16th Annual
Graduate Conference in African American History
Graduate Association of African American History
The Department of History
The University of Memphis
February 11-13, 2015
All events in the University Center

Each panelist is allowed 20 minutes to present their paper and 10 minutes for a question and answer session. Commentators are allowed 30 minutes total to make commentaries on all presentations.
DAY 1- Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Session 1: 8:30 am - 10:30 am
Identity and Culture in African American Culture

Memphis Room (UC 340)
Chair: MS. LE’TTRICE DONALDSON, The University of Memphis

John Brown, Ohio State University, “Untying the Bootstraps: Jesse Binga, the Frontier West, and the Myth of American Individualism.”


Yaeko Takada, The University of Mississippi, “Blackface Musicians in Minstrelsy.”

Commentator:
DR. DERRICK LANOIS, Lane College

Session 2: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Social Policy and the Binaries of Politics against Social Change

Fountain View Board Room (UC 352)
Chair: Mr. James Conway, The University of Memphis

Brian Hamilton, The University of Wisconsin-Madison, “Sowing and Reaping on Davis Bend.”


Commentator:
DR. W. CHRIS JOHNSON, University of Memphis, Department of History
Break For Lunch 12:30 pm - 1:15 pm

Presenters, Chairs, Commentators--please go to GAAAH table for University Center Food Court meal vouchers.

Session 3: 1:15 pm - 3:15 pm
Religion within African American Culture

Memphis Room (UC 340)

Chair: MS. ANDREA RINGER, The University of Memphis


Ovell Hamilton, Georgia State University, “The Latter Third Great Awakening Church of God in Christ Holy Ghost Power and Political Power.”


Melissa Ford, Saint Louis University, “A Bible in One Hand, a Brick in the Other: The 1933 St. Louis Nut Pickers Strike and Black Radicalism in the American Heartland.”

Commentator:
Dr. Shirletta J. Kinchen, University of Louisville, Pan-African Studies Department
Session 4: 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Manhood, Militancy, and State Power

River Room (UC 300)

Chair: Ms. Le’Trice Donaldson, The University of Memphis

Elizabeth Lambert, Middle Tennessee State University, “The Harlem Hellfighters and the Politics of Black Manhood during World War II.”

Nathan Seeley, Florida International University, “We are Men: Black Militarism and Masculinity.”


Commentator:
Dr. Eddie Yancey, The University of Memphis

DAY 2- Thursday, February 12, 2015

Session 5: 8:30 am - 10:30 am
Aspects of Colonialism in the African Diaspora

Memphis Room (UC 340)

Chair: Dr. Kaylin Ewing, The University of Memphis

Benjamin Linzy, Murray State University, “Colonialists and Captives: Reactions to European Colonial Expansion.”

Steven Knowlton, The University of Memphis, “Flags of New World Slave Risings.”

Commentator:
Dr. Earnestine Jenkins, The University of Memphis, Department of Art
Session 6: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Race and Public Space

River Room (UC 340)

CHAIR: DR. KAYLIN EWING, The University of Memphis

Katie King, The University of Mississippi, “The Sweet Auburn Curb Market: The Search For Contested Space and Cultural Resistance in the City too Busy to Hate.”

Lindsey Reynolds, The University of Mississippi, “Mississippi’s Living Monument: The Public History of Po’ Monkey’s.”


Kimberly F. Monroe, Grambling State University, “The Many Roles of Free and Enslaved Black Women during the American Civil War: 1861-1865”

COMMENTATOR:
DR. EDWARD SALO, Arkansas State University, Department of History
Dr. Daniel Matlin, Ph.D.
Lecturer in the History of the United States of America since 1865
King’s College London

“Daniel Matlin’s research centres on the relationship between race and intellectual life in the United States during the twentieth century. He is interested in the ways in which the ongoing construction of race has shaped the experience of being an intellectual in America, and also in the ways in which American intellectuals have shaped the meanings attached to race, both in specialised fields of knowledge and in American culture at large. His book *On the Corner: African-American Intellectuals and the Urban Crisis* (Harvard University Press, 2013) explores the role which African-American intellectuals played during the 1960s and early 1970s as interpreters of black urban life to various white American publics. His current research concerns the intellectual history of Harlem during the twentieth century and the relationships between race, place and intellectual life. He also has related interests in urban history and the histories of jazz, gender ideologies, Pan-Africanism and black diasporic identities.”

**Bluff Room (UC 304)**
11:15 am – 12:00 pm Lunch
12:15 pm - 12:45 pm Lecture
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm Book Signing
Roundtable: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Discussion on Recent Social Activism

Memphis Room (UC 340)
Moderator: Dr. Kaylin Ewing, The University of Memphis

Participants:

Dr. David L. Acey, Sr., The University of Memphis, Emeritus Faculty, African American Rhetoric and Interracial Communication, Department of Communication. From 1979 to 1985, he was the Director of African American Studies. His focus has been to develop strategies to encourage participation in civic and public life, and to improve communication skills and race relations from a multi-cultural perspective.

Dr. Earnestine Jenkins, The University of Memphis, Associate Professor of Art. Her research and areas of interest include Art and visual cultures of Africa and the African Diaspora; African American cinema; art and politics in 19th and 20th century Ethiopia; race, gender, and representation within the context of colonialism and empire; African American photographers and photographic culture; masculinity and representation; history of African Americans in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. Andre Johnson, Memphis Theological Seminary, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric & Religion and African American Religious Studies. Ongoing research projects explore the nexus between rhetoric, theology and the Bible, urban ministry and theology, religion and politics, the religious rhetoric of Barack Obama, religion and media and more recently, the prophetic rhetoric of W.E.B. Du Bois.

Ms. Jayanni Webster, Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training, Christian Brothers University. She has conducted research in Uganda on peace education programs and public health. Her work throughout Tennessee with Put the People First Campaign pulls from the traditions of intersectionality, Black feminism, and popular education.

A roundtable discussion about the significance surrounding social activism related to the killings of black males by police. Commentary from key scholars from local institutions. A question and answer session will follow.
Presentation of “Memphis State Eight” Paper Prize Awards  
Jeffery L. Jones, President, GAAAH

Keynote Address
Introduction by Dr. W. Chris Johnson, Department of History

Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., Ph.D.
Princeton University

William S. Tod Professor of Religion and African American Studies, 
Department of Religion
Chair, Center for African American Studies

“The Values Gap:  
Race and Contemporary American Politics.”


Dr. Glaude is a founding member and Senior Fellow of the Jamestown Project—a diverse action-oriented think tank of new leaders who reach across boundaries and generations to make democracy real. www.jamestownproject.org  He has appeared on the Tavis Smiley Show, Fox TV's Hannity and & Colmes Show, CNN, and C-SPAN. He is a contributor to the Huffington Post and is a regular contributor and panelist during the State of the Black Union.

UC Ballroom
6:00 pm Reception, UC Ballroom Lobby  
6:30 pm Keynote Address, Introduction by Dr. W. Chris Johnson  
7:45-8:15 pm Book Signing, UC Ballroom Lobby
Day 3 Friday, February 13, 2015

Session 7:  8:30 am - 10:30 am
Race and Place, Social Activism and Civil Rights

River Room (UC 300)

Chair: Ms. Micki Kaleta, The University of Memphis

Precious Vines, Jackson State University, “Bob Moses, COFO, and the Ending of Slavery by Another Name.”

Khalil A. Johnson Jr., Yale University, “‘An Outcast and a Stranger in Mine Own House’: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Problem of Settler Colonialism.”

Pamela Walker, University of New Orleans, “‘Praying, working, studying to stop this war in our land’: The Mississippi Box Project’s Initiative to Alleviate Poverty and Build Interracial Friendships During the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement.”


Commentator:
Dr. Ann Mulhearn, The University of Memphis, Department of History

Lunch and Discussion Panel on Academic Publishing
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Mr. Thomas Wells
Acquisitions Editor, University of Tennessee Press

River Room (UC 300)

Please join us for an informal roundtable discussion about strategies for success in publishing. A questions and answer session will follow presentation.

Moderator:
Dr. Michele Coffey, The University of Memphis, Department of History
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**Wednesday**
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- **Session 2**: **SOCIAL POLICY AND THE BINARIES OF POLITICS AGAINST SOCIAL CHANGE**
- **Session 3**: **RELIGION WITHIN AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE**
- **Session 4**: **MANHOOD, MILITANCY, AND STATE POWER**
- **Session 5**: **ASPECTS OF COLONIALISM IN THE AFRICAN DIASPORA**
- **Session 6**: **RACE AND PUBLIC SPACE**
- **Session 7**: **DISCUSSION ON RECENT SOCIAL ACTIVISM**
- **Session 8**: **MEMPHIS STATE EIGHT**
- **Session 9**: **PAPER PRIZE AWARDS AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
- **Session 10**: **RACE AND PLACE, SOCIAL ACTIVISM AND CIVIL RIGHTS**
- **Session 11**: **ACADEMIC PUBLISHING**
Graduate Association for African American History

http://www.memphis.edu/history/gaaah/


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CHAIR

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dr. Aram Goudsouzian
agoudszn@memphis.edu
The Department of History invites students interested in African American History to consider our graduate program. Our main specialists in the field include Beverly Bond, who examines the ways that 19th-century African-American women negotiated the boundaries of race, class, and gender in the urban South, with a particular focus on Memphis; Aram Goudsouzian, who has written biographies of the actor Sidney Poitier and the basketball star Bill Russell, along with a narrative history of the 1966 Meredith March Against Fear; Christopher Johnson, who researches the transnational networks of 20th century black revolutionaries such as George Padmore, C.L.R. James, Claudia Jones, and Kwame Ture; and Susan O’Donovan, who focuses on the history of enslaved women and men, the Civil War, emancipation, and Reconstruction as regional, national, and transnational phenomena. Our department features a number of other scholars interested in the histories of labor, race, gender, politics, women, and the economy who have written upon such subjects as race and the family in post-war Chicago, the merchant economy of 19th century New Orleans, oral history and colonialism in west Africa, and the work of French Caribbean revolutionaries.

Please see www.memphis.edu/history/faculty for more details.

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