

SESSION 12

“Restoring the Indigenous voice in museums of early America”
A Public History Perspectives session

An exploration of how we interpret the archaeological and historical evidence of the Indigenous peoples of early America, and what approaches we take to provide them a voice. • Introduction by Cliff Fleet, CEO of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation • Moderated by Dr. Mariruth Leftwich, Senior Director, Museum Operations & Education, Jamestown Yorktown Foundation, and including the following guests: Fallon Burner, Indigenous Historian & Program Design Manager, Colonial Williamsburg • Sean Devlin, Curator of Archaeology, Colonial Williamsburg • Russell Reed, Paspahegh Town Acting Site Supervisor, Jamestown Yorktown Foundation • Dave Givens, Directory of Archaeology, Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation • Darius Coombs, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

6:30 pm – 7:15 pm

Please join us upstairs in the Art Museums Café for a light reception.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

AT THE W&M SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
 301 MONTICELLO AVENUE
 Registration opens at 8:30 am.

9:00 am – 10:30 am

SESSION 13

“Word Gets Around: The Circulation of Knowledge in Vast Early America”

Room 1056

Chair: Robyn Lily Davis (Millersville University) • Helena Yoo Roth (The Graduate Center, City University of New York), “Rethinking the Royal Proclamation of 1763: Who Knew What When, and Why That Matters” • E. Bennett Jones (California Institute of Technology), “Affirmed by the Indians’: Rattlesnake Fascination, William Henry Killbuck, and Indigenous Expertise” • Comment: Paul Mapp (William & Mary)

SESSION 14

“Indigenous Politics and Politics”

Dogwood Room

Chair: Joshua Piker (Omohundro Institute and William & Mary) • Keely Smith (Princeton University), “Acknowledge one to the face of the other’: Muscogee Sovereignty and the Power of Ete-Relationships, 1763-1783” • Austin Stewart (University of Missouri), “Cherokee Country or Native Country?: Cherokee Modes of Territoriality and Ideas of Independence in Revolutionary America” • Andrew Sturtevant (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire), “Out of Captivity like’: Contesting ‘Freedom’ and Autonomy in Pontiac’s War” • Eric Toups (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), “Bvlbancha: Place and Freedom in the Early Mississippi River Delta”

SESSION 15

Roundtable Discussion: “What Scholars Would Like the Public to Know About the American Revolution”

Holly Room

Organized and Moderated by Andrew Schocket (Bowling Green State University) for the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) and including • Leslie M. Alexander (Rutgers University) • David Waldstreicher (The Graduate Center, City University of New York) • Michael Witgen (Columbia University) • Serena Zabin (Carleton College) • Rosemarie Zagari (George Mason University)

SESSION 16

Workshop: “She had on when she went away...’: Using Material Culture to Free Self-Liberating Enslaved Women from the Silences of the Archive” *A Public History Perspectives session*

Room 2030

Rebecca Godzik (Colonial Williamsburg) • Emily Doherty (Pennsylvania Military Museum) • Hope Wright (Colonial Williamsburg)

10:30 am – 11:00 am

BREAK

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

SESSION 17

“Imagining Legitimate State Power: Perspectives from Britain, Pennsylvania, and Haiti”

Room 1056

Chair: Catherine E. Kelly (Omohundro Institute and William & Mary) • Angel-Luke O’Donnell (King’s College London), “For the More Perfect Satisfaction of the Public: Scrutinising the State in the 1776 Pennsylvania State Constitution” • Jesus Ruiz (Vanderbilt University), “Haitian Royalism: Emancipatory Thought in the Age of Slavery” • Robert Paulett (Southern Illinois University), “To Fetter and Enslave the King: Ideas of Freedom and Constitutional Reform in the Early Reign of George III” • Comment: Frank Cogliano (International Center for Jefferson Studies, Monticello)

SESSION 18

Workshop: “Storytelling as meaning making and history”

A Public History Perspectives session

Dogwood Room

Introduction by Peter Inker and Andre Taylor (Colonial Williamsburg) • Kathaleen Getward (Colonial Williamsburg)

SESSION 19

“Amplifying Indigenous History: Reaching Audiences and Institutions”

Holly Room

Sponsored by the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis • Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (William & Mary) • Kelly Berry (Kansas State University) • Lawrence Dunmore, an oral and Tribal historian and folklorist for the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation of North Carolina

SESSION 20

“Slavery and the Law in the Long Eighteenth Century: Contested freedoms in Florida, Georgia, and the Early National U.S.”

Room 2030

Chair: Matthieu Ferradou (Université Paris-Nanterre) • Andrew Miller (Tulane University), “The Trial of Mary Glass: Freedom, Slavery, and Murder in the Revolutionary Gulf South” • J.E. Morgan (Emory University), “Uncertain Status: Slavery, Marriage, and Property in Pre-Revolutionary Georgia” • Evan Turiano (Yale University), “Somerset and Subjecthood, Allegiance and Protection: Rereading Black Legal Rights in the Revolutionary Era”

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

LUNCH

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

SESSION 21

Roundtable Discussion: “Beyond an Age of Revolutions”

Room 1056

Organized and Moderated by Emma Hart (McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania) and Jessica Roney (Temple University) and including • Tim Grieve-Carlson (Westminster College) • Casey Schmitt (Cornell University) • Douglas Winiarski (University of Richmond) • Shavagne Scott (The Ohio State University)

SESSION 22

Roundtable discussion: On *The Odyssey of Phillis Wheatley: A Poet’s Journey Through American Slavery and Independence* (Farrar,

Straus and Giroux, 2023) by David Waldstreicher

Dogwood Room

Moderated by Carolyn Eastman and including • Mary Kelley (University of Michigan) • Carolyn Eastman (Virginia Commonwealth University) • Jennifer Rae Greeson (University of Virginia) • Cassandra Newby-Alexander (Norfolk State University) • Tara Bynum (University of Iowa) • Response: David Waldstreicher (City University of New York)

SESSION 23

Roundtable discussion: ““Indigenous America 250th’: Restoring Indigeneity during Commemorations of the American Revolution”

Holly Room

Moderated by Shaun Eyring (National Park Service) and including • Amanda Casper (National Park Service) • Eric Chiasson (National Park Service) • David Goldstein (National Park Service) • Brigid Hogan (National Park Service) • William Kelly (National Park Service) • Alyssa Mt. Pleasant (ATW Research)

SESSION 24

Roundtable discussion: “Freedom Across the Atlantic”

Room 2030

Moderated by Virginie Adane (Nantes Université) and including • Annika Bärwald (University of Bremen) • Matthieu Ferradou (Université Paris-Nanterre) • Megan Maruschke (Universität Leipzig) • Christine Mertens (Roosevelt Institute for American Studies, Leiden)

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Shuttle service available to the plenary session.

SESSION 25

“The Indigenous origins of the American revolution: historiography and American colonialism”

A talk by Ned Blackhawk (Yale University)

Ned Blackhawk is the Howard R. Lamar Professor of History and American Studies at Yale University and the faculty coordinator for the Yale Group for the Study of Native America. An enrolled member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, he is the author or co-editor of four books in Native American and Indigenous history, most recently *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History* (Yale University Press, 2023) • Professor Blackhawk will sign copies of his most recent book after the talk. We will have copies of the book available for purchase.

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

W&M INTEGRATED SCIENCE CENTER (ISC) 1221
 CAMPUS OF WILLIAM & MARY, 540 LANDRUM DRIVE

Look for the guides in Omohundro Institute baseball hats to lead you to the lecture hall.

**Note: Cars can drop off passengers at the ISC on Landrum Drive and then park in any available Faculty/Staff spot on Landrum Drive or in the parking lot behind Swem Library (also on Landrum Drive) or near the new W&M arts complex (on Jamestown Road). W&M Parking does not monitor parking passes on the weekend and all spaces are available for visitors and pass-holders alike.*

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

OI reception at the Wren Building in the Great Hall for all conference ticket holders.

The Wren Building is on W&M’s historic campus, on the lawn near the intersection of Jamestown and Richmond Roads.

We will have limited shuttle service between the ISC and the Wren building. The distance between the buildings is an approximately seven-minute walk. Guides will be on hand to show you the path through campus if you choose to walk.

CONTESTED FREEDOMS

*250 Years
 Of American
 Independence*

If the American Revolution inaugurated new ways of speaking and thinking about freedom, it also took place in and helped to create a world marked by multiple forms of unfreedom. Within the European-dominated colonies, nations, and empires of early America, slavery and subjugation as well as distinct economic and political constraints curtailed its rhetoric of universal rights.

Indigenous polities, too, sought to exercise their own ideas about freedom and unfreedom, while African-descended people struggled to enact projects of liberation and belonging. The contests between and within these groups throughout the Atlantic world were powerfully shaped by the efforts of individuals, communities, colonies, and nations to grapple with the opportunities and challenges of freedom and servitude in an Age of Revolution. The United States’ own contest for and over freedom both emerged in this context and reshaped it in ways that we continue to debate today. Those debates require engaging with early America’s contested freedoms. Join us for scholarly and public conversations exploring how freedom was defined and experienced in the long era of revolution.

In 2022, Colonial Williamsburg, the Omohundro Institute, and William & Mary joined together to host a series of five annual conferences to spotlight emerging research, connect a diverse public to scholars and research, and convene significant conversations about how and why understanding the early American past is especially meaningful today.



Colonial Williamsburg



WILLIAM & MARY
CHARTERED 1693

For information on future "For 2026" conferences, sign up for the Omohundro Institute newsletter via the OI website: <https://www.oieahc.wm.edu>.



OMOHUNDRO
INSTITUTE

The Omohundro Institute is an independent research organization sponsored by William & Mary, home of the nation's top-ranked graduate program in early American history and culture, and Colonial Williamsburg, the largest outdoor living museum in the United States.

FOR 2026
A FIVE-YEAR
CONFERENCE SERIES



WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

'22 '23 '24 '25 '26

CONTESTED
FREEDOMS

OCTOBER 26-28, 2023

Marking The 250th Anniversary
Of American Independence

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

ALL SESSIONS EXCEPT THE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY PLENARIES TAKE PLACE AT THE WILLIAM & MARY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION 301 MONTICELLO AVENUE, WILLIAMSBURG, VA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

EARLY REGISTRATION

Pick up your packet before the Friday morning rush.

AT THE W&M SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
301 MONTICELLO AVENUE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

9:00 am - 10:30 am

SESSION 1

"Compromised Freedoms: Political Compromise and the Limits of Liberty from the Founding to the Sectional Crisis"
Room 1056

Chair & Comment: Sandra Moats (University of Wisconsin-Riverside) • Nathaniel Green (Northern Virginia Community College), "Are They Not Persons, Too?": The Personhood of the Enslaved in the Debate over the Three-Fifths Clause" • Amanda Klug (University of Tennessee), "The Madison Papers and Political Compromise: Anti-slavery Reformers' Conflicting Memories of the 1787 Constitutional Convention"

SESSION 2

"Geographies of Freedom: Abolition, Captivity, and Mobility in the Wake of Revolution"
Dogwood Room

Chair & Comment: Samantha Seely (University of Richmond) Michael Blaakman (Princeton University), "Peter Martin's Odyssey: A Black Loyalist and the Many Authors of Upper Canadian Abolition" Scott Heerman (University of Miami), "The Limits of Free Soil: International Captivity in an Era of Revolution" • Christine Mertens (Roosevelt Institute for American Studies, Leiden), "Black Mobility Laws, Freedom, and Illegality in the Early Antebellum Upper South, 1790-1830s"

SESSION 3

"Contested Freedom, Contested Sovereignty in the Haitian Revolutionary Atlantic"
Holly Room

Chair & Comment: Julia Gaffield (William & Mary) Frances Bell (William & Mary), "At the Time of her Capture: Black Passengers and the Legalities of Privateering in the Haitian Revolutionary Atlantic" • Dante Barksdale (University of California, Davis), "Unwelcome Ignorance and Invited Educators: Civilization, religion, and education in Haiti, 1807-1825" • Leslie Alexander (Rutgers University), "Haiti Must Be Acknowledged: The Fight for Haitian Recognition in the United States" • Taneil Ruffin (Princeton University), "Of virtue becoming their situation: Black Catholic Women's Labors in Early Republican Baltimore"

SESSION 4

Roundtable discussion: "Contested Freedoms and the Public University Classroom"
Room 2030

Moderated by James Risk (University of South Carolina) and including • Christy Friend (University of South Carolina) • James Jeffries (Clemson University) • Jordan Ragusa (College of Charleston)

10:30 am - 11:00 am

BREAK

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

SESSION 5

"Freedom and Restriction at the Public Hospital of 1773"
A Public History Perspectives session
Room 1056

Chair: Ted Green (Colonial Williamsburg and Webster University) • Kelly Brennan (Colonial Williamsburg) • Margaret Perry (Colonial Williamsburg) • Christina Westenberger (Colonial Williamsburg)

SESSION 6

"City Space: Reckoning with Unfreedom and Place in Early America"
Dogwood Room

Chair & Comment: Zachary Dorner (University of Maryland) Sarah Pearlman Shapiro (Brown University) on single mothers of color in Providence • Elizabeth Schmidt (University of California, Santa Barbara) on culinary culture of (un)free Philadelphia Meg Roberts (University of Cambridge) on caregiving labor of Moravian women and men • Molly Nebiolo (Butler University) on Charleston waterways and "disgust"

SESSION 7

Roundtable Discussion: "Digitizing Revolution"
Holly Room

Organized and Moderated by Paul Erickson (William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan) for the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) and featuring • Alexandra Montgomery (The George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon) on the ARGO project • Sabrina Bocanegra (American Philosophical Society) on the "Revolutionary City" project • Cheney Schopieray (William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan) on the digitization of the papers of Thomas Gage

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

LUNCH

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

SESSION 8

"Slavery, Freedom, and Memory in Eighteenth-Century New England"
Room 1056

Chair & Comment: Terri Snyder (California State University, Fullerton) • Anna Suranyi (Endicott College), "The Limits of Freedom Suits: Enslavement and Emancipation in Revolutionary Massachusetts" • Gloria Whiting (University of Wisconsin-Madison), "Race and Policing in Eighteenth-Century New England" • Nicole Maskiell (University of South Carolina), "The Hidden Ones: Uncovering the

Histories of New England's Female Enslavers" • Elizabeth Matelski (Endicott College), "Finding Mingo: a Man, a Myth, and a Beach"

SESSION 9

Roundtable Discussion: "Intersections: Indigenous and Religious Histories"
Dogwood Room

Organized and Moderated by Mark Valeri (Washington University in St. Louis) for the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis and including • Ana Schwartz (University of Texas at Austin) • Joseph Zordan (Harvard University) • Rachel Wheeler (Indiana University Indianapolis) • T. Wyatt Reynolds (Columbia University)

SESSION 10

"Gender and the Disruptive Politics of Care in the Black and Indigenous Early Modern Caribbean"
Holly Room

Chair: Michael Becker (William & Mary) • Lila O'Leary Chambers (University of Cambridge), "Obbah her self featched Dirt from her Sisters Grave: Alcohol, Gender, and the Politics of Loss in the Early Modern Leeward Islands" • Shavagne Scott (The Ohio State University), "Tending to the Body: Maroon Women and the Maroon Landscape in Colonial Jamaica, 1700-1740" • Halle-Mackenzie Ashby (Johns Hopkins University), "Going off the Island: Litigious Mothers, Black Children and Labor Emigration from Barbados to Guyana, 1834-1875" • Thabisile Griffin (Southern California Institute of Architecture), "Abolition(s), Autonomy, and Property: Black Carib Women in St. Vincent, 1780-1796"

SESSION 11

Roundtable Discussion: "Gender and Sexual Freedoms: LGBTQ+ People in Revolutionary America"
Room 2030

Moderated by Leisa Meyer (William & Mary) and including • John McCurdy (Eastern Michigan University) on representations of male-male intimacy in Revolutionary America • Scott Larson (University of Michigan) on gender variance practices in Early America • Candice Lyons (University of California, Santa Barbara) on the letters of Phillis Wheatley and Obour Tanner • Sandra Slater (College of Charleston) on situating "deviancy" within the politics of the colonial world • Gregory Smithers (Virginia Commonwealth University) on the impact of the American Revolution on gender-fluid people in Native American communities

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Shuttle service available to the plenary session.

You need a valid pass to Colonial Williamsburg to attend the plenary session. Please plan to redeem your complimentary voucher for an active pass prior to attending the plenary session.

AT THE HENNAUGE AUDITORIUM, ART MUSEUMS OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG • 301 S. NASSAU ST.

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Continued on other side.