

****Conference Schedule Updated as of October 4, 2021****

2021 Lapidus Center Conference

Pandemic Legacies: Health, Healing, and Medicine in the Age of Slavery and Beyond

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021

Wednesday, October 6, 2021: Welcome and Opening Plenary

6-6:30 pm: Welcome from Michelle D. Commander, Associate Director and Curator of the Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery and Joy Bivins, Director of the Schomburg Center

6:30-8 pm: “Covid-19 and the Ghosts of Eugenics Past”

William Horne, Villanova University
Kathleen Brian, Western Washington University
Ayah Nuriddin, Princeton University

Moderator: Rana A. Hogarth, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021

8:30-10:00 AM: SESSIONS 1 AND 2

1. Slavery, Race, and Medicine in Cuba

Elena Barattini, Università degli Studi di Torino (Italy), “Enslaved Women, Embodied Sevcia, and the Law: Impairment and Emancipation in Colonial Cuba”

Madhuvanti Mukherjee, Independent Scholar, “To Heal or to Harm? Examining Medical Dimensions of the Slave Trade in Early Nineteenth Century Cuba”

Farren Yero, Duke University, “Which Stranger's Disease? Yellow Fever, Vaccine Technology, and the Racial Politics of Immunity in Nineteenth-Century Cuba”

Moderator: Kristen Block, University of Tennessee

2. Health and Healing in Literary Imaginings of Slavery

Michele S. Frank, Independent Scholar, “Topographies of Healing in *Beloved* and *Mama Day*”

Tatiana Konrad, University of Vienna (Austria), “Graphic Storytelling: Visualizing Health, Progress, and Race”

Jennifer Leetsch, University of Bonn (Germany), “Mary Seacole’s Many Medicines: Black Atlantic Botanical Knowledges in Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands” (1857)”

Moderator: Michelle D. Commander, Associate Director and Curator of the Lapidus Center

10:30 AM-11:00 AM: BREAK

11:00 AM-12:30 PM: SESSIONS 3 AND 4

3. Producing Healing and Medical Knowledge in the Age of Slavery

Mary Hicks, University of Chicago, “Blood and Hair: Barbers, Sangradores and the West African Corporeal Imagination in Salvador da Bahia, 1793-1843”

Leslie A. Schwalm, University of Iowa, “Black Bodies, Medical Science, and the Age of Emancipation”

Chelsea Berry, Randolph College, “Poisoned Relations: Medical Choices and Poison Accusations within Enslaved Communities”

Moderator: Christopher D.E. Willoughby, The Huntington Library and Harvard University

4. Conceptualizing Healing through the African American Experience of Historical Trauma

Zuleka R. Henderson, The Center for Black Well-Being at Graymatters Medical Practice
Tricia Stephens, Hunter College
Anna Ortega-Williams, Hunter College
Quenette L. Walton, University of Houston

Moderator: Barrye Brown, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

12:30-1:00 PM BREAK

1:00-2:30 PM: KEYNOTE PANEL

Roots

Jim Downs, Gettysburg College

Sharla Fett, Occidental College

Rana A. Hogarth, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Moderator: Michelle D. Commander, Associate Director and Curator of the Lapidus Center

2:30-3:00 PM: BREAK

3:00-4:30 PM: SESSIONS 5 AND 6

5. Maternal Health

Lorena Telles, UNICAMP (Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil), “Enslaved Women and Childbirth Amid Doctors and Masters in Rio de Janeiro”

Katherine Bankole-Medina, Coppin State University, “The Scholarly Reckoning upon Us: The Racist and Sexist Medical Exploitation of Enslaved Black Women and Girls and the Contemporary Discourse on Pandemic Racism and Wellness”

Tânia Salgado Pimenta, Casa de Oswaldo Cruz - Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Brazil), “Midwifery and Childbirth among Enslaved and Freed Women in Rio de Janeiro in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century”

Moderator: Patrícia M. Marcos, University of California, San Diego

6. Slavery, Race, and the Climate

Suman Seth, Cornell University, “‘That Pliability of Functions by Which Man is Rendered a Cosmopolite’: Race, Slavery, and Disability in the Nineteenth Century British Empire”

Ian Read, Soka University of America, “Racial Fevers: Yellow Fever, Race, and Climate in Brazilian History”

Sean Morey Smith, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Lapidus Center Fellow), “The Rush to Race: Benjamin Rush and Climatic-Racial Arguments against Slavery”

Moderator: Bridgett Pride, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

4:30-5:00 PM: BREAK

5:00-6:30: SESSIONS 7 AND 8

7. Traditional Healing

Anne S. Bouie, Artist and Independent Scholar, “Hoein’, Harvestin’, Healin’, & Hexin’: The Earth and its Cultivation as Tools of Resistance to Enslavement”

Aldair Rodrigues, UNICAMP - State University of Campinas (Brazil), “Body Modification as Healing Practice Utilized by West Africans in Colonial Brazil”

Junia Furtado, “Quigila: An African Disease in the Context of the Brazilian Atlantic Slave Trade”

Moderator: Sharla Fett, Occidental College

8. Disability as a Critical Category of Historical Analysis: A Roundtable Discussion of Jenifer L. Barclay’s *The Mark of Slavery*

Author: Jenifer L. Barclay, University at Buffalo

Discussants:

Christopher D. E. Willoughby, The Huntington Library and Harvard University

Vanessa M. Holden, University of Kentucky

Wangui Muigai, Brandeis University

Moderator: Christopher D.E. Willoughby, The Huntington Library and Harvard University

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021

10:00-11:30 AM: SESSIONS 9 AND 10

9. “Trans-Atlantic Epidemics and the Spaces of Slavery Beyond National Borders”

Manuel Barcia, University of Leeds, “Yellow Fever Epidemics in West and West Central Africa, 1823-1837”

Oscar de la Torre, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, “‘Consciously Breaking the Cordon Sanitaire’: Smallpox Epidemics and the Carcerial Regime of Slavery in Matanzas, Cuba, 1850-1898”

Danielle Terrazas Williams, University of Leeds (UK), “[We] want to avoid the heat and the continuous plague of mosquitos’: Black Geographies and Disease in Seventeenth-Century Veracruz”

Michael D. Thompson, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, “Slavery, Race, and Yellow Fever Work in Antebellum New Orleans”

Moderator: Rana A. Hogarth, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

10. Psychiatry and Mental Health in the Shadow of the Plantation

Kylie M. Smith, Emory University, “‘He was running it like a plantation’: Disability, psychiatry, and Civil Rights in Southern Asylums”

Jonathan Jones, Virginia Military Institute, “Black Civil War Veterans, Opioids, and Addiction”

Élodie Edwards-Grossi, Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès (France), “A Patient Labor: The Naturalisation of Racialized Work in Psychiatric Hospitals for Black Patients in the U.S. South in the Early 20th Century”

Moderator: Eric Herschthal, University of Utah

11:30 AM-12:00 PM: BREAK

12:00 PM-1:30 PM: SESSIONS 11 AND 12

11. Reading Slavery through the Archives of Healing

Lauren (Robin) Derby, University of California-Los Angeles, “From Zemis to Zombies: Amerindian Healing Legacies on Hispaniola”

Brandi M. Waters, College Board, “Medicalizing Manumission: Slavery, Disability, and Medical Testimony in Late Colonial Colombia”

Moderator: Sean Morey Smith, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Lapidus Center Fellow)

12. A Roundtable Discussion of *The Science Of Abolition: How Slaveholders Became The Enemies Of Progress*

Author: Eric Herschthal, University of Utah

Discussants:

Jim Downs, Gettysburg College
Sasha Turner, Johns Hopkins University

Moderator: Kadiatou Tubman, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

1:30 PM-2:00 PM: BREAK

2:00-3:30 PM: SESSIONS 13 AND 14

13. Displaying Race and Difference in Slavery's Popular and Medical Museums

Livia Maria Tiède, Rice University/UNICAMP - Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Brazil),
“From Jacinta to Raymunda: The Public Display of a Black Mummy in the Age of Emancipation
in Brazil (1900-1929) and Its Consequences for the Public Memory of Slavery”

Christopher D.E. Willoughby, The Huntington Library and Harvard University, “Collected
without Consent: European Colonialism and American Medical Education in the Age of
Slavery”

Moderator: Ian Read, Soka University of America

14. Disability and Enslaved Labor in the Caribbean and U.S. South

Linsey McMillan, The University of Edinburgh (UK), “‘Working in the Weakly Gang’: Health,
Disability, and Labour in Trinidad and British Guiana, 1823-1834”

Stefanie Hunt-Kennedy, University of New Brunswick (Canada), ‘To wander about and become
burthensome to others’: Disability and Amelioration in the British Caribbean”

William D. Jones, Rice University, “Disease, Death, and the United States Domestic Slave Trade
to the Lower Mississippi River Valley”

Moderator: Jenifer L. Barclay, University at Buffalo

3:30-4:00 PM: BREAK

4:00-5:30 PM: KEYNOTE PANEL

Legacies

Deirdre Cooper Owens, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Harriet Washington, Writer and Medical Ethicist

Moderator: Michelle D. Commander, Associate Director and Curator of the Lapidus Center

5:30-6:00 PM: CONFERENCE WRAP-UP