

TODD STEVEN BURROUGHS, Ph.D.

Writer and Public Historian

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- **Book Author**
- **Historical/Writing Consultant to book authors**
- **Writer of website, newspaper and magazine articles**
- **History Researcher for nationally broadcast documentary projects, corporate endeavors, one national history exhibit, and more**
- **Server of clients in both private sector and not-for-profit organizations**

(KEYWORDS: Journalism, public history, Black media, Black newspapers, Black press, Black press history, Black radio history, public relations, copy editing, AP Style, academic/scholarly publications, advocacy media, literature, course design, media history, historical consultant to book authors, writing consultant to book authors, blogging)

EDUCATION

Ph.D.- Mass Communication, 2001, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, College Park

Dissertation: “Drums in the Global Village: Toward an Ideological History of Black Media”

Abstract: Black media have entered a new era during the past two decades. Developments in American mass media from 1980 to 2000 have created new opportunities for African-Americans to create and sustain national and international forums for news and information from their worldview. Three areas in particular are: (1) the growth of cable television, (2) radio’s shift back to a national medium through increased program syndication and corporate mergers, and (3) the promise of media convergence through the World Wide Web. This dissertation constructs an ideological history of Black media between 1827 and 2000 using six case studies focusing on select Black media institutions and forums in New York City and Washington, D.C., including Black-owned and White-owned broadcast forums targeted to Black communities. The case studies prove that Black-oriented media serve particular functions outside of the larger realm of Black participation in White mainstream media, and that there now exist Black media forums that can reach large portions of the nation’s estimated 35 million African-Americans. [keywords: Tavis Smiley, Bob Law, 1600 WWRL-AM, Gil Noble, Black media, Black radio, Black media history, Black radio history, Black broadcasting, Imhotep Gary Byrd, Cathy Hughes, WABC’s “Like It Is,” “BET Tonight,” 1450 WOL-AM, 1190 WLIB-AM, Black Entertainment Television, BET, Robert Johnson]

M.A.- Journalism, 1994, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, College Park

Public Affairs Reporting track: Served as Maryland statehouse correspondent for Capital News Service, a university-run news service serving *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, and more than 10 daily and weekly newspapers in Maryland.

B.A.- Mass Communication, 1989, College of Arts and Sciences, Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.

Double-concentration in print and broadcast journalism

AWARDS

Honorable Mention, American Journalism Historians Association Doctoral Dissertation Prize Competition, 2002

Fellowship, Xernona Clayton Black Press, 2000

Grant Recipient, UMCP Committee On Africa And The Americas, 2000

Fellowship, Knight-Ridder Minority Public Affairs, 1992-1993

Scholarship, Martin Luther King (four- year renewable), 1985-1989

EXPERIENCE IN BRIEF

Writer/Researcher

Writing and Research Consultant, self-employed, Hyattsville, Maryland and Newark, N.J., 1992-present

Wrote journalistic articles for newspapers (*The New York Amsterdam News*), magazines (*The Crisis*, *ColorLines*, *The Source*), and websites (*The Black World Today.com*, *BlackAmericaWeb.com*, *BlackPressUSA.com*, *The Root.com*, *Ebony.com* [book reviews only]). Author of book chapters. Provided historical and writing guidance to authors. Prepared research notebooks. Researched assorted historical subjects for nationally broadcast documentary projects, corporate endeavors, national history exhibit, and more. Served clients in both private sector and not-for-profit organizations. Served as creative catalyst with emphasis on content development. Located fine historical data; identified sources that led to new ideas; synthesized broad material into succinct and usable form.

Associate Producer, “Changing Media” (later renamed “A Moment With...”) University of Maryland Television, University of Maryland, College Park, 2005-2007

Provided research for host of, and booked guests for, award-winning television program on media issues. Program was received weekly in more than 500,000 American homes in the Washington metropolitan area via Comcast Cable, and nationally on the Research Channel and overseas via WorldNet. Previous guests have included CNN’s Wolf Blitzer, ABC’s Sam Donaldson and Pulitzer Prize- winning columnist Clarence Page. Host: Lee Thornton, former CBS White House Correspondent. Also served as UMCP production coordinator for station productions and booking agent for “That’s The Point!”, a public affairs program hosted by UMCP students.

News Management and Reporter, NNPA (National Newspaper Publishers Association) News Service, Washington, D.C., 1992-2002

Started as a Contributing Columnist, grew into News Editor and National Correspondent for the Washington, D.C.-based wire service and portal website [*BlackPressUSA.com*], providing news and feature stories to 200 Black daily and weekly newspapers in 38 states.

Researcher, National Council of Churches, New York City, 1996

Member of Research Department of NCC's Burned Churches Project, designed to investigate the rash of burned Black churches in the South. Assisted Department Head in various Project tasks.

Writer-Researcher, Communication Department, National NAACP, Baltimore, Maryland, 1993-1994

Wrote drafts of speeches for NAACP Executive Director; wrote for nationally distributed NAACP newsletter. Wrote press releases for national media. Assisted national public relations campaigns as support staff.

General Assignment Reporter, The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger, 1989-1992

Identified, researched and reported hard news and feature stories for 400,000-daily, 700,000-Sunday newspaper. Covered police activity, elementary and secondary education, city hall, and urban issues.

Stringer, The New Jersey Afro-American, Newark, N.J. 1985-1988

Initiated, developed and reported hard news and feature stories for this 4,000-circulation weekly newspaper directed at the African-American community in Essex County, N.J. Issues covered include anti-apartheid protests, King Day celebrations and a three-part series (including Op-Ed piece) on homelessness in Newark.

EDUCATOR

Lecturer, Department of Communication Studies (now School of Global Journalism & Communication), Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland, Fall 2007-Spring 2013

Taught Introduction to Mass Media and Black Media History courses; advised students

Adjunct Professor, John H. Johnson School of Communications (now Cathy Hughes School of Communications), Howard University, Washington, D.C., Fall 2005 and Spring 2006

Taught one section of "Multicultural Media History," a three-credit course designed for upper-class undergraduates; lectured and worked with undergraduates.

Adjunct Professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, College Park, 1998

Taught two sections of 200-level News Writing course; lectured and worked with undergraduates.

Adjunct Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J., 1997

Afro-American Studies and Communication departments. Taught 200-level News Writing and "Mass Media and Minorities" to undergraduates.

SELECTED PROJECTS

2017 Historical Research/Writing Consultant, book project on Harriet Tubman written by Annette M. Alston, *Harriet Tubman For Beginners* (Danbury, Connecticut: For Beginners Books), 2017.

2015 Historical Research Consultant, book project on U.S. Rep. Emmanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) biography, written by Wayne J. Dawkins of Hampton University for University of North Carolina Press

[forthcoming in 2010].

- 2012 Interview Subject, *Long Distance Revolutionary: A Journey with Mumia Abu-Jamal*, a two-hour independent documentary film. **[Fellow Interviewees include: Amy Goodman, Juan Gonzalez, Cornel West, Angela Davis, Alice Walker, Dick Gregory, Michelle Alexander].**
- 2006 Documentary Researcher, *In Prison My Whole Life*, a documentary feature film centering on the life and case of death row writer Mumia Abu-Jamal. The filmmakers screened it at the Cannes Film Festival in 2007.
- 2006 Consultant, Open Society Institute's "Cracked Justice" campaign (continued from 2005).
- 2004 Documentary Researcher, *Omar and Pete*, a film made by Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Tod Lending for nationally broadcast PBS documentary.
- 2004 Editorial Assistant/Consultant, Teaching For Change, Washington, D.C. Provided writing, consulting and editing assistance for the book, *Putting The Movement Back Into Civil Rights Teaching*, published by the national non-profit organization in conjunction with the Poverty & Race Research Council.
- 2003 Researcher for The History Factory, a Chantilly, Va. company serving Fortune 500 corporations.
- 2002 Documentary Director, *AIDS at 21*, a documentary about AIDS in the Black community for Gene Davis Productions/D.L. Lynes Productions. Aired on Discovery-Health Channel on World AIDS Day.
- 2002 Writer/Researcher, "Rising Above Jim Crow: The Paintings of Johnnie Lee Gray" project. Writer/researcher for The History Factory of Chantilly, Va. Developed historical concept and wrote text for this special exhibit sponsored by New York Life in conjunction with the PBS television documentary series *The Rise And Fall Of Jim Crow*.
- 2002 Researcher, National Visionary Leadership Project, Washington, D.C. Provided primary and secondary source research for interviews with nationally known African American business, political and cultural leaders.
- 2002 Documentary Researcher, *The Perilous Fight: America's World War II in Color*. Provided primary research for nationally broadcast PBS documentary produced by KCTS-TV in Seattle, Washington.
- 1999 Documentary Researcher, *Walk A Mile In My Shoes: The 80-Year History of the NAACP*. Provided primary and secondary source research for commercial television documentary on the National NAACP; broadcast nationwide on NBC owned-and-operated television stations.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 Author. *Marvel's Black Panther: A Comic Book Biography, From Stan Lee to Ta-Nehisi Coates* (New York: Diasporic Africa Press).
- 2018 Author. "Kerner's Other Black Explosion: The Chapter 15 Mandate and the Birth of New York's Black Public-Affairs Television Programming, 1967-1968." In *The Howard Journal of Communications*, 29:1.
- 2017 Author. *Warrior Princess: A People's Biography of Ida B. Wells* (New York: Diasporic Africa Press).
- 2016 Co-author (with Wayne J. Dawkins) [*in-process*]. *The Popular Front's Last Hurrah: Black American Communists, Pan-Africanists and Freedomways Magazine* (Brooklyn, N.Y.: Diasporic Africa Press) [*forthcoming in 2010*].
- Co-author (with Olive Vassell). "No Common Ground Left: *Freedomways*, Black Communists vs. Black Nationalism/Pan Africanism." In *Africology: The Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 8:10, March 2016, pp. 21-37.
 - Co-author (with Wayne J. Dawkins). "The Black Ivy Influencer: How an 'Outsider' Black Newsletter Became an Inside Force at the Columbia University Journalism School." In *Africology: The Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 8:10, March 2016, pp. 84-102.
 - Author. Book Review of Williams, Sonja. D. *Word Warrior: Richard Durham, Radio and Freedom*. In *American Journalism: A Journal of Media History*, 33:1 (published online March 3, 2016), pp. 104-105.
- 2015 Author. Book Review of Wald, Gayle. *It's Been Beautiful: Soul! and Black Power Television*. In *The Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 8:6, September 2015, pp. 141-143.
- Author. Guest Editorial. "Attempted Neo-Colonialism by PowerPoint: Black Communities vs. Education Reform." In *The Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 8:7, October 2015, pp. 1-4.
 - Author. Book Review. Fernandez, Johanna, ed. [foreword by Cornel West]. *Writing on the Wall: Selected Prison Writings of Mumia Abu-Jamal*. In *The Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 8:3, August 2015, pp. 140-141.
 - Author. Obituary: "Doctor Ben, Legendary Scholar of Egypt: Dean of the Harlem Street University." In *The Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 8:1, June 2015, pp. B1-B4.
 - Author. Book Review: "After the Dance: My Life with Marvin Gaye," a memoir by Jan Gaye with David Ritz. In *The Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 8:1, June 2015, pp. 198-199.
 - Author. "Disposable Heroes of Our Hiphoprissy: Travon Martin Stares at Emmett Till." In Emmanuel Harris and Antonio Tillis (Eds.) *Trayvon Martin in US: An American Tragedy*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing.

- Author. Book Review: "Selected Letters of Langston Hughes," Edited by Arnold Rampersad and David Roessel with Christa Fratantoro. In *The Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 7:8, March 2015, pp. 185-186.

- 2014 - Co-author (with Olive Vassell). "'No Other But A Negro Can Represent A Negro': How Black Newspapers 'Founded' Black America and Black Britain," Original draft read at the 9th International Conference of the Collegium for African American Research at the Universite Paris Diderot-Paris 7 in 2011. The initial draft was published in *Afroeuropa: Journal of Afroeuropa Studies*, 3:1 (2011). A revised draft was published in *The Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 7:4, October 2014, pp. 256-267.
- Author. Book Review: "Witnessing Brother Malcolm X: The Master Teacher," a memoir by A. Peter Bailey. In *The Journal of Pan-African Studies*, 6:8, March 2014, pp. 271-272.

- Author. Son-Shine On Cracked Sidewalks. Audiobook, read by author. <https://imixwhatilike.org/2014/06/30/sonshineoncrackedsidewalks/> . Excerpt printed in the *Killens Review of Arts & Letters* (Spring/Summer 2015), the official journal of the National Black Writers Conference. Published by the Center of Black Literature, Medgar Evers College, New York City.

- Author. "Cyril Valentine Briggs" and "Angelo Herndon" entries for *American National Biography* (New York: Oxford University Press).

- Author. "The Spy King: How Christopher Priest's Version of the Black Panther Affected His Avengers Role." In Joe Darowski (Ed.) *The Ages of The Avengers: Essays on Earth's Mightiest Heroes in Changing Times* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland).

- 2012 Co-editor (with Jared A. Ball). *A Lie of Reinvention: Correcting Manning Marable's Malcolm X* (Baltimore: Black Classic Press).

- 2011 Author. Book Review: "The Fault Lies Not With Our Stars, But With Our Biographers: Minutes To Midnight, Manning Marable Succumbs." In Herb Boyd, Ron Daniels and Maulana Karenga, Haki Madhubuti (Eds.) *By Any Means Necessary: Malcolm X: Real, Not Reinvented* (Chicago: Third World Press). (Also reprinted in the March 2012 edition of *The Journal of Pan-African Studies*.)

- Author. "Mit der stimme kampf: Mumia als journalist." In *Mumia Abu-Jamal: Der kampf gegen die Todesstrafe und fur die Freiheit der politischen Gefangenen*. Band 14-Bibliothek des Widerstands. Hamburg: Germany. Laila. ("Struggling with the voice: Mumia as a journalist." In *Freedom for Mumia Abu- Jamal*. Book 14 in the Library of Resistance series. Hamburg: German y. Laila.) **[Other contributors include Amy Goodman, host and executive producer of the television/radio newsmagazine "Democracy Now!"]**

- 2010 - Co-author (with Herb Boyd). *Civil Rights: Yesterday and Today* (Lincolnwood, Ill: Legacy Publishing/Publications International).

- 2006 - Author. 25,000 words worth of entries, including "Mumia Abu-Jamal," "Johnson Publishing," "Ebony magazine," "Jet magazine," "Robert L. Vann," "Associated Negro

- Press” for *Encyclopedia of African-American History, 1896-Present, From Age of Segregation to the 21st Century*; “Wilbert Rideau” Entry for *African American National Biography* (New York: Oxford University Press).
- Contributing Writer. *The Fifties Chronicle* (Lincolnwood, Ill.: Legacy Publishing/Publications International).
 - Co-Author (with Alice A. Tait and John Barber). “Afrocentric/Capitalistic Television: The Power, Paradox And Promise Of BET, 1979-2005,” for Book One of Tait and Guy Meiss’ (Eds.) *Ethnic Media In America* book series (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt).
- 2005 - Author. “Hunter S. Thompson” entry for *Encyclopedia of American Journalism* (New York and London: Routledge).
- Author. “Drums In The Global Village: Gatekeeping And Agenda-Setting By Afrocentric Radio Broadcasters, 1980-2004,” for Book Two of Alice A. Tait and Guy Meiss’ (Eds.) *Ethnic Media In America* book series (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt).
- 2004 - Author. *ColorLines* essay “Between Baby Boomers And Russell Simmons” excerpted as “Where Is The Activism Of The Hip-Hop Generation?” in Deborah Menkhart, Alana Murray and Jenice View’s (Eds.) *Putting The Movement Back Into Civil Rights Teaching* (Washington, D.C.: Poverty & Race Research Action Council/Teaching For Change).
- Author. “John H. Sengstacke” entry for *American National Biography* (New York: Oxford University Press).
 - Primary Author (One of Four). *Civil Rights Chronicle* (Lincolnwood, Ill.: Legacy Publishing/Publications International), 2003. [**Lead Author: Dr. Clayborne Carson, director, Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project, Stanford University; Foreword by Myrlie Evers-Williams, former National NAACP chairwoman and widow of martyred Civil Rights Movement leader Medgar Evers**]
- 2003 Co-Author (with Alice A. Tait and Roland Wolseley). “Black Journalism Enters the Twentieth Century,” Revised and corrected version of the third chapter of the second edition of Roland E. Wolseley’s *The Black Press, USA* (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University), 1990. In *Literary Criticism Series Movements and Themes: Harlem Renaissance, Vol. 1 (LCSHRI)* (Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group).
- 2002 Co-Author (with Alice A. Tait). “Mixed Signals: Race and the Media,” for Herb Boyd’s (ed.) *Race and Resistance: African Americans in the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge: South End Press). [**Other contributors include: Angela Davis, Amiri Baraka, Ron Daniels, Sonia Sanchez, Manning Marable and bell hooks**]
- 2000 Author. “Old Voices, New Drums,” In Alice A. Tait and John T. Barber (eds.), *The Information Society and the Black Community* (Westport, Conn: Praeger).

CONFERENCE PAPER/PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 “James Baldwin as Literary Journalist.” Conference panelist on the panel “James Baldwin as Playwright and Literary Journalist.” Panel presentation at the James Baldwin International Conference, May 27, 2016, The American University of Paris.
- 2013 “Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. Du Bois, Pan-Africanism and The Black Press.” Conference plenary presentation given at the Dialogue on Progressive Enlightenment (DOPE) Conference, March 22, 2013, University of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, North Carolina. Link to audio can be found here:
<https://imixwhatilike.org/2013/03/22/marcus-garvey-and-w-e-b-dubois-battle-in-the-press/> .
- 2012 “Manning Marable’s Black Newspaper Journalism, 1970s-2000s,” Conference panelist at the A New Vision of Black Freedom: The Manning Marable Memorial Conference, Columbia University, New York City, April 28, 2012.
- 1995 Author. “Maverick: An Interpretative History of *The People’s Voice*.” Conference paper presented at the 1995 Mid-Atlantic Graduate Communication Conference, April 2, 1995, University of Maryland, College Park.

CANDIDACIES

Fulbright Senior Specialist Program (2002-2007)

References available upon request

TODD STEVEN BURROUGHS, Ph.D.

Todd Steven Burroughs is a journalist, scholar and popular culture geek.

Burroughs, 50, has more than 25 years of experience in mass media. He has written for magazines such as *The Source*, *ColorLines*, *Black Issues Book Review* and *The Crisis*, websites such as *The Root* and *Ebony.com*, newspapers such as *The New York Amsterdam News* and *The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger*, and for wire services such as The NNPA News Service, Capital News Service (of the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism) and the Knight-Ridder Wire. He began his career as a correspondent for The New Jersey edition of *The Afro-American newspaper* chain in 1985. He is a former National Correspondent and News Editor of the NNPA News Service (nnpa.org; BlackPressUSA.com). His media criticism column, "Drums in the Global Village," was syndicated to about 200 Black newspapers for much of the 1990s. His blog, drumsintheglobalvillage.com, continues that work.

A Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism, Burroughs has taught at Howard University and Morgan State University. He is a lifelong student of the history of Black media. He is the author of *Warrior Princess: A People's Biography of Ida B. Wells*, and *Marvel's Black Panther: A Comic Book Biography, From Stan Lee to Ta-Nehisi Coates*, both published by Diasporic Africa Press. He is the co-editor, with Dr. Jared Ball, of *A Lie of Reinvention: Correcting Manning Marable's Malcolm X*, published by Black Classic Press. He is also the co-author, with Herb Boyd, of *Civil Rights: Yesterday and Today* and one of four primary authors of the book *Civil Rights Chronicle*, both published by Legacy Publishing/Publications International. He is co-writing a book on *Freedomways* magazine with Wayne J. Dawkins, a full professor in Hampton University's Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications, and writing a monograph of Black journalist Gil Noble and his Black public affairs television program, WABC-TV's "Like It Is," as well as a journalistic biography of imprisoned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.