



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 1508 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001
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Natanya Duncan **Class of 2026**

Current Employer:

Queens College

Professional Background:

Natanya Duncan is the Director of Africana Studies at Queens College City University of New York and an Associate Professor of History. A historian of the African Diaspora, her research and teaching focuses on global freedom movements of the 20th and 21st Century.

Duncan's research interest includes constructions of identity and nation building amongst women of color; migrations; color and class in Diasporic communities; and the engagements of intellectuals throughout the African Diaspora. Her forthcoming University of Illinois Press book, *An Efficient Womanhood: Women and the Making of the Universal Negro Improvement Association*, focuses on the distinct activist strategies in-acted by women in the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), which Duncan calls an efficient womanhood. Following the ways women in the UNIA scripted their own understanding of Pan Africanism, Black Nationalism and constructions of Diasporic Blackness, the work traces the blending of nationalist and gendered concerns amongst known and lesser known Garveyite women.

Major Accomplishments:

Duncan's publications include works that explore the leadership models of UNIA women and include "Now in Charge of the American Field": Maymie De Mena and Charting the UNIA's New Course" in *Journal of Liberty Hall* (Vol. 3 2017); "Henrietta Vinton Davis: The Lady of the Race" in *Journal of New York History* (Fall 2014 Vol 95 No. 4); "Laura Kofey and the Reverse Atlantic Experience" in *The American South and the Atlantic World* (University of Florida Press, 2013). Most recently she co-edited a special volume of *Caribbean Women and Gender Studies Journal*, "Gender and Anti-colonialism



ASALH MISSION

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



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in the Interwar Caribbean” published December 2018.

Previous Service to ASALH:

Natanya Duncan has served on the Executive Council of ASALH for over a decade. She led the team to pivot and manage ASALH’s 2020 virtual conference. She has served on the ASALH Governance Committee and ASALH Nominations Committee. She was part of the team to create the Dr. Felix Armfield Series for Emerging Scholars at the ASALH Annual Conference. This series of sessions increased ASALH’s outreach to young scholars by connecting them with senior scholars for advice and support.

What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:

As an Executive Council Member, Duncan will work to build programming to support emerging scholars and build the ASALH brand. She will also dedicate herself to ensuring ASALH is on sound financial footing.

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