Notes on the graphic: Images of convict leasing in Sugar Land, the Imperial Sugar Land Company, the James Reese Career and Technical Center where the Sugar Land 95 were found, and a Black child protesting with a sign “I can’t breathe again” form a timeline from past to present. The collage is built from bottom to top, to mirror how soil collects from the bottom and how these layers of time are shown in the land. In 1871 the Texas legislature passed a law that allowed Texas’s governor to lease convicts in the Huntsville penitentiary for profit. It has been 150 years since the first year of convict leasing in Texas.

Program

9 September 2021 version

Join Zoom Meeting
https://riceuniversity.zoom.us/j/93133662197?pwd=NHIWaWdrS0NIYityVFNDODRhbUFvZz09
Meeting ID: 931 3366 2197
Passcode: 490235

Note: This Zoom link can only be used by those who received it from Lora. We will use the “waiting room” function, and will not admit names that are not on Lora’s mailing list. We apologize for any disappointment, but we must hold the number of participants to fewer than 100.

All times Central Standard Time (Houston time)
How we will proceed:

• Come and go as you need to. Feel free to turn off your video as desired, or if your connection seems wobbly.

• These panels consist of 5-minute presentations, then one Q&A that is 3x the length of the panel’s presentations. We will hear all presentations of a panel first, then start the Q&A. We will be strict about presenters’ time limits, as we want the Q&A’s to be as long as possible.

• During presentations, Chat is turned off, except for each of you being able to contact the support team. The support team is:

  Bryson Kisner (brk6@rice.edu),
  Emily Lampert (eal12@rice.edu, 360 820 9412)
  Summer Perritt (sp96@rice.edu, 904 392 5998)

  At any given time, only two of them are on duty, so please contact all three with any problem and one will get back to you. Lora is unlikely to be able to help you out during the panels, but will keep her phone handy on breaks: 832 975 9005.

• During each Q&A, Chat is turned on for all participants, both for chatting to all, and chatting individual to individual. Please put your name in Chat for all to see if you want a spot to speak in the Q&A. (We will not use the hand-raise function or watch for actual waving hands, as it is hard to see with so many people.)

  Everyone will be able to see the name order in the Chat. When your turn comes, you may simply start speaking or Lora will cue you that it is your turn.

• Presenters will gather their responses and give them towards the end of each Q&A. Lora will cue presenters for that. It is possible that presenters will not be able to respond to everything. If you want to continue the conversation with a presenter, please Chat individually with them during the Q&A to talk further or obtain contact info. Many of our participants have email addresses easily located online. Lora will share contact info of a participant only if the participant permits me to do so.

• If you are a presenter who shows a video, Lora will enable screen sharing for you. Don’t forget to click the “Share sound” button right before you sharing your screen.
Friday, 10 September 2021

9:00 Welcome to Rice University

Lora Wildenthal, Welcome (5 min.)
Alexander X. Byrd and W. Caleb McDaniel, “The Task Force on Slavery, Segregation and Racial Injustice at Rice University” (5 min.)
Amanda Focke, “The Role of Archives in Supporting Convict Leasing Research” (5 min.)
Q&A

10:00 Activism In and Around the Classroom

Katharine Jager, “Recovery and Reparations: Teaching the History of Convict Leasing at the University of Houston-Downtown” (5 min.)
Theresa Jach, “Teaching Convict Leasing to Community College Students” (5 min.)
Chelsea Barabas, “Connecting Convict Leasing to Contemporary Issues of Racialized Discipline on School Campuses” (5 min.)
Q&A

11:00 Break

11:30 Photography and Documentary Filmmaking

Steven Hoelscher, “The Afterimage of Slavery: Photographic Witnessing Along Georgia’s Jim Crow Roads” (5 min.)
Virginia Thomas, “White Women and the Production of Carceral Landscapes through Photography” (5 min.)
Christopher McDonough, “Down to Lone Rock: Status Report on a Documentary about Convict Leasing in 19th-century Tennessee” (7 min.)
Q&A

12:40 Lunch break

1:30 Visualizations

Hanna Kim, “New Monuments for Racial Justice” (5 min.)
Mimi Onuoha, TBD (5 min.)
Farès el-Dahdah, “Black Life in Houston: An Atlas of Racial Inequity, Displacement, and Integration” (5 min.)
Q&A

2:30 The Afterlives of Cemeteries

Constance Hollie-Jawaid, TBD (5 min.)
Jennifer Blanks, “Black Cemeteries Otherwise: Enslaved Pasts and Free Futures for Burial Grounds” (5 min.)
Q&A

3:10 Break

3:20 Memorialization, Historic Preservation, Resistance

Chassidy Olainu-Alade, “Sugar Land 95: Found but Not Forgotten. The Sugar Land 95 Memorialization Project” (5 min.)
Samuel Collins III, “Reimagining Monuments, Memorials and Museums” (5 min.)
Alex Lichtenstein, “Unmasked: An Anti-Lynching Memorial Project in Marion, Indiana” (5 min.)
Nina Nevill, “Late 20th Century Resistance to Carcerality in Texas” (5 min.)
Q&A

4:40 reminders for tomorrow, end of day’s sessions
Saturday, 11 September 2021

9:00 Archaeology

Camille Westmont, “Preliminary Results of Archaeological and Archival Research at the Lone Rock Stockade, Grundy County, Tennessee” (5 min.)
Reign Clark, Catrina Whitley, Helen Graham, Abigail Fisher (Principal Research Group), “Principal Research Group: Ongoing and Future Research of the Sugar Land 95” (20 min.)
Q&A

10:40 Break

11:10 13th Amendment Activism, and More Activism In and Around the Classroom

Savannah Eldrige, “Abolish Slavery, No Exceptions” (5 min.)
Ishmam Alam, Chinelo Dike, and Sameeha Rizvi (FBISD Equity Coalition, fbisdequity.com), TBD (5 min.)
Q&A

11:50 Lunch break

1:00 History

George T. Díaz, “Mañana Land: Life and Death in a Mexican Prison in Texas” (5 min.)
Serena Barbieri, “Convict Leasing and Railroad Development in Texas and the U.S. South: Punishment, Race, and Gender” (5 min.)
Q&A

2:20 Break

2:40 Sugar Land 95 – Activism and Memorialization—Part II

Naomi Carrier, “A Sugar Land 95 Story” (5 min.)
Brooke Lewis, “Sugar Land 95 in the Media” (5 min.)
Jay Jenkins, “Unearthing the Untold History of Convict Leasing in Texas” (5 min.)
Robin A. Cole and Anna Lykoudis-Zafiris, “Journey to Justice for the Sugar Land 95: Vision for a National Convict Leasing Museum and Reginald Moore Educational Center” (5 min.)
Naomi Reed, “The Darker the History, the Sweeter the Truth” (5 min.)
Q&A

4:00 Closing session: Archives and Imagination

Portia Hopkins, “Imagining the Past: Story Mapping, Curriculum Development and the Sugar Land 95” (5 min.)
Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux, TBD (5 min.)
Lora Wildenthal, Closing and Thanks (5 min.)
Q&A

5:00 end of day’s sessions

Presenters in order of appearance

Lora Wildenthal, John Antony Weir Professor of History, Department of History; Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, Rice University. Notes: Back in 2014 when I was Chair of the Department of History, Reginald Moore contacted me. We collaborated with a student team that created his first website and archived his papers, together with the amazing Amanda Focke. I am a historian of German colonialism and human rights. For more information on my work, see history.rice.edu/faculty/lora-wildenthal.

Alexander X. Byrd, Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Co-Chair, Task Force on Slavery, Segregation and Racial Injustice; Associate Professor of History, Rice University author of Captives and Voyagers: Black Migrants Across the Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic World (LSU Press, 2010) and currently writing “a story of three Houston schools that speaks to the inequities and promise of public education now” and co-editing with Celia Naylor The Oxford Handbook of African American History.

W. Caleb McDaniel, Chair, Department of History, Co-Chair, Task Force on Slavery, Segregation and Racial Injustice; Professor of History, Rice University. Author of Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America, by W. Caleb McDaniel (Oxford University Press, 2019), a 2020 Pulitzer Prize winner.
Amanda Focke Head of Special Collections, Woodson Research Center (the location of Reginald Moore’s archives), Fondren Library, Rice University. **Presentation description:** I will review archival sources available on convict leasing at Rice University and elsewhere; share the nature of research projects on convict leasing that we have been seeing recently in our archives; show our StoryMap on the Sugar Land 95, a project by student Suzanne Harms overseen by Dr. Portia Hopkins and myself; and mention upcoming mapping projects using historical maps and various data sets.

Katharine Jager, Professor of English, University of Houston—Downtown (UHD). **Presentation description:** I teach a core course on composition, required for all incoming first year students at UHD. Mine is organized around Ta NeHisi Coates’ “The Case for Reparations” (*Atlantic Monthly*, 2014). Over time, the course has become increasingly focused on the study of convict leasing in Sugarland, TX and the recovery of the history of enslavement and convict leasing in the Houston area. Although (or perhaps because) students are graduates of Houston area public high schools, few of them have any knowledge of this history—despite the fact that UHD is an MSI (Minority Serving Institution) and the majority of our students are not white. My project details the ongoing process of discovery, analysis and critical thinking produced by engaging students in the realities of local Black history.

Theresa Jach, Ph.D., Professor of History, Houston Community College. Author of part of *Back to Bondage* (FBISD report). **Presentation description:** This presentation concerns pedagogy at the college level.

Chelsea Barabas, PhD Candidate, Program in Media Arts and Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. **Presentation description:** My research situates current trends in on-campus policing and surveillance in public schools within a much longer historical trajectory of racialized policing practices in Texas (such as convict labor leasing). I am conducting ethnographic research in Fort Bend ISD and Texas City ISD to understand how school officials, local residents, and student activists draw on the fraught racial and carceral histories of their towns in order to mobilize action around contemporary issues re: on-campus policing.

Steven Hoelscher, Professor of American Studies and Geography and Faculty Curator of Photography, Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin. **Presentation description:** My presentation explores a crucial moment in the turbulent history of American racism, when post-emancipation hopes for African American civic equality and economic independence were crushed by disenfranchisement, lynching, and a vast array of legal structures aimed at black suppression. Central to that white supremacist project was the South’s notorious convict leasing system. Although widely accepted by many whites as a natural and beneficial solution to a labor shortage, the forced use of African American prisoners for the hard and often fatal work of road building and other tasks after the Civil War did not go unchallenged. Among those critics was the radical investigative journalist John L. Spivak, whose anti-racist work may have helped him earn the moniker “America’s Greatest Reporter” from *Time* magazine, but who today has been largely forgotten. Building on two strands of my
previous work in the areas of photography and memory, and the culture of segregation in the U.S. South, this research examines one man’s efforts to expose the atrocity of racially-based forced labor through the act of photographic witnessing. The photographs that he produced represent an afterimage of slavery: that is, a series of visual images that evoke the legacy of enslavement well after the Thirteenth Amendment officially abolished slavery.

**Virginia Thomas**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Rice University. **Presentation description:** This presentation will take up the role of white women in reproducing carceral landscapes through photography at the turn of the twentieth Century. I take up two case studies—a sharecropping plantation album from Alabama and a prison album from Mississippi—to demonstrate the ways in which white women sought reproductive agency through photography, propagating anti-Black aesthetics as a means to do so. These two albums illuminate the role of white women in (pro)creating an anti-Black landscape through aesthetics as a form of obtaining power and that this activity is a vitally important, but unconsidered realm of white women’s reproductive activity at the turn of the 20th century. While the majority of literature discussing slavery’s afterlife as it morphed into lynching and convict-leasing and later into mass incarceration centers on state and institutionally-driven mechanisms, this presentation will focus on the role of white women as they aesthetically and affectively seeded anti-blackness through the intimate sphere of the family.

**Christopher McDonough**, Alderson-Tillinghast Chair in the Humanities, University of the South Sewanee, Tennessee. **Presentation description:** The Lone Rock Stockade in Grundy County, Tennessee, was a private prison run by Tennessee Coal and Iron from 1871 to 1900. It was one of the largest private prisons in the South, housing 500+ convicts per year, mostly African-American, to work in the mines. Dr. Camille Westmont has begun an archeological excavation on the site, and is unearthing a story that will have profound impact on our understanding of this tragic chapter in American history, as was documented by Ava DuVernay in her film "13th" and in the Pulitzer prize winning book *Slavery By Another Name* by Douglas Blackmon. “Down to Lone Rock” is a documentary about the excavation.

**Hanna Kim**, Convict Leasing and Labor Project, Soros Equality Fellowship. **Presentation description:** TBD

**Mimi Onuoha**, artist and researcher. See her website mimionuoha.com. **Presentation description:** TBD

**Farès el-Dahdah**, Professor of Art History and Baker Institute Faculty Scholar, Rice University. fareseldahdah.rice.edu **Presentation description:** The goal of the project I will present is to to create and deploy an interactive and temporally-accurate cartographic platform, or atlas, that can ingest data from ongoing research projects on campus, all addressing issues of race in Harris and surrounding counties.
Constance Hollie-Jawaid, cemetery preservationist, descendant of Slocum Massacre victim.

Presentation description: TBD

Jennifer Blanks, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning and Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Presentation description: The Texas Freedom Colonies Project is an evolving social justice initiative that celebrates, research, and documents historic Black settlements’ landscapes, heritage, placemaking, and grassroots preservation practice. The Texas Freedom Colonies Project put freedom colonies on the map, on policy agendas, and at the center of Texas history. To support freedom colonies’ community resilience, the Project engages in three core activities: recording and safeguarding stories and materials associated with freedom colonies, hosting and maintaining an interactive, publicly accessible Atlas and Database of freedom colony locations including GIS layers indicating development and ecological threats, and identifying resources for and co-developing community resilience strategies and policies with freedom colony descendants using the information of the Atlas and Database. Currently, The Texas Freedom Colonies Project continues to expand the growing knowledge of Black cemeteries. In 2018, The Texas Freedom Colonies Project received the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This grant aims to create a strategic plan to upgrade and modernize the current Atlas survey, as well as to create The Texas African American Cemetery Registry, which will improve storytelling functions to accommodate integrated identification, mobile community site assessments, and intake and referral functions of Black cemeteries in Texas.

Cemeteries are historical and cultural resources that reflect African diaspora burial traditions that span the late 1800s to the present. In Texas, freedom colonies and similar Black towns or Black pockets in America serve as cultural resources to their communities, regardless of the community’s population size or legal corporation status. Therefore, cemeteries are proxies that help the Texas Freedom Colonies Project locate and verify the existence of freedom colonies. Historically, urban planners across the United States actively bulldozed and buried the presence of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Black burial grounds. The destruction denies scholars, historians, and other stakeholders the opportunity to learn an abundance of historical information about marginalized populations.

The protection and preservation of freedom colonies and other Black burial grounds are required to prevent further destruction and are analyzed from various angles in urban planning. The unearthing of Sugar Land 95 offered evidence of the enslaved pasts, the history of the landscape, and the critical cultural development of Sugar Land. Because cemeteries are bodies of archives that help map Black communities and reconnect Black populations to their rural land, urban planners have an opportunity to integrate kin keeping and other forms of tangible heritage as official sources of information during the planning process. Lastly, natural and manufactured multi-hazards disproportionately impact Black cemeteries compared to white or otherwise burial grounds in Southeast Louisiana. The outlined scholarship is an example of research led by the Texas Freedom Colonies Project, which analyzes Black cemeteries in diverse areas of urban planning. In this presentation, The Texas Freedom Colonies Project will explore challenges and policy issues Black cemeteries are currently facing, discuss important
implications for future research as a research organization, and share the opportunity for collaboration with new partners.

**Chassidy Olainu-Alade**, Coordinator of Community and Civic Engagement, Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD). **Presentation description:** I will be presenting on the work of FBISD to advance the educational efforts, community engagement, and memorialization of the Sugar Land 95 Discovery. The presentation will provide an in-depth understanding of the discovery as outlined in the final report *Back to Bondage*. I will also discuss FBISD’s historic preservation efforts, curriculum design, educational advocacy, and actions taken to create a memorial site at the Bullhead Convict Labor Camp Cemetery. Participants will be provided with digital copies of FBISD Sugar Land 95 publications (*this is on our group’s Box site*), as well as the ability to sign up for an email list to stay updated on progress.

**Samuel Collins III**, Independent Historian and National Trust Advisor—Texas, for the National Trust for Historic Preservation (*savingplaces.org*). **Presentation description:** I will discuss recent, current and future projects that reimagine monuments, memorials and museums. The Juneteenth Legacy Project in Galveston, the new Texas African American History Interpretive Center in Brazoria and the National Juneteenth Museum project with Texas A&M University Texas Target Communities program are just a few. These projects are engaging community, scholars and artists to tell a more complete story. #TellTheFullStory

**Alex Lichtenstein**, Professor of History and American Studies, Indiana University. **Presentation description:** In her 1909 speech, “Lynching, Our National Crime,” Ida B. Wells noted, “[Lynching] is a national crime and requires a national remedy.” Well over a hundred years later, the United States continues to want for a “remedy” for racial violence as well as a means to grapple with our history of racial terror. The Montgomery National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which opened in 2018, is the first national monument dedicated to educating viewers about the country’s history of lynching while formulating a visual and spatial means for commemorating its victims. The project we are working on seeks to join this conversation on a local level within the state of Indiana, beginning in Marion, Indiana, where a highly publicized lynching occurred in 1930. In collaboration with members of the Indiana University community, Indiana Wesleyan University, and teachers and activists working in Marion, we propose the art installation “Unmasked: The Anti-Lynching Exhibits of 1935 and Methods of Public Community Remembrance” as a means of engaging the broader public with the history of lynching and the ways in which visual art has been employed to raise awareness and push for antiracist political and social change from the 1930s to the present.

The installation is organized around our reimagining of two historic exhibitions held with the purpose of creating public awareness of lynching and the goal of passing federal legislation. The exhibition will revisit—and curate in tandem for public display—these two anti-lynching exhibitions. In 1935, the exhibits were held simultaneously in New York just two miles from one another. At the time, these competing displays deliberately spoke to different notions of the political function of critical artworks and aesthetics. This project will re-unite these exhibitions for the first time in a single gallery space accompanied by other multi-media materials that address the problem of lynching (and its representation) and/or employ motifs of racial
violence. This show pairs historical concerns with ongoing reflections with the desire to recapture the contesting political spirit of the 1935 exhibitions and to illustrate the ability of art to raise significant questions of historical and current import. Furthermore, given current controversies about the politics of displaying racial violence and the black body, we hope to curate the show in such a way that it wrestles directly with this question: how can political art represent racial trauma that risks offending sympathetic viewers? How have the dynamics of this dilemma shifted between the New Deal era and our own?

For more information, see project proposal of Alex Lichtenstein, Rasul Mowatt, and Phoebe Wolfskill at https://spark.adobe.com/page/9cHsFnNI8b4bm/.

**Nina Nevill**, PhD student, Department of History, Rice University. **Presentation description:** My presentation bridges the temporal gap between conditions of incarceration in the early 20th century such as convict leasing and chain gangs and the militarized carceral state of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Existing scholarship on the late 20th century carceral boom, known commonly as mass incarceration, connects the conditions of oppression and exploitation to earlier practices of carcerality and bondage in the U.S. Building on these connections, my work draws attention to practices of resistance to incarceration over time. If investigated, we see that there is more continuity than change over time in how people resist and reject carcerality in the U.S. South. Rather than focusing on the violence of the carceral system alone, shedding light on the similarities in resistance strategies, methods, and motivations advances political imaginaries of liberation to the forefront of our theoretical consciousnesses.

**Camille Westmont**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Sewanee: The University of the South. **Presentation description:** The Lone Rock Stockade, located in Grundy County, Tennessee, was the largest and longest running private convict stockade in the state of Tennessee (1872-1896). It was constructed by Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company and at its height housed over 600 individuals imprisoned as part of the convict lease system. Following the end of convict leasing in Tennessee and the relocation of Tennessee Coal and Iron Company to Birmingham in the early 20th century, the stockade fell into disuse and was eventually relegated to oral histories. In 2019, historical archaeologists began researching the stockade and were able to successfully locate the location of the prison inside the boundaries of the South Cumberland State Park. Since then, a fruitful partnership between the University of the South’s Center for Southern Studies, the AmeriCorps VISTA Program, and the Tennessee State Park System has allowed archaeological and archival research on this site and its history to proceed despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

**Reign Clark**, President, Director of Historical Research and Community Outreach and Engagement; **Catrina Whitley**, Vice President and Chief Analyst; **Helen Graham**, Director of Genealogical Research; and **Abigail Fisher**, Chief Operations Officer and Analyst. **Presentation description:** These presenters all belong to the recently formed Principal Research Group (principalresearchgroup.org), which is continuing the mission to identify the Sugar Land 95 individuals. Each will present on a different aspect, providing updates on progress with current work and on future research.
Savannah Eldrige, Founder, Coalition to Abolish Slavery—Texas (facebook.com/castexas); Co-Director of State Operations, Abolish Slavery National Network (ASNN, abolishslavery.us).

Presentation description: The Coalition to Abolish Slavery—Texas was spawned from an online event organized with a group of incarcerated activists. The goal is to abolish modern-day slavery, which was made legal by the loophole in the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The campaign was kicked off by the “Free the 13th” Rally in October 2020 in Fort Bend County and by the historic work that Convict Labor and Leasing Project founder Reginald Moore spearheaded. We highlight the intersectionality of slavery as it was and as it is today. The movement to end slavery in Texas thus began with the filing of HJR 51 on January 4, 2021 by Representative Alma Allen, which proposed to add language to the Texas Constitution that specifies that slavery is prohibited, even as punishment for a crime. The bill stalled after being referred to State Affairs, not even being granted a hearing.

As Co-Director of State Operations for ASNN, I assist other states with amending state constitutions to end slavery without exceptions. As of 2018 Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska have successfully passed legislation to end slavery in their states. Thirty states are currently organizing in partnership with ASNN to abolish peonage in the carceral system. On June 17, 2021, U.S. Senator from Oregon Jeff Merkley and U.S. Representative from Georgia Nikema Williams filed a federal resolution to prohibit slavery as punishment for crime. The filing of the Abolition Amendment was followed by the launch of the End the Exception Campaign on June 19, 2021, led by Bianca Tylek, ASNN federal team lead and Executive Director of Worth Rises (worthrises.org).

Ishmam Alam, member, Chinele Dike, Co-Lead Organizer, and Sameeha Rizvi, Co-Lead Organizer, FBISD Equity Coalition, fbisdequity.com. Presentation description: TBD

George T. Diaz, Associate Professor of History, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, Texas. Presentation description: My research examines the incarceration of ethnic Mexicans in Texas state prisons in the early 20th century. Although ethnic Mexicans served time in the Texas prison system since its origins in the 19th century, they complicated the black/white dichotomy of Southern prisons so much that when the state expanded its prison system in the 1910s, it segregated Mexicans separately. Despite their long presence in the region, the state had difficulty determining race within its incarcerated population. Blue Ridge, a state prison farm outside Houston, served as the ‘Mexican’ prison in Texas. Texas classified Blue Ridge prisoners under the blanket term ‘Mexican’, imprisoning hundreds of distinct individuals, many of whom were U.S. citizens, within an imagined community. Although this designation collapsed diverse individuals under one label, many Blue Ridge prisoners defined as Mexican shared ties of language and culture which allowed prisoners to create a colonia within the carceral state. My research contributes to the growing body of scholarship on the carceral state by considering how the Southern model of incarceration, which Texas adopted, became complicated as the state attempted to define ‘Mexican’ prisoners in the borderlands.

Jermaine Thibodeaux, Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies
University of Oklahoma. **Presentation description:** Sugar and coerced labor, specifically Black convict labor, provided the foundation for the development and expansion of the carceral state of Texas. It was sugar work that provided the means through which the state practiced and sustained racial and gender segregation of its incarcerated classes, a system of living and labor arrangements that persisted well into the late twentieth century. Throughout much of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, sugar was big business along the winding bayous of southeast Texas and neighboring Louisiana. There, in the so-called Texas Sugar Bowl, the fertile soil and tropical-like climate yielded an ample supply of cane that ultimately rivaled the sugar produced domestically in places such as Louisiana and Hawaii, and to some, Texas sugar surpassed Caribbean sugar in terms of its quality. Moreover, this precious commodity also gave birth to numerous capitalist ventures in the region, and for Fort Bend County, Texas, cane production launched the start of a profitable sugar refinery, Imperial Sugar Company, which today bears the distinction of being the state’s oldest extant business enterprise. Though Texas sugar growers never produced the quantity of cane their Louisiana neighbors did, sugar cultivation proved quite lucrative and indeed useful to a state in constant economic distress and swarming in social chaos, either real or imagined. Sugar, furthermore, allowed Texas to dabble in leasing out the state’s swelling convict population to labor-hungry and profit-driven sugar planters from 1871 until 1883. And after a turbulent yet fruitful decade of leasing out its mostly black, male convict population, the state moved to purchase its own massive sugar plantations throughout the Sugar Bowl and reaped quite a financial windfall from the labor of its bound, segregated prisoners. Sugar helped build and sustain the state’s prison system while also entrenching some of the earliest racial and gender ideologies and technologies that together upheld the logics of Jim Crow within and without the prison system. This presentation explores how the state’s foray into sugar production, one of the least desirable forms of agricultural labor from slavery through the late 1920s, laid the foundation for hardened segregation practices, which allowed the prison system to reimpose slavery-era assumptions about blackness and masculinities onto its constantly growing and largely Black prison workforce. Sugar work was no sweet deal. It yielded tremendous profits for the state penitentiary system but it also ushered in and maintained an iteration of racial capitalism built on seemingly unshakeable racial and gendered fictions long after sugar’s decline in Texas.

**Serena Barbieri,** PhD student, Department of History, Rice University, MA, MD. **Presentation description:** The strong association between black convict labor and slavery has directed our attention away from the work that convict laborers of various ethnicities did for railroad companies in Texas. Convicts who worked on the Texas railroads have been perceived as few in number and as primarily white. Indeed, that perception of their whiteness later served to ease the abolition of the Texas convict leasing system: convict railroad laborers were seen as threatening to the idea of white superiority, as well as seen as unfair competition for free white labor and as danger to local communities (escape was relatively easy out on the tracks). White convicts—a category that includes Unionist German immigrants, Mexican immigrants, and Tejanos as well as numerous convicts of various ethnicities from out of state—have captured little attention because recordkeeping renders them difficult to trace and almost certainly undercounts them. My dissertation will offer a new quantitative assessment of convict labor on Texas railroads by examining the impact of ethnicity and birthplace on the
assignment of individual convict laborers to railroad companies. A comparison of convict labor on Texas railroads with other southern states’ railroads will complicate our current Georgia-based understanding of the post-Reconstruction southern convict leasing system.

Naomi Mitchell Carrier, M.Ed., independent scholar, playwright, and performer. She is the founder and CEO of the Texas Center for African American Living History (TCAALH, https://www.tcaalh.org) and co-founder of Talking Back Living History Theatre. Author, Go Down, Old Hannah (utpress.utexas.edu/books/cargod). Presentation description: TBD

Brooke Lewis, freelance journalist. Presentation description: In 2018, I began covering the discovery of the 95 African-American remains for the Houston Chronicle and will recap that through to the last fall, when the new report was released.

Jay Jenkins, President, Convict Leasing and Labor Project (cllptx.org). Presentation description: This presentation will discuss the efforts of the Convict Leasing and Labor Project to find evidence related to Texas’ convict leasing system locally, nationally, and in archives across the state. It will detail the different types of evidence that are present in the historical record and the many ways that this information can be used to tell the story of convict leasing in Texas.

Society of Justice and Equality for the People of Sugar Land (SOJES): Robin A. Cole, President. Robin Arlene Cole is the Vice President of Safety for AgileOne, a managed service provider. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Drexel University in 1981. Cole is a seasoned professional with more than 41 years of health, safety and environmental (HSE) experience, and has been responsible for providing the HSE direction on policy, programs, procedures and plans in oil & gas, chemical industry (union and nonunion), terminal, R&D, staffing and the EPA. Cole, a native of Philadelphia and a Sugar Land resident for 25 years, is also a community activist. She cofounded the Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land, Inc. (S.O.J.E.S.) with her daughter and two sons in 2020 as a result of the need to bring together all relevant stakeholders to develop ways to advocate for justice and equality for people who are “powerless” against systemic racism. Anna Lykoudis-Zafiris, Vice President (sojesjustice.org). Anna Lykoudis-Zafiris earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of South Florida and a J.D. degree from Stetson University College of Law. Lykoudis-Zafiris’ career spans from practicing civil rights/employment and family law, including litigation and mediation, to teaching high school World History and Special Education at Alief ISD, and eventually operating as chef and owner of Anna’s Gourmet Greek, a mobile food truck and catering business. Lykoudis-Zafiris is currently involved in community activism and advocating on behalf of community related issues, including founding the group New Territory United in Peace and Ending Systemic Racism. The group started in 2020 and has 323 members. Lykoudis-Zafiris is passionate about raising awareness of human and civil rights issues and bringing community leaders and neighbors together to work for progress. She also is a member of the Fort Bend County Historical Commission. Presentation description: Our goal is to raise funds for the construction of the first National Convict Leasing Museum and Regina Moore Educational Center. Background: Convict leasing often has been referred by historians as
“slavery by another name.” Before the Civil War, Confederate states used slaves to build agricultural and industrial empires. But when the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in 1865, these states no longer had free labor and their economies fell into ruin. Even though the 13th Amendment abolished slavery, it contained a loophole (italicized): “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.” This clause legalized a new form of human oppression in which individuals convicted of crimes became enslaved by forced convict labor. Southern states carefully constructed laws called “Black Codes,” and suddenly, mostly African-American males found guilty of crimes, including such questionable “offenses” as being an orphan, homeless or jobless, were thrust into the criminal justice system, convict leasing, and post-Civil War slavery. In Texas, these victims of racial oppression toiled in various industries, but most brutally in sugar cane fields for hours, with little food, poor living conditions, whippings, maiming and the strong likelihood of death within two years. In Sugar Land, two men – E. H. Cunningham and L. A. Ellis – partners in the sugar cane business, were major purveyors of convict leasing. They eventually struck a deal with the state of Texas to lease ALL state inmates to work their sugar cane operation. The state earned $3.01 a month for each victim of forced labor they used. The businessmen became wealthy. Sugar Land, Texas was built on their financial success and on the backs of victims (mainly African Americans) of racial oppression.

For years, Reginald Moore and others knew that the remains of victims of convict leasing would likely be discovered in Sugar Land. And on February 19, 2018, a backhoe operator hired by the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) discovered the first of the 95 human remains on the site of a new technical high school. The school district, which had obtained the property previously owned by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice years earlier, halted construction while more remains were unearthed and a decision about their fate made its way through the courts. Today, the Sugar Land 95’s burial ground is intact. The names and identities of those buried there are not certain and await further DNA testing. The local school district is constructing an indoor display of the discovery and history within the technical high school and beatification of the cemetery, and county officials are proposing construction of a memorial park in the area.

S.O.J.E.S.’s plans are more ambitious. The discovery of the Sugar Land 95 serves as a necessary catalyst in propelling our community to bravely confront the truth of our painful local history. We are looking to raise awareness and seek justice for the Sugar Land 95 through a national museum and educational center that will memorialize, honor those victims, heal the community and educate the world. The museum will take visitors through a journey of consciousness from the painful history of slavery and convicting leasing and will include examples of slave replicas, prison life and simulate the deplorable working conditions of a sugar plantation, in essence what life was like for the Sugar Land 95. This journey for justice is important to paving a brighter path forward for the community, state, nation and the world. S.O.J.E.S. is committed to giving a voice to the voiceless by emphasizing that truth telling is a form of advocating for justice, not only in the past, but also for the seeking meaningful change and real solutions to contemporary issues through education and reconciliation between past and present. We hope museum visitors leave with the question “Where do we go from here?” We invite all members of the community, nation and the world to join us in this important
journey for truth, honor, justice and healing for the betterment of all humankind. The Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land is a community organization united in its dedication to the causes of social justice and equality. It is guided by a seven-member Board of Directors comprised of residents of Sugar Land and Fort Bend County, Texas.

**Naomi Reed**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas. **Presentation description:** I am working on ethnographically exploring the ways in which Sugar Land, FBISD, Fort Bend County, SOJES, and other organizations are attempting to memorialize the Sugar Land 95. My focus is on the ways in which white institutions, communities, and organizations conceptualize Blackness and how these conceptualizations manifest in cultural heritage issues and sites. I also connect these ideas to discourses of white redemption in U.S. History curriculum in Sugar Land, Texas. Finally, I am focusing on the ways in which the Convict Labor and Leasing Project (Reginald Moore’s organization) aims to critically memorialize the Sugar Land 95 and bring awareness to the relationship between convict leasing and the success of contemporary urban and suburban areas.

**Portia Hopkins**, Postdoctoral Scholar at Rice’s Fondren Library. Dr. Hopkins is the Council on Library and Information Resources/ Digital Library Federation [CLIR/DLF] Postdoctoral Research Associate in Data Curation for African American Studies). **Presentation description:** TBD

**Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux**, Actor, storyteller, playwright, historical re-enactor, lecturer. Founder, Flying Geese Productions (flyinggeese.org). **Presentation description:** TBD

### Additional Participants

These people are attending but not presenting; they are listed here in alphabetical order to support our event’s goal of networking.

**Farha Ahmed**, Director, Society of Justice and Equality for the People of Sugar Land (SOJES). **Notes:** Attorney and community servant. She and her husband also manage an investment business in Sugar Land. Ahmed completed her Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law in Houston, and her community activities have had an impact far beyond the Sugar Land area. She is an alumnus of the prestigious Texas Lyceum, a non-partisan think tank for future Texas leaders. Ahmed formerly served on the board of Asians Against Domestic Violence, a Texas nonprofit. Ahmed has served on many boards and committees, including the Sugar Land Planning and Zoning Commission and the Anti-Defamation League’s community sphere initiative. She has been a facilitator with the Houston Police Department’s cadet program, served on the Sugar Land Mayor’s and City Manager’s Multicultural Advisory Committees, and has been a board member for the First Colony Community Association, the largest homeowner’s association in Fort Bend County. Ahmed has been a board member of the Exchange Club of Sugar Land, the largest civic organization in Sugar Land. She also is a recent
graduate of the FBI Citizen’s Academy program in Houston, and a member of the Fort Bend County Historical Commission.

Michael J. Bailey, Curator, Brazoria County Historical Museum. He offers to all of you: “If specific items need to be researched, I will attempt to find materials upon request.” Email: curator@bchm.org

Richard Becherer is a historic preservationist and retired professor of architectural history. Notes: He has studied Atlanta's Chattahoochee Brick Company, Georgia's most notorious convict lease camp, for the past decade. While Chattahoochee employed forced labor for for the business's first thirty years – 1878-1908 – this camp also served as Georgia's State Penitentiary no. 3. As one of the State's three authorized private penitentiaries, Chattahoochee Brick trafficked convicts over the whole of the state, placing prisoners at the disposal of some of Georgia's most illustrious families whose enterprises built the state's railroads, dug its canals, milled its lumber, worked its coal mines, quarried its stone, and farmed its fields. At present, Professor Becherer is investigating the Company's original convict registers profiling the population incarcerated there. Convicted of both felony and misdemeanor crimes, their number comprised a heterogeneous prison population of approximately six hundred black, white and mixed race, men, women, Native Americans, and immigrants. The now-vacant site of Chattahoochee Brick exists today within the city limits of Atlanta, but it is facing the imminent threat of industrial redevelopment.

Sheila Curran Bernard, MFA, Associate Professor, Department of History and Documentary Studies Program; Director, Graduate Program in Public History; Director, Institute for History and Public Engagement, University at Albany, State University of New York. Notes: Award-winning filmmaker and writer whose credits include Slavery by Another Name, Eyes on the Prize, and other films and series for PBS. She is currently writing a fifth edition of her book, Documentary Storytelling (Routledge, 2022) and recently published a second edition of her book with Kenn Rabin, Archival Storytelling (Routledge, 2020). See www.sheilacurranbernard.com.

Douglas Blackmon, Professor of the Practice, Georgia State University. Notes: He can join us on Friday only. Author of Slavery By Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II (Doubleday, 2008), on which the documentary film first shown on PBS in 2012 was based. This Pulitzer Prize-winning historical expose unearthed the stories of enslaved persons and their descendants who journeyed into freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation and then back into the shadow of involuntary servitude in “The Age of Neoslavery.” By turns moving, sobering, and shocking, this account reveals the narratives of those who fought unsuccessfully against the re-emergence of human labor trafficking, companies that profited from neoslavery, how the criminal justice system became an instrument of racial injustice, and the insidious legacy of that history that reverberates today. Reviews included: “An astonishing book...It will challenge and change your understanding of what we were as Americans—and of what we are.” —Chicago Tribune. “Eviscerates one of our schoolchildren's most basic assumptions: that slavery in America ended with the Civil War."

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Janet Maslin, *New York Times*. Douglas Blackmon’s current work is: *The Narrating Justice Project*. Research and data collection involves students at Georgia State University in determining identities and backgrounds of more than 6,000 forced laborers in Georgia, and identifying dozens of corporate entities that benefited from their involuntary servitude. The goal is to compile and analyze individual and collective data, identify and illustrate the daily lives of victims, and to document locations of forced labor, encampments, and abandoned burial grounds. Coming in 2022 is a new documentary film for PBS, *The Harvest*, which examines the failed integration of public schools in America.

**Daniel D. Domingues da Silva**, Associate Professor, Department of History and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Center for African and African American Studies, Rice University. **Notes:** My current research project is “The Abolition of Slavery in Portuguese Mozambique.” It focuses on the process of gradual abolition of slavery in Portuguese Mozambique during the second half of the nineteenth century, and the rise of new forms of coerced labor during the Age of Imperialism in Africa, including convict labor.

**Jeffrey Fleisher**, Chair, Department of Anthropology; Professor of Anthropology, Rice University. **Notes:** An archaeologist working in eastern and southern Africa, he has focused on questions that concern people often left out of archaeological interpretations: rural communities in urban settlement systems, non-elite people in cities, and communities beyond the frontiers of large-scale societies. This research has explored: the roles that rural and non-elite people play in the composition of urban societies and the way they participate in social, economic, and religious spheres; the transformation of village settlements to ‘rural’ ones as urban centers develop; the use material culture and space in the establishment and maintenance of social inequality and power; and the way people use everyday items such as ceramics, coins, and architecture in public performances and the construction of value.

Methodologically, his research has pioneered new approaches to ephemeral archaeological contexts such as earthen architecture and public and open spaces, integrating archaeological testing/excavation, geophysical surveying, and soil chemistry analysis.

**Kashundra “Shun” Foreman**, nurse and health activist. **Notes:** Shun Foreman’s campaign “Sugar Awareness Saves Lives in Communities of Color” can be viewed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sugarmodeoff/ and on Instagram at @sugarmodeoff.

**Michael Hardy**, Writer-at-large, *Texas Monthly*. **Notes:** Author of several relevant journalistic pieces, including texasmonthly.com/articles/sugar-land-slave-convict-labor-history; texasmonthly.com/news-politics/newly-discovered-cemetery-vindicates-sugar-land-activist; and texasmonthly.com/news-politics/remembering-reginald-moore

**Marie Theresa Hernandez Ramirez**, Professor, Program in World Cultures and Literatures in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages; Affiliated Faculty, Program in Anthropology in the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Houston. **Notes:** Author of *Cemeteries of Ambivalent Desire. Unearthing Deep South Narratives from a Texas Graveyard*,

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on Jim Crow and memory in Fort Bend County
(tamupress.com/book/9781603440264/cemeteries-of-ambivalent-desire)

Catherine Jalbert, Archeologist, Historic Sites Division, Texas Historical Commission.

Will Jones, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Woodson Research Center, Fondren Library, Rice University. Notes: At my post in Woodson, I work with the Task Force on Slavery, Segregation, and Racial Injustice to research and present Rice’s history of slavery, segregation, and racial injustice. My own research project is “Remaking African America in the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1790–1860 and concerns how enslaved people who were forcibly migrated to the lower Mississippi River Valley during the nineteenth century, especially Louisiana’s sugar parishes, made communities in the wake of the slave trade and other forms of forced migration.”

Bryson Kisner, PhD student, Department of History, Rice University, Notes: My primary scholarly interest lies in how preexisting communities changed – and how new communities developed – in what is now the Southern and Southwestern United States during the 18th and 19th centuries. Bryson Kisner, Emily Lampert, and Summer Perritt are assisting Lora Wildenthal in hosting the conference.

Emily Lampert, PhD student, Department of History, Rice University, MA. Notes: My fields of interest are: Gender, medicine, and reproduction in the context of American slavery; histories of reproduction and midwifery; and eighteenth and early-nineteenth century U.S. Bryson Kisner, Emily Lampert, and Summer Perritt are assisting Lora Wildenthal in hosting the conference.

Katelyn Landry, undergraduate major in History, Rice University student. Notes: I am interested in preservation, memorialization, and public education. I have a general interest in ongoing and/or future efforts to preserve and properly memorialize the Sugar Land 95 cemetery site, currently known as Bullhead Camp Cemetery.

Bruce Lemmie, Director, Society of Justice and Equality for the People of Sugar Land (SOJES). Notes: Retired Auto Section Manager with State Farm Insurance. With a career spanning 35 years, Lemmie has served as a Claim Section Manager-Auto; Divisional Claim Superintendent Fire; Corporate Trainer-Fire; Claim Superintendent-Fire and Claim Supervisor-Fire. Lemmie earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, with minors in Political Science and Ethnic Studies, from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Lemmie has served on a wide variety of boards and committees, including the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, as a former Vice President for the Education and Charities Foundation of Houston, as a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, the Houston chapter of CPCU, and now S.O.J.E.S. He also was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Reserves.
El Xemenes Love, Science and Technology Specialist at Rees Elementary School in Alief ISD
Notes: El is founder and owner of EXL Films (exlfilms.com). He is the son of Marilyn and the late Reginald Moore.

Tirhakah Love, Entertainment Reporter for the Daily Beast

Matthew J. Mancini, Professor Emeritus, American Studies, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri. Notes: Author of One Dies, Get Another: Convict Leasing in the American South, University of South Carolina Press, 1996 (uscpress.com/One-Dies-Get-Another)

Brittney Martin, researcher; recent recipient of the Reginald Moore Reginald Moore Travel Grant for Research in Activism and Social Justice.


Captain Paul J. Matthews, Treasurer, Society of Justice and Equality for the People of Sugar Land (SOJES). Notes: Founder and board chairman of the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum. Matthews has been researching military history and collecting military artifacts and memorabilia for more than 40 years prior to his museum founding. The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum is the only museum in the United States chronicling the entire African-American military experience – from the Revolutionary War to the Persian Gulf War. Captain Matthews received a B.S. in biology from Prairie View A & M University. He served two years active duty and four years reserve duty in the United States Army, where he received a Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal and a Combat Medical Badge in the Republic of Vietnam. Prior to founding the museum, Matthews worked for 30 years as a hospital representative, executive business manager and director of military affairs for Merck & Co., Inc., managing the military division that yielded more than $800 million dollars in annual revenue.

Debra Martine McGaughey, Secretary, Society of Justice and Equality for the People of Sugar Land (SOJES). Notes: Director of Communication Services for Houston Community College Central, where she has worked since 2004. She oversees all marketing, communications, and community outreach efforts for the 10,000-student college, one of seven, full-service colleges serving 65,000+ student in the HCC District. She is president of the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) for the 2021-2022 year. McGaughey earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Boston University, and a master’s degree in Integrated Marketing Communications from West Virginia University. McGaughey spent five years as a
print journalist, then became a television news reporter for 15 years for KDAF in Dallas and KHOU in Houston. She is co-founder of the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists and is a former president of the Houston Association of Black Journalists.

**David McNally**, Cullen Distinguished Professor of History and Business, Department of History, University of Houston. **Notes:** David McNally has organized convict leasing-related events at the University of Houston.

**Marilyn Moore. Notes:** Marilyn Moore, widow of Reginald Moore, is retired from her position as Director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Employee Relations at the Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority. She continues to advocate for telling Reginald Moore’s story about his experiences and challenges in relation to unearthing the truth about convict leasing and SL95.

**Molly Morgan**, Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Rice University. **Notes:** Molly Morgan is an archaeologist investigating the lives of enslaved people who lived and worked at regional plantations including Levi Jordan and Varner-Hogg in order to examine the historical context and legacies of slavery and how it is presented in public history. This work involves public archaeology through engagement with communities and local groups in Texas. She also works toward public history interpretations along with colleagues at the Texas Historical Commission, which manages these historic sites. This work offers experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate students in all parts of the process of archaeological research.

**Mark Osborne**, Lead Educator, Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site, Texas Historical Commission. **Notes:** He is one of a team working in the Texas Historical Commission including Catherine Jalbert (who is also working with Molly Morgan); Jamie Ross, Archaeological Collections Manager, Historic Sites Division; William Polley, Educator, Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site; and Angela Pfeiffer, Collections Manager, Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site. Mark Osborne is active in this special project of interest: thc.texas.gov/descendants-project.

**Summer Perritt**, PhD student, Department of History, Rice University. **Notes:** Her fields of study include Nineteenth and Twentieth Century American South, U.S. Slavery, Civil War Era, Civil War Memory, and Jim Crow. Summer’s 2020 MA thesis uncovered the connections between her alma matter, Mercer University, and the institution of slavery. Bryson Kisner, Emily Lampert, and Summer Perritt are assisting Lora Wildenthal in hosting the conference.

**Mary Prendergast**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Rice University. **Notes:** Mary Prendergast is an archaeologist who asks questions about how human and animal worlds are intertwined. She works primarily in eastern Africa, where pastoralism (herding of cattle, goat, sheep, and donkey) has been central to many people’s lives for at least five millennia. Her research examines the earliest origins and spread of pastoralism in Kenya and especially in Tanzania. By better understanding pastoralism in deep time, she argues that archaeologists can help inform present-day debates in eastern Africa and elsewhere on land management, human-
livestock-wildlife interactions, and ecological impacts of human and animal activities. She also researches how foodways were transformed during the Iron Age through interactions amongst people who had diverse food-getting strategies, problematizing labels such as ‘herder’ or ‘forager’. Finally, she considers broader demographic transformations that occurred in Holocene Africa, considering the impacts of multiple spreads of herding and farming upon foragers whose communities were so transformed that, today, few people live exclusively from hunting, gathering, and fishing.

Ashanté M. Reese, Assistant Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies; Affiliate, Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin. Notes: Her research focuses on Black geographies—the ways Black people produce and navigate spaces and places in the context of anti-Blackness. Additional fields of interest are critical food studies, Black epistemologies, urban studies, carcerality, and agriculture.

Sarah Rothenberg, pianist and author, is Artistic Director of Da Camera. Notes: Da Camera presents chamber music and jazz to the Houston area. See www.dacamera.com for current programming. Houston native and drummer Kendrick Scott, who is also attending our conference, will be performing in Da Camera’s series in 2022-2023.

Kendrick A.D. Scott, drummer, composer, and founder of World Culture Music Inc. Notes: For more information, see Kendrickscott.com. Listen to current release “A Wall Becomes A Bridge” on Blue Note Records: https://KendrickScottOracle.Ink.to/AWallBecomesABridge


Finally, students from two Rice classes may visit our event:

Anthropology 394 “The Archaeology of Slavery and the African Diaspora,” an undergraduate class taught by Dr. Molly Morgan in Fall 2021 at Rice University.

History 295 “The American South,” an undergraduate class taught by Bryson Kisner in Fall 2021 at Rice University.

Additional Contacts For Us These are people who cannot attend, but do relevant work and under other circumstances would be with us!
Ethan Blue, Senior Lecturer, University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia. Notes: Author of Doing Time in the Depression: Everyday Life in Texas and California Prisons (New York University Press, 2012) and The Deportation Express: A History of America through Forced Removal (University of California Press, 2021). He writes: “Doing Time in the Depression: Everyday Life in Texas and California Prisons deals with many issues throughout the Texas prison system. Among them were labor exploitation and resistance; white supremacy and racial dominance; class domination; spatial control; the building tender system; sexual violence as part of state violence; notions of social redemption through punishment; imprisoned peoples’ leisure programs—such as athletics and popular culture; music; self-harm; gender, sexuality, and masculinities; the complex meanings and experiences of death; and how pardon and parole applications entrenched forms of social dominance. I’ve also written about the death penalty and the transition from lynch rule to legal punishment. I’m keen to collaborate with folks about any of those issues. The Deportation Express: A History of America through Forced Removal focuses on the experience and history of deportation, which I treat as a form of racial/spatial control very much linked with US systems of racial incarceration. I’m very interested in talking about the politics and histories of the broader carceral state within the legacies of slavery, imperialism, and settler colonialism. This connects with Australian history, too.”

Talitha LeFlouria, historian and author of Chained in Silence. Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South (University of North Carolina Press, 2015), formerly of the University of Virginia, is unable to join us due to a sudden obligation. However, she would like to pass along to us that she is joining the Department of History at the University of Texas at Austin and looks forward to connecting with scholars and activists in the region. For more information on her work, see her faculty page there: liberalarts.utexas.edu/history/faculty/tll2367.