Introducing UHA President Heather Ann Thompson

On January 1, 2019, Heather Ann Thompson, the Collegiate Professor of History in the departments of Afro and African American Studies, History, and the Residential College at the University of Michigan, became the 27th President of the Urban History Association. Thompson earned her Ph.D. from Princeton University in American history.

Thompson’s own historical scholarship has focused primarily on the history of black politics and activism in the city and in urban workplaces as well as on the history of policing and prisons and their impact on black urbanites over time. Her first book, *Whose Detroit: Politics, Labor, and Race in a Modern American City* (Cornell University Press), was published in 2001 and then recently republished with a new introduction in 2017 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Detroit Rebellion of 1967. Her commentary on this subject could also be found that year on numerous local broadcasts, on a national news program, on CSPAN, on two CNN documentaries, and was featured in the new film, *Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win*. Thompson is also the author of the edited...
Thompson’s second book, *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy* (Pantheon Books, 2016) was the culmination of a 13-year research odyssey to recover the full history of one of this nation’s most important prison uprisings for better conditions. *Blood in the Water* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the Bancroft Prize in American History, the Ridenhour Prize, the J. Willard Hurst Prize, the Public Information Award from the New York Bar Association, the Law and Literature Prize from the New York County Bar Association, and the Media for a Just Society Award from the National Council for Crime and Delinquency. The book also received a rarely-given Honorable Mention for the Silver Gavel Award from the American Bar Association, was long listed for the Cundill Prize in History, and was a finalist for the National Book Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Award. Upon its release this book was also prominently reviewed and profiled in the *New York Times* in four different sections, and Thompson herself was profiled in the highly-coveted “Talk” section in the *New York Times Magazine*. *Blood in the Water* ultimately landed on fourteen “Best of 2016” lists including the *New York Times* Most Notable Books of 2016 list, and ones published by *Kirkus*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Newsweek*, *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Boston Globe*, and others. The book also received rave reviews in over 100 top popular publications, and Thompson appeared on over 25 television shows, including PBS *Newshour*, CBS Sunday Morning and the Daily Show, as well as on over 50 radio programs, including Sirius and NPR. *Blood in the Water* has also been optioned by TriStar Pictures and will be adapted for film by acclaimed screenwriters Anna Waterhouse and Joe Shrapnel and produced by award-winning producers Amy Pascal and Rachel O’Connor.


Thompson’s piece in the *Atlantic Monthly* on how mass incarceration has distorted democracy in America was named a finalist for a best magazine article award in 2014. On the policy front Thompson served on a National Academy of Sciences blue-ribbon panel that studied the causes and consequences of mass incarceration in the U.S. The two-year, $1.5 million project was sponsored by the National Institute of Justice and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Thompson has served as well on the boards of several policy organizations including the Prison Policy Initiative, the Eastern State Penitentiary, a historic site, and on the advisory boards of Life of the Law and the Alliance of Families for Justice. She has also worked in an advisory...
Thompson’s audience is international as well as national. She has spent considerable time presenting her work on prisons and justice policy to universities and policy groups nationally and internationally as well as to state legislators in various states. She has given talks in countries such as France, Switzerland, Germany, Ireland, and the UK, as well as across the United States, including in Hawaii. In 2017 Thompson was awarded a year-long fellowship from the Charles Warren Center at Harvard University, in 2018 she was awarded a Bearing Witness Fellowship from the Art for Justice Fund, and in 2019-2020 she will be the Pitt Professor at Cambridge University, UK.

The other exciting change at The Metropole is the expansion of our Book Review section. Jim Wunsch has been joined by Jacob Bruggeman and Eric Michael Rhodes, and as a team they have been soliciting excellent reviews of not only the newest books in urban history, but also museum exhibits and podcasts! The Metropole is now one of the first places that urban enthusiasts can find critical discussions of the latest literature.

The Book Review section is part of our broader effort to grow the blog into the essential internet resource for the history of cities. To aid this growth, we are looking for new assistant editors and for blog ambassadors. We have posted the call for applications on the blog and look forward to onboarding some dedicated new team members. Finally, we want to extend our immense gratitude to all of our contributors and readers. The Metropole would not exist without our writers’ enthusiastic volunteer labor, nor without our readers’ consistent support. Thank you.

Visit The Metropole today!
Letter from UHA President Heather Ann Thompson

Welcome to what I anticipate will be a most exciting next two years of organizational growth, important scholarly discussions, and public outreach for the Urban History Association!

I want to say a special thank you to my predecessor, UHA President Richard Harris, who guided the organization over the course of the last two years and who brought us all together for our last wonderful conference in Columbia, SC, “Cities at the Crossroads.” This powerful event was made possible by program committee co-chairs Elaine Lewinnek and LaDale Winling as well as by a local arrangements committee co-chaired by Jessica Elfenbein and Robin Waites. Together they all put together a most incredible array of receptions, panels and tours, and I thank them all for devoting so much energy to making sure this gathering was the tremendous success it was.

I want to thank our Executive Director, Peter Siskind, whose efforts also made the SC conference such a great success, and I thank him as well for stepping in to serve the organization as the ED on short notice and with such enthusiasm. Thanks also to UHA Membership Secretary Kara Schlichting and to both Avigail Oren and Ryan Reft. Avigail and Ryan have made the UHA presence highly visible and truly interesting on the web via the UHA Metropole. I also extend my thanks to Hope Shannon, who keeps us informed on all that is happening in the UHA via this wonderful newsletter.

As the incoming president of the UHA I am committed to working with the UHA Board over the next two years to consider some of the many ways we might expand and take the organization in new directions, further enriching our work as scholars and connecting us to discussions that impact urban spaces in the US and the world today. I very much welcome input from all UHA members regarding how the organization might grow and better serve its existing members, as well as how we might better connect to communities outside the academy. I want to strengthen the UHA’s already notable commitment to bringing together scholars and practitioners who work not just in the US, but on all continents, and to building an organization that reflects the true diversity of this profession. I am also committed to continuing to build meaningful bridges between the field of urban history and other vitally important fields such as African American history, queer history, Latinx and Latin American studies, feminist theory, cultural studies, Asian American history, disability studies, labor history, carceral studies, and countless others.

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To celebrate and showcase the intellectual vibrancy and paradigm-shifting possibilities of the UHA, I am most pleased to announce that we will be holding our next UHA conference in Detroit, Michigan from October 8 to 11, 2020! As a historian of the Motor City, and as someone who grew up here and had the opportunity to move back in 2015, I could not be happier to host this conference here. The conference will be held downtown at the Book Cadillac Hotel, which is close to excellent restaurants, parks, the Detroit River, and the lively Midtown area, where we will also host sessions at the UM and MSU satellite campus locations. There will be an opening reception in one of the city’s most beautiful buildings downtown Thursday night, and our Friday night banquet will take place at the historic Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. (Be sure to come for an evening of good food and music in this stunning historic building built in 1922!) There will also be numerous tours that attendees can participate in, hosted by folks who know these sites so well and will make you so glad you visited. Pulling all of this together will be the local arrangements committee and its co-chairs Georgina Hickey and Roger Biles—thank you so
much! Georgina and Roger, along with committee members from across the region, are working hard to ensure that everyone’s visit to the Motor City will be memorable indeed.

Making the Detroit conference not just possible but also a must-attend event are Program Committee co-chairs Bryant Simon and Elizabeth Hinton to whom I am also most grateful. Their efforts will be aided by a committee of scholars from around the country and world who will be soliciting panels and making sure that our program is stimulating and cutting-edge. The theme of our next UHA conference in Detroit is “The Contested City,” and I hope that all UHA members will consider submitting proposals as soon as the call for papers is posted. I am also committed to reaching out to organizations such as ASALH, the AAIHS, LASA, LAWCHA, and others and ask that they sponsor panels in Detroit as well.

I have no doubt that this will be one of the best UHA conferences yet, so mark your calendars for Oct 8 to 11, 2020 now!

In closing, I want to extend a special thanks to those UHA members who just rotated off the Board in December: Anna Alexander, Alison J. Bruey, Shane Ewen, Brian Goldstein, Carola Hein, Kristin Stapleton, and Lawrence J. Vale, and to welcome the following new members to the Board: Llana Barber, Dorothee Brantz, Emily Callaci, Janet Y. Chen, Diana J. Montaño, Ato Quayson, and James Wolfinger. I look forward to working with you all in the coming years. Finally, I want to welcome Joe Trotter, a most esteemed scholar of African American urban and labor history from Carnegie Mellon University, to the UHA as its new president-elect! I have had the great pleasure to work with Joe before, and I am thrilled that we will all have him guiding this organization forward as well.

News & Announcements

* The UHA welcomes its new board members, whose terms began on 01/01/2019. They are: Llana Barber, SUNY Old Westbury; Dorothee Brantz, TU Berlin; Emily Callaci, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Janet Y. Chen, Princeton University; Diana J. Montaño, Washington University in St. Louis; Ato Quayson, New York University; and James Wolfinger, DePaul University.

* The UHA thanks its outgoing board members, whose terms ended on 12/31/2018, for their service: Anna Alexander, Georgia Southern University; Alison J. Bruey, University of North Florida; Shane Ewen, Leeds Beckett University; Brian Goldstein, University of New Mexico; Carola Hein, Delft University of Technology; Kristin Stapleton, University of Buffalo, SUNY; Lawrence J. Vale, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

* Member benefit: UHA members have free online access to the Journal of Urban History. Access is available for the current issue of the JUH, as well as the full run of past issues. To access the JUH, go to urbanhistory.org and click on the “Members Only” section of the website to sign in.

* Visit the Global Urban History Project at globalurbanhistory.org. It’s a meeting place for scholars interested in exploring the crossroads of urban history and global history. Their website has resources, event notices, and more.

* The UHA blog, co-edited by Avigail Oren and Ryan Reft, features critical, field-defining urban history content, interviews with urbanists, and much more. Check out what’s going on at The Metropole today.
Save the Date!

October 8-11, 2020
Detroit, Michigan
More details coming soon.

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Request for Proposals
Biennial UHA Meetings, 2022 & 2024

The Board of Directors of the Urban History Association (UHA) is soliciting separate Requests for Proposals from interested institutions and parties to stage the Eleventh Biennial UHA Conference in 2022 and the Twelfth Biennial UHA Conference in 2024. Information on past conferences is available at http://www.urbanhistory.org/past-conferences.

Proposals should include as much of the following information as is realistic to assemble at this early stage:

◊ Name of the primary sponsoring institution or institutions with relevant contact addresses, email, and telephone numbers;
◊ Names of potential secondary sponsors to assist funding the conference;
◊ Possible location of rooms for concurrent panels (approximately 100 total) on Friday and Saturday (4 different time slots between 8:30 am and 4pm), and Sunday morning;
◊ Possible location for a book exhibit to accommodate 10-15 publishers;
◊ Possible open space for informal gathering and networking;
◊ Potential conference hotels with price ranges;
◊ Potential space for receptions and a gala dinner to accommodate 150-200 people;
◊ Any innovative ideas for the conference program.

Please submit proposals via email to:
Peter Siskind, Executive Director, Urban History Association, siskindp@arcadia.edu.
About the Urban History Association

The Urban History Association (UHA) was founded in Cincinnati in 1988 for the purpose of stimulating interest and forwarding research and study in the history of the city in all periods and geographical areas. It is affiliated with the International Planning History Society.

Today the UHA includes over 500 members worldwide. While the majority of members are from the United States and Canada, the UHA also includes members from Austria, Australia, the Dominican Republic, the United Kingdom, France, Israel, the Netherlands, Japan, Germany, Hong Kong, and New Zealand. Our ranks include university faculty, architects, archivists, civil servants, editors, independent scholars, museum professionals, planners, public historians, and secondary school teachers. The UHA has made a particular effort to reach scholars and professionals whose interests lie outside of North American history. In addition, the UHA welcomes scholars from any field who are interested in the history of the city in any period and geographical area. Our membership also includes scholars from the fields of American studies, sociology, women’s studies, ethnic studies, urban planning, material culture, literature, demography, museum studies, historic preservation, architecture, journalism, ethnic studies, anthropology, and political science.

The UHA supports a variety of activities to enhance the visibility of the study of the history of the city. The UHA has published the Urban History Newsletter each year in March and October since 1989. The newsletter includes articles of interest about the activities of UHA members, reports on conferences attended by UHA members, conference announcements, member milestones and news, reports on research in progress, teaching, and museum exhibits, as well as news on the activities of the UHA. The UHA launched its first biennial urban history conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 26-28, 2002. Since 1990 the UHA has awarded annual prizes for the best book in North American urban history and the best dissertation and best article in urban history from the previous year. Every two years it awards a prize for the best book in non-North American history. Members receive discounted subscriptions to the Journal of Urban History, Planning Perspectives (UK), and Urban History (UK). The UHA also maintains a presence on the internet. It has a blog and an official website for members, which features back issues of the newsletter, links to H-Urban, links to other urban history web sites, syllabi exchanges, conference announcements, and news.

Current Officers and Directors

President: Heather Ann Thompson / University of Michigan
President-Elect: Joe William Trotter, Jr. / Carnegie Mellon University
Executive Director: Peter Siskind / Arcadia University
Membership Secretary: Kara Schlichting / Queen’s College, CUNY

Editor of the Journal of Urban History: David Goldfield / University of North Carolina-Charlotte
Editor of the Urban History Newsletter: Hope Shannon / Loyola University Chicago
Webmaster and Editor of The Metropole Blog: Avigail Oren / Carnegie Mellon University
Social Media Coordinator and Editor of The Metropole Blog: Ryan Reft / Library of Congress

Directors
Through December 31, 2019: Julio Capó, Jr. / University of Massachusetts-Amherst; Browdwyn Fischer / University of Chicago; Elizabeth Hinton / Harvard University; Elaine Lewinnek / California State University-Fullerton; Andrew Needham / New York University; Anthony Pratcher II / University of Pennsylvania; Lena Suk / Louisiana University at Lafayette

Through December 31, 2020: Jessica Elfenbein / University of South Carolina; Douglas J. Flowe / Washington University in St. Louis; Rocío Gomez / University of Arkansas; Walter Greason / Monmouth University; Rachel Jean-Baptiste / University of California, Davis; Tracy Neumann / Wayne State University; Rachel Sturman / Bowdoin College

Through December 31, 2021: Llana Barber / SUNY Old Westbury; Dorothee Brantz / TU Berlin; Emily Callaci / University of Wisconsin, Madison; Janet Y. Chen / Princeton University; Diana J. Montaño / Washington University in St. Louis; Ato Quayson / New York University; James Wolfinger / DePaul University

A full list including past officers and directors can be found at:

Contact the UHA: Urbanhistory.org / siskindp@arcadia.edu / uhacomms@gmail.com
BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Canadian Articles


Canadian Books


Matthieu Caron, UHA bibliographer for Canadian articles and books, is a PhD student in the history department at the University of Toronto. His research interests are primarily concerned with Canadian histories related to urban, environmental, and social processes during the second half of the twentieth century. He is currently working on a dissertation entitled “Kaleidoscopic Nights: Regulations and Cultures of Nocturnal Life in Montréal, 1960-1990.”
German Articles


German Books


Ute Chamberlin, UHA bibliographer for German articles and books, is Assistant Professor of German History at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. Her area of specialization is women and gender history. Her research interests are focused on women in the urban context of Imperial and Weimar Germany, in terms of education, charity, social work, and municipal politics, particularly in the Ruhr Valley.
**Latin American Articles**


**Latin American Books**


Patricio Zambrano-Barragán, UHA bibliographer for Latin American articles and books, is a PhD candidate in City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on comparative housing policy and twentieth century Latin American urban planning and history.
BIBLIOGRAPHIES

U.S. Articles: General


U.S. Articles: Pre-1865


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**U.S. Articles: Post-1945**


Di Taranto, Nicholas. “Phoenix and the Fight over the Papago-Inner Loop: Race, Class, and


BIBLIOGRAPHIES


Todd M. Michney, UHA bibliographer for U.S. Articles, is an Assistant Professor in the School of History and Sociology at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he teaches courses in 20th century United States history. He is the author of Surrogate Suburbs: Black Upward Mobility and Neighborhood Change in Cleveland, 1900-1980 (University of North Carolina Press, 2017).


**BIBLIOGRAPHIES**

**U.S. Books**


BIBLIOGRAPHIES


Katie M. Schank, UHA bibliographer for U.S. Books, is a freelance historian. Her research interests are focused on the built environment, race, and visual culture. She is currently working on a manuscript about the central role of visual rhetoric in the history of Atlanta public housing.

Editor’s notes

The next French books and articles bibliography will be published in the fall 2019 newsletter.

The UHA thanks its dedicated bibliographers for their contributions to the UHA newsletter. Bibliographers include:

Matthieu Caron, Canadian Articles & Books

Ute Chamberlin, German Articles & Books

Cynthia Ghorra-Gobin, French Books & Journals

Patricio Zambrano-Barragán, Latin American Books & Articles

Todd Michney, U.S. Articles

Katie Schank, U.S. Books
UHA Membership Form

To become a member of the UHA, please register online at http://urbanhistory.org/membership/ or complete and send in the following form.

**Individual Options**

- $50 One-year membership*
- $90 Two-year membership
- $250 Six-year membership
- $500 Life membership (payable in one-time total sum)

**Student Options**

- $25 Graduate student one-year membership
- $45 Graduate student two-year membership
- $15 Undergraduate one-year membership
- $27 Undergraduate two-year membership

**Subscription to the Journal of Urban History and/or Urban History for 2019**

- Please renew or start my current subscription to the *Journal of Urban History* at the special UHA member rate of $40.50 for U.S. and International subscribers.

- Please renew or start my current subscription to *Urban History* at the special UHA member rate of $44.00 for U.S. and International subscribers.

**Preferred Mailing Address**

(if unchanged, please check here ____)

Name

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip, Country

E-mail address (please)

* All membership is on a calendar year basis. Memberships received after September 1, 2018 will be valid through December 2019.

** The *Journal of Urban History* is published six times each year by Sage (ISSN: 0096-144). *Urban History* is published three times a year by Cambridge Press (ISSN: 0963-9268). The UHA will submit renewals and new subscriptions to Sage and Cambridge; members do not need to contact the presses.

**Membership**: $_______

*Journal of Urban History*: $_______

*Urban History*: $_______

**Total enclosed**: $_______

Please make check payable to *The Urban History Association* in U.S. Dollars and mail check and form to:

Prof. Kara Schlichting
UHA Membership Secretary
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65-30 Kissena Boulevard
Queens, NY, 11367

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