

Dr. Keisha N. Blain, a **2022 Guggenheim Fellow** and **Class of 2022 Carnegie Fellow**, is **one of the most innovative and influential young historians of her generation**. She is an award-winning historian of the 20th century United States with broad interests and specializations in African American History, the modern African Diaspora, and Women's and Gender Studies. She completed a Ph.D. in History from Princeton University in 2014.

She is a Full Professor of History and Africana Studies at Brown University and an affiliated faculty member in American Studies and in the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies. A former **columnist for MSNBC**, she is now the editor-in-chief of ***Global Black Thought***, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. The journal features original, innovative, and thoroughly researched essays on Black ideas, theories, and intellectuals in the United States and throughout the African diaspora.

Blain is the author of ***Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom***, which was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2018. The book won the 2018 First Book Award from the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians (*for the best book on women, gender, and sexuality*) and the 2019 Darlene Clark Hine Award from the Organization of American Historians (*for the best book on African American women's and gender history*). It was also selected as a finalist for several prizes, including the 2018 Hooks National Book Award and most recently, the 2020 Ida Blom–Karen Offen Prize in Transnational Women's and Gender History. In 2018, the book was selected as **one of the best history books by Smithsonian Magazine**. It has been featured widely in popular outlets across the nation, including *The Washington Post*, *BuzzFeed*, *VIBE Magazine*, *The Root*, *Vox*, *Publisher's Weekly* and *Public Books*.

Blain's second book, ***Until I Am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer's Enduring Message to America***, was published by Beacon Press in 2021. The book was nominated for an NAACP Image Award and selected as a finalist for the 2022 National Book Critics Circle Award. It was also selected as one of the best history books by *Smithsonian Magazine* in 2021. The book has been featured widely in popular outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Guardian*.

Blain has also published five edited volumes. She is the co-editor of ***To Turn the Whole World Over: Black Women and Internationalism*** (University of Illinois Press, 2019); ***New Perspectives on the Black Intellectual Tradition*** (Northwestern University Press, 2018); ***Charleston Syllabus: Readings on Race, Racism, and Racial Violence*** (University of Georgia Press, 2016); and ***Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019***, edited with Ibram X. Kendi (Penguin Random

House/One World, 2021). *Four Hundred Souls* debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* Best Sellers' list and was selected as a finalist for the 2022 Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction.

Blain's latest volume, ***Wake Up America: Black Women on the Future of Democracy***, was published by W.W. Norton in February 2024. The volume brings together the voices of major progressive Black women politicians, grassroots activists, and intellectuals to offer critical insights on how we can create a more equitable political future.

Blain's latest book, ***Without Fear: Black Women and the Making of Human Rights*** (W.W. Norton, 2025), offers a sweeping history of human rights framed by the work and ideas of Black women in the United States.

Blain's writings have appeared in several academic journals, including the *Journal of Social History* and *Souls*; and popular outlets such as *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *Time*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Salon*, *The Feminist Wire*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. She has offered commentary on international, national, and local media outlets, such as BBC, PBS, MSNBC, CNN, NPR, and Al Jazeera.

In 2024, Blain was appointed to the **Smithsonian American Women's History Museum**'s Committee of Scholars. She is the recipient of more than a dozen prestigious awards and fellowships, including a **Dan David Prize**, **W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship at Harvard University** and fellowships from **New America**, **the Institute for Advanced Study**, the **Carr Center for Human Rights Policy**, the **American Association of University Women** (AAUW) and the **Ford Foundation**. In 2018, she was appointed to the **Organization of American Historians' Distinguished Lectureship Program**. In 2022, she became a term member of the **Council on Foreign Relations**.

Most recently, she was elected to the **Society of American Historians**. Members are elected based on achievement in the vivid and compelling presentation of history and biography in a variety of forms, including books, essays, film, drama, museum exhibitions, and other emerging forms of public communication.