



Connections

From the Director

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Towards the end of last academic year, the CLAW program circulated Atlantic Studies programs around the US and elsewhere announcing four significant items of news from the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program: the launching of our revised and updated web-site at claw.cofc.edu; the call for papers for our June 2017 conference on public history in the Atlantic World; and the announcement of the eighth annual Hines Prize competition for the best first book-manuscript on a Lowcountry and/or Atlantic World topic.

We thank Jerry Spiller for his excellent work in making the revised website so clear and easy to navigate, and we warmly invite you to visit the new and improved site to keep up to

date with all our future plans.

Over the summer, CLAW steering committee members Mary Battle, Kameika Murphy, Adam Domby, and Simon Lewis have been working on a major grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for a project entitled “Transforming the Narrative.”

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 reimagined.

If funded, the grant will

allow us to put into local practice some of the findings that we expect will come out of the June 2017 conference.

In other words, while the conference will be 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 rice and plantation agriculture, the nature of “religious liberty” in South Carolina, and Reconstruction.

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Connections

Maroonage, Marronage, and Maroons—Conference Report

The first weekend in February 2016 saw the CLAW program hosting a disciplinary diverse group of literary critics, historians, and anthropologists to discuss the question of marronage (the free communities established by escaped slaves and indigenous peoples in the New World), maroonage (the experience of being cast away), and the relationship between the two in Atlantic World history.

The conference was convened by College of Charleston Professors Joe Kelly and Rich Bodek, and featured as keynote speakers the distinguished anthropologists Richard and Sally Price. The Prices have spent most of their careers in the field with a community of maroon descendants known as Saramaka deep in the interior of Suriname. In his keynote lec-

ture Dr Price described his Saramakan collaborators as theorists and historians and sought to draw very clear lines of distinction between marronage—the deliberate, rebellious act of self-emancipation—and maroonage—an accidental experience.

In addition to the Prices' anthropological work, the conference also included panels on utopian film and fiction, historical accounts of maroon communities in the United States, Caribbean, and

Brazil, and examinations of narratives of shipwrecks and castaways from *The Tempest* and *Robinson Crusoe* to *Forbidden Planet*. Formal and informal discussions during and after the conference were spirited and wide-ranging, and the volume of essays that Professors Bodek and Kelly expect to produce based on the conference presentations should prove another valuable addition to the ever-growing list of scholarly works to emerge from the CLAW program.

Fall Wells Fargo Distinguished Public Lecture by Nicole Maskiell



“The Runaway Who Passed as Slave Catcher: Native Slavery and the Strange Histories of the Color Line.”

The cross-colonial universality of the term “Negro” throughout the North American colonies as racial marker masks regional differences

in the creation of racial categories. This talk focuses on how the persistence of a multiethnic enslaved population shaped the development of race in unique ways in colonial New York and New Jersey during the eighteenth century. Although slavery was increasingly legally tied to skin color and African

heritage, there remained a conflict inherent in creating race: even as masters sought to define their runaways as “negro,” the enslaved continued to claim their own ethnic identities. Such conflicting identities, and the expectations inherent in them, were used by the enslaved in their bids for freedom.

Dr. Maskiell is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of South Carolina, and specializes in family and household relationships within slavery as well as slave networks in both Dutch and English colonial America. Her current book project entitled, *Bound by Bondage: Slavery and the Creation of a Northern Gentry*, examines the dense slaveholding ties that knit together Anglo-Dutch slaveholding families and spanned the colonial boundaries of the Atlantic, including the Southern colonies, Caribbean and European metropolises.

CLAW Faculty Seminar Series—Fall 2016

There will be two CLAW faculty seminars this fall, the first by Nicole Maskiell (see above) on September 26th at 3:15pm, the second by CLAW steering committee member and Assistant Professor in the History Depart-

ment, Dr. Kameika Murphy on October 27th. Dr. Murphy's title is "Loyalists, Rice and Economic Self-Sufficiency in Pre-Emancipation Jamaica." Both seminars will be held in Addlestone 227.



Summer Conference—Transforming Public History

Together with a range of local, national, and international partner organizations, the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World Program (CLAW), the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, and the Addlestone Library will host a conference on transforming public history practices in Charleston and the Atlantic World at the College of Charleston and other partner sites in Charleston, South Carolina, June 14-17, 2017. The conference will address the interpretation, preservation, memorialization, commemoration, and public application of major themes in Atlantic history, with special focus on the history of slavery and its race and class legacies in Charleston and historically interconnected international sites. By situating local issues within larger global narratives the conference will allow local audiences to recognize shared public history challenges and opportunities around the entire Atlantic World.

Conference Schedule Overview

June 14, 2017: Workshop Day

The first day of the conference will feature day-long or half-day workshops led by representatives from organizations such as the Tracing Center on Histories and Legacies of Slavery, the International Sites of Conscience, the National Park Service, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, and others. Each of these workshops will be held at relevant historic sites throughout the Charleston area, to immerse participants in Charleston's historic landscape while also engaging critical public history issues. Specific details will be announced by mid-April.

June 15-16, 2017: Conference Plenary Sessions, Keynote Lecture, and Panel Sessions

The second and third days of the conference will feature a mix of plenary panel sessions, concurrent conference sessions, and public lectures. The first plenary panel "Transforming Public History in the Atlantic World," will feature Alissandra Cummins, Director of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society; Richard Benjamin, Director of the International Slavery Museum, Liverpool, England; Bayo Holsey, Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University; Ana Lucia Aroujo, Professor of History, Howard University; and Rex Ellis, Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs for the Smithsonian's National Museum for African American History and Culture.

There will be two keynote lectures, the first by Dr. Lonnie Bunch, Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum for African American History and Culture, on the evening of June 15th at Mother Emanuel Church, and the second at lunch-time on June 16th by award-winning novelist and essayist Caryl Phillips, whose fiction and non-fiction work focuses on issues of memory and race in the Atlantic World. The formal proceedings of the conference will conclude with a second major plenary session, entitled "Race and Social Justice in U.S. Public History." Moderated by Professor Bernard Powers (College of Charleston Department of History and Program Chair for the International African American Museum), this plenary session will feature influential local and national public history professionals, including Michael Allen, Charleston Area National Park Service and Head of NPS Reconstruction Field Study; Fath Ruffins, Smithsonian National Museum of American History; Ned Kauffman, PlaceMatters; and Makiba Foster, Assistant Chief Librarian, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Saturday, June 17, 2017 is the second anniversary of the Mother Emanuel mass shooting, and many of our participants may wish to attend special services planned by the Mother Emanuel Church and the City of Charleston to mark the occasion.

Calendar of Events 2016-2017

September

- 15 Mark Auslander "Tracing Ashley's Sack: Slavery, Kinship, and the Fabric of Memory ." Jewish Studies Center 233, 6pm
- 26 Wells Fargo Lecture – Nicole Maskiell "The Runaway Who Passed as Slave Catcher: Native Slavery and the Strange Histories of the Color Line." Addlestone 227, 6pm

October

- 18 Race and Social Justice Initiative presents an evening with Ta-Nehisi Coates – "A Deeper Black: Race in America"
- 27 Faculty Seminar Series– Kameika Murphy "Loyalists, Rice and Economic Self-Sufficiency in Pre-Emancipation Jamaica."

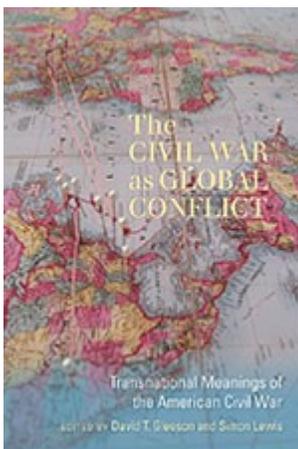
May

- 15-17 Annual conference of the North American Society for Oceanic History

June

- 14-17 "Transforming Public History from Charleston to the Atlantic World" – features scholars, museum professionals, writers, artists, and educators from the US and the Atlantic World. Speakers include Lonnie Bunch (Smithsonian), Richard Benjamin (International Slavery Museum, Liverpool, UK), Alissandra Cummins (Museum, Barbados), Caryl Phillips (author of *The Atlantic Sound*), and many more.

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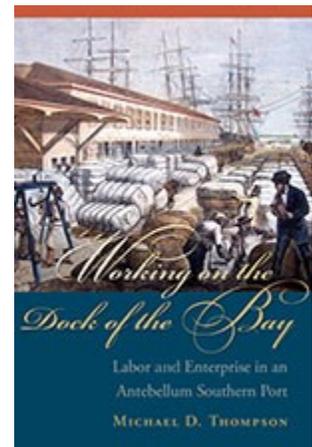


8th Biennial Hines Prize Competition: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Hines Prize is awarded to the best new scholarly publication by a first-time author relating to any aspect of the Carolina Lowcountry and/or the Atlantic World. The prize carries a cash award of \$1,000 and preferential consideration by the Uni-

versity of South Carolina Press for the CLAW Program's book series.

If you have a manuscript on a topic relevant to the Carolina Lowcountry and/or Atlantic World, please send a copy to CLAW Director Simon Lewis at lewiss@cofc.edu



before May 15, 2017. For a list of previous winners of the Hines Prize, please visit the USC book series website at: [http://www.sc.edu/
uscpres/claw.html](http://www.sc.edu/uscpres/claw.html).