

**The Eighth Annual Conference  
of the  
Graduate Association for African-American History**

**From Slavery to Freedom:  
The African American Experience  
From Africa to the Americas**

September 13 through September 15, 2006

*Sponsored by*  
The University of Memphis  
Office of the President, President Shirley Raines  
Graduate Association for African-American History  
Students Activities Council  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Department of History  
The University of Memphis Foundation, Inc.  
African and African American Studies  
Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change  
Graduate History Association

Conference Sessions: Fogelman Executive Center  
Thursday, September 14 and Friday, September 15

Thursday morning	Session 1	8:30-9:45	The African-American Quest for Identity	323
			African Americans in the Westward March	325
			Preserving African-American Heritage	326
	Session 2	10:15-11:30	Beacons of Hope in Rural America and the White House	323
			Am I not a Woman? Intersections of Race and Gender	325
			Voices of Protest through Literature	326
LUNCH		11:30-1:30		
Thursday afternoon	Session 3	1:45-3:00	MEMPHIS STATE EIGHT Public Forum	136/Ampitheatre
	Session 4	3:15-4:30	Calls for Social Justice: From the Mississippi Cotton Fields to the West Virginia Coal Mines	323
			Reconfiguring the Black Identity through Narratives during the 1930s	325
			The Struggle for Racial Equality in Michigan During the Civil Rights Movement	326
<b>Thursday evening</b>	<b>7:00-8:30</b>		<b>Keynote Address: "Civil Rights Histories" Dr. John Dittmer*</b>	<b>136/Ampitheatre</b>
Friday morning	Session 1	8:30-9:45	Influential Local Black Leaders	323
			White Backlash	325
	Session 2	10:15-11:30	From the Slave Ship to the Chain Gang: The Politics of Gender, Resistance and Freedom in the African Diaspora	326
			Northern Race Relations during the First Half of the Nineteenth Century	323
			Red, Black and Green: Black Revolutionaries and Activist	325
LUNCH		11:30-12:30		
Friday afternoon	12:30-1:30		AWARDS PRESENTATION	136/Ampitheatre
	Session 3	1:45-3:00	ROUNDTABLE: Hurricane Katrina	136/Ampitheatre
	Session 4	3:15-4:30	Illusion of Justice in the Antebellum South	323
			The Complexity of Slavery and Religion	325
			Men and Women of Faith Fighting for African-American Equality	326

\*John Dittmer is professor emeritus of history at DePauw University. His most recent book, *Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi* (1994), won the Bancroft Prize. He is currently researching the Medical Committee for Human Rights, a group of health care professionals active not only in the Deep South at the height of the civil rights movement but also as part of the New Left during the late 1960s and 1970s.

**Welcome to the  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the  
Graduate Association for African-American History**

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

**Registration**

**Fogelman Executive Center**

3:00 -7:00pm

**Opening Reception**

**Holiday Inn**

Wilson Gallery

5:30-6:30pm

**Celebration Dinner for “Memphis State Eight”**

**Holiday Inn**

Grand Ball Room

7:00-9:00pm

**Keynote Address**

**“Civil Rights Histories: Southern Community Studies and their Critics”**

**Dr. John Dittmer**

**DePauw University**

Thursday September 14, 2006

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Fogelman Executive Center

Amphitheater (Room 136)

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2006**

**SESSION 1**

**8:30 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.**

Fogelman Executive Center Room 323

**The African-American Quest for Identity**

**Presiding – Janann Sherman, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*Information, Domination, and Resistance: Black Radical Networks, Communism, and Anti-Imperialism in the 1930s*

Marc C. Goulding, New York University

*African Ancestral Influences in African American Personhood: A Structural Analysis*

William D. Banks, Wayne State University

Fogelman Executive Center Room 325

**African Americans in the Westward March**

**Presiding – Robert Gudmestad, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*Slavery, Race, and Mormonism: Legitimizing the Peculiar Institution in Early Territorial Utah*

Nathaniel R. Ricks, Brigham Young University

*So we might Live and Not Die: Reconstruction and Identity Among African American Freedmen in Indian Territory*

Tramaine T. Anderson, University of Texas of the Permian Basin

Fogelman Executive Center Room 326

**Preserving African-American Heritage**

**Presiding – Arwin D. Smallwood, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*We Opposed Bad Men Everywhere: The Underground Railroad in History and Memory*

Jesse Gant, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

*From the Auction Block to the Museums: Museums and the Representation of Slavery*

Carol L. Bennett, Indiana University

**SESSION 2**

**10:15 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

Fogelman Executive Center Room 323

**Beacons of Hope in Rural America and the White House**

**Presiding – Arwin D. Smallwood, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*Robert F. Kennedy and the Civil Rights Movement*

Daryl A. Carter, University of Memphis

*Tom Bass: Legendary Horseman, African American Icon*

Dianna Owens Fraley, University of Memphis

Fogelman Executive Center Room 325

**Am I not a Woman? Intersections of Race and Gender**

**Presiding – Janann Sherman, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*The Cultural Mappings of the Black and Irish Female Body: Sites of Difference, Victimization and Power*  
Deirdre Cooper Owens, University of California at Los Angeles

Fogelman Executive Center Room 326

**Voices of Protest through Literature**

**Presiding – Ladrice Menson-Furr, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*That Scar that's left to bear witness: From Trauma to Recovery in Corregidora*  
Pamela Harris, Saint Louis University

*Scarring the Page: Bearing Witness by Baring Scars*  
Joshua W. Hutchinson, Saint Louis University

*A Case Study of the 'Wanderer' in Black American Literature*  
Regina Barnett, Albany State University

**BREAK FOR LUNCH**  
**11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.**

**SESSION 3**  
**1:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

Fogelman Executive Center Amphitheatre Room 136

**Memphis State Eight Public Forum**  
(All conference participants are asked to attend)

SESSION 4  
3:15 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Fogelman Executive Center Room 323

**Calls for Social Justice: From the Mississippi Cotton Fields to the West Virginia Coal Mines**

**Presiding – Charles McKinney, PhD, Rhodes College**

*Annie Devine: A Mother in and of the Civil Rights Movement*  
Robert Lockett, University of Georgia

*Regardless of Creed, Color or Nationality: West Virginia, the UMWA, and School Integration, 1954-1963*  
Whit Altizer, Western Carolina University

Fogelman Executive Center Room 325

**Reconfiguring the Black Identity through Narratives during the 1930s**

**Presiding – James E. Fickle, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*Seneca and Scarlet Sister Mary: The Science and Art of Race Progress, 1929-1931*  
Mary Mac Ogden, University of South Carolina

*I Tried to be a Communist: Re-evaluating Political Conversion through the Narratives of Black Communist*  
Eric Petenbrink, Indiana University

Fogelman Executive Center Room 326

**The Struggle for Racial Equality in Michigan During the Civil Rights Movement**

**Presiding – Ana-Lisa Cox, PhD**

*The Revolt of the Black Athlete at Michigan State University, 1968*  
John Matthew Smith, Purdue University.

*Struggling with the Issue: The African American Community Debates Busing in Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1968-1972*  
F. Michael Ciletti, Western Michigan University

**Keynote Address**  
**Dr. John Dittmer, DePauw University**  
**7:00 - 8:30 pm**  
Amphitheater (Room 136)

## FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

SESSION 1  
8:30 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.

Fogelman Executive Center Room 323

### **Influential Local Black Leaders**

**Presiding – Charles W. Crawford, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*Mary E.C. Smith: An Intimate Portrait of a Pioneering Black Educator and AME Minister in Post- Civil War Florida*

Daria Willis Joseph, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

*Luther P. Jackson: A Wheel Horse for the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History*

Brandon K.L. Winford, North Carolina Central University

Fogelman Executive Center Room 325

### **White Backlash**

**Presiding – Dr. Douglas W. Cupples, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*Losing Loyalty: Kentucky in the Civil War and Reconstruction*

Kithika St. John, University of Michigan

*Getting Away with Murder: The Story of a Black Man in La Crosse, Wisconsin, 1865-1905*

Jarrett Fields, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

SESSION 2  
10:15 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Fogelman Executive Center Room 326

### **From the Slave Ship to the Chain Gang: The Politics of Gender, Resistance and Freedom in the African Diaspora**

**Presiding – Ernestine Jenkins, PhD, The University of Memphis**

**Commentator – Beverly Bond, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*Brought me a Woman Slave, but Being Long Breasted and Ill Made, Refus'd Her: The Atlantic Slave Trade Through the Lives of Black Female Captives*

Sowande' Mustakeem, Michigan State University

*She Admits that She is a Free Woman of Color: The Vulnerabilities and Strengths of Property-Holding Free Women of Color in Natchez, Mississippi, 1779-1865*

Nik Ribianszky, Michigan State University

*Race, Class, Gender and the Southern Convict Lease System*

Talitha LeFlouria, Howard University

Fogelman Executive Center Room 323

**Northern Race Relations during the First Half of the Nineteenth Century  
Presiding – Douglas W. Cupples, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*African Americans, Nativism and the Know Nothing Party*  
Andrew Diemer, Temple University

*The Heart of Boston's Black Activism: Reconstructing Antebellum Belknap Street*  
Richard J. Boles, Boston College

Fogelman Executive Center Room 325

**Red, Black and Green: Black Revolutionaries and Activists  
Presiding – Charles K. Ross, PhD, University of Mississippi**

*Let's Get Free: Black American Activists and the Cuban Revolution, 1959-1970*  
Bayete Henderson, University of Pittsburgh

*The Revolution will not be televised: Gil Scott-Heron and the Black Arts Movement (1970-1973)*  
D.W. Geesling, The University of Tulsa Graduate College

**BREAK FOR LUNCH  
11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

**12:30 P.M - 1:30 P.M.**  
**AWARDS PRESENTATION**  
Amphitheater, Room 136  
**(All conference participants are asked to attend)**

**SESSION 3  
1:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**Hurricane Katrina Roundtable**  
Amphitheater, Room 136  
**(All conference participants are asked to attend)**



**SESSION 4**  
**3:15 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

Fogelman Executive Center Room 323

**Illusion of Justice in the Antebellum South**

**Presiding – Russell T. Wigginton, PhD, Rhodes College**

*The Master's Tools: St. Domingue Slaves in Louisiana Courts*  
Yveline Alexis, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

*Rebellion and Reaction: An examination of the Psychological, Legislative, and Physical Changes within the City of Charleston in Response to the Denmark Vesey Revolt of 1822*  
Jessica Lancia, College of Charleston

Fogelman Executive Center Room 325

**The Complexity of Slavery and Religion**

**Presiding – Freddie Parker, PhD, North Carolina Central University**

*Brothers in Christ? The Dynamics of Slavery and Catholicism in Brazil*  
Jaime Toiaivao Alley, Brigham Young University

*Slavery, Race and Memory in the United States, Cuba, and Brazil*  
Megan Allen, Tulane University

*The Impact of American Slavery as it is upon American Civilization*  
Adrienne Briles, College of Charleston

Fogelman Executive Center Room 326

**Men and Women of Faith Fighting for African-American Equality**

**Presiding—Arwin D. Smallwood, PhD, The University of Memphis**

*The Fierce Urging of Now: E.B. McKinney, the STFU, and Black Radicalism in the Depression Era South*  
Joshua C. Youngblood, Florida State University

*Catholic Women of the South: Rise up and help your African American Brothers and Sisters*  
Ann Mulhearn, University of Memphis

## *“Memphis State Eight”* Paper Prize Presentation

September 18, 1959, desegregation began at what was then Memphis State University. Under protection of police escort, Ralph Prater, Luther McClellan, John Simpson, Eleanor



Gandy, Sammie Burnett, Bertha Mae Rogers, Rose Blakney, and Marvis La Verne Kneeland braved crowds of demonstrators waving Confederate battle flags and “Civil Rights for Whites” signs. In this atmosphere of hostility, these students began their university education in an interracial setting. Plain-clothes policemen were assigned to these “Memphis State Eight” escorting them to class. The students attended their classes during the school’s four-hour morning session and left campus by noon. Elements of segregation persisted as they were forced to sit in a separate section for football games and were prohibited

from entering the school cafeteria and student center.

Today, more than a third of the student body of The University of Memphis is comprised of African Americans who are represented in student government and in virtually every college and department on campus. For over ten years, this university has been recognized as one of the top 100 producers of African American baccalaureate and advanced degrees in the nation. The number of African Americans matriculating with master’s and doctoral degrees is substantial and unmatched by any other institutions of higher learning in the state. Indeed, when comparing the percentage of African American graduate students enrolled at The University of Memphis (27 percent) with the percentage of African American graduate student enrolled in the U.S. (11 percent), The University of Memphis is well above the national average. The commitment of the university both to recruiting and to assisting in the success of African American students at the highest levels is clear. The University of Memphis is committed to excellence and diversity.

In honor of these pioneers of education integration, The University of Memphis, the Department of History, and the Graduate Association for African American History are pleased to award “The Memphis State Eight” Paper Prize for excellence in historical writing of the African American experience.

# Graduate Association for African-American History

<https://umdrive.memphis.edu/g-gaaah/www/>

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## Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Arwin D. Smallwood

Once again, we would like to thank all the administrators, students, faculty, and staff who have given so generously of their time and talents to ensure the success of this conference:

The University of Memphis  
Office of the President, President Shirley Raines  
Graduate Association for African-American History  
Students Activities Council  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Department of History  
The University of Memphis Foundation, Inc.\*\*  
African and African American Studies  
Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change  
Graduate History Association

\*\* At this time we would also like to make an appeal to your generosity. If you wish to help with the finances of this Conference and—or—future conferences, we gladly welcome and greatly appreciate any contribution! *Please pick up a "Support GAAAH Conferences" envelope* which is available in all conference venues and from any GAAAH member. If making a contribution by check, please indicate our fund number: AAF #464 on the appropriate line. Thank you very much.

See you next year!

Periodic updates at:  
<https://umdrive.memphis.edu/g-gaaah/www/>

Please send all questions and comments  
about the 2006 GAAAH Conference to:

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