

TEONA WILLIAMS

Assistant Professor of Geography; Mellon Term Chair in Global Racial Justice

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Website: [https://globalracialjustice.rutgers.edu/Black Ecologies](https://globalracialjustice.rutgers.edu/Black_Ecologies)

EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, CT

- Ph.D., History and African American Studies, December 2022
- M.Phil. and M.A., History and African American Studies, 2020
- Dissertation: *"Okay Now: Gender and Ecology in the Black Radical Tradition 1920-1990"*

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- M.Sc., Environmental Justice, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, 2017

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

- A.B., Environmental Studies and History (Minor: Africana Studies), May 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Working Manuscripts

- **Williams, T.** *Black Storm Riders: Black Feminist Interventions on Disaster After the Storm*, Book Manuscript.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- **Williams, T.** "Black History is a Place: The Practice of Public Geographies in Black Winona," *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, forthcoming Spring 2026.
- González-Cedeño, K., Prince, L., Garay, A. C., & **Williams, T.** (2025). Forging Afro-Diasporic Bonds: Black Feminist Worldmaking After the Storm in the Greater Caribbean (1965-2017). *Centro Journal*, 37(1), 135–169.
 - Primary drafter, but volunteered to be last author to promote my graduate students to whom this is their first publication.
- **Williams, T.**, Keeve, C., Watkins, C., Williams, B., Van Sant, C., Moulton, A., and Carney, J. "Black Geographies / Atlantics / Ecologies: Distinctions, Convergences, Solidarities and Struggles," *Dialogues in Human Geography (DHG)*, Summer 2025.

- **Williams, T.** (2025). To archive it like it is: Alice Walker's autobiography project and the preservation of Black women's history in the Mississippi freedom movement, 1968-1970. *Journal of Historical Geography*, 90.
- **Williams, T.** "Love You Still: Black and Palestinian Solidarities in June Jordan's Writings," *Souls*, Under Review.
- **Williams, T.** "'Build A Wall Around Hyde Park': A Political Ecology of Police Brutality on the Southside of Chicago," *Antipode*, 53 (2), 497-523, March 2021.
 - Winner of the 2018 Clyde Woods Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper in Black Geographies.

In Progress / Under Review

- **2026** "I Love You Still: June Jordan's Model of Black-Palestinian Solidarities" (Under Review at *Souls*).
- **2026** "Some of Us Went Hungry: Black Women Organizing for Food Sovereignty," in *Black Women's Gardening*, eds. Ferrari & Way, Dumbarton Oaks Publications, Harvard University (Forthcoming 2026).
- **2026** "Weatherization: Black Feminist Interventions on Disaster" (Resubmitted for R&R for WSQ).
- **2027** "Hunger in Black: The Racialization and Spatialization of Hunger in Mississippi" (Under Review Progress in *Human Geography*).
- **2027** "The Trees Remember: More than Human Archives and Memorializing Emmett Till" (Accepted *Southeastern Geographer*).
- **2028** "A Tale of Two Hurricanes at the Height of the Civil Rights Era," (Accepted in the *American Quarterly*).
- "Uncovering Geographies of Food Justice: The AFB Takeover" (In Progress)
- "Ties that Bond: Toni Cade Bambara and the SWRN" (In Progress)
- "Black Ecologies as a Community Practice: TruCulture Farm" (In Progress)

Book Chapters

- **Williams, T.** "'Islands of Freedom': The Desegregation of Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains National Parks," in Mary Mendoza, ed., *Not Just Green, Not Just White: Race, Justice and Environmental History*, University Press of Kansas, 2025.
- **Williams, T.** "'Some of Us Went Hungry': Rural Black Women's Struggle for Food Sovereignty 1966–1972," in *Black Women's Garden History Anthology*, Harvard University Press, forthcoming Spring 2026.

Reviews, Editorials & Encyclopedia Entries

- **Williams, T.,** Gonzalez-Cedeño, K., Couvertier Garay, A., & Prince, L. (2025, January 9). A daughter's love note: Decolonial love across the Greater Caribbean. *Black Women Radicals*. <https://www.blackwomenradicals.com/blog-feed/a-daughters-love-note>
- **Williams, T.** "Keywords in Black Ecologies," *The International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, September 2023.

- **Williams, T.** “Rethinking Black Food Culture with Black Food Matters and Black Geographies,” *Antipode*, October 2020.
- **Williams, T.** “Police Violence and Environmental Justice,” Op-ed, *Black Perspectives*, 2020.
- **Williams, T.** “Nature and the Great Migration in Chicago,” Review of *Landscapes of Hope* by Brian McCammack, *Black Perspectives*, 2017.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- **Spencer Foundation Vision Grant**, \$75,000, 2024.
- **SSRC Borderlands Grant**, \$75,000, 2023.
- **Community Engaged Scholarship Program Award**, \$10,000, 2025.
- **Institute of Global Racial Justice Small Grant**, \$8,000.00
- **Andrew Mellon Term Chair**, Institute of Global Racial Justice, 2024-2029.
- **Harvard University Warren Center Faculty Fellowship**, 2024–2025.
- **Ford Dissertation Fellowship**, 2021–2022.
- **Center for Engaged Scholarship Fellowship**, 2021–2022.

INVITED TALKS & KEYNOTES

- **Keynote**, “Disaster Capitalism during the Civil Rights Movement,” **University of Missouri**, 2026.
- **Invited Talk**, “Hunger and the Civil Rights Movement,” **Bowdoin College**, 2025.
- **Keynote**, “Fannie Lou Hamer and Environmental Justice,” **Yale University**, 2025.
- **Invited Talk**, “Hunger in Black,” **Bryn Mawr College**, 2025.
- **Keynote**, “Black Ecologies Lab as Pedagogy,” **Bucknell University**, 2024.
- **Keynote**, 50th Anniversary of Environmental Studies, **Bowdoin College**, 2024.
- **Keynote**, “Women in Climate,” **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**, 2024.
- **Invited Talk**, “Disaster Capitalism,” **Duke University**, 2024.
- **Invited Talk**, “American Studies Workshop,” **Harvard University**, 2023.
- **Keynote**, “Black Ecologies Lab,” **Harvard University**, 2023.
- **Workshop Facilitator**, **North Carolina A&T State University**, 2023.
- **Keynote**, “Flint Water Crisis,” **University of Houston**, 2022.
- **Speaker**, “Black Farmer Justice: Past, Present, and Futures,” **The Organic Center**, December 2021.

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- **Organizer & Presenter**, “Black Ecologies as Community Geographies” (3 sessions), **AAG**, 2026.
- **Presenter**, “Policing in Black Midwestern Histories,” **AHA**, 2026.
- **Presenter**, “Teaching Environmental Justice,” **AHA**, 2025.
- **Presenter**, “Black Feminism and the Digital Humanities,” **ASA**, 2025.
- **Presenter**, “Environmental Justice of the 1970s,” **ASEH**, 2025.
- **Presenter**, “Teaching Black Ecologies,” **AAG**, 2025.
- **Presenter**, “Black Ecologies and Climate Change,” **OAH**, 2024.
- **Roundtable**, “New Perspectives in Black Ecology,” **ASEH**, 2020 (Virtual).
- **Presenter**, “Towards Critical Environmental Justice and Abolition Ecology,” **ASEH**, 2020.
- **Presenter**, “Black Feminist Interventions on the Environmental Humanities,” **ASA**, Honolulu, 2019.
- **Presenter**, “Hazardous Ecologies in Black Environments,” **ASALH**, Charleston, 2019.
- **Presenter**, “Build A Wall Around Hyde Park,” **ASEH**, Columbus, 2019.
- **Presenter**, “Spatializing Toxic Ecologies,” **AAG**, New Orleans, 2018.
- **Presenter**, “Imagining the Black Rural South,” **S-USIH**, Dallas, 2017.
- **Presenter**, “The Color of Environmental Activism,” **ASEH**, Chicago, 2017.
- **Presenter**, “Hiking Along Color Line,” **HBCU 4th Annual Climate Change Conference**, New Orleans, 2016.

PUBLIC HUMANITIES & FIELD SCHOOLS

Black Ecologies Field Schools & Institutes

- **Black Ecologies Healing Spaces**, TruCulture Farms, Hattiesburg, 2026.
- **Quilombos and Candomblé**, Rio de Janeiro, 2025.
- **Water Justice**, Durham, 2025.
- **Fannie Lou Hamer Weekend**, Winona, 2024.
- **Black Ecologies Summer Institutes (BESI)**, Tappahannock (2024, 2025).
 - *Mentored Rutgers students in conducting oral histories with community partners.*
- **Marronage**, New Orleans, 2023.
- **Land Justice**, Tappahannock, 2022.

Curated Conversations

- **“Keywords in Catastrophe,”** After the Storm Microlab, Diaspora Solidarity Lab, **MSU**.
- **“Alexis Pauline Gumbs on Writing and Healing,”** Diaspora Solidarity Lab, **MSU**.

Public Facing Work

Black Perspectives, Black Studies Podcast, Oxford American; Black Women Radicals.

SERVICE & ADVISING

Graduate Committees

- Nyla Howell (Chair)
- Lauren Prince
- Lauren Rorie
- Taylor Patterson

Editorial Service

- **Reviewer:** *Geoforum, Antipode, Southeastern Geographer, Global Environmental Change, GeoHumanities, American Quarterly, Annals of the AAG.*

University & Professional Service

- **Faculty Representative**, New Brunswick Faculty Council, Rutgers.
- **Provost Teaching Fellow**, Rutgers University.
- **Anti-racism Taskforce**, Geography Department, Rutgers.
- **Faculty Representative**, Magrann Committee, Geography Department, Rutgers.
- **Treasurer/Secretary**, Black Geographies Specialty Group, **AAG**.
- **Student Representative**, Yale Graduate School DEI Planning Committee.
- **Diversity Committee Member**, Yale History Department.
- **Vice President of Diversity**, SNRE, University of Michigan.
- **Chair**, Political Action Committee, Students of Color of Rackham, U-Michigan.
- **Co-Chair**, Multicultural Leadership Coalition, U-Michigan.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- ASEH, ASALH, AAG, ASA, Mellon Mays Foundation.