

Asha Marie Larson-Baldwin

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Education

~2029	Washington University in St. Louis	PhD in Sociology
December 2023	Queen's University Belfast	MA in Public History
May 2022	Furman University	BA in Advocacy and Justice Studies (Individualized Curriculum Program), minors in Poverty Studies and African American Studies

Research Interests

Public history; collective memory; contested symbolism, rhetoric and public culture; community narratives and collective identity; acts of gathering through conflict; acts of reckoning with contested pasts in the public; critical university studies.

Research Experiences

2023	Internship placement with Linen Hall Library: Sorting and listing the Lynda Walker archive to make it accessible to digital visitors via the extraORDINARYwomen website and Linen Hall digital platform. I will use objects from this collection for a project related to feminist activism and civil rights in 2023.
2022	Independent Research Study: Studied critical pedagogy and social justice within the university. Advised by Dr. David Gandolfo.
2021	Independent Research Study: Studied how universities are reckoning with their ties to slavery and wrote a Sociological paper using Furman University as a case study to understand how students are making sense of the changing physical, social, and cultural campus landscape through the university's efforts to address ties to slavery. Advised by Dr. Claire Whitlinger.
2021	Summer Research Fellow: Assisted Dr. Amy Jonason in the Sociology department with a project studying how small business owners in West Greenville are impacted and make sense of neighborhood change and gentrification.

2021 **Sociology Qualitative Research Seminar:** Practiced qualitative research methods to study a self-designed research question of how students understood changes in the physical campus landscape as part of the University's attempt to reckon with their ties to slavery.

Leadership

2022 **Students' Union Speaker:** I lead each Students Union general meeting facilitating motions, speakers, and debate. I work closely with members of the Executive Management Committee to oversee the day-to-day functioning of the union council.

2021-2022 **Student Body President:** After a historic election in which I petitioned the student body to change the Student Government constitution to allow more students to be eligible to run for Student Body President, I increased voter turnout significantly and won my election becoming the second Black President in Furman's history and the first one in over ten years. I have transformed SGA to become team-driven, project-based, inclusive and community-centered.

2020-present **Furman Justice Forum, President:** Created opportunities for students across campus to engage in programming about social justice and advocacy, encouraging them to engage in their own advocacy projects. I led a group of students who are helping organize a month of social justice programming including Cultural Life Programs (CLPs), dialogue events, and other interactive events throughout the entire month of March. We planned an event for every single weekday (except for two) and it was very collaborative, successful, and boundary-pushing for our campus.

2019-2020 **College Democrats, President:** Organized students to be involved in progressive political action items on campus and in the Greenville community.

Internships & Fellowships

2022 **Mill Village Ministries, Village Engage Summer Intern:** Organized a community social justice symposium for youth and community members to learn advocacy and social justice basics.

2021-22 **Newman Fellow:** A national social change fellowship through Campus Compact where fellows engage in leadership development and complete a project for change on their campus. My project intersected with my time as Student Body President and sought to implement social justice and DEI values in the highest and most visible levels of student leadership.

2021 **Momentum Bike Clubs Assistant Director of Student Engagement and Programming:** I created and led programming bi-weekly for Black and brown

students to build community amongst peers and heal racial trauma through art and mentorship with Black and brown artists from the Greenville community.

2020-2021 **Public Education Partners Youth Outreach Fellow:** I organized and led programming for high school students in GCS to build community with other students, leverage their voices, and encourage and support student advocacy projects.

2020 **Momentum Bike Clubs Summer Intern:** Created and led a virtual 8 week summer program with two other interns wherein we taught personal development, leadership, advocacy, health/wellness, and more to students of marginalized identities.

2020 **Stree Mukti Sanghatana, (Women's liberation NGO, Pune, India):** Collected data and created a report on the career goals of low-income students to create better educational and career support for them

2020 **[Emily's List Ignite Fellow:](#)** Intensive public office/political campaign training for young women interested in running for public office

2020 **Social Media Intern for Furman Admissions:** Curated and created weekly social media content (Instagram posts and stories, and blogs) for university admissions communications.

2018-2020 **Shucker Leadership Institute Fellow:** My sophomore year Leadership Challenge Project partnered with local community leaders to create and host a community storytelling event about the prominent African-American leaders who were buried in one of the few historically Black cemeteries in Greenville.

Extracurriculars & Community Engagement

2022-2023 **Students' Union Speaker at Queen's University Belfast:** I work with the Students' Union Executive Management Committee to facilitate monthly meetings, including debates, speakers, and voting. I also serve on multiple Students' Union Committees as a postgraduate representative.

2018-2023 **Advocacy on campus at Furman University**

- Served as student chair for SHARP (Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention) University Committee and worked alongside the Title IX office to organize outreach initiatives for students. (Spring 2023)
- Organized a 'Community Day' campus-wide mental health day with collaborations between multiple student organizations. (Spring 2023)

- Organized multiple demonstrations on campus for students to share messages of dissent about campus issues. (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)
- Successfully changed a Student Government constitution clause that prevents diverse student leaders from outside of SGA from running for SGA President (spring 2021)
- Petitioned for implementation of a diversity GER/CLP requirement that was taken seriously, accepted, and is actively being worked on by Faculty (fall 2020).
- Invisible Students at Furman, a digital storytelling semester project that elevated stories and experiences of students of marginalized identities on Furman's campus. (fall 2020)
- [“For Some Students It’s a Choice Between Textbooks and Eating”](#) article for the Paladin Newspaper (fall 2020)
- Advocated for resources for students of marginalized identities studying abroad that led to accessible support resources in Furman's study abroad office (fall 2019)

2020	Ad-hoc committee member for Black life at Furman: Served as one of two selected student representatives to make recommendations for structural change following pressure from a petition created by Black alumni. Recommendations I helped create have been implemented institutionally over the next few years.
2019	Student representative on a sub-committee of the post-Seeking Abraham Task Force to erect a statue of Joe Vaughn, Furman's first Black student, in an effort to reckon with the university's ties to slavery.
2019-2022	Library Circulation Student Assistant: Assisted with circulation tasks in the library.
2019-2022	Dins Dialogue facilitator: I led workshops with a co-facilitator on topics of identity, privilege, implicit bias, and sustainable community engagement for classes and student organizations across campus.
2019	Riley Institute Advance Team: Assisted with the implementation of events hosted through Furman University's Politics and International Affairs and Riley Institute.
2019-2021	Orientation Staff Peer Leader: I led groups of first year students through activities designed to help them build community and acclimate to college.

2019-2021 **Admissions Ambassador + MOSAIC Multicultural Ambassador:** Led prospective students and families on campus tours and spoke on panels and at other events as a representative of the school.

Awards

2022-2023 **George J. Mitchell Scholarship:** Awarded to only 12 students across the nation, the Mitchell Scholarship sends future American leaders to Ireland for a year-long masters degree of their choice. I will study Public History at Queen's University Belfast, academic year 2022-23, studying symbolism, rhetoric, public culture, and public spaces of gathering.

2022 **Donaldson Watkins for General Excellence Graduation Medal:** Awarded each year by the faculty to an outstanding senior graduate. The award is based on scholarship, general culture, participation in college activities and high moral character

2022 **President's Award:** Presented to the student(s) who, by general conduct and relationships with others, has exhibited high aspirations and noble humanitarian qualities of character.

2022 **Furman Fellow:** Given to five "outstanding seniors who make a difference in the school or the lives of others, bring creativity and imagination to their daily lives, demonstrate problem-solving abilities and have the respect of their peers and faculty." The award comes with \$10,000 to be put towards educational costs or continuing education.

2022 **Excellence in Poverty Studies Medal:** Presented to two graduating seniors for their achievements in the Poverty Studies minor.

2022 **Gilpatrick Nonfiction Award:** Presented to a graduating senior for their achievement in nonfiction writing through the major or courses in the English department.

2021 **Senior Order:** Furman University's Senior Order was established in 1937 as a select leadership organization for women. Selection is based on scholarship and character and includes criteria such as emotional maturity, open-mindedness, cooperativeness, unselfish service, integrity, and responsibility and humility in leadership. Election to the group is considered among the highest honors a Furman woman can receive.

2021 **Joan Lipscomb Award:** Awarded to the student who commits to fearless speech and action in the name of pluralism, justice, and equality. Comes with a grant that should be applied to the project or grant of the student's choosing, as an encouragement to continued advocacy on behalf of those whose voice has been silenced, erased, or denied power.

2018 **RainbowPUSH Profiles in Courage Award:** Presented at the annual MLK Gala by Jesse Jackson, the Profiles in Courage Award is presented to a member of the community who shows courage and dedication to their community. I was presented with this award for my effort to change the confederate namesake of my high school.

2018 **MLK Dreamer Scholarship:** Full tuition scholarship for one incoming freshman on the basis of leadership merit.

Study Abroad

Spring 2020 **Furman in India in Chennai, Kerala, & Pune, India:** a two month study abroad experience studying history and politics of India, child development and poverty, and global health inequities.

May 2019 **Narrative, Power, & Reckoning MayX in Kigali, Rwanda:** a three week experience studying conflict, reconciliation, and transformative justice in the context of the Genocide Against the Tutsis.

High School

2017-2018 **[Wade Hampton High School Petition](#):** Created a petition to change the name of my protected-confederate-monument-high-school and got involved in a larger conversation about confederate monuments, public history, and community narrative. I continue to be involved in this conversation and am involved with a larger student coalition to repeal the Heritage Act which protects confederate monuments in SC.

2017-2018 **Other advocacy:** Organized an educational youth walk-out against gun violence, also worked heavily with local Students Demand Action.
Co-founder of Homeless Period Project's Undie Cover Crew: A high school group that organized county-wide donations of underwear for young girls in Greenville County Schools.

2015-2018 **Fine Arts Center for Creative Writing and Film:** Published work in multiple online literary journals and print books; was a reader, social media editor, and managing editor for Crashtest Magazine; was a Peace Voices Poetry Ambassador under poet, Glenis Redmond; won many regional and national awards from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for my work in poetry and nonfiction.