



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 2204 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001
202.238.5910 | ASALH.ORG

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham **ASALH President 2016-2021**

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham is the Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. She has served two terms as the National President of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History from 2016 through 2021. An award-winning scholar and teacher, she served as chair of Harvard's Department of African and African American History and was the first African American to chair Harvard's History Department.



Prior to coming to Harvard in 1993, Higginbotham was a tenured member of the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania. She has enjoyed many years as a teacher, beginning her career as a public-school teacher in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and in Washington, DC, before moving to the university setting. At the special invitation of Duke University, she taught at the Duke Law School in academic year 2010-2011 as the inaugural Visiting John Hope Franklin Professor of American Legal History.

Higginbotham's two most important writings published in 2020 include the article "History in the Face of Slavery: A Family Portrait," which appears in the anthology *To Make Their Own Way in the World: The Enduring Legacy of the Zealy Daguerreotypes* and the tenth edition of *From Slavery to Freedom*, the classic survey first published by John Hope Franklin in 1947. Higginbotham is the recipient of numerous awards and honors for her historical writings. She holds honorary degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Howard University.

ASALH MISSION

To promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 2204 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001
202.238.5910 | ASALH.ORG

She is the recipient of ASALH's Carter G. Woodson Medal and also the James W.C. Pennington Award from the University of Heidelberg in Germany for her work in African American Religious History—especially for her prizewinning book *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church 1880-1920*.

Higginbotham was given the John Hope Franklin Award sponsored by *Diverse* magazine and the TIAA Institute in 2019, while Brown University's Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America held a two-day conference on her scholarly conceptualization, "the politics of respectability," in September of that same year. In January 2021 she was the honoree of the Winter Family Benefit of the New England Historical Genealogical Society and American Ancestors. Most notable, Higginbotham received the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama at the White House in 2015 for "illuminating the African American journey."

ASALH MISSION

To promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.