

Robert N. Brown, Ph.D.

**Associate Professor of Geography
Department of Geography and Planning
Appalachian State University**

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EDUCATION

- 1996-2001 Ph.D., Geography
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA
Dissertation Title: *Coming Home: Black Return Migration to the
Yazoo-Mississippi Delta*
- 1988-1990 M.A., Geography
Appalachian State University
Boone, NC
Thesis title: *Geographic Origin and Comparative Investment of
Second Home Owners in Avery County, North Carolina*
- 1982-1987 A.B., Geography
University of Georgia
Athens, GA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2008 to Present Associate Professor of Geography, Department of Geography and
Planning, Appalachian State University
- 2002-2008 Assistant Professor of Geography, Department of Geography and
Planning, Appalachian State University
- 2001-2002 Lecturer in Geography, Department of Geography and Planning,
Appalachian State University
- 1990-2000 Assistant Professor of Geography, Division of Social Sciences,
Delta State University
- 1997-1998 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography and
Anthropology, Louisiana State University

June 1997	Lecturer and Field Trip Leader, Southern Studies Teacher Institute, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi
Summer of 2002	Lecturer, Distance Learning Institute, North Carolina Geographic Alliance
1992-2000	Lecturer and Field Trip Leader, Geographic Institute, Mississippi Geographic Alliance
1989-1990	Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography and Planning, Appalachian State University

MAJOR AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTEREST

- Historical geography of the American South
- Geography of New Orleans
- Qualitative Methods
- Humanistic Geography

PUBLICATIONS

2021	2021 Brown, Robert N. "A Federal Island In the Deep South: Place and the New Deal's Resettlement Administration in Lee County, South Carolina." (2021). (Submitted).
2020	Brown, Robert N. "Rhythm and Rhyme." <i>Oxford American: Eyes on the South</i> (February 2020): Online photographic portfolio.
2014	Brown, Robert N. "Don't Bow Down on That Dirty Ground: A Photographic Essay of the Mardi Gras Indians of New Orleans." <i>Focus on Geography</i> 57, no. 3 (November 2014): 103–13.
2010	Alderman, Derek H. and Robert N. Brown. "When a New Deal is Actually an Old Deal: The Role of TVA in Engineering a Jim Crow Southern Landscape." In <i>Engineering Earth: The Impacts of Megaengineering Projects</i> , edited by Stanley D. Brunn. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer Science + Business Media, 2006.
2007	Brown, Robert N. "Traveling Riverside Blues: Landscapes of Robert Johnson in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta." <i>Focus on Geography</i> 49, no. 3 (2007): 22-28.

- 2006 Brown, Robert N. and John Cromartie. Black Homeplace Migration to the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta: Ambiguous Journeys, Uncertain Outcomes. *Southeastern Geographer* 46, (2006): 189-214.

BOOK REVIEWS PUBLISHED

- 2021 Review of Dwight B. Billings and Ann E. Kingsolver's *Appalachian in Regional Context: Place Matters*, in *The AAG Review of Books*, Volume 9, no. 2 (2021): 20-21.
- 2012 Review of Peter M. Rutkoff and William B. Scott's *I'll Fly Away: The Great African American Migrations* in *Geographical Review*, Volume 102, no. 3 (2012): 403-405.
- 2010 Review of Charles S. Aiken's, *William Faulkner and the Southern Landscape*, In press in, *Geographical Review*, Volume 100 (2010).
- 2004 Review of Clyde Woods's, *Development Arrested: Race, Power, and the Blues in the Mississippi Delta*, in *Historical Geography*, Volume 32 (2004).
- 2003 Review of Bobby M. Wilson's, *America's Johannesburg: Industrialization and Racial Transformation in Birmingham*, in *Economic Geography*, Volume 79 (2003): 102-103.
- 1999 Review of Charles Reagan Wilson's, *Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths From Faulkner to Elvis*, in *Historical Geography*, Volume 27 (1999): 235-237.
- 1998 Review of Carol Stack's, *Call to Home: African Americans Reclaim the Rural South*, in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 88 (December 1998): 750-752.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2014 "The Consecration of Ordinary Space; or, 'Down on 2nd and Dryades, the Indians Gonna Take 'Em Down.'" Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers at Roanoke, VA. November 2013
- 2010 "Indians are the Rulers on the Holiday: The Mardi Gras Indians and the Freedom of Movement in New Orleans." Paper presented at the Annual

Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers at Birmingham, AL. November 2010.

- 2009 “A Town in the Country: The Tennessee Valley Authority’s Experiment in Total Community Planning.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers at Las Vegas, NV. March 2009.
- 2007 “A Grave on the Green Hillside: Sacred Space and Political Struggle in the Southern Appalachians.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers at Charleston, South Carolina, November 2007.
- 2007 “Bury Me Beneath the Willow: Traditional Burial Practices in the Southern Appalachians.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers at Boston, Massachusetts, April 2008.
- 2007 “Cross Roads Blues: Geographical Mythology and the Life of Robert Johnson.” Paper presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, California. March 2007.
- 2006 “When I’m Dead and Gone: Landscapes of Memory and the Burial of Bluesman Robert Johnson.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers at Chicago, Illinois, April 2007.
- 2006 “A New Deal Reconstruction: Rural Resettlement Communities and Incompatible Landscapes in the Deep South.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers at Morgantown, West Virginia. November 2006.
- 2005 “Echoes of Community: The New Deal and the Ashwood Plantation Project.” Session chair and paper presenter at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Denver, Colorado, April 2005.
- 2004 “Government Farm: Success on a New Deal Resettlement Administration Farm Project.” Paper presented at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 2004.

- 2001 “Reconciling Home: The Dilemma of Black Return Migration to the Mississippi Delta.” Paper presented at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New York, New York, March 2001.
- 2000 “Home to Stay: An Ethnographic View of African American Return Migration to the Mississippi Delta.” Paper presented at the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 2000.
- 1999 “Making Sense of Home: Black Return Migration to the Mississippi Delta.” Paper presented at the 1999 Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society, Atlanta, Georgia, February 1999.
- 1998 “Historical Geography of Congressional Districts in the Mississippi Delta.” Paper presented at the 1998 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, Massachusetts, March 1998.
- 1996 “The Use of Ethnography in the Study of Black Return Migration to the South.” Paper presented at the 1997 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers, Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 1997.
- 1996 “Hot Tamales and Fried Chicken: A Metonymic Comparison of Places in the Mississippi Delta.” Paper presented at the 1997 Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society, Memphis, Tennessee, March 1996.

GRANTS

- 2016 Successfully submitted a competitive application for “Big Chief” Monk Beaudreaux for the National Endowment for the Humanities’ National Heritage Fellowship. Mr. Boudreaux received a \$25,000 stipend with his award. The National Heritage Fellowship is the highest award given in the folk arts by the United States Government.
- 2012 Internal. University Research Council Grant. “Post-Katrina Cultural Resilience of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indians: An Ethnographic Study in Cultural Geography.” *Unfunded*.
- 2010 Internal. University Research Council Grant. Here Come the Indians: The Geographic Patterns of the Mardi Gras Indians of New Orleans. *Unfunded*.

HONORS

- 2013 Nominated for University of North Carolina's Board of Governors' Award for Excellence in Teaching
- 2012 Thesis chair for May Bartlett who won the annual thesis award of the Cratis D. Williams Graduate School. Nominated for the thesis of the year of the Association of Southern Graduate Schools. "The Levee Boards of the Yazoo Mississippi Delta: A Fight to Control the River and Region."
- 2010 Nominated for the Appalachian State University College of Arts and Science Academy of Outstanding Teachers.
- 2007 *Southeastern Geographer* article, Black Homeplace Migration to the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta: Ambiguous Journeys, Uncertain Outcomes, considered for the best paper of the year/volume.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Professional Development

- 2021 Online workshop with the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. "What Students Need This Academic Year." A panel discussion on the on-going Pandemic and Higher Education. September 1.
- 2019 "Digital Learning Initiative 2019 Symposium." The University of North Carolina System. Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 2019 Quality Matters. "Improving Your Online Course." Online workshop. July 2019.
- 2019 Thinking Critically and Creatively Assessment Summit for the Appalachian State General Education Council. May 22-23.
- 2012 "Grant Writing in the Social Sciences" Conducted by the Howard Odum Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2012 "Ethnography in Urban Places" Conducted by the Howard Odum Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2010 "Working With Digital Map Archives" Presented in association with the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New York, New York.

Courses Taught at Appalachian State University

Face to Face Courses Developed

Introductory Level Courses

Freshman Honors World Regional Geography
 World Regional Geography
 Introduction to Human Geography
 Introduction to Physical Geography

Mid-Level Courses

The Geography of North Carolina
 The Historical Geography of the Mississippi Delta
 Place and the American South

Graduate Courses

Geographic Perspectives of Landscape
 Research Themes and Methods
 Quantitative and Qualitative Methods (Collaborative teaching)

Online Courses Developed

GHY 3013—Online; Geography of North Carolina

GHY 3016—Online; Place and the American South

GHY 1020—Online; Geographic Diversity and Globalization

Invited Talks

- 2019 The Black Indians of New Orleans. An invited talk with a film showing of *Buckjumping*. Event was co-sponsored by University Documentary Film Services and the Department of Geography and Planning.
- 2018 “Poetics of Place in North Carolina.” A talk presented at the National Geographic Society Alliance workshop at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina.
- 2002 Mississippi Delta Blues Musicians and the Great Black Migration: 1910-1970,” East Carolina University. Greenville, North Carolina. November 2002.

- 2002 Bi-annual meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Association of Sociologists, Plenary Address, Cleveland, Mississippi, February 2002.
- 2000 Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi, The Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture Series, "Reclaiming the Delta: African American Return Migration to the Mississippi Delta," Oxford, Mississippi, April 2000.
- 1997 Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi, Southern Studies Teacher Institute, Oxford, Mississippi, June 1997.

Consulting

- 1997 "Cultural Regions of Mississippi," a map for *Crossroads of the Heart: Creativity and Tradition in Mississippi*," a traveling exhibit of the Mississippi Arts Commission.

Papers Reviewed for Peer-reviewed Journals

- 2020 Manuscript review for **Southeastern Geographer**
- 2018 Manuscript review for **Southeastern Geographer**
- 2007 Manuscript review for **Southeastern Geographer**
- 2007 Manuscript review for **Southeastern Geographer**
- 2005 Manuscript review for **Southeastern Geographer**
- 2005 Manuscript review for **Professional Geographer**
- 2004 Manuscript review for **Southeastern Geographer**
- 2003 Manuscript review for **North Carolina Geographer**
- 2002 Manuscript review for **North Carolina Geographer**

Professional Affiliations

American Association of Geographers
Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers

Professional Service

- 2005 Program Committee Chair, American South Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers

Current and Past Service to the Department, University, and Community

Provost's Taskforce for Place Names and Cultural Landscapes on Campus 2018-2019
Chair, Human Geographer Search 2015

Chair, Department Chair Search 2016
 Faculty Senate Member (Substitute) Fall 2021
 Member of Faculty Senate, 2007-2012.
 Member of the former College of Arts and Sciences Council
 Dean's Advisory Committee
 Judge for National Geographic Society North Carolina State Geography Bee (2003-2008)
 Departmental Comprehensive Exam Committee
 Departmental Curriculum Committee
 Speakers Committee
 Gamma Theta Upsilon, Past Chair
 Past Appalachian Geographic Society Advisor

Current and Recent Departmental Thesis/Internships Committees

- 2019 **Chair, Master's Thesis**, Joshua Piercy, "Life in Azeroth: Examining Place-Making in Virtual Environments." Appalachian State University.
- 2012 **Chair, Master's Thesis**, May Bartlett. "The Levee Boards of the Yazoo Mississippi Delta: A Fight to Control the River and Region." Appalachian State University. *Winner of annual thesis award of the Cratis D. Williams Graduate School.*
- 2006 **Chair, Master's Thesis**, Brian Fannon. "The Buffalo Trail: Searching for Lost Landscapes Through Historical Geography." Appalachian State University.