

Chris Dingwall

Washington University in St. Louis
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Education

University of Chicago

Ph.D., US History (with distinction)
December 2015

M.A., Social Sciences
June 2006

University of British Columbia

B.A. (Dual Hons.), English & History
May 2005

Professional Positions

Washington University in St. Louis

Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts

Assistant Professor of Design History, 2023-present

Assistant Professor of American Culture Studies (Courtesy Affiliation)

Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity

Design and Culture

Managing Editor, 2020-2022

Wayne State University

James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History

Lecturer, 2022

Oakland University

College of Arts and Sciences and the Honors College

Special Lecturer, 2017-2023

University of Toronto

Jackman Humanities Institute

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, 2015-2017

Publications

Books

Black Designers in Chicago

- Essays & catalog co-edited with Daniel Schulman and David Hartt
- Author of four-chapter peer-reviewed narrative history: "A Chronicle of Black Designers in Chicago"
- Supported by the Terra Foundation of American Art (Art Design Chicago Publication Grant [\$25,000]) and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Study in the Fine Arts (Grants for Individuals [\$10,000])

University of Chicago Press

Manuscript accepted for publication

Expected Publication Fall 2025

Selling Slavery: Race and the Industry of American Culture

- Peer-reviewed monograph based on dissertation research
- For Slavery Since Emancipation series edited by Zoe Trodd and Randall Miller

Cambridge University Press

Manuscript accepted for publication

Expected Publication Spring 2025

Publications
Book Chapters

“Models for Revolution”

Race in Design History

Edited by Kristina Wilson and Michelle J. Wilkinson

Under review

“Black Energy”

History of Black Design in America

Edited by Tasheka Arceneaux-Sutton, Pierre Bowins, and Silas Munro

Under review

“Machine Age Walter Colors”

Jazz Age Illustration

Edited by Heather Campbell Coyle

Delaware Art Museum / Yale University Press

October 2024 (forthcoming)

“The Strange Career of Topsy:

The Problem of Automata in the Age of Slave Emancipation”

Victorian Automata: Mechanism and Agency in the Nineteenth Century

Edited by Suzy Anger and Thomas Vranken

Cambridge University Press

March 2024

Journal Articles

“The Political Economy of AfriCOBRA”

Archives of American Art 60.2

Fall 2021

“The Economies of Black Culture:

Commercial Art in/as African American Art”

American Art 33.3; Questionnaire on Art & Economy, ed. John Ott

Fall 2019

Book Reviews

Anna Arabindan-Kesson, *Black Bodies, White Gold: Art, Cotton, and Commerce in the Atlantic World* (Durham, 2021), *History of Photography* (Fall 2024) (forthcoming)

Rafi Segal and Marisa Morán Jahn, eds., *Design & Solidarity: Conversations on Collective Futures* (New York, 2023), *Design & Culture* (May 2024)

Rebecca Zorach, *Art for People’s Sake: Art & Community in Black Chicago, 1965-1975* (Durham, 2019), *caa.reviews* (May 2, 2022):

<http://www.caareviews.org/reviews/3997>

Tanya Sheehan, *Study in Black and White: Photography, Race, Humor* (University Park, PA, 2018), *American Historical Review* 126.1 (March 2021)

- Featured Review in flagship journal of American Historical Association

Cristin Ellis, *Antebellum Posthuman: Race and Materiality in the Mid-Nineteenth Century* (New York, 2018), **H-Slavery** (January 2020): <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=54606>

Douglas A. Guerra, *Slantwise Moves: Games, Literature, and Social Invention in Nineteenth-Century America* (Philadelphia, 2018), *American Journal of Play* 11.3 (Spring 2019)

Publications
Book Reviews
(continued)

John Kisch and Peter Doggett, eds., *Separate Cinema: The First 100 Years of Black Poster Art* (London: Reel Art Press, 2014), *Design Issues* 32.2 (Spring 2016)

Exhibition Reviews

“Love for Sale: The Graphic Art of Valmor Products,” Chicago Cultural Center, *Design Issues* 32.2 (Spring 2016)

“19th-Century Modern,” Brooklyn Museum, *West 86th* 19.1 (Spring-Summer 2012)

Magazine Essays

“The Pioneering Career of Thomas Miller”

AIGA Eye on Design
August 2, 2021

“How to Renew the Color of Bricks”

Gagosian Quarterly
June 9, 2020

“The Chicago School of Theaster Gates”

C Magazine: Contemporary Art and Criticism 131
Autumn 2016

Exhibitions

***African American Designers in Chicago:
Art, Commerce, and the Politics of Race***

Co-curator with Daniel Schulman; exhibition design by David Hartt
Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago
October 2018 to March 2019

Race and the Design of American Life

Special Collections Gallery, Regenstein Library, University of Chicago
October 2013 to January 2014

<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/collex/exhibits/race-and-design-american-life/>

Awards
Fellowships

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship

Jackman Humanities Institute
University of Toronto
July 2015 to June 2017

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellowship

Museum of the City of New York
July 2015 to June 2017
(Declined)

Dissertation Fellowship

Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, University of Chicago
September 2014 to June 2015

Harry Barnard Dissertation Fellow in American History

Department of History, University of Chicago
September 2015 to June 2015
(Declined)

Awards
Research Grants
(External)

Terra Foundation for American Art
Art Design Chicago Exhibition and Research Grant, 2016-2018

Society for the History of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era
Conference Travel Grant, 2019

Organization of American Historians
Conference Travel Grant, 2019

The Strong National Museum of Play, Rochester, NY
Research Grant, 2016

Research Grants
(Internal)

Washington University in St. Louis
Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts
Faculty Research Award, 2024 [\$3000]
Faculty Dissemination Travel Awards, 2023-2024 [\$2200]

Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity
Small Grant, 2024 [\$875]

University of Chicago
Department of History
John Hope Franklin Summer Travel Grants, 2010-2013

Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture
Travel Grant, 2010

Conference Activity
Invited Lectures

“Machine Age Watercolors”
Jazz Age Illustration Symposium
Delaware Art Museum
December 6, 2024

**“Before the New Bauhaus:
Institutes of Design on Chicago’s South Side, 1920-1940”**
Rhode Island School of Design
September, 20 2023 (Zoom)

“Race, Material Culture, and Curatorial Practice”
Museum Studies Program, Tufts University
April 1, 2021 (Zoom)

“African Americans in Architecture”
University of Hawaii
March 4, 2021 (Zoom)

“Black Revolutions: Organizing the Production of Black Design”
BIPOC Design History
January 23, 2021 (Zoom)

“Charles Dawson: The Business of Design in Black Chicago”
Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York City
October 9, 2020 (Zoom)

Conference Activity
Invited Lectures
(continued)

“Charles Dawson: The Business of Design in Black Chicago”
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
August 17, 2020 (Zoom)

“Tom Miller and the Politics of Race at Goldsholl Associates”
Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University
November 2018

“Exchanging Slavery: W. E. B. Du Bois and The Souls of Black Folk”
American Studies Colloquium, University of Notre Dame
March 28, 2018

**“The New Orleans Connection:
Dillard University and the Chicago Renaissance”**
Southern Intellectual History Circle, University of Texas in Dallas
February 22, 2018

Invited
Seminar
Participation

**Picturing the Black Art Renaissance:
African Americans in Jazz Age Illustration”**
Delaware Art Museum
May 2023

The Robert Paige Archive
Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago
October 2022

Southern Scene: The South Depicted in Media, 1880-1960
Hickory Hill Forum, Thomson, Georgia
November 2018

Memory, Migration, and Material Culture
Université Paris Ouest—Nanterre La Défense
March 2011

Panels
Organized

The Reconstruction of Culture
Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia
April 2019

African American Design in Chicago
American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
January 2019

**The Matter of Teaching and the Politics of Race:
Technology, Markets, Institutions**
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
November 2017

American Racial Commodities in Transnational Frame
American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York
January 2016

Conference Activity

Panel
Chaired

Radical Failures:

Activists and Scholars Do Solidarity Work

American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montréal
November 2023

Papers
Presented

“The Dakar Connection:

Robert E. Paige and the Global Crafts of the Black Arts Movement”

African American History Seminar, Massachusetts Historical Society
Spring 2025 (TBA)

“The Labors of Eugene Winslow:

Racial Politics in the Midcentury Design Industry”

College Art Association Annual Conference, New York City
February 2025

“The Dakar Connection:

Robert E. Paige and the Global Crafts of the Black Arts Movement”

Craft History Workshop
February 29, 2024

“On Being ‘Practicable’:

Vernon Winslow and the Craft of the New Negro Renaissance”

The Space Between Conference, Virginia Commonwealth University
Winner of The Space Between Essay Prize
June 3-5, 2021 (Zoom)

“The Clouds between Us: Dreaming in Reconstruction”

Organization of American Historians, Philadelphia
April 2019

“AfriCOBRA and the History of Black Design in Chicago”

Chicago Design: Histories and Narratives, Questions and Methods
School of the Art Institute / University of Illinois, Chicago
November 2018

**Teaching
Workshops
Organized**

Chicago Designs:

Teaching Community-Based Design Histories

- Co-organizer with Amira Hegazy (University of Illinois in Chicago), J. Dakota Brown (University of Illinois in Chicago), and Bess Williamson (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)
- Supported by a Convening Grant [\$35,000] from the Terra Foundation School of the Art Institute of Chicago
June 2024

Chicago Designs:

New Approaches for Teaching Politics, Commerce, and Culture

- Co-organizer with Liesl Olson (Newberry Library), Jonathan Mekinda (University of Illinois in Chicago), and Bess Williamson (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)
- Supported by a Convening Grant [\$25,000] from the Terra Foundation The Newberry Library, Chicago
June 2022 (Postponed from 2021)

**Public
Presentations**

Art & Design in Chicago

WTTW/PBS (television broadcast)
October 26, 2018

Midcentury Design and Opportunity

Panel with Robert E. Paige, Jonathan Mekinda, and Maggie Taft
Chicago Humanities Festival
November 11, 2018

Campus Talks

Washington University in St. Louis

"A Burst of Brilliant Color:
W. E. B. Du Bois, Rembrandt, and the Art History Slide Show"
Parent & Family Day Lecture
October 27, 2023

Oakland University

"American Art in the Age of Emancipation"
Oakland University Art Gallery
March 11, 2020

University of Toronto

"The Strange Career of Topsy, Toy and Trope of Race and Technology"
Jackman Humanities Institute
November 24, 2016

"What Can Historians Do with Things?"
History Students Association
March 15, 2016

"Of Black Books and The Souls of Black Folk"
Jackman Humanities Institute
January 28, 2016

**Teaching
Courses
Taught**

Washington University in St. Louis

Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts

Scroll to Screen: Design within Context (ART326J | FL23, SP24, FL24)

African American Design History (ART332Q | FL24)

Race and Design (ART332R | SP24)

UnCommon St. Louis: Race, Place, and Power

Wayne State University

James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History

Graphic Design History (Fall 2022)

Oakland University

Honors College

Mass Culture in American Life

American Things: A Social History

Department of Sociology

Racial and Ethnic Relations in the United States (Sociology)

Social Theory (Sociology)

University of Toronto

Department of History

Race in American Material Culture

Slavery and the American South

Mass Culture in American Life

University of Chicago

Department of History

Senior Seminar

Mass Culture in American Life

America in World Civilization I & II

Academic & Professional Writing (grad/undergrad seminar)

**Academic
Advising**

Washington University in St. Louis

BA Thesis Committee

Leandrea Clay (African American Studies)

**Teaching
Prizes**

University of Chicago

Department of History

Von Holst Prize Lectureship, 2013

Bessie Pierce Prize Preceptorship, 2012-2014

**Service
Symposiums
Organized**

Troubling Design:

Reading Group in Visual & Material Culture

Co-organizer with Aggie Toppins and Heidi Kolk
Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis
2024-2025

Visible Designs:

The Arts of Race and Capitalism

- Co-organizer with Korey Garibaldi (University of Notre Dame) and Eric Slauter (University of Chicago)
- Supported by a Convening Grant [\$15,000] from the Terra Foundation
The Scherer Center for American Culture, University of Chicago
October 2023

Future Directions in Chicago Design History

Co-organizer with Jonathan Mekinda
Terra Foundation of American Art
July 2019

The Designs of African American Life

Chicago Cultural Center
November 2018

Invisible Designs:

New Perspectives on Race and American Consumer Capitalism

Co-organizer with Korey Garibaldi
The Regenstein Library, University of Chicago
October 2013

**Professional
Committees**

Design Futures: Beyond Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI+)
Faculty Cohort, 2024

AIGA: The Professional Association for Design

Awards Committee, 2020-2022

**University
Committees**

Washington University in St. Louis

Visual Culture Curriculum Committee, 2023-present
Curriculum Committee, 2024-present
Scholarship & Awards Committee, 2024

Oakland University

Urban Studies Curriculum Committee, 2018-2020

University of Chicago

History Senior Seminar Curricular Review, 2012-13

**Manuscript
Review**

Journal of Illustration, 2024
American Art, 2016

Professional Affiliations	African American Intellectual History Association American Historical Association American Studies Association College Art Association Design History Society Organization of American Historians
References	Available upon request