

# Adam Biggs

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## EDUCATION

Harvard University, PhD, History of American Civilization (May 2021)

*Dissertation:* “The Newest Negroes: Black Doctors and the Desegregation of Harlem Hospital, 1919-1935” *Committee Members:* Evelyn Hammonds, Allan Brandt, Susan Reverby (Wellesley), Keith Wailoo (Princeton) [[link](#)]

University of Pennsylvania, BA, English and African American Studies (May 1995) *Honors:* Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude

## POSITIONS HELD

*Postdoctoral Associate*, Scarlet and Black Research Center, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, Sept 2022-present

*Assistant Professor*, History & African American Studies, USC Lancaster, May 2022-present (on leave)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, July 2021-June 2022

Instructor, Univ of South Carolina Lancaster, 2012-2022

Adjunct Instructor, Univ of South Carolina Lancaster, 2011-2012

Assistant Professor of History, Claflin University, 2006-2010

Exchange Scholar, University of Chicago, 2002-2003

Resident Tutor, Kirkland House, Harvard University, 1997-2001

Editorial Assistant, *Harvard Guide*, Du Bois Institute, Harvard University, 1996-1998

## ONGOING PROJECTS

*Strange Cures: Black Doctors, Harlem Hospital, and the New Negro in American Medicine, 1919-1935.* Book project examining the role of black doctors in the desegregation of Harlem Hospital. Illustrates how the construct of the New Negro shaped early-twentieth century definitions of black professional legitimacy as well as standards of health and healing.

“Authors of Devastation.” Essay for the *Do Less Harm* edited volume organized by Courtney Thompson and Kylie Smith on ethics in the history of medicine.

*Desegregating Lancaster: Oral History Project.* Collection of interviews from Lancaster, SC, residents who participated in school desegregation. Includes public exhibit, oral history database, and lecture event.

## PUBLICATIONS

“Should a Healthcare System Facilitate Racially Concordant Care for Black Patients?” Co-authored with Lauren Taylor, Osaze Udeagbala, Helen-Maria Lekas, and Keisha Ray, *Pediatrics* 148(4), 3 Sept 2021 [[link](#)]

“44 Years after the Civil War, Our City Erected a Monument: Understanding Those Decades Is Crucial in Today’s Debate.” Guest column in *The Lancaster News*, 18 July 2020

“Desegregating Harlem Hospital: A Centennial.” Entry for New York Academy of Medicine’s *Books, Health, and History* blog, Aug 2019 [\[link\]](#)

“Walter Henderson Brooks” *African American Lives*, Oxford U. Press (2004)  
Biographical entry for prominent African American intellectual and religious figure who lived in Washington, DC, during the late-19th and early-20th century. Originally published in *American National Biography* (1998). [\[link\]](#)

*Harvard Guide to African American History*, Harvard University Press (2001)  
Co-authored bibliography on African American history from 1968-1999 with John Bracey and Corey Walker.

#### **BOOK REVIEWS**

Smith, Sean Morey, and Christopher D. E. Willoughby, eds. *Medicine and Healing in the Age of Slavery* (2021) in *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (forthcoming)

Blake Hill-Saya. *Aaron McDuffie Moore: An African American Physician, Educator, and Founder of Durham’s Black Wall Street* (2020) in *North Carolina Historical Review* (forthcoming)

Louis Sullivan. *Breaking Ground: My Life in Medicine* (2014) in *Social History of Medicine* (Nov 2018) [\[link\]](#)

Dennis Doyle. *Psychiatry and Racial Liberalism in Harlem, 1936-1968* (2016) in *Medical History* (Oct 2017) [\[link\]](#)

Lundy Braun, *Breathing Race into the Machine: The Surprising Career of the Spirometer from Plantation to Genetics* (2014) in *Technology and Culture* (Jan 2016) [\[link\]](#)

Gretchen Long, *Doctoring Freedom: The Politics of African American Medical Care in Slavery and Emancipation* (2012) in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (Summer 2015) [\[link\]](#)

Karen Kruse Thomas, *Deluxe Jim Crow: Civil Rights and American Health Policy, 1935-1954* (2011) in *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (Sept 2013) [\[link\]](#)

#### **INVITED LECTURES AND PANELS**

“Black Doctors and the Making of ‘Good’ Medicine: Confronting Structural Racism in Early Twentieth Century Reforms” *Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing*, University of Pennsylvania, 19 Oct 2022

“Historically Speaking: Advancing African American Medical Science from Reconstruction to the Present,” *National Museum of African American History and Culture*, 18 May 2022 [\[link\]](#)

“That Kind of Doctor: How I Got Interested in the History of Medicine,” *Faculty Research Colloquium, USC Lancaster*, 5 Nov 2021 [\[link\]](#)

“If Racially Concordant Care Is a Benefit for Black Patients, How Should Health Care Organizations Respond?” *Organizational Ethics Consortia, Center for Bioethics*, Harvard Medical School, 22 Jan 2021 [[link](#)]

Columbus Day Press Conference and Panel Discussion, *Native American Studies Center*, USC Lancaster, 12 Oct 2020

Juneteenth Celebration, *USC Lancaster*, Lancaster, SC, 22 June 2019

“How Long Will We Wait? The Desegregation of American Hospitals”: Panelist for *Race & Health Series*, New York Academy of Medicine, 10 July 2019 [[link](#)]

The Don Carlos and Alice V. Peete Lecture in the History of Medicine, Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine, *Kansas University Medical Center*, 11 Apr 2019

Trent History of Medicine Lecture Series, *History of Medicine Collection*, Duke University, and *Bullitt History of Medicine Club*, UNC Chapel Hill (co-sponsors), 26 Mar 2019 [[link](#)]

“Desegregating Lancaster: An Oral History Project,” Lunch and Learn Series, *Native American Studies Center*, USC Lancaster, Feb 2018 [[link](#)]

“Opening Doors” Exhibit, *American College of Surgeons*  
Keynote speaker for the opening of an exhibit celebrating the history and contributions of African American surgeons, July 2011

Penn Center Heritage Symposium, Panelist for the *Penn Center Heritage Days Celebration*, St. Helena Island, SC, 13 Nov 2009

**COLLOQUIA,  
SYMPOSIA, AND  
WORKSHOPS**

*Disrupting Health Disparities: Imagining a Just Racial Future*. Served as an external expert for two-day workshop, provided feedback on proposals for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. 16-18 Aug 2022 [[link](#)]

“The Godfrey Nurse Affair: Black Doctors and the Intersectional Tensions Shaping Professional Legitimacy in the Desegregation of Harlem Hospital,” *History of Science, Medicine, and Technology Colloquium*, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, 7 Oct 2021 [[link](#)]

“New Negro Science: Black Doctors and Their Challenge to Racial Pathologies of Disease and Degeneration, 1890-1920” *Science, Technology and the Historical Influence of Race*, Drexel University, Phila., PA (Mar 9-10, 2007)

“The Health and Physique of the New Negro” Chapter presented at the *Newberry Library Seminar on Technology, Politics, and Culture*, 16 Dec 2005.

*Social History Workshop*, University of Chicago, February 2003.

**CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS**

- “Intersectional Tensions in the Desegregation of Harlem Hospital, 1919-1935,” Annual Meeting of the *American Historical Association*, Philadelphia, PA, 7 Jan 2023
- “Aspiring to Whiteness?: Black Doctors and the Paradox of Professional Legitimacy” *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, Montgomery, AL, 1 Oct 2022
- “The Mis-Education of Dr. Louis T. Wright,” *Reckoning with Race and Racism in Academic Medicine*, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, 5-6 May 2022 [[link](#)]
- “U. Conrad Vincent and the Desegregation of Harlem Hospital,” *Medicine and the Afterlives of Slavery*, Program on Race, Science, and Society, University of Pennsylvania, 14 Apr 2022
- “Race, the Plantation, and the Afterlives of Slavery in Southern Medicine,” Respondent, *Southern Historical Association*, 6 Nov 2021
- “The Profession Itself: Structural Racism in the Flexner Reforms,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Association for the History of Medicine*, virtual, May 2021
- “Teaching Challenging or Controversial Topics in the History of Medicine” *American Association for the History of Medicine*, Columbus, OH, May 2019
- “Public Discourse on Race and the History of Medicine,” moderated lunch panel discussion on race and the history of medicine for the *American Association for the History of Medicine*, Los Angeles, CA May 2018
- The Vanishing Negro Doctor: Interracial Passing in American Medicine” *American Association for the History of Medicine*, Nashville, TN, May 2017
- “Nurses, New Negroes, and the Desegregation of Harlem Hospital, 1919-1935” *Institute for African American Research*, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, Sept 2015
- “Dementia Americana: Black Doctors and their Challenge to Scientific Racism in the Early-Twentieth Century” *American Association for the History of Medicine*, Atlanta, GA, May 2013
- “New Negro Therapeutics: Black Doctors and Racial Destiny in Early 20th Century Medical Practice” *American Association for the History of Medicine*, Philadelphia, PA, 30 Apr 2011
- “The New Negro in Harlem Hospital: Black Doctors and Their Crusade against Quackery, 1919-1935” *Organization of American Historians*, Washington, DC, 7 Apr 2010

“Region, Respectability, and the New Negro in American Medicine” *4th Annual New Perspectives on African American History and Culture*, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC, 27 Feb 2010

“The Integration of Harlem Hospital” *Southern Historical Association*, New Orleans, LA, Oct 2008

“Harlem Hospital and the Harlem Renaissance” *New Directions in African American Literature, Theory, and Cultural Studies*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 5-6 Apr 2007

“Caricature and the Image of the Modern Medical Practitioner” 2nd annual *Joint Atlantic Seminar in the History of Medicine*, Cambridge, MA, 15 Oct 2004

**MEDIA  
CONSULTATIONS**

“Birthing Justice.” Interview for documentary film on black maternal health and health care, co-produced by Sasheen Artis. (forthcoming) [[link](#)]

“Closing the Vaccine Gap Will Require Repairing Decades of Broken Trust,” by Connor Scribner, *VPM-NPR News*, 4 Oct 2021 [[link](#)]

"The Black Mortality Gap, and a Document Written in 1910," by Anna Flagg, *New York Times*, 30 Aug 2021 [[link](#)]

"Pediatrics Group Offers ‘Long Overdue’ Apology for Racist Past," by Emma Goldberg, *New York Times*, 20 Aug 2020 [[link](#)]

"American Racial Justice Movements Shape Change," by Chris Simkins, *Voice of America*, 11 June 2020 [[link](#)]

**FELLOWSHIPS,  
AWARDS, &  
GRANTS**

Gilder Lehrman Scholarly Fellowship (2021-23)

Shaw Excellence in Scholarship Award Nominee, Palmetto Colleges (2021)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins SOM (2021-22)

Research and Productive Scholarship Grant, USCL (2021)

TRIO Faculty Member of the Year Award (2018)

Horizon Education Grant, Arras Foundation, Lancaster, SC (2017)

Research and Productive Scholarship Grant, USCL (2017)

Institute for African American Research Grant, USCL (2015)

American Association for the History of Medicine Travel Fellowship (2011)

UNCF/Mellon Dissertation Fellowship (2007-08)

Faculty Research Grant, Claflin University (2007)

MMUF Research/Travel Grant (2005)

Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, hon. mention (2004)

Five Colleges Fellowship Program, semi-finalist (2004)

Warren Center Summer Research Grant, Harvard University (2002, 2003)

Summer Research Grant, History of American Civilization (2002)

Graduate Prize Writing Fellowship, Harvard University (2001-02)

Travel Grant, Politics of Racial Health Conference, Rutgers University (2001)

Graduate Prize Tuition Fellowship, Harvard University (1998-2006)

Ford Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship (1995-8)

Samuel P. and Ida S. Mandell Undergraduate Writing Award (1995)

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (1993-5)  
Young Scholars Award, National Endowment for the Humanities (1990)

**COURSES  
TAUGHT**

*University of South Carolina Lancaster*

Survey of US History before/since the Civil War  
Introduction to African American History and Politics  
Introduction to African American Art and Culture  
African Americans, Race, and the History of Medicine  
Survey of the Civil Rights Movement  
Black Experience in the US to 1865/from 1865

*Clayton University*

African American History: Civil War to the Present  
African American History: to the Civil War  
Contemporary African American History  
History of Medicine  
Senior Research  
Survey of World History I & II  
US History: Civil War to the Present

*Harvard University (as Teaching Fellow)*

American Civil War, 1861-1865 (History Dept)  
Baseball and American Society (History Dept)  
Introduction to African American Studies (AFAM Studies Dept)  
Thought of W.E.B. Du Bois (AFAM Studies Dept)

**SERVICE TO  
USCL AND THE  
LANCASTER, SC  
COMMUNITY**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, July 2020-pres  
Evaluation Committee, Fall 2019-pres  
Research and Productive Scholarship Grant, (2018, 2022)  
Children's Summer Reading Program, Barr St. Community Center, June 2019  
Town & Gown Committee, Fall 2018-21  
Community Engagement Corps, Arras Foundation, 2018-20  
Cultural Studies Program Development Committee, 2017-  
"Red Roses, Black Lives: A Dialogue on Civil Rights," Nov 15, 2016  
Search Committee, History & Native American Studies, 2016  
Assessment Committee, 2014-16  
Bookstore Committee, 2014-16  
Lancaster Youth Leadership Program, Lancaster County Chamber of  
Commerce, 2013-17

**SERVICE TO THE  
PROFESSION**

MMUF Mini Graduate School Bootcamp, *Univ. of Penn*, 21 Oct 2022  
Council Member, *American Association for the History of Medicine*, 2022-24  
Education and Outreach Committee, chair, *AAHM*, Fall 2022-2023  
Conference Organization Committee, "Reckoning with Race and Racism in  
Academic Medicine," *Johns Hopkins University*, 5-6 May 2022  
Fellowship Reviewer, *Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and  
Medicine*, Apr 2022  
Peer Reviewer, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 2021

Program Committee, *Am. Assoc. for the History of Medicine*, 2021, 2018  
Fellowship Review Committee, *New York Academy of Medicine*, Oct 2021  
MMUF Alumni Panel, *Penn Rising Scholar Success Academy*, 16 July 2021  
Peer Reviewer, *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 2019  
Shryock Medal Committee, *AAHM*, May 2018  
Program Committee, *Joint Atlantic Seminar on the History of Medicine*, 2005  
Conference Coordinator, "The Problem of Race Conference," W.E.B. Du Bois  
Society, GSAS Graduate Student Conference, Harvard University, 5-6 Apr  
2002

**PROFESSIONAL  
MEMBERSHIPS**

American Association for the History of Medicine  
American Historical Association  
Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
Organization of American Historians  
Southern Historical Association  
Urban History Association