

# Dr. Timothy E. Nelson- Biography

Dr. Timothy Nelson's dissertation, "The Significance of the Afro-Frontier in American History: Blackdom, Bawdyhouses, and Barratry in the Borderlands, 1900-1930," addresses and unpacks foundational issues in African American history, the history of the U.S. West, borderlands history and the history of African diasporas.

Dr. Nelson was born in South Central Los Angeles, raised in Compton, California during the early 1990s and went to Santa Monica Community College in the wake of race and class-based conflict with the Los Angeles Police Department. Dr. Nelson worked his way from Compton and Santa Monica Junior Colleges to New Mexico State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in U.S. History. Continuing to maintain ties with Compton, Dr. Nelson set up an admissions program to bring high schoolers from Compton to New Mexico State University. During his time completing a Master's degree in Black History at the University of Northern Iowa, Dr. Nelson also earned a commission as an Officer in the U.S. Army. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Dr. Nelson was also the Racial Justice Director at the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region—the largest YWCA in the United States. He is a proud charter member of his chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, whose motto is "Culture For Service and Service For Humanity."

Dr. Nelson has not only provided the most in-depth research on Blackdom to date, he has also challenged how the history has been framed, focusing on the economic and social ambitions of Black pioneers. Through his 2015 dissertation as well as his current outreach, Dr. Nelson's goal is uncovering and advocating for untold stories.

Dr. Nelson lives in Santa Fe, NM.

## Education:

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO, EL PASO, TX  
Ph.D. History, December 2015

QUARTERMASTER CENTER AND SCHOOL, FORT LEE, VA  
Quartermaster Official (United States Army Logistician),  
May 2005

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA, CEDAR FALLS, IA  
M.A. History, July 2004

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY, LAS CRUCES, NM  
B.A. History, May 2000

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SANTA MONICA, CA  
A.A. Liberal Arts, August 1997