

Schedule
14th Annual Conference in African American History
Graduate Association of African American History
University of Memphis
November 1- 2, 2012
All events in the University Center

Thursday, November 1
Session 1: 8:45-10:00am

Looking to Freedom: African Americans and the Creation of Communities and Identities,
1800-1860

River Room (UC 300)

Chair: Brad Madsen, University of Memphis

Douglas Allen, Columbus University - "From Behind Enemy Lines: The Story of George Scott and the Southern Contraband's Fight for Freedom."

Keith D. McCall, University of Mississippi – "The American Slave: A Database. An Examination of the Methodology and Results of Digitizing the Slave Narrative Collection."

Commentator: Dr. Arwin Smallwood, University of Memphis

Session 2: 10:15-11:30am

Uplift, Education, and Political Change

River Room (UC 300)

Chair: Le’Trice Donelson, University of Memphis

Maurice Adkins, East Tennessee State University – “Decades of Progress: The relevance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the State of North Carolina.”

Liz Lundeen, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill– “It’s my duty to see to it that you don’t make fools of yourselves’: Virginia State College President Robert P. Daniel and the Civil Rights Movement.”

Ayah Nuriddin, University of Maryland - “Lifting As We Climb”: Eugenics, Compulsory Sterilization, and the Construction of Black Womanhood.”

Commentator: Dr. Femi I. Ajanaku, LeMoyne Owens College

Black Nationalism, Black Power, and Urban Politics

Bluff Room (UC 304)

Chair: Wendy Clark, University of Memphis

Mary Potorti, Boston University – “‘To Eat To Live’: The Nation of Islam, Black Liberation, and the Politics of Food”

Benjamin Linzy, Murray State University - The “Chicago Way”: Inner-City Street Gangs and the Battle for Civil Rights in the Windy City, 1966-1970.”

Commentator: Shirletta Kinchen, University of Central Oklahoma

Break For Lunch 11:30am-12:45pm

Break for lunch. Please see GAAAH table for vouchers for University Center food court.

Session 3: 12:45-2:30pm

Race and Public Space

Bluff Room (UC 304)

Chair: Michael Blum, University of Memphis

Melissa Burlock, Indiana University – “Mapping the Multilevel Phases of a Space: The Fall Creek YMCA at 10th Street and Indiana Avenue, Indianapolis, 1959-2003.”

Rachel Leigh Smith, University of Memphis – “Creative Political Spaces: Marita Bonner’s Frye Street Project.”

Tiffany Hill, Middle Tennessee State University - “Race Removal in Music City: The Effects of Urban Renewal in Nashville, TN.”

Commentator: Dr. Charles Williams, University of Memphis

Freedom in the Age of Slavery

River Room (UC 300)

Chair: Micki Kaleta, University of Memphis

Elizabeth Allen, University of Memphis - “‘Wishing [His] Excellency All Possible Success’: Phillis Wheatley and the Discourse of Freedom and Patriotism during the Formation of an America.”

Michael Dickinson, University of Delaware – “Envisioning Freedom: African American Resistance in Pennsylvania, 1784-1800.”

Commentator: Dr. Susan O’ Donovan, University of Memphis

Session 4: 2:45-4:30**Religion and Political Culture****Bluff Room (UC 304)**

Chair: Sharon Fairbanks, University of Memphis

Nathan Saunders, University of South Carolina - "White Devils and So-Called Negroes: Jehovah's Witnesses, Southern Baptists, and the Early Nation of Islam in Detroit."

Anthony Siracusa, Rhodes College – "Developing an American *Abimsa*: The Rev. James M. Lawson Jr.'s Paradigm of Protest."

Jeff Jones, University of Memphis – "The Black Church and Civil Rights in Memphis 1954-1968."

Commentator: Dr. Ladrica Menson-Furr, University of Memphis

Transnational Perspectives**River Room (UC 300)**

Chair: Brian King, University of Memphis

Caree Banton, Vanderbilt University - "The Making of Liberia: The Migrations of African-Americans, West Indians, African Re-captives and Natives."

Emile Jaboiun, University of Ottawa - "Mary Ann Shadd as a counter-narrative to Canadian history."

Aaron Lefkovitz, University at Buffalo (SUNY) - "James Reese Europe: Composer, Bandleader, and Transnational Jazz."

Commentator: Dr. Andrew Daily, University of Memphis

Keynote Address by Dr. Deborah Gray White, Rutgers University
"Brown Sugar Melts: African-American Women at the Turn of the Millennium."

6:00 Reception

6:30 Keynote Address

UC Theater

Friday, November 2
Session 5: 8:15-10:00

Identity and Culture in the African Diaspora

River Room (UC 300)

Chair: Steve Knowlton, University of Memphis

Rachael Mittelman, University of Memphis - "Libyans in the Nile Delta: Ceramics in the Third Intermediate Period."

Amber Colvin, University of Memphis – "North African Women and the French "Ideal": Skin Color and l'affaire du foulard."

Ernest Davis, University of Illinois – "Black Diaspora-Searching for the Dark Past."

Commentator: Dr. Suzanne Onstine, University of Memphis

Black Politics and Activism

Bluff Room (UC 304)

Chair: Kaylin Ewing, University of Memphis

Jason Jordan – University of Illinois "Divided We Fall: Black Leadership During Memphis's 'Reign of Terror.'"

Lance Poston, Ohio University – "Queer Bedfellows: Huey Newton, Homophobia, and Black Activism in Cold War America."

Brittney Carter, New York University - "The Los Angeles UNIA and the Problematics of Nationalism."

Commentator: Dr. Aram Goudsouzian, University of Memphis

Session 6: 10:15-12:00

African Americans and Arkansas

River Room (UC 300)

Chair: Colby Barrom, University of Memphis

Sarah Riva, University of Arkansas at Little Rock – “Courting Controversy: Local and State Legislation and the Little Rock School Crisis, 1956-1963.”

Allison Hiblong, University of Arkansas at Little Rock – “A Week of Darkened Hope for Arkansas.”

Andrea Ringer, University of Arkansas at Little Rock – “The Public Response to Governor Winthrop Rockefeller’s Final Act as Governor: The 1970 Commutations of Arkansas Death Row Inmates.”

Commentator: Dr. Sheena Harris, Austin Peay State University

Depicting African Americans

Bluff Room (UC 304)

Chair: Ainsworth L. Tracey, University of Memphis

Avril Fuller, University of Memphis – “Black Rue: The “Hunger Games” and Rhetoric of Innocence”

Tatianna McKinney, Sarah Lawrence College – “Impact of Music, Media, and Representation of Blacks in Early Cinema, 1920-195.”

Jennie Chaplin, University of Maryland – “Reading Gullah Photographs: Challenges to Hegemonic Ideology.”

Commentator: Dr. Ernestine Jenkins, University of Memphis

Pizza Lunch Roundtable on Professional Development: 12:00-1:15pm

Location: Bluff Room (UC 304)

Participants: Dr. Sheena Harris, Dr. Shirletta Kinchen, Dr. Daryl Carter, Dr. Ann Twitty

Please join us for an informal pizza lunch and roundtable. We will discuss such topics as strategies for success in graduate school, writing dissertations, going on the job market, and starting a new job.

Session 8: 1:30-3:15pm

The Politics of Racial Violence

River Room (UC 300)

Chair: Jeff Jones, University of Memphis

Amanda Nagel, University of Mississippi - "He thinks he is a soldier": Understanding White Violence and Lynching After World War I."

Lucas Miller, Baylor University - "In the Pines: American Racial Violence, the Murder of James Byrd Jr. and the Uses of Memory."

Andrew Baer - Northwestern University - "We Weren't Really Thinking So Much of Those Animals': Race and Police Torture in Chicago's War on Crime, 1981-1993."

Commentator: Dr. Charles McKinney, Rhodes College

African American Performance and Culture

Bluff Room (UC 304)

Chair: Malcolm Frierson, University of Memphis

Mathilde Zagala, Sorbonne University, Paris – "A Musicological History of "Secondary Rag" in Ragtime and Early Jazz: The Case of Scott Joplin and Louis Armstrong (1899-1928)."

Ennis Newman, Memphis, TN – "*Iz Niggaz a Beautiful Thang?* Interrogating Spike Lee's *Bamboozled*, and the Historical Consequences of Minstrelsy in Hip Hop."

Commentator: Dr. David H. Evans, University of Memphis

Session 8: 3:30-4:45pm

Black Manhood and the African American Experience

River Room (UC 300)

Chair: Catherine Probst, University of Memphis

Danya Pilgrim, University of Delaware – “Burned by Fire: Stephen H. Gloucester, Masculine Performance and Print Culture, 1842-1850.”

Derrick Lannois, Georgia State University – “African American Fraternalists, Black Manhood, and the Supreme Court.”

Commentator: Dr. Margaret Caffrey, University of Memphis

Literature and Racial Identity

Bluff Room (UC 304)

Chair: Micki Kaleta, University of Memphis

Israel Durham, Duke University. – “A Hot Thing’s Blues: (De)Centralizing the Non-Normative in the Psalmic, the Poetic and the Prosaic.”

Suzanne Uzzilia, City University of New York (CUNY) - “The Prosthetic Pairing of Disability and Race in Miscegenation Literature.”

Commentator: Dr. Kathy Schultz, University of Memphis