



Center for the Study of
SLAVERY
& **JUSTICE**



Table of Contents

Director's Note	1
About the Center	3
Reflections from the Advisory Board	4
Public History and Slavery	5
CENTER EVENTS 2013-14	6
GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM	
<i>Slave-Citizen-Human</i>	10
CURATORS MEETING	
International Exhibition on Slavery	11
EXHIBITION	
<i>Ships of Bondage Travels to Cape Town</i>	12
WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES	
Challenging White Privilege	14
EDUCATION IN PROVIDENCE	
Our City, Our Children	15
DEBRA L. LEE LECTURE	
Interview with Deborah Willis	16
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE	
Edouard Duval-Carrié	18
Fellowships	19
Supporting Undergraduates	22
Select Programming Highlights 2014-15	24
A New Home for the Center	24
Acknowledgments	25

FRONT COVER: (BACKGROUND) CARTE DE L'ISLE DE ST. DOMINGUE AVEC LES ROUTES PAR P.L. GRIWTONN, INGÉNIEUR, 1801 P.L. GRIWTONN. COURTESY OF THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY AT BROWN UNIVERSITY. (INSET) TOUSSAINT BLUE, 2014. EDOUARD DUVAL-CARRIÉ. FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SLAVERY AND JUSTICE.

Director's Note

As we begin our third year in our new permanent home, it is good to take stock. For the last two years we have engaged in a plethora of activities ranging from seminars, public lectures, film series, exhibitions, and graduate symposiums. We have begun to collaborate with community groups on matters which deeply impact the members of the Providence community. In all of these, our focus has been on bringing a wide range of activities to the Brown University community and connecting and collaborating within a frame of equity with the Providence community. Others will judge how well we have achieved these things, but I think we can safely say that the CSSJ has “marked a presence” and begun to lay down a platform.

Over the next few years we will continue to do many of the things we did over the past two years. We will seek to grow our relationship with faculty by the appointment of regular faculty associates and faculty fellows. We will have a program for visiting scholars and distinguished visiting faculty, and thanks to the generosity of Libby '76 and Craig Heimark '76, P'11, P'14, P'17 we now have a visiting artist-in-residence program. Our collaboration with the Annenberg Institute is a central part of our mission and we will continue to deepen this as we explore ways to work on quality education for our children in Providence. We will also deepen our relationships to community groups, listening carefully to what they say and then working on projects on which we agree.

In this way we hope that the Center will become a venue of both scholarship and public involvement. The times demand no less of us.

As I write this note, the death of Michael Brown hovers over the nation. His death was a brutal reminder that the legacies of racial slavery and Jim Crow are not gone. These are not historical legacies of some distant past, but ones which presently haunt and help to shape the actions of many in our American Republic. Never was it so apparent that it is unwise for us to think about slavery as if it was a distant historical event with no traces on our lives today. In that regard, it should now be clear that to reflect on slavery is to call upon justice and to see how the legacies of slavery in all spheres of our public and private lives can be eliminated. So while we move into a new home, we realize that the work of justice has a profound claim upon us.

...to reflect on slavery is to call upon justice and to see how the legacies of slavery in all spheres of our public and private lives can be eliminated.

I wish to thank all the persons who worked assiduously to get the new space, 94 Waterman Street ready, in particular: Eric Smith, Aimee Lombardo, Meaghan Kennedy, Chris Ladds, Christine Nelson, and Elena Pascarella of Lerner Ladds Bartels Architects; Dyanne Vileno of Creative Office Pavilion; Nelson Ferreira, Peter Hadden, Emanuel Frias, Rick Amaral, and Melanie Fletcher of TRAC Builders; Stephen Casserly, Ricardo Mirando, and Eduardo Sánchez from Yardworks; David

Paine, Cliff Resnick, Anthony Cassello, Bill Gaudet, Lichen Grewer, Gary Martins, Pat Vetere, Geri Augusto, Robert Farizer, and Pat Kinghorn of Brown University; and design and layout support provided by Erin Wells and Mark Foster.

Thanks as well to Ms. Weinberg and Ms. Clark for their remarkable work during the past year.

When you have time drop by the Center, view our regular exhibits, attend our conferences and seminars as well as our film series.

I look forward to seeing you at the new home and thanks to each and every one of you for your continued support.

Anthony Bogues

Director of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice, Lyn Crost Professor of the Social Sciences and Critical Theory, and Professor of Africana Studies



Staff

Anthony Bogues

Director

Shana Weinberg

Center Manager

Ruth Clark

Outreach and Program Coordinator

Patricia Lott, Ph.D.

(2013–2014)

Mekala Audain

(2014–2015)

Ruth J. Simmons

Postdoctoral Fellows

in Slavery & Justice

Justin Pope *(2014–2015)*

John Carter Brown

Library and the

CSSJ Joint Fellow

Elon Cook *(2012–2014)*

Jazzmen Johnson

(2013–2015)

Maiyah Gamble-Rivers

(2014–2016)

Graduate Fellows for

the Study of the Public

History of Slavery



About the Center

The Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ) is a scholarly research center with a public educational mission. Recognizing that racial and chattel slavery were central to the historical formation of the Americas, the CSSJ will create a space for the interdisciplinary study of:

- historical forms of slavery
- how the legacies of slavery shape our contemporary world
- contemporary forms of human bondage

To further this study, CSSJ will establish research programs designed to foster deeper understandings about the issues of justice, human rights, and freedom today.

We are dedicated to a policy of global public engagement on the issues of slavery, human bondage, and justice. In order to explore these issues we will:

- convene public forums
- intervene in national and international debates
- develop collaborative partnerships of research and activities with scholars, activists, individuals, and institutions committed to these issues
- hold conferences and workshops around these issues

The Center developed out of recommendations of the Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice. The Center hopes to continue to provide a structure through which students, scholars, and community members can create innovative connections and meaningful discourse. Through lectures, music, public exhibitions, and film screenings, CSSJ seeks to weave the past, present, and future perspectives on historical forms of slavery and the contemporary search for justice and create a space for ongoing dialogue surrounding these issues.

LEFT: SLAVE GARDEN AT THE CENTER'S NEW LOCATION



Faculty Advisory Board

Philip Gould

Nicholas Brown Professor of Oratory and Belles Lettres Chair, Department of English

Matthew Pratt Guterl

Chair of American Studies, Professor of Africana Studies and American Studies

Glenn C. Loury

Merton P. Stoltz Professor of the Social Sciences

Marion Orr

Fred Lippitt Professor of Public Policy, Political Science and Urban Studies

Seth Rockman

Associate Professor of History

Françoise N. Hamlin

Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies

External Advisory Board

Dr. Ruth J. Simmons,
Co-chair

Debra L. Lee '76,
Co-chair

James T. Campbell

Spencer Crew '71

Brickson Diamond '93

Libby Heimark '76

Reflections from the Faculty Advisory Board

This was my first full year on the Advisory Committee for the Center and it was a good one. Our meetings bring together colleagues from around campus; oftentimes it is the only occasion to see those outside of our immediate daily periphery. There we brainstorm ideas, read the applications for the postdoctoral fellowship and embrace the new young scholar we choose. In these meetings we support the Director as he updates us on the Center's activities and projects, many of which we assist or participate in during the year. The Center is a gathering place for faculty and students from different fields, and is a valuable venue in its outreach and engagement with communities off-campus. In my various activities beyond my job, I hear about the Center's work and events – which speaks to the extent of its reach and audience. Indeed many of the events – I immediately remember the documentary film series this spring bring community members on campus who engage vigorously with the conversations and enhance the experience for all of us. This engagement, I believe, fulfills one of the mandates from the Slavery and Justice Steering Committee from where the Center germinated. It is something the Center does very well and I am honored to be a part of the project.

Prof. Françoise N. Hamlin

Associate Professor of Africana Studies and History



Public History and Slavery

Since the founding of the American republic the central paradox has been between a republic founded on the principles of liberty yet built with the labor of enslaved peoples. It is a paradox, which continues to shape our present. This jarring juxtaposition tends to cloud how we see ourselves today and understand our past. One doesn't need to look too closely to see the legacy of slavery at every moment: the gaping educational inequalities offered to our nation's students, through the catastrophically large number of black men behind bars, the biased media portrayals of people of color, and the very fabric of our neighborhoods and community, shaped by a long history of systemic discriminatory legislation. The alarming frequency of shooting deaths of unarmed young black people in recent months has reinforced the need for a national dialogue about our past.

The history of racial slavery is sometimes seen by some Americans as too shameful, too horrifying, too brutal for us to ever really be able to conceptualize or understand. But as brutal as it was, it is a history we must face because it is the story of exploitation, violence, and catastrophic dehumanization. It goes to the core

Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice

We should never forget slavery. We should talk about it every morning and every day of the year to remind this country that there's an enormous gap between its practices and its professions.

John Hope Franklin



RUTH CLARK

of the principles which our nation was supposedly built upon. It is thus a history which must be shared even with the gaps, questions, and the many unknowable things that remain in its telling.

By not examining the history of this past, we remain vulnerable to perpetuating it and so this racial legacy persists and inequalities fester. But providing a space to discuss the history of slavery in the Americas and globally, to discuss the way in which this system is radically different from previous ancient systems of enslavement and helped to create and nurture theories on racial hierarchies, enables us to begin to breakdown social constructs, unravel them, and examine their origins. It helps us to see that things are not necessarily natural but created and perpetuated by people in positions of power.

CSSJ has made a commitment to supporting both scholarship and public history. We see public history as a means to share and make relevant the work of scholars to our community on and off campus through

exhibitions, public programs, and educational resources. This public history work aims to share a more nuanced understanding of the past by connecting the public to historic images, documents, and contemporary art as well as the innovative work being done by academics to read history differently and conceptualize new ideas about the lives of enslaved peoples. In our new building there is a gallery where we will have revolving exhibitions that cover a range of interdisciplinary issues. There is also a garden curated by Prof. Geri Augusto which uses historical research to examine the kind of spiritual and medicinal knowledge enslaved people would have brought with them from Africa and how they adapted it for their new world. We hope both these spaces allow for a more public conversation about the history of slavery, as well as contemplation and inquiry into how this past has shaped us today and what we need to do about it.

Shana Weinberg

Center Manager

Annual Report

Center Events 2013–2014

OCTOBER 2013

Seminar on Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project

We hosted a special seminar featuring Ann Chinn, Executive Director, and Ann Cobb, Executive Board member of the Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project, an initiative which aims to work with local communities and descendants to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade. Ms. Chinn and Ms. Cobb returned in April to discuss new partnerships and port marker unveilings.

Prof. Craig Steven Wilder Book Reading

Author and historian Craig Steven Wilder joined us at the Brown bookstore for a reading from his newest book, *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities*. The book was inspired by Brown's 2003 Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice.



RUTH CLARK



RUTH CLARK

Songs of Freedom and the Emancipation Proclamation

The Marian Anderson String Quartet, noted for becoming the first African American ensemble in history to win the International Cleveland Quartet Competition, performed at the Granoff Center, along with spoken word artists Nealy Williams, '14, Carl Hancock Rux, and Ifa Bayeza. Moderated by Don King.

“Slave – Citizen – Human” Graduate Student Colloquium
Graduate students from all over the country came to campus for this two-day conference, presenting papers on the theme of “Slave – Citizen – Human.”

“Beyond Sweetness” Conference

This conference, “Beyond Sweetness: New Histories of Sugar in the Early Atlantic World” sponsored by the John Carter Brown Library, evaluated the current state of scholarship on sugar, as well as moved beyond it by considering alternative consumer cultures and economies. Given its importance, sugar as a topic still pervades scholarship on the Americas and has been treated in many recent works about the Caribbean, Brazil, and other regions. This conference served as an occasion for the assessment of new directions in the study of sugar, with speakers from Yale, Columbia, University of Toronto, Harvard, MIT, and other institutions.

NOVEMBER 2013

“Lincoln and Emancipation: New Considerations” Symposium

In November, a symposium entitled *Lincoln and Emancipation: New Considerations* was hosted by the Center. It featured two prominent scholars of Lincoln, slavery, and the law, Professors Martha Jones and Kate Masur. The occasion of this symposium was the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. The presentations focused on contemporary American culture and media, particularly the way in which we inhabit a historical moment where Lincoln's role in ending slavery is not merely remembered but often glorified.

Ships of Bondage Exhibit Opens in Cape Town, South Africa

Ships of Bondage and the Fight for Freedom provides the unique opportunity to tell a global history of the slave trade and its contemporary legacies while also providing a comparative study between bondage in the Atlantic world and South Africa. Curated by the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice at Brown University, it is currently on display at the Slave Lodge, one of the Iziko Museums of South Africa.

DECEMBER 2013

Prof. Dorothy Roberts “Race Medicine” Lecture

Renowned professor Dorothy Roberts spoke to a full house about the racial injustices within the healthcare system, in a talk entitled “Race Medicine: Treating Health Inequities from Slavery to the Genomic Age.”



FEBRUARY 2014

Created Equal Film Series

This year, our film series was made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as part of its *Bridging Cultures* initiative and in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The film series marked the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's March on Washington and introduced four documentaries with riveting new footage which illustrated the history of civil rights in America.

Curators Meeting on International Slavery

Working on the idea of hosting a possible international exhibition on slavery, the Center along with the John Carter Brown Library and the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage, hosted a workshop discussion of the representation of slavery in recent exhibits and

public programs and the impact of those initiatives on visitors and staff. Panelists included representatives from the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Tracing Center, the New York Historical Society, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (Smithsonian), the African Slave Wrecks Project, Tropenmuseum of Amsterdam, and the Shackles of Memory Association (Nantes, France).

Challenging White Privilege: a Community Conversation

Packed into Rites and Reason Theatre, over a hundred people joined us for the conversation "Challenging White Privilege" with a panel of Prof. Matt Guterl, Marco McWilliams, Chanravy Proeung, Prof. Geri Augusto. The panel was moderated by Ray Watson and there was heated debate that left the audience asking questions for follow up action.



MARCH 2014

Debra L. Lee Lecture: Prof. Deborah Willis "Visualizing Freedom"

This year, the Center's annual Debra L. Lee lecture was delivered by Prof. Deborah Willis. She gave a talk entitled "Visualizing Freedom: Photography and Emancipation." The Debra L. Lee lecture serves as a key component of the University's response to the Report of the Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice and invites the most distinguished scholars to Brown to discuss historic and contemporary issues related to the legacy of slavery in the Americas and the world.

12 Years a Slave Screening

A large crowd gathered to view a screening of the acclaimed film *12 Years a Slave*. The following evening, authors of the new biography *Twelve Years a Slave*, Prof. Clifford Brown and Rachel Seligman, discussed their work researching the life of Solomon Northup and the film based on his life.

Slave Revolt and the Geographic Imagination

A panel discussion on "Slave Revolt and the Geographic Imagination" was held in March. Speakers included Prof. Roquinaldo Ferreira, Prof. Natasha Lightfoot, Prof. Vincent Brown and graduate student Isadora Mota. It was moderated by Prof. Linford Fisher.



APRIL 2014

Prof. Delores Walters "Women's Resistance" Lecture

Prof. Delores Walters joined us on campus in April for a talk entitled "Women's Resistance: What the Legacy of Margaret Garner Teaches Us Today." Prof. Walters placed African American women's escapes from enslavement into historical context, including the story of Margaret Garner and its role in providing another perspective on women and violence. She also read from her newly published book, *Gendered Resistance*, and signed copies for guests.

Prof. Craig Steven Wilder

"The Matriculating Indian and the Uneducated Negro" Lecture

Prof. Craig Steven Wilder, historian and author of *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities*, returned to campus for a talk entitled "The Matriculating Indian and the Uneducated Negro: Race, Slavery, and American Colleges."

MAY 2014

The Many Faces of Toussaint L'Ouverture and the Haitian Revolution

The Center's exhibition this year featured the John Carter Brown Library artist-in-residence Edouard Duval-Carrié, who is one of Haiti's leading artists. Edouard Duval-Carrié paid attention to the many different ways in which the leader of the Revolution, Toussaint L'Ouverture, has been portrayed.





RUTH CLARK

GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM
Slave-Citizen-Human

In October 2013, graduate students gathered at Brown University for the Center’s inaugural graduate students colloquium, *Slave-Citizen-Human*. This conference arose out of a series of conversations between the administration of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, graduate and undergraduate students, and affiliated faculty about ways to involve students from various disciplines in an examination of the phenomenon of human bondage across the ages.

As graduate students, we feel that the colloquium was unique in many ways, particularly in its interdisciplinary focus. In broadening the academic possibilities from that stand point, our goal was to facilitate discussions that engaged slavery itself and its echoes across time and space. With respect to the historical sweep of the conference, we were able to engage papers that ranged from the Roman Empire, as exemplified by Katharine P.D. Huemoeller’s (Princeton) “*Servus stuprator: Slavery, rape, and personhood in Roman law,*” to modern attempts to chronicle this history in Renee Neely’s (Simmons College) “*How Archives Shape our Collective Memory as seen in the 1936-1938 Federal Writers’ Project Collection of Slave Narratives.*” From a perspective of the topical diversity, the group explored the representations of the enslaved body through toys by an intriguing discussion regarding the well-received

paper by Chris Dingwall (University of Chicago), “*Reanimating Slavery: Mechanical Toys, Human Machines, and the Play of Race,*” and examined human medicine with Robert P. Murray’s (University of Kentucky) “*Bodies in Motion: The Trade in Black Cadavers & America’s First African-American Physicians.*”

Another unique aspect of the conference was the broad and deep participation of faculty from various departments at Brown, as well as outside institutions. The participants welcomed this opportunity to have senior faculty offer constructive commentary on their work and it is the intention of the participatory graduate students to continue to communicate and create an ongoing forum for this type of scholarly endeavor.

Michael Sawyer, co-organizer, *Slave-Citizen-Human, Graduate Colloquium*



RUTH CLARK

CURATORS MEETING
Curating An International Exhibition on Slavery

What we see and the objects which move us carry with them both knowledge and histories. One question which has animated the field of exhibitions and museum studies is, “How can we represent historic events which are so dehumanizing, so horrific that they shake us to our very core?” There is no easy answer to this, in part because we have yet to create a language to describe, and thus represent, these events. The CSSJ is committed to *working with and through* this dilemma in a series of workshops and symposia on this matter, and then practically working on an international exhibition about slavery. In this effort, we work with curators from the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian; the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam; the Slave Lodge Museum in South Africa; the Museum of History in Nantes, France; the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Belgium; the International Slavery Museum in the UK; and the Museum of Cheikh Anta Diop Institute in Senegal. We also work with individuals from the Shackles of Memory Association in France.

In doing this project, we recognize that racial slavery was one of the foundations of the modern world. This is a fact increasingly recognized as evidenced by the United Nations decision to establish a memorial to slavery. At Brown University, we have already established such a memorial. In curating the proposed exhibition, we face many dilemmas that have to do with geography and language but perhaps the most formidable dilemma will be, “From whose perspective do we tell the story of the international character of the slave trade and slavery, and what archives do we have to probe?” Many exhibitions tell the story in ways that evoke in us the desire to understand the horror of such a system. Many slave narratives also speak to these horrors and they must never be forgotten, as a way to ensure this kind of domination never happens

again. However they are narratives about the struggle to be free, to humanize the landscape of society which enslaved human beings – stories which pierce the horror to tell us something about the centrality of freedom to being human. Perhaps that is the new story which we need to tell.

The CSSJ, in collaboration with others internationally, will try to tell that story while never forgetting the horrors of this dehumanization.



RUTH CLARK



EXHIBITION

Ships of Bondage Travels to Cape Town

180 years after the British Parliament passed the Abolition Act and emancipated slaves on December 1, 1834 in what was then the Cape Coast Colony, CSSJ’s exhibition, *Ships of Bondage and the Fight for Freedom* opened in the Iziko Museums of South Africa’s historic Slave Lodge Museum. The exhibition tells the story of slave insurrections on three vessels: the *Amistad*, the *Meermin*, and the *Sally*, exploring the struggle of the enslaved to resist captivity, gain freedom, and return to their homelands. These vessels traded on the routes of the Atlantic slave trade from Africa to the Americas and the Indian Ocean, from East Africa and Madagascar to the Cape Colony of South Africa.

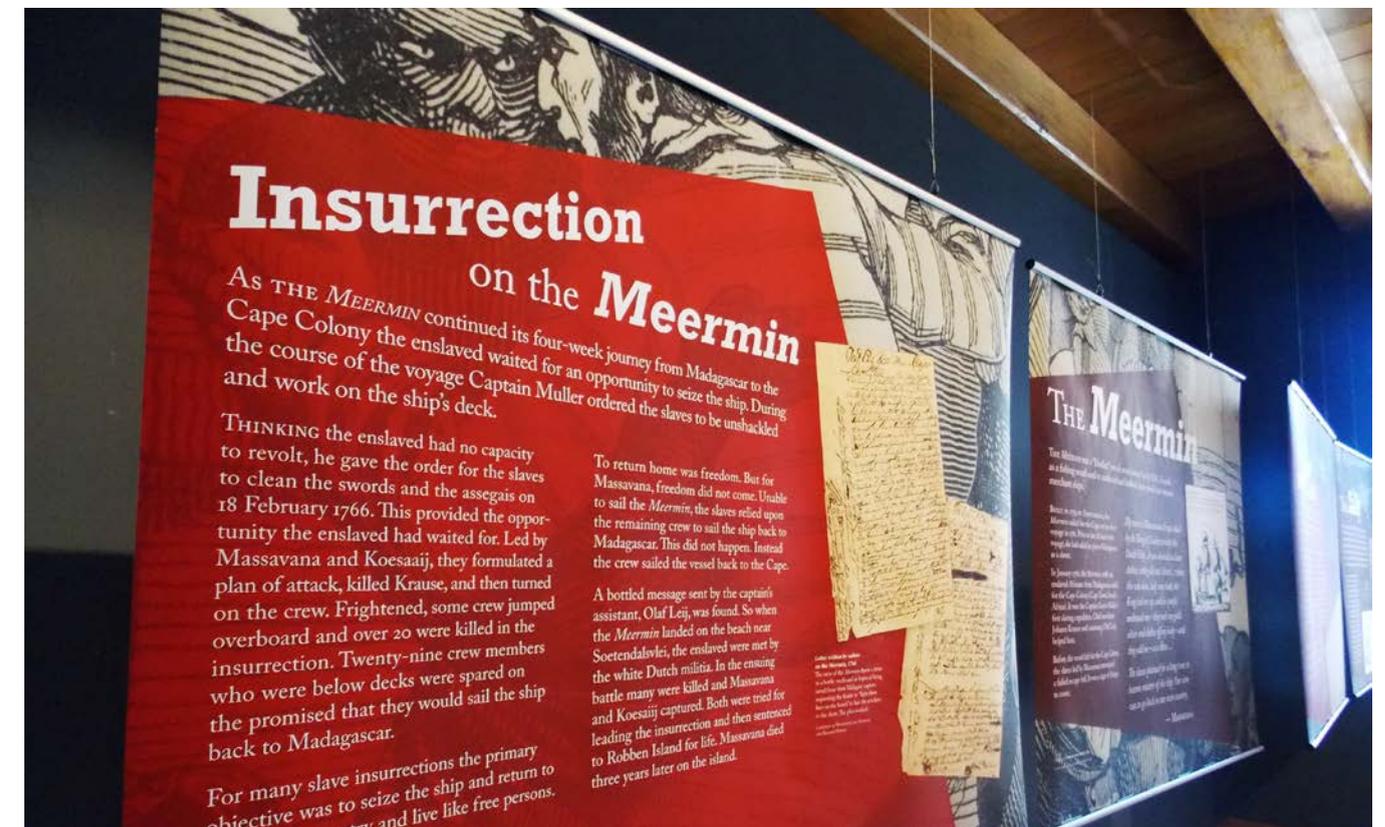
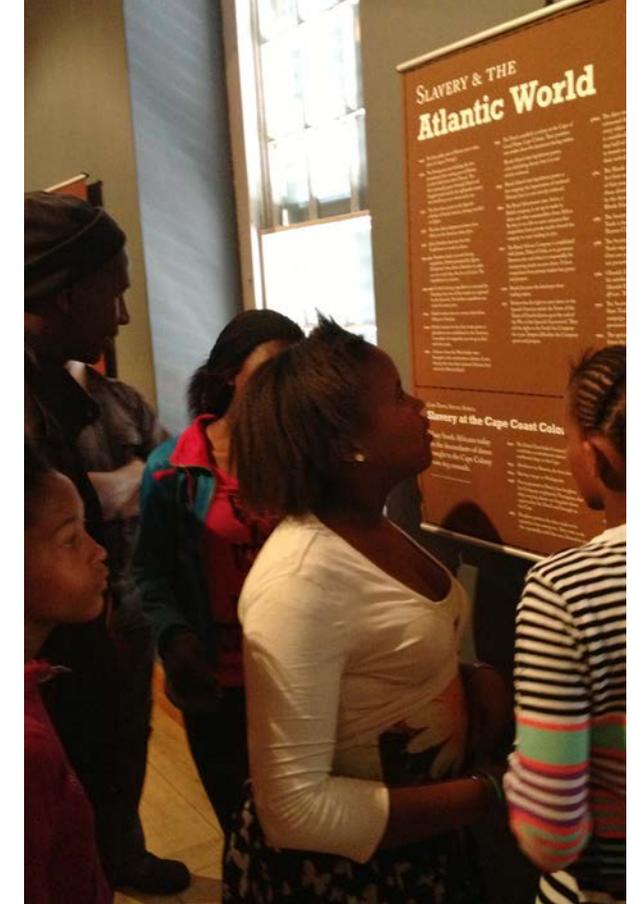
The Slave Lodge is an apt location to tell this history of global interconnectedness, human bondage, and the struggle for dominance in the colonial world. Built in 1679 by the Dutch East India Company (VOC), it was erected to imprison thousands of enslaved peoples owned by the company when they were not laboring on municipal projects. A fortified site of violence while serving as the “Slave Lodge,” the building would change shape, function, and ownership many times before becoming a national museum and landmark to the history of slavery in Cape Town.

Housed in this hulking reminder of the world the slaves built and the continued impact of the legacy of slavery on the world today, the *Ships of Bondage* exhibition provided a unique opportunity to examine slavery in the South African context while also connecting it to the global system within which it operated.

For the young students from the townships of Khayelitsha and Blikkiesdorp who visited one afternoon, the exhibition shared a previously unknown history of their country. We watched as young friends read the panels together, translating the English text into different African languages for each other. The exhibition featured heroes such as Massavana, the leader of the revolution on the *Meermin* who organized his boatmates in

bondage and fought to take over a VOC slave ship bound for Cape Town despite the risk of death and lack of knowledge of European sailing vessels or nautical equipment. The students poured over historic documents, such as a page from the journal of the *Sally* Captain Esek Hopkins (the original of which is housed at the John Carter Brown Library) to see his scrawled entry on August 28, 1765 stating “Slaves rose on us, was obliged [to] fire on them and Destroyed 8...”

These stories of the individuals caught in this web of bravery and exploitation portrayed in the *Ships of Bondage* exhibition had first been on display at Brown’s campus, and it was interesting to see how a new community of people reacted, learning about connections in places both near and far away. It was in this way that the traveling exhibition best articulated the global conversation about the history of slavery and its legacies.



WORKING WITH PROVIDENCE COMMUNITIES
Challenging White Privilege

This past year, the CSSJ worked to develop a lasting relationship with Providence community members, beginning with a forum entitled *Challenging White Privilege: A Community Conversation*. Rites and Reason Theatre was filled to capacity as over one hundred people joined us for February's conversation. With a panel of Prof. Matt Guterl, Marco McWilliams, Chanravy Proeung, Prof. Geri Augusto. The discussion was moderated by Ray Watson. It sparked heated debate and left the audience with a hunger for follow up action.

In the years to come, CSSJ hopes to continue to foster these relationships and keep discussion accessible and productive. The next forum to follow February's *Challenging White Privilege* will be on the school to prison pipeline.



...the result of white privilege is that people of color die, go to jail – really bad, bad things, it's not just an inconvenience.... They are economically devastated, they are politically oppressed – it's not only cultural degradation.... And we tend to focus on these glamorized things but it happens all the time. And it's not like somewhere else, it's here in Providence.

Marco McWilliams



EDUCATION IN PROVIDENCE
Our City, Our Children

This year, the CSSJ developed a major focus on the issues pertaining to education and the Providence community. This meant collaborations with the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, the Children and Youth Cabinet, and various community groups, including an education project for the city of Providence around educational equity and justice. The CSSJ plans to further develop these relationships in the coming years as part of our mission of fulfilling one of the recommendations of the 2007 Slavery and Justice report.



ANNUAL DEBRA LEE LECTURE

Interview with Deborah Willis

Deborah Willis, chair of the department of Photography and Imaging at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University presented the 2014 Debra L. Lee Lecture on Slavery and Justice entitled “Visualizing Freedom: Photography and Emancipation.”

Prof. Willis has been a Guggenheim Fellow, Fletcher Fellow and MacArthur Fellow – also known as the ‘Genius grant’ – and is considered to be one of the most important persons in photography in America.

“She is one of the foremost African American scholars in this country working in the field of photography and the occupation of space,” Anthony Bogues, director of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, told The Herald. “Not many scholars work the way she does.”

Prior to the lecture, Willis signed copies of her recently published book, “Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery,” which she co-wrote with historian Barbara Krauthamer. The book features over 150 photographs dating from between the 1850s and the 1930s, many of which were previously unpublished, and commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The goal of the project was to present a more comprehensive history of slavery and emancipation than textual analysis alone can provide, Willis told The Herald. “I wanted to work with a historian to mold and blend the two stories together.”

Though the signing took place just prior to the presentation, the book sold out well before attendees filed into the lecture hall.

In his introduction to the lecture, Bogues said the book “presents series of images that challenge our perceptions about slavery and ... our perceptions about freedom.”

Willis’s slideshow, which accompanied her talk, primarily showcased images taken in the United States and Brazil in the years leading up to and following the Emancipation Proclamation. Some photographs portrayed subjugation, while many others conveyed the reaffirmation of dignity in the years during and after the Civil War.

This time period was both a significant turning point in American history and a time of progress for photographic documentation, Willis said, citing technological advancements and the expansion of portraiture beyond the sphere of the wealthy and powerful.

Willis’s analysis of each photograph in her slideshow expressed how subtle visual elements represent historical clues, illustrating how photography “introduced an idea of humanity” for those who had long been dehumanized. During the pivotal era surrounding emancipation, family photo albums grew thick with the documentation of slave women cradling their white charges. But abolitionist images, such as those of Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, also began to circulate in wider and more public arenas, Willis said.

She also focused on an image of an unidentified washerwoman who worked in the Union Army, commenting on the woman’s confident posture, direct gaze and United States brass button pinned to her chest.

“We see her not as a servant girl, but as a woman who proudly worked with the Union army. We see her image of her own emancipation and how she envisions it,” Willis said, adding that these intersections between “freedom and patriotism” also portray an expansion of female identity.

Adapted from “Lecture presents black history through art” by Emmajean Holley, Brown Daily Herald



ARJUN NARAVEN

The cultural significance of her work is that it brings to the fore a set of photographs and archives that discuss the ways in which African Americans attempted and achieved emancipation...

Anthony Bogues

From a historical standpoint, [the lecture] was really powerful and poignant and timely... It’s all about learning how to use images to start a different dialogue or redirect a certain historical notion to a place that’s more productive for you as a person, and for society.

Andre Bradley

She’s able to analyze the work through both [historic and artistic] angles, which is not something we usually think about when we’re talking about slavery and emancipation.

Jazzmen Johnson





ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Edouard Duval-Carrié

The Center's public humanities program has become a critical feature of its work. Part of that program is an annual exhibition. This year we featured the works of Haitian artist, Edouard Duval-Carrié in an exhibition, entitled, *The Many Faces Toussaint L'Ouverture*. The exhibition was part of a collaboration between the CSSJ and the John Carter Brown Library. This library holds major archival material on Haiti and hosted Edouard Duval-Carrié as its first artist-in-residence. Working with the Library and its Haitian repository, the artist produced new works for the exhibition. Toussaint L'Ouverture was the leader of the slave

revolution, which freed slaves in the French colony of St. Domingue, now called Haiti. It was a nodal event in the world history during the late 18th century. We do not have any "authentic" images of L'Ouverture, and Duval-Carrié painted new images of him.

Over the next few years the Center, thanks to the philanthropy of Libby '76 and Craig Heimark '76, P'11, P'14, P'17, will host the Heimark Artist-in-Residence. The consolidation of this aspect of our public humanities program marks another milestone in the life of the Center.



CSSJ is pleased to be able to sponsor inaugural faculty fellows during the 2014-2015 school year:



VISITING FELLOW
Charles E. Cobb, Jr.

After entering Howard University in 1961, Cobb left one year later to work as a field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the Mississippi Delta. While working in that state he originated the

proposal for Freedom Schools that became such an important part of the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project. A founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists, Cobb began his journalism career in 1974 as a reporter for WHUR Radio in Washington, DC. In 1976 he joined the staff of National Public Radio as a foreign affairs reporter. He was an on-air writer/correspondent for PBS's FRONTLINE from 1980-84. From 1985-1997 Cobb was a member of the Editorial Staff of National Geographic magazine – the first black writer to become one of that magazine's staff writers. He recently published *This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get You Killed*. During his fellowship at Brown he will be conducting oral histories with Civil Rights veterans.



FACULTY FELLOW
Seth Rockman

Prof. Seth Rockman is a specialist in Revolutionary and Early Republic United States history, with a focus on the relationship of slavery and capitalism in American economic and social development. The histories of race, labor, and social welfare are central to his research. Rockman supervised undergraduate research for the University Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice and he currently serves on CSSJ's faculty advisory committee. He is now conducting research on the relationship of Northern manufacturing to the plantation economies of the South. As a Faculty Fellow, he will continue writing "Plantation Goods and the National Economy of Slavery," a book-length study of the hoes, hats, shoes, shovels, textiles, and even whips manufactured in the North for use on slave plantations in the American South. The project contributes to the rethinking of the boundaries of slavery and freedom in the nineteenth-century United States, especially as the interregional trade in plantation goods situated the divergent lives of wage-earning factory hands in Rhode Island and enslaved field hands in Mississippi in the same frame.



RUTH J. SIMMONS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW
IN SLAVERY AND JUSTICE (2014–2015)

Mekala Audain

Mekala Audain earned her Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University. Her research interests include chattel slavery, slave rebellion in the Americas, black immigration, and the African American experience on the U.S. borderlands. Her dissertation, “Mexican Canaan: Fugitive Slaves and Free Blacks on the American Frontier, 1804–1867,” recovers the southern Underground Railroad in the nineteenth century and examines free black thought about Mexico in the antebellum era.



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

Justin Pope

Justin Pope received his Ph.D. in history from the George Washington University in 2014. He grew up on a horse farm in Kentucky and worked as an urban planner for the cities of Saint Petersburg, Florida, and Medford, Oregon, before returning to academia to pursue his passion for early America history. His interest in the history of American slavery has led him as far afield as Ghana and Barbados and now to the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice. His current book project examines an eruption of real and imagined slave uprisings that swept through the British Atlantic between the years 1729 and 1746, the era of the War of Jenkin’s Ear.

GRADUATE FELLOW FOR THE STUDY OF
THE PUBLIC HISTORY OF SLAVERY (2014–2016)

Maiyah Gamble-Rivers

Coming to the Public Humanities program with a degree in Art History, I have found the perfect platform that will allow my passion for the arts and interest in Black culture/identity to merge as one. Through the Fellowship for the Study of the Public History of Slavery I hope to delve into the realm of self-discovery using the arts to explore issues of Black identity, community, and storytelling. History continues to provide a singular perspective on what it means to be Black in America, and that is to be direct descendants of slaves. As a woman of color I believe it is critical that people of color have a more comprehensive understanding of our history. I find the arts to be the most remarkable form of resistance. Through the arts people of color continue to write themselves back into history.



TO SAY THAT MY TENURE as the inaugural Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow has been the highlight of my academic life to date would be both a restrained statement and one of unerring truth. The Center’s intellectual vibrancy ensnared me from the moment I entered its affable doors, mainly due to its ample programming on racial slavery and its formidable imprints upon the present and, relatedly, timely forums on the vastly unfinished global projects of black liberation.

Crucially, the Center provided me with an extraordinarily supportive space to develop and revise my critical ideas, earnestly contemplate what theretofore remained, for me, unthought, and write with audacity. In the process, I convened an interdisciplinary writing collective with which to think and create. Together, we acquired a Pembroke Center seed grant to fund our concerted intellectual labor for this academic year. My affinities with those writing women remind me that, perhaps most valuably, my fellowship at the Center set the stage for generative encounters with postdoctoral fellows and various faculty within and outwith Brown, including some constructive members of the Center’s Steering Committee. Of those impactful connections,

I aspire to become as profound a thinker, teacher, and mentor as Anthony Bogues, whose acumen is exhilarating and graciousness endearing. I also feel privileged that the Center and American Studies allowed me to teach a course on narratives of racial slavery and its long life after formal death. In that course, my students and I commenced a mapping project that digitally marks various sites of slavery and slave-trading in Rhode Island and upon which I plan to build in relation to my scholarship on racial slavery’s (un)remembered life in the U.S. North.

As I prepare for my first year as an Assistant Professor at the College of William and Mary, I hold dear my experiences at the Center. I look forward to returning throughout my intellectual life and seeing interlocutors and friends, old and new. Thank you Tony, Shana, and Ruth for being who you are and making the Center what it is: a magnetic place for the thoughtful study of slavery and justice.

Patricia Lott
Ruth J. Simmons Post-Doctoral Fellow in Slavery and Justice (2013–2014)
Assistant Professor, English and Africana Studies, The College of William and Mary



I decided to intern with the CIW to learn from a truly grassroots, worker-led movement, and my first week already has been absolutely incredible. I probably would not thought of actually working with the CIW without having the experience of that Ohio march, and this internship is drastically changing what type of work I will want to get involved in in the future, so it truly was a life changing experience.

Brian Kunding '14

Supporting Undergraduates

The Center supports an undergraduate student advisory committee, which plans and organizes programs related to the Center's mission as well as supporting student groups across campus working on issues related to slavery and justice. In the 2013-2014 academic year, the Center provided support to the Brown Student Labor Alliance and the Student/Farmworker Alliance, the national student organization, to send students during spring break to march in support of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) in Ohio as they negotiated with fast food restaurant and retailers to protect the human rights of farm workers. The CIW's has been highly lauded for its innovative approach towards human-rights advocacy, which connects students and workers in collaborative campaigns to partner with large corporate buyers, and has been extraordinarily successful in improving wages and working conditions for farmworkers.

The opportunity for students at Brown to learn first-hand from the farmworkers and their allies has inspired some of the participants to think about work in social justice and organizing after their time on college hill.



... the Center's support has enabled the leadership development of students working for justice for farmworkers and all affected by the exploitative status quo of the agricultural industry. It is inspiring to see the connection between a university center and a grassroots movement both seeking to uncover the legacy of systemic white supremacy through enslavement, genocide, and exploitation in the US agricultural system, and to build a more just future. For that I am so, so personally grateful...

Shelby Mack '14



Friends of CSSJ

Brown alumnae have recently formed a Friends of CSSJ group. Friends of CSSJ support the Center's efforts to foster deeper understandings about the issues of justice, human rights, and freedom today. By becoming a Friend of the Center, your generosity will allow CSSJ to continue to convene innovative scholarly and community education programs that encourage conversation and reflection on the history of slavery and contemporary issues of bondage. To learn more please visit: brown.edu/slaveryjustice

2014–2015 Select Programming Highlights

September 2014

IMAGINE BROWN 250+ “1764: Brown’s Founding in a Global Context”

*Prof. Craig Wilder
Presented in conjunction with
the John Carter Brown Library*

IMAGINE BROWN 250+ Unveiling of Slavery Memorial

designed by Martin Puryear

International Panel on Public History of Slavery

October 2014

“Property Tax as a Legacy of Cotton, Slavery, and Segregation”

*Larry Menefee, Civil Rights Lawyer
and Prof. Mills Thornton*

New Building Dedication & Opening Reception

at 94 Waterman Street

November 2014

IMAGINE BROWN 250+ 50th Anniversary of the Brown University-Tougaloo College Partnership and the 50th Anniversary of Freedom Summer

*Presented in conjunction with the
Department of Africana Studies*

IMAGINE BROWN 250+ Marian Anderson String Quartet Concert

December 2014

Emerging Scholars series

February 2015

Black History Month Film Series

Joint Conference on Race in America Today

*Presented in Conjunction with
the Center for the Study of
Race & Ethnicity in America*

March 2015

**Katherine Chon ’02,
co-founder of Polaris Project**

Annual Debra L. Lee Lecture

April 2015

“Slavery and the Making of the Early American Library”

Sean Moore

May 2015

“Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963” traveling exhibition comes to campus

*A collaboration between the
American Library Association
Public Programs Office, the
Smithsonian’s National Museum
of African American History
and Culture, and the National
Museum of American History,
and made possible by funding
from the National Endowment
for the Humanities*



Acknowledgments

The staff of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice would like to sincerely thank all of the individuals who contributed their time, expertise, and energy in support of the Center including the dedicated individuals on the faculty and external advisory board; University administrators including those in the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Dean of the College, Dean of the Faculty, Office of Public Affairs and University Relations, and the Department of Facilities Management, in particular the Office of Planning, Design, and Construction; the many guests from around the world who took time to come to Brown to share their work and the administrators and students on campus who facilitated these public discussions, faculty and staff from centers and departments across campus and all the students and other members of the Brown community who have given the Center their full support.



A New Home for the Center

This August, the CSSJ offices moved to our very own home at 94 Waterman Street. Lots of work took place to make this space warm and welcoming for all our guests and visitors. We wish to thank everyone who helped to make this large undertaking a success.

Two unique features of this space are a small gallery and an adapted replica of a slave garden.

We hope you’ll join us in this space this fall!

Contact Us

Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice
Brown University
Box 1895
Providence, RI 02912

Phone: 401-863-5085
Fax: 401-863-5095

Email: slaveryjustice@brown.edu

<http://brown.edu/slaveryandjustice>

ABOVE: STAFF OF THE IZIKO MUSEUMS OF SOUTH AFRICA PREPARE THE EXHIBITION *SHIPS OF BONDAGE* FOR INSTALLATION AT THE SLAVE LODGE.

BACK COVER: (INSET) *CREOLE REPUBLICAINE*, 2014. EDOUARD DUVAL-CARRIÉ. FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SLAVERY AND JUSTICE. (BACKGROUND) CARTE DE L’ISLE DE ST. DOMINGUE AVEC LES ROUTES PAR P.L. GRIWTONN, INGÉNIEUR, 1801 P.L. GRIWTONN. COURTESY OF THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY AT BROWN UNIVERSITY.

