

August 30, 2019

**International House
UC Berkeley**



A **symposium** commemorating the **400-year anniversary** of the first **African people** forcibly brought to the English colonies in North America as slaves, and the **enduring impacts** of that history today.

WELCOME

I want to commend UC Berkeley on their observation of the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved Africans landing in America.

While this anniversary is a solemn reminder of the cruel beginnings of our nation, it is also a call to acknowledge our past and build a better future. Earlier this month, I observed the anniversary by traveling to Ghana with a delegation of members of Congress led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. While there, we paid our respects at Cape Coast and Elmina Castles, and at the “Door of No Return,” where the first enslaved Africans departed for America. The experience was a powerful reminder of the inhumanity of the slave trade but it was also empowering to witness the strength and determination of the enslaved to survive and build a better future for the next generations.

Moving forward, I am committed to working in Congress to repair the damage caused by this inhumanity through legislation like H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.



Sincerely,
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress, CA-13

THIS YEAR MARKS the 400th year anniversary of the forced arrival of enslaved Africans in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia in 1619. The *400 Years of African American History Commission Act*, a new federal law, was enacted in January 2018 that mandated a national commission to commemorate this anniversary. Some of its goals are to “plan programs to acknowledge the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had on the United States; encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, and economic organizations to organize and participate in anniversary activities... and coordinate for the public scholarly research on the arrival of Africans in the United States and their contributions to this country.”



In aligning with the spirit of this Act, UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ announced a major campus initiative to “acknowledge, study and discuss the meaning and lasting impact of a despicable chapter in our nation’s history,” as well as “to honor and celebrate African American’s extraordinary intellectual, social and cultural contributions to our nation” for the 2019/20 academic year.

Today’s symposium on “400 Years of Resistance to Slavery and Injustice” signals the beginning of this year-long observance of this anniversary at UC Berkeley. The goals of today’s event are to explore memories of slavery and dispossession; the “afterlife,” or legacy of slavery and post-reconstruction; and, the continuous struggles for freedom and justice waged by African Americans.

Many other events will take place throughout the year that we hope will spark conversations and ideas for coming to terms with the last four centuries of slavery and oppression in the US. The details can be found on our special commemorative website at 400years.berkeley.edu.

We are so glad that you have joined us today and look forward to your continued participation in this year of reflection throughout the coming months.

On behalf of the symposium organizing committee,

Denise Herd
Associate Director, Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society and Professor of Public Health, UC Berkeley

AGENDA

9:00 AM

Symposium Opening

Denise Herd

9:05 AM

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Doniel Mark Wilson

9:10 AM

Welcome/Opening

Chancellor of UC Berkeley Carol Christ
Vice Chancellor for Equity & Inclusion Oscar Dubón

9:20 AM

Spoken Word

by Aya De Leon

9:30 AM

Slavery, Memory, Afterlife

Tina Sacks: Introduction

Leslie Harris: "Remembering Slavery Now"

Christina Sharpe: "Memory in the Wake of Slavery"

Stephanie Jones-Rogers: "Lost Kindred, Lost Cause:
Freedpeople and Former Slave-Owning Women
Face Off in Slavery's Afterlife"

Gabrielle Foreman: "Keeping it 400: Black Artists
and Archives, Black Fragments and Freedom"

11:45 AM

LUNCH ON-SITE

12:30 PM

Dance Performance

Latanya Tigner and Dimensions Dance Theater
Harriet Tubman Tribute

12:50 PM

Second Afterlife

Nikki Jones: Introduction

Dennis Childs: "Until Everybody's Free": Neoslavery,
Neoabolition, and Prison Industrial Genocide

Talitha LeFlouria: "Black Women and Mass
Incarceration: Slavery's Roots and Today's Realities"

2:15 PM: BREAK

2:30 PM

Power and Resistance

Jovan Scott Lewis: Introduction

Charles Henry: "Reparations in the Era of Trump"

Charlene Carruthers "Reviving the Black Radical
Imagination"

Waldo Martin: "WAR!": African American Freedom
Struggle and Race-Making 1865-1980

4:15 PM

Spoken Word

Ree Botts and Reequanza

4:30 PM

From Slavery to Belonging

john a. powell

5:30 PM

RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNINGS

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

WELCOME AND OPENING

Denise Herd is the Associate Director of the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, a longtime member of the Institute's Diversity and Health Disparities research cluster, and a Professor of Public Health at UC Berkeley. Herd's scholarship centers on racialized disparities in health outcomes, spanning topics as varied as images of drugs and violence in rap music, drinking and drug use patterns, social movements, and the impact of corporate targeting and marketing on popular culture among African American youth. In addition to her extensive scholarship in public health, Herd has also served as associate dean at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health for seven years.

Carol Christ began her term as the 11th chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley on July 1, 2017. A celebrated scholar of Victorian literature, Christ is also well known as an advocate for quality, accessible public higher education, a proponent of the value of a broad education in the liberal arts and sciences, and a champion of women's issues and diversity on college campuses. Christ spent more than three decades as a professor and administrator at UC Berkeley before serving as president of Smith College, one of the country's most distinguished liberal arts colleges, from 2002 to 2013. She returned to Berkeley in January 2015 to direct the campus's Center for Studies in Higher Education, and was appointed interim executive vice chancellor and provost in April 2016 before being named chancellor in March 2017.

Oscar Dubón, Jr. was appointed Vice Chancellor for Equity & Inclusion at UC Berkeley on July 1, 2017. He leads campuswide efforts through the Division of Equity & Inclusion to broaden the participation of all members of the campus community, particularly those who have been historically underrepresented and/or unwelcomed, in the pursuit of the university's mission of access and excellence.

PERFORMANCE

Aya de Leon directs the Poetry for the People program, teaching creative writing at UC Berkeley. Kensington Books publishes her award-winning feminist heist/romance series, *Justice Hustlers: UPTOWN THIEF* (2016), *THE BOSS* (2017), *THE ACCIDENTAL MISTRESS* (2018),

and *SIDE CHICK NATION* (2019) which was the first novel published about Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Aya has received acclaim in the *Washington Post*, *Village Voice*, *SF Chronicle*, and *The Establishment*. Her work has also appeared in *Ebony*, *Essence*, *Guernica*, *Writers Digest*, *Huffington Post*, *Catapult*, *The Root*, *The Toast*, *VICE*, *Ploughshares*, *Bitch Magazine*, on *Def Poetry*, and she's an advice columnist for *Mutha Magazine*. In 2020, Kensington will publish her first spy novel, about FBI infiltration of an African American eco-racial justice organization.

Doniel Mark Wilson is a Continuing Lecturer in the UC Berkeley Music Department and Director of the UC Berkeley Gospel Chorus. He is also founder of several Gospel Choruses on other campuses across the country, including The University of Michigan's Gospel Choir and The Harvard Jubilee Quintet of Harvard Divinity School. On the global and international scene he is the honorary Director of the award-winning Soul Sounds Choir of Sri Lanka, where he has conducted annual Gospel Music workshops and performances in Colombo and Candy, Sri Lanka, and has used gospel performance to address peace and justice in Havana, Cuba and Nandasmo, Nicaragua. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology, from the University of Michigan, and is a Lecturer in the Sociology Department at St. Mary's College of College, where he teaches Music and Social Change.

PANEL

Slavery, Memory, Afterlife

Tina Sacks is Assistant Professor at UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare. Her fields of interest include racial inequities in health, social determinants of health, and poverty and inequality. Professor Sacks focuses on the how macro-structural forces, including structural discrimination and immigration, affect women's health. Her current work investigates the persistence of racial and gender discrimination in health care settings among racial/ethnic minorities who are not poor. She published a book on this subject entitled *Invisible Visits: Black Middle Class Women in the American Healthcare System* (Oxford, 2019). Her next major project explores the implications of the infamous U.S. Public Health Service Tuskegee Syphilis Study on the Study's direct descendants.



Leslie M. Harris, Professor of History at Northwestern University, is the author or co-editor of three award-winning books: *In the Shadow of Slavery: African Americans in New York City, 1626-1863* (University of Chicago, 2003); co-editor with Ira Berlin of *Slavery in New York* (The New Press, 2005), which accompanied the groundbreaking New-York Historical Society exhibition of the same name; and *Slavery and Freedom in Savannah* (University of Georgia Press, 2014), co-edited with Daina Ramey Berry, in collaboration with Telfair Museums' Owens-Thomas House. From 2004 to 2011, she co-founded and co-directed the Transforming Community Project (TCP) at Emory University, which used history to engage members of the university community in dialogue, research and teaching on racial and other forms of human diversity. In 2011, the Transforming Community Project organized the first international conference on the history of slavery in higher education. Harris has recently completed *Slavery and Sexuality: Reclaiming Intimate Histories in the Americas* (University of Georgia, 2018), with Daina Ramey Berry; and *Slavery and the University: Histories and Legacies* (University of Georgia, 2019) with James T. Campbell and Alfred L. Brophy.

Christina Sharpe is a Professor at York University, Toronto in the Department of Humanities and a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Ryerson University, Toronto. She is the author of two books: *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being* (2016) (named by the Guardian and The Walrus as one of the best books of 2016 and a nonfiction finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award) and *Monstrous Intimacies: Making Post-Slavery Subjects* (2010), both published by Duke University Press. She is completing the critical introduction to the *Collected Poems of Dionne Brand* (1982-2010) and she is working on a monograph: *Black. Still. Life.*

Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers is an Associate Professor of History at UC Berkeley. Her research focuses primarily on gender and American slavery, and looks at colonial and 19th century legal and economic history, especially as it pertains to women, systems of bondage, and the slave trade. Her first book, *They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South*, is a regional study that draws upon formerly enslaved people's testimony to dramatically reshape current understandings of white women's economic relationships to slavery. She is currently at work on two new projects. The first, entitled "She had...a Womb Subjected to Bondage": The

Afro-Atlantic Origins of British Colonial Descent Law, examines the ways that West African customs and laws influenced English thinking about matrilineal descent and may have influenced their decisions to implement matrilineal descent laws in their North American colonies. The second project, "A Country so dreadful for a White Woman" reconstructs the lives of nearly 300 British women and girls who travelled to the African littoral on Royal African Company slave ships and settled in the company's forts and castles before 1750.

Gabrielle Foreman is the founding faculty director of the Colored Conventions Project and the Ned B. Allen Professor of English, Africana Studies and history at the University of Delaware. She's a poet's daughter turned literary historian who is finishing a monograph called *The Art of DisMemory: Historicizing Slavery in Poetry, Print and Material Culture* and an edited collection called *Praise Songs for Dave the Potter: Art and Poetry for David Drake* about the enslaved master poet and potter whose work appears in museums across North America. Her co-edited collection on the convention movement, *The Colored Conventions Movement: Black Organizing in the Nineteenth Century* is forthcoming with UNC Press. She'll be the Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the American Antiquarian Society, 2020-2021, and will soon be joining the faculty at Penn State as a named chair where she's delighted to be co-directing a new Center for Digital Black Studies.

DANCE PERFORMANCE

Latanya Tigner and Dimensions Dance Theater (DDT) started in 1972, and its co-founder Deborah Vaughan continues artistic leadership to preserve, perpetuate and present dance of the African Diaspora through dance education and the creation of collaborative main stage productions to underserved communities in the Bay Area. Latanya d. Tigner has performed professionally with Dimensions Dance Theater since 1986, and has studied and toured nationally and internationally, performing multidisciplinary works rooted in African diasporic dance forms. Latanya holds a B.A. in Physical Education/Dance, a Master's Degree in Arts Administration, directs Dimensions' youth company, and currently teaches dance at Contra Costa College. Latanya has created commissioned works for Dimensions Dance Theater, Black Choreographers Festival, Robert Moses' Kin, Mills College, and has presented work in SF Ethnic Dance Festival, Cuba Caribe,

and Mabina Dance Festival (Congo-Brazzaville). Latanya was recently named Resident Artist at Mills College's Lissner Hall. Ms. Tigner's current research and study of African dance retention in African American social dance led to the creation of Dancing Cy(i)phers, an annual symposium connecting the coded languages of African rooted dance.

PANEL

Second Afterlife

Dennis R. Childs is an Associate Professor of African American Literature at UC San Diego. Professor Childs received his Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Berkeley, and his M.A. in African American Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. His book, *Slaves of the State: Black Incarceration from the Chain Gang to the Penitentiary* (University of Minnesota Press, 2015), offers a cultural, legal, and political history of racial capitalist misogynist incarceration in the U.S. from the late nineteenth century through the prison industrial complex. Childs has received research fellowships through numerous sources including the Hellman Fund, the University of California President's Postdoctoral Program, and the Ford Foundation. Most recently he was Scholar-in-Residence at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, New York, and a recipient of a postdoctoral fellowship in African American Literature at Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

Talitha LeFlouria is the Lisa Smith Discovery Associate Professor in African and African-American Studies at the University of Virginia and an Andrew Carnegie Fellow. She is a scholar of African American history, specializing in mass incarceration; modern slavery; and black women in America. She is the author of *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South* (UNC Press, 2015), which received several national awards including: the Darlene Clark Hine Award from the Organization of American Historians (2016), the Philip Taft Labor History Award from Cornell University and Working-Class History Association (2016), the Malcolm Bell, Jr. and Muriel Barrow Bell Award from the Georgia Historical Society (2016), the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize from the Association of Black Women Historians (2015), and the Ida B. Wells Tribute Award from the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History (2015). Her written work and expertise have been profiled in *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, *Ms. Magazine*, *The Root*, *The Nation*, *Huffington Post*, *For Harriet*, and several syndicated radio programs.

Nikki Jones is Associate Professor in the Department of African American Studies. Her research, writing and teaching focuses on the experiences of African American men, women and youth with the criminal justice system, policing and various forms of violence. She is also a faculty affiliate with the Center for the Study of Law and Society and the Center for Race and Gender at Cal. Professor Jones' areas of expertise include urban ethnography, race and ethnic relations and criminology and criminal justice, with a special emphasis on the intersection of race, gender, and justice. Professor Jones has published three books, including the sole-authored *Between Good and Ghetto: African American Girls and Inner City Violence* (2010), published in the Rutgers University Press Series in Childhood Studies (betweengoodandghetto.com).

PANEL

Power and Resistance

Waldo E. Martin Jr. is the Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of American History and Citizenship at the University of California, Berkeley, is the author of *No Coward Soldiers: Black Cultural Politics in Postwar America* (2005), as well as *Brown v. Board of Education: A Short History With Documents* (1998) and *The Mind of Frederick Douglass* (1985). He is a coauthor, with Mia Bay and Deborah Gray White, of *Freedom on My Mind: A History of African Americans, With Documents* (2012), and, with Joshua Bloom, of *Black Against Empire: The History and Politics of the Black Panther Party* (2013). With Patricia A. Sullivan, he coedited *Civil Rights in the United States: An Encyclopedia* (2000). Aspects of the modern African American freedom struggle and the history of modern social movements unite his current research and writing interests. He is currently completing "A Change is Gonna Come: The Cultural Politics of the Black Freedom Struggle and the Making of Modern America."

Charles P. Henry is Professor Emeritus of African American Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1994, President Clinton appointed him to the National Council on the Humanities for a six-year term. Former president of the National Council for Black Studies, Henry is the author/editor of eight books and more than 80 articles and reviews on Black politics, public policy, and human rights. Before joining the University of California at Berkeley in 1981, Henry taught at Denison University and Howard University. Henry was chair of the board of directors of Amnesty International U.S.A. from 1986



to 1988 and is a former NEH Post-doctoral Fellow and American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. In 1994-95 he served as an office director in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. Department of State. Professor Henry was Distinguished Fulbright Chair in American History and Politics at the University of Bologna, Italy for the Spring semester of 2003. In the fall of 2006, Henry was one of the first two Fulbright-Tocqueville Distinguished Chairs in France teaching at the University of Tours. Chancellor Birgeneau presented Henry with the Chancellor's Award for Advancing Institutional Excellence in April 2008. He holds a doctorate in Political Science from the University of Chicago.

Charlene A. Carruthers is a Black, queer feminist community organizer and writer with over 15 years of experience in racial justice, feminist and youth leadership development movement work. As the founding national director of BYP100 (Black Youth Project 100), she has worked alongside hundreds of young Black activists to build a national base of activist member-led organization of Black 18-35 year olds dedicated to creating justice and freedom for all Black people. Her passion for developing young leaders to build capacity within marginalized communities has led her to work on immigrant rights, economic justice and civil rights campaigns nationwide. She has led grassroots and digital strategy campaigns for national organizations including the Center for Community Change, the Women's Media Center, ColorOfChange.org and National People's Action, as well as being a member of a historic delegation of young activists in Palestine in 2015 to build solidarity between Black and Palestinian liberation movements.

Jovan Scott Lewis is an Assistant Professor of African-American Studies and Geography at the UC Berkeley, as well as the co-chair of the Economic Disparities Research Cluster at the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society. He received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the London School of Economics. His research examines race through the economic ethics, rationalizations, and practices that organize the lived experience of poverty and inequality in the Caribbean and the US. His work in Jamaica explored the social practices and cultural forms that facilitate the locating, reconciling, and normalizing of structural economic and social inequality through local market frames. His current research in Tulsa, Oklahoma is concerned with the structural and infrastructural frictions of poverty.

Ree Botts is a poet, artist, and activist from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania pursuing a PhD in African Diaspora Studies, a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and a Certificate in Global Urban Humanities at UC Berkeley. She received her MA of African American Studies and Anthropology from the UCLA and her BA at Spelman College. Her research examines Black women's healing spaces in Oakland as sites of cultivation, curation, and transcendence in wake of racialized displacement. Ree is also the founder of The Self.o.lo.gy Movement which supports Black women and girls in their processes of communal care and healing and hosts a monthly healing space at UC Berkeley in the Fannie Lou Hamer Black Resource Center, where she also serves as the Black Graduate Wellness Coordinator.

Reequanza McBride is a senior at UC Berkeley, majoring in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies. She wants to understand the root causes of inequality in communities of color and how politics can be used to change them. She hopes to one day run for a political office and use her knowledge to improve her community. She is also the mother of an 8-year-old, cares for her grandmother who suffers from Alzheimer's, and is an intern for Berkeley City Council.

CLOSING KEYNOTE

From Slavery to Belonging

John A. Powell is Director of the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society and Professor of Law, African American, and Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley. He was previously the Executive Director at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at the Ohio State University and the Institute for Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota. Prior to that John was the National Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union. He is a co-founder of the Poverty & Race Research Action Council and serves on the boards of several national and international organizations. John led the development of an "opportunity-based" model that connects affordable housing to education, health, health care, and employment and is well-known for his work developing the frameworks of "targeted universalism" and "othering and belonging" to effect equity-based interventions. John has taught at numerous law schools including Harvard and Columbia University. His latest book is *Racing to Justice: Transforming our Concepts of Self and Other to Build an Inclusive Society*.

400-YEAR COMMEMORATION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Denise Herd (Associate Director, Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, Public Health)

John Powell (Director, Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, Law and African American Studies)

Ula Taylor (African American Studies)

Waldo Martin (History)

Prudence Carter (Dean, School of Education)

Takiyah Franklin (Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, Black Faculty and Staff Organization)

Melissa Charles (African American Student Development Center)

Takiyah Jackson (African American Student Development Center)

Rebecca Ulrich (Black Faculty and Staff Organization)

Mia Settles-Tidwell (Division of Equity and Inclusion)

Erica Browne (Graduate Student Representative, School of Public Health)

SYMPOSIUM CO-ORGANIZERS

Denise Herd, Ula Taylor, Waldo Martin, Takiyah Franklin

WITH SUPPORT FROM

Haas Jr. Fund

Chancellor's Office

African-American Studies Department

OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The organizing committee would like to offer our sincerest gratitude during the planning process for the symposium to: Marc Abizeid, Larissa Benjamin, Maya Goehring-Harris, John Powell, Rachelle Galloway-Popotas, Puanani Forbes, Roqua Montez, Leah Jennings, African American Studies Department, School of Public Health, Division of Equity and Inclusion. Special acknowledgment is also extended to the Chancellor's Office and the Division of Equity and Inclusion for their support in making sure that the activities planned to honor the African-American contribution to our nation's founding received wide visibility across campus.