

Tyrone Freeman

Research Interests:

- Philanthropy and higher education
- African American philanthropy
- Training & development in the nonprofit sector

Research Methodologies:

- Historical
- Qualitative methods

Tentative Dissertation Title: "The First Self-Made Female Millionaire: Locating Madam C.J. Walker in the American Philanthropic Traditions"

Primary Advisor: Dr. Nancy Robertson

Research Statement:

My dissertation provides a comprehensive historical analysis of Madam C.J. Walker as a specific African American female philanthropic expression within the history of American philanthropy. While some of her philanthropic activities have been examined by her biographers, this has occurred largely within a vacuum devoid of context from Philanthropic Studies. Consequently, we lack knowledge on how to situate Walker into the historical narrative as a black female entrepreneur who neither inherited her wealth—unlike many women philanthropists of her time—nor waited until late in life to redistribute it—unlike the many male philanthropists of her time. There is a need to bring Madam C.J. Walker fully into the fold of Philanthropic Studies and the historical narrative as an important example of an individual philanthropist whose race and gender forged a unique and significant model of giving that still exists today.

Personal Info:

I entered Philanthropic Studies as an outgrowth of my career as a fundraising professional. My work with nonprofit organizations and with donors has spawned numerous research questions. This field is the perfect match for my interests and passions.