

Welcome Back!

Newsletter

September 2023

In This Issue

- Letter from the Director
- Race and Difference Colloquium Series
- Welcome New Fellows

From the Director



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the new school year! At JWJI, our academic year starts in early August, when we welcome the new dissertation and postdoctoral fellows for orientation. I am excited about this year's cohort of fellows. They hail from a wide variety of disciplines and places, and their work is outstanding!

I am also excited about our undergraduate fellows. With the support of a grant from the Emory Black Alumni Impact Circle, we were able to recruit another outstanding class of gifted young scholars who have distinguished themselves academically. I cannot wait to see the honors theses they produce!

Most important, I cannot wait to introduce you to our fellows. In this newsletter, we begin the introduction. However, I hope that you will join us in person at one of our public events. There, it would be my pleasure to introduce you to these outstanding scholars in person! We have a terrific colloquium series lined up for this year. I do hope that you will join us.

As always, thank you for your continued support of JWJI. Your giving and your attendance mean the world to us, and we aspire to be good stewards of your time and resources.

In solidarity,

Andra Gillespie
Director

The **RACE & DIFFERENCE COLLOQUIUM** series resumes on September 11 with an all-star lineup of speakers. We hope that you can join us on Mondays at noon in the James Room of the Woodruff Library.



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

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

RACE & DIFFERENCE COLLOQUIUM SERIES 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 PARADIGM SMALLS
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 JOYCELYN WILSON
Georgia Tech
*The Sacred Universe of Hip Hop:
Reflections on a Middle Age Phenomenon*

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

11/20 MARION ORR
Brown University
*Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr.: The
Politics of Moderation and Black Political
Incorporation in the Era of Black Power*

11/27 EMILY ZOBEL MARSHALL
Leeds Beckett University
*A tricksters Tale: The Politics of Race and
Storytelling*



Lunch Provided

Please Register



Visit us at: www.jamesweldonjohnson.emory.edu/



Welcome New Fellows!



L to R: Antoniette Burrell Johnson, Antonio Kyler, Dallas Donnell, Gertrude M. James González de Allen, Monet Lewis-Timmons, Raja Rahim, Clark Brinson, Kameron Copeland, Andra Gillespie, Regina Simpkins

Meet the Visiting Fellows

Clark Brinson is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at Emory University where she also earned her MA. She earned her B.A. in psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in African American and African Diaspora Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her research focuses on inequality, social psychology, and the needs and experiences of queer communities and communities of color. Brinson's dissertation, "Planning Our Futures: A Qualitative Study of Family Formation Goals among Black Queer Women," examines family formation desires among Black queer-identified women living in Atlanta.

Kam Copeland received his Ph.D. in Cinema and Media Studies from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts in August 2023. Prior to joining the JWJI, he was the 2022-2023 Dissertation Fellow in the African and African Diaspora Studies Program at Boston College. Currently, he is working on his book project, "Muhammad Gazes: Islam, Blackness, and Resistance Cinema in the United States," which is a representational history of U.S. Black American Muslims in cinema. This project also explores how Black people have employed alternative gazes to craft liberatory cinematic practices—through home video, public television, and independent film—to challenge dominant representations of Black Muslimness.

Dallas Donnell is a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. He holds a M.A. in American Studies from the University of Maryland, and a B.A. in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies from the University of Chicago. Donnell's research interests are in the areas of Black radicalism, Black popular music, cultural trauma, and theories of social death. His dissertation, "Black Nightmare Imaginary: Popular Music, Collective Trauma, and the Intransigence of Anti-Black Violence", explores the relationship between Black popular music and violence, and the stakes of Black creative expression in an anti-Black world.

Gertrude M. James González de Allen is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Spelman College. Dr. González de Allen has degrees from Susquehanna University and Binghamton University of the State University of New York. She has held fellowships at the Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke University and the W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute at the Hutchins Center for African at Harvard University. Her writings focus on questions of identity and colonialism in the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States. She specializes in Afro-Caribbean philosophy, Afro-Latin thought and Africana philosophy. She is also interested in post-continental philosophy, theories about colonization/de-colonization & decolonial theory, theories about identity and the explorations of the intersections between philosophy, history, literature, art and culture.

Monet Lewis-Timmons is an English Ph.D. candidate at the University of Delaware. Her research highlights the archive of writer, educator, and activist Alice Dunbar-Nelson (1875-1935) to understand why and how Dunbar-Nelson crafted her collection throughout her lifetime. Monet also recognizes the role descendants play in preserving and maintaining their ancestor's archives as seen through the labor of Dunbar-Nelson's niece Pauline A. Young.

Raja Malikah Rahim is an Assistant Professor of African American History at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. She received her Ph.D. in History from the University of Florida, following the completion of her B.A. and M.A. degrees in history from North Carolina Central University. As a social and cultural historian, she specializes in African American history, U.S. history, Sport history, and Oral history. Rahim's current research places Historically Black College and University (HBCU) sports at the center of the long Black freedom movement by chronicling the history of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) through the broader lens of Black college basketball.

Meet the Undergraduate Fellows



Adeola Adelekan
Human Health Major



Madison Christine Li
Human Health Major



Andrea Snoddy
Anthropology and Human
Biology Major



Mckayla Morrison
African American Studies &
Sociology Major

This summer, we also welcomed our newest cohort of undergraduate fellows to JWJI. This outstanding group of scholars will complete their honors theses with support from JWJI. We are pleased to collaborate with the **Emory Black Alumni Impact Circle**, which has graciously agreed to fund the undergraduate fellowship program for the next three years. We are also grateful to the leadership of the ECAS Honors Committee, Professors Leah Roesch and Alissa Bans, for their help moving up the undergraduate application deadlines.

Interested in Donating?

We are grateful to our supporters! If you would like to financially support the work of JWJI, please use our [online giving portal](#).

Your gift is tax-deductible. Thank you so much for your investment in our work!



Visit us at jamesweldonjohnson.emory.edu to Learn More About JWJI and Our New Fellows

