

# NICOLAS MARTIN-BRETEAU

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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My primary research interests are race, athletics, and the body. I am currently at work on a Ph.D. dedicated to African American sport history between 1900 and 1970. I am interested in the social and political role of athletics; the history of the “racial uplift,” “self-help,” and “American dream” ideologies; the history of gender and the body; the construction of cultural identities; the history of race relations; urban and suburban history; the struggles for civic equality, social assimilation, and symbolic recognition in the 20<sup>th</sup>-century United States.

I am also pursuing research on the discourse on the alleged innate biological differences between the human “races.” I study this discourse when applied to athletic achievements and the body. My central concern is to understand how the biological racialization of physical achievements can be politically used to complete and reinforce the traditional discourse on the supposed racial differences in intelligence and I.Q. scores.

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## EDUCATION

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Expected 2012      Ph.D. in U.S. History (CENA, EHESS, Paris). Director: Dr. François Weil.

2009-2010      Visiting researcher at the University of Maryland, College Park. Grants from the Fulbright Program and the George Lurcy Educational and Charitable Trust.

2004      Post-M.A. degree (D.E.A.) in U.S. History (CENA, EHESS, Paris). With high honors. Thesis title: “*Basketball Politics*. Le basket-ball et la construction de l’identité africaine-américaine aux Etats-Unis, 1945-1980.” Director: Dr. François Weil.

M.A. in Political Science (Institut d’études politiques, Sciences-po, Paris). With high honors. Thesis title: “Reconnaître l’Autre. La politique de la pitié chez Rousseau.” Director: Dr. Astrid von Busekist.

2002      Agrégation in History. The Agrégation is a highly selective examination for teaching in high schools and at university: involves one year of preparation for four, seven-hour written exams on Ancient, Medieval, Modern, and Contemporary History, and Geography, and three oral exams (six-hour preparation for ½-hour performance).

- 2001 M.A. in French History (La Sorbonne University, Paris). With high honors. Thesis title: “L’idée de fraternité à la veille de la Révolution française. Essai sur la fraternité, les Lumières et Rousseau.” Director: Dr. Alain Cabantous.
- 2000 B.A. in History and Philosophy, Double major (La Sorbonne University, Paris).

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2010-11 Lecturer in North American History, La Sorbonne University, Paris. Undergraduate courses taught: “History of Contemporary North America”; “The Body, Culture, and Consumption: Social and Cultural History of North America, 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries.” Graduate Courses: “Initiation and Methods to Research in North American History.”
- 2009 Adjunct Faculty in North American History, La Sorbonne University, Paris. Undergraduate Courses: “The Culture of the Black Ghetto,” “Race Relations in Northern American Cities, 1880-1980”; Historical Methodology; Tutoring of students.
- 2005-09 Teacher of History and Geography in English sections: Classes in which students are taught partly in English (Jean-Baptiste-Corot High School, Savigny-sur-Orge).
- 2004-05 Teacher of History and Geography (Fénelon High School, Paris).

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## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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### Publications on the history and sociology of sport

- 2010 “‘Un laboratoire parfait ?’ Race, sport et génétique : le discours de la différence athlétique aux Etats-Unis,” *Sciences sociales et sports*, Vol. 3, June 2010, pp. 7-43.
- “Le sport et la race : *Taboo* et la réception du discours sur les aptitudes athlétiques des races aux Etats-Unis,” *Mouvement Social* (under review)
- “*The Great Equalizer ?* Le sport dans les luttes politiques des Noirs américains”, *Transatlantica*, Special Issue “Sport et Société aux Etats-Unis” (forthcoming)
- 2007 “*Basketball Politics* : éléments pour une socio-histoire du basket-ball africain-américain (1950-1980)” in F. Archambault, L. Artiaga & G. Bosc (ed.), *Double jeu : histoire du basket-ball entre France et Amériques*, Paris, Vuibert, 2007, pp. 197-212.

## Other publications

- 2008 « Le Nouvel ordre mondial depuis 1991 » in J. Grondeux (ed.), *Histoire Terminales L/ES/S, Le Monde, l'Europe, la France de 1945 à nos jours*, Paris, Bordas, 2008, pp. 100-129.
- 2007 “Du particulier à l’universel : la fondation de la cité humaine chez Rousseau”, *Sens Public*, url: <http://www.sens-public.org/spip.php?article498>
- “La Politique de la pitié chez Rousseau”, *Sens Public*, url: <http://www.sens-public.org/spip.php?article216>

## Presentations

- Oct. 14-15,  
2010 “Strength, Pride, and Rights: The African American Community and Sports, 1900-1970,” Second International Research Seminar for Young Americanists, Rome, Italy.
- April 16,  
2010 “Sport vs. Racism: Edwin Bancroft Henderson, the Fight for Equality in Athletics, and the Civil Rights Movement,” at the conference “‘Weighing In’ on Public Health: Physical Activity and the (Un)Healthy Body,” organized by the Kinesiology Department, University of Maryland, College Park.
- Feb. 19,  
2010 “Sport, Race, and Identity in 20<sup>th</sup>-century Washington, D.C. and Baltimore,” Graduate Student Workshop, University of Maryland, College Park.
- April 7,  
2009 “Le discours de la différence athlétique aux Etats-Unis,” at the CENA graduate student seminar, CENA, EHESS, Paris.
- March 4,  
2009 “Le basket-ball dans les luttes politiques des Noirs américains,” at the Réseau des Doctorants en Études Sportives (REDESP), Cité universitaire, Paris.
- Nov. 30,  
2005 “*Basketball Politics* : éléments pour une socio-histoire du basket-ball africain-américain (1950-1980),” at the international conference on “Le basket-ball entre France et Amérique au XX<sup>e</sup> siècle,” organized by the Centre d’Histoire Culturelle des Sociétés Contemporaines of the Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, the Institut National des Sports et de l’Éducation Physique, and the Fédération Française de Basket-ball, Paris.
- May 30,  
2003 Paper on “La communauté africaine-américaine et le basket-ball” at the graduate students symposium of the Annual Conference of the French Association for American Studies, Lille.

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## HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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- 2009-10 Lurcy and Fulbright scholarships to do archival research in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore and attend courses in American history and sports sociology. Host institution: University of Maryland, College Park. Tutor: Dr. David L. Andrews.

- 2003-04 Grant of the Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CROUS) of Paris to complete my post-M.A. research (D.E.A.) at the EHESS, Paris. Attributed according to merit criteria.
- 2001-02 Grant of the Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CROUS) of Paris to prepare the Agrégation in history at La Sorbonne University, Paris. Attributed according to merit criteria.

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## PERSONAL INTERESTS

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### Activities/volunteer work

To deepen my high school students' involvement in U.S. History and Culture, and to improve their speaking skills in English, I participated twice in **the "U.S. Embassy Speakers' Program"** (2008, 2009). American-born lecturers working at the Embassy come into the classroom and offer talks on international issues and U.S. foreign policy so that a long discussion can be set up with students. These themes are part of the official curriculum for the History and Geography Baccalauréat exams.

In parallel, I urged some of my students to apply for **the "Jeunes Ambassadeurs" program** under the aegis of the American Embassy (2008, 2009). The program allows youngsters from modest backgrounds to travel to the U.S. in order to discover American culture and politics. I helped them to get prepared. Three of them (out of 14 in the entire Région Ile-de-France) left France in late October-early November 2008 to follow the presidential election during a 2-week stay which led them from Washington, D.C., to a host family on the West coast. On November 18, 2008, I accompanied the "Jeunes Ambassadeurs" to the American Embassy in Paris to attend a reception given in their honor by Ambassador Craig Roberts Stapleton. In May 2009, another of my students was accepted in the program. She went to the U.S. in 2009.

### Hobbies and personal interests

I read a lot: I love literature, the social sciences, and philosophy, about which I blog. I like sharing my thoughts on my readings with people interested in literature and the social sciences.

I like sports: I have played basketball for 20 years. I played at the National level between the ages of 14 and 18. I have been an official referee of the Fédération Française de Basket-ball (FFBB). Today, I practice "trail running," which is a long running race (usually ranging from 30 to 180 km) taking place in natural settings, and "raid," an adventure race during which the competitors run, mountain bike, and canoe while orienteering.