

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with V. P. Franklin

PERSON

Franklin, V. P. (Vincent P.), 1947-

**Alternative Names:** V. P. Franklin;

**Life Dates:** October 19, 1947-

**Place of Birth:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

**Residence:** New Orleans, Louisiana

**Occupations:** Education Professor

## Biographical Note

Historian V. P. Franklin was born on October 19, 1947 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Cecilia Smith and Vincent Franklin. He received his B.A. degree in history in 1969 from Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania, his M.A. degree in teaching in 1970 from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and his Ph.D. degree in the history of education in 1975 from the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.

Franklin taught in several Boston, Cambridge, and Philadelphia public schools and colleges before receiving his Ph.D. degree. He then joined the faculty of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign before being hired as a professor of the history of education at Yale University in 1977. In 1985, Franklin served as a scholar-in-residence at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library before accepting a position as a professor at Arizona State University in Tempe. In 1990, Franklin joined the faculty of Drexel University in Philadelphia. He held subsequent faculty positions at Teachers College, Columbia University; Xavier University of Louisiana; Uppsala University; Dillard University; and the University of California, Riverside, from which he retired in 2015 as Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History and Education. Franklin directed African American Studies programs at Yale, Arizona State, and Drexel universities. From 2001 to 2018, Franklin served as the editor of The Journal of African American History.

Franklin is the author of five books: The Education of Black Philadelphia (1979), Black Self-Determination (1984), Living Our Stories, Telling Our Truths (1996), Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Biography (1998), and The Young Crusaders (2021). He has co-edited six books.

Franklin has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Carter G. Woodson Medallion for Outstanding Achievement in African American History from the Association for the Study of African American History in 2002, the Cheikh A. Diop-Ida B. Wells Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Africana Studies from the National Council of Black Studies in 2011, and the Outstanding Alumnus Award from Penn State University in 2020.

Franklin lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

V. P. Franklin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 16, 2022.

## Related Entries

**Most Precious Blood Roman Catholic Church, Rectory and Parochial School**

[STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Saint John Neumann High School** [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Central High School** [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Pennsylvania State University** [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**Harvard Graduate School of Education** [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

**M.A.**

**University of Chicago** [STUDENTOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D.**

**Various Schools and Colleges** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1969 to 1971]

**Instructor**

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1975 to 1977]

**Professor**

**Yale University** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1977 to 1985]

**Professor**

**Schomburg Center** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1985 to 1986]

**Scholar-in-Residence**

**Arizona State University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1986 to 1990]

**Professor**

**Drexel University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1990 to 2000]

**Professor**

**Teachers College, Columbia University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2000 to 2005]

**Professor**

**Xavier University of Louisiana** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2000 to 2002]

**Rosa and Charles Keller Professor of Arts and Humanities**

**The Journal of African American History** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2001 to 2019]

**Editor**

**Uppsala University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2004 to 2005]

**Fulbright Commission's Uppsala Chair in American Studies at the Swedish  
Institute for North American Studies**

**Dillard University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2005 to 2007]

**Revius O. Ortique Endowed Chair in Politics, Historical Inquiry, and Social  
Thought**

**University of California, Riverside** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2007 to 2015]

**Distinguished Professor of History and Education**

**Various Editorial Boards** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**American Educational Research Association** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2000 to ?]

**Member**

**Organization of American Historians** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1977 to ?]

**Member**

**American Historical Association** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1978 to ?]

**Member**

, V. P. Franklin Papers (TBD), Penn State University. ,