

Rob Ruck

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Academic Background

Ph. D. History 1983 University of Pittsburgh; Thesis: "Sandlot Seasons: Sport in Black Pittsburgh," Adviser: Richard Smethurst
M. A. History 1977 University of Pittsburgh; Thesis: "The Origins of the Seniority System in Steel," Adviser: David Montgomery
B. A. Political Science 1972 Yale University (Departmental Honors, *Cum Laude*)

Teaching and Related Experience

2013— Professor of Transnational Sport History, University of Pittsburgh
2000—2012 Senior Lecturer, History, University of Pittsburgh
2012 Center Affiliate and Visiting Scholar, The Center for the Study of Sport and Leisure in Society, George Mason University
2006—2009 Advisory Group, Baseball Hall of Fame to create *Viva Beisbol!* exhibit on Latin American baseball
2008-2019 Editorial Board, *Black Ball: A Negro Leagues Journal*
2006 Special Committee to Elect Negro and Caribbean Leaguers to Baseball Hall of Fame
2002—2004 Guest Historian, Sen. John Heinz History Center (Museum of Sport History)
1990-2002 President, San Pedro Productions, Ltd.
1991—2000 Instructor, History, University of Pittsburgh
1997—2000 Adjunct Professor of History, Carnegie Mellon University
2003—2009 Board, Sports for Development
1991—2012 Faculty, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh
1999—2012 Advisory Board, Global Links
1998—2004 Pennsylvania Humanities Council
1990—1991 Assistant Professor of History, University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg
1989—1990 and 1993—1996 Instructor, History, Duquesne University
1983—1989 Assistant Professor of History at Chatham College
1975—1976 Producer, weekly public affairs show on WYEP-FM, Pittsburgh
1973—1974 Research Historian and Staff Writer for "Decades of Decision: The American Revolution," National Geographic Society, WQED, Pittsburgh

Books

Tropic of Football: The Long and Perilous Journey of Samoans to the NFL, The New Press, (July 2018)

Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game (Beacon Press: March 2011)

With Maggie Jones Patterson and Michael Weber, **Rooney: A Sporting Life**, (University of Nebraska Press: April 2010)

The Tropic of Baseball: Baseball in the Dominican Republic, (Westport: Meckler, 1991); (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1993); (With Afterword, University of Nebraska Press: 1999)

Sandlot Seasons: Sport in Black Pittsburgh, (Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1987), (With new preface, 1993)

With Steve Nelson and James R. Barrett, **Steve Nelson: American Radical**, (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1981 & 1992)

Documentaries

Roberto Clemente, Bernardo Ruiz/Director, (Released on PBS, April 2008) Advisor/participant.

The Republic of Baseball: Dominican Giants of the American Game, Producer, Writer; (Released on PBS, 2006-2007; featured presentation at the San Diego International Latino Film Festival, the New York International Latino Film Festival, the Boston International Latino Film Festival, The Santo Domingo Global Film Festival).

One Shot: The Life and Times of Teenie Harris, Project Historian, (Premiere, November 9, 2001)

Kings on the Hill: Baseball's Forgotten Men, (Project Director, Producer, & Writer); a 57-minute documentary about the Negro Leagues and the role of sport in the black community (released: May 1993) Broadcast NBC, July 25, 1995, WQED, 1993 — 1995, PBS affiliates & US Armed Forces Television, 1997-2001

Glory Days: The Industrial Baseball League of Cambria County, Writer & Historian, Portage Historical Society (1998)

Awards

PEN-ESPN Literary Sportswriting Award (Long List), **Tropic of Football: The Long and Perilous Journey of Samoans to the NFL**, The New Press, (July 2018)

PEN-ESPN Literary Sportswriting Award (runner-up), **Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game**, 2012

"African-American Historian of Pittsburgh," CMU's Center for African American Urban Studies and the Economy, September 10, 2010

Kings on the Hill: Baseball's Forgotten Men

--Emmy, Mid-Atlantic Region of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for Outstanding Cultural Programming, 1994

--Gold Apple, National Educational Film & Video Festival, 1994

--Certificate of Merit, San Francisco International Film Festival, 1994

--Certificate of Merit, International Communication Film & Video Festival, 1993

SABR's Robert Peterson Recognition Award, 1998

Golden Quills, 1993 & 1997 (The Press Club of Western Pennsylvania)

La Roche College Presidential Medal for Contributions to the Cultural and Social History of Pittsburgh, April 1993

MacMillan-SABR Award (1991) for **The Tropic of Baseball: Baseball in the Dominican Republic**

Black Image Achievement Award Triedstone Baptist Church, Aliquippa, 1989

Selected Grants

Provost's Grant (\$10,000) for *Mal Goode: The Mouth Almighty*, (a work-in-progress biography of the first African American to become a national network television correspondent, co-authored with Liann Tsoukas (2016)

Global Studies Center Faculty Grant (\$3,750) for "*Fa'a Samoa: Football on American Samoa and Among the Samoan Diaspora*" February 2012

Hewlett International Small Grant (\$1,965) for "*Fa'a Samoa: Football on American Samoa and Among the Samoan Diaspora*," University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, October 2011

World History Center Faculty Grant (\$2,000) for "Football on American Samoa and Among the Diaspora: *Fa'a Samoa* or NFL Hegemony?" April 2011

Hewlett International Small Grant (\$1,826) for "The Diamond Empire: Major League Baseball's Takeover in the Caribbean and Black America," University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, 2010

Hewlett International Small Grant (\$1,750) for "*Los Cocolos* de San Pedro de Macoris," University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2008

Central Research Development Fund (\$3,315) for "Art Rooney and the Pittsburgh Steelers," University of Pittsburgh, 2003

Hewlett International Small Grant (\$1,673) for "Republic of Baseball," University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, 2001

Heinz Endowments and other foundations (\$50,000) for **Pittsburgh: A City and Its People**, with Edward K. Muller (work-in-progress) 1998-1999

National Endowment for the Arts/AFI Mid-Atlantic Region Media Arts Fellowship (\$2,000) for "The Tropic of Baseball: A Documentary," 1994

National Endowment for the Arts/AFI Mid-Atlantic Region Media Arts Fellowship (\$2,000) for "Kings on the Hill: Baseball's Forgotten Men," 1991

Grants totaling over \$200,000 for the making and distribution of **Kings on the Hill: Baseball's Forgotten Men** including: Pennsylvania Humanities Council (June 1990 and June 1992); Media Division, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (July 1990 and June 1992); Challenge Grants from The Pittsburgh and Heinz Foundations (June 1990 and June 1992); the Westinghouse Foundation,

The Giant Eagle Foundation, The Maurice Falk Medical Fund, The Hunt Foundation, The Laurel Foundation, The Eberly Foundation, BridgeBuilders, Duquesne Light Company, and Major League Baseball

Advanced Research Grant from the Latin American and Caribbean Division of the Social Science Research Council (\$12,650), "A Social History of Baseball in the Caribbean: The Dominican Republic," September 1987 — September 1988

Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities, (\$1,500) "A Social History of Baseball in the Caribbean: The Dominican Republic," June 1987 — September 1987

Co-Director (with David Montgomery) Research Division Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$16,708) "More Than A Minstrel Show: Baseball in the Black Community," May 1980 — April 1981

Project Co-Director with James Barrett, National Endowment for the Humanities Youthgrant, \$3,410) "The Nelson Project," May 1978 — April 1979

Selected Publications

"The Tropic of Baseball: Dominican Talent and the MLB," *Australian Outlook*, February 27, 2020; <http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/the-tropic-of-baseball-dominican-talent-and-the-mlb/>

"On the 100th anniversary of the Negro Leagues, a look back at what was lost," *The Conversation*, February 13, 2020; <https://theconversation.com/on-the-100th-anniversary-of-the-negro-leagues-a-look-back-at-what-was-lost-129678>

"I traveled to American Samoa 5 times to study the secret to its football success," *The Conversation*, August 8, 2019; <https://theconversation.com/i-traveled-to-american-samoa-5-times-to-study-the-secret-to-its-football-success-118680>

"The promise and peril of the Dominican baseball pipeline," *The Conversation*, March 25, 2019; <https://theconversation.com/the-promise-and-peril-of-the-dominican-baseball-pipeline-113242>

"The Samoan Way of Football," *Wall Street Journal*, July 20, 2018
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-samoan-way-of-football-1532094948> (behind a firewall)

"The Roots of Samoans' Rise to Football Greatness," *Zócalo Public Square*
August 8, 2018 (subsequently carried by other publications including the *Smithsonian Magazine*:
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/why-samoans-are-so-overrepresented-nfl-180969935/>

"NFL should help American Samoa improve football programs," *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, October 9, 2018.

"The East West Classic: Black America's Baseball Fiesta," **Separate Games: African American Sport behind the Walls of Segregation**, Eds. David K. Wiggins and Ryan A. Swanson, The University of Arkansas Press, 2017. (Winner of the North American Society for Sport History best edited volume).

“Baseball’s Global Diffusion,” eds. Robert Edelman and Wayne Wilson, **Oxford Handbook of Sports History**, 2017.

“Race & Ethnicity in American Sport,” John Nauright and David Wiggins, eds., **Routledge Handbook of Race and Ethnicity in Sport**, 2017

“Cold War Baseball in the Caribbean,” Robert Edelman and Christopher Young, eds., **The Global History of Sport in the Cold War**, Stanford University Press (forthcoming).

“Football’s Bittersweet Polynesian Moment,” Salon.com.
http://www.salon.com/2016/02/05/footballs_polynesian_moment_samoas_athletic_outliers_are_paying_a_steep_price_for_their_commitment_to_the_game/

“Roberto Clemente: Transcending Nation,” in **Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American (National Museum of American Jewish History)**: 2014 in press).

“Response to the State of the Field of Sport History,” *Journal of American History*, 2014 in press).

“Caribbean Baseball: At a Crossroads,” *ReVista, the Harvard Review of Latin America*, Spring 2012.

“Baseball’s Recruitment Abuses,” *Americas Quarterly*, Summer 2011, pp. 96-102.

Co-authored with Maggie Patterson, “When Labor Peace Meant Prosperity for All,” *New York Times*, September 11, 2011.

“Where Have All the African-American Baseball Players Gone,” *Salon.com*, March 5, 2011.

“From Sandlots to the Super Bowl,” for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, February 6, 2011.

Chapters 8 & 9, “Recovery and Demise,” and “Crossing the Color Line,” in **Shades of Glory: The Negro Leagues and the Story of African American Baseball**, (ed. Lawrence Hogan, National Geographic, Washington, D. C.: 2006).

With Alex Ruck, “The Negro Leagues and the Contradictions of Social Darwinism,” in Eric Bronson, ed., **Baseball and Philosophy: Thinking Outside the Batter’s Box**, (Open Court, New York: 2004).

“Sport and Black Pittsburgh, 1900—1930,” in Patrick B. Miller and David K. Wiggins, Eds, **Sport and the Color Line: Black Athletes and Race Relations in Twentieth Century America** (Routledge, New York: 2004)

“Art Rooney and the Pittsburgh Steelers,” and “Harold Tinker” chapters in **Pittsburgh Sports: Stories of the Steel City**, (University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh: 2000)

“Baseball and Community” From Pittsburgh’s Hill to San Pedro’s Canefields,” *NINE*, Summer 1998

“Democracy in Our Backyard: The Presidential Election in the Dominican Republic,” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, June 30, 1996

“Unequal Opportunity: Black Pittsburgh,” *Pittsburgh*, September 1995

“Three Kings Day in Consuelo: Cricket, Baseball, and the *Cocolos* in San Pedro de Macoris,” *Studies in Latin American Popular Culture*, pp. 129-42, (Vol. 13, 1994)

“Remembering Roberto: Clemente and His Legacy,” *Pittsburgh*, December 1992

“Japanese Turning Dominican *Beisbol* into *Besuboru*,” July 21, 1992 *The Washington Post*

“Juan Marichal: Baseball in the Dominican Republic,” *Baseball History 3: An Annual of Original Baseball Research*, ed. Peter Levine (Westport: Meckler, 1990) pp. 49-70

“A Celebration of Sport: Baseball, Race, and Community in San Pedro de Macoris,” *Urban Resources*, Vol. 5, No. 3, Spring 1989, pp. 9-14

“Baseball in the Caribbean,” **Total Baseball** ed. John Thorn (New York: Warner Communications, 1989, updates, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999)

“*La Flor y Nata del Atletismo Hemisferico: Los Juegos Panamericanos*,” *Americas*, July — August 1987)

“*El Beisbol en El Caribe*,” *Americas*, September-October 1986

Selected Papers and Presentations

A Symposium on **The Tropic of Football: The Long and Perilous Journey of Samoans to the NFL**, with Theodora Polamalu, Penny Semaia, Rich Scaglione, Marcus Rediker, and Rob Ruck, hosted by the Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, September 20, 2019.

“The Republic of Play in Pittsburgh and American Samoa,” Inaugural Nathaniel Winschel Memorial Lecture, The Winchester Thurston School, Pittsburgh, April 15, 2019.

“High School Football Micro-cultures of Excellence: A Tale of Three Schools,” as part of the “Race, Ethnicity, and Sport in the Age of Global Capital” Session, May 28, 2019, North American Society for Sport History, Winnipeg, Canada.

Moderator, “Memory, Sport, and Public History” session, May 28, 2019, North American Society for Sport History, Winnipeg, Canada.

“Baseball Americana: Inside Baseball Panel,” The Library of Congress, July 13, 2018.

Book Launch Lecture, **Tropic of Football** at Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures, Carnegie Library, July 26, 2018.

ʻIolani School presentations, October 11, 2018, Honolulu, HI. (This and the following presentations all dealt with **Tropic of Football** and related questions.)
Fagaʻitua High School, Tutuila, American Samoa, October 12, 2018.

Samoana High School, Tutuila, American Samoa, October 15, 2019.
Feleti Barstow Library, Tutuila, American Samoa, October 15, 2019.
Presentation at the University of Hawai`i Manoa sponsored by the History Department, October 17, 2019.
Presentation to the football team and staff, University of Hawai`i, October 17 2019.
Presentation at Brigham Young University Hawai`i, La`ie, October 18, 2019.

“Distinguished Visiting Scholar: Presentation at the University of Hawai`i West O`ahu

“The Tropic of Football and the Republic of Play,” the John R. Betts Honors Address, North American Society for the Study of History Convention, California State University Fullerton, May 27, 2017.

“That’s Not What We Do Here! Censorship and (In)valid Academic Interests,” Center for the Humanities, Temple University Graduate Fellows Conference, March 29, 2017.

“Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game,” 21st Annual Arturo A. Schomburg Symposium, “Sports and Blackness: Inclusion?” *Taller Puertorriqueno*, February 25, 2017.

“Baseball, Race, and the Caribbean Basin,” Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Newcastle University, October 20, 2016.

“American Football and Fa’a Samoa,” History Department, Newcastle University, October 19, 2016, Research Seminar, October 20, 2016.

“Cold War Baseball in the Caribbean,” at “The Global History of Sport in the Cold War” conference, October 23-24, 2016, New York University.

Speaker at screening of *In Football We Trust*, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Anthropology, March 23, 2016.

Speaker for the Smithsonian premiere of *The Hammer of Hank Aaron*, a Black History Month Celebration sponsored by Comcast Pittsburgh, Major League Baseball, and the Senator John Heinz History Center, February 29, 2016.

Speaker at screening of “*Kings on the Hill: Baseball’s Forgotten Men*,” Mt. Lebanon Public Library, February 25, 2016.

Wrap-up Commentator, “Perspectives on African Americans in Pittsburgh, 20 Years Later,” CAUSE, CMU, February 5-6, 2016.

Keynote Address at the Presidential Luncheon, North American Society for Sport Marketing, Pittsburgh, May 30, 2014.

“Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game,” 2014 Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources, Eastern Region Conference, Pittsburgh, June 17, 2014.

“Rooney: A Sporting Life,” Cumberland Woods Village, September 23, 2014.

“The Tropic of Football: *Fa’a Samoa* and the American Game,” Pacific Studies Forum, University of Hawai’i-Manoa, Honolulu, HI., November 14, 2014.

“Raceball,” as part of the DESIRE (Diversity Education Scholars Involved In Reaching & Educating) Series at Otterbein University, February 16, 2015.

“Dominican Baseball at the Crossroads,” at “Labor, Entertainment, & Sports: An Intersectional and Interdisciplinary Inquiry,” The UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, April 17 & 18, 2015.

“Sport, Race, and Pittsburgh,” Black History Month, PNC, February 22, 2012, Pittsburgh.

“Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game,” Perlman Roundtable on January 13, 2012, University of Pittsburgh.

Roundtable: Historical Perspectives on Sport and the Global South Plenary, with Alan Cobley, University of the West Indies Cave Hill, Steven Pope, George Mason University, Rob Ruck University of Pittsburgh; November 16, 2011 at “Sport and Global South: Linking Theory and Practice,” Academy of International Sport, George Mason University.

“*Fa’a Samoa*: Football on American Samoa and Among the Samoan Diaspora,” November 16, 2011 at “Sport and Global South: Linking Theory and Practice,” Academy of International Sport, George Mason University.

“Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game,” Bucknell University, November 10, 2012.

“Race and Baseball,” Enoch Pratt Free Memorial Library, Baltimore, November 6, 2011.

Raceball Symposium, University of Pittsburgh, September 15, 2011 (Reid Andrews, Sean Gibson, Lara Putnam, Laurent DuBois commented on the book. I responded to their comments.

Seminars and lectures about “Baseball, Race, and the Caribbean,” February 21-25, 2011 in Nicaragua at the invitation of the U. S. Embassy, including “Afroamericanos, Latinos Y el Béisbol de las Grandes Ligas Más Allá de la Frontera: Deporte, Raza Y Ethnicidad, Instituto Nicaragüense de Cultura Hispanica, Fundacion Salón de la Fama del Deporte Nicaragüense.

“Redeeming the Latin Game,” and a “Conversation with Pedro Martínez: Baseball’s Impact on Development and Social Change in the Americas,” at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D. C. on March 25, 2011.

“Gift or Curse: Dominican Talent and Major League Baseball,” at the National Dominican Student Conference at Yale University, New Haven, April 9, 2011.

Remarks at a screening of “*The Republic of Baseball: Dominican Giants of the American Game*,” hosted by FUNGLODE (*La Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo*) and a post-screening discussion at the School of the Visual Arts in New York City on April 16, 2011.

Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game at the Negro Leagues Museum in Kansas City on April 23, 2011.

“Race and Micro-cultures of Sporting Excellence: The *Cocolos* of San Pedro de Macorís,” Sport, Race and Ethnicity: Building a Global Understanding, November 30 through December 2, 2008 in Sydney, Australia.

Keynote remarks for opening of “*Nos vemos en el play: Béisbol y cultural en la República Dominicana*” exhibit on the history of Dominican baseball at *Centro Cultural Eduardo Leon Jimenes*, Santiago, Dominican Republic

"The Tropic of Baseball," Fourth Annual Montesinos Lecture, Montesinos Center, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, March 26, 2001

Chair and Commentator: “The Wide World of Sports: Globalization, Nation, and Neo-Colonialism in American and European Sports,” American Studies Association, Detroit, October 12, 2000

“*Beisbol: The Caribbean Pastime*,” The Caribbean and the United States Since 1898: 100 Years of Transformation, Hunter College, October 14, 1998

Commentator, “Living Dolls, the Golden Boy, and *El Jefe* Corky: Boxing, Ethnicity, Citizenship and Gender in American Communities,” American Historical Association Meetings, January, 1998, Seattle, WA.

“Where We Stand: African American Life in Pittsburgh in the 1990s,” Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy, CMU, April 10, 1997.

Keynote Address, Nine Conference, “Baseball and Community: From Pittsburgh’s Hill to San Pedro’s Canefields,” March 7, 1997, Phoenix, AZ

“The Cultural Significance of the Negro Leagues,” American Studies Association, panel with Gerald Early, Buck O’Neil, Ken Burns, and David Bradley, Pittsburgh, PA, October 1995.

Presentation and discussion of **Kings on the Hill: Baseball’s Forgotten Men** at a session of the American Historical Association Meetings, January 1995, Chicago, IL, with Richard Blackett and Earl Lewis.

“Baseball and Race,” Minority Scholars Initiative, Central Missouri State University, September 27, 1994

“Recapturing the Past: Sport and the African-American Community,” Amateur Athletic Foundation, Los Angeles, February 1, 1994

“Kings on the Hill: Baseball’s Forgotten Men,” Closing Address for the “Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson” exhibit at the Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, NY, June 15, 1992

“Three Kings Day in Consuelo,” Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and Culture, June 1991, Cooperstown, NY

“Sugar, Bananas, and Baseball: Industrial Sport in the Dominican Republic,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, April 13, 1991, Louisville, KY

“From Reconstruction of the Negro Leagues to Assessing their Meaning,” at “Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson: Black Baseball and America in the Era of the Color Line,” Baltimore, MD, April 27, 1990

“Baseball and the Making of Dominican Consciousness,” Midwest Association for Latin American Studies, November 7, 1987. Chicago, IL

Professional Memberships

North American Society for the Study of Sport History, American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, PEN America, Senator John Heinz History Center

Selected Consulting

Sen. John Heinz History Center (Museum of Sport History), Josh Gibson Foundation, and Cameroon Football Development Program (ongoing)
ESPN *Desportes*, “*El Efecto Clemente*,” 2012
MLB Productions, “Clemente,” 2012
Pittsburgh Pirates, Creation of Legacy Square installation at PNC Park 2006
Showtime, “Finding Buck McHenry,” April 2000 release
The University of Memphis, “Black Diamonds, Blues City: Stories of the Memphis Red Sox,” 1997 release
HBO, “Soul of the Game,” April 1996 release
ESPN, “Second to None,” October 1994 release (JCM Productions)
Negro Leagues Museum, 1994, Kansas City, MO
The Sports Ryu-Dan, ABC, Osaka, a documentary on the Negro Leagues, 1989
Pittsburgh Pirates, “Celebration of the Negro Leagues in Pittsburgh,” 1988