

Race and Periodization

#RaceB4Race



Washington, D.C.
September 2019

**“The invisibility of
the black is the
visibility of early
modern English
material cultural
achievement....**

**A fascinating
and compelling
untold story
awaits.”**

Imtiaz Habib

ABOUT

ACMRS

The Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS) was established in 1981 by the Arizona Board of Regents as a state-wide, tri-university research unit that bridges the intellectual communities at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona. Located centrally on the campus of Arizona State University, ACMRS is charged with coordinating and stimulating interdisciplinary research about medieval and early modern literature and culture.

Our mission is to enable and promote the most expansive, creative, and daring scholarship in medieval and renaissance studies. We do this not only by fostering a vibrant intellectual community for the faculty at our three universities, but also by publishing forward-looking, vanguard research through our in-house press. ACMRS promotes work that is historically grounded and theoretically expansive, with the aim of advancing dialogues that reach into the present moment and point us to different, more inclusive, futures. Moreover, we develop projects that explore complex topics in an accessible manner so as to reach as wide an audience as possible. In keeping with the ASU charter, we believe that our success in realizing this vision for premodern scholarship should be judged not by whom we exclude, but whom we include, and how they succeed.

- Fellowships
- Flexible residencies
- Conferences
- Symposia
- Internships
- Distinguished lectures
- Scholarly journals
- Monographs

Learn more at acmrs.asu.edu

ABOUT

The Folger Institute

The Folger Institute is a center for advanced research in the early modern humanities at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Approaching our fiftieth anniversary, the Institute renews our commitment to gathering scholarly communities who stimulate fresh research in the Folger collections, establish new agendas for how scholars approach the early modern world, and open these conversations to a variety of Folger audiences.

With the 2019-2020 program year, when the Folger undergoes major renovations, the Folger Institute is actively reshaping the research opportunities it supports and the partnerships it maintains through fellowships, an annual slate of programs, and a collaborative research initiative. This year's cohort of long-term fellows are enjoying semi-residential awards that allow for time in the Folger collections in the fall semester and for offsite research and writing in the spring. Similarly, consortium programming begins to move offsite in spring 2020, taking advantage of and showcasing the many strengths of our forty-six steadfast partners. The multi-year Mellon initiative in collaborative research welcomes short-term program fellows into the *Before 'Farm to Table'* team discussions, hosts a December weekend workshop for graduate students, and plans for future offsite programming.

Learn more at www.folger.edu/institute

RaceB4Race 3

January 17-18, 2020

Arizona State University

Mark your calendars for the third meeting of RaceB4Race, returning to Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Keep in touch with our social media, website and emails for more information regarding speakers and registration.



Marlon James

ACMRS Annual Distinguished Lecture

January 17, 2020

Please join us during the third meeting of RaceB4Race for an evening dialogue with Marlon James entitled, "Reclaiming the Fantasy Novel."

Marlon James won the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction for *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, making him the first Jamaican author to take home the U.K.'s most prestigious literary award. James is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling fantasy novel *Black Leopard Red Wolf*, the first of his Dark Star trilogy.

2020 ACMRS Annual Conference Unfreedom

February 7-8, 2020

Arizona State University

Tempe, Arizona

Unfreedom marked the lives of various people in the premodern world. Many factors played a role in shaping the forms of unfreedom prevalent in the premodern era: violence and coercion; shame and dishonor; disconnection of kin groups and destruction of social networks; and individual and collective strategies for economic, political, and social success that depended on the subjection of others.

This year's conference will focus on those whose status was defined primarily in terms of unfreedom, coercion, and constraint rather than the enjoyment of freedoms or privileges, including but not limited to slaves, serfs, captives, prisoners, pledges, hostages, and forced marriage or concubinage. We welcome panels and papers that theorize and/or historicize the status of unfreedom in medieval and renaissance contexts.

Submit a proposal and
register at acmrs.asu.edu

U N F
R E E
D O M

ABOUT THE

Venues

Thursday, September 5, 2019

The first day of events for Race and Periodization will take place at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Keynote presentations will be hosted in the Gail Kern Paster Reading Room, followed by a reception in the Great Hall.

The Folger Shakespeare Library
Gail Kern Paster Reading Room
and Great Hall

201 E Capitol St SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Friday and Saturday, September 6-7, 2019

The remainder of events for Race and Periodization will take place in Grossman Hall at the American University Washington College of Law.

American University
Washington College of Law
Grossman Hall

4300 Nebraska Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

SCHEDULE

Thursday

Folger Shakespeare Library
Gail Kern Paster Reading Room
and Great Hall

201 E Capitol St SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Gail Kern Paster Reading Room

6:15 pm - 6:30 pm

Welcome and brief
introductions

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Geraldine Heng
"Defining Race, Periodizing Race"

7:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Margo Hendricks
"Coloring the Past, Rewriting our
Future: RaceB4Race"

Great Hall

7:30 pm

Reception

SCHEDULE

Friday

American University
Washington College of Law
Grossman Hall

4300 Nebraska Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

9:00 am - 9:45 am	—	Registration and coffee
9:45 am - 10:00 am	—	Welcome from the Folger Shakespeare Library
10:00 am - 10:45 am	—	Michael A. Gomez "Did 'Race' Exist in Medieval West Africa?"
11:00 am - 11:45 am	—	Su Fang Ng "Race in the East Indies Contact Zone"
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm	—	Marissa J. Fuentes Symposium Respondent
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	—	Lunch break
1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	—	Michelle M. Sauer "Considering Race and Early Christianity"
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm	—	Dennis Austin Britton "Race after the Reformation"
3:45 pm - 4:15 pm	—	Haruko Momma Symposium Respondent

SCHEDULE

Saturday

American University
Washington College of Law

Grossman Hall
4300 Nebraska Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

9:00 am - 9:45 am	Registration and coffee
9:45 am - 10:00 am	Welcome from Arizona State University
10:00 am - 10:45 am	Mary Rambaran-Olm "Bede, Bath & Beyond: Difficulties with Race and Periodization in Anglo-Saxon England"
11:00 am - 11:45 am	Carol Mejia LaPerle "Dark Will, Race, and Affect: Philosophical Histories of Will and Critical Race Studies"
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm	Elisa Oh Symposium Respondent
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	Lunch break
1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	Wan-Chuan Kao "In the Lap of Whiteness: Racializing Affect and the Logic of the Premodern Hold"
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm	Ruben Espinosa "Property and Pigment: Shakespeare, Vulnerable Bodies, and White Rage"
3:45 pm - 4:15 pm	Ayanna Thompson Symposium Respondent

Dennis Austin Britton is Associate Professor of English at the University of New Hampshire. His research interests include early modern literature (especially Shakespeare and Spenser), race, Protestant theology, source study, and the history of emotion. He is the author of *Becoming Christian: Race, Reformation, and Early Modern English Romance*, and coeditor with Melissa Walter of *Rethinking Shakespeare Source Study: Authors, Audiences, and Digital Technologies*. He is currently working on a monograph entitled "Shakespeare and Pity: Emotion, Human Difference, and Early Modern English Drama," and coediting with Kimberly Coles the special issue of *Spenser Studies*, "Spenser and Race."



DENNIS
AUSTIN
BRITTON



RUBEN ESPINOSA

Ruben Espinosa is Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas at El Paso. He is the author of *Masculinity and Marian Efficacy in Shakespeare's England* (2011) and co-editor of *Shakespeare and Immigration* (2014), a collection of essays exploring the role of immigrants, exiles, and refugees in Shakespeare's England and work. In 2018, he was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Shakespeare Association of America. He is currently at work on his next two monographs, *Shakespeare on the Border: Language, Legitimacy and La Frontera*, and *Shakespeare on the Shades of Race* (forthcoming with Routledge).

Marisa J. Fuentes is the Presidential Term Chair in African American History and Associate Professor of History and Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. She is the author of the award-winning book *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016); co-editor of *Scarlet and Black: Slavery and Dispossession in Rutgers History, Volume I* (Rutgers University Press, 2016), and the 'Slavery and the Archive' special issue in *History of the Present* (November 2016). Her next project will explore the connections between capitalism, the transatlantic slave trade, and the disposability of black lives in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.



MARISA J.
FUENTES



MARGO
HENDRICKS

Margo Hendricks is Professor Emerita UC Santa Cruz. A recipient of academic grants and fellowships from Romance Writers of America, ACLS, Stanford Humanities Center, and the Folger Shakespeare Library, she is co-editor (with Patricia Parker) of *Women, Race and Writing in the Early Modern Period*. She works on early modern race as theory and practice. Her current works in progress are *Heliodorus' Daughters: Black Women and the Romance Industry* and *Shakespeare's Blacks: An Academic Memoir*, sort of. As Elysabeth Grace she writes romance fiction.

Geraldine Heng is Perceval Professor at the University of Texas, Austin. The author of *The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages* (2018), *England and the Jews: How Religion and Violence Created the First Racial State in the West* (2018) and *Empire of Magic: Medieval Romance and the Politics of Cultural Fantasy* (2003, 2004, 2012), Heng is Founder and Director of the Global Middle Ages Project (G-MAP: www.globalmiddleages.org), editor of an MLA Options for Teaching volume on the Global Middle Ages (2020), and, with Susan Noakes, editor of a Cambridge Elements series on the Global Middle Ages (2020-25). Her current book-in-progress is entitled *Early Globalities: The Interconnected World, 500-1500 CE*.



GERALDINE
HENG



MICHAEL A.
GOMEZ

Michael A. Gomez is currently Silver Professor of History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at New York University, and the director of NYU's newly-established Center for the Study of Africa and the African Diaspora (CSAAD), having served as the founding director of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) from its inception in 2000 to 2007. He is also series editor of the *Cambridge Studies on the African Diaspora*, Cambridge University Press. He has chaired of the History departments at both NYU and Spelman College, and also served as President of UNESCO's International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route Project from 2009 to 2011. Gomez's most recent book, *African Dominion: A New History of Empire in Early and Medieval West Africa* (Princeton University Press, 2018), is a comprehensive study of polity and religion during the region's iconic moment. Gomez supports the struggles of African people worldwide.

Wan-Chuan Kao is an associate professor of English at Washington and Lee University. His research interests include whiteness studies, race, gender and sexuality, affect, cuteness, and critical theory. His work has appeared in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, *Exemplaria*, *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, *Mediaevalia*, *postmedieval*, and several collected volumes. He is currently working on a monograph titled *White Before Whiteness in the Late Middle Ages* (forthcoming from Manchester University Press) that examines late medieval representations of whiteness across bodily and non-somatic figurations.





CAROL
MEJIA LAPERLE

Carol Mejia LaPerle is Professor and Honors Advisor for the English Department of Wright State University. She also serves the College of Liberal Arts as Director of Research Development. Her projects have been supported by Wright State University's Research Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the National Humanities Center, Ohio Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She teaches and publishes on early modern theatre, renaissance rhetoric, philosophies of will, theories of affect, and constructions of race and gender in early modern culture. For the 2019 Shakespeare Association of America meeting, she led the seminar "Race and/as Affect in Early Modern Culture" and is editing a collection on this topic. Her monograph-in-progress examines philosophies of will and formations of race; its current title is "Dark Will: Race, Affect, and Volition in William Shakespeare."

Haruko Momma is Professor of English at New York University. She specializes in early medieval English literature, the history of the English language, the history of the discipline, and all other things philological. Her publications include *From Philology to English Studies: Language and Culture in the Nineteenth Century* (2012) and "Medievalism—Colonialism—Orientalism: Japan's Modern Identity in Natsume Soseki's *Maboroshi no Tate and Kairo-ko*" (2009). She has also co-edited the *Blackwell Companion to the History of the English Language* (2008) and guest-edited the special issues *Old English across the Curriculum* (2015) and *The Study of Old English in Nineteenth-Century Europe* (2017).



HARUKO
MOMMA



Su Fang Ng is Clifford A. Cutchins III Professor and Associate Professor at Virginia Tech. She is the author of two books, *Literature and the Politics of Family in Seventeenth-Century England* (Cambridge UP 2007) and the recently-published *Alexander the Great from Britain to Southeast Asia: Peripheral Empires in the Global Renaissance* (Oxford UP 2019), and articles on medieval, early modern, and postcolonial topics. She has held fellowships at the Radcliffe at Harvard, the National Humanities Center, Texas at Austin, All Souls College, Wisconsin at Madison, and elsewhere. She is currently working on two projects: native interpreters; and the rise of “oriental” genres.

Elisa Oh, Associate Professor of English at Howard University, teaches Shakespeare, British literature, and literary theory. Her current book project, *Choreographies of Race and Gender: Dance, Travel, and Ritual in Early Modern English Literature, 1558-1668*, studies the early modern construction of the raced and gendered body through repeated and disrupted patterns of physical movement through space. She has published on intentional female silences in *King Lear*, *The Tragedy of Mariam*, *The Countess of Montgomery's Urania*, *Measure for Measure*, and the speeches of Elizabeth I and on "choreographies" of otherness in *The Masque of Blackness* and John Smith's accounts of Pocahontas.



ELISA
OH



Graduating with a PhD from the University of Glasgow, Dr. Mary Rambaran-Olm specializes in Old English Literature, palaeography and Digital Humanities. She is revamping a digital edition of a *Vercelli* MS poem ('Dream of the Rood') and will be relaunching her online edition soon. She writes and speaks about about race and racism in Anglo-Saxon Studies and academia. Along with Dr. Erik Wade, Rambaran-Olm is currently co-authoring a book on *Race in Anglo-Saxon England* for the Cambridge Elements series and she is also co-editing a Special Issue of *Postmedieval* entitled 'Race, Revulsion & Revolution.' Rambaran-Olm currently serving as 2nd Vice President of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists and serves as the liaison between ISAS and the Medievalists of Color collective.

Michelle M. Sauer is Professor of English and Gender Studies at the University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND). She specializes in Middle English language and literature, especially women's devotional literature and monastic texts, and publishes regularly on anchoritism, mysticism, hagiography, queer/ gender theory, monasticism, and Church history. Her publications include the books *Gender in Medieval Culture* (Bloomsbury, 2015) and *The Lesbian Premodern* (Palgrave, 2011, with Diane Watt and Noreen Giffney) among others, as well as numerous articles and essays. Current projects include an edited collection on anchoritism and materiality and a project on scribal notations and St Birgitta.



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INSTITUTE
at the Folger Shakespeare Library



**Arizona Center for Medieval
and Renaissance Studies**

Arizona State University