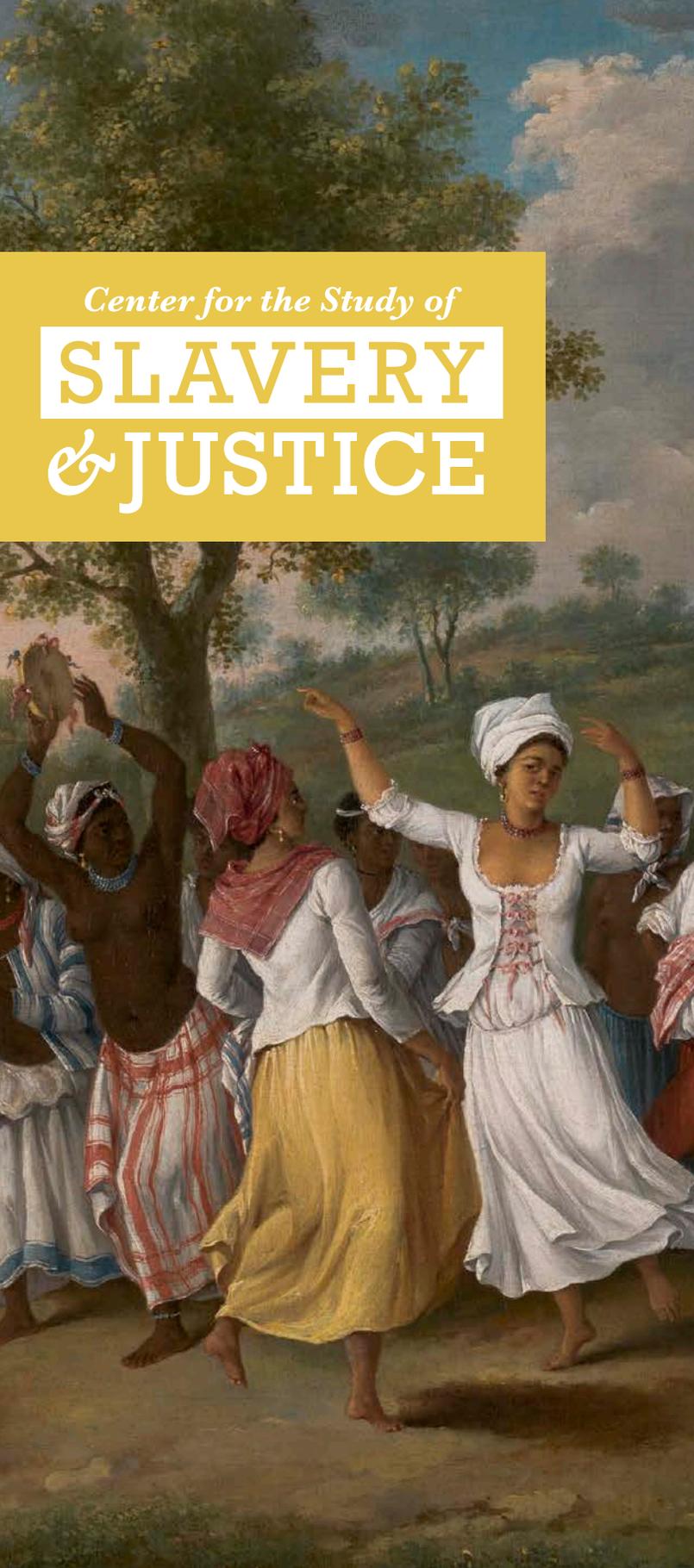


Center for the Study of

SLAVERY
& **JUSTICE**





RUTH CLARK

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FRONT COVER: (LEFT) DANCING SCENE IN THE WEST INDIES, CA.1764-96. AGOSTINO BRUNIAS, COURTESY OF TATE BRITAIN (RIGHT) IRON MASK, COLLAR, LEG SHACKLES AND SPURS USED TO RESTRICT SLAVE, 1807. LC-USZ62-31864 SAMUEL, COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RARE BOOK AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION

Director’s Note

This has been a propitious year which unmasked many dominant social myths about race. In America, the growing hegemonic idea that we were now entering a “post racial” moment, one that emerged after the election of President Obama, exploded as Ferguson and Baltimore opened up different national spaces in which anti-black racism was laid bare. Historically, “riots”/ urban uprisings by the African American community have typically been triggered by the ways in which the police have treated a black person. Recall Harlem 1964, Watts 1965, Newark 1966, Liberty City, Florida 1980, Rodney King 1992, and Cincinnati 2001. The relationship between the police and the black community has historically provided a flashpoint about the significance of race in America. *The Ferguson Report* produced by the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division noted that “Ferguson’s approach to law enforcement both reflects and reinforces racial bias, including stereotyping. The harms of Ferguson’s police and court practices are borne disproportionately by African Americans. There is evidence that this is due in part to intentional discrimination on the basis of race.” What was laid bare in these events was that anti-black racism was alive and well and that black bodies (both male and female) were often marked to be treated without any due regard and respect for rights. One response to this has been the emergence of the slogan and movement “Black Lives Matter.” In February 2015, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate for African Americans was 10.4%, while for whites it was 4%. It further noted that while the national unemployment rate was 5.5%, 23% of those who were black and unemployed had some level of college education, over 15% had a bachelor’s degree, and 4.5 % had advanced

degrees. These figures exposed a prevailing myth that the high level of black unemployment was simply due to lack of education. The idea that civil rights legislation, and “progress” had dealt with anti-black racism, that the emergence of an African American middle class meant the end of structural racism today has now been demonstrated as mythical.

It is in such a moment that we perhaps understand how powerful and deep the history of racial slavery has shaped our nation. One of our national myths is about America as a nation of infinite possibilities, as exceptional because of the ability for anyone to remake him or herself. What this year has shown is how race

...we have not grappled with the fact that slavery was not a peculiar institution of the South, but a pervasive American social system...

structures that ability, how the history of racial slavery haunts and pervades those structures. When in a chokehold on the streets of New York, Eric Garner said, “I can’t breathe.” He was not only enunciating words about his inability to physically breathe, but was uttering words about the impossibility of being able to live in humane ways for many African Americans. Hence “Black Lives” matter because to be black still means to be racially profiled, to be a body which can be treated

without rights. History has a long arc and yes, the present is not the past, but neither is the present a vacuous moment only filled with the paradoxes of that moment. What we know is that history matters because in the course of the flow of human events, what has been done shapes what we do today. We are not prisoners of history nor are we burdened by it. But history's long arc leaves traces and until we confront those traces, struggle with them, and then move forward, the traces become the grounds on which we live. So race matters because racism was part of the fundamental way in which our nation was formed.

Over this year we at the CSSJ continued to think about our nation's history, to understand that this history is still being played out today. In our third year we have formalized our research foci to the following areas: investigating the American criminal justice system and the relationships between the African American community and the police; investigating human trafficking today; building an archive of African American papers and other archival material at Brown University; developing a global exhibition project on slavery; researching and developing a project on the ways in which slavery shaped the economic, political, cultural, and social ways of life at the historic moment when the modern was inaugurated. We have organized ourselves this way because in a real sense, some of the crucial issues which face us today do so because there is unfinished business to be done. We have not had the hard conversations about race in America in part because we have not grappled with the fact that slavery was not a peculiar institution of the South, but a pervasive American social system; as a nation we have not faced up to the facts about anti-black racism in all its forms because to do so would be to open up a history which we have elided in the hope that it will go away. And what is true for America is also accurate for many other countries. Ask the black person who lives in Europe today or the Afro-Brazilian about how the history of racial slavery has been elided in the

dominant historical narratives which shape ideas of citizenship and belonging. So the actions of the past do not evaporate – they persist until we have grappled with them. And the demands of justice means that grapple with them we must.

As the CSSJ attempts to meet the obligations of the present we will grapple with the tough issues. It means we will engage in research, in public debate, in scholarly conversations which may sometimes trouble the waters. But we do so recalling one of the charges of the *Steering Committee for the Study of Slavery and Justice* that we “reflect on the meaning of this history in the present ...and that Brown has a special obligation and a special opportunity to provide thoughtful inquiry.” Over the year with myriad of activities and programming we have attempted to do this. We could not have done this without the active support and participation of the Center's remarkable staff, Associate Director Roquinaldo Ferreira, Shana Weinberg, and Ruth Clark. Thanks as well to the various individuals and offices of the University administration that have supported the Center, as well as to the University community and the Providence community.

We look forward to seeing everyone this year as we engage in asking and discussing some of the questions of our times.

Anthony Bagues

Director of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice, Asa Messer Professor of Humanities and Critical Theory, and Professor of Africana Studies



About the Center

The Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ) is a scholarly research center with a public humanities mission. Recognizing that racial and chattel slavery were central to the historical formation of the Americas and the modern world, the CSSJ creates a space for the interdisciplinary study of the historical forms of slavery while also examining how these legacies shape our contemporary world. We are also attentive to contemporary forms of human bondage and injustice.

The Center's work is currently organized around the following research clusters:

- **Global Curatorial Project**
An exhibition and curatorial project, which presents both the global interconnectedness of Atlantic slavery and the slave trade, as well as illuminates an alternative view about the history of our global modernity. Partner Institutions include: Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History & Culture, the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, England, Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale (Belgium), Cheikh Anta Diop Institute (Senegal), Les Anneaux de la Mémoire (France), Château des ducs de Bretagne (France), and Iziko Museums of South Africa. Project led by Prof. Anthony Bagues.
- **Slavery, History, and Modernity**
This project examines the role of slavery in shaping the modern world and its connection to modern forms of economic activity and production. The cluster operates through a series of research workshops on specific elements of economic, political and social life that constitutes the modern. Research will be mapped in empirical historical ways. Project led by Prof. Anthony Bagues, Prof. Roquinaldo Ferreira, and Prof. Seth Rockman.
- **Human Trafficking**
This project explores contemporary forms of human bondage and engages in public programming around this issue. Project led by Prof. Elena Shih.
- **Investigating the Criminal Justice System**
This project focuses on prison and relations between the police and Black community. Project led by Prof. Anthony Bagues (interim).
- **Creating a Network of Scholars**
This program connects the work of innovative scholars around the world who are exploring the history and legacies of slavery. Project led by Prof. Roquinaldo Ferreira.
- **Freedom Archive**
This program creates an inventory of materials in the Brown University Library and special collections related to slavery and abolition to help scholars more easily access this material. Project led by Prof. Françoise N. Hamlin.



Staff/Administration

Anthony Bogues
Director,
Asa Messer Professor of Humanities and Critical Theory,
Professor of Africana Studies, affiliated Professor of History of Art & Architecture, Political Science, and Modern Culture & Media

Roquinaldo Ferreira
Associate Director,
Vasca da Gama Associate Professor of Early Modern Portuguese History and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies

Shana Weinberg
Assistant Director

Ruth Clark
Outreach and Program Coordinator

Student Workers

Ana Marx '18
Cherise Morris '16
Jamie Sarfeh '15



Faculty Advisory Board

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Seth Rockman
Associate Professor of History

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Debra L. Lee '76,
Co-chair

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Katherine Chon '02

Spencer Crew '71

Brickson Diamond '93

Libby Heimark '76

Postdoctoral Fellows

Jennifer Page, Ph.D.
Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow in Slavery and Justice (2015–2016)

Mekala Audain, Ph.D.
Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow in Slavery and Justice (2014–2015)

Justin Pope, Ph.D.
John Carter Brown Library and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice Joint Fellow (2014–2015)

Graduate Fellows

Arielle Brown AM '17
Graduate Fellow for the Study of the Public History of Slavery

Maiyah Gamble-Rivers AM '16
Youth Program Manager & Graduate Fellow for the Study of the Public History of Slavery

Tatiana Gellein MD '16, Sc.B. '10
Graduate Fellow for the Study of Race and Health Inequities

Jazzmen Lee-Johnson AM '15
Graduate Fellow for the Study of the Public History of Slavery

Visiting Graduate Fellow

Lorenzo Ravano (2015)

Faculty Fellow

Prof. Elena Shih (2015–2018)

Prof. Seth Rockman (2014–2015)

Faculty Associates

Prof. Geri Augusto (2015)

Connie Crawford (2015)

Prof. Keisha-Khan Y. Perry (2015)

Visiting Fellow

Prof. Charlie Cobb (2014)

Visiting Scholars

Prof. Claire Andrade-Watkins (2015–2016)

Prof. Buhle Zuma (2014)

Dissertation Fellow

Matthew Beach '16 PhD
English Department

Note from the Associate Director

I enjoyed my first year serving as the associate director at the CSSJ. It is exciting to be part of a new project that provides Brown University with an opportunity to deal with issues related to slavery and justice in an intellectual way. The Center is an exciting venue that activates connections throughout the campus, giving us a chance to come together as a community and reflect intellectually on painful questions of the past and present. I have observed with excitement as it quickly acquires a national and international profile due to the several projects now underway under the leadership of Prof. Bogues.

I have benefited greatly from working at the CSSJ, and the Center has affected my own work in several meaningful ways. In the past year, I worked with colleagues in the history department to organize a speaker series and have also been involved with several other initiatives. Either as a chair or a member of fellowship committees, I have had a chance to shape the Center's intellectual agenda, helping colleagues to attract the most exciting scholars to the CSSJ. The CSSJ has also given me a chance to meet several junior scholars, people who will shape their own fields of studies, while also connecting or reconnecting with established scholars in different fields. I look forward to another year of great scholarship and projects!

Roquinaldo Ferreira

Vasca da Gama Associate Professor of Early Modern Portuguese History and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies



Programming 2014–2015

Over the last year, the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice sponsored 74 events. Members of the campus and local community attended these programs which engaged with a range of issues from new historical scholarship, which sought to deepen our understanding of the enslaved and the global slave trade, to programs examining how this past impacts our contemporary world today through structural inequities and racism. Below are some of the highlights from the year.

At the beginning of the 2014 academic year the Center moved to its new home at 94 Waterman Street. The Center's new location has a gallery space, seminar room, and curated slave garden. The occasion was marked with a keynote lecture by CSSJ External Advisory Board co-chair and President Emerita, Ruth J. Simmons. Her talk, entitled *Confronting Historic Wrongs: A University's Dilemma*, addressed the topic of the Center's work, underscored the role of CSSJ as a forum for critically engaging with issues of human

rights and inequality, and facilitating ever-evolving research that creates new conversations about justice. Following her talk guests were invited to a formal dedication at the Center where Prof. Anani Dzidzienyo, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, performed a traditional African libation, and Preston Tisdale '73, president-elect of the Brown Alumni Association, invoked the memory of Inman Page, the University's first black graduate who also served as the class of 1877 orator.



250th Anniversary Programs

The 250th Anniversary Fall Celebration Forum
Enduring Legacies of Slavery: Human Trafficking in the 21st Century

Forum participants included CSSJ External Advisory Board Member Katherine Chon '02, Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; Malika Saada Saar '92, Executive Director, Rights4Girls; and Preston Tisdale '73, Attorney, Koskoff, Koskoff & Beider, PC. Prof. Anthony Bogues, Director of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, facilitated the discussion.

Unveiling of Slavery Memorial
designed by Martin Puryear

President Christina H. Paxson, the Public Art Committee, and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice hosted the dedication of the Slavery Memorial as part of the 250th Anniversary Fall Weekend. The program included remarks by sculptor and National Medal of Arts recipient Martin Puryear who spoke to a crowd of over 300 people.

A more comprehensive archive of our past and future programming can be found at brown.edu/slaveryjustice.

50th Anniversary of Brown-Tougaloo College Partnership

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Brown-Tougaloo College Partnership and Exchange Program, veterans of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) were invited to campus to share their contributions to the freedom movement. Veterans participated in a series of oral history interviews which will be made available to scholars and students, and visited classes to talk about the Civil Rights movement. They participated in a series of panel discussions entitled: *Freedom Struggle Then, Freedom Struggle Now: Conversation with the Organizers*, which sought to parse out the points of connection and divergence between past and present freedom struggles in the Black Community. Following the panels, a performance of *Follow the Drinking Gourd* by the acclaimed Marian Anderson String Quartet and Rose Weaver MFA, '00, directed by Ifa Bayez, presented freedom songs in combination with other "Negro spirituals" to celebrate a rich tradition of community and connection in honor of the anniversary of the Brown-Tougaloo partnership. This series of events was made possible through the Office of the 250th Anniversary.





RUTH CLARK

Brown Bag Lunch Series

The CSSJ Brown Bag Lunch Series invites guest presenters to share scholarship and reflect on their activities. These events are free and open to the public. Last year, scholars, community activists, and students presented on a range of issues including historical interrogations of the past to examinations of the ways in which legacies of slavery and resistance inform our contemporary contexts. Speakers included Prof. Dienke Hondius, from the University of Amsterdam and a leading scholar on slavery in the Dutch colonial period and author of *Blackness in Western Europe*; former poet laureate of Louisiana Brenda Marie Osbey; activist Ana Edwards who created a campaign to commemorate Shockoe Bottom, once the center of Richmond's slave trade; and prominent scholars including Prof. Beatriz Mamigonian who researches 19th century Brazil and Prof. Alejandra Dubcovsky who works on the intersection of Indian and African Slavery in the North American South.

Emerging Scholars Series

The Emerging Scholars series supports scholars early in their careers. This year the Center supported three talks: Prof. Christine Walker: *To Buy, Kidnap, or Free a Slave? Redrawing the Boundaries Between Gender, Race, and Authority in Colonial Jamaica*; Prof. Oscar de la Torre: *Larry and Luis: Using Environmental Knowledge to Fight for Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Amazonia*; and Prof. Calvin Warren: *Black Anxiety: Briefings on Heideggerian Death, Ferguson, and Antiracism*.



RUTH CLARK

2015 ANNUAL DEBRA L. LEE LECTURE

Katherine Chon '02

CO-FOUNDER & PRESIDENT EMERITA,
POLARIS PROJECT

The Debra L. Lee Lecture Series is an annual event of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice which invites the most distinguished scholars and activists to Brown to discuss historic and contemporary issues related to the legacy of slavery in the Americas and the world. The 2015 Debra L. Lee Lecture, *Confronting the Cycles of Slavery: Why the Arc of Abolition Must Span Generations*, was delivered by Brown alum Katherine Chon '02.

The lecture highlighted the development of contemporary human trafficking markets, the lessons learned from the legacies of abolition, and the ways in which communities can disrupt the cycles of slavery. Ms. Chon has spent the last fourteen years identifying and implementing community-driven solutions to combat modern forms of slavery, sparked by a local human trafficking case in Providence, Rhode Island. During her senior year at Brown she co-founded Polaris, a leading non-profit organization in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery and restore freedom to survivors. She currently serves as the Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This annual distinguished lecture series is made possible through the generous donation of Ms. Debra L. Lee '76, Chairman and CEO of BET Networks, and co-chair of CSSJ's External Advisory Board.

Little did I know at the time how closely the conversations around the historical legacies and connections to slavery that the University had was connected to my own inquiry on modern forms of slavery.

Katherine Chon '02



RUTH CLARK



19th Century US History Workshop

Partnering with the Department of History, the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice hosted a workshop series in Spring 2015 on slavery and emancipation in nineteenth-century North America. Five scholars presented their research in the form of pre-circulated papers for discussion with students and faculty. Participants included Prof. Ted Maris-Wolf: *Citizens of Small Worlds: Free Blacks, Law, and Virginia Neighborhoods*; Prof. Justene G. Hill: *Crimes of Economy: Slave Economies and the Legal Culture of Early Nineteenth-Century South Carolina, 1800-1830*; CSSJ Postdoctoral fellow Prof. Mekala Audain: *Mexican Canaan: The Southern Underground Railroad and Free Black Immigration to Mexico, 1804-1867*; Prof. Kate Masur: *Race, Liberty, and Policing from the Early Republic to the 14th Amendment*; and Prof. Adam Rothman: *Beyond Freedom's Reach: A Kidnapping in the Twilight of Slavery*.

Seminars

Larry Menefee and Prof. Mills Thornton
Property Tax as a Legacy of Cotton, Slavery, and Segregation

Claims by school children currently pending in federal court contend that the property tax system in Alabama shelters agriculture and timberland thus denying adequate funding for public education. This tax policy intentionally restricts educational opportunities for students so as to limit labor mobility in order to maintain a surplus of labor for agricultural work. This policy also protects the property owner's capital from taxation. Larry Menefee, one of the attorneys handling the case, and J. Mills Thornton, a historian who testified as an expert witness at trial, discussed the history of taxation in Alabama and the case.

Prof. Gareth Austin
Markets, Slaves and States in Precolonial West Africa, c1500-c1890: Reconsiderations

The economic historiography of the late twentieth century established close links between the histories of markets, slavery, and states in precolonial West Africa. Specifically, it established the ubiquity and vitality of price-forming markets, the growing use of slave labor in commodity production within the region (during and especially after the beginning of the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade), and the dependence of state revenues on the exchange economy. This talk was an attempt to move from a basically static view of the way markets worked in the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries towards a more historical one, highlighting institutional changes.

Film Screenings

***The Book of Negroes* Screening
and Conversation with Aunjanue Ellis '92**

In partnership with the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, CSSJ presented a special screening of an episode from the BET miniseries *The Book of Negroes*. Adapted from the acclaimed novel by Lawrence Hill, *The Book of Negroes* was one of the most highly anticipated television productions of 2015. The series recounts the resourceful journey of Aminata Diallo, an invincible African slave who secured her freedom during the American Revolution. Following the screening, there was a Q&A with *The Book of Negroes* actress and Brown alum, Aunjanue Ellis '92.

Black History Month Film Series
in partnership with the Providence Public Library

In collaboration with the Providence Public Library, CSSJ co-hosted the Black History Month Film Series. The weekly screenings included a post-screening discussion. Films screened included: *Selma*, *Freedom Riders*, *Freedom Summer*, and *Slavery By Another Name*.

Ghosts of Amistad: In the Footsteps of the Rebels

Ghosts of Amistad chronicles a journey to Sierra Leone in 2013 to interview village elders about local memory of the Amistad rebellion (1839), to search for the long-lost ruins of the slave trading factory Lomboko, and to recover a lost history from below in the struggle against slavery. The screening was part of a two part series with renowned historian Prof. Marcus Rediker, author of *The Amistad Rebellion: An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom*, and was in collaboration with the John Carter Brown Library and the Center for the Study of Race & Ethnicity in America.





Workshops and Conferences

Race Today: A Symposium on Race in America
in partnership with the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America

This day-long symposium brought a group of the nation's most respected intellectuals on race, racial theory, and racial inequality together to consider the troubling state of black life in America today. This symposium was presented by the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, and co-sponsored by the Office of the President and the Office of Institutional Diversity. The event aimed to deepen understandings of the question of race on Brown's campus and beyond. Questions the day's events addressed included: What are the broader structural factors that shape race today? How do these factors work both on the ground and institutionally, and what are the consequences? What can be done to challenge ideological and structural impediments to a racially egalitarian society?

2015 Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop and Conference

Callaloo is a journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters based at Texas A&M University. The 2015 Workshop and Conference was held at Brown University, and co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice and the Department of Africana Studies. The seventh Callaloo Conference brought together an impressive collection of diasporic writers, scholars, literary critics, and artists to examine the themes *Monuments and Memorialization* and *Race, Color, Class, and Identity in Brazil*. The three-day event kicked off with an opening reading from acclaimed Haitian-American author Edwidge Danticat '93 MFA and concluded with a keynote performance by artist Clifford Owens. The annual Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop brought 33 emerging writers to Brown's campus for the fourth year in a row to learn from accomplished workshop leaders: authors Ravi Howard and Jacinda Townsend, and poets Vieve Francis and Gregory Pardlo, recipient of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.



FROM *CALLALOO* EDITOR

Prof. Charles Rowell

Although we at *Callaloo* are not officially members of the Brown University community, the individual and collective welcome we always receive from the University's cordially hosting us is a warm embrace of sincere respect and support signifying that we are again at home, where the family is supportive in its kinship and generosity. This year's hosting of our two annual events – the two-week long Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop (May 31-June 13; CCWW) and, for the first time, the three-day 2015 Callaloo Conference (June 10-13) – was no different.

In Brown University's cordial atmosphere, Vieve Francis and Gregory Pardlo (who had received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry two weeks earlier) taught two poetry-writing sessions of twenty-one participants, and Ravi Howard and Jacinda Townsend (the 2015 winner of the James Fenimore Cooper Prize for Historical Fiction) led twelve participants in two groups of fiction writing. As has been the case during the last twenty years of the annual CCWW, new and emerging writers from the USA and other English-speaking nations (e.g., England, Nigeria, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Cameroon, and

the United Arab Emirates) won seats in the competitive admissions process for the workshops. In addition to holding daily three-hour group sessions of each of the four groups, the workshop leaders also met one-on-one with participants, as needed. This allowed each student the special opportunity to work closely with a prizewinning writer.

The 2015 Callaloo Conference, our eighth annual gathering, was, in focus and intention, different from those preceding it. This Brown University meeting was a two-part working conference, designed to initiate the planning of our conferences for 2016 and 2017. We might describe the gathering at Brown as an introductory event, a respective entryway into our next two annual conferences in the USA and in Brazil.

Simultaneously mounting the workshops and conference at Brown University recalled for all of us the University's national leadership in Africana studies, its track record in appointing an extraordinary number of African American and African descendant writers, its research and innovations in theater, and its establishment of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice.

Public Humanities

CSSJ is committed to creating a public humanities program, which aims to share a more nuanced understanding of the past by connecting the public to scholarship, archival documents, and contemporary art. CSSJ supports this work through public programs with practitioners, scholars, historians, and curators, as well as exhibitions throughout campus.

Panels: Museums, Slavery, and Post-colonialism

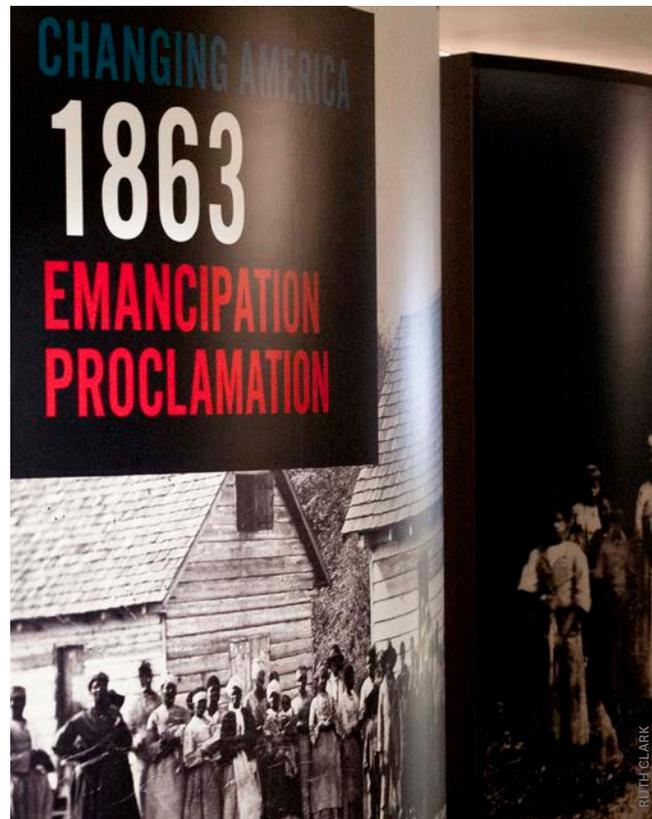
A series of two panel presentations, *The Post-Colonial Museum: Rethinking Space, Archive, and Heritage* and *Slavery, History, and the Exhibition of Catastrophes* grappled with conceptions of museums as sites of contestation, the colonial gaze, and curatorial legacies of silence and slavery.



Special discussion with Dr. Lonnie Bunch and Sen. Jack Reed

The Challenge of Building a National Museum

Dr. Bunch, a leading scholar in American and African American history and the founding director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture, and U.S. Senator Jack Reed discussed the history and challenges of building a national museum, including building on the National Mall, conceptual frameworks, public expectations, and the contextual terrain of race.

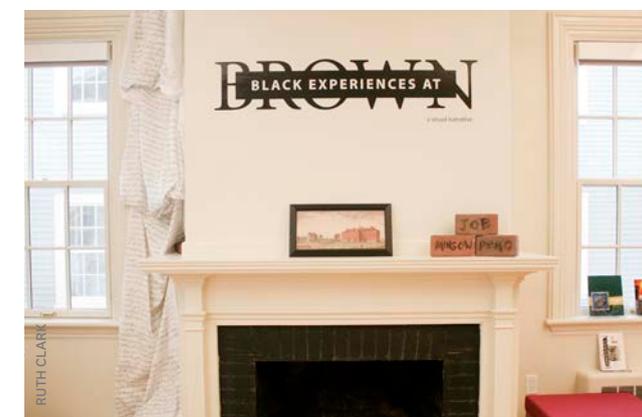


Exhibitions

The exhibition, *Black Experiences at Brown: a Visual Narrative*, was part of Brown's semiquincentenary celebration. This interactive exhibition chronicled the evolution of African Americans at Brown. The exhibit was sponsored by the Office of the 250th Anniversary, the Inman Page Black Alumni Council, and the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice. An online timeline from the exhibition examines the ways in which Black people have been, and continue to be, integral and transformative to Brown University. It is available at: brown.edu/Research/BlacksatBrown/.

Breaking Chains was an interactive exhibit that combined a history of chain gangs with the lyrically expressive and politically poignant *Rainbow Round My Shoulder* modern dance piece by Donald McKayle. This exhibit utilized modern dance, chain gang work songs, and movement vocabulary to develop a new understanding of the history of chain gangs. The exhibition was created and co-curated by Central Falls High School students in collaboration with the American Dance Legacy Initiative (ADLI) and the CSSJ.

Utilizing historic artwork from the Brown University Library Instructional Image Collection, the exhibition *A Peculiar Aesthetic* examined how these images coalesce to represent a world in which plantations, slave markets and dwellings, maroon ambushes, cosmetic boxes, figurines and decorative tables, and printers' typefaces of runaway slaves evoke again and again the realization of how central slavery was to ways of life within New World and American society.



In addition to these three exhibitions displayed at the Center, CSSJ also sponsored *Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963*. This exhibition examined the Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington, two events separated by one hundred years, yet profoundly linked together in a larger story of liberty and the American experience. This exhibition was on loan from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The exhibition was made possible by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

In conjunction with the exhibition, CSSJ worked with graduate students to create *Changing America RI*, an online exhibition which serves as a companion to the national exhibition. *Changing America RI* uses resources from local collections to illustrate how struggles for civil rights were fought and documented, from the SNCC to freedom fighters in Rhode Island. It was presented in collaboration with the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage, with significant support from the Rhode Island Historical Society. The exhibition can be viewed at: changingamerica-cssj.org.

Global Curatorial Project

SLAVERY, HISTORY, AND PUBLIC MEMORY

How to tell the story of an historical event which is catastrophic has been a vexing issue for historians and curators. Furthermore, when that event is not a defined single one but rather is a historical process spanning many generations and time periods, then the task of remembering, imagining, and then representation is almost impossible. For periods of “historical catastrophe,” historical writing does not replace memory but is shaped by the traces of that past in the present. The French historian Jules Michelet once wrote in 1833 that as a historian he was restoring “papers and parchments to the light of day.” He was of course thinking about writing a certain kind of history, trying to speak on behalf of the dead, the ordinary persons who had been marginalized in the historical writings of the French Revolution. CLR James, the Caribbean historian who wrote the *Black Jacobins*, and WEB Du Bois, who wrote *Black Reconstruction*, are two historians who attempt to bring the dead slaves to life and give them human form in all its complexities. For some historians this kind of historical writing has been called “a history from below.” But perhaps even

that term might not be helpful as those of us who are interested in the human experiences of the slaves try to tell that story with all the gaps attendant to historical representation.

Facing these challenges and recognizing that racial and colonial slavery was a world system, one in which many nations and peoples were involved, a group of scholars and curators began two years ago a conversation about – how might racial slavery be exhibited not only as a social system of extreme domination, but one in which the enslaved created religious, cultural, and artistic practices as well as produced forms of human knowledge? Additionally, how could we represent this system as a global one that shapes our contemporary moment – a moment in which questions of citizenship and belonging are still live issues? These are of course still crucial in the world. Since the political idea of citizenship emerged it was always Janus faced – who was within the community and who was outside. Thus who could have rights and who did not have rights, and therefore could be marked for inhumane treatment. What racial slavery did was to mark an entire human population group as outside of the larger community and therefore bodies marked as things. The writer and poet Aime Cesaire called this historical process “thingfication.”

So the challenge which faces many historians and curators is how to tell the story of this process while recognizing that the enslaved had voice. This challenge

LEFT: The enslaved brought conceptions of life to the New World, conceptions of art, of beauty, of architecture and of death. Within the daily life of the enslaved Africans, many former ideas were rearranged and new knowledges emerged. Slave dwellings such as this one were spaces separated from the “big house” and built with one room, one door and oftentimes no windows. The image shown here is of a house said to have been built by an enslaved man we know as Tahro who was a Kongolese captive. The wall of the house is timber and held together by twine netting. Still standing in 1907, it was said to have a dirt floor. The most striking thing about the house is its roof design which conveyed an African style of building.

is at the core of the *Slave Knowledges: A Global Curatorial Project*. Working with this challenge has opened up a different set of questions. These include: the archive; the relationship between memory and historical knowledge; and how circulation between people, goods, and trade happened and in what ways it shaped economic and social life.

Over the last decade or so there have been over 90 exhibitions about slavery. Many of them have been regional, some of them have illustrated the horrors of enslavement, the brutal suppressions of the enslaved body; others have been specific showing how slavery was embedded within the history of a place. A few have pointed to rebellions of the enslaved, however we know of none that have attempted to illustrate the lives of the slave and the ideas they produced. This global project attempts to do so. Bringing together scholars, museums, and curators from Africa (Senegal and South Africa), the United States, France, the Netherlands, Caribbean, Belgium, and England, the project seeks to provide a network and a platform for new histories and exhibitionary practices to emerge. Working against the grain of exhibitions which tell a seamless story of slavery, emancipation, and then often ending with the figures of civil rights, the project wants to tell a human story of the experiences of the enslaved and by doing so tell a different story of freedom and its possibilities. In so doing the project does not seek to resurrect dead slaves but rather bring to life their humanness.

For the CSSJ, this idea that the slaves were humans, acted in human ways, and sought to grapple with the paradoxes of being socially and civilly dead while living, breathing, and having speech, is one core which catalyzes our work. The Global Curatorial Project is central to that work.

Anthony Bagues

Annual Report



INAUGURAL HEIMARK ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

The Marian Anderson String Quartet

The Marian Anderson String Quartet spent the month of May 2015 as the Heimark Artists-in-Residence. The early part of our residency included a workshop with about 50 high school students and their teachers from the Met School and a performance at the Rochambeau Library, part of the Providence Community Library public library system.

The latter part of our residency was devoted to rehearsing and performing *String Theory*, a unique and visionary work artfully crafted by writer Ifa Bayeza. *String Theory* tells a story that is grand and intimate, historical and current, universal and personal. It is the story of the slave mutiny aboard the Spanish ship *La Amistad*. The Marian Anderson String Quartet was gifted with the unique responsibility of designing a musical narrative for this seminal work.

Thanks to the generosity of Libby '76 and Craig Heimark '76, P '11, P '14, P '17, CSSJ supported the acclaimed Marian Anderson String Quartet as the first Heimark Artists-in-Residence. During their stay, they participated in several community events as well as the innovative theater project, *String Theory*.



Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice

Our exploration began by examining the core conceptual elements of the script. The string quartet represented the relationship between the play's four central characters. Each character was assigned a melody, a musical voice that shifted as their stories unfolded. We imagined the Quartet as part of the drama, not simply accompaniment. We chose a broad spectrum of compositions to support this epic story, including works by F. J. Haydn, Frederick Delius, George Walker, Dmitri Shostakovich and Samuel Adler.

Under the expert direction of Carl Hancock Rux, the rehearsals were a laboratory of spontaneity and we felt something new creating itself before our eyes. We understood that we were part of the cast, but as we explored the layers of intimacy between music, motion and language, the cast and crew became members of the Marian Anderson String Quartet.

Harmonies influenced the delivery of monologues. Rhythms changed the flow of motion across the stage. Lighting cues invited cadences. Rapid fire dialogues were peppered with musical quotes. Tempos and dynamics were guided by the rhythm of the spoken word. We explored in sound the meaning of family,

the desire to leave a lasting legacy, the struggle to sustain one's faith in trying circumstances, impatience with a biased and slow-moving government, the jarring juxtaposition of worlds.

What joy this was for us! It was such a joy to have an actor embrace us, having felt the Quartet rise beneath him to a cadence in the key of C major just as he cries out "Ge-wah had answered my prayers!" Each of the five performances was a new experience, a living, breathing, intimate, and spontaneous work of art.

From the conceptual stages to the final performance, *String Theory* was a thrilling, creative and inspiring collaboration. The members of the Marian Anderson String Quartet wish to thank the Center for Slavery and Justice, the Department of Africana Studies' Rites and Reason Theatre, and Brown University for their unwavering commitment to this project. We would also like to thank Libby & Craig Heimark for the generous gift that made this residency possible.

Diedra Lawrence
*founding member Marian Anderson String Quartet
and violist*

Youth Programming

During the 2014–2015 academic year, the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice expanded our public education mission by focusing on engaging young people from Providence public high schools. Through youth programming, CSSJ was able to engage young people from several high schools including: Metropolitan Regional Career & Technical Center, Public Street (The Met), Paul Cuffee School, Classical High School, E Cubed Academy, Times 2 Academy, St. Mary Academy Bay View, and Hope High School, serving over fifty young people in the city through exhibit and event programming.

The international award-winning Marian Anderson String Quartet provided a special youth performance in May for students from the Met High School. Many of the students had very little knowledge of what a quartet or chamber music was, and for many this was their first time witnessing a live quartet performance. The quartet not only played moving pieces tied to the African American struggle for freedom, but also provided the opportunity for students to sing a spiritual as they played.

Some other programs for youth engagement included *Breaking Chains*, an exhibit created by students at Central Falls High School, the American Dance Legacy Initiative, and CSSJ. Students embodied the work of Donald McKayle's *Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder* (1959). The modern dance performance narrated the suffering of chain gangs in the south, where prisoners worked with nothing more than the aspiration to be free. Through this student-curated exhibit, Central Falls High School students found a unique way to understand and pass along an important story in our history to other young people and the community at large.

These women are activists through music, it was amazing to see how they used their talent to allow slave songs to live on.

Wila Matos, The Met High School



MAYAH GAMBLE RIVERS



RUTH CLARK

For the first time in 2016, CSSJ will also collaborate on a civil rights educational tour for high school students. During the week long program, students will visit important Southern sites from the freedom struggle, have the opportunity to meet veterans of the movement, and conduct their own research. Public high school students from the city of Providence will be eligible to apply to receive a scholarship for this program.

For more information about youth programming or to schedule a school visit, please contact Maiyah at cssj_youthprograms@brown.edu.

Maiyah Gamble-Rivers AM '16

Graduate Fellow for the Study of the Public History of Slavery & Youth Program Manager



Community Programming

The Center is deeply embedded within the Providence community. Over the last year, we co-sponsored programs off campus in collaboration with activists and institutions to help bring people together to think critically about our society today. Below is a sampling of the programs on which CSSJ collaborated:

Racism, State Oppression, and the Black Community: Ferguson & Beyond

CSSJ, in collaboration with Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, Inc., the Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM), the Providence Africana Reading Collective (PARC), and OneVoice RI sponsored the panel discussion *Racism, State Oppression, and the Black Community: Ferguson & Beyond* at the Southside Cultural Center. Moderated by Providence City Councilwoman Mary Kay Harris, the panel discussed the local and national reaction and how we as a collective community should move forward.

Combating Injustice: A Public Dialogue

This past March and April, the Rhode Island Historical Society, in collaboration with the Roots Cultural Center, the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, the Newport Historical Society, the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage,

and the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice sponsored a series of talks that mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of WWI, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Providence Preservation Society Panel Discussion on Cathedral of St. John Slavery Museum

This community program organized by the Providence Preservation Society (PPS) examined the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island and the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice project of transforming the Cathedral of St. John in Providence from a site of worship to a National Center for Reconciliation. A center and museum at this site will examine the history of slavery and the Episcopal Church's role in this difficult history. Bishop Nicholas Knisely, Ray Rickman of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, James DeWolf Perry of The Tracing Center, and Prof. Anthony Bogues spoke with PPS director Brent Runyon.

DARE Black Studies Program

For the summer of 2015, the Black Studies program at DARE (Direct Action for Rights and Equality) launched the Fred Hampton Institute for Resistance. This community-based political education project systematically investigates the robust and empowering tradition of Black critical thought and Black organized resistance. This rigorous program places an emphasis on providing theoretically grounded political instruction to folks from oppression-resisting communities as a mechanism to engender movement-based political organizing. With the support of the CSSJ, the Fred Hampton Institute for Resistance was able to increase the number of stipends offered to community members who attended the program.





In schools today we are only taught what they think we need to know, leaving out critically important information. Today everyone is so blinded or uneducated on the trials or events that took place shaping our world as we know it today, and for what reason?

Gani Davies, Classical High School

Meet the Fellows

2015–2016 RUTH J. SIMMONS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Jennifer Page

Jennifer finished her PhD in Government at Harvard University in 2015. A political theorist, she is interested in a wide range of normative questions concerning racial injustice (and injustice generally). Her dissertation “Reparations and State Accountability” analyzes how political authority and power facilitate injustice in liberal democracies, and the rights and duties that arise as a result. She is currently working to revise this project into a book manuscript, and plans to extend the analysis to accountability for police brutality in the United States.



GRADUATE FELLOW FOR THE STUDY OF PUBLIC HISTORY OF SLAVERY

Arielle Julia Brown 'AM 18

Arielle Julia Brown is a cultural producer, theatre practitioner, and curator. As a graduate fellow with the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and the Center for Public Humanities & Cultural Heritage, Arielle is interested in how cultural institutions and arts initiatives can inspire social justice through the presentation of work by artists from Africa and the Diaspora. Arielle is also interested in public performing arts initiatives that engage various stakeholders in local and global civic exchange. Arielle began her career over ten years ago at 7stages theatre in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the founder of The Love Balm Project, a workshop series and performance based on the testimonies of women of color who have lost children to systemic violence. The Love Balm Project has been developed at cultural institutions throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and in Atlanta. Some of her work with The Love Balm Project will be published in the upcoming anthology *Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Frontlines* in the spring of 2016. Arielle's theatre experience as a deviser, playwright, and producer is rooted in social and civic practice work on both local and international levels. Her international theatre experience includes work in Jamaica, Senegal, and East Africa. She has worked closely with Theatre Without Borders and is the former Fellowship Director for SF Emerging Arts Professionals. In 2014 she served as a Mellon Artistic Leadership Fellow with the Los Angeles Theatre Center's Encuentro Festival. Arielle received her BA from Pomona College.

CSSJ FACULTY FELLOW

Elena Shih

Elena Shih is an Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown, and former Postdoctoral Fellow in International Studies at the Watson Institute for International Studies. Shih's first book, *The Price of Freedom: Moral and Political Economies of Global Human Trafficking Rescue*, is based on 40 months of ethnographic participant observation on the transnational movement to combat human trafficking in China, Thailand, and the U.S. This research has received funding from the *Ford Foundation*, *Social Science Research Council*, *American*



Sociological Association, and *Fulbright Program*. Her work has been published in numerous edited volumes and in journals including: *The Anti-Trafficking Review*, *Contexts*, *Social Politics*, and *Sociological Perspectives*. Shih received her PhD in Sociology from UCLA, and a BA in Asian Studies from Pomona College. She is leading the Center's research cluster on human trafficking.

Past Fellows Speak

2014–2015 RUTH J. SIMMONS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Mekala Audain

My year as the Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow has been an amazing experience. The staff – Shana Weinberg and Ruth Clark – welcomed me. Anthony Bogues, Roquinaldo Ferreira, and Seth Rockman (the 2014–2015 Faculty Fellow) offered encouragement and support while I was on the job market.

The Center’s weekly brown bag lunch talks were engaging and introduced me to other postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, faculty, and other members of the Brown community. Between this series and my fellowship at the Cogut Center, I had the good fortune to engage with and learn from two intellectually-vibrant communities on campus.

The most important part of the year was having the time and space to think about and develop my book manuscript. I worked earnestly on different chapters of my work. As the year progressed, I began to envision my project more clearly. The year-end manuscript review, that included Anthony, Roquinaldo, and two outside scholars, was tremendously helpful. It cemented the ideas that I had about the manuscript, and they offered helpful revisions for the work-in-progress.

As I leave Brown for my tenure-track position in The College of New Jersey’s history department, I am very grateful for the time I spent as a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice.



VISITING GRADUATE FELLOW

Lorenzo Ravano

Spending three months of my PhD program at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice was a stimulating experience both academic and human. Despite its recent establishment, the CSSJ is already a leading institution for the history and legacies of modern slavery and emancipation, as well as a wonderful research environment for students and scholars involved in this field. As a foreign student from Italy, I had the opportunity to work closely with many highly-qualified graduate students and scholars. I had the possibility of learning new perspectives and methodologies not only about the history of slavery in the Atlantic world but also about African American philosophy and political thought. The interdisciplinary perspective that characterizes the CSSJ and its weekly seminars, often co-organized with the Department of Africana Studies, the Department of History, and the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, has been the most insightful and stimulating aspect of my visit. These different approaches have enriched my research and my personal understanding about the fundamental role of slavery, racial oppression, and the struggle for emancipation in the formation of the modern world, as well as its social and cultural heritage and political meaning in our contemporary global society. Furthermore, Brown University offered me extraordinary resources for my research. The collections of primary and secondary sources held by the John Carter Brown Library and the John Hay Library have been decisive to improve my work on the political thought of Black abolitionism.

Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice

2014–2015 JOINT POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW WITH
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SLAVERY AND JUSTICE
AND THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY

Justin Pope

It was my great privilege to serve as the inaugural Joint Postdoctoral Fellow this year at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice. Generous donors created this new position to allow a historian of slavery to research in the famous collections of the John Carter Brown Library (JCB). For their part, the JCB Library asked the Fellow to teach a course on slavery at Brown that would invite students to use their collections. This fellowship is ambitious, with the goal of fostering new scholarship on slavery even as it introduces a generation of Brown undergraduates to the troubled history of slavery and race in the Americas. There was also an opportunity to foster a strong partnership between two institutions at Brown, the established JCB Library and the new and innovative CSSJ.

When I learned I had been chosen as a Fellow, I understood instantly that it carried a weighty responsibility to create new history about a very old and troubling topic. My current book project examines rumors of freedom shared by slaves in the first half of the eighteenth century and explores some of the earliest slave rebellions in colonial America, during a period in which the British were rapidly expanding their slave trade into the provinces. Because I would be conducting and writing my own research at the JCB Library, I decided to create a course in which Brown students could work right alongside me, looking at the same materials that I study and creating their own original research based on a specific document. I sought to put everyone to work together to create a new history of slavery as we learned the art of historical research and writing. Director Anthony Bogues and Associate Director Roquinaldo Ferreira even allowed me to invite a visiting speaker working on the topic to the popular brown bag lunch series at the Center.

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The entire project was a tremendous success. Through a process of writing several drafts, students produced original research papers based on materials in the John Carter Brown Library. I was very proud of their hard work. At the same time, I was able to produce four new essays for publication and to draft a new version of my manuscript. I also presented my research at seminars at Yale University, the University of Delaware, and here at Brown. Between the incredible programming at the CSSJ and the weekly talks at the JCB Library, I was able to attend more than thirty scholarly events over the course of the year and engage in some lively discussions about the history of slavery and race in America.

I am very grateful for the opportunity I have had at the CSSJ. I hope I have contributed, in a small way, to the Center’s important mission examining how legacies of slavery continue to shape our world. Working as a Fellow has improved my work and provided a strong foundation for my academic career. Thank you for this opportunity.





VISITING SCHOLAR

Prof. Buhle Zuma

My first visit to the Center came shortly after meeting Professor Bogues during one of his annual visits to the University of Cape Town where he is also an Honorary Professor. At the time I had recently earned my PhD and had started working as a young lecturer in the Department of Psychology. A pressing question for me was what kind of scholarship do I want to create and how might this work take seriously the human experiences of black people?

My encounter with Professor Bogues in Cape Town marked the beginning of a journey that would offer me clues to the question I was preoccupied with. In my first visit to the Center I spent a great deal of time reading some of the key texts in the Black Radical Tradition and critically discussing these with Professor Bogues. At the end of my short stay not only did I leave with a renewed sense of intellectual purpose but I also felt, for the first time, that I had begun to be part of a larger intellectual community.

During my second visit at the Center, I spent the time writing and networking. The latter was made possible by the constant presence of young and senior scholars that make up the tapestry of the Center. The Center has an ethos of intellectual generosity and without fail the students and scholars that I interacted with seemed to embody this spirit. Intellectual life at the Center is undoubtedly a life of the mind filled with passionate commitments to questions of equality and justice.

The support and hospitality I received from Shana and Ruth on my visits were not only professionally outstanding but also warm and authentic. I instantly felt a part of the Center thanks to the thousand and one little acts and gestures from Ruth and Shana.

Taken together, the Center is, for me, an intellectual home that I will return to time and again as a space of critical scholarship.

Supporting Undergraduate Scholarship

Rheem Brooks '16

With support from the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, a group of students and myself were able to attend The INCITE! Color of Violence Conference and hear from activists resisting violence disproportionately perpetrated against queer, trans*, and cis-gender women of color. One such subject of violence and resistance was demonstrated in workshops challenging the anti-sex trafficking movement. The movement, which has appropriated the language of slavery, has served to be another mechanism for controlling and policing indigenous bodies and revoking sexual sovereignty. The workshops at the conference exposed the need to struggle for sovereignty for women of color, and particularly queer and trans women of color.



Shane Grannum '15

This spring, after co-authoring a research paper on the Voting Rights Act with a former Brown professor, I had the privilege of presenting our paper at the 2015 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) conference in Chicago, Illinois. It was an incredible honor to attend with the support of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice.

My paper attempts to fill a gap in scholarly knowledge about the bailout provision of the Voting Rights Act, which has been used to justify the constitutionality of the preclearance requirement – arguably the most effective tool embedded in the Act to eradicate racial discrimination in voting laws and practices. The preclearance requirement was rendered functionally inoperable by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby v. Holder* nearly two years ago.

Especially given that 2015 is the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the passage of the Voting Rights Act – and a new bill looms in Congress – my research is

especially relevant for policymakers, stakeholders, and historians across the country. Without CSSJ's support, I would not have been able to attend the MPSA conference, shed new empirical light on such an important topic, and receive the feedback necessary to improve my paper.

As a person of color, first-generation college student, and first-generation American, I cannot stress enough how important the work of the CSSJ is. In highlighting the legacy of slavery and the importance of social justice, the work of the CSSJ has inspired people like me to pursue careers in social justice. After Brown, I will pursue my J.D. at Columbia Law School and seek a career in public interest, at the intersection of social justice and election law. Bringing issues of slavery, civil rights, and human rights to the forefront allowed me to mold my career interests, and I cannot thank the CSSJ enough for supporting me and the entire Brown community.

Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Awards (UTRAs)

From Slavery to Human Trafficking: the Politics of Forced Labor in Brazil

I received a summer UTRA from the CSSJ to study human trafficking in Brazil under the guidance of Professor Shih and Professor Bogues. My research centers on the intersections of race and human trafficking and uses Brazil as a point of study because of its long history of forced labor. With the support of the CSSJ UTRA, I had the opportunity to explore the relationship between colonial slavery and modern forced labor in Brazil. My research focuses on government policy, anti-trafficking NGOs, and discourse in the media. I am particularly interested in the changing and diverse definitions of human trafficking and forced labor. In addition to race, my research engages with the themes of immigration, gender, and poverty.

Eve Woldemikael, '16



Archiving Black Abolitionist Papers in the John Hay Library

As a lover of history entering my first year of college, I thought that spending time working with primary documents would only be possible as a junior or senior, if not as a graduate student. This summer, thanks to an UTRA I received from Professor Bogues and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, I had the opportunity to examine the collections of Brown's own John Hay Library in order to locate and archive resources concerning the work and experiences of Black Abolitionists. From June through the beginning of August, I worked with Holly Snyder, Curator of American Historical Collections at the John Hay, to find the stories of Black men and women in diaries, letters, and, occasionally, their own narratives in collections across the library. Over the course of the summer, I came face to face with history, handling manumission documents, announcements of runaway slaves and letters from slave traders in modern-day Ghana. One of the highlights of my summer was having the opportunity to read a handwritten note from Frederick Douglass on the inside cover of his final memoir. Through this work and numerous conversations with Holly, I was able to develop a greater understanding of the importance of Black Abolitionism and come



into contact with documents and stories I had only encountered through recently published editions or class discussions. I also had the opportunity to present my findings at the Summer Research Symposium at Sayles Hall. After spending most of summer leafing through manuscripts and documents alone in the archives, it was an exciting and refreshing experience to share my findings and hear feedback from those attending the symposium. I hope this work will provide the Center with a thorough list of the resources at its disposal and will help facilitate the publication and the spread of the unheard voices and narratives of Black abolitionists.

Sam Jones, '18

Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice

Become a Friend of the Center

Friends of CSSJ support the Center's efforts to foster deeper understandings about the issues of justice, human rights, and freedom today. By becoming a Friend of the Center, your generosity will allow CSSJ to continue to convene innovative scholarly and community education programs that encourage conversation and reflection on the history of slavery and contemporary issues of bondage. We invite you to join the Friends with a tax-deductible donation of \$100 (or another amount). With your one-year membership, you will receive a newsletter that will keep you up-to-date about issues and activities related to the Center.

From the Friends of CSSJ Co-chairs, Ann Coles '63 and Tom Bale '63:

We were both involved in the civil rights movement as Brown students in the '60s. The Rev. John Crocker and Professor Peter McGrath taught us about social justice and strategies of protest against unjust laws. This experience shaped our professional careers through the years. The development of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice rekindled our desire to join Brown's continuing effort to be true to the human complexities of its past while holding out the promise of a more inclusive and just community on campus and beyond.

The work of the Center is part of the distinctive mission of Brown and helps to make our University unique. We urge you to join with us and become a Friend of the Center.



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Acknowledgments

The staff of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice sincerely thanks all the individuals who contributed their time, expertise, and energy in support of the Center. The work of the Center would not be possible without the support of the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Dean of the College and Dean of the Faculty, the Office of University Communications and the Department of Facilities Management, the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction, and the dedicated individuals on the faculty and external advisory boards. We thank as well the many guests from around the world who came to Brown to share their work. A sincere thanks also to the administrators and students on campus who facilitated 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. Special thanks to Cherise Morris '16 who helped with this publication.



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