



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

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Dr. Zebulon Vance Miletsky **Class of 2024 and 2027**

Current Employer:

Stony Brook University

Professional Background:

Zebulon Vance Miletsky, Ph. D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Africana Studies and History at Stony Brook University (SUNY) specializing in recent African-American History, the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, Urban History, Mixed Race, and Biracial Identity. In addition to his earlier work on Mixed Race, Miletsky's major project has been the Boston School Desegregation Crisis and the parent-led civil rights movement in Boston. His book *Before Busing: A History of Boston's Long Black Freedom Struggle* was published by the University of North Carolina Press in December of 2022. It has been well received and was featured in the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* as a book "of interest to African American scholars." He is also the author of numerous articles, reviews, essays and book chapters. His articles have appeared in the *Trotter Review*, the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts*, the *Journal of Civil and Human Rights* and the *Journal of Urban History*. He has been a regular contributor to the award-winning blog *Black Perspectives*, hosted by the African American Intellectual Historical Society (AAIHS) for which he co-authored "How Displacement and Gentrification are Remaking Boston" (2017) among other pieces. He has written op-eds for *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, *BK Nation* and the *BK Reader*. Originally from Boston, Miletsky received his Ph.D. in African American Studies with a concentration in History from the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2008. There, he was trained as a historian by some of the best thinkers in the field of African American Studies, many of whom are veterans of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements of the 1960s, 70s and beyond.



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



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Major Accomplishments:

He has received fellowships from the Northeast Consortium for Faculty Diversity and Case Western Reserve University, where he was, respectively, a Minority Dissertation Fellow at Monmouth University and a Post-Doctoral Fellow in African American Studies in the Department of History. He has made appearances on NBC4 New York, the PBS show American Experience and has been quoted by NBC News, TheRoot.com, and many others. Miletsky was awarded a “Game Changer Award” from the Long Island Area NAACP branches at their Annual Freedom Luncheon in 2020 for his “work in Civil Rights in Long Island.” He is a voting member of the Citywide Education Council (CEC) for District 32 in Bushwick, Brooklyn, the school board for the City of New York, for which he was appointed by the Brooklyn Borough President. In 2021 he was honored by the Town of Brookhaven Black History Commission “for leadership and service to the community as a role model to the next generation.” A proclamation to this effect was read in which February 5th was declared “Dr. Zebulon Miletsky Day” in the Town of Brookhaven, New York. Dr. Miletsky was selected to give the annual John Hope Franklin Lecture at Adelphi University for Black History Month of 2023 for which he also received several proclamations. He has also been chosen as an honoree and recipient of the “Humanitarian and Civil Rights Award” for the upcoming Black Authors Festival in August 2024. He lives in Brooklyn.

Previous Service to ASALH:

I have served in many capacities for the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH) for several years, including Chair of the Academic Program Committee, in which I helped plan of the 2019 Conference which took place in Charleston, South Carolina, and was very successful both in terms of attendance as well as financially. I have also served and currently serve as Chair of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee for ASALH. In addition to bringing national and international exposure to the association through marketing efforts, Marketing and PR was also the committee in which ASALH TV was originally created. Having served as the “incubator” of ASALH TV, Marketing and PR, under Miletsky’s leadership (along with ex-co Chair of

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that committee, Dr. Lopez Matthews) developed and proposed the original plan for ASALH TV. Marketing and PR was proud to serve as a space for “innovation and research” which has enabled ASALH TV to be monetized and now able to “walk on its own” under the leadership of the ASALH TV Committee.

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

Being a part of the “Program Cluster” and having now chaired two committees under that umbrella—Academic Program and Marketing and PR—I have a good sense of how we can continue to bring even greater attention, dollars and amazing programming for this noble and grand association. I believe one very important direction to go in would be establishing greater visibility for ASALH. This is the major focus and promise of my candidacy for this position. We will achieve this goal, while we balance the ongoing grant programs and critical programming that have made ASALH the preeminent Black History professional organization in the world and the oldest Black learned society in America. We have a high standard to continue with the phenomenal success of the Black History Month Festival—with ASALH TV and our social media platforms, which we will also expand—as well as tie ins and large scale cross promotional opportunities which can and will result in dollars for the coffers of ASALH—so that we can continue to let our light shine—without the added burden of a lack of funds. I believe because of experience “under the hood”—with ASALH TV, Marketing and PR, as well as the APC—that I can “tighten down the bolts” that will ensure that ASALH’s economic and programming engine will run for a long, long time. Nothing could make me prouder than to work with the amazingly talented, gifted and motivated volunteers of ASALH. Thank you for this opportunity explain why I would like to be nominated.

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