

# CANDACE L. BORDERS

cborders@wustl.edu | St. Louis, MO

## CURRENT POSITION

---

2025-2027 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Modeling Interdisciplinary Inquiry  
The Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis

## EDUCATION

---

2025 Ph.D., American Studies and African American Studies, Yale University  
Dissertation: “Remaking Place: Black Women and a Politics of Refusal in St. Louis, 1940-1980”  
Committee: Crystal Feimster (Chair), Lisa Lowe, and Matthew Jacobson

2017 B.A., American Culture Studies, Washington University in St. Louis  
Cum laude  
Honors Thesis: “‘You Knew You Were Equal’: Black Women Constructing Place in Pruitt-Igoe”  
Advisors: Jeffery Q. McCune and Clarissa Hayward

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

---

Black Studies	Urban and architectural history	Feminist theories
Race and Indigeneity	Oral history	Critical geographies

## SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

---

Forthcoming “Spatial Refusal: Black Women’s Counter-Cartographies in Public Housing,” *Global Black Thought*, expected 2026.

2025 “Toward a Method of Black Feminist Refusal in the St. Louis Rent Strike of 1969,” *In the Daylight of Our Existence: Architectural History and the Promise of Queer Theory*. S.E. Eisterer, ed. Zurich: gta Verlag, 2025.

2023 “Book Review of Diverging Space for Deviants: The Politics of Atlanta’s Public Housing,” *Planning Perspectives*, (2023) 38(2), 464–466.

## ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

---

2026 “This is a Public Service Announcement: On Public Art, Resilience in St. Louis,” *PSA: 2019-2025* (In progress)

2023 “Imagining Otherwise in Yowshien Kuo’s Immersive New Paintings,” *A Most Obligatory Gesture*. Copenhagen: Snap Collective, 2023.

2021 “Strategies of Liberation: Black Women and Refusal in St. Louis,” *Stories of Resistance Exhibition Catalogue*. Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, 2021.

2017 “Black Women and Economic Justice in St. Louis: An Interview with Keona Ervin,” *Black Perspectives* of the African American Intellectual History Society, December 2, 2017.

2017 “Remembering Black Women in St. Louis’s Pruitt-Igoe Housing Projects,” *Black Perspectives*, September 9, 2017.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### Yale University

- 2024-2025 Graduate Writing Lab Fellow, Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning
- 2021-2022 Teaching Fellow  
*Space, Place, and Landscape*, Spring 2022  
*Race, Class, and Gender in American Cities*, Fall 2021  
*American Architecture and Urbanism*, Spring 2021
- 2019-2022 Wurtele Gallery Teacher, Yale University Art Gallery

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

---

- 2025 “A Meditation on Refusal: Black Women’s Public Housing Activism in St. Louis.” Invited panel presentation at the African American Intellectual History Society 10th Anniversary Conference. Providence, RI.
- “‘A Rent Strike is Our Only Hope’: Mapping Black Women’s Politics of Refusal in St. Louis, 1960-1970.” Invited panel presentation at the Organization of American Historians Conference on American History. Chicago, IL.
- 2023 “On Black Feminist Refusal and Housing.” Invited presentation at Race Talks Seminar Series, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Cambridge, Virtual.
- Invited panelist, “The History and Legacy of Pruitt-Igoe,” Forum on Medicine, Race, and Ethnicity in St. Louis, Past to Future, Washington University in St. Louis. St. Louis, MO.
- 2022 “Black Women and Public Housing in St. Louis,” Association of Black Women Historians Biennial Conference. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2021 ““Progress or Decay?”: St. Louis, Pruitt-Igoe, and the Postwar Quest for Modernization,” Missouri Conference on History, Student Paper Prize. Virtual.
- “Rent Strike Leader: Jean King and Public Housing in St. Louis,” Yale Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Colloquium, New Haven, CT. 2021
- Invited panelist, “Women As Activists with Jen Liu and Candace Borders,” Radio Resistance Podcast, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, MO.
- 2020 “Urban Renewal and a Politics of Refusal in St. Louis, 1940-1955,” Yale American Studies Graduate Student Symposium, New Haven, CT.
- 2019 “Towards a Method of Refusal: Black Women’s Public Housing Activism in St. Louis,” Society for American City and Regional Planning History 18th National Conference on Planning History, Student Paper Prize. Arlington, VA.

## EXHIBITIONS

---

- September 2024-  
January 2025 Curator, “‘Our Only Hope’: Black Women and the 1969 Rent Strike,” Washington University Special Collections, St. Louis, MO.

September 2023- February 2024	Curatorial Fellow, “Hajra Waheed: A Solo Exhibition,” Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, MO.
September 2022- February 2023	Curatorial Fellow, “Great Rivers Biennial 2022” and “Mona Chalabi: Squeeze,” Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, MO.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

---

### *Dissertation Research Grants*

2024	John Hope Franklin Dissertation Fellowship, American Philosophical Society
2023	Isa and Avi Mehta Graduate Student Research Fund Grant, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Yale
2022	John Morton Blum Fellowship for Graduate Research in American History and Culture, Yale John F. Enders Fellowships and Research Grants, Yale Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Travel & Research Grant, Institute for Citizens & Scholars
2019-2023	Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration Summer Research Fellowship Award, Yale

### *Professional Development Fellowships*

2024	Professional Development Fellow, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University Yale Graduate Impact Fellowship, Washington University in St. Louis Special Collections
2023	Yale Graduate Impact Fellowship, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis ArtTable Curatorial Fellow, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

### *Awards*

2021	Missouri Conference on History Student Paper Prize
2019	Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) Student Paper Prize
2018	Dean’s Emerging Scholars Fellow, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

---

Co-Chair, Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Department of American Studies 2021-22  
 Graduate Student Liaison, Department of African American Studies 2021-22  
 Conversation Partner, Yale University Center for Language Study 2020-22  
 Co-Coordinator, Public Humanities Working Group 2018-20

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

---

African American Intellectual History Society  
 American Studies Association  
 ArtTable  
 Association of Black Women Historians  
 Organization of American Historians  
 Society for American City and Regional Planning History