



PhD in AMERICAN STUDIES

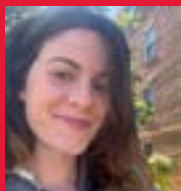
at Boston University

Application Deadline: December 15, 2026

Recent Student Fellowships



Jesse Dritz
Predoctoral Fellow
Smithsonian Institution



Fallon Murphy
Donald C. Gallup Fellowship
in American Literature
Yale University



Ena Ozaki
Postdoctoral Fellowship
University of Tokyo

The American Studies Program at Boston University is a nationally recognized leader in the interdisciplinary field of American Studies. Our students and faculty study the disparate yet interconnected cultures of colonial North America and the United States as seen in the ideas and actions of its people, and as expressed in a range of forms, especially culture, the arts, media, literature, and institutions – often seen through a global or transnational lens. Formerly known as the American & New England Studies Program, we maintain active collaborations with many cultural institutions in the region, especially in the Boston Area. Our large PhD program has produced tenure-track professors, public historians, museum curators, and directors at major universities, museums, and other cultural and historical institutions.

Funding Opportunities

PhD students receive full funding for up to five years (12 months a year) under a collective bargaining agreement. During this time, they take courses, teach in their fields and disciplines of interest, and develop and write dissertations. The fellowship package guarantees twenty-four months of non-service fellowships. Additional funding is available from Boston University for travel to conferences, for archival research, and for internships.

Current students have recently received outside fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Huntington Library, the Smithsonian Institution, the Beinecke Library, the Corning Museum of Glass, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and the American Historical Association.

Graduate Student Association

The Program's own independent Graduate Student Association (GSA) is comprised of elected PhD students who sponsor events and programs for developing professional skills, while representing our students' interests to the governing faculty.

Career Outcomes

Recent graduates are employed as tenure-track professors, public historians, museum curators, directors at major cultural and historical institutions, and in a wide variety of positions in the public and private sectors. Our alumni currently work at Duke University, NYU, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, the University of Texas at Austin, Penn State Harrisburg, Northeastern University, the University of San Diego, the Yale University Art Gallery, the Library of Virginia, the Shelburne Museum, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Peabody Essex Museum.



Anne Boyd
Assistant Professor
The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley



Channon Miller
Assistant Professor
Trinity College



Genna Kane
Fellow
Leventhal Map Center
Boston Public Library

At the point of admission, PhD students are assigned an incoming advisor from among a network of 60 affiliated faculty from 12 departments. From this deep pool PhD students select dissertation directors to match nearly any interdisciplinary pursuit in American Studies. We have recently welcomed new affiliated faculty in the fields of African American Studies, Asian American Studies, Musicology and Ethnomusicology, Native American & Indigenous Studies, and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies.

Incoming students are also assigned a peer mentor with a few years' experience in the program.

Selected Affiliate Faculty Advisors

for a full listing, please visit bu.edu/americanstudies/faculty

Paula Austin

History; African American & Black Diaspora Studies

Alyssa Hunziker

English; Native American & Indigenous Studies

Ross Barrett

History of Art & Architecture

Deborah Jaramillo

College of Communication, Film & Television Studies

Michael Birenbaum Quintero

College of Fine Arts, Ethnomusicology

Koritha Mitchell

English; African American & Black Diaspora Studies

Brooke Blower

History

William Moore

History of Art & Architecture; Material Culture

Japonica Brown-Saracino

Sociology

Anita Patterson

English

Wade Campbell

Archaeology; Native American & Indigenous Studies

Sarah Phillips

History

Jilene Chua

History

Carrie Preston

English; Women's Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Louis Chude-Sokei

English; African American & Black Diaspora Studies

Joseph Rezek

English

Bradley Craig

History; African American & Black Diaspora Studies

Takeo Rivera

English; Women's Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Jonathan Foltz

English; Cinema & Media Studies

Andrew Robichaud

History

Charlotte Howell

College of Communication, Film & Television Studies

Nicole Smythe-Johnson

History of Art & Architecture, African American & Black Diaspora Studies

Contact

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Deborah Jaramillo

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