

FRANCIS “CISCO” BRADLEY

Professor of History

Work Address

Department of Social Science and Cultural Studies
Pratt Institute
200 Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

Home Address

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New York, NY 10011
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CURRENT POSITION

Pratt Institute

Professor of History	2025-present
Department of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies	

Director/Founder	2023-present
Music and Migration Lab	

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ph.D., History	2010
M.A., History	2006
B.A., History	1999

PREVIOUS/OTHER EXPERIENCE

University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (Graz, Austria)

Fulbright-Karl Franzens Visiting Professor of Cultural Studies (defunded by Trump)	Fall 2025
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Pratt Institute

Associate Professor of History	2016-2025
Associate Director, Global South Center	2019-2022
Assistant Professor of History	2011-2016

Hamilton College

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History	2010-2011
Post-doctoral Fellow, Asian Studies Program	

Private Archivist & Historian for Bassist Ron Carter	2023-present
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Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame

Research Associate	2021-present
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Friendship Fund (non-profit charitable trust)

President	2024-present
Vice-President	2019-2024
Board of Directors	2014-present

New Revolution Arts, Inc. (arts non-profit)

Chairperson, Film Director	2014-present
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JazzRightNow.com

Founder/Editor	2013-present
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PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- In press *I Hear Freedom: The Great Migration, Free Jazz, and Black Power*. Columbia University Press. (forthcoming 2025).
- In preparation *The Horn Is the River: The Revolutionary Life and Music of Charles Gayle*. A critical biography of the free jazz saxophonist.
- In preparation *Rhythms of the Dark Water: African Maroons, the Lumbee, and the Birth of Black Music*. A history of the first autonomous Black spaces for music in the U.S.
- 2023 *The Williamsburg Avant-Garde: Experimental Music and Sound on the Brooklyn Waterfront*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- 2021 *Universal Tonality: The Life and Music of William Parker*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- 2016 *Forging Islamic Power and Place: The Legacy of Shaykh Daud bin ‘Abd Allah al-Fatani in Mecca and Southeast Asia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Book series in progress—*The Great Migration and Jazz*

This digital humanities project maps out the origins of global jazz rooted in the Great Migration of African Americans on a scale never before attempted. It will result in a three-volume book series that examines the relationship between music and mobility emanating out of the twentieth-century United States, specifically examining the role migration played in the formation of new social constellations that facilitated major musical developments. This project makes heavy use of the Global Jazz Diasporas archive which I founded in 2016 (see below). The project will also include an online component with detailed maps and will ultimately be expanded to include the entirety of jazz, blues, rhythm & blues, gospel, and other American musical forms.

Volume 1: *I Hear Freedom: The Great Migration, Free Jazz, and Black Power*

This seminal volume examines the movement of people from the Deep and Upper U.S. South into the industrial Midwest (Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, and Pittsburgh) from the Underground Railroad to the Great Migration forging Black cultural spaces that produced some of the most influential figures in free jazz in New York, Los Angeles, Paris, and beyond. This manuscript is in press with Columbia University Press.

Volume 2: *Delta Echoes: The Great Migration and Jazz in the Mississippi Valley, the American West, and Europe*

This examines the migration north from the Mississippi Delta to Memphis, St. Louis and Chicago; the migration west to Los Angeles and San Francisco; and the globalization of the cultural developments that resulted, eventually connecting these zones of the U.S. with Paris and Berlin from the 1960s onwards. The book follows the activities of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, the Black Artists’ Group, and celebrated figures such as Don Cherry who made Europe his home.

Volume 3: *Piedmont Vibrations: The Great Migration and the Internationalization of Free Jazz*

This illustrates the migrations out of the Virginia and Carolina piedmont regions to Washington, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, and then to international cultural nodes in London, Algiers, Dakar, and Johannesburg.

Global Jazz Diasporas Archive

Archive Collective based at the Music and Migration Lab, founded 2016

www.musicandmigration.com

1,523 musician origins documented

7,560 jazz migrations catalogued
 585 oral history interviews
 700 archival cassettes
 334 material artifacts
 100,000+ video recordings of concerts
 Podcast series

- Ep. 1: Dave Burrell (piano): <https://www.podbean.com/ep/pb-5jtsk-15d996d>
 Ep. 2: Joe Daley (tuba): <https://www.podbean.com/ep/pb-s27qg-160062d>
 Ep. 3: Karen Borca (bassoon): <https://www.podbean.com/ep/pb-x48pd-160f0e8>
 Ep. 4: Sabir Mateen (reeds)
 Ep. 5: Jason Kao Hwang (violin)

Peer-reviewed articles

- Under review “The Great Migration and Urbanization: Towards a Historical Geography of Black Creative Music.” Under review with the *Journal of Urban History*.
- Under review “Free Jazz as a Decolonial Practice.” Chapter for inclusion in eds. Magdalena Fürnkranz and Mario Dunkel, *Jazz Handbook* (Berlin: Bärenreiter/Metzler)
- 2023 “Religious Components of Southeast Asian Migration.” In ed. Donna Gabbacia, *Cambridge History of Global Migrations*, vol. 1: *Migrations, 1400-1800*, 507-25. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023.
- 2022 “Bass and Voice: Sheila Jordan Discusses Race, Class, and the Emergence of Her Concept.” *Jazz and Culture* 5, no. 1: 76-89.
- 2021 “Women, Violence, and Gender Dynamics during the Five Patani-Siam Wars, 1785-1838.” *Itinerario* 45, no. 3: Special Issue 3: *Coercing Mobility: Territory and Displacement in the Politics of Southeast Asian Muslim Movements*, 345-63.
- 2014 “Islamic Reform, the Family, and Knowledge Networks Linking Mecca with Southeast Asia in the Nineteenth Century,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 74, no. 1 (February 2014): 89-111.
- 2013 “Shaykh Da’ud al-Fatani’s *Munyat al-Musalli* and the Place of Prayer in Nineteenth-century Patani Communities,” in special issue “Global Conjunctions in the Indian Ocean: Malay World Textual Trajectories” in *Indonesia and the Malay World* 41, no. 120: 198-214.
- 2013 “Siam’s Conquest of Patani and the End of Mandala Relations, 1786-1838,” in *Ghosts of the Past in Southern Thailand: Essays on the History and Historiography of Patani*, ed. Patrick Jory. Singapore: National University of Singapore Press.
- 2009 “Moral Order in a Time of Damnation: The *Hikayat Patani* in Historical Context.” *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 40, no. 2: 267-93.
- 2008 “Piracy, Smuggling, and Trade in the Rise of Patani, 1490-1600.” *Journal of the Siam Society* 96: 27-50.
- 2007 “Sheikh Daud bin Abdullah al-Fatani’s Writings Contained in the National Library of Malaysia.” *Jurnal Filologi Melayu* 16: 121-41.

Online Publications

- 2013-present Founded: www.jazzrightnow.com which offers in-depth analysis of avant garde, experimental, and jazz-inspired genre-crossing musical artists across the United States and around the globe. It includes the following:
- 100+ artist profiles.
 - Hundreds of concert and record reviews.
 - Interviews with key artists.
 - Since 2018, the site has begun covering more jazz in Africa.

Evidence of the website gaining popular appeal after going live in 2013:

- Over 320,000 views since 2013.
- Distribution of viewers: United States (65%), with a significant following in Germany, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, Italy, South Africa, Ethiopia, Brazil, France, Spain, and Portugal.
- I wrote a monthly column for www.JazzTokyo.com titled “Jazz Right Now – Report from New York” (2014-2017) which the editors translated into Japanese. Since 2017, the editors of Jazz Tokyo have selected articles from Jazz Right Now that they translate, which has included extensive interviews and reviews.
- Social Media Presence: Jazz Right Now has 1,638 followers on Facebook, 1,865 followers on Twitter, and 1,214 followers on Instagram (as of June 10, 2024).

Music Juries

2013-2020	El Intruso—International Critics Poll
2014-2020	NPR Music—Jazz Critics Poll
2020	Francis Davis Jazz Poll

FILM

Take Me to Fendika – film director, producer & executive producer

www.takemetofendika.com

A film that considers Ethiopia as a global epicenter of music and performance. The film examines Fendika Cultural Center, a vital art space in Addis Ababa, displaying biopics of internationally renowned dancer Melaku Belay and numerous other Ethiopian and African diaspora musicians working there. Produced by my film company, New Revolution Arts.

Screenings:

- 2024 October 25: Winner, Best Documentary, 2nd African Cultural Film Festival. Houston, TX. *World premiere*.
 October 26: Finalist, Best Film Inspiring Hope, Round the Globe Film & Music Festival. Online.
- 2025 January 12: Stonykill Coffee and Records. Chatham, NY.
 February 1: Finalist, Best Short Film, San Diego Black Film Festival. San Diego, CA.
 April 5: Erte Ale Ethiopian Restaurant. St. Paul, MN.
 April 7: Carleton College. Northfield, MN.
 May 20: Quarterfinalist, Best International Documentary, 2nd Zepstone International Film and Music Festival. Salt Lake City, UT.
 May 23: Fire Museum Presents. Studio 34, Philadelphia, PA.
 May 25: Finalist, Best Short Documentary/First Time Director, East Village New York Film Festival. New York, NY.
 June 19: Finalist, Trailer Competition, Virginia Black Film Festival. Hampton, VA.
 August 9: Winner, Best Documentary, Africa USA International Film Festival (with French subtitles). Cinema des Arcades, Cannes, France. *International & European premiere*.
 August 9: Selection, Africa Habari Festival. Toronto, Canada.
 August 29: Rhythm Changes Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands
 September 9: Winner, Best International Documentary. 3rd Zepstone International Film and Music Festival. Salt Lake City, UT.
 September 16: Fendika/Hyatt Regency Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *African premiere*.
 October 3: Selection, Best Short Film/Best Documentary Film, Malabo International Music and Film Festival. Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

- November 3: Winner, Best Director of a Documentary Short Film, London Vision Film Festival.
London, United Kingdom.
- November 23-29: Selection, Luanda International Pan African Film Festival, Luanda, Angola
- 2026 January 30: Selection, Best International Short Film, 7th Nepal Cultural International Film
Festival. Kathmandu, Nepal. *Asian premiere*.

HONORS AND AWARDS (SELECTED)

Digital Studies Fellowship	2025
John W. Kluge Center, U.S. Library of Congress	
Fulbright-Karl Franzens Visiting Professorship in Cultural Studies	2025
University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, Graz, Austria	
U.S. State Department (defunded by Trump administration)	
Pratt Faculty Development Grant	2025, 2021, 2013
Pratt Institute	
Literary Grant	2023
New York State Council of the Arts	
Book Awards	
<i>The Williamsburg Avant-Garde</i>	
Winner, Book of the Year, <i>New York City Jazz Record</i>	2023
Finalist, Book of the Year, Jazz Journalists Association	2024
Reviewed by LA Review of Books	2024
<i>Universal Tonality</i>	
Harvard University Summer Reading List	2023
Winner, Book of the Year, <i>New York City Jazz Record</i>	2021
<i>Forging Islamic Power and Place</i>	
Reviewed by LA Review of Books	2016
Programming Grant for New Revolution Arts	2023, 2019, 2017
Friendship Fund	
Pratt Institute Senate Research Award	2022
Ocean Plastics Project (Seed grant obtained for Global South Center)	2019
Provost's Office, Pratt Institute	
Programming Grant for Tri-Centric Foundation	2015
Friendship Fund	
Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship (declined second year)	2010-2012
Hamilton College	
Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Religion and Ethics	2009
Woodrow Wilson Foundation (now the Institute for Citizens and Scholars)	
Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Dissertator Fellowship	2008
Department of History, University of Wisconsin	
Fulbright IIE Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship	2007-2008
U.S. State Department	
Foreign Language/Area Studies Fellowship	
U.S. State Department	2005, 2006, 2010
Pre-Dissertation Fellowship for International Collaboration	2006
Social Science Research Council	

RECENT INVITED LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- 2025 August 27: "Towards a Global Jazz Map: Methods and Data for Historical Visualization." Rhythm Changes Conference, Conservatorium van Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- March 4: "I Hear Freedom: Solidarity, the Great Migration, and Black Creative Music." Music Books in Progress series, in conversation with Gabriel Vanlandingham-Dunn. Online.

- 2024 October 3: “My Mind and My Spirit Were Liberated during the Riot’: Solidarity and the Meanings of the 1967 Detroit Uprising. Critical and Visual Studies Symposium, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY.
- April 5: “From Plantation Mississippi to Post-1968 Paris: Symbolic Resistance in the Music of Frank Wright.” Panel: Jazz and Resistance, Rhythm Changes Conference, University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, Graz, Austria.
- March 29: “Mapping the Roots of Black American Music through the Great Migration.” Mapping Music History Conference, University of Aberdeen, Scotland.
- March 24: “I Hear Freedom: Free Jazz and Revolution in Detroit, Cleveland, and Buffalo, 1961-1980.” Panel: Jazz and the Revolutionary Imagination, Society for American Music 50th Annual Conference, Detroit, MI.
- 2023 Book Tour: *The Williamsburg Avant-Garde: Experimental Music and Sound on the Brooklyn Waterfront* (each event featured different bands covered in the book)
- October 28: BlueStem Jazz, Madison, WI, in discussion with Russ Johnson.
- October 26: Elastic Arts, Chicago, IL, in discussion with Weasel Walter.
- October 19: State University of New York—Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY, in discussion with Benjamin Tausig.
- September 21: The New School of Social Research, New York, NY, as guest in the class “Underground Music Scenes” and in discussion with Luke Stewart.
- September 13: Tubby’s, Kingston, NY, in discussion with Clifford Allen.
- August 16: City Lights Books, San Francisco, CA, in discussion with David Gross.
- August 8: The Lilypad, Cambridge, MA, in discussion with Taylor Ho Bynum.
- July 21: Shadowbox Theater, Durham, NC, in discussion with Vattel Cherry.
- July 10: ArtSpace, Richmond, VA.
- July 6: Rhizome, Washington, DC, in discussion with Jamal Moore.
- June 26: Quinn’s, Beacon, NY, in discussion with James Keepnews.
- June 23: Village Works Bookstore, New York, NY, in conversation with Daniel Carter.
- June 18: Diamond Hollow Books, Andes, NY.
- June 17: Avalon Lounge, Catskill, NY, in discussion with Tom Roe.
- June 11: Unnamable Books, Brooklyn, NY, in discussion with Jeremiah Cymerman.
- April 17: Colloquium for Unpopular Culture, New York University, New York, NY, in discussion with Sukhdev Sandhu.
- March 16: The Shift, Brooklyn, NY (official launch), in discussion with John Morrison.
- 2022 August 26: “The Great Migration and the Emergence of Free Jazz.” Rhythm Changes, Conservatorium van Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- May 8: 5th “The Williamsburg DIY: Improvising Space in a New York Music Scene.” Australasian Jazz and Improvisation Research Network Conference, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.
- 2021 Book Tour: *Universal Tonality: The Life and Music of William Parker*
- October 27: Bronx Music Heritage Center, moderated by Elena Martinez, in conversation with Parker.
- June 29: We Don’t Even Know podcast, moderated by Shonali Bhowmik and Christian Felix.
- May 15: Howland Cultural Center, Beacon, NY, moderated by James Keepnews, in conversation with Parker.
- April 19: University of Pittsburgh, moderated by Nicole Mitchell, in conversation with Parker.
- March 27: McNeese State University, moderated by Billy Noseworthy.
- March 8: Black Mountain College, moderated by Jeff Arnal, in conversation with Parker.

March 3: Towson University, moderated by Dave Ballou, in conversation with Bill Shoemaker.
March 1: Dartmouth University, moderated by Taylor Ho Bynum, in conversation with Parker.
February 24: New York University, moderated by Fred Moten, in conversation with Parker.
February 19: Duke University Press book launch, in conversation with Parker and Anthony Reed.

MANUSCRIPT REVIEW

I have reviewed articles and book manuscripts for the following publications:

Columbia University Press

Contemporary Islam: The Dynamics of Muslim Life

Jazz and Culture

Journal of Islamic Studies

New York University Press

Oxford University Press

Routledge

Studia Islamika

University of California Press

University of Singapore Press

SERVICE AT PRATT

Director, Music and Migration Lab	2023-present
Associate Director, Global South Center	2019-2022
Chair, Promotion, Advancement, Reappointment and Tenure Committee (PART)	2024-present
	2020-2021
	2016-2018
Chair, Department of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies Curriculum Committee	2019-2020
	2014-2016
Chair, Search Committee for Faculty, Social Science and Cultural Studies	2017
Member, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee	2011-2014
Member, World History Program Coordination Committee	2011-2016
Member, Department of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies Curriculum Committee	2013-2014
Member, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Committee	2012-2015
Member, Institute-wide Distinguished Teacher Award Committee	2012
Member, Search Committee for Faculty, Social Science and Cultural Studies	2013, 2014
Thesis Advisor, Critical and Visual Studies Program	2013-present

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Native: English

Advanced: Indonesian, Jawi, Malay

Intermediate: Dutch, French, German, Turkish

Elementary: Arabic, Danish, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish