



MARYAM AZIZ

V.P. FRANKLIN LEGACY AWARD

Dr. Maryam (Mar-ree-yum) Aziz (Uh-Zeez), they/them/theirs pronouns, is an Assistant Professor of African American Studies in the Department of American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington. Aziz received a Ph.D. in American Culture from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in African American Studies from Columbia University. Their first book asks how folks who practiced unarmed self-defense and martial arts contributed to Black Power organizing and shifting ideas about liberation, abolition, and gender norms. It also traces how the learning of martial arts was facilitated by U.S. militarism during the Cold War. Aziz's work was showcased in the 2017-2018 exhibit, "Black Power!," at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, for which Aziz was a contributing writer and a curator for the sections on popular culture and blaxploitation film. Currently, they lead the Schomburg Mellon Humanities Summer-Institute for undergraduates. As a scholar activist, Aziz regularly teaches radically inclusive self-defense classes in person and virtually. They have written for the "Made by History" section at the Washington Post. Further insight into their work can be seen in publications such as "Teen Vogue" and "Mic" or heard in Podcasts such as "Burn It All Down."