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From the Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome back! We are thrilled to be able to offer you another year's worth of programming and scholarship! We have just welcomed an outstanding new cohort of visiting and undergraduate fellows to our program. And we have an exciting lineup of speakers for you this year.

We cannot wait to introduce our fellows to you in person at our first colloquium on September 15 in our new meeting location (2nd Floor, Emory Bookstore). These scholars continue JWJI's tradition of supporting top-notch, cutting-edge research on a wide range of topics related to the study of race and civil rights. Please welcome them to our community and support their research efforts.

The work we do at JWJI is so important, now more than ever. Our scholars are fighting the good fight: preserving untold histories, providing meaningful context, and offering important remedies to perpetual problems in our society. In a time of great uncertainty and challenge, the necessity of the research project sustains us, for we realize that our role in cutting through noise, providing honest analysis and outlining practical solutions is vital at this critical moment.

We thrive because of your active support! We're excited welcome you to our colloquium events starting September 15th, and we look forward to seeing you at our Fall Public Dialogue, which will be held on Saturday, October 25. We're especially grateful to those of you who offer financial support.

Thank you, as always, for the many ways you demonstrate the value of JWJI in our community. We look forward to seeing you soon.

In solidarity,
Andra Gillespie



RACE & DIFFERENCE

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

FALL 2025

9/15 LAHN SUNG KIM

University of California, Santa Cruz

Maid for Television: Race, Class,
Gender, and a Representational Economy

9/22 PATRICIA AKHIMIE

Folger Institute

Extra-Illustrating Othello

9/29 KHALIL ANTHONY JOHNSON, JR.

Wesleyan University

Schooled: An Unsettling History of
American Education

10/6 MAYUKH SEN

New York University

Becoming Hollywood's First South Asian
Star: Merle Oberon and the Legal Fiction
of Race in 20th Century America

10/20 JULIAN WAMBLE

George Washington University

We Choose You: How Black Voters
Decide Which Candidates to Support

10/27 NICOLE YADON

The Ohio State University

The Politics of Skin Tone

11/3 CAROLYN LIEBLER

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Mixed Heritage in the Family: Racial
Identity, Spousal Choice, and Child-
Rearing

11/10 JOAN FLORES-VILLALOBOS

University of Southern California

The Silver Women: How Black Women's
Labor Made the Panama Canal

11/17 MIRIAM THAGGERT

University at Buffalo

Jane Crow Travel: Black Women and
the American Railroad

11/24 HILARY GREEN

Davidson College

Towards a New Future in Civil War
Memory Studies

12/1 TRACEY WELDON

The University of South Carolina

Now That's a Word!
Middle Class African American English
and the Strategic Construction of
Identity



MONDAYS AT 12PM | Emory Bookstore (2ND FLOOR)

LUNCH PROVIDED | RVSP REQUESTED

JWJI.EMORY.EDU

Please join us!

[Click Here to Register or Scan the QR Code](#)



WELCOME NEW FELLOWS!

JWJI welcomed the 2025-2026 cohort of fellows in August 2025. This outstanding cohort of fellows represents a wide range of disciplines and research topics. Please learn about each fellow and their research project below:

JAMES T. LANEY DISSERTATION FELLOW



Allison Sullivan is a PhD candidate in sociology at Emory University. Her dissertation employs qualitative methods to examine Asian Americans' experiences with race, identity, emotions, culture, and inequality in the professional workplace and labor market. Prior to her time at Emory, Allison worked as a Fulbright English teaching assistant in South Korea, an elementary school teacher and Teach for America corps member, and a program coordinator for refugee youth. She holds a BA in political science and economics, an MS in conflict management, and an MA in sociology.

JWJI VISTING FELLOW



Jacinta Saffold is an Assistant Professor of African American Literature and Culture at the University of Delaware and the former endowed chair of Africana Studies at the University of New Orleans. As a digital archivist, she researches and teaches courses on 20th and 21st century African American literature, Hip Hop Studies, and the Digital Humanities. Currently, she is working on a first monograph, "Books & Beats: The Cultural Kinship of Street Lit and Hip Hop," and the Essence Book Project, a computational collection of popular African American Literature. Her work has been published in the *Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the U.S. Journal*, *Black Perspectives*, *Cultural Front*, and Bloomsbury's *#MeToo* and *Literary Studies Reading, Writing, and Teaching about Sexual Violence and Rape Culture*.

UNCF-MELLON FELLOW



Francisco (Paco) Chen-López is an Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Spelman College. He earned his Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Paco specializes in contemporary Spanish American narratives, with particular attention to the representation of the Chinese diaspora, place, and identity. His scholarly work has appeared in journals such as *Revista de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea*, *Transmodernity*, *Aérea*, *Chasqui*, *Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association (PALARA)*, and the *Latin American Literary Review*.

His research has been supported by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the Rockefeller Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), and the Mellon Foundation.

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS

In August, we welcomed our eighth cohort of undergraduate fellows to JWJI. This exceptional group of scholars will complete their honors theses with support from the institute. We are grateful for the support of the **Emory Black Alumni Impact Circle**, which is funding the Undergraduate Fellows Program for a third year.



Julia Kamara
Biology



Mya Green
History



Lola McGuire
Political Science



M Egberongbe
Psychology and African American Studies

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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