

ROBERT J. NORRELL

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Professor of History
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Virginia 1983
M.A. University of Virginia 1978
B.A. University of Virginia 1974

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Visiting Scholar, Social Philosophy and Policy Center, Bowling Green University, 2007
The Booker T. Washington Legacy Prize, 2006, The Heartland Foundation
The Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, 1986, for *Reaping the Whirlwind*
The Mellon Research Fellowship in American History, 1984-85, University of Cambridge
Research Fellowship, Social Philosophy and Policy Center, Bowling Green University, 2010
Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies, University of Tuebingen, Germany, 2010-11

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Up from History: The Life of Booker T. Washington (Harvard University Press, 2009)
WASHINGTON POST BEST BOOK OF 2009 (one of nine); LIBRARY JOURNAL BEST BOOK OF 2009; BOOKLIST TOP 10 BLACK HISTORY NONFICTION BOOK OF 2009; 2009 HONORABLE MENTION, U.S. HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY, THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS PROSE AWARDS

The House I Live In: Race in the American Century (Oxford University Press, 2005)

Reaping the Whirlwind: The Civil Rights Movement in Tuskegee (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985). Co-winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, 1986. Revised edition, 1998, University of North Carolina Press.

A Promising Field: Engineering at Alabama, 1837-1987 (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1990).

James Bowron: The Autobiography of a New South Industrialist (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1991).

Opening Doors: An Appraisal of Contemporary American Race Relations [co-editor] (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1991).

The Alabama Journey: State History and Geography (Tuscaloosa: Yellowhammer Press, 1998)

The Alabama Story: State History and Geography (The Yellowhammer Press, 1993). [4th-grade textbook]

The Making of Modern Alabama: State History and Geography (The Yellowhammer Press, 1993). [9th-grade textbook]

We Want Jobs! A Story of the Great Depression [history “storybook” for elementary schools, Steck-Vaughn, 1992]

Book Forthcoming

Eden Rise [NewSouth Books, 2012, a novel of the civil rights movement, set in Alabama, 1965]

Scholarly Articles

“The Uplift of Humanity: Booker T. Washington in Context,” *Alabama Heritage*, Spring 2011

“Afterward,” *Up from Slavery* [new edition from Signet Classic, 2010]

“Booker T. Washington and the Vexing Problem of Political Participation,” *Journal of Policy History* 2010

“Reshaping the Image of Booker T. Washington: A Historian Sheds Light on the Accepted Biography,” *Chronicle Review* [of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*], February 27, 2009

“Modern Conservatism and the Consequences of Its Ideas,” *Reviews in American History* (September 2008)

“The Twentieth-Century Century Experience,” in *African Americans in Tennessee*, ed. Wornie L. Reed (2008)

“The Black Economic Experience,” in *African Americans in Tennessee*, ed. Wornie L. Reed (2008)

“Caste in Steel: Jim Crow Careers in Birmingham, Alabama,” *Journal of American History* (December 1986).

“Labor at the Ballot Box: Unions in Alabama Politics from the New Deal to the Dixiecrat Movement,” *Journal of Southern History* (May 1991).

“Labor Trouble: George Wallace and Union Politics in Alabama,” in Robert Zieger, ed., *Twentieth-Century Southern Labor History* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1991)

“Making America Safe for Democracy: Evolving Images of African Americans in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s,” in Flavia Brizio-Skov, ed., *Reconstructing Societies in the Aftermath of War: Memory, Identity, and Reconstruction* (Boca Raton: Bordighera Press, 2004), 269-78.

“Understanding the Wizard: Another Look at the Age of Booker T. Washington,” in W. Fitzhugh Brundage, ed., *Booker T. Washington and Black Progress: A Centenary of Up From Slavery* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2003)

“Law in White Man’s Democracy: A History of the Alabama State Judiciary,” *Cumberland Law Review*, (November 2001)

“Race Does Matter,” *Virginia Quarterly Review* (Spring 2001)

“Grass Roots Civil Rights,” [review essay] *Virginia Quarterly Review* (Autumn 1996).

“The Way They Were,” [review essay] *Virginia Quarterly Review* (Summer 1993).

“One Thing We Did Right: Protest, History, and the Civil Rights Movement,” in *New Directions in Civil Rights Studies* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1991).

“After Thirty Years of 'New' Labour History, There Is Still No Socialism in Reagan Country,” *Historical Journal* (March 1990).

“Steelworkers and Storekeepers: Social Mobility Among Italian Immigrants in Birmingham,” in Rocco Caporale, ed., *The Italian Americans Through the Generations* (New York: American Italian Historical Association, 1986).

“Perfect Quiet, Peace, and Harmony: Another Look at the Founding of Tuskegee Institute,” *The Alabama Review* (June 1984).

“Finding Birmingham: Public Humanities and the Process of Self-Discovery,” *Southern Humanities Review* (Fall 1982).

“Reporters and Reformers: The Story of the *Southern Courier*,” *South Atlantic Quarterly* (February 1980)

Encyclopedia Articles

Encyclopaedia Britannica (2001 edition)

“Tennessee,” Virginia,” “North Carolina,” “Georgia,” “Louisiana,” “Florida,” “Alabama”

Africana, (2000) “Martin Luther King, Jr.,” “Louis Farrakhan”.

Encarta (1997)

“The Civil Rights Movement,” “Martin Luther King, Jr.,” “W.E.B. Du Bois,”

“Louis Farrakhan,” “Black Power,” “Fannie Lou Hamer,”

“Myrlie Evers Williams,” “Southern Christian Leadership Conference,”

“Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee”

Grolier’s Encyclopedia (1993 edition) “Alabama,”

Encyclopaedia Britannica (1991 edition) “Alabama”

Conference papers and public lectures (recent and select)

“American Insecurity: Fear of the Future in the Modern United States,” German American Institute, Tuebingen, Germany, July 2011

“Strangers in the Land: American Immigration in Comparative Perspective,” German American Institute, Tuebingen, Germany, June 2011

“The Sturm and Drang of Black Nationalism,” Fulbright Inaugural Lecture, University of Tuebingen, Germany, December, 2010

“Evolving African-American Images and the Civil Rights Movement,” University of Heidelberg Center for American Studies, November 2010

“Rehabilitating Booker Washington: How Historians Have Wronged the Wizard,” University of Mississippi Conference on African-American History, April 2007

“The House I Live In: The Evolution of Race in American Culture,” Vanderbilt University, February 2007

“Before Rosa: The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama,” Annual Civil Rights Lecture, University of Alabama in Huntsville, March 2006

“Understanding the Wizard: Another Look at the Age of Booker T. Washington,” British American Nineteenth Century History Meeting, Madingley Hall, England, October 2005

“Ideological Origins of the Civil Rights Movement,” Cambridge University Seminar in American History, October 2005

“Race Images and Racial Change in Twentieth Century,” Oxford University Seminar in American History, October 2005

“The Media and the Movement: Racial Image and Social Change in Twentieth-century America,” University of Tennessee Law School Conference on *Times v. Sullivan*, February 2004.

“Triangles of Change: The Southern Regional Council in the Civil Rights Movement,” University of Florida Conference, the Southern Regional Council, Gainesville, Florida, 2003.

“Making America Safe for Democracy: Evolving Images of African Americans in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s,” Second International Conference, University of Tennessee, June 2002

“Another Look at Booker Washington,” Southern Historical Association meeting, 2001

“Up from History: Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and the Historians,” University of Florida Conference, 100th anniversary of Up From Slavery, Gainesville, Florida, October 2001

“Whither Equality? American Conservatives and Civil Rights,” Southern Intellectual History Conference, Cambridge, England, May 1996

“Next Steps to Democracy: The First Fifty Years of the Southern Regional Council,”
Organization of American Historians, Atlanta, Georgia, April 1994

“Distant Prosperity: Modern Economic Development in Nineteenth-Century Alabama,”
Organization of American Historians, Louisville, KY, April 1991

“Freedom Land: Race and Equality in Modern America,” Special Lectures in Modern History,
University of Newcastle, 1991

Popular history and contract research

History and Archaeology of Nineteenth-Century Alabama [with Catherine C. Meyer] (September 1992)

Dixie's War: The South and World War II (University of Alabama, 1992)

“Steel Maker in the Magic City,” *Business Alabama* (September 1990)

“Federalism and the South,” *Alabama Heritage* (Summer 1988)

Elyton-West End: Birmingham's First Neighborhood, [booklet] 1983

The Other Side: The History of the Birmingham Black Community, [booklet] 1982

Five Cent Cotton: Images of the Depression in Alabama, [booklet] 1982

The Italians: From Bisacquino to Birmingham, [booklet] 1981

The Best People in the World Live in Wylam, [booklet] 1981

The New Patrida: The Story of Birmingham's Greeks, [booklet] 1981

Birmingham's Lebanese: The Earth Turned to Gold, [booklet] 1981

Course Taught

World History; US Survey, pre- and post 1865; Southern history, undergraduate; African-American history, undergraduate; Southern history, graduate proseminar and seminar; recent US, graduate proseminar and seminar; Comparative race relations, graduate proseminar; race and Ethnicity in the US, graduate proseminar

Memberships

Southern Historical Association. Program Committee Chair, 1995; Membership Committee, 1997, Chair, 1999; Nominating Committee, 1996, 1997 (chair); Organization of American Historians; Association for the Study of African-American Life and History