



★ RaceB4Race® ★

Politics

May, 2021



**ASU** Arizona State  
University



**Brandeis**  
UNIVERSITY





**“As there were no black Founding Fathers, there were no founding mothers — a great pity, on both counts. It is not too late to complete the work they left undone. Today, here, we should start to do so.**

**Shirley  
Chisholm**





# Politics

Co-sponsored by Brandeis University and the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Arizona State University.

As the first RaceB4Race event to bring classicists into conversation with early modernists and medievalists, this symposium will combine scholars working to reconfigure, rehistoricize, and repoliticize the past.

This symposium invites scholars of history, literature, and other disciplines in the premodern eras to consider how the past frames the politics of race, how the politics of the past have influenced race in our disciplines, and how the politics of the present intrude upon, expropriate, and capitalize on these trends. In addition, this event will in particular focus on how the practices of scholarship and pedagogy engage with the politics of race and the racialization of politics in our disciplines.

RaceB4Race is brought to life by the [Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies](#) in partnership with [The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Division of Humanities](#) at Arizona State University. RaceB4Race is underwritten by the [Hitz Foundation](#).

[Learn more about RaceB4Race here.](#)



## RaceB4Race®

RaceB4Race is an ongoing conference series and professional network community by and for scholars of color working on issues of race in premodern literature, history, and culture. RaceB4Race centers the expertise, perspectives, and sociopolitical interests of BIPOC scholars, whose work seeks to expand critical race theory.

The inaugural RaceB4Race conference emerged as a collaboration between the Medievalists of Color and the ShakeRace community, groups that were both seeking to push their fields in new archival, theoretical, methodological, pedagogical, and practical directions.

Bridging many traditional disciplinary divides, RaceB4Race not only creates innovative scholarly dialogues, but also fosters social change within premodern studies as a whole.





# 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.

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.

You can find our website at [www.acmrs.asu.edu](http://www.acmrs.asu.edu)

# Our board

**Patricia Akhimie**

Rutgers University, Newark

**David Sterling Brown**

Binghamton University

**Seeta Chaganti**

University of California, Davis

**Urvashi Chakravarty**

University of Toronto

**Kim F. Hall**

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**Jonathan Hsy**

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Shakespeare's Globe

**Dorothy Kim**

Brandeis University

**Noémie Ndiaye**

University of Chicago

**Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh**

University of California, Berkeley

**Scott Manning Stevens**

Syracuse University

**Carla María Thomas**

Florida Atlantic University

**Ayanna Thompson**

Arizona State University

**Cord Whitaker**

Wellesley College

## Save the date

October 20-23, 2021

**Region and Enmity:**

**A RaceB4Race Symposium**

Hosted by Rutgers University

The symposium will invite scholars to take up the intersection between region and enmity, and to examine how belief in difference, or the emergence of polarizing structures and violent practices, configure race thinking and racial practices in ways that are both unique to different territories and that transcend them.

Join our [mailing list](#) for updates and more information.



★★★★ About ★★★★★

# How to register

RaceB4Race is free and open to the public. You will need to register for each session individually. Coffee talks are primarily intended for early career researchers. They will have a maximum of 12 participants and will be first come first serve. In an effort to allow those who wish to participate a chance to get a spot, please only register for one coffee talk session.

On the day of the session(s) you registered for, you will receive an automated email from Eventbrite with the livestream link to the email you registered with. Please check your spam/junk folders.

Visit our [registration page](#) to get started.

## Raffle

Everyone who registers for at least one session of RaceB4Race Politics before April 12, 2021 will be entered into a raffle for a printed program and other RaceB4Race swag! Winners will receive an email when the raffle closes requesting a mailing address.



## Coffee talks

RaceB4Race is not just a conference series, it is also a professional development and network community. Although RaceB4Race Education will be held virtually, we want to preserve the space for these conversations. These coffee talks will be informal—imagine all of us gathered around the coffee station, eating donuts between the presentations.

To generate an engaging conversation, coffee talks will be limited to 12 registrants. Spots in these sessions will be first come first serve.

If interest in these sessions is significant, we will open more coffee talk sessions.

These sessions are primarily intended for early career researchers.





# Keynote conversation **Ibram X. Kendi**

May 5th, 5:00 pm EDT

## **A Conversation with Ibram X. Kendi on 'Stamped from the Beginning'**

This conversation with Ibram X. Kendi, co-sponsored by Wellesley College, will focus on his work on *Stamped from the Beginning*. In conversation with Ayanna Thompson, Regents Professor of English at Arizona State University and Director of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the RaceB4Race Executive Board, Professor Kendi will discuss the long, premodern histories of race and racism. As the keynote conversation for the RaceB4Race Politics symposium, this event will ask questions about how racist ideas developed and became deeply rooted in our political culture.

This pre-recorded conversation will be available for two weeks on the [ACMRS YouTube channel](#).



★★★★ Schedule ★★★★★

10:00 am–12:00 pm EDT: White Supremacy, Race, and Field Politics

**Shelley P. Haley**

Re-imagining Classics: Audre Lorde was Right

**Scott Manning Stevens**

Early Modern Indigenous Chronologies

**Jared Rodríguez**

Anti-Blackness, Medieval Studies, and Other  
Religions of Latin Christian Coloniality

**Q&A moderated by Dan-El Padilla Peralta**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EDT

Coffee talk: Online Safety with Dorothy Kim

**Tuesday**

**4**

10:00 am–12:00 pm EDT: White Heritage Politics

**Lubaaba Al-Azami**

Remembering Hans Sloane: Decolonial Disruptions  
to Archival Violence

**Lyra D. Monteiro**

What's in a Column? Liberation Archaeology  
and Anti-Oppressive Pedagogy

**Shyama Rajendran**

The Politics of Language: Vernacularity and  
Racialization, Past and Present

**Q&A moderated by Farah Karim-Cooper**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EDT

Coffee talk: Collaborating and Organizing Across  
Disciplines with Joel Christensen and Dorothy Kim

5:00 pm EDT

**Ibram X. Kendi**

Pre-recorded conversation release on YouTube

**Wednesday**

**5**



★★★★ Schedule ★★★★★

10:00 am – 11:00 am EDT

Coffee talk: Parenting while Teaching and Researching  
with Patricia Akhimie

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm EDT: White Supremacy and Reception

**Roland Betancourt**

The Far Right's Whitewashed Byzantium

**Joyce Green MacDonald**

Finding Black Women in Shakespeare

**Patrice Rankine**

Pre-Racial Fantasies: Locating Antiquity and the  
American Stage at the *fin de siècle*

**Q&A moderated by Cord J. Whitaker**

Thursday 6

10:00 am – 11:00 am EDT

Coffee talk: Publishing Articles on Race with  
David Sterling Brown

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm EDT: Race, Gender, and the Politics of Intersectionality

**Yujhán Claros**

Biology, Gender, Color, and the Racialization of Politics  
at Imperial Athens

**Jennifer L. Morgan**

Race and Reckoning: Slavery, Kinship and the Marketplace

**Stacey Murrell**

Black in Iberia: On Concubinage, Race, and Belonging

**Q&A moderated by Dorothy Kim**

Friday 7



# L u b a a b a A l - A z a m i

Lubaaba Al-Azami is a PhD candidate in English Literature at the University of Liverpool and visiting researcher at the University of Oxford. Her research, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, considers early modern English encounters with Mughal Indian imperial women. She is founding editor of Medieval and Early Modern Orients ([memorients.com](http://memorients.com)) a digital resource and hub on England's early encounters with the Islamic worlds. She is also founding convener of Network of Sisters in Academia (@NeSATweets), an international professional network of Muslim women academics. She is currently working on her book, *First Encounters: How England and Mughal India Shaped the World*, which is forthcoming from John Murray Press.







# Roland Betancourt

Roland Betancourt is Professor of Art History and Chancellor's Fellow at the University of California, Irvine. He is the author of several books, including *Byzantine Intersectionality: Sexuality, Gender, and Race in the Middle Ages* (Princeton University Press, 2020).



# Yujhán Claros

After earning a classical diploma from Phillips Exeter Academy, Yujhán Claros pursued further studies in Greek and Latin language at Princeton University. For a doctoral dissertation in Classics at Columbia University, Claros performed interdisciplinary research into the intersection of gender and racial ideology in civic and cultural practice during the Classical and Hellenistic Ages as it is legible from monumental and imperial genres of poetry. In addition to postmodern theories of race, gender and sexuality, and decolonization, Claros' work draws from art, archaeology, and history to produce literary criticism that insists upon the interconnectivity of the Ancient Mediterranean world, meets the highest standard of contemporary intellectual inquiry, and imagines a radically more inclusive vision of classics for the future—one beckoned by the powerful voices of visionary Black classicisms, especially from African-American diasporas.







# Shelley P. Haley

Shelley P. Haley is the Edward North Chair of Classics at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. Her BA is from Syracuse University where she earned a double major in Latin and Math. She received her PhD in Classical Studies from the University of Michigan.

Professor Haley served as Chief Reader for the AP Latin exam from 2000-2003, and as the Chair of the AP Latin Exam Development Committee from 2003-2007. She was honored as a Merita Award recipient at the American Classical League Institute in 2007; Hamilton College presented her with the Samuel and Helen Lang Excellence in Teaching Award in 2015. In 2017, The Society for Classical Studies awarded Professor Haley with their Excellence in Collegiate Teaching Award. She now serves as President of the Society, the first African-American woman to do so in the Society's 152-year history.

Widely acclaimed as an expert on Cleopatra, Professor Haley's current research centers on recovering the constructions of race and gender in ancient Rome by applying the theoretical framework of critical race feminist theory. She is also finishing a book on the role of Classics in the lives of college educated Black women in the 19th and early 20th century.



# Joyce Green MacDonald

Joyce Green MacDonald is an associate professor of English at the University of Kentucky, where she teaches courses in Renaissance literature and culture. Her research focuses on race, women, and Shakespearean performance, with her most recent publications including an essay “Actresses of Color and Shakespearean Performance,” in the new Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Race, and her 2020 book from Palgrave, *Shakespearean Adaptation, Race, and Memory in the New World*.







# Lyra D. Monteiro

Lyra D. Monteiro (she/zie) is assistant professor at Rutgers University-Newark, where she teaches courses in History, American Studies, and African American Studies; and the director of The Museum On Site. Her interdisciplinary training includes undergraduate studies in Classics and Anthropology at NYU and an MA in Public Humanities from the American Studies department at Brown University, where she also earned her PhD from the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World. Her work focuses on the uses of the past in public culture, with a particular emphasis on issues of race and representation in the telling of the United States' pasts. She is the recipient of the 2016 Walter and Lillian Lowenfels Award for Criticism from the American Book Awards for her work on the Broadway musical *Hamilton*. Her current book project explores how the study of an oppressive past can be a liberatory practice for people of color, when undertaken in an intentionally anti-oppressive and trauma-informed manner.



# Jennifer L. Morgan

Jennifer L. Morgan is Professor of History in the department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University where she also serves as Chair. She is the author of *Laboring Women: Gender and Reproduction in the Making of New World Slavery* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004) and *Reckoning with Slavery: Gender, Kinship and Capitalism in the Early Black Atlantic*, forthcoming in Spring, 2021 from Duke University Press.

Her recent journal articles include “Partus Sequitur Ventrem: Law, Race, and Reproduction in Colonial Slavery,” in *Small Axe*; and “Accounting for ‘The Most Excruciating Torment’: Trans-Atlantic Passages” in *History of the Present*.

Morgan serves as the Council Chair for the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture. She is the past-Vice President of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians and is a lifetime member of the Association of Black Women Historians. She lives in New York City.







# Stacey Murrell

Stacey Murrell is a doctoral candidate in the History Department at Brown University. She is a scholar of the western Mediterranean throughout the Middle Ages (c.900-1450), and her dissertation examines concubinage from the perspective of its role in rulership – particularly processes of power consolidation – in the polities of Iberia, North Africa, and Sicily. Stacey's work on race in medieval Iberia and its status within medieval Iberian studies is deeply informed by her experiences as a Black woman working in Spanish archives, and her concern for how the public engages with the past draws on her educational and museum backgrounds.



# Shyama Rajendran

Shyama Rajendran is an Assistant Professor of Literature at Krea University in India. Her research is centered on late medieval literature (focusing on authors such as Geoffrey Chaucer, John Gower, and John Mandeville), and explores varied forms of cultural and linguistic belonging and how demarcations of difference are culturally reproduced. Her research also situates English multilingual authors within the context of the global Middle Ages and draws on methodologies from scholars working in non-European contexts, such as the medieval Mediterranean, bridging the conversation between the English and European Middle Ages with the global Middle Ages.







# Patrice Rankine

Patrice Rankine earned his PhD in classical languages and literature from Yale University. He holds Master of Arts and Master of Philosophy degrees in Classical Languages and Literature from Yale and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brooklyn College, City University of New York.



# Jared Rodríguez

Jared Rodríguez is an assistant professor in the Department of Gender and Race Studies at the University of Alabama. He received his PhD from Northwestern University, where he wrote his dissertation, “Apocalyptic Blackness: The (Im)Possibility of Distinction,” which offers an account of our Colonial Present through an inquiry into the Christianity of Anti-Blackness in the Early Modern Atlantic World.







# Scott Manning Stevens

Scott Manning Stevens is Director of Native American and Indigenous Studies and Associate Professor of English and Humanities at Syracuse University. He is the author of *Art of the American West: The Haub Family Collection at Tacoma Art Museum*, *Home Front: Daily Life in the Civil War North*, and co-editor of *Why You Can't Teach United States History Without American Indians*, and his work has appeared in *Early American Literature*, *Comparative American Studies*, *Prose Studies*, and more. His primary interests are in Native American cultures of the Northeast from the pre-colonial period to the present, and he specializes in visual culture, museum studies, and Native American literatures. Stevens is a citizen of the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation and holds courtesy appointments as an Associate Professor of Art and Music History and an Associate Professor of Religion at Syracuse.



