

Rob Ruck
Department of History
3517 Posvar Hall
University of Pittsburgh
412-648-7539 (O) rucco@pitt.edu

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

2022-2024 Advisory Group, Hall of Fame *Souls of the Game: Voices of Black Baseball* exhibit
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, Hall of Fame *Viva Beisbol!* exhibit
2008-2012 Editorial Board,
2006 Special Committee to Elect Negro 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
1998—2004 Pennsylvania Humanities Council
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," National Geographic Society, WQED, Pittsburgh

Books

Mal Goode Reporting: The Life and Work of a Black Broadcast Liann Tsoukas & Rob Ruck, (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2024)

Pittsburgh Rising: From Fronter Town to Steel City, Edward Mullerl & Rob Ruck (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2023)

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

The League, Sam Pollard/Director, Magnolia Films 2023) Advisor/participant

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, (2001)

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

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

Awards

*Henry Chadwick Award, Society for American Baseball Research, 2026

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

*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, 1988