



Center for the Study of

SLAVERY
& **JUSTICE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



BROWN



Table of Contents

Director's Note	1
Reflections from the Faculty Advisory Board	3
About the Center	4
THE YEAR IN REVIEW	7
Slave Trade Film Project with Stanley Nelson and Firelight Films	8
<i>Race, Memory, and Memorialization</i> Conference	10
Global Curatorial Project	13
<i>Towards a Global History of Political Concepts</i> Conference	14
CSSJ Research Clusters	15
Brown Bag Lunch Series	18
Heimark Artist-in-Residence: Jessica Hill	20
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNITY VOICES	23
Youth Programming	24
OUR FELLOWS	29
Reflections from our Fellows	30
2018–2019 Fellows	32
Visiting Scholar	33
CSSJ Staff Highlights/University Recognition	35
Friends of the Center Report	36
Year Ahead	39

Director's Note

During a 1961 interview with Studs Terkel, the writer James Baldwin observed that, “as a Negro, you represent a level of experience which Americans deny.” That denial created parallel lives between black and white and now haunts America. It is today the yeast through which forms of politics that seemed to belong to yesterday are now taking on a new life. The denial is grounded in a long history of anti-black racism. In American politics there have always been currents which deployed fear and anxiety as political forces designed to create specific moments within the dominant political culture (McCarthyism was one such case). As well, there has always been a current of fear and anxiety rooted in the visual recognition of the black body. One only needs to recall the political campaigns of the last 15 years or so in which the black body either as a predatory force or a “welfare queen” was mobilized in coded language around feelings of the necessity for security. Today within the dominant political culture no codes are necessary.

We are at a time in our history when fear and anxieties are tethered to ideas of nostalgia about an imagined America that once was but never existed. Today we are told in language which obscures history that there needs to be a new America, one which is as old as the birth of the colony at Jamestown, Virginia. But let us recall that the colony established by the Virginia Company of London was founded on the conquering of the Native American Paspahugh population, indentured and enslaved African labor that arrived in 1619. Given all the calls about the return of America to an imagined past, it seems more than ever that history is critical. Not the simplistic historical narratives of a glorious past but rather the complexities of a history in which as the work of our artist in residence, Jessica Hill, notes this was the “land of the free and the home of the slaughtered.”

To grapple with the paradoxes of freedom and un-freedom demands that we tell a different story of our past. In part it requires us understanding in the words of Billie Holiday, the “Southern trees [which] bear strange fruit.” The CSSJ is committed to doing this. Over the past year we have focused on creating programs which recount alternative histories of racial slavery; of the so-called Civil Rights Movement. Our research cluster on Race, Medicine, and Social Justice has become a stable venue for faculty to discuss the ways in which medical knowledge and practices have been shaped historically. Our work with Firelight Films on the proposed documentary about the Atlantic slave trade continues our commitment to creating forms of public history. All these things and others we could not do without the support of donors, friends, students and the senior administration of Brown University. We thank them.

*We are at a time
in our history when
fear and anxieties
are tethered to ideas
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that once was but
never existed.*



Land of the Free and the Home of the Slaughtered
 Jessica Hill
 2018
 Woodcut on fabric
 65 x 46 inches
 Courtesy of the artist

In these times, the CSSJ will continue its mission of creating platforms for the most innovative scholarship and research as well as exciting public humanities projects and programs. Our historical obligation demands no less. Langston Hughes once wrote in the 1930s a poem in which he stated: "O' Let America be America again; The land that never has been yet." Perhaps today we will do well to remember these words.



ANTHONY BOGUES
Asa Messer Professor of Humanities and Critical Theory
Professor of Africana Studies
Director of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice

Reflections from the Faculty Advisory Board

I remember when I received a call from Tony, asking me to serve on the Advisory Board for the Center, then just coming into reality. I had just accepted a job at Brown but hadn't moved to the East Coast yet. Tony phoned me to say that he had been appointed the inaugural director and that he'd like me to be involved as a member of the rich, local community whose work dwells on the interplay of slavery and justice. He was determined to spotlight this interplay on the campus. I was honored to have been asked, happily said "yes," and then set out to organize my move to Providence.

I could not have imagined what would come next. For six years now, I've had the privilege of working with an extraordinary director, a wonderful team of advisory board members, and the talented and dedicated staff at the Center. I've watched as Tony helped to recruit postdoctoral fellows writing important books on the history of bondage and freedom, violence and justice, and, organized working groups to address critically important intellectual problems, like the perpetuation of slavery

into the present day and the historical parallels with other, equally troubling forms of inequity, power, and confinement. I've had the fortune to attend conference after conference, all featuring the world's most talented scholars. I have been challenged to learn more, to think bigger, to write and act differently. I am not the same scholar, the same teacher, and the same human that I was when I arrived here; the Center and all that it stands for has changed me.

I am glad to be here at Brown right now, to be working with – and learning from – this group of students, faculty, and staff. I am eager to see what comes next for the Center, and am absolutely certain that it will continue to shape campus conversations and global dialogues about slavery and justice. I aim to do my part to provide support and advice along the way.

MATTHEW PRATT GUTERL

Professor of Africana Studies and American Studies
Chair of American Studies



About the Center

The Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice is a scholarly research center with a public humanities mission. Recognizing that racial and chattel slavery were central to the historical formation of the Americas and the modern world, the CSSJ creates a space for the interdisciplinary study of the historical forms of slavery while also examining how these legacies shape our contemporary world.

For the 2017–2018 academic year, the Center’s work was organized around the following research clusters and projects:

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

Human Trafficking

This project explores contemporary forms of human bondage and engages in public programming around this issue.

A Comparative History of Slavery

This is a collaborative project between CSSJ and Harvard University, focused on creating a network of scholars from a variety of national and international institutions focused on the history of slavery.

Investigating the American Criminal Justice System

This project focuses on prisons and relations between the police and communities of color.

Freedom Archive

This project creates an inventory of materials in Brown University Library’s Special Collections related to slavery, abolition and other freedom struggles to help scholars more easily access these items.

Race, Medicine, and Social Justice

This cluster explores the history and persistence of structural racism in biomedicine as it intersects with economic and social conditions. We focus on reimagining the knowledge we produce about race and health from a social justice perspective.

PROJECTS

Global Curatorial Project

This exhibition and curatorial project presents both the global interconnectedness of Atlantic slavery and the slave trade, as well as illuminates an alternative view about the

history of our global modernity. This is done in partnership with the Center for the Study of Global Slavery at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Research Center for Material Culture at the Museum of World Cultures (the Netherlands) Iziko Slave Lodge Museum (South Africa), the Royal Museum of Central Africa (Belgium), the Shackles of Memory (France), Château des ducs de Bretagne (France), Institut Fondamental d’Afrique Noire (Senegal), the International Slavery Museum (Liverpool, UK), and the Legacies of British Slave Ownership (University College London, UK).

Slave Trade Film Project with Filmmaker Stanley Nelson

This research and workshop project in partnership with Firelight Films aims to support the development of a multi-part documentary series on the Atlantic slave trade. *Creating a New World: The Transatlantic Slave Trade* will chart the economic and human cost of the slave trade across the Atlantic basin, underscoring how this expansive system of trade, violence, and profit built the modern world.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

Civil Rights Movement Initiative

This after-school program invites a new cohort of students from Hope High School every year to the CSSJ to explore different aspects of the Civil Rights Movement before embarking on a week-long immersive Civil Rights trip throughout the South.

High School Summer Internships

Through Brown’s Royce Fellowship the CSSJ provides internship opportunities for students during the summer. Research projects explore different aspects of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade to analyze the contemporary implications of that history.

Slavery & Legacy School Tours

The Slavery & Legacy Tours examine the history behind Brown University, the State of Rhode Island and their roles in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. The tours help students (K–12 +college) think critically about the University and state histories.

STAFF & ADMINISTRATION

ANTHONY BOGUES

Director
Asa Messer Professor of Humanities and Critical Theory, Professor of Africana Studies, Affiliated Professor of History of Art and Architecture

ROQUINALDO FERREIRA

Associate Director
Vasco da gama Associate Professor of Early Modern Portuguese History and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies 2014–2018

SHANA WEINBERG

Assistant Director

MAIYAH GAMBLE-RIVERS

Manager of Programs and Community Engagement

DIANE STRAKER

Administrative Assistant
2016–2018

HANNAH APONTE

Temporary Administrative Assistant 2017–2018

TRACEY MARONI

Temporary Administrative Assistant 2018

CATHERINE VAN AMBURGH

Center Coordinator

THORALF ISLAND

Class of 2019
Student Researcher/
Administrative Support

QUERUBE SUAREZ-WERLEIN

Class of 2019
Student Researcher/
Communications

JASMINE THOMAS

Class of 2019
Student Researcher/
Administrative Support

YAMILETH RENTERIA

Class of 2019
Student Researcher/Youth
Programming Support

BABETTE THOMAS,

Class of 2020
Student Researcher/Digital
Presence Coordinator

SOPHIE KUPETZ

Class of 2019
Student Researcher/
Administrative Support

KAILA JOHNSON

Class of 2019
Student Researcher/
Administrative Support

FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

PHILIP GOULD

Israel J. Kapstein Professor
of English

MATTHEW PRATT GUTERL

Professor of Africana and
American Studies,
Chair of American Studies

FRANÇOISE N. HAMLIN

Associate Professor
of Africana Studies
and History

MARION ORR

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

SETH ROCKMAN

Associate Professor of History

EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD

RUTH J. SIMMONS

Co-chair

DEBRA L. LEE ’76

Co-chair, 2012–2018

JAMES T. CAMPBELL

KATHERINE CHON ’02

SPENCER CREW ’71

LIBBY HEIMARK

’76, P’11 ’14 ’17

MARY VASCELLARO ’74, P’07

CSSJ AFFILIATED FACULTY

CSSJ AFFILIATED FACULTY

EMILY OWENS

Assistant Professor of History,
CSSJ Faculty Fellow

CSSJ RESEARCH CLUSTER FELLOWS

LUNDY BRAUN

Professor of Medical Science and
Africana Studies,
Race, Medicine and Social Justice:
Research Cluster Faculty Fellow

ELENA SHIH

Assistant Professor of American
Studies and
Ethnic Studies,
Human Trafficking Research
Cluster Faculty Fellow

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

CRYSTAL EDDINS

Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral
Fellow in Slavery and Justice,
2018–2019

ZACHARY SELL

Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral
Fellow in Slavery and Justice,
2017–2018

NIC JOHN RAMOS

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship
on Race in Science and Medicine,
2017–2019

VISITING SCHOLAR

SYLVIANE DIOUF

Visiting Scholar, 2018–2019

ZACHARY SELL

Visiting Scholar, 2018–2019

GRADUATE FELLOWS

FELICIA BEVEL

Dissertation Fellow, 2018–2019

RICARDA HAMMER

Dissertation Fellow, 2017–2018

DANIEL PLATT

Affiliated Graduate Fellow,
2017–2018

PUBLIC HUMANITIES GRADUATE FELLOWS

SANDRA ARNOLD

Class of 2019.5
Graduate Fellow for the Study of
the Public History of Slavery

CHANDRA DICKEY

Class of 2020
Graduate Fellow for the Study of
the Public History of Slavery

JOHANNA OBENDA

Class of 2019
Graduate Fellow for the Study of
the Public History of Slavery



The Year in Review

As we begin our sixth year, the Center's impact on the campus and wider community continues to grow. While we remain focused on our mission of supporting and sharing scholarly work, as well as public humanities educational programming, 2017–2018 was a year full of new initiatives and collaborations. These new efforts allow us to explore the histories and legacies of slavery in deeper and more nuanced ways as a global story which shaped our modern world.

Slave Trade Film Project with Stanley Nelson and Firelight Films

CREATING A NEW WORLD: THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

In an initiative begun shortly after award-winning director Stanley Nelson, Jr.'s remarks given at CSSJ's 2017 Debra Lee Lecture, the CSSJ and Mr. Nelson's Firelight Films embarked on a robust research project to support the development of a multi-part documentary series on the Atlantic slave trade, *Creating a New World: The Transatlantic Slave Trade*. The film charts the economic and human cost of the slave trade across the Atlantic basin, underscoring how this expansive system of trade, violence, and profit built the modern world.

An ambitious but necessary endeavor, the CSSJ and Firelight recognized that the film project would require the best and most recent scholarship on the history of the Atlantic world. To that end, in Fall 2017 CSSJ received a generous grant from the Wyncote Foundation to plan and enact a five-part series of workshops in Spring 2018. These workshops designed as "research conversations" were organized around the slave trade in the Americas, in Europe, and in Africa; on the internal and interregional trades; and on the abolition of the trades. The workshops convened academics, curators, archivists, and researchers on the key aspects of this history, sustaining deep conversation and generating productive debates on the responsibilities, opportunities, and challenges for telling this history through a compelling visual narrative.



As project manager, I was tasked to create the logistical planning for these workshops at four locations: in Providence, Rhode Island at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage at Brown University on February 22–24, 2018; in Leiden, the Netherlands at the Research Center for Material Culture on March 19–21, 2018; in Johannesburg, South Africa at the Windybrow Art Theatre on June 4–6, 2018; and in New York City, New York at the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University on June 25–26, 2018. I also led a team affiliated with either the CSSJ or Brown University to support the preliminary research for the film series, the workshops, and the planned public programming. Those members include: Zachary Sell, Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow in Slavery and Justice, Brown University; Daniel Platt, Postdoctoral Fellow in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies, Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, SUNY Buffalo, and PhD in American Studies, Brown University; Ricarda Hammer, Dissertation Fellow for the CSSJ and PhD Candidate in Sociology, Brown University; Johanna Obenda, Graduate Fellow for the Study of the Public History of Slavery and MA Candidate in Public Humanities, Brown University; Diego Luis, PhD Candidate in History, Brown University; and Querube Suarez-Werlein, Class of 2019, Brown University.

In total, over 40 scholars participated in these workshops. The workshops explored the history of the Atlantic slave trade through the critical lens of global and racial capitalism.

They also explored:

- the role of gender-based violence;
- the emergence of new industries and forms of industry;
- strategies of resistance, revolt, and revolution;
- the accumulation of capital and the concentration of wealth among traders, insurers, and landowners;
- the question of territorial expansion and the genocide of indigenous populations;
- notions of complicity, responsibility, and reparations;
- the challenge of the archive and alternative or subjugated knowledges and forms of memory;
- the ideology of race and racialization;
- the ever expanding global networks of trade and trading;
- the ongoing legacies of the slave trade in contemporary memory and life today.

These conversations – often heavy, always difficult, but most necessary – do more than merely illustrate the breadth and depth of this history. They signal the deeply vital work of the CSSJ, Firelight Films, and our partner institutions.

ANNI PULLAGURA

PhD Candidate, American Studies, Class of 2020



FIRELIGHT FILMS

The story of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade is an epic and complex one, which shaped many aspects of the modern world. Yet the slave trade – as distinct from the experience of slavery in the United States – remains largely unknown to the general public.

Continuing the tradition of spotlighting untold stories, Firelight Films, helmed by director Stanley Nelson, has embarked on a groundbreaking four-part television series that will examine the human and economic cost of the slave trade. Through a powerful narrative framework, the series will tell the story of the people behind the trade while honoring the complexity and humanity of its essential subject and how its complicated legacy continues to shape the world.

In order to shape and visualize this narrative, we've partnered with the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice. Through this unique collaboration, we've co-hosted a five-part research-based conference series on the slave trade. The conference series, funded by a grant to the Center, has allowed us to take a deep dive through the rich, difficult history of the trade which will ground the documentary in the latest and most comprehensive research and connect us to the top scholars on the topic.

Since February 2018, we've gathered an intimate group of preeminent scholars on the slave trade; these discussion-driven gatherings have centered around guiding questions related to key themes to be explored in the film. Our first workshop took place at Brown University (Providence) and focused on the emergence of the slave trade in the Americas, the experience of enslaved Africans on the slave ship, the reshaping of identity and culture during the Middle Passage, and the development of global capitalism. Our second workshop was held at the Research Center for Material Culture (Leiden, Netherlands) and focused on the rise of European empires and how the trade was facilitated, financed and institutionalized. Our third workshop took place in Johannesburg, South Africa and looked at African participation, resistance and the economic and social consequences of the trade for Africa. Our final workshops held in New York City explored the internal trade and abolition.

NAZ HABTEZGHI

Producer, Firelight Films



Race, Memory, and Memorialization Conference

“The statue is gone,” stated American journalist, educator, author, and activist Herb Boyd. “[However,] The pedestal is still there. So in other words, the struggle continues.” In his keynote address at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice’s May 2018 *Race, Memory, and Memorialization Conference*, the 2018 Debra L. Lee Lecturer Herb Boyd projected a photograph of an empty pedestal on the periphery of Central Park, where, due to community activism, a statue of J. Marion Sims no longer stands. The empty pedestal represented the question Boyd posed at the end of his address, “*How do we begin to erect?*” Erect the memories of African Americans that should be carried forth to the next generation in order to foster intergenerational dialogue.

In the wake of Charlottesville, as communities across the nation are re-evaluating memorials and the history that they represent, such questions are pertinent and have real implications. Thus, on the occasion of the Center’s fifth anniversary, the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice presented the *Race, Memory, and Memorialization Conference*, to think through the ways in which we, as a society, remember and represent histories of slavery, anti-black oppression, black resistance, and fights for justice. Scholars, Southern Freedom Movement activists and veterans, students, and community

members convened at Brown University to discuss issues of commemoration, memory, and the legacies of anti-black violence and resistance.

“You cannot think about the collective memory of this country, you cannot think about what remains of the past, you cannot think about how the past lives in the reality of groups, you cannot think about what various groups in this country make of that past, without thinking about questions of race and anti-black racism.”

– Anthony Bogues, Director, CSSJ

The Center structured the two day conference into three parts: panels of academics discussing their and their institutions’ work around “Slavery & the University,” and “Slavery, Public History, and Memorialization;” panels of activists who participated in the 1960s and 1970s Civil Rights movement, which, as Director Anthony Bogues described in his opening remarks, “allow us to look back historically from the perspective of those who were engaged;” and finally, panels of young activists from Rhode Island. Youth and college aged activists shared their current work, discussing the ways in which the monumental activism of Civil Rights Movement legends such as Charlie Cobb and Courtland Cox, who joined us at the conference, continues today.

Conference participants critically examined the ways in which art, memorials, and activism can address the legacies of slavery and continue the fight of the Civil Rights movement, collectively thinking through answers to the challenging question, “*How do we begin to erect?*”

SOPHIE KUPETZ

History, Class of 2019.5



A PERSONAL REFLECTION

The past will speak: The role of storytelling and memory in activism

The spring semester of my first year, I took West African writers with Professor Anani Dzidzienyo. It was in that class that I first learnt of the West African soldiers who were compelled by colonizing powers to fight on the side of the Allies during the first world war. And while these men fought side by side with Europeans in a war that was not of their making, they were reminded that they were regarded as less than; these African soldiers were given military gear like everyone else, but they were set apart by the fact that they were intentionally given no shoes.

Something about hearing that story when I did broke me. I had spent most of my first year up to that point, struggling to stay afloat at Brown, as a low-income international student. There were many costs, both material and emotional that I had not anticipated before coming to Brown, in part because Brown had not entirely been honest with me and with itself about whether it was fully prepared to bring in and support low income students of color at an institution such as this.

The costs were great. There was the fact, for example, that as an international student, I had to pay high tax on my scholarship, which is as ridiculous as it sounds. Getting charged thousands of dollars every semester for money you receive because you can’t afford that education to begin with. Added to the cost of books, and clothing appropriate for the ungodly Providence winters, I was spending more and more time trying to make money so

I could survive, I couldn’t even take a moment to enjoy most of what had been promised to me as a prospective student. I had limited time to dedicate to clubs I’d wanted to join, to hang out with the smart community of Brown students I had been told so much about. That had been capped off in my first year by the fact that during winter break, along with other international students who could not afford to fly home for the break, we were thrown randomly into separate towers of the most depressing building on campus, the Grad Center. No care was taken to make sure we were all in one building, close enough to each other that at least no one was spending winter break secluded and alone. And the university did not bother to check whether we had money to buy food for that break. Considering that there are almost no on-campus jobs during winter break (and international students aren’t allowed to work off campus), how did the university think we were feeding ourselves?

And all this was happening as I quickly came to the realization that in many ways, to the university, I was a great addition to their statistics. They could count me in the 8% of black students on campus, a number that allowed Brown to look good on brochures but that also protected them from having to deal with the fact that African Americans in this country have been systematically and historically underserved by the education system, and universities like Brown simply reinforce this today. And to drive home the point that I was not valued in this space, the university was making clear its position on black thought, black knowledge, black philosophy: very few of my professors engaged with black thinkers in their lectures or assigned readings by black intellectuals. With so few faculty of color who could help me navigate these issues, it was clear that Brown could not or chose not to see that in having students like me here but not making sure that they had the resources and structures in place to support us, they were cheating us.

Hearing that story of the West African soldiers, it dawned on me and my friend who was in the class with me that even though we had been granted admission to this university, we were in many ways being reminded of our place, and we saw ourselves as having been donned in uniform, right down to having medals placed around our necks but refused nonetheless shoes that would make our journey here an easier one.



MAIYAH GAMBLE-RIVERS

TOWARDS A GLOBAL HISTORY OF POLITICAL CONCEPTS

On April 6–7 2018, scholars from around the world, including China, South Africa, India, Ethiopia, and Italy, convened at Churchill House for a conference entitled, *Towards a Global History of Political Concepts*. Hosted by the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and the Academy for Global Humanities and Critical Theory at the University of Bologna, delegates met in order to discuss a set of theses aimed at disrupting normative histories of political thought as prescribed by European continental philosophy and history. The goal of the conference was to begin to develop a lexicon and a new grammar for constructing alternative genealogies of political thought, which tries to theorize the present and the predicaments of our time.

The panels considered several major themes as presented in the theses, including modernity, sovereignty, political modernity, struggle, and the ‘social.’ Graduate students were given the opportunity to present the work alongside some of the leading thinkers in political theory. As a graduate student organizing and presenting during the conference, this experience was invaluable, as I had the opportunity to garner feedback on my work from world renowned scholars whom I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to interact with. As I complete my dissertation, venues such as this conference are indispensable to the development of my ideas and equally for developing rigor for my arguments as my dissertation defense approaches. This conference is one example of the many similar initiatives sponsored by the CSSJ that have been instrumental to my growth as a young scholar. I encourage any graduate students interested in the histories of slavery, colonialism, and in social justice more broadly, to immerse themselves in CSSJ’s programming, which has been a defining feature of my experience as a graduate student at Brown.

BEDOUR ALAGRAA

PhD Candidate in Africana Studies, Class of 2019



MAIYAH GAMBLE-RIVERS



MAIYAH GAMBLE-RIVERS

CSSJ Research Clusters

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Whitewashing Abolition: Race, Power and Combating Human Trafficking Conference

The recent rise in popularity of the phrase “Modern Day Slavery” – often used synonymously with human trafficking – has come to stand in for a wide range of social phenomenon including: forced labor, rape, sexual assault, poverty, interracial or inter age dating and marriage, sex work, and irregular migration. Our hopes in convening a two-day conference on the theme of *Whitewashing Abolition*, intended to question the effortless ubiquity, of the “Modern Day Slavery” agenda as a scholarly

and political agenda that has tended to co-opt and erase histories of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and contemporary organizing against racialized state violence. Invited speakers included historians, critical race theorists, social scientists, educators, legal scholars, community based organizations working to combat state violence in Providence, and sex worker rights organizations from Thailand, Canada, the UK, and the US. Presentations covered topics as diverse as the

global movement for reparations to slavery (Lyndsey Beutin), smuggling and trafficking at the US-Mexico border (Gabriella Sanchez), the racial profiling of young black sex workers in the US (Jasmine Sankofa), child labor and the right to work in Ghana (Samuel Okyere), the various legal possibilities and constraints of global anti-trafficking laws (Janie Chuang and J.J. Rosenbaum), the possibilities for building organizing efforts in solidarity with global sex worker rights organizations (Empower Foundation and Butterfly Network), and the importance of educational efforts at the secondary school level (Maiyah



Gamble-Rivers). This convening helped clarify our institutional commitments, to understand how a human trafficking research cluster can exemplify the goals of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice. Given that the Center's charge and mission originated from a need to understand Brown University's involvement during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the human trafficking research cluster prioritizes the inclusion of discussions around racialized legacies of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in and around Providence and our surrounding communities, that are often ignored in discussions of human trafficking and modern day slavery.

ELENA SHIH

*Assistant Professor of American Studies
Human Trafficking Research Cluster Faculty Fellow*



RACE, MEDICINE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

In June 2000, the Human Genome Project Public Consortium together with the for-profit company Celera jointly announced the completion of a working draft of the human genome. To many observers, this technological feat would signal the end of the idea of races as biologically distinct groups – an idea that had never gone away in the biological sciences but was hotly contested, with extensive empirical evidence, in the humanities and social sciences. Yet, over the ensuing four years, genomics research on racial difference has flourished, such that genetic difference is now a common, if not dominant, explanation for racial disparities in disease.

The Working Group of the Race, Medicine, and Social Justice research cluster of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice was formed two years ago. Comprised of an interdisciplinary group of faculty and graduate students from history, sociology, American studies, Africana studies, public health, and the medical school, the Working Group has focused on 1) interrogating the long history of race and racism in biomedicine with a focus on contemporary knowledge-making practices, such as genomics; and 2) fostering interdisciplinary research and action to develop alternative visions of biomedical research.

Theoretical readings about race and racism informed our discussions during the academic year 2017–2018 on the harms of racial essentialism for the diagnosis and treatment of disease and the consequential exclusion of social and environmental explanations for inequalities in disease.

In a particularly vibrant session, the group grappled with the complex issues raised in both humanities/social science and science classrooms when teaching about race and science. In the context of mental health, we examined the intersection of biological assumptions about racial difference and rampant state violence.

We invited two speakers to meet with the group and to give public lectures. In the fall semester, Ann Morning, Associate Professor of Sociology, gave a public talk “Kaleidoscope: Contested Identities and New Forms of Racial Membership” that addressed contemporary debates over racial identities and how these debates intersect with science and medicine. For the spring semester, we invited Evelyn Hammonds, Professor in the



Department of the History of Science and African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Professor Hammond's talk “The Past in the Present: J. Marion Sims and the Ethics of Memorials in Medicine” placed debates over the removal of Sims' statue in New York City in the context of the long and largely unquestioned history of medical abuse of African American women from slavery to the present. This talk drew faculty and students from across the university with a heavy representation of medical students.

Next year, the Working Group will explore the specific relationship between biomedicine, race, and capitalism; science and colonialism; and race, health, and political economy. We will also continue our discussions of classroom teaching.

LUNDY BRAUN

*Professor of Medical Science and Africana Studies
Race, Medicine, and Social Justice: Research Cluster Faculty Fellow*



EMERGING SCHOLAR SERIES

Our Emerging Scholar Series seeks to bring young scholars to campus to share their work. This year these scholars spoke on a variety of topics, including the intersection of the histories of medicine, slavery, and race in early America and the Atlantic World and the relationship between racial inequality and state violence in American culture since the nineteenth century.



Highlights from the Brown Bag Lunch Series

Our popular lunch talk series allows scholars, practitioners, and activists to speak about their work to a small group of students, faculty, staff and community members. This year we enjoyed talks from former CSSJ affiliated faculty, Dr. Matt Reilly who presented his research conducted on the archaeology of the nineteenth-century Barbadian migration to Liberia. His project explored the ambitious project of freedom and future-making initiated by a group of Barbadians one generation after emancipation in the English Caribbean. Brown Alumni Meadow Dibble Hilley shared her research project on Cape Cod, drawing on local archival sources and a growing body of scholarly research on the region's participation in the Atlantic slave economy. This year high school students who interned at the CSSJ over the 2017 summer shared their research looking at Providence's connection to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade to analyze the contemporary implications of controversial monuments and streets dedicated to this history. Other high school presentations included the annual *Civil Rights Movement Initiative* (CRMI) lunch talk where students from Hope High School shared their experiences after returning from their weeklong trip throughout the South visiting historic sites and museums commemorating the Civil Rights Movement.



JCB Fellow Reflection

SLAVERY AND LATIN AMERICA

Taken by the Buccaneers: Afro-Mexican Women in Atlantic Captivity, 1683–1688

On April 12, 2018, I delivered “Taken by the Buccaneers: Afro-Mexican Women in Atlantic Captivity, 1683–1688” at the CSSJ’s Brown Bag Lunch Series. The talk was based on my new book-length research project, *Mexican Atlantic: Contraband, Captivity and the 1683 Raid on Veracruz*, which is supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship and short-term research fellowship at the John Carter Brown Library. The book is an attempt to understand the complex, often contradictory, interactions between the port of Veracruz and the French, Dutch, and English Atlantic through an African diaspora framework. In “Taken by the Buccaneers” I suggested that histories of piracy – and in particular, studies on the 1683 raid on Veracruz – must account for gendered motivations. Scholars of the raid, for instance, have noted the racially-motivated abduction of Veracruz’s African descent population. Yet a close reading of eyewitness testimonies, pirate registries and contraband investigations demonstrates that French buccaneers sought out women of African descent during the sack of Veracruz. These women were explicitly targeted and

kidnapped to St. Domingue (modern-day Haiti) at a time when the French colony was desperately in need of female settlers. In other words, stolen Afro-Veracruzanas provided companionship, children and labor to the men of St. Domingue at a crucial moment of its early history. In this regard, my talk at the CSSJ was especially helpful in that it provided an intimate forum through which to brainstorm aspects of the research that need more work. Postdoctoral fellows raised important questions about women’s lived realities of freedom versus enslavement in emerging French Caribbean settlements. How to think of the Afro-Veracruzanas who remained in St. Domingue? What of their children? These questions led to broader insights on Afro-Mexicans’ diasporic experiences and to the scholars to study them across national archives and imperial historiographies.

PROF. PABLO MIGUEL SIERRA SILVA

Assistant Professor of History, University of Rochester
Helen Watson Buckner Memorial Fellow at the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University



Heimark Artist-in-Residence

Growing up in the South, I learned about slavery very early in life and realized its effects upon many cultures. I am Black and I am a woman; I am both all the time. No matter how much I may try, I cannot escape the remnants of slavery or being a woman, nor the harsh reality of living in an “imperialist-white-supremacist-capitalist-patriarchal world” (term coined by bell hooks: author, feminist, and social activist), the remnants of slavery and sexism being divisiveness.

For the sake of capitalism, slavery sliced through unions. Poor whites and poor blacks were turned against each other. Mulatto Africans against dark-skinned Africans. Man against woman. Kinky hair against straighter hair. Subsequently, the media has perpetuated these stereotypes and fears. So much so, that other countries now uphold the same ideals of beauty of whiteness and strength of masculinity that torment African descendants and genders as a whole. There is something that I just can’t understand; humans have been on this earth

thousands of years and we still have not figured out how to love one another. We pick out and shame each other’s differences. It saddens me to see division. These divisive labels/categories/stereotypes are simply distractions that keep us in the illusion of being separate. Yes, each cultural group is different; different traditions, religions and values. I search for things that unify the human race: we all are born and we all die. No one chooses what they are born into. Realizing that these groupings are uncontrollable, one can relinquish the notion that people must adhere to a specific ideology. The reverence of different cultures through the prisms of gender, race, religion and cultural history is essential. Cultural patterns and humanism were my starting point in the exploration of unity. Historical and present day issues have heavily influenced my work. In my work I use brown paper bags, newspapers, textiles, fantasy and African Folklore, quilted patterns and symbolisms as representational items.



I was honored to receive the Heimark Artist-in-Residence award. The Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice had given the opportunity to continue a project that I was working on and they welcomed me and my new born daughter with open arms and truly made us feel at home. Not only did this opportunity give me a chance to showcase my work but it also allowed me room to learn, grow, and evolve. The exhibit *Herstory* is about the trials, endurance, beauty, and strength of women of African descent. The show was inspired by my mother and grew from my own personal understandings and experiences as a black woman in America.

One challenge I overcame was speaking publicly to others about the art and the history of black history for a prolonged period. The longest I’ve had to talk was about ten minutes. What was I going to say for ninety minutes? I overcame the fear of stepping out into new and uncharted territory as an artist in residence. My experiences from Brown University have

shaken the fear of the unknown of what will happen, what will I do, how can I finish my task, how can I still embrace what is important to me in different arenas, being that of my family and professional commitments. Brown University gave me the chance to realize that I will never have all the answers, nor can every question be answered before hand.

People of African descent were stripped of their cultural identity in an effort to demoralize and dehumanize. My work gives back the power and right to identity through positive images of all humans as strong beings. My goal is to change common thinking from individuality to global similarity. Seeing “me” in “them” and “they” in “me”; this is the first step to unity and peace between all.

JESSICA HILL
2018 Heimark Artist-in-Residence



Community
Engagement,
Community
Voices

During the 2017–2018 academic year, the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice continued its programming engaging K–12 students from the state of Rhode Island in learning about the history and legacy of slavery. Primarily focused on engaging young people in the city, our youth engagement has expanded to over 400 young people from Hope High School, Alvarez High School, Blackstone Academy, Barrington High School and East Greenwich Middle School. The *Civil Rights Movement Initiative* will go into its fourth year during the 2018–2019 academic year in which a new cohort of students from Hope High School will learn about different aspects of the Civil Rights Movement through a series of workshops before embarking on a week long Civil Rights trip throughout the South. Students from all three cohorts returned to Brown University in May of 2018 to present at the *Race, Memory, and Memorialization Conference* sharing their experience and engaged in dialogue about the work ahead of us all with Southern Freedom Movement veteran, Charles Cobb, Jr.

Youth Programming

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

The CSSJ participates in the Sophia-Royce Program, a college readiness and research exposure collaboration between Sophia Academy, an all girls independent middle school in Providence serving students from low-income homes, and Brown’s Royce Fellowship. Each summer the CSSJ provides internship opportunities for high school students. Research projects in the past have included exploring Providence’s connection to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade to analyze the contemporary implications of controversial monuments dedicated to this history. Additionally, the *Slavery & Legacy Street Tour* examines the history behind street names. This tour is now an important part of graduate student orientation and helps students think critically about the University landscape and its history.



MAIYAH GAMBLE-RIVERS

CREATING THE *SLAVERY & LEGACY STREET TOUR*

Throughout my Junior and Senior years in high school, I’ve been part of a mentoring group offered through the collaboration of Sophia Academy and the Royce Program at Brown University. Through the Royce program, my former classmate Taiwo Demola and I were offered the chance to do an internship at the CSSJ.

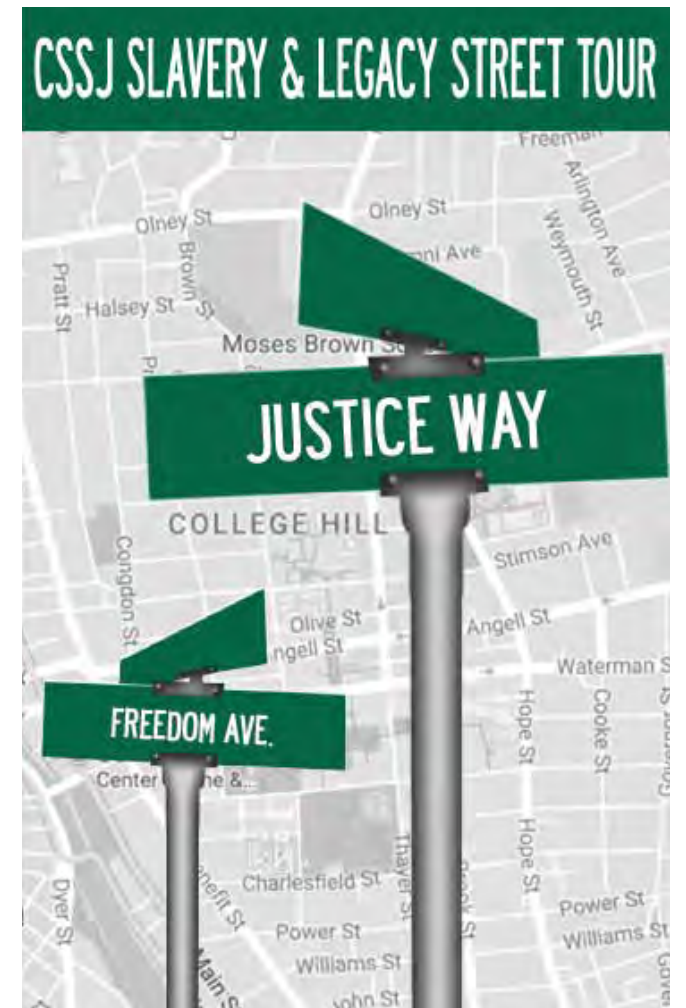
For eight weeks over the summer of 2017, I conducted a research project centered around investigating streets around campus, and their connection to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. I examined old maps online, used resources at the Center, and delved deep into databases to uncover history that is unknown to many. I also had the warm welcome and guidance of Maiyah Gamble-Rivers, Manager of Programs and Community Engagement at the CSSJ, and she provided me with everything I needed for my internship. After my research, I designed and created a walking tour guide, and gave the tour to incoming Brown Graduate students during their orientation. I absolutely loved my time at the CSSJ, and learned so much. I also discovered that I greatly enjoy research! I’ve spoken at Brown twice about my research, and the brown bag lunch talks were very fulfilling and engaging. To this day, almost a year after my internship, I continue to speak about my research, and the past month I gave my tour to Juniors at my school. As I head to college next year, I am very grateful for the time I spent at Brown, and for the research skills I acquired.

MAYA CLIFTON

Lincoln School, '18
Wheaton College, Class of 2022



MAIYAH GAMBLE-RIVERS





MAIYAH GAMBLE-RIVERS

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT INITIATIVE

In 2015, the CSSJ developed a unique initiative for Hope High School students called the *Civil Rights Movement Initiative*. This initiative aims to help high school students understand the Civil Rights Movement as something more than just events of the past, but as a bridge to understanding the present. Once a week for six weeks students explore different aspects of the Civil Rights Movement, culminating with a week-long Civil Rights tour throughout the South. This seven-day trip enables a diverse group of students to visit historic sites and museums commemorating the Civil Rights Movement and to meet the Movement's veterans and activists. The trip provides historic context for students to engage in meaningful conversations about racism, social privilege, educational inequality, and economic disparity in the United States today. To conclude the program students hold a public lunch talk at Brown University in February, sharing their experience with students, faculty, staff and the community.

"I learned a lot of history in one week, more than I learned in all of my schooling."

–Mohamadou Mbaye,
CRMI 2017 Cohort



MAIYAH GAMBLE-RIVERS



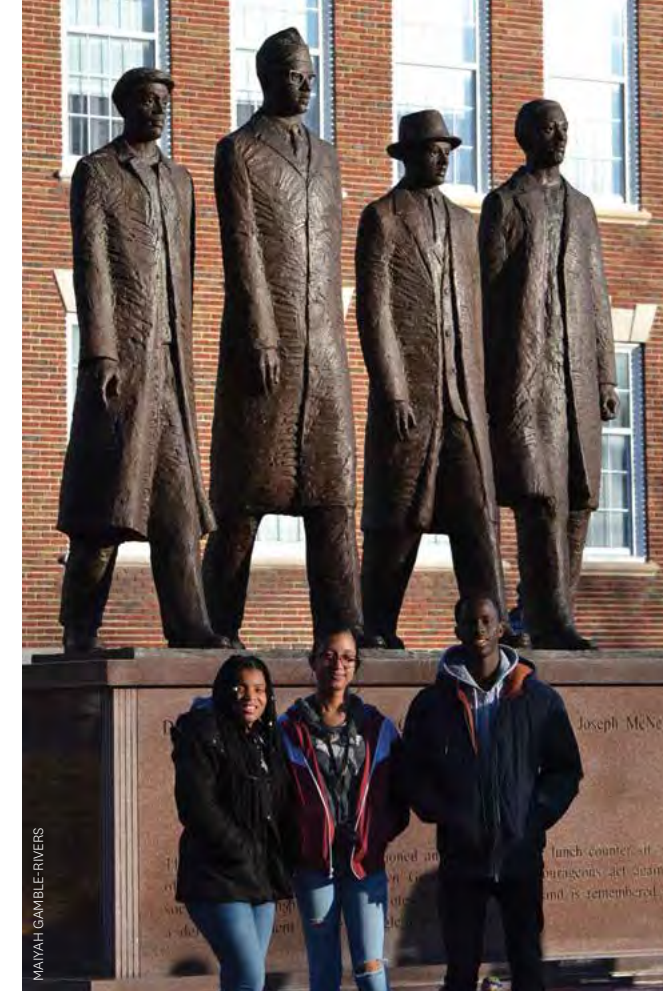
MAIYAH GAMBLE-RIVERS

LESSONS LEARNED: CONFRONTING THE EMOTIONS THAT GO HAND IN HAND WITH LEARNING YOUR HISTORY

This January I had the opportunity to change my life. I was a part of the *Civil Rights Movement Initiative* program. I participated in several workshop classes where I learned and researched events and people involved in the Civil Rights Movement. I was very aware of my ignorance during this time because almost everything we learned about was something I didn't know. After the workshops were complete we went on a week long trip through the South, traveling through several cities and states, visiting esteemed members of the Civil Rights Movement, museums, and historical landmarks. Each place or person we met changed my perspective on any knowledge I had before the trip.

When I was faced with the option of becoming a part of this program I was reluctant to join. Growing up as an African American girl, I knew the basics of the movement and I wasn't sure that I wanted to go any further. The reality is, I was very aware of my ignorance and I didn't want to confront the emotions that go hand in hand with learning your history. I knew it wasn't a happy history and I knew that what I already had learned made me angry. In the end, my decision to go was because the emotions I knew I would feel were overshadowed by my determination to no longer be ignorant about my own history.

The trip was life changing. Not because I got to fly on a plane or travel outside of New England for the first time. This trip was life changing because I got the chance to learn new things about myself. Everyday on the trip I was confronted with the fear that I was a coward. I listened to activists tell their stories, I watched movies on brave people who marched and died, I saw pictures forever capturing the pain people were willing to go through for their rights, and I wasn't sure that I would have made the same decisions if I was in their positions. The irony I was faced with was that the only reason I live today, was because they died, and I didn't know if I could have been that brave. By the end of the trip the turmoil inside of me was put to rest. I listened to activist Sybil Jordan Hampton, a woman who came after the Little Rock Nine. Hearing her speak gave me a chance to look at a different type of activist, someone



MAIYAH GAMBLE-RIVERS

who wasn't a marcher but a learner, not a fighter but a talker. Someone who fought for her rights in a different way. This opened my eyes, I realized that there is more than one way to be brave. Dr. Hampton was brave because she went to school when they told her no, she was brave because she continued to defy what was expected of her. The definition of bravery is courageous behavior or character, this is not only about actions but about what type of person you're not afraid to be.

Coming back from this trip I gained more knowledge about the movement and myself, and I gained the hunger to do anything to make a change. Whether that takes place on the street or in classroom, it doesn't matter. This trip taught me that in the end what you do with the lessons you learn, good or bad, is what makes you a brave person.

SARA JACKSON

CRMI 2018 Cohort
Providence College, class of 2022



Our Fellows

Reflections From Our Fellows

Brown and Beyond

I am grateful for support from the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and the broader Brown community throughout my year as a postdoctoral fellow. In addition to CSSJ, I am particularly thankful to Africana Studies, the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), and the Cogut Institute for providing spaces for vital intellectual and community engagement.

Throughout the year, CSSJ's support made it possible for me to complete a first draft of my manuscript, *Capital Through Slavery: U.S. Settler Slavery in the Making of the Global Economy*, which is forthcoming from the University of North Carolina Press. I also finished two additional articles during my time as a fellow and conducted additional research at the British Library in London.

I further had the opportunity to work with Firelight Films and a CSSJ research group to organize a series of workshops in

Providence, Leiden, Johannesburg, and New York on aspects of the Atlantic slave trade. I look forward to continuing this important collaboration next year.

CSSJ's support further made it possible to present my research at Brown and beyond. On campus, I presented at both the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and at the Cogut Institute. Beyond campus, during the Fall semester I presented at conferences in Cleveland, Madison, and New York. During the Spring semester, I presented at a workshop at Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin and at a seminar in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Cape Town.

I also had the great fortune to teach the course "Racial Slavery and Empire in an Age of Global Capital" in the Department of Africana Studies. I will always remember the sustained engagement of students who were eager to read W.E.B. Du Bois's great *Black Reconstruction* in its entirety. This was a particularly valuable experience during such uncertain times.

ZACHARY SELL

Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow, 2017–2018



DISSERTATION FELLOW

Common sense dictates that dissertation writing is a lonely endeavor that leads one to question all life choices leading to said point. My experience as an Interdisciplinary Opportunities Graduate Fellow at the CSSJ proved these rumors to be unsubstantiated. Instead, it underlined that good writing is the product of strong community and the result of meaningful dialogue, and it emphasized why I entered graduate school: the realization that scholarship can change public discourse in powerful ways.

Throughout the year, two academic projects took shape: First, my dissertation, titled "The Right to have Rights: Race-Making, Liberalism and the British West Indies" which traces the construction of race in key moments of metropolitan liberal democratic discourse from the 17th to the 19th century. Second, a co-authored manuscript "We are human too," which was awarded best graduate student paper in a Sociology section, traces moments of historical black resistance in Haiti and Liberia to explore what a *sociology of colonial subjectivity* might look like.

Both projects ask: How do colonial and racialized subjects who are written out of histories of the modern, excluded from the body politic and whose subject position is overdetermined by colonial ideology, enact and assert their humanity? I thereby draw on the black radical tradition to speak to the theoretical myopias of the modern social sciences and their twin invention of modernity and coloniality.

Finally, I was fortunate to participate in the research for Stanley Nelson's documentary on the Atlantic slave trade. To generate content, we organized a series of workshops that brought together scholars of the slave trade across empires and historical periods; workshops, that would take me from Providence, to Leiden, and New York City.

Whether academic manuscripts or film contents, all projects flourished due to the support and power of community at the CSSJ – thank you!

RICARDA HAMMER

*Dissertation Fellow, 2017–2018
PhD Candidate in American Studies, Class of 2019*



2018–2019 Fellows

INCOMING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Crystal Eddins earned a dual major PhD in African American & African Studies and Sociology from Michigan State University in 2017. Her areas of research include African Diaspora Studies, Historical Sociology, Social Movements, and the Digital Humanities. She studies issues of consciousness, cultures, and identities in mobilizations among members of the African Diaspora – especially during enslaved people’s rebellions. Her dissertation, “African Diaspora Collective Action: Rituals, Runaways, and the Haitian Revolution,” is an interdisciplinary case study that uses digitally archived runaway slave advertisements and other primary sources to examine the influence of Africa-inspired rituals on collective consciousness and patterns of marronage in late 18th century Saint Domingue. She is currently working on a book project that is a complete revision of the dissertation and will expand its analysis into Haitian independence.

CRYSTAL EDDINS

Incoming Ruth J. Simmons Postdoctoral Fellow, 2018–2019



CONTINUING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Nic John Ramos received his Ph.D. in American studies and ethnicity from the University of Southern California and his undergraduate degrees in Asian American studies and political science from the University of California at Irvine. His work brings together discourses of feminist, queer and disability studies with political economy, black studies and Latino/a studies to investigate the history of King-Drew Medical Center, an iconic public hospital built in Los Angeles after the 1965 Watts riots. Originally conceived as a vehicle for black medical and economic inclusion, King-Drew piloted a slew of new health institutions– academic medical centers, comprehensive health clinics, community mental health centers, emergency rooms and medically underserved areas. Ramos demonstrates, however, that local city and medical authorities became complicit in building of new “nonmedical” institutions, such as a modern skid row, expanded prisons and enlarged police forces to accommodate Los Angeles’ changing global landscape.

NIC JOHN RAMOS

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Race and Medicine, 2017–19



INCOMING GRADUATE FELLOW

Felicia Bevel is a PhD candidate in the Department of American Studies whose research and teaching interests include critical race theory, U.S. cultural history, southern studies, and childhood studies. Her dissertation, titled “Exporting Whiteness: Race, Nation, and Nostalgia in the Age of Empire,” examines early 20th century cultural productions that romanticized the Old South and circulated outside the U.S. within the larger Anglophone world, thus exploring the relationship between region, nation, and empire through the lens of the transnational. Her research has been supported by the Ford Foundation and the Cogut Center for the Humanities. She holds a B.A. in Sociology (with a concentration in African American Studies) from Columbia University.

FELICIA BEVEL

Dissertation Fellow, 2018–2019



Visiting Scholar

Sylviane A. Diouf is a historian of the African Diaspora. She sees her role as revealing hidden or forgotten voices and uncovering crucial stories. Her research is focused on the Africans deported through the slave trade and their specific experience during slavery, a theme she explored, notably, in *Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas* (NYU, 1998 & 2013); and *Dreams of Africa in Alabama: The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Story of the Last Africans Brought to America* (Oxford, 2007), which received prizes from the American Historical Association, the Alabama Historical Association and the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award.

Working on resistance in Africa and the Americas, she authored *Slavery’s Exiles: The Story of the American Maroons* (NYU, 2014) and edited *Fighting the Slave Trade: West African Strategies* (Ohio, 2003).

In addition to her scholarly work, Diouf has been involved in public history, bringing knowledge and interpretation to a general audience. She has organized conferences and public programs; curated numerous exhibitions; and written books on African history and slavery for younger readers.

A recipient of the Rosa Parks Award, the Dr. Betty Shabazz Achievement Award, and the Pen and Brush Achievement Award, Dr. Diouf was the inaugural director of the Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

SYLVIANE A. DIOUF

Visiting Scholar, 2018–2019



INCOMING PUBLIC HUMANITIES GRADUATE FELLOW

Chandra Dickey's interest in museums, archives and art stems from her love of history. Upon graduating from Scripps College with a B.A. in History and International Relations, Chandra spent a summer working for The Library Company of Philadelphia. There, she completed various archival projects and studied a significant exodus of free African Americans to Haiti. This piqued her interest in studying narratives of slavery and freedom from Caribbean perspectives. Chandra is interested in the narratives and legacies of slavery and colonialism outside of the United States, particularly in Francophone Africa, and Europe.

Additionally, Chandra is interested in bringing discourses around race, racism and slavery into classrooms. She has spent the last two years in instructional roles in both the United States and France where she developed curriculums that stressed the importance of historical inquiry and self reflection.

CHANDRA DICKEY

Graduate Fellow for the Study of the Public History of Slavery, 2018-2020



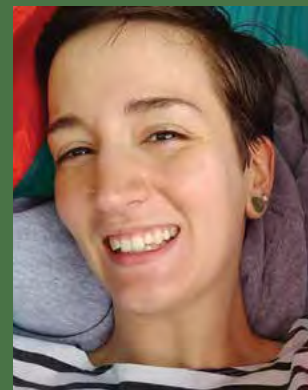
Welcoming Catherine Van Amburgh

The Center is pleased to welcome Catherine Van Amburgh as the new Center Coordinator at CSSJ.

Catherine has lived in Providence since 2012 and worked at Brown since 2015. She studied Environmental Policy, Social Justice, and has a deep interest in how racial and environmental causes intersect. Catherine is excited to support the Center in all its initiatives. When she's not at work Catherine enjoys writing, reading, and being outdoors.

CATHERINE VAN AMBURGH

Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice Coordinator



CSSJ Staff Highlights

2018 PRESIDENTIAL FACULTY AWARD

On March 1st, CSSJ Director Anthony Bogues delivered his Presidential Faculty Award Lecture, "Black Critique: Towards an Alternative Genealogy of Critical Thought." The lecture examined the entanglement of life and critical thought in the black intellectual tradition, the work of African intellectuals and those in the African diaspora, and how their observations and deep critical understanding of society also posit a critique about our present. This talk encouraged the audience to consider the ways in which an understanding of black critique can strengthen critical thinking about the present world through the deployment of the radical imagination and the use of African diasporic art to think anew. Bogues was also awarded a research fellowship at the International Institute of Social History as well as a research visiting professorship at the VU University, Amsterdam for the fall of 2018.

The Presidential Faculty Award was established in 2013 by Brown University President Christina Paxson to recognize members of the faculty who are conducting especially important and innovative scholarship and to create an opportunity for recipients to present their work to colleagues in other disciplines.



BROWN EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION (BEAR) DAY

On February 20th, Manager of Programs and Community Engagement, Maiyah Gamble-Rivers received the BEAR Day Excellence Award for Citizenship. Maiyah was recognized for her role in developing a CSSJ program designed for high school students to delve into different aspects of the "American Dream." Through workshops and discussions, youth cultivate leadership skills, share their life experiences and develop their voices. This initiative is an opportunity to also engage with students of color on Brown's campus and encourage scholarly inquiry. Many University students led workshops and lectures for students on campus. Youth who participated in *Uncovering the Institution* collectively worked to curate their own exhibition connected to the theme of the American Dream and structural inequality.

Brown Employee Appreciation and Recognition (BEAR) Day is an annual celebration of excellence and service at Brown University.



Friends of CSSJ

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE CENTER

Recently, the indomitable Dr. Ruth J. Simmons spoke to the American Council on Education about Brown's landmark effort to grapple with its historic legacies relative to the transatlantic slave trade. Her remarks noted that this history had long been "hiding in plain sight," willfully erased and systematically forgotten. She also rightly situated repair as ongoing work, requiring us to confront and face up to the ongoing legacy of slavery, devising concrete and continuing ways to move forward along the way.

That mission was central to the Committee on Slavery & Justice, and it lives on today through the crown jewel of the University's response – the work of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice. I was privileged to play a small role in that work, through the student Group Research project sponsored by the Committee. And it has been my honor to continue that work by helping guide the Friends of the Center.

Over the past year, the Friends have supported the Center's mission by highlighting its dynamic research and public humanities work to the Brown alumni community, supporting its endowment, and participating in its programming. Over 200 alumni in New York and DC attended events spotlighting the Center's partnership with the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History & Culture. Proceeds from an art-sale benefit, featuring the acclaimed art of Joseph Holston (which has been displayed at the Center), will make a vital contribution to support the Center's work. And this May, I participated in the *Race, Memory, and Memorialization* conference, a unique gathering of scholars, public historians, artists and activists that the Center convened in the wake of last summer's horrific events in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Studying the foundational role of slavery in the development of the Americas, and exposing more widely how that legacy continues to shape contemporary injustices, has never been more essential to understanding our present. Becoming a Friend of the Center can be as simple as a small (or large!) financial contribution, and as involved as becoming more deeply engaged with the Center's work. I encourage you to support that vital work, and ensure that Brown remains ever true to the fullness of its own institutional history, by joining us.

SEAN SIPERSTEIN '05

Steering Committee, Friend of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice

How To Give

SECURE ONLINE GIVING

1. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/mpvarnl>
2. Insert gift details, personal information, and payment information
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AFTER HARRIET

On November 19, 2017, my husband artist Joseph Holston and I were pleased to host an Open House/Art Sale at our home in Silver Spring, Maryland, to benefit the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ).

We were first introduced to CSSJ four years ago, when we received a request for permission to display the image of the Holston painting *After Harriet*, from the Color in Freedom: Journey along the Underground Railroad suite, in the entryway to the Center's new permanent office space. We were inspired by CSSJ's mission, and by the congruence between that mission, and Color in Freedom's (CIF) goal of promoting greater awareness and education about slavery. In December 2016, we visited CSSJ, and were enthused to see *After Harriet* and five other paintings from CIF, at the opening of the exhibition "Black Mechanics: The Making of an American Institution and a Nation, in conjunction with the conference "Slavery and Global Public History: New Challenges." Joseph is honored that his works contributed to the global examination of slavery and its impacts.

For over 20 years, we had hosted annual art exhibition open houses, many of which raised funds for a variety of national and local institutions and organizations. Although we announced the 2011 Open House to be our last, as newly committed members of Team CSSJ, the decision to come out of retirement to support the Center's research and outreach efforts was an easy one. We were pleased to welcome Director Anthony Bogues to our home, and to introduce him and CSSJ to an enthusiastic new audience. His remarks were warmly received by the crowd of 150 guests, including many volunteers and supporters from the Brown University Club of Washington, D. C. Joseph and I are pleased that the proceeds from the event's art sales will help support CSSJ's important work.

SHARON HOLSTON

Friend of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice

SLAVERY'S PAST AND ITS CONTINUING FUTURE: NEW YORK ALUMNI EVENT

In 2014 a small group of Brown alumni created the Friends of CSSJ to encourage alumni to learn about the CSSJ's research and programs and support these programs financially. Since then, the Friends have worked with the CSSJ staff and Brown's Office of Alumni Relations to make Brown Club members aware of CSSJ's work, highlighting the contributions enslaved people and their descendants have made to America's cultural, economic, and social fabric. The Inman Page Black Alumni Council also has played an active role in these efforts.

This past year the Friends collaborated with the Brown Club of New York City to organize an event titled, "Slavery's Past and Its Continuing Future." The event featured Anthony Bogues, Director of CSSJ and Professor of Africana Studies, and Paul Gardullo, Curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture discussing the work of each institution in sharing the history of slavery and its impact on contemporary society. Held November 1, 2018, the event drew a diverse group of 120 multi-generational alumni. People responded enthusiastically to the discussion as reflected in their comments and the questions they asked. The Friends hope to organize similar events with the Brown Clubs of Boston and Philadelphia in the near future.

ANN COLE '63

Co-chair, Friends of the Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice

The Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice would like to sincerely thank its major donors for their support, Mr. David Haas, Ms. Libby and Mr. Craig Heimark, Ms. Sharon and Mr. Joseph Holston, Ms. Debra Lee, Dr. Ruth J. Simmons, Mr. Jerome & Ms. Mary Vascellaro, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Wyncote Foundation. Each year the work of the Center broadens and deepens. We also wish to thank the Friends of the Center, External Advisory Board Members, and all financial contributors to the Center. Each contribution makes our work possible.



Looking Forward!

The CSSJ will be celebrating its 6th year during the 2018–2019 academic year! Please check our website for a full schedule of programs and events, and join our mailing list to stay up to date on the work of the Center. Some major events for the coming academic year include:

Race Today Conference

Unfinished Business: The Long Civil Rights Movement Exhibition

Acknowledgments

Individuals who contributed their time, expertise, and energy in support of the Center. The work of the Center would not be possible without the support of the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Dean of the College, Dean of the Faculty, Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, and the Office of University Communications. Thank you to all the dedicated individuals on the faculty and external advisory boards. We thank as well the many guests from around the world who came to Brown to share their work. A sincere thanks also to the administrators and students on campus who facilitated 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.

Visit our renovated 19th-century house, which includes a gallery exhibition space, the stunning glass wall art piece “Rising to Freedom” and a symbolic garden.

Contact Us

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