



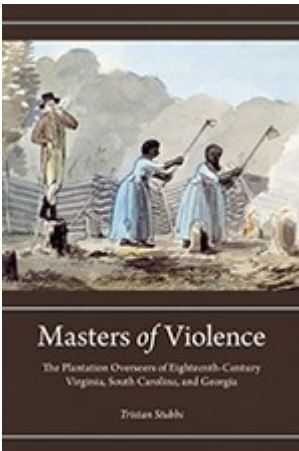
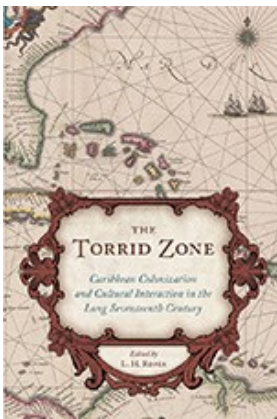
Connections

From the Director

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Covers of the two most recent addition's to USC Press's book series in the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World. See <https://www.sc.edu/usepress/claw.html> for the full list.

The CLAW program is looking forward to a typically busy year, with robust programming of our own, plus plenty of co-sponsorship and collaboration with like-minded partners. This year's Atlantic connections link us to sites as diverse as Panama, Sierra Leone, London, and Madrid.

Highlights of the year include four Wells Fargo lectures (by Ashley Carse, Michael Moore, Bernie Powers, and Gibril Cole), two of which (by Moore and Powers) will form part of our February 2019 conference on Denmark Vesey at 200.

In addition, we will be running a film series highlighting the connection between Sierra Leone and South Carolina, starting with the two South Carolina ETV documentaries *Family Across the Sea* and *The Language You Cry In*, and culminating in a premiere screening of Thomalind

Martin Polite's "Priscilla's Legacy." Ms. Polite "returned" to Sierra Leone in May 2005, having been identified as the great-great-great-great-great-great-granddaughter of a little Sierra Leonean girl kidnapped into slavery and shipped across the Atlantic in 1756 to the Ball family's Comingtee Plantation just up the Cooper River from Charleston. Edward Ball's research for his bestselling book *Slaves in the Family* had traced the paper-trail that directly connected Thomalind Polite to the young girl who was given the name Priscilla on arrival in South Carolina.

Thomalind's "homecoming" to Sierra Leone made a huge splash in 2005, further asserting Sierra Leonean ties with their "family across the sea." We are delighted that both Ms. Polite and Mr. Ball will be with us to discuss the film and its implications for us all here in Charleston.

A transatlantic connection of a different kind will be made by the October conference sponsored by Gemela (Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en Espana y las Americas). This conference will take place simultaneously in Madrid and Charleston, with live-links connecting the two sites. It is a model that we are looking at closely for possible emulation in our 2020 extravaganza on port cities of the Atlantic.

Inside this issue:

Reconstruction Conference Report (March 2018)	2
Fall Wells Fargo Lecture	2
Hines Prize Competition	3
Denmark Vesey Conference (February 2019)	3
Events Calendar	4

Connections

Freedoms Gained and Lost: Reinterpreting Reconstruction in the Atlantic World— Conference Report

Between March 14th and 18th, the CLAW program hosted some 50 top scholars to discuss Reconstruction. The conference opened with a formal unveiling of a marker on Meeting Street drawing attention to the South Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1868 that had ushered in a number of remarkably progressive changes not only in relation to African American citizenship and voting rights, but also in relation to the rights of women and to the provision of education. That many of these rights were later removed by the 1895 Constitution provided an exemplary case of the theme of the conference—freedoms gained and lost—a theme which

Immediately following the unveiling the conference proper opened with a plenary session assessing WEB Du Bois's classic account of Reconstruction. Thavolia Glymph, Heather Richardson, and Brian Kelly set the stage for some probing questions and whetted our intellectual appetites for Bruce Baker's witty and incisive keynote "Who Was Reconstruction For?"

The remainder of the conference was filled out with ten more stimulating panel sessions covering just about every imaginable aspect of Reconstruction from a wide range of angles and disci-

plines, including the history of education, African Studies, and literature. A second plenary on the making of the Reconstruction Era National Monument in Beaufort, SC shed fascinating light on the interaction of historians and public policy makers in the contemporary United States. In addition to historians Eric Foner and Kate Masur, the plenary panel included the mayors of Beaufort and Port Royal, as well as Rodell Lawrence, director of the Penn Center. The panel convenor was Michael Allen, a veteran of the National Park Service, who had played a critical role in ushering the monument into existence.

A digital exhibition related to the conference curated by Aaisha Heykal and Mary Jo Fairchild is on-line at <http://speccoll.cofc.edu/freedoms-gained-and-lost/>. Conference conveners Adam Dombay and Simon Lewis are co-editing a collection of essays from the conference.



Fall Wells Fargo Distinguished Public Lecture

Ashley Carse's book *Beyond the Big Ditch: Politics, Ecology, and Infrastructure at the Panama Canal* was published by MIT Press in 2014. Dr Carse's multidisciplinary expertise, bridging anthropology, development studies, geography, environmental history, and science and technology studies, makes him the ideal person to examine how the cities and ports of the Carolina Lowcountry are connected with the Atlantic World and beyond. Through an analysis of harbor deepening projects at the Port of Charleston and Port of Savannah, two of the many dredging projects on the US Atlantic and Gulf Coasts associated with the recent Panama Canal expansion, Carse's Wells Fargo Distinguished Public Lecture on

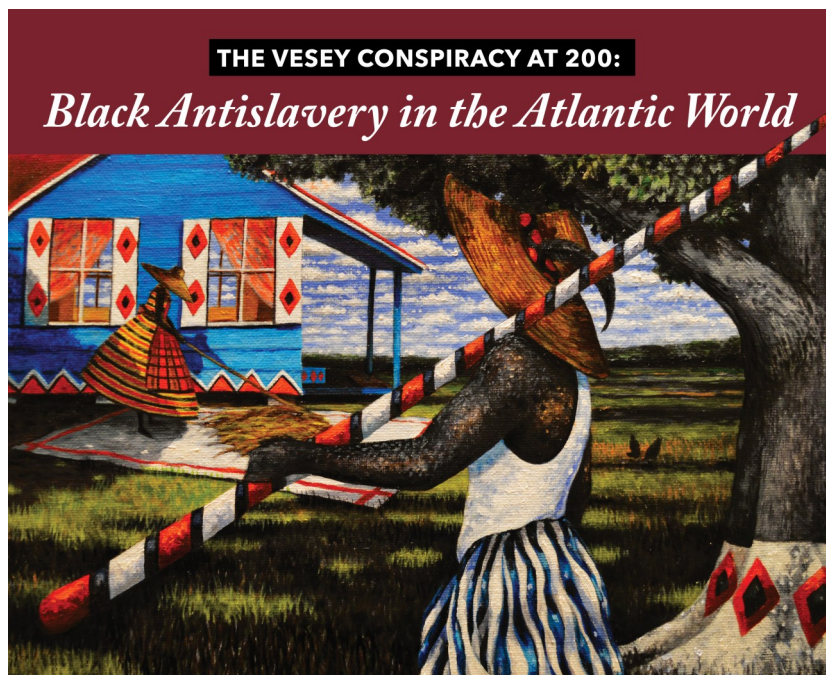
October 12th shows how distant waterways are standardized to accommodate new generations of megaships. Dredging focuses our attention on the local, material transformation of environments for circulation. Currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human and Organizational Development at Vanderbilt University, Ashley Carse earned his PhD in Anthropology from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2011. Before moving to Vanderbilt, he was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Science, Technology, and Society at the University of Virginia and also served a stint as a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental Anthropology at Whittier College.

Spring Conference—Denmark Vesey at 200: Black Antislavery in the Atlantic World (February 8-10, 2019)

In preparation for a volume of essays to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Denmark Vesey conspiracy of 1822, the CLAW Program will hold a conference on enslaved and free black anti-slavery, running from February 8th to 10th, 2019, at the College of Charleston.

Keynote speakers will include Bernie Powers (author of *Black Charlestonians*) and Michael Moore (executive director of Charleston's International African American Museum). Other featured participants include Manisha Sinha, Douglas Egerton, Samuel Nteuwusu, and Rebecca Shumway.

Known to scholars mainly as a conspiracy of Carolina slaves, the Denmark Vesey conspiracy also ensnared free black people, and should be treated as a part of the broader black anti-slavery movement. Some of the rebels were aware of the Missouri Compromise debates over slavery. They compared Carolina whites to those national leaders who they thought wanted to end slavery. Some of the rebels were aware of the Sierra Leone colony of freed slaves and probably had known free and enslaved people who emigrated there in 1821. Some were aware of revolutionary Haiti. Some were born in Africa. In the truest sense, there were African, American, and Atlantic dimensions to the 1822 rebels' organizing.



Look for full details of the conference schedule on the CLAW conference page at <https://claw.cofc.edu/conferences/2019-conference/>. The conference will be free, but registration will be required. There will be charges (to be determined) for optional tours associated with the conference.

“Sustenance Rice”
Jonathan Greene
(with permission)

Announcing the 9th Biennial Hines Prize Competition

CLAW biennially awards the [Hines Prize](#) for the best first book relating to any aspect of the history and life of the Carolina Lowcountry and/or Atlantic World. Winners of the prize receive a cash award of \$1,000 and preferential treatment by the University of South Carolina Press for possible inclusion in the Press's Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World series. For a full list of former Hines Prize-winners visit the CLAW web-site at claw.cofc.edu/hines-prize/. For a complete list of the USC Press series, visit the Press web-site at <http://www.sc.edu/uscpres/claw.html>.

Do you have a manuscript in hand or in preparation that would fit the scope of this series? Do you know others who do? Please contact [Simon Lewis](#) to explore this possibility.

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/uscpres/claw.html>.

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Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program 2018-2019 Schedule of Events

Sierra Leone/South Carolina Connection Film Series

10/18 *Family Across the Sea*, Maybank 100 at 5:00pm

11/1 *The Language You Cry In*, Maybank 100 at 5:00pm

11/8 "Priscilla's Legacy," Maybank 100 at 5:00pm, presented by Thomalind Martin Polite, and featuring Edward Ball,
(read more about "Priscilla's Homecoming" at <https://glc.yale.edu/priscillas-homecoming>)

Speakers and Panels

9/4 Sabbatical lecture by Simon Lewis "'Tied to a common past, but tied to it differently': Acknowledging Racial Violence in Charleston, South Carolina," Addlestone 227, 7:00pm

10/12 Wells Fargo Lecture: "Dredging the Atlantic World: How Ships and Sedimentation Link the Lowcountry with the Panama Canal" delivered by Dr. Ashley Carse, Assistant Professor of Human and Organizational Development at Vanderbilt University, Wells Fargo auditorium, 5:00pm

11/8 Panel on Environmental History featuring Paul Nolan (Biology, The Citadel), Addlestone 227 3:30pm

2/8/19 Wells Fargo lecture by Professor Emeritus Bernard E Powers (keynote 1 for Vesey conference)

2/9/19 Wells Fargo lecture by IAAM CEO Michael Moore (keynote 2 for Vesey conference)

03/28/19 Panel on Gullah Culture featuring Eric Crawford (Coastal Carolina), David Palmer (Coastal Carolina), and Heather Hodges (Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor), Addlestone 227 4:00pm

4/11/19 Wells Fargo lecture by Gibril Cole, Louisiana State University, "The Krio of Sierra Leone: A Transatlantic Cultural Society," Addlestone 227 6:00pm

4/12/19 Gibril Cole Faculty Seminar Maybank 209 2:00pm

Conferences

10/25- 10/27 Biennial GEMELA conference "Transatlantic Perspectives" with simultaneous sessions held in Charleston and Madrid (at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia – UNED). The plenary speakers and the morning sessions in Charleston will be simulcast across the Atlantic

2/8/19-2/10/19 CLAW conference "The Vesey Conspiracy at 200: Black Antislavery in the Atlantic World"

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