Dr. Toussaint Losier - Bio

Dr. Toussaint Losier is an Assistant Professor in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Dr. Losier holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Chicago, with his research focusing on grassroots responses to the postwar emergence of mass incarceration in Chicago. At the UMass Amherst, he teaches courses on African American History, Black Politics, Criminal Justice policy, and transnational social movements. He is currently on leave as a visiting scholar at Harvard University’s Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History.

His writing has been published or is pending in *Souls*, *Radical History Review*, *The Journal of Urban* History, Against *the Current*, and *Left Turn Magazine*. He is co-author of *Rethinking the American Prison Movement* (Routledge) with Dan Berger and preparing a book manuscript tentatively titled, *War for the Cities: Mass Incarceration, Black Liberation and the Remaking of the Carceral State.*

A native of Philadelphia, PA, Mr. Losier is an honors graduate of Harvard University and has been recognized as a University of Chicago Century, a Ford Foundation Predoctoral, a Mellon Mays Dissertation fellow, a Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an Interdisciplinary Studies Institute fellow at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

In addition to his scholarly work, Dr. Losier has worked as a grassroots organizer with a variety of activist projects. Most recently, he has served as the Vice Chair of the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign, coordinating its direct outreach to homes in foreclosure as well as the legal defense of families at risk of eviction. He also sits on the board of Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP), a community organization based in Chicago’s Woodlawn neighborhood and has worked closely with its youth group successful organizing efforts in response to the mass incarceration of Black juveniles as well as the lack of adult trauma care on Chicago’s Southside.