# **Robert N. Brown, Ph.D.**

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| **Associate Professor of Geography** |  |
| **Department of Geography and Planning** | **Mobile: (828) 773-1095** |
| **Appalachian State University** | **E-mail: brownrn@appstate.edu** |

**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 the New Deal

### Geography of New Orleans

* Qualitative Methods

### PUBLICATIONS

2014 Brown, Robert N. “Don’t Bow Down on That Dirty Ground: A Photographic Essay of the Mardi Gras Indians of New Orleans.” *Focus on Geography* 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 *Engineering Earth: The Impacts of Megaengineering Projects*, edited by Stanley D. Brunn. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer Science + Business Media, 2006.

2007 Brown, Robert N. 2007. “Traveling Riverside Blues: Landscapes of Robert Johnson in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta.” *Focus on Geography* 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

# 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.

### PAPERS PRESENTED

2014 “The Consecration of Ordinary Space; or, ‘Down on 2nd and Dryades, the Indians Gonna Take ‘Em Down.’” Prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers at Roanoke, VA. November 2013

2007 “A Grave on the Green Hillside: Sacred Space and Political Struggle in the Southern Appalachians.” To be 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.” To be presented at the Annual Meeting of the 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.”  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.” 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.

### HONORS

2013 Nominated for University of North Carolina’s Board of Governors’ Award for Excellence in Teaching

2010 Nominated for the Appalachian State University College of Arts and Science Academy of Outstanding Teachers.

1. *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

**Workshops attended**

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.

**Invited Colloquia**

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

###### 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 Memberships

Association of American Geographers

Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers

**Professional Service**

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

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

Member of Faculty Senate, 2007-2012.

Member 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 Upslilon, Chair

Appalachian Geographic Society Advisor

**Current and Recent Departmental** **Thesis/Internships Committees**

May Bartlett. Thesis Chair. Thesis 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.

Andrew Carlton

Justin Maxwell

Brian Fannon, Thesis Chair

### Courses Taught

##### 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 Geography of Asia

The Historical Geography of the Mississippi Delta

The Geography of the United States and Canada

The Geography of the American South (Added to the Undergraduate Bulletin for Fall 2014)

The Geography of Latin America

The Geography of Europe

**Graduate Courses**

Geographic Perspectives of Landscape

Research Themes and Methods

Quantitative and Qualitative Methods (Collaborative teaching)