

22nd Annual Graduate Conference in African American History

February 16-17, 2023

Sessions in University Center Auditorium

Memphis State Eight Paper Prize Awards
Conference Luncheon and Keynote Address
in Rose Theatre, South Lobby



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS®

Sponsored by the Department of History
the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change
African and African American Studies
Graduate Association for African American History

The University of Memphis is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University.

Thursday, February 16, 2023

REGISTRATION – 7:30-8:30 am – UC Auditorium

SESSION 1 – 8:40-10:10 am – UC Auditorium

“I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE:” INTERNATIONAL BLACK DIASPORIC HISTORIES:

- **Nancy A. Andoh** – “Mad Enough to Kill: Understanding the Complexities of Suicide and Akan Cosmology on the Middle Passage”
- **Kiana Knight** – “Black Women’s Translations of Garveyism: Diaspora, Gender, Language”
- **Channon Oyeniran** – “The Civil Rights Movement in Canada: Civil Rights Trailblazers and Their Fight for Justice”

Chair: Damarius Harris

Commentator: Dr. Andrew Daily

SESSION 2: 10:25 am -- 12:15 pm, UC Auditorium

“THE SOUTH GOT SOMETHIN’ TO SAY:” BLACK STRUGGLES IN THE DEEP SOUTH:

- **Natalyah Davis** – “Roots in Rootwork”
- **Damarius Harris** – “Close to the Dream: Barriers to Rights in Southern Civilization, 1865-1877”
- **Brianna Harrison** – “Interracial Unionism along the Gulf Coast, 1870-1930”
- **Meridian McDaniel** – “Segregated Education: Public Schools in Harrisburg Mississippi 1882-1970”

Chair: Aniya Gold

Commentator: Dr. Brian Kwoba

LUNCH BREAK: 12:15 pm – 2:00 pm

SESSION 3: 2:15 pm -- 3:45 pm, UC Auditorium

“POWER TO THE PEOPLE:” BLACK RESISTANCE IN THE UNITED STATES SOUTH:

- **Mickell J. Carter** – “Stylin’ Black Power: Fashion, Dignity, and Masculinity”
- **Miranda Christy** – “Come Imprisonment, Come Fines, Come What Will”
- **Terrence Cormier** – “The Franklin City Square: A Case Study”

Chair: Paola Cavallari

Commentator: Dr. Heather McNamee

THE FUTURE OF BLACK HISTORY

4:00 pm – 5:45 pm, UC Auditorium

In recent years, historians and others have expanded our understanding of the roles that slavery and anti-blackness have played in the shaping of American society. States across the nation – particularly in the wake of the 1619 Project - reacted aggressively to this scholarship by passing a rash of bills designed to curtail the teaching of slavery, racism, and, most notably, critical race theory. States also began to monitor and limit the courses related to African American history, life, and culture, along with other race-related courses.

How might historians be thinking about this moment? Is the assault on Black History more significant now that it has been in the past? What are the perils and prospects for African American History moving forward? How should we meet the challenge we now face?



Dr. Jessica Marie Johnson is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at Johns Hopkins University and a Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Studies at Harvard University. She is also the Director of LifexCode: Digital Humanities Against Enclosure. Johnson is a historian of Atlantic slavery and the Atlantic African diaspora. Her first book, *Wicked Flesh: Black Women, Intimacy, and Freedom in the Atlantic World* won the 2020 Kemper and Leila Williams Prize for Louisiana History and was a finalist for the 2021 Frederick Douglass Book Prize from the Gilder-Lehrman Institute for the Study of American History.



Dr. Daryl Michael Scott is Professor of United States History and chair of the Department of History, Geography, and Museum Studies at Morgan State University. Professor Scott is a historian of American intellectual history, nationalism in the United States, and convict slavery since 1615. His first book, *Contempt and Pity: Social Science and the Image of the Damaged Black Psyche, 1880-1996* won the James Rawley Prize for the best book in Race Relations History. Professor Scott served as the President of The Association for the Study of African American Life and History from 2013 to 2015.

Commentator: Dr. Charles McKinney

Friday, February 17, 2023



Breakfast with Dr. Conway: 8:30 am -- 9:30 am, UC 338, Iris Room

University of Memphis alumnus Dr. James Conway, Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies Minor Coordinator, Arkansas State University, "The Transition from Student to Faculty."

SESSION 4: 9:40 am -- 11:30 am, UC Auditorium

"GOOD TROUBLE:" RACIAL POLITICS AND THE LAW:

- **Savannah Jackson-Cornell** – "Agency and Africans in Colonial Virginia"
- **Eana Meng** – "'The Promised Land:' The 1972 Black Panther Party Trip to China"
- **Douglas Scott Van** – "Answering Proscription with Representation: Martin Delany's 19th Century 'Octagonal Principle'"

Chair: Meridian McDaniel

Commentator: Dr. Aram Goudsouzian

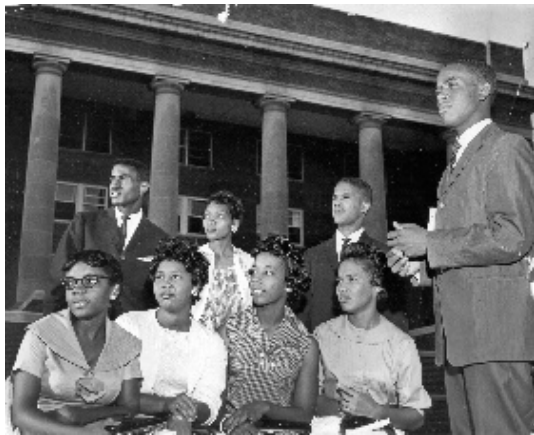
SESSION 5: 11:45 am -- 1:15 pm, UC Auditorium

"R.E.S.P.E.C.T.:" Black Women in the Atlantic World:

- **Maya Brooks** – "From Slavery to the Stars: Examining the Lives and Legacies of Harriet Jacobs and Katherine Johnson"
- **Paola Cavallari** – "The Pain of Black Women: How Gynecological Experimentation on Enslaved Black Women Shapes Modern Doctors (Mis)Treatment of Black Women"
- **Aniya Gold** – "A Radical Life: The Intellectual History of Kathleen Cleaver"

Chair: Savannah Jackson-Cornell

Commentator: Dr. K. T. Ewing



Memphis State Eight Paper Prize

1:30 pm, Rose Theatre, South Lobby

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

and Conference Lunch

1:45 pm -- 3:45 pm, Rose Theatre, South Lobby



Dr. Tamika Nunley

“Archives and Erasure: Searching for Justice in the Lives of Enslaved Women”

Tamika Nunley is Associate Professor of History and Sandler Family Faculty Fellow, Cornell University.

Her courses and research focus on the history of slavery, African American women's and gender history, the early Republic, and the American Civil War. Her first book, *At the Threshold of Liberty: Women, Slavery, and Shifting Identities in Washington, D.C.* (University of North Carolina Press, 2021) reveals how African American women—enslaved, fugitive, and free—imagined new identities and lives beyond the oppressive restrictions intended to prevent them from experiencing liberty, self-respect, and power. Nunley places black women at the vanguard of the history of Washington D.C. and illuminates how they contributed to the momentous transformations of nineteenth-century America.

She is currently finishing a second book, *The Demands of Justice: Enslaved Women, Capital Crime, and Clemency in Early Virginia, 1662-1865* with the University of North Carolina Press. This book examines clemency in legal cases that involve enslaved women accused of capital crime in early Virginia. She has published articles and reviews in *The Journal of Southern History*, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, the *Journal of American Legal History* and the *Journal of the Civil War Era*.

In addition to being a lifetime member of the Association of Black Women Historians, she serves on the editorial board of *Civil War History*, *The Journal of Southern History*, and the *Journal of the Civil War Era*. She has served on committees for the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, the Society of Civil War Historians, and the Southern Historical Association.

She has a PhD and MA in History from the University of Virginia, an MA in History from Columbia University, and a BA in African American Studies/History from Miami University.