Ryan A. Huey

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Education

**Michigan State University, 2014-Present.**

Ph.D., History, expected May 2018.

Major: U.S. History.

Minors: African American History, Musicology.

Dissertation:“‘Free the Weed’: Marijuana, Policing, and Community in Southeast Michigan, 1941-1990” (tentative title).

Description: My dissertation research primarily concerns the life, work, and activism of John and Leni Sinclair and their close associates. This husband and wife and the numerous organizations they helped found were major forces in the Detroit and Ann Arbor counterculture. Their influence can be traced through several major contributions: their efforts to cultivate and promote a rich local jazz, blues, and rock scene; their grassroots work for marijuana legalization; and their importance as countercultural institution-builders. Furthermore, their political activism and cultural productions made the Sinclairs targets of FBI surveillance and police disruption. Their experiences with the criminal justice system reveal important policy shifts in policing and prison management in the wake of the 1967 Detroit Uprising. The story of the Sinclairs is essential for understanding the regional variations of the counterculture, the cultural and political legacy of the “Long Sixties,” and the origins of mass incarceration.

**Michigan State University, 2012-2014.**

 M.A., History.

 Major: African American History.

 Minors: United States History, Musicology.

Thesis: “‘My Logo is Branded on Your Skin': The Wu-Tang Clan, Authenticity, Black Masculinity, and the Rap Music Industry.”

Description: My thesis explored issues of race, gender, cultural authenticity, and media technology through a case study of the rap artists known collectively as the Wu-Tang Clan. Placing the eclectic rappers and their signature sound in historical context, I detailed the impact of the War on Drugs on African American youth living in New York City’s “forgotten borough,” Staten Island, from the md-1980s through the 1990s. I also traced the commodity flows of Hong Kong action cinema to New York City, where it garnered a diverse cult following through movie theaters, innovations in recording and video technology, and appealing aesthetics. Additionally, the narrative of the Wu-Tang Clan demonstrated the changes in the recorded music industry, whereby music sampling technology, rapping as an art form, and black entrepreneurship created opportunities for poor and working class artists to find success in a music industry dominated by large corporate interests. Lastly, the Wu-Tang Clan’s music revealed the legacy of a distinct and enduring style of chess in Brooklyn, developed largely by amateur African American players as an urban leisure activity. These diverse narratives are held together by an analysis of the Wu-Tang Clan’s unique brand identity, which attested to the innovations of black capitalism among the Hip Hop Generation, the diversity of masculine identities expressed by “Golden Era” rap artists, and the material circumstances from which hardcore rap music sprung.

**Central Michigan University, 2007-2011.**

B.S., History, Cum Laude.

 Major: History.

 Minor: Ethnic Studies.

Professional Experience

**Research Assistantship, August 2017-Present.**

 *Lansing State Journal/Michigan State University*

Description: Under the supervision of the *Lansing State Journal*, I am conducting research and interviews, collaborating with reporters, and writing articles for the newspaper. Currently, I am writing an article tentatively titled “The Specter of Criminalization Still Haunts Legal Pot: Lessons from the First Marijuana Legalization effort in Michigan,” to be published in the newspaper in the winter of 2017.

**Teaching Assistant, January 2014-2017.**

*Michigan State University.*

Description: As a teaching assistant, I have worked for nine different primary instructors in both classroom and online settings. My main responsibilities included leading discussion sections for 20-25 students, designing classroom activities and assessments, preparing study guides and resources, grading materials for 75-100 students, meeting and communicating directly with students, and collaborating with other T.A.’s and primary instructors to develop effective pedagogy. Currently, my teaching integrates online components into classroom settings, it is student-centered, and my assessments are inspired by the key components of Authentic Intellectual Work: the “construction of knowledge, disciplined inquiry, and value beyond school.”

Courses:

* History 203 – US History Since 1876: 3 semesters.
* History 324 – History of Sport in America (both online and in the classroom): 3 semesters.
* Integrative Arts and Humanities (IAH) 201 – US and the World: From Isolation to Global Community, 1880 to the Present: 3 semesters.
* Integrative Studies in Social Science (ISS) 335 – Hip Hop Culture and American Society (online): 1 semester.

**Archive Assistant, University Archives & Historical Collections, October 2013-Present.**

*Michigan State University.*

Project: Civil War Collections

Description: Primarily, I handle original documents and produce metadata using the archival digitization system, KORA. My duties also involve transcribing handwritten letters, creating subject headings, and editing images with Adobe Photoshop. In addition, I wrote an article based on materials in MSU’s collection entitled “A Voice from the Field Hospital: The Reminiscences of a Michigan Surgeon in the Civil War” that was featured in the fall 2014 issue of *Open Entry*,the biannual publication of the Michigan Archival Association. In the fall of 2015, I collaborated directly with the Ford Theater for their “Remembering Lincoln” online exhibit by contributing primary documents related to President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination. Similarly, I worked with Michigan State University Libraries’ in September 2105 to help put together a public exhibit entitled “The Mystic Chords of Memory” about the Civil War’s place in American memory. Most recently, I represented the UAHC as a co-presenter in a series of ongoing public speaking engagements billed as “The Civil War in Michigan.”

**Graduate Certification in Community Engagement, 2016-Present.**

*University Outreach and Engagement/The Graduate School, Michigan State University.*

Description: This one-year certification program helps graduate students develop “systemic, respectful, and scholarly approaches” for working with community partners. For this mentored program, I am developing a portfolio that tracks and showcases my community engaged research, which is grounded in my current dissertation research on the counterculture in Southeast Michigan from the 1950s-1990s. Since my research involves living subjects involved in controversial activities, this program gives me practical tools for making my research inclusive, mindful of present circumstances, and useful for community empowerment. My interest in community-engaged scholarship reflects my commitment to connecting my scholarly work to audiences outside of academia, without sacrificing scholarly rigor.

**Copy Editor, April 6, 2017-Present.**

*School of Journalism, Michigan State University.*

Description: Under the supervision of two faculty from MSU’s School of Journalism, I perform copy-editing and research for the edited volume, *Voices of Steel*. The book is a collection of photographs, interdisciplinary scholarly essays, and primary source quotations spanning the global history of the steel industry. My primary responsibilities include formatting all citations in Chicago-Turabian Citation Style, standardizing the various submissions, and tracking down unconfirmed sources, quotes, and facts.

**Writing Center Consultant, August 2012-May 2014.**

*Michigan State University.*

Description: As a consultant, I met with both graduate and undergraduate students to assess their writing abilities, provide impromptu constructive criticism, and offer practical strategies for improving their writing. I co-led workshops on a variety of topics such as working with English as a Second Language Students (ESL), citation styles, CV/resume writing, grant writing, and the graduate school application process. Moreover, I participated in committees that conducted self-evaluations of Writing Center materials and training to ensure best practices, especially in regards to ESL students.

**Camp Idlewild Oral History Project, Summer 2009 & 2010.**

*Ferris State University: Big Rapids, Michigan.*

Description: Coordinated with students, professors, and youth from the town of Idlewild, Michigan, to help plan an oral history project. The project intended to preserve the stories of community members who remembered Idlewild as a popular African American resort during segregation. We wrote, recorded, and conducted over twenty-five interviews with Idlewild residents. The interviews are now housed in the Idlewild Historical Center and are available to the public.

Publications

“Collectives”; “*Pimp My Ride*”; “Ice Cube.” *St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture.* Detroit, Michigan:St. James Press, 2018.

“A Voice from the Field Hospital: The Reminiscences of a Michigan Surgeon in the Civil War.” *Open Entry* 42, no. 2 (Fall 2014): 27-29.

Presentations

**Jackson Michigan Civil War Roundtable, 2017.**

*Meijer Branch, Jackson District Library, Jackson, Michigan.*

*“*Civil War Collections of the Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections.”

**A Conversation about Ta-Nehisi Coates’ Black Panther Comic Books, Panel Discussions, 2017.**

*Union Art Gallery* & *Wilson Kiva, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.*

“The Black Power Zeitgeist: Memory, Meaning, and Popular Culture, 1968-Present.”

**Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Conference, 2016.**

*Marriott Hotel,* *Richmond, Virginia.*

“Marijuana Revolution: Marijuana Legalization, Race, and the Politics of Getting High in Southeast Michigan, 1955-1975.”

**Capital Area District Libraries (CADL), American Archives Month, 2016.**

*Leslie Branch of CADL, Leslie, Michigan.*

“The Civil War in Michigan.”

**Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Conference, 2015.**

*Sheraton Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia.*

“From White Panthers to Rainbow People’s: Counterculture, Black Power, and Coalition-Building in Southeast Michigan.”

**Cultural Studies Association Conference, 2015.**

*Riverside Convention Center, Riverside, Greater Los Angeles Area, California.*

“Free University of Detroit: Countercultural Experiments in the Motor City”

**Midwest Labor and Working-Class History Colloquium, 2014.**

*University of Illinois at Chicago: Chicago, Illinois.*

“’From the Slums of Shaolin’: Black Orientalism, Hong Kong Action Cinema, and the Wu-Tang Clan.”

**Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, 2013.**

*Ferris State University: Big Rapids, Michigan.*

“Stokely Carmichael: Popularizing the Call for Black Studies”

**Urban Literacies Institute for Transformative Teaching Conference, 2013.**

*Michigan State University: East Lansing, Michigan.*

“U Can Touch This: Exploring the Power of Mobile Digital Storytelling”

**Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, 2012.**

*Indiana Wesleyan University: Marion, Indiana.*

“The Allure of Aerosol Art: The Rise of Graffiti Writers in Hip Hop’s Nascent Stages.”

**Michigan Academy of Arts, Letters, and Sciences Conference, 2012.**

*Alma College: Alma, Michigan.*

 “Rooted in Racism: United States Drug Policy and Its Impact on Mexico.”

**Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, 2011.**

*Oakland University: Rochester, Michigan.*

 “Race Relations and the Vietnam War.”

**Michigan Academy of Arts, Letters, and Sciences Conference, 2011.**

*Saginaw Valley State University: University Center, Michigan.*

“The Crips: The Formation and Appeal of L.A.’s Most Influential Gang.”

**Michigan Academy of Arts, Letters, and Sciences Conference, 2010.**

*Calvin College: Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

“Anti-Semitism in Victorian Era Britain.”

**Michigan Sociological Association Conference, 2009.**

*Ferris State University: Big Rapids, Michigan.*

“Documenting Oral History for Idlewild, Michigan.”

Awards and Fellowships

**Scholarship of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning (SUTL) Fellows Program, 2017-Present.**

*Lyman Briggs College, Michigan State University.*

In collaboration with a faculty mentor, I am conducting a qualitative-quantitative study that analyzes the effectiveness of using “commonplace” books to improve undergraduate thesis statements. In addition, I participate in bi-weekly professional development activities with other SUTL fellows.

**Fred Williams Graduate Award, Winner, 2017.**

*Michigan State University.*

“This award is designed to recognize teaching assistants who plan a teaching career in History (with preference given to the teaching of American history) at the college or university level as exemplified by Professor Williams during his tenure at Michigan State University.”

**Somers Excellence in Teaching Award, Finalist, 2016.**

*Michigan State University.*

“For commitment to excellence, innovation, and creativity in undergraduate teaching in courses offered by the Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University.”

**Best Paper in Civil Rights History, Winner, 2013.**

*Ferris State University*.

For the paper, “Stokely Carmichael: Popularizing the Call for Black Studies” at Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference.

Academic Service

**Council of Graduate Students (COGS) Representative for the Department of History, 2013-2015.**

*Michigan State University.*

Description: As the representative for COGS—the government body for graduate and professional students at MSU—I attended general assemblies and committee meetings to advocate for the interests of graduate and professional students in the Department of History and across campus.

**Conference Planner, 2013-2015.**

*Michigan State University.*

COGS Graduate Academic Conference, 2014 & 2015.

MSU Africanist Graduate Student Research Conference, 2013 & 2014.

Migration Without Boundaries: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, 2013.

Description: In planning conferences, I mainly helped with logistics, funding, and registration. I designed conference logos and flyers for the MSU Africanist Graduate Student Research Conference and served as the chair of a panel.

Professional Affiliations

American Historical Association, 2012-Present.

Association for the Study of African American Life and History, 2012-Present.

Organization of American Historians, 2014-Present.

Cultural Studies Association, 2014-2015.