



*Center for the Study of*

# SLAVERY

# & JUSTICE



Annual Report 2013



*Universities express their priorities first and foremost in their selection of fields of study. We believe that Brown, by virtue of its history, has a special opportunity and obligation to foster research and teaching on the issues broached in this report, including slavery and other forms of historic and contemporary injustice, movements to promote human rights, and struggles over the meaning of individual and institutional responsibility. We recommend the establishment of a scholarly center dedicated to these questions.*

**REPORT OF THE BROWN UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE ON SLAVERY & JUSTICE**



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COVER: (TOP) PHOTO BY RYTHUM VINOBEN, (BOTTOM) DEATH OF CAPT. FERRER, THE CAPTAIN OF THE AMISTAD, 1839 COURTESY OF BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY

**Director’s Note**

We live in a world shaped by our historic past. The sedimented traces of historical wrongs continue to haunt us. Legal decisions, which should have transformed norms, have not endured. Nor have they had lasting effects. In our nation we have yet to have a full and necessary conversation about race, the legacies of racial slavery, and their influences upon our everyday lives. And as we dodge, slip, and slide around confronting the past and its contemporary traces, our prison system becomes more and more populated with men and women of color and young black men and women become what we will soon call a “permanent underclass.”

This is not the society that the slaves had in mind when they petitioned the New Hampshire legislature in 1779 for freedom, asking for the chance to: “regain our liberty and be ranked in the class of free agents, and that the name of SLAVE may no more be heard.” Nor when black slaves left the plantations in the thousands and joined the Union Army, forcing President Lincoln to put slave emancipation on the table. Nor what in the 20th century the Southern Freedom Movement had in mind when they courageously with mass activity forced the dismantling of Jim Crow. It is accurate to say that today is not yesterday, that certain conditions are no more. But history is a complex process in human living because all matters not dealt with, all matters not confronted, reappear in new guises, in new questions, and issues which we need to face.

Over the past several months, the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice (CSSJ) made an attempt to develop an intellectual, scholarly and educative space in which the Brown University community can probe the issues of historic racial slavery and its contemporary consequences. We supported various groups within the University community and in our city in thinking and debating the issues of race, justice and the world we live in. We do not propose remedies. Rather we want to open the space, to create a safe space where scholarship debate, argument and then action can enter into productive conversations. Although we are located in the United States and need to pay profound attention to our nation, we recognize that racial slavery was a world system, that in a so-called globalized world there needs to be comparative conversations, and that today contemporary forms of human bondage affect all of us on the planet. To paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., there is a “garment of destiny” which envelops all; we ignore it at our future peril. So the CSSJ will walk always on two

legs, the historical leg of grappling with the historical wrongs of racial slavery and the contemporary need for justice. Walking on these two legs we hope to build a national and international center of some standing.

The establishment of a new center is an exciting, complicated task and process. The inaugural work of the Center was no different. There are many individuals whose dedication made this year possible. In particular,

*...history is a complex process in human living because all matters not dealt with, all matters not confronted, reappear in new guises, in new questions, and issues which we need to face...*

I would like to thank President Christina H. Paxson; Provost Mark S. Schlissel for his encouragement; Dean of the Faculty, Kevin McLaughlin and Nancy Congdon, Director of Administration and Finance and their office support staff, the faculty and external advisory board; Center Manager, Ms. Shana Weinberg; the former chair of the Department of Africana Studies, Professor Corey Walker; staff in the Planning, Design, and Construction office especially Lichen Grewer and William Gaudet, the Space Committee of the Provost’s Office, as well as the numerous Brown students and faculty who spoke to me and those who have begun to make the Center their home. Finally I would like to thank the two co-chairs of the external advisory committee, Dr. Ruth J. Simmons and Ms. Debra L. Lee ’76 for their support.

We look forward to a challenging next year under the themes *Free/Unfree* and *Race Today*.

**Anthony Bagues**

*Director of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice, Lyn Crost Professor of the Social Sciences and Critical Theory, and Professor of Africana Studies*



## Center Staff

Anthony Bogues  
*Director*

Shana Weinberg  
*Center Manager*

Patricia Lott, Ph.D.  
*Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral  
Fellow in Slavery & Justice*

Elon Cook AM '14 and Jazzmen Johnson AM '15  
*CSSJ Research Assistants  
Graduate Fellows for the Study  
of the Public History of Slavery*

## Faculty Advisory Board

Lina Fruzzetti (2012–2013)  
*Royce Family Professor in Teaching Excellence  
and Professor of Anthropology*

Philip Gould  
*Nicholas Brown Professor of Oratory and Belles  
Lettres Chair, Department of English*

Matthew Pratt Guterl  
*Chair of American Studies, Professor of  
Africana Studies and American Studies*

Glenn C. Loury  
*Merton P. Stoltz Professor of the Social Sciences*

Marion Orr  
*Director of the A. Alfred Taubman Center  
for Public Policy and American Institutions,  
Fred Lippitt Professor of Public Policy, Political  
Science and Urban Studies*

Seth Rockman  
*Associate Professor of History*

*A special welcome to our newest board member*  
Françoise N. Hamlin  
*Hans Rothfels Assistant Professor of History  
and Africana Studies*

## External Advisory Board

Dr. Ruth J. Simmons, *Co-chair*

Debra L. Lee '76, *Co-chair*

Prof. James T. Campbell

Prof. Spencer Crew '71

Brickson Diamond '93

Libby Heimark '76



## About the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice

The Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice (CSSJ) is a scholarly research center with a public educational mission.

Recognizing that racial and chattel slavery were central to the historical formation of the Americas, the CSSJ will create a space for the interdisciplinary study of:

- historical forms of slavery
- how the legacies of slavery shape our contemporary world
- contemporary forms of human bondage

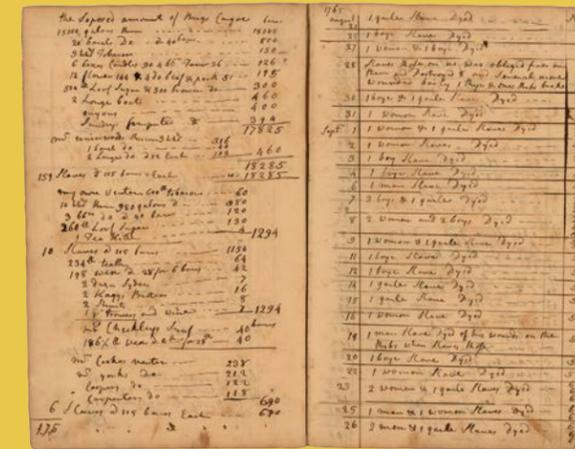
To further this study, CSSJ will establish research programs designed to foster deeper understandings about the issues of justice, human rights, and freedom today.

We are dedicated to a policy of global public engagement on the issues of slavery, human bondage, and justice. In order to explore these issues we will:

- convene public forums
- intervene in national and international debates
- develop collaborative partnerships of research and activities with scholars, activists, individuals, and institutions committed to these issues
- hold conferences and workshops around these issues

The Center developed out of recommendations of the Steering Committee on Slavery & Justice. During the Center's inaugural year of programming in 2012–13 we introduced a robust interdisciplinary series of programs which both examined Brown University's complex historical relationship with slavery and the contemporary legacies of slavery around the world. The Center hopes to continue to provide a structure through which students, scholars, and community members can create innovative connections and meaningful discourse. Through films, lectures, music programs, public exhibitions, conferences, and workshops, CSSJ seeks to weave the past, present, and future perspectives on historical forms of slavery and the contemporary search for justice and create a space for ongoing dialogue surrounding these issues.

*Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice*



In 2003, the then President of Brown University Dr. Ruth J. Simmons appointed a Steering Committee on Slavery & Justice (SCSJ) to explore Brown's historical relationship to slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. The SCSJ devoted three years to this task, uncovering, documenting, and discussing Brown's history and relationship to American slavery and the African slave trade. The SCSJ also sponsored many events that helped Brown and the Providence community reflect on this history, and the then national debate about reparations for slavery. The SCSJ's final report details how some of Brown's founders and benefactors participated in slavery and the transatlantic slave trade as well as the benefits the University derived from these activities. The report includes a set of recommendations by which Brown could publicly acknowledge this history and promote ongoing consideration of issues related to slavery and justice. One major recommendation was the establishment of a Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice (CSSJ). CSSJ was formally established during the 2012–2013 academic year.

(above) Page from the Captain's log book from the slaving vessel the *Sally*. The entry from August 28, 1765 notes that the "Slaves Rose on us was obliged fire on them and Destroyed 8."

COURTESY OF THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

*The willingness of this University to ask hard questions about its past and about its present and future distinguishes it from virtually every other leading institution in this country.*

**Prof. Seth Rockman**, February 28, 2013  
*Slavery, Justice, and the University Community Teach-in*

## Reflections on the Steering Committee on Slavery & Justice

**Prof. Marion Orr**

As a faculty member, I have served on numerous university committees. All have been in different ways rewarding and enriching experiences. One of the most rewarding, however, was my membership on the Steering Committee on Slavery & Justice. Appointed by President Ruth J. Simmons in 2003, the Steering Committee was asked to investigate Brown University's historical relationship to slavery and the slave trade. The committee was comprised of students, administrators, and faculty. The faculty contingent of the Steering Committee included historians with significant expertise on various matters directly related to slavery and justice. It also included social scientists, like me, whose research and teaching interests are focused on matters closely aligned with slavery's contemporary legacies. Usually, the Steering Committee worked as a "committee-of-whole" and decisions were made by consensus.

The Steering Committee's activities were vast and wide. The committee examined the connection between Brown's founders, its early benefactors and the slave trade. In other words, the Steering Committee conducted research. The committee learned, for example, that the initial steering committee that led to the founding of Brown University was comprised of "approximately

thirty members of the Brown Corporation who owned or captained slave ships, many of whom were involved in the trade during their years of service to the University.” It is clear from the Committee’s research that the first campaign to raise money to endow the University included donations from the owner of large southern plantations. The Committee learned that University Hall, where we held all our meetings, was built with the help of four enslaved Africans. One of the most interesting of aspects of the Steering Committee’s research focused specifically on the Brown family.

life and work, and his experience chairing President Clinton’s national “conversation” on race.

The creation of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice is one result of the Steering Committee’s report. In its final report to President Simmons released in October 2006, the committee recommended that “a dedicated academic center to foster research and teaching on issues” related to slavery and justice be established at Brown University. The general consensus of the members was that such a center would be consistent with Brown’s educational mission. Moreover, the establishment of a center, with a full-time director and a dedicated space, would provide Brown with an opportunity to distinguish itself by promoting research and teaching related to historical slavery and contemporary injustice. The Steering Committee’s vision was that the Center be known around the world as the place to study and research historical slavery, other injustices, and their legacies. Through visiting professorships, Postdoctoral fellowships, and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, the Center will become a hub of engaging-activity for the Brown campus. In addition, through public programs – similar to the ones sponsored by the Steering Committee – the Center will allow Brown to continue a national dialogue and debate about the subject of slavery and justice.

The creation of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice represents an exciting opportunity for Brown. I am happy to have played a role in its creation through my service on the Steering Committee. I am equally happy to be a member of the Center’s Faculty Advisory Board and to be able to work with the leadership and staff to make the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice world renowned.

**Marion Orr**

*Frederick Lippitt Professor of Public Policy, Professor of Political Science and Urban Studies, and Director, A. Alfred Taubman Center for Public Policy*



Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice

*The Steering Committee’s vision was that the Center be known around the world as the place to study and research historical slavery, other injustices, and their legacies.*

The Steering Committee learned about the voyage of the *Sally*, a slave ship owned by the Brown brothers. The *Sally* sailed from Providence to the west coast of Africa in 1764, the year of Brown’s founding. As the Steering Committee reported, “The voyage was a disaster in every conceivable sense.” Over 100 Africans perished on the *Sally*.

The Steering Committee sponsored many public lectures and activities. The events covered the topic of slavery and justice thoroughly, providing the public with a deep array of approaches, experiences, and contexts to consider historical injustices. Invited speakers covered a lot of ground. The Steering Committee invited participants with expertise in such topics as reconciliation, reparations, apologies, and memorialization. Historians, political scientists, and other social scientists discussed and debated the contemporary legacy of American slavery. The public events were always well-attended and stimulated deep (and sometime painful) discussion. Nearly a decade later, many of the Steering Committee’s public events stand out in my memory. For example, Edward Ball, a 1982 Brown graduate, returned to campus and spoke about his book, *Slaves in the Family*. Ball describes how his father’s family had enslaved some 4,000 people in South Carolina. Edward Ball spoke about meeting descendants of the Ball slaves, some of whom are his blood kin. I also remember Professor John Hope Franklin’s lecture in which he reflected on his own

2012–2013

## Center Events

The Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice sponsored events around the theme of *Ships of Bondage, Freedom, and the Knowledges of the Enslaved* during the 2012–2013 academic year. A series of interdisciplinary events and interactive workshops on this theme generated debate, media coverage, and the foundation for future study.



# Ships of Bondage, Freedom, and the Knowledges of the Enslaved

October 3, 2012

**Sons of Providence reading and talk by author Charles Rappleye**

Charles Rappleye, author of *Sons of Providence* delivered a lecture titled “Past & Present” where he discussed what he learned while writing *Sons of Providence*, how it changed his thinking about Brown University and early New England, and what it means to be an American both in the present and in the late 1700s. *Sons of Providence* was part of the First Readings Program, a summer reading project for all new students at Brown.

February 2013

**Ships of Bondage and Rebellion film screenings**

Held every Wednesday in February, each screening was followed by a facilitated discussion.

February 6

*Traces of the Trade* with Prof. Anani Dzidzienyo

February 13

*Tamango* with Brandy Monk-Payton, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Modern Culture and Media

February 20

*Amistad* with Prof. Corey D.B. Walker

February 27

*Burn!* with Prof. Anthony Bogues

March 1, 2013

**Special Screening, *Lincoln***

The Brown University Library, the Office of Public Affairs and University Relations, and the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice co-hosted a complimentary public screening of DreamWorks’ *Lincoln* and discussion with Prof. Michael Vorenberg in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

April 15, 2013

**A Carceral Society: Mass Incarceration and the Crisis of American Democracy**

Sponsored by the Brown University Department of Africana Studies, Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice, Third World Center, Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights, Group 49, Amnesty International, and Brown ACLU and moderated by Prof. Corey D.B. Walker, this event examined the system of the prison industrial complex and its racial implications.



Marian Anderson String Quartet

*I have the highest regard for the Slavery & Justice Initiative at Brown University, I commend all of you for undertaking it.... Brown University has led the way, and other major American institutions must follow.*

Prof. Marcus Rediker



April 24, 2013

**Marian Anderson String Quartet: Songs of the Middle Passage Discussion**

*Songs of the Middle Passage* is inspired by the cultural traditions of the Middle Passage, the sea voyage in which millions of people from Africa were shipped to the New World. This event included a moderated conversation with the musicians of the Marian Anderson String Quartet and featured samples from their repertoire including their new program working with contemporary composers to adapt the "Negro Spiritual." Donald W. King '93, Fete Vice President, Co-Owner, Fete/Archetype LLC moderated the conversation. This event was made possible thanks to support from Rhode Island Chamber Music Concerts, the Creative Arts Council at Brown University and the Department of Africana Studies/Rites and Reason Theatre.

April 29, 2013

**Screening of Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained***

The Center screened Quentin Tarantino's controversial new release *Django Unchained* and sponsored a panel discussion featuring Prof. Terri Francis of Yale University and Prof. Matthew Pratt Guterl and Prof. Corey D. B. Walker from Brown University. Panelists discussed slavery and African American culture in films past and present, and audience members shared their thoughts. Co-sponsored by the Departments of Africana Studies, American Studies and Modern Culture and Media.

May 25, 2013

**Race, Slavery, and Contemporary American Life Commencement Forum**

Prof. Anthony Bogues, Director Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice and Advisory Board members Prof. Glenn Loury and Prof. Seth Rockman examined the ways in which race and slavery shaped both early America and contemporary American life. The event also provided an opportunity to discuss the work of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice in its inaugural year at Brown University.

June 5, 2013

**Racial Profiling in Rhode Island**

Local and national community leaders came together for a forum on *Racial Profiling in Rhode Island*. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Racial Profiling Coalition, Brown University Department of Africana Studies, and the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice, the forum focused on creating and sustaining a comprehensive community dialogue on racial profiling and how this issue challenges the entire Rhode Island community.



Prof. Michael Vorenberg discusses Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*



**Debra L. Lee '76** is Chairman and CEO of BET Holdings, Inc. (BET), a media and entertainment company targeted to African Americans. Prior to her appointment as CEO in March 1996, Lee served as the network's executive vice president of strategic business development. During her tenure at BET, Lee has played some of the most pivotal roles in the company's history, including executive vice president and general counsel of BET's legal affairs department; corporate secretary; and president and publisher of BET's publishing division.

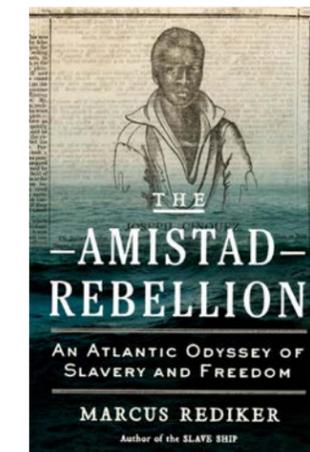
It is through her generosity that the Debra L. Lee Lecture Series on Slavery & Justice came about. Debra Lee is acting co-chair of the External Advisory Committee on Slavery & Justice. Her gift as well as her continued involvement in the CSSJ will be a driving force in the years to come. Debra L. Lee exemplifies the values which Brown University strives to discover in every student and graduate: intellectual curiosity, excellence, and a commitment to the greater community in which we live.

February 25, 2013

**DEBRA L. LEE LECTURE ON SLAVERY & JUSTICE Marcus Rediker, *The African Origins of the Amistad Rebellion***

The 2013 Debra L. Lee Lecture on Slavery & Justice explored the West African cultural logic of the *Amistad* Rebellion of 1839, in which 53 enslaved Africans organized a successful uprising aboard a slave schooner that was carrying them to a life of bondage in Cuba. African ways of thinking and doing remained central to the rebels' self-organization in American jails and to their eventual legal victory and repatriation to southern Sierra Leone in 1842.

We are pleased to announce that the 2014 Debra L. Lee speaker will be Prof. Deborah Willis, University Professor and Chair, Department of Photography & Imaging, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. Prof. Willis will present her talk *Visualizing Freedom: Photography & Emancipation* on March 4, 2014.



*As a committee, we were... excited by [the Center's] commitment to a robust community engagement and public education agenda, and saw another critical aspect of our work in attempting to draw connections and partnerships between the Center and interested students and faculty at Brown with lay intellectuals, activists, and other members of the Providence community... we were invigorated by the interest that the broader Providence community showed in the Center and its work when we demonstrated a dedication to engaging them as equal partners and in helping to create programming that drew more direct links between the Center's mission and their own concerns.*

**Michael Becker '13**  
leader of Student Advisory Committee Events

### Student Advisory Committee Events

During our inaugural year we worked with a dedicated group of students to form the Student Advisory Committee. The Center operates as a collaborative space between faculty, staff, and students and benefited greatly from the creativity and energy that the Student Advisory Committee provided in 2012-13. Not only did the group initiate the *Hands that Move Us* competition which strengthened the visual and artistic elements of the Center's undertakings, but they also worked diligently to create a series of community conversations about Brown's connection to slavery, the legacy of racial slavery today, including contemporary labor inequities.

The Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice's Undergraduate Student Advisory Committee presented a series of Teach-in Community Conversations which carefully navigated the origins of the Center's work and investigated the clear challenges that society faces from the legacy of slavery. The series also provided a call to action in the community and served to highlight contemporary issues which challenge the notion of justice today.

February 28, 2013

#### Slavery, Justice and the University

This teach-in explored Brown University's historic relationship with slavery and the trans-Atlantic slave trade with reference to its broader historical context, and re-introduced and critically evaluated the Slavery & Justice Report as an important attempt to grapple with the University's complicity and questions of retrospective justice. Further, it discussed the mission, future, and possibilities of the Center as one significant product of the Report.

March 14, 2013

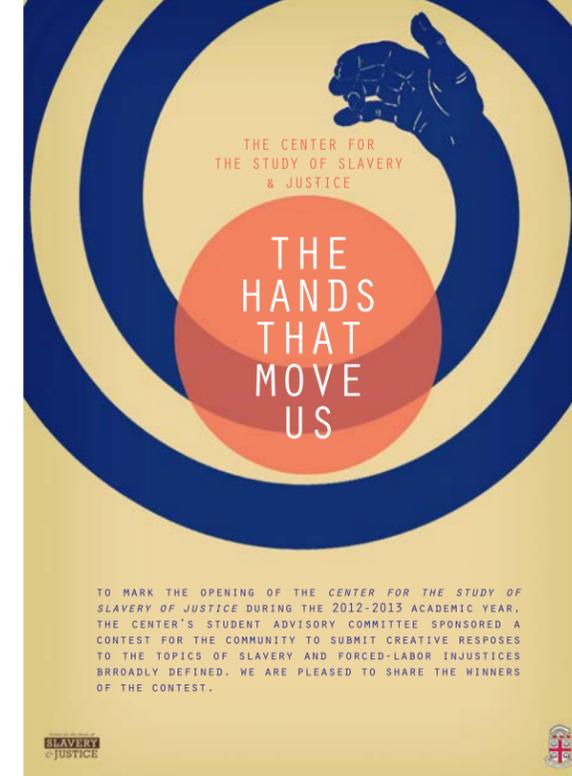
#### Racial Slavery & Its Reverberations

This teach-in critically engaged with the history of racial slavery, the resistance of enslaved people and their descendants, and its legacies in the modern world. It focused on the United States, but with attention to slavery's global dimensions and ramifications.

April 25, 2013

#### Contemporary Forms of Human Bondage

This teach-in examined several of the many and varied forms of contemporary human bondage, including human trafficking and migrant labor, and their intimate linkages with slavery. There was also discussion on resistance and steps that can be taken to move forward.



PAUL TRAN

### Hands that Move Us

For *The Hands That Move Us*, a multimedia submission contest, the Student Advisory Committee requested individual submissions of essays, poems, art, or works of any medium that dealt with the topics of slavery and forced-labor injustice broadly defined. Below are the two winners.

#### TRAINS

by A. Sydney Peak '15  
(excerpt below)

*...Trembling at a train's  
whistle in the distance  
We will not question why  
we didn't step out of  
the way sooner  
But why they rode right  
through us in silence,  
As if we weren't  
even here.*



#### RAPE

by Michelle Lin  
32" x 40"  
December 2012

A homage to the victims of the Rape of Nanking in World War II, the Chinese characters on this shirt tell the story of this horror and holocaust in which Japanese soldiers made a killing game. In the details: gang rape, young girls forced into sexual slavery, sons forced to rape their mothers, and fathers forced to rape their daughters.

May 9–October 20, 2013

EXHIBITION

****Ships of Bondage and the Fight for Freedom****

*Ships of Bondage and the Fight for Freedom* examined the global networks involved in the African slave trade. This exhibition told the story of slave insurrections on three vessels: the *Amistad*, the *Meermin*, and the *Sally*, exploring the struggle of the enslaved to resist captivity, gain freedom, and return to their homelands.

Through text panels, historic images, and archival documents, *Ships of Bondage* examined the role of the people involved in the global slave trade – including the merchants who financed expeditions, captains in command of voyages, and sailors charged with enforcing the captivity of the human cargo. Using historical documents the exhibit also included a multimedia audio slide show, which shared the experience of slavery from the perspective of the enslaved.

The transitional space of the ship itself was also examined and how it transformed identities and communities, turning captive Africans into enslaved peoples. Maps and timelines helped visitors to understand the global context of the African slave trade, and its various Atlantic and Indian Ocean routes.



*When Chris Bull [Senior Research Engineer, Senior Lecturer at Brown University] and I thought about intellectual resources available on campus that would suggest to the 28 young Global South engineers and other scholar-practitioners participating in “Connections and Flows,” the first engineering BIARI (Brown International Advanced Research Institutes), that the practice of science and technology is embedded in society and culture, we agreed that the CSSJ exhibit Ships of Bondage might be an unusual but worthy choice. The reactions of the BIARI participants proved us right. Viewing together the technological changes made to ships converted into “floating tombs” or negreiros, and discussing how the global trade in spices, textiles, spirits and humans motivated the emergence in the 18th and 19th centuries of such “technologies of hubris,” we were able to have a broad, reflective discussion, right on the spot, about how historical situations have inflected the ethical choices of engineers, past and present. Our objective of creating a conversation drawing on global histories, visual arts, Africana Studies, ways of thinking about what it means to be human, and engineering as culture and practice was achieved as we walked and talked – an example of what I think of as the kind of public curriculum which a well-designed exhibition can be. And thanks to the CSSJ, we had only to walk across the campus to do that!*

**Prof. Geri Augusto**, June 2013  
Africana Studies; Co-Convener, BIARI Connections & Flows



**We are appreciative of the support of the many individuals** who helped make this exhibition possible including: Erin Wells and Mark Foster, Exhibit Designers; Lynn Carlson, Geographic Information Systems Manager, Exhibit Cartographer; Exhibit Advisory Committee Members: Karen Allen Baxter, Managing Director, Department of Africana Studies’ Rites and Reason Theatre; Elon Cook, Graduate Research Assistant, Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice; Prof. Rachel Ama Asaa Engmann, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World and the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage; Steven Lubar, Director, John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage; Kimberly Nusco, Reference and Manuscript Librarian, John Carter Brown Library.

**Special Thanks to:** Staff of the Brown Public Humanities Center: Steve Lubar, Anne Valk, Ron Potvin, Jenna Legault, and Genie Correia. Staff at the John Carter Brown Library: Margot Nishimura, Kimberly Nusco, Leslie Tobias-Olsen, John Minichiello. Installation volunteers: Lauren Abman, Jane Coleman-Harblison, Elon Cook Raina Fox, Jonathan Oly, Maria Quintero, Malgorzata Rymysz-Pawlowska, Jamie Topper, Anna Wada, and Sarah Yahm. Student organizers of *The Hands that Move Us* contest: Brian Kundering, Meiling Jabbaar, Leila Blatt, Ethan McCoy, and Paul Tran (graphic design). South African collaborators: Jaco Boshoff and Jon Weinberg. Additional exhibit help: Deborah Bowen and Adrian Randall.

**Freedom Voices Installation:** B. Anthony Bagues, Script Curator; Directed and Produced by Karen Allen Baxter; Erin Wells, Video Producer; Shana Weinberg & Elon Cook, Research Support. Featuring the voices of: Ifa Bayeza, Don King, Ricardo Pitts-Wiley, and Sylvia Ann Soares.

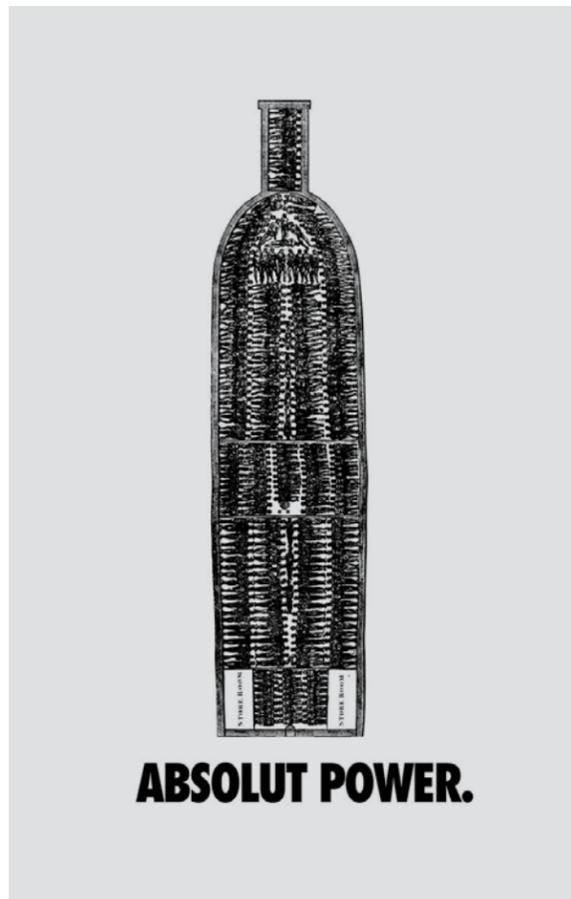
May 10 & 11, 2013

SYMPOSIUM

*The Slave: Freedom on My Mind / Knowledge / Memory / And the Arts of the Enslaved*

This two-day workshop brought together a diverse group of domestic and international scholars who shared the challenges and surprising discoveries found within their work on a variety of topics related to slavery. By sharing their research, the promise of new scholarship and opportunities for further interpretation and action was greatly increased. The symposium married those who are actively pursuing innovative research with those who are shaping public policy. The symposium drew a large number of participants from the community, including teachers from the Providence area who sought new resources to approach developing a curriculum on the topic of slavery in the region. This symposium represents the foundation for the quality of discourse that the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice hopes to bring in the years to come.

(below) Hank Willis Thomas, *Absolut Power*, 2003.  
FROM THE GLOBAL AFRICA PROJECT, 2010



**Freedom on My Mind**

Presenters: Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Prof. Roquinaldo Ferreira and Prof. Alejandro de la Fuente

How does a Nation begin to make reparations for slavery? The political, economic, and contemporary complications were discussed. Professor Beckles opened the workshop with his own experience in the U.N. and Professors Ferreira and de la Fuente continued to provide insight into other international approaches.

**Arts, Aesthetics and the Enslaved**

Presenters: Prof. Marcus Wood, Prof. Deborah Willis, and Prof. Bárbaro Martínez-Ruiz

Professors Wood, Willis, and Martínez-Ruiz looked at the rich materials produced by enslaved peoples and the ever-changing interpretation of well-known pieces over the years. The art produced creates a tangible link between the African cultures represented in the New World and insight into how the slave/artist claimed his/her identity.

**Slave Knowledge**

Presenters: Prof. James Sweet, Prof. Geri Augusto, and Prof. Wlamyra Ribeiro de Albuquerque

Professors Sweet, Augusto, and Ribeiro de Albuquerque presented their research on how African slaves shaped the cultural identity and knowledge in regions around the world. How the slave's knowledge was transported to places like Brazil and other countries and in turn how the interactions between slaves and indigenous peoples created new types of knowledge.

**Memory and Public History**

Presenters: Prof. Verene Shepherd, Shanaaz Galant, Prof. Spencer Crew, Prof. Nicholas Draper

Slavery is a part of our collective past, but how should we approach memorializing the experience and what is the relationship that our history has with collective memory? Professor Draper spoke about his experience with the Legacies of British Slave-ownership project. Professor Shepherd addressed issues to do with public memory and slavery in Jamaica. Ms. Galant spoke about her work in a post-apartheid South African museum. Professor Crew discussed how the Lincoln Memorial raises the central issue of what our public monuments say about us.

*The focus of the symposium was clearly on the agency of enslaved people across the full spectrum of human activity. Our approach to slavery in the LBS [Legacies of British Slave-ownership] project, through the slave-owner, represents a distinctly different way in to the subject and its problems. I found that many of the papers that I heard, both in their subject matter and their methods, shed new light (for me) not only on what other scholars are doing and thinking about but also on new questions we could and perhaps should be asking in our work. Conversely, I believe that at least some of the audience saw how in turn our work could connect with their own.*

**Prof. Nicholas Draper**

Rhode Island Slavery Symposium May 10th–11th  
Retrieved May 17th 2013, from <http://lbsatucl.wordpress.com>



COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## Fellowship for the Study of the Public History of Slavery

One fully-supported two-year fellowship is available each year for a student pursuing an M.A. at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities who is interested in working in museums and other cultural institutions on issues related to the history and legacy of slavery. The fellowships are intended to help prepare future professionals who can help museums and cultural institutions address controversial issues, teaching the public and initiating broad conversations about slavery, race and racism, and retrospective justice.

This joint fellowship between the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice and the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities came out of the Steering Committee on Slavery & Justice's recommendations to preserve and memorialize the history of slavery and advance the discussion of retrospective justice within museums, libraries, and historic sites.

Elon Cook AM '14 is the first fellow to work with the Center.

We are pleased to welcome our new fellow, Jazzmen Johnson AM '15 to the Center.



### Elon Cook AM '14

I am originally from Columbia, Maryland. I graduated from Spelman College in 2006 with a degree in Sociology & Anthropology. I am a legacy student since my sister and mother graduated from Spelman too. My grandmother was accepted and desperately wanted to attend but her father refused to help her pay for tuition so my grandmother started a college savings account for her daughter before my mother was born so that she could go to Spelman one day. Higher education is very important in my family and in 2014 I will be the third woman in my family to obtain a master's degree. My sister and I work hard to accomplish my grandmother's dreams and have also established a scholarship at Spelman College in her name.

I wrote my senior thesis on the formation of racial identity among Mexicans of African descent. I worked at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture for three years.

I have been researching my family tree over the last 8 years and have gone back to the early 1800s on the black side of my family and the late 1600s on the white side. I am in the final stages of applying to the Daughters of the American Revolution and should become a full member in the next month. I use genealogy as a means of connecting myself and others with America and world history. My scholarly focus on slavery helps me gain a deeper understanding of what life may have been like for my ancestors. I believe there is no point in learning if you cannot share what you have learned. My goal is to continue finding new career paths that allow me to learn and teach others about America's history of slavery.

We are pleased to announce CSSJ's inaugural Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow in Slavery & Justice for the 2013-2014 academic year, Patricia A. Lott. Prof. Lott earned her Ph.D. from the Department of African American Studies at Northwestern University. She also holds a B.A. in English from Dillard University of New Orleans and an M.A. in African American Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. Her research interests include racial slavery, collective memory, critical geography, literary and performance culture, the philosophy of law, and public memorials. Her dissertation, "Bearing Witness to a History of Erasures and Traces: The Public Collective Memory of Racial Slavery in the Antebellum North," uses some of the questions raised by contemporary archaeological unearthings of racial slavery's historical presence in the U.S. North to ground an investigation into how and why the institution largely was effaced from prevalent nineteenth-century commemorative practices in the region.



## Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow in Slavery & Justice

The Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow in Slavery & Justice is a one year fellowship offered annually for scholars who are working on questions concerning the historical formations of slavery in global or comparative terms; issues concerning contemporary forms of indentured servitude; or philosophical, historical, and theoretical questions concerning slavery and justice. Please check our website ([www.brown.edu/slaveryjustice](http://www.brown.edu/slaveryjustice)) for information about applications for the 2014-2015 academic year.

# Free/Unfree Race Today

## Upcoming Programming for the 2013–2014 Academic Year

In this anniversary year of the Emancipation Proclamation, CSSJ programming for the 2013–2014 will be organized around the themes *Free/Unfree* and *Race Today*. Please visit CSSJ's website (<http://brown.edu/slaveryandjustice>) for the latest information.

September 2013

### ***Ships of Bondage and the Fight for Freedom***

*Ongoing Exhibition in the Public Humanities Gallery*

October 17, 2013

### ***Marian Anderson String Quartet presents: Songs of Freedom and the Emancipation Proclamation***

October 18–19, 2013

### **'Slave – Citizen – Human'**

*Graduate Student Colloquium on Slavery*

October 24–27, 2013

### ***Beyond Sweetness: New Histories of Sugar in the Early Atlantic World***

*at the John Carter Brown Library*

November 1, 2013

### ***Lincoln and Emancipation: New Considerations***

*Lecture and Workshop*

December 2013

### ***Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century***

*Lecture and Workshop*

February 2014

### ***Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle***

*Film Series*

March 2014

### ***Prof. Deborah Willis, Visualizing Freedom: Photography & Emancipation***

*Annual Debra L. Lee Lecture on Slavery & Justice*

April 2014

### ***Free/Unfree***

*Exhibition Opening*

May 2014

### ***Symposium on Racial Legacies of Slavery and the American Criminal Justice System***



*We have got this extremely violent history in which slavery is a centerpiece. And there is a real disinclination to face it. So in some ways what Brown did was to enact, in microcosm, what needs to happen at a much larger level.*

**Prof. Marcus Rediker**

as quoted by *The Providence Phoenix*, May 1, 2013

## Acknowledgments

The staff of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice would like to sincerely thank all of the individuals who contributed their time, expertise, and energy during the Center's first year including the dedicated individuals on the faculty and external advisory board; University administrators including those in the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Dean of the College and Dean of the Faculty, and Office of Public Affairs and University Relations; the many guests from around the world who took time to come to Brown to share their work and the administrators and students on campus who facilitated these public discussions, faculty and staff from centers and departments across campus and all the students and other members of the Brown community who have given the Center their full support.

## Contact Us

At the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice we are interested in collaborative programming, and providing a space to respond to issues important to you. Please share your feedback from previous events, or ideas for new programming.

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