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# The South Carolina Roots of African American Thought: A Reader

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improve digital communication in developing countries through hands-on training and research into low-cost applications of information technology. He leads development of the eGranary Digital Library, an information store that aims to deliver the world's knowledge to people and institutions lacking Internet access. He was also a TED fellow in 2007 and a senior Fulbright Scholar in Nigeria in 1999.

### UNC – Greensboro

**Gerald Holmes** is currently the Reference Librarian and Diversity Coordinator at the University Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). As a member of the Libraries' administrative faculty, Gerald led the creation of the Libraries' Post MLS Diversity Residency Program and its Diversity Committee. As the Diversity Coordinator, Gerald took on the additional responsibility as a Co-Principal Investigator for three Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grants designed to recruit and prepare minority librarians for serving their communities in the 21st Century. As a credit to his work, 55 librarians from underrepresented populations are now working.

Gerald was named the American Library Association 2014 Achievement in Library Diversity Research Honoree for his contributions to the library profession and his promotion of diversity within it. In 2015, he received the Black Caucus of ALA Distinguished Service to the Library Profession Award and the Harvey E. Beech Outstanding Alumni Award from the UNC-Chapel Hill General Alumni Association.

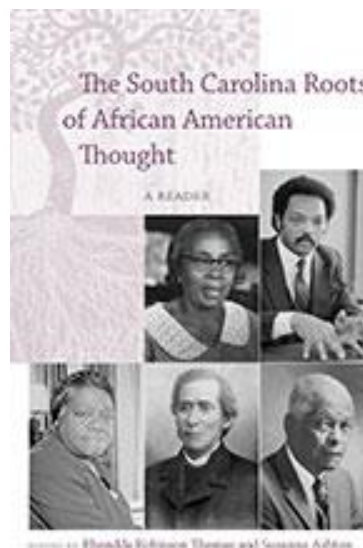
Gerald earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and his Master of Science in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science (SILS). He serves as a co-chair of the SILS Alumni Inclusion and Diversity (SAID) Committee.

**Kate Hill** has been appointed Electronic Resources and Distance Education Librarian at UNC Greensboro. She was previously the Librarian at the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center. Kate holds a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



### BOOK REVIEWS

**The South Carolina Roots of African American Thought: A Reader.** Susanna Ashton and Rhondda Robinson, editors. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2014. ISBN 978-1-61117-314-7. 376 p. \$49.95

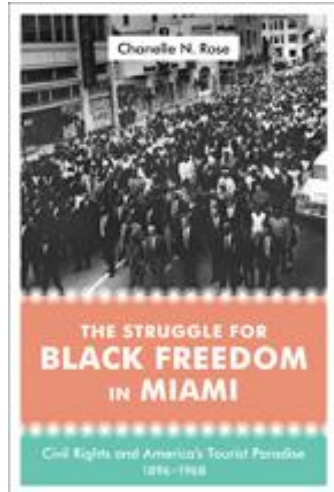


An anthology of selections from the works of African Americans from South Carolina whose personal stories, distinctive ideas and influential writings still have an impact that continues today. Broad in scope, the collection begins in the time of slavery and abolition with Daniel Payne and continues through the very recent past, with the afterword section including middle school student Ty'Sheoma Bethea's famous letter written to Congress in 2009. This is a welcome collection that brings together in

one volume many important works that might be difficult to locate otherwise. The excellent biographical introductions by the editors introduce each writer and place their work in historical context for the reader, helping to further illuminate the importance of each writer's work. The anthology includes a wide variety of genres of writing, including autobiographical narratives, letters, essays, speeches, pamphlets, chapters reprinted from books, and sermons. The works are grouped into four sections by time periods, so that readers can also follow chronologically if desired. The editors chose selections that showcase the way that these writers were able to reach a national audience and influence national thought. This is an essential book for South Carolina libraries, but would be a good addition to any library with collections in American History or African American studies, especially if the authors included are not already represented in existing collections.

Allison Faix  
Coastal Carolina University

**The Struggle for Black Freedom in Miami: Civil Rights and America's Tourist Paradise 1896-1968.** Chanelle Nyree Rose. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-8071-5765-7 (cloth: alk. paper), ISBN: 978-0-8071-5766-4 (pdf), ISBN: 978-0-8071-5767-1 (epub), ISBN: 978-0-8071-6000-8 (mobi). 344 p. \$47.50 cloth.



For anyone who has spent considerable time in Miami or who has lived there as a resident as I did during the 1980's rather than just passing through as a tourist, it becomes apparent that many if not most black residents live in conditions noticeably less comfortable than is true for most white and Latino residents. Many of these rundown and largely black neighborhoods such as Liberty City are not visible to the tourists and the wealthy. The city is increasingly Latin American (primarily Cuban) in culture and many Latinos are prospering. Just as the socioeconomic conditions of Miami are a complex mixture, so too is the history of civil rights in that city as related by

Chanelle M. Rose, associate professor of History at Rowan University.

Rose's thesis is that the civil rights struggle in Miami was not typical of that of other Southern cities due to the fact that the white civic elite, concerned with ensuring Miami's reputation as a glamorous tourist destination, were prepared to make mostly cosmetic changes that nonetheless served to dissipate growing black discontent, all while the city's increasingly Latin flavor tended to blur or obscure the more harshly traditional divisions of black and white found in other Southern cities.

The book is largely successful in demonstrating this interpretation of the history of civil rights in Miami but, perhaps due to the complex nature of the topic, it is also, at times, a bit frustrating. Just when it looks as if things are improving for black Miamians, Rose then illustrates that, no, the fundamental problems have not been solved. Yet progress in improving the lot of Miami's black citizens is undeniable at certain steps along this frustrating journey.

Even when analyzing the black population of Miami alone, the story is more complicated than in most American cities, especially in the South, because a significant portion was of West Indian origin, primarily Bahamian. This is significant in that the Bahamian experience of slavery and then freedom was different from that of African Americans. Many Bahamians refused to accept second-class citizenship or the insults of white racism. Several important early civil rights leaders in Miami were Bahamian in origin including Episcopal priests Rev. John E. Culmer and Father Theodore Gibson. Both of these leaders at different points in the twentieth century were able to work with the white civic establishment in a largely non-confrontational way and to gradually begin improving conditions for the black population. In recent decades the black population has been augmented by significant immigration of Jamaicans and Haitians.

Even prior to the huge influx of Cubans fleeing Fidel Castro's revolution, Miami developed a Latin character as Latin Americans increasingly patronized the city as a vacation destination and as a place of business. The white business and political elite took steps to ensure that Latin Americans, even those of dark complexion, did not experience the insults of segregation. As Rose indicates, some of this favorable treatment of Latin Americans was occasionally extended to blacks at least under certain circumstances and in certain locations.

One of Rose's more illuminating insights is that seemingly progressive measures of the white leadership of Miami paradoxically either made things worse or merely served to delay addressing the real problem for black Miamians. This is especially evident in Chapter Six concerning school desegregation. Progress in integrating Miami's schools was very slow yet gradual and grudging reforms did take place, thus blunting some of the growing black anger at poor educational conditions.