Americas*, vol. 62 no. 2 (October, 2005), 177-207.

Contributor to *Encyclopedia of Cuba: People, History, Culture*. Luis Martínez et al., eds. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2003.

Publications (forthcoming, and in preparation):

Books

Cuban Transformations: Crises and Consequences of Illegal Slave Trading in the Atlantic World, 1817-67 (in preparation)

Articles, Chapters and other publications

“Visibility, Invisibility, and the Law: The Case of the Illegal Slave Ship ‘*Jesús María*’” in progress for June, 2023 submission to *Slavery & Abolition*

“Intentionality in the Creation of the Sugar Island: Cuban Agricultural Diversity and Family Networks,” under revision for submission to *The Americas*.

“Cultural Bridges: Transversing Race, Class, and Status Through Food” under revision for submission to *Food, Culture & Society*.

Conference, Symposiums, Invited Talks:

“The Corrupting Effects of the Illegal Slave Trade in Nineteenth Century Cuba” for the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies annual meeting, Antigua, Guatemala, March 2023

“The Impact of the Haitian Revolution on Independence Movements and Cuban ‘Loyalty’ in the

Early Decades of the Nineteenth Century” Invited talks, Universitat Jaume I, Castellón, Valencia, Spain, March 2022

“Hidden Connections: Cuba, Northern Spain, and the Illegal Slave Trade in the 19th Century” for the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies annual meeting, Austin, Texas, March 2020

“Effects of the Illegal Slave Trade in Cuba: Cultural Expressions by Africans from the Bights of Benin and Biafra during the 1830s and 40s” for the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association annual meeting, Louisville, Kentucky, November 2019

“From Cuba to Spain to the Atlantic World: The Creation of Illegal Slave Trading Family Networks, 1820-1850” Invited Talk, Walter Prescott Webb Speaker Series, University of Texas -Arlington, March 2019

“El Comercio Ilegal de Esclavos y la Transformación Bio-Demográfica y Cultural de Cuba, 1835-50/The Illegal Slave Trade and the Bio-Demographic and Cultural Transformation of Cuba, 1835-50.” Invited speaker to the Conference: “The Transnational Networks of the Illegal Slave Trade in the Nineteenth Century” at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, May 2018

“Crisis and Response: The Rapid Expansion of Illegal Slave Trading to Cuba, 1835-45” for the XXXVI Latin American Studies Association Congress, Barcelona, Spain May 2018

“The Illicit Slave Trade in the Hispanic Atlantic World, 1807-1867.” Session Organizer for the XXXVI Latin American Studies Association Congress, Barcelona, Spain May 2018

“The Age of Revolution Meets the Age of Information: Digital Approaches to Regional and Atlantic History” Chair and Comment for the Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies, Reno, Nevada, April, 2018

“The Human Consequences of the Illegal Slave Trade in Western Cuba, 1835-50” for the American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington D.C. January, 2018.

“Connections and their Consequences: Cuba, West Africa, and Spain Resisting and Adapting to Change,” Session Organizer, for the American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington D.C. January, 2018

“The Varieties of Experiences on Cafetales in Western Cuba: Freedom, Justice and Resistance” for the XXXV Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Lima, Peru, May, 2017

“Cuban Slavery and Slaves Without Sugar during the Ascendency of Sugar,” Session Organizer, for the XXXV Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Lima, Peru, May, 2017

“Slavery and Emancipation in the British Caribbean” Chair and Commentator, for the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association annual meeting, Dallas, Texas, November, 2017

“The African Diaspora: How does African History Inform Latin American History and What Can Latin American History Teach us about Africans in the Atlantic World? A Roundtable” for the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies annual meeting, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, March 2017

“Slavery and Empire in the Contested Spanish-Anglo Borderlands;” “Trans-Caribbean Exchanges and Atlantic Empires;” “Themes in Modern Central America;” three panels in Memory of the Life and Work of Richmond F. Brown, co-organizer with Matt Childs for the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies annual meeting, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, March 2017

Invited moderator and advisory committee member for the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials LXI Annual Meeting, Charlottesville, Virginia, May 2016

“Networks of Transformative Exchange: Trade and Identity in Cuba” for the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies annual meeting, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, March 2016

“Adaptive Identities in Times of Change: Structural and Human Transformation in Western Cuba, 1830-60” for the Association for the Study of the World Wide African Diaspora biennial conference, Charleston, South Carolina, November 2015

Executive Committee meetings of the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association meeting, Little Rock, Arkansas, October 2015

“Agricultural Slight of Hand: Cuban Plantations as Fronts for the Illegal Trade in African Slaves” for the American Historical Association annual meeting, New York City, January 2015

“The Importance of the Study of Secondary Crops: Coffee, Cuba, and the Slave Trade” invited talk for the Northern (U.K.) Caribbean Seminar, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom, June 2014

“Women of Color and Narratives of an Emerging National Identity in Nineteenth Century Cuba” for the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies annual meeting, New Orleans, March, 2014

“Subaltern Navigations: Intersections of Race, Gender and Enslavement in 19th Century Cuba” for the American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington D.C., January 2014

Daily Life, Sex, and Violence: Enslaved and Freed Women in Brazil and the United States, Chair, for the American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington D.C., January 2014

“Shade Grown Slavery: The Lives of Slaves on Cuban Coffee Plantations” book presentation, for the Africana Studies Conference at James Madison University, October, 2013

“Adaptive Tactics: Cross-cultural Strategies in Cuban Slave Rebellions” for the American Historical Association annual meeting, New Orleans, January 2013

“Life on a Cuban Coffee Plantation: Why Slaves’ Experiences Mattered” for the Conference on Latin American History at the American Historical Association meeting, New Orleans, January 2013

“Cafecitos para todos: Cuba and Coffee as Cultural Performance, 1830-1870” for the XXX Latin American Studies Association International Congress, San Francisco, May, 2012

Latin America's Belated Republics: Cuban and Brazilian History in Comparative Perspective, 1800-1880 (Part I), Session Organizer and Chair, for the XXX Latin American Studies Association International Congress, San Francisco, May, 2012

“Cafecitos para todos: Cuba and Coffee as Cultural Performance, 1830-1870” for the Inaugural James Madison University, College of Arts and Letters Faculty Colloquium, March, 2012

“African Cosmologies, Cuban Practices: The Religious Practices of Slaves in Cuba” for the Africana Studies Conference at James Madison University, October, 2011

“Commonalities of Cultivation and Consumption: Coffee and Cuban Plantation Populations” for the XXIX Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Toronto, Canada, October, 2010

Visions of Cuban Slavery Beyond Sugar I: Gender, Race and Culture, Session Organizer, for the XXIX Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Toronto, Canada, October, 2010

Visions of Cuban Slavery Beyond Sugar II: Law and Labor in Urban and Rural Environments, Session Organizer and Chair/Co-Commentator, for the XXIX Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Toronto, Canada, October, 2010

“Cholera in Cuba: Response and Reaction to the 1832-33 Epidemic” for the Southern Historical Association annual meeting, Louisville, Kentucky, November, 2009

“Conceptualizing Disease: How African Understandings Shaped Responses to Sickness in the Cuban Slave Population” invited seminar talk for Dept. of Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom, October, 2009

“Emergent Views of a Slave Community: Bringing the Slaves of Cuban Cafetales into View” for the Society of Latin American Studies annual meeting, Leeds, United Kingdom, March, 2009

“Cuba, Independence, Revolution, and the Effects of the Struggle for Change, 1898-1962” Panel Commentator, the American Historical Association annual meeting (CLAH session), New York City, January, 2009

Congreso Internacional: Francisco Arango y La Invención de la Cuba Azucarera, Madrid, España, June 2008 (special invitation)

“The Gendered Creation of the Cafetal System in Western Cuba during the Early Nineteenth Century,” for the American Historical Association annual meeting (CLAH session), Washington D.C., January, 2008

“African Ethnic Identity and New World Racial Slavery in the Atlantic World,” Commentator, the American Historical Association annual meeting, Washington D.C., January, 2008

“Sugar, Coffee, and Female Slaves during the Cuban Plantation Boom” for the Southern Historical Association annual meeting, Richmond, Virginia, November, 2007

“The Gendered Creation and Experience of the Cafetal System in Western Cuba during the Early Nineteenth Century” for the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora biennial meeting, Barbados, October, 2007 (accepted)

"Negotiating Reality Through Representation: The Works of Cirilo Villaverde and Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda and the Question of Race in Nineteenth Century Cuba" for the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies annual meeting, San José, Costa Rica, April 2007.

“Resisting Power through Legal Petitions: Subverting and Reinforcing Systems of Control in Nineteenth Century Cuba,” for the American Historical Association annual meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2007.

“Petitions and Subverting Systems of Power in the Global Context,” roundtable co-organizer, American Historical Association annual meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2007.

“Between Slave and Free, Reality and Imagination: Women of Color in the Works of Cirilo Villaverde,” for the Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference. James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, October 2006.

Gender and Representation of Women in Latin American Popular Culture, 1830-1930, panel organizer, Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference. James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, October 2006.

“Cuba and the United States in the 1960s,” Chair and Comment. Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies annual meeting. University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina, April 2006.

“The Rise of Monoculture and the Transformation of Cuban Inter-Family Networks, 1790-1850,” for the Allen Morris Conference on the History of Florida and the Atlantic World. Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, February, 2006.

“Foreign Investment and the Decline of Agricultural Diversification in Early Nineteenth-Century

Cuba,” for the Business History Conference. Le Creusot, France. June, 2004.

“Volatile Mixture: African Labor, Cuban Coffee, and Changing Conditions,” for the Allen Morris Conference on the History of Florida and the Atlantic World. Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, February, 2004.

“Slave Rebellions in Cuba: Invoking a Sense of Justice, To Right A Wrong,” for the American Historical Association annual meeting (CLAH session), Washington, D.C. January, 2004.

“The Implications of Changing Slave Populations on the Cafetales of 19th Century Western Cuba,” for the XXIV Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Dallas, Texas. March, 2003.

The Implications of Differing Labor Systems and Social Structures In The Audiencia Of Cuba During The 18th And 19th Centuries, panel convener XXIV Latin American Studies Association International Congress, Dallas, Texas. March, 2003.

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants:

Dean’s Faculty Advancement Support Grant, James Madison University, 2022

Faculty Research Grant, College of Arts and Letters, James Madison University, 2019

Edna T. Shaeffer Humanist Award, 2017

Faculty International Development Grant, James Madison University, Center for Global Engagement and the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Summer Research and Travel Grants, 2017

James Madison University; Dept. of History, Office of International Programs, and the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Summer Research and Travel Grants, 2017

Faculty International Development Grant, James Madison University, Center for Global Engagement and the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Summer Research and Travel Grants, 2016

James Madison University; Dept. of History, Office of International Programs, and the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Summer Research and Travel Grants, 2016

James Madison University; Dept. of History, Office of International Programs, and the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Summer Research and Travel Grants, 2014

James Madison University, Dept. of History, Summer Research Grant, 2013

James Madison University, College of Arts and Letters, Education Leave, Spring 2010 (not taken)

James Madison University, College of Arts and Letters, Summer Research Grant, 2008

Business History Conference Travel Grant, 2004

Quinn Dissertation Completion Award, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Department of History, 2003-2004.

Lydia Cabrera Award for Cuban Historical Studies, Conference on Latin American History (American Historical Association), 2002.

Off-Campus Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Graduate School, 2002.

Mowry Fellowship, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Department of History, 2001.

Tinker Field Research Grant, Institute of Latin American Studies, 2000.

Mowry Fellowship, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Department of History, 2000

Tinker Field Research Grant, Institute of Latin American Studies, 1998.

Waddell Memorial Fellowship, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1997.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Graduate School Tuition Waivers, Academic Stipends, Research Assistantship, and Teaching Assistantships (During Academic School Years 1997-2003).

Phi Beta Kappa, 1996.

Book Reviews:

Review of Louis A. Pérez Jr., *Intimations of Modernity: Civil Culture in Nineteenth-Century Cuba* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017) *Hispanic American Historical Review* vol. 99 no. 1(2019) 173-75.

Review of Gerard Aching, *Freedom from Liberation: Slavery, Sentiment, and Literature in Cuba* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2015) in *New West Indian Guide* 91 (2017) 320-21.

Review of David Sartorius, *Ever Faithful: Race, Loyalty, and the Ends of Spanish Empire in Cuba* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2013) in *Cuban Studies*, vol. 43 (2015) 229-31.

Review of Louis A. Pérez, Jr., *The Structure of Cuban History: Meanings and Purpose of the Past* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014) in *The Americas*, vol. 72 no. 1 (2015): 174-76.

Review of Manuel Barcia, *The Great African Slave Revolt: Cuba and the Fight for Freedom in Matanzas* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2012) in the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, vol. 94 no. 1 (2014): 117-18.

Review of Manuel Barcia, "Seeds of Insurrection: Domination and Resistance on Western Cuban Plantations, 1808-1848." (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2008) in the *International Journal of Cuban Studies*, vol. 4 no. 2 (2012): 211-13.

Review of Rebecca J. Scott, "Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery." (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005) in *Cuban Studies*, vol. 40 (2009): 142-44.

Review of Matt D. Childs "The 1812 Aponte Rebellion in Cuba and the Struggle Against Atlantic Slavery." Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006 in *Cuban Studies*, vol. 40 (2009): 123-25.

Review of Christopher Schmidt-Nowara and John M. Nieto-Philips, eds., "Interpreting Spanish Colonialism: Empires, Nations, and Legends." Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005. *Social History*, vol. 32 no. 3 (2007): 326-28.

Review of Richard Gott, "Cuba: A New History." New Haven: Yale Nota Bene, 2005. in *The Historian*, vol. 69 no. 1 (2007): 116-17.

Review of Matt D. Childs and Toyin Falola, eds., "The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World." Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004. in *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, vol. 39 no. 2 (2006): 317-18.

Review of Gabino La Rosa Corso, "Runaway Slave Settlements in Cuba: Resistance and Repression." Trans. Mary Todd. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003. *Cuban Studies*, 36 (2005): 188-90.

Review of Verene Shepherd, ed. "Slavery Without Sugar: Diversity in Caribbean Economy and Society Since the 17th Century." Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2002. in H-Net Reviews (<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/>) October, 2003.

Education:

Ph.D., August 2005. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
Dissertation Title: "Shade Grown Slavery: Life and Labor on Coffee Plantations in Western Cuba, 1790-1845."

Advisor: Louis A. Pérez, Jr.

MA, History, May 1999. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
Thesis title: "Re-imagined Identity: Cultural Transformation in Cuban Bozales."

BA, *summa cum laude*, History with Minor in Spanish, 1997. Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona.

BA, *summa cum laude*, Religious Studies with a Certificate in Latin American Studies, 1997. Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona.

Honors Thesis Title: "Santería in the History and Cosmology of Cuba."

Fieldwork Experience:

Research - Cádiz, Sevilla, Madrid, Spain summer 2022

Research - Bilbao, Santander, and Gijón, Spain summer 2019

Research - Barcelona, Madrid, and Santander, Spain summer 2018

Research - Havana, Cuba fall 2017

Research - Madrid, Sevilla, Cádiz, Spain summer 2017

Research - Madrid and Sevilla, Spain summer 2016

Research - Madrid and Sevilla, Spain summer 2014

Preliminary research - new projects, Madrid and Sevilla, Spain summer 2013

Preliminary research - new projects, Havana, Cuba summer 2012

Manuscript research, Madrid and Sevilla, Spain summer 2008, May 2009, May-June 2010

Dissertation research, Madrid and Sevilla, Spain; Havana, Cuba. Spring 2002

Dissertation research, Havana and Pinar del Río, Cuba. Fall 2001

Dissertation research, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Summer 2001

Pre-dissertation research, Havana, Cuba; collaboration with Dr. Gabino La Rosa, Centro de Antropología working group. Summer 2000

Pre-dissertation research, Houghton library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Summer 1999

M.A. thesis research, Havana and Matanzas, Cuba. Summer 1998

Honors thesis research, Havana, Cuba. summer 1996

Teaching:

Associate Professor, James Madison University 2012-Present

Assistant Professor, James Madison University, 2006-2012

Coordinator, Advisor and Affiliated Faculty, Latin American, Latinx, and Caribbean Studies Program

Affiliated Faculty, African, African-American, and Diaspora Studies Program

Affiliated Faculty, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

Faculty Member in Residence, James Madison University Study Abroad program in Salamanca, Spain, Spring 2008

Visiting Assistant Professor, James Madison University, 2005-06

The Rise of the Plantation Complex, Seminar in World History (Graduate level), Spring 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2020

The Transatlantic Slave Trade, Fall 2007, 2010, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2022; Summer 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020

Afro-Latin America, Spring 2010, Spring 2016, Spring 2018, Fall 2019

Religion, Conquest, and Resistance in Colonial Latin American, Spring 2015

Revolutions and Social Change in Latin America, Fall 2012; Spring 2006, 2009, 2011, 2012, Fall 2015, Fall 2018, Fall 2021

Gender in Latin America and the Iberian World, Fall 2011, Fall 2013

Gender in Colonial Latin America, Fall 2008

Latin American Identities and Cultures, Pre-colonial to the Present, Fall 2007, 2008, 2012; Spring 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Colonial Latin America, Fall 2005, 2006

Modern Latin America, Summer 2007

Critical Issues in Recent Global History, Spring 2009; Fall 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2021, 2022

World History since 1650, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007

History Seminar: Research Methods, Spring 2007, Fall 2009, Spring 2013

Service:

University/Department:

Member of Internal Advisory Board and Chair of Partnerships and Emerging Projects Committee - African, African-American, and Diaspora Studies Center, Spring 2021-ongoing

Cluster Two representative to the General Education Council, Spring 2022 - ongoing

College of Arts and Letters Faculty Assistance Committee, Spring 2022 - ongoing

Faculty Advisor to the JMU Democratic Socialists student organization - Fall 2021 - ongoing

Curriculum committee, Fall 2020-present; Program Coordinator, Fall 2013 to Fall 2016; Chair - Spring 2009 - Spring 2013; Advisor, 2017-2020; program committee Fall 2005-Present; Latin American, Latinx, and Caribbean Studies Program

Director of Graduate Studies program, Dept. of History, Spring 2018-Spring 2021

Member (current): History Dept. Graduate Committee

Past Member: History Dept. PAC, Faculty Senate, World history committee, Committee on Academic Programs, Dean's diversity committee, Carlton Smith award committee, African Studies committee, Women and Gender Studies committee

Field:

Latin American and Caribbean Section Representative to the Executive Board of the Southern Historical Association 2020-2023

Committee member for the Conference on Latin American History (AHA) James R. Scobie Award 2022-2023

Committee member for the Conference on Latin American History (AHA) Paul Vanderwood Prize 2021-2022

President and Past President, Latin American and Caribbean Section, Southern Historical Association 2016, 2017

Prize Committee member for the Lydia Cabrera research award, Conference on Latin American History, American Historical Association

Judge, Best Graduate Student paper, Southern Historical Association, Latin American and Caribbean section, 2009, 2013

Peer reviewer, European Research Council

Peer reviewer, University of Texas Press

Peer reviewer, Vanderbilt University Press

Peer reviewer, University Press of Florida

Peer reviewer, Routledge/Taylor and Francis Press

Peer reviewer, *Atlantic Studies*

Peer reviewer, *The Americas*

Peer reviewer, *Business History Review*

Peer reviewer, *International Journal of Cuban Studies*

Peer reviewer, *Journal of Colonial Latin American Historical Review*

Peer reviewer, *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*

Peer reviewer, Longman Publishing

Professional Affiliations:**Current:**

American Association of University Professors

American Historical Association

Conference on Latin American History (AHA)

Southern Historical Association, Latin American and Caribbean Section

Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies

Past:

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora

Latin American Studies Association

Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies