

JWJI Annual Report 2023-2024

the Power of Productivity



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The James Weldon Johnson Institute
for the Study of Race and Difference
Emory College of Arts and Sciences

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Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that I have the privilege of writing my ninth director's letter for this report! While we are still working toward our goal of making JWJI the South's premier research center for the study of the modern civil rights movement, we are well on our way! Please join me in reflecting on our past success in this year's report.

This year was another banner year for the institute. Our fellows' curiosity was reflected in their careful and creative scholarship. Our speakers dazzled our audiences. And our alumni are thriving. In calendar years 2023 and 2024 alone, six of our fellows published books or edited translations based on the work they did in residence at JWJI.

This is why we exist: to facilitate the production and dissemination of scholarship about groups that have long been left on the margins of society and learned culture. We believe that knowledge does not belong exclusively to the powerful and that the histories, literatures, cultures and aspirations of all people are worthy of systematic scholarly examination. By offering scholars who study these communities the time, resources and space to conduct their studies, we provide the world with a richer, more complete, and nuanced understanding of our surroundings and how to make space for a diverse set of interests.



We cannot continue this work without your help. We are so grateful to our financial partners, and we continued to be awed by the engagement of those who regularly attend our events, ask penetrating questions, and engage the work of our scholars. As you read this year's report, we hope that you are inspired by their work and that you continue to support the work of JWJI. Thank you as always!

Sincerely,
Andra Gillespie
Director

2023-2024 At a Glance

6

Visiting Scholars

4

Undergraduate Fellows

20+

Public Programs Hosted

600+

Total Attendance

YEAR IN REVIEW

Milestones of 2023-2024

August 2023: Cohort fifteen arrived.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Milestones of 2023-2024

March 2024: JWJI hosted Public Dialogue titled “White Liberalism”.

Panelists: Sarah Gardner (Mercer University), Nichole Phillips (Emory University) and Alison Collis Greene (Emory University)

Moderators: Andra Gillespie and Joseph Crespino, Emory University



2023-2024 Fellowship Cohort



Dr. Kam Copeland

Mellon Post Doctoral Fellow
University of Southern California

Kam Copeland, assistant professor of African American and African Studies for Ohio State University, combines interests in race, religion and resistance in his study of American cinema.

Whether it is a Hollywood blockbuster, public access show or home movie, Copeland finds important work for, about and by Black American Muslims in 20th century film and television in his dissertation, “Muhammad Gazes: Islam, Blackness, and Resistance Cinema in the United States, 1959-2000.”

He is now transforming that dissertation and expanding it to include 21st century for his first book, a project he worked on during his yearlong postdoctoral fellowship at JWJI. During the fellowship he conducted research, reframed and rewrote chapters and began working on additional chapters. He also worked on an article whose working title is “Islam in the LA Rebellion Film Movement.”

“There’s a lot written about Muslim representation in film, particularly in a post-9/11 environment. There’s a lot of representational histories of African Americans in film and media. However, a lot of these representational histories and text do not focus on the intersection of Islam and Blackness in film,” Copeland said. “I saw a gap in the research and that’s really what motivated me to do more research and approach this as a representational history. I see this project as creating an intervention when it comes to Black film studies, but also when it comes to like, Muslim American studies, kind of bringing these two fields together.”

In 2023, Copeland earned his doctorate from University of Southern California in cinema and media studies with a graduate certificate in religious studies and then became a JWJI Mellon Postdoctoral fellow.

“The JWJI fellowship was meaningful for me in numerous ways. It allowed me to yes, do research and write. It allowed me to do an extensive amount of reading that I needed for my project,” he said. “But also, it really helped me think about my project and teaching simultaneously. I know that a lot of people a lot of people focus solely on research, but also part of the research process for me is teaching.”

At Emory, he taught “Black Cinema and the US South,” a course started in the Department of African American Studies.

“In this class, we focus on representation. We focus on how Black people, Black directors in particular, have approached the US South, primarily in film,” he said.

The oldest surviving film by an African American director is “Within Our Gates,” a silent film directed by Oscar Micheaux who also directed more than 40 films.

“‘Within Our Gates’ came out in 1920 as a response to D.W. Griffith’s ‘The Birth of a Nation.’ So we discussed, how Black directors have resisted dominant narratives in the US South in this class. So we started off there, and then we kind of move forward really quickly going through the 1970s Blaxploitation era,” he said. “In the 1980s, Spike Lee made a film called ‘School Daze,’ which he shot in Atlanta. We looked at that.”

The fellowship also prompted visits to several nearby research institutes and university libraries to aid in his research. Copeland visited the Emory’s Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, the Atlanta University Center and Auburn Avenue Research Library.

“Another thing about the JWJI fellowship is they give us a fund to hold a book workshop where we can invite various scholars to read chapters of our books and give us feedback. I was able to have one of those. I contacted the scholars and I brought them here to each read two chapters of my project and give me a lot of feedback, and that was very helpful,” Copeland said.

The colloquiums were also beneficial in learning what other scholars are doing in their fields and in meeting with them afterwards. “The people who come to these colloquiums give us fellows a lot of good advice. They listen to our projects with an open ear, give us recommendations and also resources. So I really appreciate a lot of the people who came here,” he said.

The book project is organized chronologically by decade starting in the ‘60s. The ‘70s chapter looks at the representation of Islam in Blaxploitation films and also how Black Muslims engaged in what Copeland calls “resistance cinema” through using black public affairs television.

“After the assassination of Doctor King in 1968, in cities throughout the country, you had the emergence of black public affairs television programs primarily on National Educational Television, which later becomes PBS,” he said.

Film historian Eddie Guerrero referred to Black representation in film of the 1980s as the “cinema of recuperation.”

“Particularly in Hollywood, there were far less films being made featuring Black people in the 1980s,” Copeland said. “The United States is trying to recuperate after the Vietnam War and the Black Power movement. So you see this whole era where there’s a conservative backlash, and it’s seen through film like you have the return to the idea of the “great white hope” and return to patriarchy—a lot of these types of themes.”

This shifted in the 1990s, bringing the films that sparked Copeland’s interest in the topic.

“So growing up I was a fan of a lot of 1990s Black films. There are a lot of films that came out by Black directors during that era,” he said. “I became interested in the representation of Islam in many of these films because it’s ever present in, of course, ‘Malcolm X,’ but also ‘Boyz N the Hood’ as well as ‘Menace to Society.’ So that sparked my interest in writing about Black Muslim representation in film. I found there’s not a lot written about it.”

Copeland’s dissertation stopped in 2000 but his book takes on the decades since.

Much of Copeland’s work has been in discovering little known film and television work representing Black American Muslims and showing their resistance to dominant narratives.

“I am studying things like public access television in which people could sign up for a time to shoot their own production and sign up for classes to learn how to operate the technology. Just being able to see what they’ve been able to produce as well as the meaning behind it is very powerful,” he said.

Copeland is examining public access programs in the ‘70s including “Black Journal” in New York City, “Say Brother” in Boston, and “Ebony Journal” in Atlanta which featured different figures in the Black community and everyday citizens.

Copeland said he believes there is a lot to learn studying the histories of participatory media like the histories of home video.

“I’m interested in studying how communities, particularly Black communities, have used media, in particular film technology, as a form of resistance,” Copeland said. “Many times when people think about film and film studies, they tend to think about Hollywood productions and all of the aesthetics and image perfection that come along with it.”



Dr. Raja Rahim
Mellon Post Doctoral Fellow
Appalachian State University

Raja Rahim’s academic journey has literally been about taking the ball and running with it. In her case it’s basketball, a sport she has loved since childhood.

Rahim’s goal for her yearlong postdoctoral fellowship with JWJI was to start writing her book project stemming from the dissertation she completed at the University of Florida in 2021. It looked at the history of college basketball within Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

Raja Rahim's academic journey has literally been about taking the ball and running with it. In her case it's basketball, a sport she has loved since childhood.

Rahim's goal for her yearlong postdoctoral fellowship with JWJI was to start writing her book project stemming from the dissertation she completed at the University of Florida in 2021. It looked at the history of college basketball within Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

Her book project expands the focus to include the untold history of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), the oldest, and once upon a time, the largest, Black athletic conference dedicated to HBCU and Black college sports, Rahim said.

"It was founded in 1912, during the midst of Jim Crow segregation. I look at the history of that organization through the broader lens of Black college basketball," she said. "In many ways I'm able to expand my dissertation while also filling in gaps and producing a monograph on an organization that has yet to have a comprehensive examination."

The CIAA, founded as the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association before changing to Central in 1950 to recognize the emerging civil rights movement, is still in existence and maintains its founding purpose which is dedicated to HBCU sports in particular.

"In looking at this through the broader lens of Black college basketball, I look at how African Americans, built the CIAA to be an autonomous Black institution on par with the Black church, Black fraternal organizations and other Black political and social organizations that were created during Jim Crow during the Jim Crow era," Rahim said.

Throughout the book, Rahim elaborates on what she calls the "politics of Black athletic emancipation."

"It is a pro-freedom, anti-racist, athletic agenda in which African Americans created various strategies and tactics for leveling the playing field in sports, and particularly, on the hardwood for African American players from Historically Black Colleges and Universities," she said. "They echo these long traditions of self-determination and self-reliance that African Americans had in their fight for freedom and equality throughout the 20th century."

Rahim's research spans the first 100 years of the organization, starting in 1912 and how the nine founders from five HBCUs came together to build up athletics and to infuse ideas of respectability, education, freedom, equality. The book then goes on to describe the complications of establishing a Black athletic conference, the fight over eligibility, surviving the Great Depression, world wars, segregation and integration. Rahim said basketball was the sport that brought them through these trials and "it became the sport that literally pulled the organization out of bankruptcy at least twice," she said.

In 1946, the CIAA create the annual basketball tournament. By the '90s it was the third largest postseason basketball tournament in the nation, behind the Big Ten and the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). The CIAA and their sponsored basketball tournaments have continually been lucrative. For example, Rahim said that when the organization's tournament was held in Charlotte, North Carolina, it generated more than \$600 million for the host city over its 15 year span, or an average of \$50 million per tournament. Now, the annual basketball tournament that started in 1946 is held in Baltimore, Maryland and Rahim said it generates enough money to sponsor other sports and keep the organization afloat.

"There are thousands of African Americans that to this day pour their time, money, attention and effort into being at this week long tournament," she said.

Rahim has loved basketball since childhood. At North Carolina Central University, she went from dedicated basketball fan to working in the college's athletic department's media relations and sports information office.

She had already decided to pursue her master's degree at the same institution when the man who would become her master's advisor gave her an idea.

"He wrote the name John B. McLendon on a piece of paper and told me to go do research. I did a Google deep dive and I went down a rabbit hole, and then everything just started to connect. I realized that for four years I was walking into the gym that John B McLendon, his name was on," she said.

Rahim's research interest in CIAA started with her master's thesis focused on McLendon, a hall of fame basketball coach who learned from the game's inventor, James Naismith. McLendon was known for his patented Fast Break and Four Corner offenses. Having worked many years at North Carolina Central University, he was also a spokesman for heightened awareness of basketball at all-Black colleges.

“McLendon and other Black coaches pretty much used Fast Break basketball to build the brand of the CIAA,” Rahim said. “Up until the late ‘60s, early ‘70s, it was a style of play that white college coaches announced they did not like. They did not like the aggressiveness,” Rahim said. “The way basketball is played today is what McLendon and other Black coaches and players created within the CIAA.”

Rahim is currently assistant professor of history and African American studies for the University of Mississippi and completing her book. She credits her JWJI fellowship with allowing her to time and space to push forward in her career.

“Upon graduating from the University of Florida in 2021, I started my position that fall at Appalachian State University as an assistant professor of African American history. In those first two years I was building my curriculum for teaching and I took the time to revisit archives, collect new information, and do more oral history interviews but I didn't have the time as a new professor coming in to actually analyze all of my research,” she said. “The fellowship was very important and timely. I have been blessed in many ways to be in the right place and spaces, meet the right people for timing to be just what it is.”

Emory houses the archives for Charles H. Williams, one of the founders of the CIAA. Rahim said she spent the first part of the fellowship year adding research from William's papers to what she had already done and analyzing all of it.

“I have been to more than 10 Historically Black Colleges and University archives collecting materials for this particular research. I have done over 15 to 20 oral histories, gathered newspaper articles.

I took the time to go through all of that, and I literally created a 100-year timeline from 1912 to 2012, pretty much year by year,” she said. “The fellowship has been amazing for allowing the time, space and resources to really dive into the research.”

She also credits the colloquiums and other aspects of the fellowship for the intellectual engagement that kept her going.

“As scholars, we inspire and motivate each other just through conversations, at times just talking about our research sparks new ideas. So I think that was definitely beneficial,” she said.

During the fellowship, Rahim taught a class, African American Sports History which focused on introducing students to HBCU sports history through archival research.

Rahim's book relies heavily on archival research but she also wants the book to be for and about today's fans.

“It's not just for me and my academic career, it's also for the people who sit down to tell me their stories,” she said. “It's (for) the people I meet and have met when I go to the annual basketball tournament.”



Dallas Donnell
Mellon Dissertation Fellow
University of Maryland, College Park

During his eight years of racial and social justice work in the Chicago area, Dallas Donnell heard the harsh rhythms of the music high school age kids were listening to and realized that the nihilistic music wasn't influencing behavior, as some suggested.

Instead, the violent, dark music gave voice to their life experiences.

Donnell carried this idea through graduate school and his dissertation which he completed while a JWJI Mellon pre doctoral dissertation fellow. He is now an assistant professor of ethnic studies, with a particular focus in African American studies, at California Polytechnic State University.

He worked for a variety of nonprofit organizations like the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago, an organization that is entrenched in and committed to amplifying the views, attitudes, concerns and experiences of young Black people.

"At that time in Chicago, there was music called drill music that was starting to make waves on the local scene and was beginning to go national. It's very dark music, very violent music made by high school age kids," Donnell said.

There were a lot of think pieces and a lot of fear in Chicago about the impact the music would have on young people and how dangerous and nihilistic the music was, Donnell said.

"To me, I'm thinking the violent structural conditions that these young people in Chicago live with are so powerful. I thought it was remarkable that, in a context that wants to erase them, that wants to make them invisible, they are able to assert their being-hood and assert their presence by telling their stories and having them circulating out there," he said.

Donnell's dissertation, "Black Nightmare Imaginary: Popular Music, Collective Trauma, and the Intransigence of Antiblack Violence," and his graduate work at the University of Maryland, College Park stemmed from this idea. He graduated in 2024.

"I'm thinking about how the way we interpret, analyze and engage with Black music, how those experiences with Black music can be changed if we foreground and are mindful of the structural forms of anti-Black violence that Black people are experiencing and navigating every day, including Black artists and Black audiences," he said.

His dissertation focused on the late '80s and early '90s—from 1986 to 1994—because of three key factors: the golden era for hip hop and its commercial success; violence that terrorized black communities from the LA uprisings over Rodney King, mass incarceration or HIV/Aids crisis disproportionately impacting Black people, and landmark legislation including the Anti-drug Abuse Act of 1986 that established mandatory minimum sentences for crack cocaine and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which created the three strike rules and further increased mass incarceration, Donnell said.

"I see that as a really important and interesting era to think about the relationship between Black music and anti-Black violence and how Black musical artists are engaging with the pervasive violence that they're experiencing and seeing in their communities in a context where you also have lots of black elected officials."

Donnell studied diverse musicians of spirituals, blues, R&B, pop and gangsta rap finding commonalities in their expressions of experiencing violence or the threat of violence.

"I write about Mary J. Blige and contemporary R&B. When we think about a love song like 'Real Love,' we might see that as an apolitical song—a great song about looking for love and people can identify with that. But if we foreground the various forms of violence that young black women were experiencing at the dawn of the '90s, whether that's dog whistles like the welfare queen, mass incarceration, the HIV and Aids epidemic or domestic violence in a context of lovelessness, it becomes a radical insistence upon one's humanity and just being deserving of love and being loved," he said.

Another example, Donnell said, can be found in "so-called nihilism in gangsta rap" music, which is widely seen as negative and bad for young people.

"But when we foreground the broader structural violences that young Black people are experiencing every day, then the nihilism of the music takes on a different meaning. Rather than it being an endpoint, we can see that as the beginning of a conversation, an awareness of this structural violence that understandably would lead young people to feel this nihilism," Donnell said. "And that may be the beginning of a conversation of us owning up to and facing the persistence of that violence and figuring out what to do about it."

The "Black nightmare imaginary" works across the history of Black music, he said.

"Freedom as flight, always having to be ready to move and outmaneuver the slave master or the forces of the state that want to bring you back into that condition of bondage. So it's locating those performances in Black musical works. You can listen to spirituals and foreground the experience of enslavement and that helps you understand a spiritual.

“A blues song written in the Mississippi Delta in 1898 and foreground Black codes and lynchings and the terrorism of the KKK. That helps you understand that blues song. You could look in the early ‘60s and think about ‘A Change Is Going To Come’ by Sam Cooke and foreground the bombing of the church that killed the four little black girls, or, all of these scenes of violence,” Donnell said.

Donnell spent his yearlong predoctoral fellowship at JWJI splitting time between successfully finishing his dissertation and seeking a job. “I don’t know if finishing my dissertation would have happened without JWJI, because I was really able to focus on why I was here,” he said. His 230-page dissertation will eventually expand into a book.

Along with the financial resources and time to write, Donnell said the people of JWJI really made the difference for him.

“I really appreciated the camaraderie amongst my fellows. It was great to be around people. Some of us were at different stages. Three of us were pre-doctoral fellows so we were working on our dissertations. It’s great to like have folks to talk to and sharing your stress and understand where you were at. But then our two great postdoctoral fellows had great advice. The whole staff at JWJI were always so present and so committed. just being there for us. We were given anything that we needed,” he said.

Scholars brought in for colloquiums also offered invaluable forms of support for Donnell.

“When you’re a Ph.D. candidate, you have your elevator pitch, a quick, pithy explanation for your work and that takes practice. Meeting a different scholar every week and introducing yourself helps you get used to doing something that can make you very nervous. Just being able to hear about their work and think about your own work in conversation with theirs and make those connections, both as an audience member and as a person sitting across the table from them was really powerful as well,” he said.

During the fellowship, Donnell presented “Killing Prince (or meet me in Paisley Park)” at the American Studies Association conference in Montreal in the fall of 2023.

“I was fortunate to have the resources that the JWJI has given me. I was able to afford to go out there to share my work, meet lots of great people and have my work and my ideas out there in front of my peers,” he said.



Monet Lewis-Timmons
Mellon Dissertation Fellow
University of Delaware

Inspired as an Emory undergraduate, Monet Lewis-Timmons used her JWJI fellowship to complete her dissertation—studying the formation and life of an archive.

Lewis-Timmons graduated from Emory in 2018 and then completed her doctorate in English from the University of Delaware last spring.

“A lot of my passion for archival research started at Emory as an undergrad. A lot of the classes that I took for our final papers, we had to use an archival source, or we had to go to the Rose library to do research,” Lewis-Timmons said.

For the 2023-24 academic year, she was a JWJI dissertation fellow. She is currently completing a postdoctoral position at Duke University as a NEH Public Humanities fellow. Her current fellowship includes organizing a discussion series pairing six HBCUs with six civil rights museums.

While at JWJI, Lewis-Timmons worked on her dissertation: “‘My diary is going to be a valuable thing one of these days’: the cross-generational lineage of black women’s archives.”

“One thing that was really great about the fellowship was the professional development funds for me to do a lot of archival research. I really spent the last year doing research, traveling for that, and then also doing conference presentations related to my dissertation,” she said. She traveled to Philadelphia, for example, to present at the Modern Language Association conference.

Most of the archival materials Lewis-Timmons needed for her dissertation were housed at the University of Delaware where she also curated an exhibit. She also used the archives at the Atlanta University Center, Woodruff Library. And the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, New York.

“I’m so grateful for the fellowship. It gave me that time, space, support and accountability to finish. The fellows for this year, we all came in with a goal, and we would check in with each other, which was really helpful,” she said.

Lewis-Timmons’ dissertation focuses on the work of Alice Dunbar Nelson, a 19th and 20th century black woman educator, journalist and activist.

“I focus on 19th and 20th century black women's archives, particularly how black women preserve and document themselves during their lifetime. I look at the cross-generational lineage of these archives—going from the creator of the archive to the descendants that they usually leave it to, another black woman in their life like a niece or a daughter. And then the third layer is the scholar who becomes responsible for publishing and recovering the creator's work and their archive,” she said.

Lewis-Timmons first examines the life and work of Alice Dunbar Nelson whose first husband was critically acclaimed black male poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar.

“For a very long time, she was overshadowed by him,” Lewis-Timmons said. “What people didn't know is that their marriage was abusive and tragic. Even with that, she decided to keep the Dunbar name to advance her own career after he passed away in 1906.”

Dunbar Nelson became responsible for preserving his legacy by publishing a lot of his work after he died, Lewis-Timmons said.

“For the longest time, she was regarded as the widow of Laurence Dunbar. But what her own archive reveals is that she was very much invested in her own career as a journalist, as an editor, as an educator, as a poet, as a novelist,” she said.

Beyond all of this work, Lewis-Timmons studies what it meant for her to keep all of these materials and her private documents to preserve her legacy.

“She has letters with him that revealed the abuse. She also has letters with women lovers in her life, which no one really knew about until later,” Lewis-Timmons said. “Her diaries were like this more private and hidden self. She was very intentional in keeping things so that future generations would know her full story.”

Alice Dunbar Nelson taught English at the only high school in the state of Delaware for black children starting in 1902. She also wrote literature reviews and cultural critiques for the Wilmington Advocate and the Pittsburgh Courier. Starting about 1915 she became active in the women’s suffrage movement, traveling to give speeches about why women should have the vote. In 1920 she was fired from her teaching job because she took a day off to protest.

Lewis-Timmons moves from the story of Alice Dunbar Nelson to her niece, Paulina Young who grew up in the house with her mother, grandmother and aunt in a matriarchal family unit. Young looked up to her aunt, attended Howard High School where Dunbar Nelson taught and eventually became the school’s librarian.

The dissertation’s second chapter focuses on Young’s efforts to sell her aunt’s papers to different libraries and archival repositories from 1972-84 which was significant because it coincided with the emergence of Black studies programs at universities. They eventually end up at the University of Delaware and she did get compensated, Lewis-Timmons said.

The third chapter focuses on Akasha Hull who, through her work in Black women’s studies, met Young and they became close friends. Young gave access to Hull before the papers ended up at the University of Delaware. Hull published the diaries 1986, in “Give us each day, the diaries of Alice Dunbar Nelson.”

“Akasha noticed that Alice was making references to relationships that she had with women. When she brought it up to Pauline, she was like, ‘oh, no, we don't talk about that. I don't think it's true. I would have known,’” she said.

Lewis-Timmons said that Hull, using a scholarly lens, explained to Young that the diaries would have to be interpreted that way. Young agreed to have it published but once it was released, Young did not like how it was interpreted and cut off all communication with Hull.

“Part of that chapter looks at the generational differences between the two women as well as the role of the scholar when telling difficult parts of someone’s life,” Lewis-Timmons said. “So whether that’s their sexuality or abuse or trauma or anything that they went through—where do we straddle that line, especially when working with descendants?”

Lewis-Timmons interviewed Hull about this process and her relationship with Young.

“She said we do a disservice when we’re not telling all parts of the story. I think that’s especially true with someone like Alice Dunbar Nelson who left those documents intentionally for them to be seen and read,” Lewis-Timmons said.

Lewis-Timmons said in her work some of most meaningful conversations have happened at conferences, public webinars or community events.

“One of the cool things about Nelson, her story and her archive, is that it allows people to reflect on their own life and their own things that they keep,” she said.

Lewis-Timmons is using her current position at Duke to help her decide whether she wants to pursue a tenure-track career route or a public history, public humanities route.

“It’s also affirmed for me is that black people, especially in this case, black women, have always been and have always been concerned with preserving themselves and defining themselves on their own terms—especially living in a society where others try to define you,” Lewis-Timmons said. “I find that act of preserving one’s self, documenting oneself really powerful because it allows you to take control over your narrative.”



Clark Brinson
Laney Dissertation Fellow
Emory University

When Emory PhD sociology student Clark Brinson had to choose between dissertation completion fellowships, she chose JWJI because of her history and past work with them.

“The fact that it’s made for you to focus on your work. That time was a big deal and the support and resources were also really amazing. I love the work they do: their programming coupled with opportunities they give to undergraduate, doctoral, early career scholars. I have learned a lot working with JWJI in all of these capacities,” Brinson said. “JWJI is really great because they are so interdisciplinary. You come across so many different people who are coming from different fields that are all focused on the topics of race and difference, and I love that they don’t like pigeonhole you.”

Having served multiple sociological research roles at Emory since 2019, Clark Brinson completed her year-long JWJI fellowship in the spring 2024.

Part of her research in social inequality and social psychology included design, recruitment and dissemination of the National LGBTQ Women’s Community Survey. While working on this survey she encountered data about sexual minority women and families, specifically focused on family formation.

Through this research she learned that Black queer women, as opposed to queer women in other racial groups, were the significantly more likely to raise children.

This raised a lot of questions for her and became the basis of research for her dissertation: “Planning Our Futures: A qualitative study of family formation goals among Black queer women in the South.”

Brinson’s data collection focused on Black queer women currently living in Georgia, primarily but not entirely, in the Atlanta area. In the 2022-23 academic year, she conducted in-depth interviews with 54 respondents, between the ages of 18 and 43, mostly 20 and 30 year olds who had never been married and never had children.

“I was focused on determining the degree to which Black queer women are interested in marriage and the factors that most impact their marital desires. I was also interested in determining their desires for parenthood and their preferred pathways to parenthood,” she said. “I think in terms of big takeaways my study really shows that black sexual minority women have really diverse aspirations for family formation.”

Her research shows that although many Black queer women want to have children, the ways they want to form their families and raise those children are diverse.

“For instance, there’s a large portion of my sample that highlight an openness to things like raising families with non-romantic partners, raising families with friends or planning from the outset to raise children alone,” she said.

Brinson said the common belief before 2015 was that Black and brown people were not interested in the marriage equality fight because other queer priorities needed resources, such as employment and housing protections. Her study results surprised her.

“In my project, I expected to find not very much interest in marriage at all and so what I ended up finding shocked me. Over a third of my sample are not only interested in marriage, but they definitely want marriage and children specifically. There was no ambivalence or apprehension,” she said.

Brinson also discovered not only did they want marriage and children but wanted biological children and wanted to be married before having children.

“They were embedded within this traditional idea of how you’re ‘supposed to’ build family,” she said. “There was a really deep commitment to these traditional ideas of how families are supposed to be formed.”

Brinson found that, although marriage is the most straightforward way to protect families, Black queer women of her study, whether they were interested in marriage or not, understand that they do need to have legal protections for their families and hold diverse ideas of how that looks.

Two thirds of her respondents were interested in non-traditional families, Brinson said.

“What I found most interesting about the non-hegemonic family formation pathway group is that they were very focused on communal living,” she said. “They were very vocal about the limitations of the nuclear family model and why they didn’t want that. They spoke about things like compounds with family and friends and wanting to have access to community resources.”

As opposed to the traditional family model, this communal family offers more of an opportunity for intergenerational bonds, Brinson’s results found.

“So a lot of them spoke about how in this day and age, if you don’t have children yourself, it’s very hard for you to be connected to children. Or some people said the elderly are cut off from the nuclear family model. So they spoke a lot about the importance of surrounding themselves with children, elderly, their peers, different age groups, because they felt like everyone had something to offer to a community,” she said.

Another interesting trend among most of the respondents was the de-centering of romantic relationships, Brinson said. Some were planning to build a family with their best friends if they don’t find romantic partners. Others said they would raise their children alone.

During her fellowship, Brinson appreciated the professional development sessions but most of all enjoyed the archival training and the extensive tour of the Rose library.

Colloquiums were particularly valuable to Brinson.

“They exposed me to so many scholars whose work I wouldn’t have engaged,” she said. Her favorite was on southern beauty rituals and pageants by Elizabeth Bronwyn Boyd.

“She talked about how pageants and rushing sorority build femininity and what you’re supposed to be as a woman, how they teach what you’re supposed to be as a young white southern woman. My mouth, was just open for that entire lecture, it was so interesting,” she said.

Brinson has presented her own dissertation research at the 2023 annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality in New Orleans and at the 2024 annual conference of the American Sociological Association in Canada. She received the American Sociological Association’s Minority Fellowship which dovetailed with her JWJI fellowship.

Since she started graduate school at Emory, Brinson has worked in various research roles and was working with JWJI long before her fellowship.

During her first semester she worked as a research assistant with one of JWJI's early career fellows, Jeremiah Favara (2018-2019), who is now an assistant professor of communication students at Gonzaga University. She worked with him her first year and they continued working together and eventually published a paper, "White at heart": Making race in Marine Corps recruitment advertising," in "Communication, Culture and Critique."

She has also served as research assistant to JWJI Director Andra Gillespie working on civic engagement and voting turnout.

"If you're interested in working with someone or working on a project, just because you might not have a history with them or any experience with it, it doesn't stop Doctor Gillespie from taking a chance on you," Brinson said. "I've gotten to learn so much just from getting a chance to work on things. I have the interest and that interest was fostered. JWJI is probably one of the highlights of my graduate career. And they have really shaped me as a scholar and so I will be forever grateful."



Dr. Gertrude Gonzales de Allen

UNCF-Mellon Fellow
Spelman College

What does it mean to embody multiple selves as a Black, Afro- Caribbean born in the U.S Virgin Islands as part of America? asks Gertrude Gonzales de Allen.

"I grew up in the U.S. Virgin Islands. I've been working out being a colonial subject under the U.S. system and what that means to be a Black Latino both there and in the United States, said Gonzales de Allen who spent a year as a United Negro College Fund/Mellon Program Faculty Resident fellow at JWJI during 2023-2024.

That fall, Gonzales de Allen prepared her first monograph proposal and submitted the manuscript to several presses. By Spring, she had a signed contract with State University of New York (SUNY) press.

"Getting the book contract was amazing," said Gonzales de Allen, who is an associate professor and chair of the philosophy and religious studies department at Spelman College,.

During the fellowship, Gonzales de Allen created a timetable to stay on track writing book chapters. Her book, consisting of an introduction and six chapters, stands out in the field because there are few works in philosophy penned from an Afro-Latina perspective, Gonzales de Allen said.

"I've been working on identity and post-colonial (issues) for a long time. The Caribbean identity is a continuation of that theme. What is different is I'm more committed to a phenomenological perspective and working through that," she said.

In her new book, Gonzales de Allen explores the meaningfulness of embodying multiple existences, identities and selves.

"Who we are is complex and not just like an AI, right? We are a conglomeration of things. I'm suggesting that you have to look at the totality of things and not a singular thing," Gonzales de Allen said. "It's being in a specific way in a specific location in a specific point in time. So to understand a person you have to grasp all of those things. What is multiplicity of self? There's Latina feminist, race, class, gender and I'm saying it's bigger than that."

For Gonzales de Allen, it's diving into the meaning of blackness within Afro-Caribbean subjectivity and Latina feminist philosophy. "It's the question of what it means to be human and living as multiplicities," she said. "I think what I'm trying to do is merge Latina feminism and Afro-Caribbean philosophy."

For her, it's a not a simple question of what it means to be Black in America.

"I always come from the perspective of a colonial subject living in the U.S. with a Caribbean identity, but with a U.S. passport. I think here it's kind of like there's this whole other dimension of Blackness that I can explore, like southern U.S. Blackness that has its roots in slavery," she said. "I think that there's a specific kind of way racism works in the United States that does not necessarily operate in the Afro-Caribbean."

She explores issues and awareness of racism or violence against Black bodies where people are neglected, ignored, non-existent or eradicated historically.

“So lynching is not happening (now) but it’s happening in a different way. It’s still going on with police brutality,” she said. “I think people just want to say if you are Black you are Black and that is all. And there is a case to be made for these cultural and ethnic differences.”

Gonzales de Allen said a lot of her scholarship has explored African, French, British or Spanish colonialism.

“I’d like for people to think of the U.S. as a colonizer. I don’t think we think about that a lot. What are the consequences? I’d like them to think about what does it mean to be to have been a product of that?” Gonzales de Allen said. “How being is impacted by the objectification, subjugation and alienation (of colonialism).”

In a chapter titled, “Returning the Gaze: The US Virgin Islands and Ontological Certainty,” Gonzales de Allen examines how slavery ended in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1848 and the U.S. purchased the U.S. Virgin island from Denmark in 1916.

“We were Danish before we were American. What does it mean to explore and to be bought as a group of islands and people? There was a reason for it. They wanted a presence because communism was trying to expand and they [U.S.] wanted a foothold in the Caribbean,” Gonzales de Allen said. “The U.S. didn’t really give us thought about who were were or who they wanted us to be. It was more like an acquisition, a space to call their own.”

Gonzales de Allen’s book explores what it means to be human and living as multiplicities in the philosophical and theoretical works of Frantz Fanon, Sylvia Winter, Mariana Ortega and Gloria Anzaldúa.

During the fellowship, Gonzales de Allen participated in a library archives tour at Emory and around the region. She also attended several museums in Atlanta and in Montgomery, Alabama including the Rosa Parks Museum and Civil Rights Museum which impacted her research and book—specifically exhibits on lynching in America, the Equal Justice Initiative and the Trans Atlantic slave trade.

“The Civil Rights Museum visit was really helpful. It was surprising to me. I started out with a project that was mostly about the Caribbean and now I’m trying to make more connections between the Caribbean and living in the South East,” she said.

She also enjoyed attending several of the JWJI colloquiums.

“One did a survey with a focus on Latina women in in Latin America and the Caribbean. She had a lot of different figures that I could kind of go over and review for my own work. Those were helpful,” she said.

Most important for Gonzales de Allen was the time the fellowship provided her to focus on her work and have access to Emory’s libraries.

“I think having the time away from teaching, committee and service responsibilities and meetings so I could establish a writing routine was invaluable,” she said.

The intellectual community is another important benefit as well.

“I learned some things and it was good to be listening to the other scholars,” she said. “Being part of the intellectual community and attending the weekly lectures was really stimulating.”



Madison Li
Undergraduate Honors Fellow
Emory University

With plans to become a medical doctor, Madison Li credits her love of science, a high school history class and a global pandemic with sparking her passion for public health research.

A 2024 Emory graduate with a bachelor’s degree in human health and a minor in sociology, Li was one of the four undergraduate JWJI honors fellows for the 2023-24 academic year.

During the fellowship, Li worked on her 57-page thesis, “Towards Perinatal Health Equity and Intersectional Framework for Assessing Birth Inequities Among Sexually and Racially Minoritized Women.”

In it she used a nationally representative data set, the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health, to assess maternal health outcomes for women who are often marginalized.

“Originally we looked at a sampling of more than 20,000 people. The final sample wasn’t that big but it was still large enough to show larger, nationwide, implications,” Li said.

Full analysis of the data will be included in Li’s next steps for her thesis. Currently, it is primarily theory-based. Once she has completed the data analysis she hopes to submit the thesis for publication.

The question the thesis explores is regarding health inequities in recorded birth outcomes among racially and ethnically diverse women. It also touches on birth outcome health inequities among race and ethnically minoritized women and sexually minoritized (those women identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual.) Both groups are more statistically likely to have adverse childhood experiences or victimization.

If the woman is minoritized in more than one way, race and sexuality, for example, “there’s research studying health outcomes using an intersectional lens revealing that there’s not just an additive effect but a compounding or multiplicative effect,” she said.

“Combining all of that together using sociology-based theory, intersectionality theory, I want to explore how these exposures to social inequities exacerbate these health risks through these sort of complex interacting pathways,” she said.

Li also sets out to explore if and how adverse childhood experiences of victimization in race and ethnically or sexually minoritized women play a role in leading to increase risk for poor birth outcomes.

Li’s thesis works in piecing all these separate puzzle pieces together creating a theoretical background for understanding the data. “I’m hoping that the framework provides a model beyond just birth outcomes—reproductive health research for other health outcomes to assess—specifically amongst minoritized populations with this sort of like intersectional lens.”

“I’m really grateful that JWJI accepted my project as part of the fellowship because it not only brings into light like questions regarding race and health outcomes, but also sexually minoritized women and health outcomes because I think there’s limited research on both of them, but especially amongst sexually minoritized women and also amongst like the intersection of those two,” Li said. “I’m just really grateful to be able to shed a little more light on that.”

Li said the fellowship provided professional development and supported in the process of her thesis research project.

She credits Clark Brinson, a James T. Laney Dissertation Fellow, and other JWJI fellowship members with teaching her about being a successful academic. The meetings focused on the process for preparing for literature review, how to set up meetings to ensure that you’re getting quality feedback, how to prepare for conferences, publications and oral presentations.

“That was really helpful because the four of us in the undergraduate cohort were going through this process for the first time even though we might have had different research experiences,” Li said. “I remember especially when we were talking about how to navigate the professional or academic space as a woman of color. It was really insightful to hear Clark’s perspective on that. She gave a lot of really amazing personal anecdotes that were really helpful.”

She said the JWJI colloquiums provided her the opportunity to learn about the study of race and difference through the humanities and sociology. As a pre-med student, she said she had more limited engagement with the humanities so the colloquiums were of particular interest.

“I was eager to go to the different colloquium sessions because they were usually based in history or pure sociology. I learned a lot about different historical events and important people in history that I wouldn’t have learned about otherwise,” she said.

Li said the study of race and difference actually sparked her interest in academia. In high school, she took a comparative race and ethnicity class.

“It sparked my interest in exploring the intersection of this history with healthcare in college,” she said. “The first thing that really struck me in the class was our first main unit was on South African apartheid. That was something that I actually didn’t know anything about before taking that class.”

As a result of that class, Li realized there was a lot in history that isn’t taught in conventional classrooms.

“That was very shocking to me,” she said. “I think that sparked my interest in learning directly from marginalized voices and from marginalized communities. That started my interest in the field.”

Li who had already had an interest in science and society combined that with health care. In the summer of 2020 as she was coming into college, Li began reading about the inequities of Covid in different communities, especially New York City, where she was living.

“That also piqued my interest and made me want to further study how these inequities came to be in the first place. And what sort of action within public health can be done and what measures can be taken in order to mitigate this,” she said.

Her passion for researching health inequities and innovating health initiatives for marginalized communities led her to work as a research coordinator for Emory Global Health Institute where she focused on addressing barriers in maternal TB screening during antenatal care in hospital setting.

For now, Li plans to continue exploring these topics—the public health and sociological side of medicine. She plans to take the next two years working as a clinical research assistant in the critical care institute of Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

“I think all the knowledge I’ve gained through my time at Emory, understanding the intersections between humanities and health care, will come to light in the ICU,” she said. Li plans to apply to medical school following her two-year research assistantship.



Mckayla Morrison
Undergraduate Honors Fellow
Emory University

The African American studies classes Mckayla Morrison took at Emory focused her already burgeoning academic interests in the anti-Blackness apparent in policing onto two court cases of Black women whose lives were destroyed by domestic violence.

Morrison, who graduated with highest honors in May 2024 with bachelor of arts degrees in both African American studies and sociology, wrote her honors thesis, “The Site of Suffering: Black Women, Violence, and the Home,” during her time as a JWJI undergraduate honors fellow.

“I really appreciated just having the space of the JWJI house to work in, being able to go there and have just a really a silent, empty space to work in was really helpful,” she said. “And then also having that community of my fellow JWJI fellows to discuss our work as well. Just to have that space to talk about your work with people who are doing similar things or who understand kind of what you’re going through.”

Her thesis focused on interrogating the home as a site of death and suffering for Black women at the hands of both police and domestic partners. “Through the actions of police in encounters with Black women in response to violence against Black women, and the actions of the perpetrators themselves, I explore how the position of the Black woman is constantly and consistently undermined as reflected in the cultural normalization of violence against Black women,” Morrison said.

She took three courses informed the focus of her thesis: incarceration and policing, critique of violence and law and women, race and war.

“My professor focused on interrogating violence, especially domestic violence for Black women—looking at both police and domestic partners. I’m looking at the way that policing can shape domestic violence in the home and vice versa,” she said. “I looked at two court cases of Black women who were survivors of domestic violence. I looked at the way that the response or non response of police can produce similar outcomes for both of these women and Black women in general.”

The two subjects of Morrison’s thesis are Felicia Fox, a black woman who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend after he broke into her Louisiana home in 2002, and Marissa Alexander, a Florida Black woman whose failed “stand your ground” case gained national attention in 2013. Morrison said police were repeatedly called regarding harassment, stalking and attempted breaking and entering by Fox’s ex-boyfriend. The numerous calls resulted in one arrest.

“He returned to her home following his release from jail. Police were called. They came. They did not arrest him. He tried to break in again that same night. Police were called and they did not come at all saying that they already told her to lock her door and keep it locked. The ex-boyfriend ended up successfully breaking into her home and shooting and killing her while her children were in the home,” Morrison said based on the court opinion from Fox’s parents’ 2004 lawsuit against the police.

Morrison explored why the state of policing makes outcomes like this possible.

“The court basically decided that there was no duty of protection on the part of police officers to prevent the ex-boyfriend from killing her, essentially,” Morrison said. “That case was kind of my example of a non-response in that police were called upon and they did not come and how that directly led to her death, which was very preventable.”

In Marissa Alexander’s case, she was estranged from her husband following a history of domestic violence. A visit resulted in a violent argument which Alexander said she tried to flee the house and was unable to so she used her gun to fire a warning shot. She was arrested and charged with several counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

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In Marissa Alexander’s case, she was estranged from her husband following a history of domestic violence. A visit resulted in a violent argument which Alexander said she tried to flee the house and was unable to so she used her gun to fire a warning shot. She was arrested and charged with several counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. In court, she argued that the Florida “stand your ground” law should have given her immunity from prosecution on the grounds of self-defense. The court found that she did not meet the burden of proof and she was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

“With this case, I was really looking at the language used in the court opinion. They described Alexander as aggressive. They said that she was not acting in the way that a person would fear for their life would. They argued about whether she could have left the home and essentially characterized her as a violent, aggressive person. This was despite evidence of (her ex-husband’s) abuse towards her and other women,” Morrison said.

Alexander got a new trial because there were issues with the jury instructions and was able to negotiate a plea deal for time served and then two years of house arrest. She was finally freed in 2017, Morrison said.

“This case is an example of how the response of police in this domestic violence case led to the arrest of the victim, the prosecution of a victim,” Morrison said. “In both of these cases, whether or not police responded, it created negative outcomes for the Black woman who was experiencing this abuse.”

While academics and scholarship is important, Morrison said, it’s also crucial to listen to the stories and voices of Black women who are victims and survivors of domestic violence.

“They need to be upheld and uplifted as a solution that they know what they need and what is helpful when they are experiencing these things,” she said. “Looking to those women to understand what kind of policies, practices and programs are truly influential is important.”

Morrison is currently taking a gap year to work while participating in the Institute for Recruitment of Teachers program to help apply to graduate schools. She plans to continue pursuing a doctorate in African American Studies.



Andrea Snoddy
Undergraduate Honors Fellow
Emory University

On her path to becoming a medical doctor, JWJI undergraduate fellow Andrea Snoddy explored Black subjectivity and perceptions of health in her thesis aimed at removing disparities in patient care.

Snoddy, who graduated from Emory with highest honors in May 2024, majored in anthropology and human biology with a women’s, gender and sexuality studies minor. Her 80-page thesis is “Myths and Medicine: Analyzing medical racism in the Atlanta metropolitan area.”

“I’m an aspiring doctor and I’m also a Black person. So just being in the South and in America, working in health care and learning about health care, the disparities are very clear. You really don’t have to look that hard at all. And for me, for the physician I want to become and the person I want to become, it was really important that I used what I could, even before I go to medical school, to help combat these disparities,” Snoddy said.

Snoddy saw her thesis as a “good opportunity” to use her resources as an Emory student to make a positive impact before practicing medicine.

Her thesis, which she wrote throughout her year as a JWJI undergraduate honors fellow, focuses on the concept of Black subjectivity and how survey respondents perceive their own health and healthcare in general. For it, she surveyed 52 mostly college-educated Black adults ranging in age from 18 to 75 years old with every age group represented.

“What myths do you believe in? What myths have you come across in your lifetime? How do you feel about healthcare? How do you feel about your health?” Snoddy said the answers to these questions should be acknowledged in patient care. “Take the time to address

how they are perceiving their health and what they expect to gain out of the experience versus just diagnosing them and then going off and not speaking to them again.”

Snoddy said the findings that surprised her the most were that among all 52 respondents, each of them believed at least one radicalized medical myth.

“One of the biggest ones that stuck with me was the belief that race is a biological construct, that black people and white people are, for example, anatomically different due to their race, which is not true. That was really surprising to me, considering the majority of my sample participants had some form of higher education. And so that communicated to me that there's something missing in our education and in how medicine communicates with Black communities to result in this discrepancy,” she said.

What she also found, confirming her suspicions, is that the participants visited their healthcare providers as a last option after exhausting all self-care options.

“This communicated to me that there's this underlying anxiety and fear surrounding medicine, which isn't something that is entirely surprising, as we know and understand that medical racism is a reality and it impacts people,” she said.

One of the biggest takeaways from the study is how much improvement is needed in this specific sector of patient care and work with communities.

“I think collaborating with communities is as important, maybe even more important than just deciding what a community needs based off of what you observe or what statistics say. Nothing compares to actually engaging with that community to find out what they need,” she said.

During her fellowship, she appreciated the professional development sessions with Clark Brinson, a James T. Laney Dissertation Fellow at JWJI.

“She coached us on how to write letters for recommendations, prepare for graduate programs and revise our work. It was really beneficial for me,” Snoddy said.

Most of all, she treasured her Wednesdays writing in the JWJI house.

“During the fellowship that was the heaviest writing period, putting everything together and just consolidating all my research,” she said. “Just having that space on campus is be able to sit and be in a quiet area—to write, to focus, to think, that was really beneficial to me. Atlanta is very busy city. Emory is a very busy campus, so just having that space was really beneficial.”

Since graduation, Snoddy said she has stayed in contact with her other undergraduate JWJI cohort and that this community of scholars has been invaluable to her. She is currently applying to medical schools in hopes of attending in fall 2025 and seeking to get her thesis published.

Her goals as a medical doctor are to focus on marginalized and underserved patients, whether due to issues of race or geographic location

“I actually grew up in a very rural area and I currently live in an underserved county. I've now graduated from Emory, which is an elite institution, and I'm going into medical school. I hope to use all these beneficial things that I've learned and return them back to the communities that brought me up,” Snoddy said.

Colloquium Series 2023-2024

FALL 2023

9/11 SILVIA RODRIGUEZ VEGA
University of California, Santa Barbara
Drawing Deportation: Art and Resistance among Immigrant Children

9/18 MARCUS BOARD JR.
Howard University
Invisible Weapons and the Future of Radical Liberation

9/25 PATRICIA VENTURA
Spelman College
Far white Families, White Power Radicals, and American Neoliberal Culture

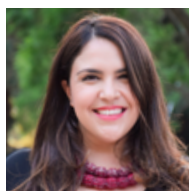
10/2 ELIZABETH BRONWYN BOYD
Independent Scholar
Southern Beauty: Rituals Of Race And Region From Pageantry To "Bama Rush

10/18 SHANTÉ SMALLS (JWJI ALUM)
NYU Tisch School of Arts
Queering Hip Hop's Aesthetics

10/23 EFRÉN PÉREZ
University of California, Los Angeles
Political Solidarity Between People of Color

10/30 ANASTASIA CURWOOD
University of Kentucky
Aim High: Shirley Chisholm and Black Feminist Power Politics

11/6 STEPHANIE Y. EVANS
Georgia State University
Anatomy of a Research Agenda: Embodying Black Women's Wellness



11/13 SALLY NUAMAH
Northwestern University
How School Closures Undermine the Citizenship of Black Americans

11/20 MARION ORR
Brown University
Black Social Capital: The Politics of School Reform in Baltimore, 1986-1999

11/27 EMILY ZOBEL MARSHALL
Leeds Beckett University
Bath of Herbs

SPRING 2024

1/22 SEKOU FRANKLIN

Middle Tennessee State University

Losing Power: African Americans and Racial Polarization in Tennessee Politics

1/29 ASHLEY BROWN (JWJI ALUM)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Serving Herself: The Life and Times of Althea Gibson

2/5 DAWN DUKE

University of Tennessee

Latin America's Black Women Writers and the Transformative Power of Words

2/12 MELVIN ROGERS

Brown University

James Baldwin on Racial Progress without Redemption

2/19 CECILIA MÁRQUEZ

Duke University

"Black, White, and Tan": Latinos, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the Making of Race in the U.S. South

2/26 VIVIAN L. HUANG

San Francisco State University

Inscrutable Sociality and Queer Knowledges of Asian America

3/4 ANITA CASAVANTES BRADFORD

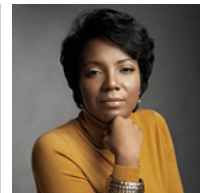
University of California, Irvine

The Geopolitics of Child Migration in U.S. History

3/18 JOYCELYN WILSON

Georgia Tech

The Sacred Universe of Hip Hop: Reflections on a Middle Age Phenomenon



3/25 QUITO SWAN

The George Washington University

The Black Pacific: Black Internationalism & Oceania

4/1 AMRITA CHAKRABARTI MYERS (JWJI ALUM)

Indiana University Bloomington

The Vice President's Black Wife: The Untold Life of Julia Chinn

4/8 RAJA MALIKAH RAHIM

JWJI Visiting Fellow

"Our Way Out of the Dungeon": The C. I. Double-A & the Racial and Cultural Politics of Black College Basketball in the United States

4/15 KAM COPELAND

JWJI Visiting Fellow

Islam, Revolutionary Nationalism, and the Cinema of the L.A. Rebellion

Programming Calendar 2023-2024

Date	Category	Topics & Speakers
Thursday, 9/7 10:15-11:30am	Fellows' Meeting	Professional Development Session: The Job Market Speaker: Deboleena Roy
Monday, 9/11 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Silvia Rodriguez Vega UC Santa Barbara
Monday, 9/18 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Marcus Board Howard University
Monday, 9/25 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Patricia Ventura Spelman College
Monday, 10/2 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Elizabeth Bronwyn Boyd Independent Scholar
Thursday, 10/5 10:15 – 11:30am	Fellows' Meeting	Professional Development Session: Book Publishing
Monday, 10/16 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Shanté Paradigm Smalls NYU Tisch School of the Arts
Monday, 10/23 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Efren Pérez UCLA
Monday, 10/30 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Anastasia Curwood University of Kentucky
Wednesday, 11/1 10:15 – 11:30am	Fellows' Meeting	Professional Development Session: Grant Writing Speakers: Nicole Dancz-Bal and Hazel Kim

Date	Category	Topics & Speakers
Monday, 11/6 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Ashley Brown (JWJI Alum) University of Wisconsin
Monday, 11/13 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Sally Nuamah Northwestern University
Monday, 11/20 12-1:30pm	Colloquium	Marion Orr Brown University
Monday, 11/28 12-1:30pm	Colloquium	Emily Zobel Marshall Leeds Beckett University
Wednesday, 12/6 10:15 am– 12pm	Fellows' Meeting	Professional Development Session: Teaching Speaker: Donna Troka
Monday 1/16	Scholar Engagement Activity	Martin Luther King Day Observance
Monday, 1/22 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Sekou Franklin Middle Tennessee State University
Monday, 1/29 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Ashley Brown (JWJI Alum) University of Wisconsin-Madison
Monday, 2/5 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Dawn Duke University of Tennessee
Wednesday, 2/7 10:15 am– 12pm	Fellows' Meeting	Professional Development Session: Making Your Research Legible for Interdisciplinary Audiences
Monday, 2/12 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Melvin Rogers Brown University
Monday, 2/19 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Cecilia Marquez Duke University



Date	Category	Topics & Speakers
Monday, 2/26 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Vivian Huang San Francisco State University
Monday, 3/4 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Anita Casavantes Bradford UC Irvine
Wednesday, 3/6 10:15 am– 12pm	Fellows' Meeting	Professional Development Session: Public Speaking Speaker: Ed Lee
Monday, 3/18 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Tiffany Florvil University of New Mexico
Thursday, 3/21 12 – 1:30pm	Public Dialogue	White Liberalism
Monday, 3/25 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Quito Swan George Washington University
Monday, 4/1 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Amrita Myers Indiana University
Wednesday, 4/3 10:15 – 11:30am	Fellows' Meeting	Professional Development Session: Public Scholarship Speaker: Allison Adams
Monday, 4/8 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Raja Malikah Rahim (JWJI Fellow)
Monday, 4/15 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Kam Copeland (JWJI Fellow)
Monday, 4/22 12 – 1:30pm	Colloquium	Peniel Joseph University of Texas

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