

# Jim Casey

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## Employment

### Pennsylvania State University

Assistant Professor, African American Studies, History, and English (2021-present)

Associate Director, Center for Black Digital Research (2020-present)

Assistant Research Professor, African American Studies (2020-21)

Affiliate, George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center (2021-present)

### Princeton University

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Digital Humanities (2017-2020)

## Education

Ph.D. English, University of Delaware, 2017, with distinction.

Dissertation: “Editing Forms: The Emergence of Editorship in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Periodicals.” Advisor: John Ernest.

M.A. English, University of Delaware, 2012.

B.A. Literatures in English, University of California, San Diego, 2008.

## Publications

### Essays

**Casey, Jim.** “This Is What Democracy Looks Like: The Visual Culture of Early Black Political Organizing.” *American History in 15 Photographs*, edited by Lauren Tilton and Rebecca Wingo, Bloomsbury Academic (under contract).

Baco, Joshua Ortiz, Sarah H. Salter, Benjamin Charles Germain Lee, and **Jim Casey.** “Towards An Experimental Bibliography of Hemispheric Reconstruction Newspapers.” *Criticism* 64 (3): 453-470, 2022. <https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/criticism/vol64/iss3/15>.

**Casey, Jim.** “We Need a Press—A Press of Our Own: The Black Press Beyond Abolition.” *Civil War History*, 68 (2): 117-130, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1353/cwh.2022.0010>

**Casey, Jim** and Sarah H. Salter. “With, Without, Even Still: Frederick Douglass, *L’Union*, and Editorship Studies.” *American Literature*, 94 (2): 245–272, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00029831-9779106>

**Casey, Jim.** “Colored Conventions.” *Frederick Douglass in Context*, edited by Michael Røy, Cambridge University Press, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108778688.030>

- Lee, Benjamin, Joshua Ortiz Baco, Sarah H. Salter, and **Jim Casey**. "Navigating the Mise-en-Page: Interpretive Machine Learning Approaches to the Visual Layouts of Multi-Ethnic Periodicals." *Computational Humanities Research*, 2021. <http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-2989>
- The Collective Wisdom Handbook: Perspectives on Crowdsourcing in Cultural Heritage*, eds. Mia Ridge, Sam Blickhan, and Meghan Ferriter, with 15 co-authors, 2021. <https://britishlibrary.pubpub.org>
- Casey, Jim**. "Social Networks of the Colored Conventions, 1830-1864." *The Colored Conventions Movement: Black Organizing in the Nineteenth Century*, edited by P. Gabrielle Foreman, Jim Casey, and Sarah Lynn Patterson, UNC Press, 2021.
- Casey, Jim**, P. Gabrielle Foreman, and Sarah Lynn Patterson. "How to Use This Book and Its Digital Companions: Approaches to and Afterlives of the Colored Conventions." *The Colored Conventions Movement: Black Organizing in the Nineteenth Century*, edited by P. Gabrielle Foreman, Jim Casey, and Sarah Lynn Patterson, UNC Press, 2021.
- Casey, Jim**. "Parsing the Special Characters of African American Print Culture: Mary Ann Shadd and the Limits of Search Algorithms." *Against a Sharp White Background: Infrastructures of African American Print*, edited by Jonathan Senchyne and Brigitte Fielder, University of Wisconsin Press, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvgs08p1.9>  
\*Forthcoming reprint in *Mary Ann Shadd Cary in the Here and Now*, edited by Kristin Moriah. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Casey, Jim**. "A Committee of the Whole." *Current Research in Digital History*, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.31835/crdh.2019.02>

### Reviews & Short Essays

- Casey, Jim** and Eden Mekonen. Review of *CUNY Distance Learning Archive* in *Reviews in Digital Humanities* (forthcoming).
- Casey, Jim**. Review of *The Speeches of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner: The Press, the Platform, and the Pulpit* (UP of Mississippi, 2023) in *The Journal of Southern History* (forthcoming).
- Casey, Jim**. Review of *Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade* in *The Journal of American History* (forthcoming).
- Smith, Justin, Courtney Murray, and **Jim Casey**. "Creating and Recreating Virtual Community on Douglass Day." *Startwords*, no. 2, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5750693>.
- Casey, Jim**. "Convention Minutes and Unconventional Proceedings." *Common-Place* 16.1, 2015. ([link](#))
- Casey, Jim with** David K. Lawrimore, Jenny LeRoy, Fiona McWilliams, and Samantha Sommers. "Year in Conferences, 2014: Report on the C19 Convention." *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*. 61.1, 2015. <https://doi.org/10.1353/esq.2015.0000>.

## Books

### Published

Co-editor, *The Colored Convention Movement: Black Organizing in the Nineteenth Century*, edited by P. Gabrielle Foreman, **Jim Casey**, and Sarah Lynn Patterson, UNC Press, 2021. Reviews: *Library Journal* (Starred review and highest recommendation); *Choice* (“highly recommended”); *Ms.* magazine (Best Books of 2021); *Journal of Social History*; *The Journal of the Civil War Era*; *The Journal of African American History*.

### In-Progress

**Casey, Jim.** *The Invention of Editors* (mss. in progress).

Abstract: *The Invention of Editors* is a history of the rise and sway of editorship in the United States. For centuries, editors have had the power to decide national elections, launch foreign wars, and shape all the news and literature fit to print. *The Invention of Editors* is the first book to trace the ubiquitous and elusive force of editorship back to the moments in the middle of the nineteenth century when small groups of people experimented in back rooms and basement vaults to create new models of editorship. Chapters in the book examine the ongoing search for new ways of making newspapers that would allow a nation fractured by empire and slavery to talk to itself. The enduring influence of these pivotal moments in the white mainstream press and in the competing Black editorial tradition helps to explain the racial logic of editorial independence, the role of empire in the industrialization of printing technologies, and the utopian ideas that shape the collective organization of editorial departments in most publishing sectors to this day.

Co-editor, *Cultures of Scale: Disciplines, Data, and Labor*, edited by **Jim Casey**, Benjamin Germain Charles Lee, Joshua Ortiz Baco, and Sarah H. Salter (proposal under review).

## Journal Forums

Co-editor, Forum on “Locating the Practices of Editors in Multi-Ethnic Periodicals,” *American Periodicals*, 30.2, 2020. Edited by Jim Casey and Sarah H. Salter. Contributions by Ayendy Bonifacio, Jacqueline Emery, Kelley Kreitz, Todd Thompson, and Jewon Woo.

## Digital Scholarship

The Colored Conventions Project, 2012-present, co-founder and co-director.

Web: [coloredconventions.org](https://coloredconventions.org) | Twitter: @ccp\_org

Awards:

MLA Biennial Prize for a Digital Project, 2014-15

ASA Garfinkel DH Prize, 2017

PCA/ACA Award for Best Electronic Reference, 2017

Selected as an NEH Essential Project (<https://essentials.neh.gov>)

Grants:

2016-17 NEH ODH Start-Up Grant (Level II)

2018-21 The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant

2019-2021 Host, CLIR Fellowship in Data Curation for African American Studies

Coverage: *NY Times*, *Slate*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Forbes*, *AHA Today*, *Phila. Tribune*,  
*Ms. Magazine*, plus misc radio, print, podcast & online media outlets.

Reviews: *Journal of American History*, assorted others.

Douglass Day, 2017-present, founding director.

Web: [douglassday.org](https://douglassday.org) | Twitter: @DouglassDayorg

Major Partners:

Library of Congress, ByThePeople (2021, 3-year partnership for 2024-2027)

Archives of Ontario (2023)

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University (2020)

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (2018)

Colored Conventions Project (2017, 2022)

Grants: 2019 American Studies Association Community Partnership Grant

Coverage: 45+ local & national print, radio, and TV outlets

“Black Digital Humanities Projects & Resources” 2017-present, creator and maintainer.

Web: [bit.ly/Black-DH-List](https://bit.ly/Black-DH-List) | Reprinted in ASALH’s *Fire!!!* (4.1)

Awards: DHNow, Editor’s Choice, 2017

Editorship Studies Collective, 2020-present, co-founder.

Web: [editorshipstudies.org](https://editorshipstudies.org)

Networks of the Antebellum African American Press, 2016-present, creator.

Web: [jim-casey.com/enap](https://jim-casey.com/enap)

## Invited Talks

### Keynotes

- 2021 “What can Black digital humanities be? Movements, Collectives, Principles,” Keystone Digital Humanities Conference, Temple University, with Kevin Winstead.
- 2020 “Seeing Editors: Metadata, Machine Learning, and the Shapes of Social Justice,” Library of Congress & NEH, National Digital Newspaper Program.

### Lectures

- 2022 “Collective Actions for Black History: The Principles, Rituals, and Research Agendas of Douglass Day,” University of Tennessee, with Denise Burgher.
- 2020 “Fugitive Silences,” Princeton University, Department of African American Studies.
- 2020 “The Black Press in Antebellum New York,” NEH Summer Institute, "City of Print: New York and the Periodical Press,” CUNY (institute faculty).
- 2019 “The Six Degrees of Frederick Douglass & the ‘Ladies of Harrisburg,’” with Lauren Cooper, Lehigh University.
- 2016 “To Organize, Organize, ORGANIZE: the Colored Conventions, Then and Now,” talk at Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, University of Maryland.
- 2016 “Restoring the Social Justice Narrative to the Colored Conventions Movement,” NEH Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities: “Space and Place in Africana/Black Studies,” Purdue University (institute faculty).

### Panels

- 2024 Panel on "Creating Inclusive & Accessible Knowledge(s)," at “NEH Summer Institute, "Open Education Publishing Institute: Collaborative Knowledge and Social Justice," CUNY Grad Center, with Courtney Murray (institute faculty).
- 2022 “Convention & Collective Means for Digital Black Print Culture Studies,” Summer Seminar in the History of the Book, "Black Print, Black Activism, Black Study" at the American Antiquarian Society.
- 2022 “Collective Research Methods for Black Women’s Histories,” Society of Early Americanists Seminar Series.
- 2021 “Career Conversations in the Humanities,” Department of English, University of Delaware.
- 2021 “Why Didn’t We Know?! Seven Decades of 19th-Century Black Political Organizing,” Syracuse University.
- 2021 “How We Work,” Center for Digital Humanities at Princeton University.

## Organized Symposia

- 2022 RSAP Virtual Symposium (alternative to in-person annual meeting; four sessions, eleven speakers) [online program](#).
- 2018 Symposium, “Editorship as Collaboration: Patterns of Practice in Multi-Ethnic Periodicals,” at the American Antiquarian Society, with Sarah Salter. [Online program](#).
- 2015 Symposium, “Colored Conventions in the Nineteenth Century and the Digital Age,” at the Delaware Historical Society and University of Delaware, with P. Gabrielle Foreman and Sarah Patterson. <http://coloredconventions.org/ccncda>

## Organized Conference Sessions

- 2024 Seminar Leader, “Unfolding Editorship,” Conference of C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, with Jean Lee Cole and Sarah Salter.
- 2023 Panel, “The Social Life and Collective Work of Serial Form(s),” Special Session at MLA Annual Convention, New York, with Sarah Salter.
- 2022 “A Computational Periodicals Unconference: Exploring New Opportunities for Critical and Collaborative Inquiry,” DH Unbound, ACH & CSDH/SCHN, [online program](#)
- 2020 Panel, “Cut, Copy, Dissent: Keywords for C19 Editorship Studies,” Conference of C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists.
- 2018 Roundtable, “Insecure Periodicals,” Special Session at MLA Annual Convention, New York, with Sarah Salter.
- 2017 Roundtable, [“Periodicals, Editorship, Race and Ethnicity,”](#) Special Session at MLA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, with Sarah Salter.

## Workshops & Courses Taught

- 2020 “An Intro to Public Digital Humanities,” workshop for Public Humanities Fellow Program Orientation, Humanities New York (state agency).
- 2019 “An Intro to Public Digital Humanities,” workshop for Public Humanities Fellow Program Orientation, Humanities New York (state agency).
- 2018 “Spaces and Stories in the Black Public Humanities,” course for Humanities Learning and Teaching (HILT) at University of Pennsylvania, June 4–8, 2018.
- 2018 “Black Data, Black Collectives, and Public Imperatives,” talk plus workshop for NULab for Texts, Maps and Networks at Northeastern University.
- 2018 “Recounting Data in African American Digital Studies,” workshop co-run with Trevor Muñoz, Katie Rawson, Caitlin Pollock and Sarah Patterson, Studio@Butler, Columbia University.
- 2017 “An Intro to Digital Humanities,” workshop for Public Humanities Fellow Program Orientation, Humanities New York.

- 2017 “Public Digital Projects with Omeka,” workshop at Loyola University of Maryland, Aug 3-4, 2017.
- 2017 “Black Publics in the Humanities: Critical and Collaborative DH Projects,” course for Humanities Learning and Teaching (HILT) at University of Texas, Austin, June 5-9, 2017.

## Conference Presentations

- 2023 “Fugitive Silences,” panel on “Encoding Blackness: Black Digital Literary Practices,” run by the African American Forum, MLA Convention
- 2023 “Unspoken Histories of Black Editorship,” panel on “Editorship and Black Print Cultures,” run by the Late 19th-/Early 20th-century American Literature Forum, MLA Convention (invited).
- 2022 “Why Didn’t I Know? The Colored Conventions Movement,” National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference.
- 2022 Roundtable, Network Analysis in the Humanities, American Literature Association
- 2021 Panelist, “Platforms for People-Powered Research,” (invited) Symposium on “Crowdsourcing and the Humanities: Celebrating Scribes of the Cairo Geniza” Center for Research Data and Digital Scholarship at University of Pennsylvania Libraries, The Center for Digital Humanities at Princeton University Library.
- 2020 “Infrastructure,” Conference of C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists.
- 2020 Roundtable, Princeton University, Humanities Council Public Humanities Working Group.
- 2020 “When and Where We Edit: Digital Scholarly Editing of Nineteenth-Century Black Women’s Archives,” with Brandi Locke, MLA.
- 2019 Roundtable, "Digital Tools, New Narratives: What New Media Can Do for Black Studies," Symposium on “From Lists to Links: New Directions in Black Bibliography,” Yale University.
- 2019 “Data for the Early Black Republic of Letters,” SHARP.
- 2019 “Frederick Douglass, New Orleans, and the Possibility of Editorship Studies,” talk at Department of English, Princeton University.
- 2019 “A Committee of the Whole,” Current Research in Digital History, Center for History & New Media, George Mason Univ.
- 2018 Roundtable, “From Black Organizing Legacies to Black Liberatory Futures,” AADHUM, “Intentionally Digital, Intentionally Black.” University of Maryland.
- 2018 “Collective Movements for Black History,” Gilder Lehrman Center, “The Study of Slavery and Abolition in the Digital Age,” Yale University.
- 2018 “L’Union and The Union: The Black Press in New Orleans,” Southern Historical Association.

- 2018 Roundtable, "Insecure Periodicals," MLA Convention.
- 2018 Roundtable, "Digital Humanities & Activism," MLA Convention.
- 2017 "Scattered Issues: Towards a Networked Approach to Antebellum Black Periodicals," BH and DH: Book History and Digital Humanities, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2017 Roundtable, "Southeastern Academic Community for the Digital Humanities," HASTAC, University of Central Florida, Orlando.
- 2017 "Collective Histories and Communities of Knowledge: Transcribe Minutes and the Colored Conventions," Symposium on Creating Historical Knowledge Socially: New Approaches, Opportunities and Epistemological Implications of Undertaking Research with Citizen Scholars." German Historical Institute, Washington, DC.
- 2017 "Editorial Brokerage in the Alienated American (1853)," MLA Convention.
- 2017 "Erasures, Craft and Complexity in the Minutes of the Colored Conventions," MLA Convention.
- 2016 "Deeply Uneven, Uniformly Brief: Antebellum Black Periodicals in Archives, Databases, and Bibliographies." ALA, San Francisco.
- 2016 "The Unsettling Errors of the Lightning Press." C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Penn State University.
- 2016 "To Organize Editorial Forces: The New York Tribune Association and the Division of Editorship, 1850-1860." Joint Journalism & Communication History Conference, NYU.
- 2015 "Three Degrees of Separation in the Colored Conventions Movement." Colored Conventions in the Nineteenth-Century and the Digital Age, University of Delaware and Delaware Historical Society.
- 2014 "Parsing the Special Characters of African-American Print Culture." African-American Expression in Print and Digital Culture, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2014 "Mapping the Editorial Networks of Mary Ann Shadd Cary's The Provincial Freeman" ALA, Washington, D.C.
- 2013 "A Condensed Review: Setting Databases within a Longer Print Culture History." ACCUTE, Univ. Victoria, BC.

## **Remote Class Visits**

- 2022 Grad seminar, Emory University, Prof. Lauren Klein
- 2021 "Computing Cultural Heritage," School of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington, Prof. Benjamin Lee.
- 2021 Graduate seminar on "Remote Archival Encounters," The Graduate Center, CUNY, Profs. Duncan Faherty and Lisa Rhody.
- 2020 Graduate seminar on "Book History," University of Michigan, Prof. William Stroebe.
- 2020 Graduate course on "Crowdsourcing," University of Maryland Information School, Prof. Victoria Van Hyning.



## Public Talks & Media Appearances

- 2022 The Rhode Island History Podcast - [link](#)
- 2022 The Quill Project Conventions Podcast - [link](#)
- 2021 #SlaveryArchive Book Club - [link](#)
- 2021 *New Books Network in African American Studies* with Adam McNeil - [link](#)
- 2021 Library of Congress, Interview on The Signal (blog), with Jim Casey, Denise Burgher, Justin Smith, and Courtney Murray - [link](#)
- 2021 Democracy Works - McCourtney Institute for Democracy (podcast) - [link](#)
- 2021 *Bound by Oath* (podcast), Institute for Justice
- 2021 History Marathon, Black Caucus, Democrats Abroad
- 2019 Museum Archipelago (podcast) - [link](#)

## Teaching

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

African American Studies, History, and English (AAS/HIST/ENGL 497)

“Black Digital Studies” (SP2023)

History

“The Early American Republic, 1783-1850” (HIST 442)

African American Studies

“Themes in African American DH,” Freshman Seminar (AFAM 83 x 2 terms)

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Center for Digital Humanities & Program in Humanistic Studies

“Intro to Digital Humanities,” (2018)

Center for Statistics and Machine Learning

“Weird Data” (2019) Also see this DARIAH Blog post about the course materials:

[The “Holy Grail” of Digital Humanists – Some Thoughts About “Understanding Data” \(for Humanists\)](#)

University of Delaware, Newark, DE

English

Critical Reading and Writing, Department of English (10 courses 2010-14)

English & Honors Program

“Rewriting New York” (2013)

## **National Service**

President ex-officio, Research Society for American Periodicals, 2023-2025.

President, Research Society for American Periodicals, 2021-2023.

Vice President, Research Society for American Periodicals, 2019-2021.

Participant, Convening on Next-Generation Historical and Scholarly Digital Editions, hosted by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); the National Archives (NARA); and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), Fall 2020.

Board Member, Research Society for American Periodicals, 2016-19.

## **Advisory Boards**

"Remaking the World of Arturo Schomburg," Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and Fisk University (NHPRC)

eLaboratories, Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents, University of Virginia, 2023-2026. (National Archives/NHPRC)

"The Black Bibliography Project," PIs Jacqueline Goldsby, Yale, and Meredith McGill, Rutgers, 2022-24. (Mellon)

Advisory role, X - The Moonshot Factory (Google); early-stage exploration in social justice, bias, and race, 2022-2023.

"The Wayfinder Project: Revealing Black Print Culture to a Linked World," PI Jennifer Gunter King, Emory Univ, 2022-2023. (NEH)

Advisor, "Race and Ethnicity Keyword Thesaurus for Chronicling America," NEH/Library of Congress EDSITEment, 2022.

"The Amendments Project," PI Jill Lepore, Harvard University, 2021-2022. (NEH)

"Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry." International Museum of the Horse, Lexington, KY, 2019-2020. (IMLS)

"WhatEvery1Says: The Humanities in Public Discourse," PI Alan Liu, UCSB, 2017-2018. (Mellon)

## **External Research Funding**

2022 Whiting Foundation Public Engagement Fellowship (2nd round finalist, unsuccessful)

2015 NEH Summer Institute, "City of Print: New York & the Periodical Press."

2015 American Antiquarian Society, Stephen Botein Fellow.

2015 American Antiquarian Society, Isaiah Thomas Stipend, Digital Antiquarian Seminar.

## **Referee**

NEH – divisions of ODH and HCRR

*Digital Humanities Quarterly*

*American Literary History*

## **Service to Penn State University**

Faculty, First Book Institute - Center for American Literary Studies (Summer 2023)

Search Committee, Department of African American Studies (Fall 2022)

Search Committee, CBDR (Spring 2022)

Search Committee, CBDR/JT (Summer-Fall 2021)

Executive Committee, CBDR, (Fall 2020-present)

## **Service to Princeton University**

2020 Supervisor, University Administrative Fellowship in Public Humanities.

2018 Supervisor, Public Digital Humanities Seed Grants.

[cdh.princeton.edu/grants/public-humanities-seed-grants](http://cdh.princeton.edu/grants/public-humanities-seed-grants)

2019 Workshop, “Building Audiences for Humanities Scholarship.”

2018 Workshop, “Grants in the Humanities.”

2017-18 Reading group, “What can the public digital humanities be?”

2017-19 Consultations Program, Princeton Center for DH.

2017-19 Reviewer, DH Projects Seed Grants, Princeton Center for DH.

2017-19 Member, Princeton Campus History Working Group.

## **Internal Grants & Fellowships**

2018 Seed Grant, Princeton CDH, “Digitizing Rare Periodicals for Teaching and Scholarship.”

2013-16 University of Delaware, Summer Research Fellowships.

2013-16 University of Delaware, Department of English, Travel Awards.

## **Scholarly Professional Development**

2021 Invited Participant, AHRC UK-US Partnership Development Grant, "From crowdsourcing to digitally-enabled participation: the state of the art in collaboration, access, and inclusion for cultural heritage institutions."

2016 Invited participant, “Humanities Data Visualization,” Georgia Tech.

2014 Tuition Scholarship, “Network Analysis and Visualization.” Humanities Intensive Learning and Training, (HILT) at University of Maryland.

2013 Tuition Scholarship, “DH Databases.” Digital Humanities Summer Inst.

2014-15 Founder, Digital Humanities Campus Reading Group, UD.

2012-13 Fellow, HASTAC.

### **Select Campus Talks at Penn State**

2022 “Denmark Vesey and the Colored Conventions,” Denmark Vesey Plot 200th Anniversary Forum, Department of African American Studies.

2022 “What can the Black digital humanities *be*?” Colloquium, Department of African American Studies.

### **Select Campus Talks at the Univ of Delaware**

2015 “Problem Based Learning and Digital Mapping.” UD Winter Faculty Institute.

2014 “Digital Humanities and Library Partnerships,” UD Library Staff Assoc.

2014 “Online Curriculum & Digital History,” Interdisc. Science & Engineering Series, “Sandwiches, Science, and Society.”

### **Professional Memberships**

AAIHS, C19, RSAP, MLA.

### **References**

Available upon request.