



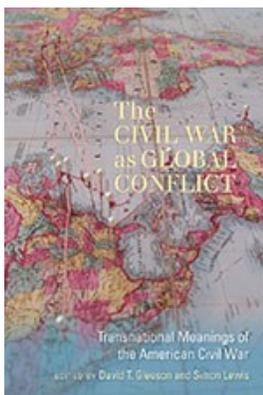
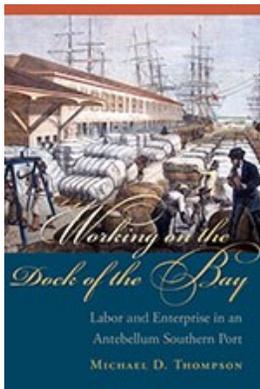
Connections

From the Director

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Simon Lewis will be on sabbatical for the 2017-18 academic year, and Professors Sandy Slater (History) and Carl Wise (Hispanic Studies) will share directorial duties in the interim. Despite not winning the major NEH grant that we had applied for, we will nonetheless be implementing the “Transforming the Narrative” project described in our August 2017 application.

In light of the UN declaration of 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent, the project focuses on public representations of trans-Atlantic slavery and its race and class legacies. In partnership with local, national, and international organizations, the series will promote greater public awareness of underrepresented histories, and encourage participants to critically examine how historic narratives are constructed, consumed, and reimaged.

The project kicked off with the June 2017 event, “Transforming Public History from Charleston to the Atlantic World,” a conference that succeeded well beyond our expectations and that may well have been one of the most significant conferences we have yet staged. For an example of how enthusiastically the conference was received, visit the blog-site of Vanderbilt digital humanities scholar Angela Sutton at *smartwomen-write.com*.

Having set up the broad framework for examining the challenges and opportunities faced by and open to public history professionals around the Atlantic World, our 2017-2018 programming will actually *do* some of that work, transforming the narratives around African resistance to white authority (Ed Baptist, October 2017), religious diversity in an Atlantic context (Ben

Park, November 2017), marginalized groups in the southeast (Chris Boucher, February 2018) and Reconstruction (March 2018).

We are also looking ahead to a major conference in 2020 focusing on Port Cities in the Atlantic. Lots of exciting programming and scholarship ahead!!

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Connections

Transforming Public History from Charleston to the Atlantic World—Conference Report

Between June 13th and 17th, 2017, the CLAW program hosted in excess of 280 participants at the “Transforming Public History from Charleston to the Atlantic World” conference. Timed to coincide with the second anniversary of the deadly racist attack on parishioners of Mother Emanuel AME Church in 2015, the conference drew participants from all over the US, as well as from Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, and the United Kingdom. Participants included traditional scholars from a range of disciplines, museum professionals representing institutions from the Smithsonian to sites that operate only online, as well as tour-guides, community activists, and so on. All recognized the urgency of the cultural work being undertaken, and the necessity to “transform the narrative”—that is, to reflect in a properly inclusive fashion the

impact of racialized slavery and its legacy in this city and across the Atlantic World.

The conference included work-shops as well as more standard 90-minute sessions, and featured two sessions that were free and open to the public. At the first of these, Dr. Lonnie Bunch of the National Museum of African American History and Culture delivered a powerful and moving lecture at the Mother Emanuel Church. Caryl Phillips’s presentation took the form of a conversation with CLAW Director Simon Lewis. Both events were well attended and received. Coverage of Dr. Bunch’s lecture appeared in the *Post and Courier*. (<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/african>

[-american-museum-director-lonnie-bunch-iii-at-mother-emanuel/article_89528666-521f-11e7-a31f-a77e3aa1f4e4.html](http://american-museum-director-lonnie-bunch-iii-at-mother-emanuel/article_89528666-521f-11e7-a31f-a77e3aa1f4e4.html)) The Director received numerous effusively appreciative e-mails after the conference. For an indication of the enthusiasm of responses to the conference, see Vanderbilt University digital humanities scholar Angela Sutton’s blog-post in which she describes herself as “juiced up from one of the most thoughtfully constructed conferences I’ve attended in a long while.”



Fall Wells Fargo Distinguished Public Lectures

Ed Baptist’s book *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* drew a great deal of critical and public attention when it came out in September 2014. We are very pleased to be able to host Dr. Baptist as the Fall Wells Fargo Distinguished Public Lecturer, and especially pleased that his lecture will serve as a kind of curtain-raiser for the premiere of *Requiem for Rice* that will be performed at the Gaillard Auditorium on October 22nd. Dr. Baptist’s lecture will take place at the College of Charleston at 6pm on Sunday, October 8th in Tate Center 201. Dr. Baptist is an Associate Professor of History at the Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

Benjamin Park, an Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University will join us at the College of Charleston on November 2, 2017 in Addlestone 227 to deliver a lecture entitled, “Algernon Sidney Johnston’s Nationalism: What A South Carolina Novel About Intergalactic Travel, Carnivorous Demons, and Romantic Bonds Tell Us About Early American Union and Disunion.” Park’s upcoming book, *American Nationalisms: Imagining Union in an Age of Revolutions* is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. In this work, Park looks at three distinct regions, including South Carolina to explore how local cultures influenced American identity and union in the fifty years following independence.

Spring Conference—Freedoms Gained and Lost: Reinterpreting Reconstruction in the Atlantic World (March 16-17, 2018)

In honor of the 150th Anniversary of South Carolina's 1868 Constitutional Convention, South Carolina's biracial Constitutional Convention that fundamentally changed the state by ushering in legal reforms, provided for public education, expanded the franchise, and promised numerous other rights, the College of Charleston will be hosting a conference entitled "Freedoms Gained and Lost: Reinterpreting Reconstruction in the Atlantic World." In the decades following the 1868 conventions some of those rights guaranteed on paper by the convention would not always be protected or even remembered. Mindful of the United Nations declaration of 2015-2024 as the **International Decade for People of African Descent**, and the conference location in Charleston, South Carolina, the planners particularly encourage proposals relevant to the history of Reconstruction's race and class legacies in Charleston and historically interconnected international sites.

The conference will be held March 16th-17th, 2018. As with a number of prior CLAW gatherings, this conference will take the form of a symposium where participants will discuss pre-circulated papers. Thus, **if your paper is accepted, we will expect a complete version of the paper by February 1*** for pre-circulation among participants. This allows presenters to pre-circulate full-length articles and will expedite post-conference publication of a volume of essays.

Reconstruction is often seen as simultaneously a "Splendid Failure" and the foundation of the modern Civil Rights movement. We hope to be able to examine this and other paradoxes of the Reconstruction era, and, in light of CLAW's transnational focus we are particularly interested in papers that take a transnational or comparative approach, thinking about lessons to be learned from US Reconstruction in comparable post-conflict settlements. Topics that we expect to address include women's rights; reinterpreting the Reconstruction Acts; enfranchisement and disfranchisement; access to education; civil rights activism; the impact on people of African Descent; the ending of slavery in the Atlantic World; the meaning of emancipation; the modern legal principles Reconstruction created; Reconstruction from an international perspective; the lasting social and cultural legacies from Reconstruction; and the historical memory of the era, especially as manifested in public sites, literature, music, performance, film, and visual art.

Proposals, Conference Format, and Post-Conference Publication:

Please submit panel or paper proposals with session title, presentation title(s), contact information, and institutional affiliation for all participants in PDF or Word format to Adam Dombay at freedomconference@gmail.com. **Deadline for proposals is September 1*, 2017.** Paper proposals should be around 250 words long. Panels should include abstracts for each paper and an additional summary of the panel's goals.

Keynote

Keynote address will be given by Bruce Baker, author of *What Reconstruction Meant: Historical Memory in the American South* (2007), and editor of *Remembering Reconstruction: Struggles Over the Meaning of America's Most Tumultuous Era* (2017).

8th Biennial Hines Prize Winner: Dr. Michael Schoeppner



The 2017 Hines Prize for the best new scholarly publication by a first-time author relating to any aspect of the Carolina Lowcountry and/or the Atlantic World has been awarded to Dr. Michael Schoeppner (Univ. of Maine, Farmington) and his manuscript, *Regulating Moral Contagion: Black Atlantic Sailors, Citizenship, and Diplomacy in Antebellum America*. This important manuscript is the first to examine the role of the Negro Seaman Acts in the Atlantic World. The prize carries a cash award of \$1,000 and preferential consideration by the University of South Carolina Press for the CLAW Program's book series.

We are very grateful to Dr. Sam Hines for his continued financial support of the Prize, given in honor of his late mother. For a list of previous winners of the Hines Prize, please visit the USC book series website at: <http://www.sc.edu/uscpress/claw.html>.

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**Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program
2017-2018 Schedule of Events**

- October 8, 2017 "African Resistance to White Policing in the South Carolina Low Country."
Ed Baptist, Wells Fargo Lecture
Tate 201, 6:00pm
- October 9, 2017 "Freedom on the Move: A Digital History Project—or Better Yet, Process."
Ed Baptist, Faculty Seminar
Addlestone 236 4:00pm
- October 19, 2017 "The Pompe and Pride of Man: Personal and Public Humility in Early New England."
Sandy Slater, Sabbatical Talk
Addlestone 227, 3:00pm
- November, 2 2017 "Algernon Sidney Johnston's Nationalism: What A South Carolina Novel About Intergalactic Travel,
Carnivorous Demons, and Romantic Bonds Tell Us About Early American Union and Disunion."
Benjamin Park, Wells Fargo Lecture
Arnold Hall, 6:00pm
- November 3, 2017 "Theologies of Revolution and Retrenchment: Situating Religion in the Age of Revolutions."
Benjamin Park, Faculty Seminar
Addlestone 236, 2:00pm
- January 24, 2017 "The Natives Peoples of Brazil and First Five Generations of Interactions with the Portuguese: Translat-
ing Frei Vicente do Salvador's 1627 History"
Timothy Coates, Sabbatical Seminar
Maybank 207, 4:00pm
- February 22, 2018 "'The Greatest Dissembler in the World': Timucuas, Spaniards, and the Fall of Fort Caroline."
Chris Boucher, Faculty Seminar
Maybank 207, 4:00pm
- March 6, 2018 "Medical Bondage: How Slavery Advanced Medical Gynecology"
AFAM Consuela Francis Emerging Scholar Lecture
Deirdre Cooper Owens
6:00pm (location TBD)
- March 13, 2018 "Slavery and War in the Atlantic World: The Case of Confederate Georgia."
Dave Gleason, Faculty Seminar
Maybank 207, 4:00pm
- March 16-18, 2018 Spring Conference :Freedoms Gained and Lost: Reinterpreting Reconstruction in the Atlantic World
- April 5, 2018 "The Hold Cuba Has On Me: Memory, Travel, and Writing"
Ruth Behar
6:00pm (room TBD)
- March 29, 2018 "Regulating Moral Contagion: Black Atlantic Sailors, Citizenship,
and Diplomacy in Antebellum America"
Michael Schoeppner, Hines Prize Winner
- June 2018 Carifest

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