

**OI 28th Annual Conference
College of Charleston
June 12-14, 2025**

**Co-sponsored with the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World (CLAW) Program at
the College of Charleston**

Program Committee:

Brooke Bauer, University of Tennessee Knoxville
Joyce Chaplin, Harvard University (co-chair)
Alejandra Dubcovsky, University of California, Riverside
Elise Mitchell, Swarthmore College
Matthew Mulcahy, Loyola University Maryland (co-chair)
Joshua Piker, Omohundro Institute
Julie Reed, Pennsylvania State University
Sandra Slater, College of Charleston
Randy Sparks, Tulane University

Image Credits:

“The ichnography of Charles-Town at high water,” by G.H. (probably George Hunter, Surveyor-General of Carolina). Published by B. Roberts and W. H. Toms, London, 1739.
Image used courtesy of the John Carter Brown Library.

“Without” from the *London Evening Post* of Saturday, June 11, 1757. Published according to Act of Parliament by T. Ewart at the Bee Hive near St. Martin’s Lane in the Strand, London, 1757. Image used courtesy of the John Carter Brown Library.

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.

Thursday, June 12, 2025

**11:00 REGISTRATION OPENS
Rita Science Center Lobby**

**58 Coming Street
Charleston, SC 29401**

**SESSIONS 1-3
1:30-3:00 PM**

Session 1: “Revisiting *Black Majority*”

Rita Science Center Room 101

Chair: Jane Landers, Vanderbilt University

- Hayden R. Smith, College of Charleston
- D. Andrew Johnson, South Carolina Department of Archives and History
- Crystal Eddins, University of Pittsburgh
- Ras Michael Brown, Georgia State University
- Fernanda Bretones Lane, University of Florida

Comment: Peter H. Wood, Duke University

Session 2: “Perspectives from the Museum: Presenting difficult histories in challenging times”

Rita Science Center Room 102

Moderator: Peter Inker, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

- Janice Canaday, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Adam Canaday, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Toby Smith, former Cultural History Interpretation Coordinator, Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission
- Joseph McGill, Slave Dwelling Project, Ladson, SC

**BREAK
3:00-4:00 PM**

Please note that the distance between the afternoon sessions’ location and the keynote location is approximately one-half mile.

**Session 3
Keynote Lecture
4:00-5:30**

A talk by Deirdre Cooper Owens
Mother Emmanuel AME Church
110 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

"Let the Culture Be Your Resistance: Tracing the Gullah/Geechee Imprint on the Nation"

In her keynote address, **Deirdre Cooper Owens**, a Gullah/Geechee historian of the 19th century Black past, will discuss how the survival practices of Gullah/Geechee people serve as a model for how cultural resistance strengthened this nation. From the movement of African peoples off the continent's coast to the enslavement of their descendants for centuries, culture as manifested through spiritual practices, liberatory farming, education and political maneuvering, Low Country Black people have been at the forefront of liberation movements meant to free all people.

Followed immediately by a reception
Charleston Museum
360 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29401

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Coffee service and a book exhibit are available both Friday and Saturday in Randolph Hall in the historic Cistern Yard just around the corner from the Rita Science Center. Please follow the signs.

Friday, June 13, 2025

SESSIONS 4-6
9:00-10:30

Session 4: "Climate, Commodities, and Colonial Life"
Rita Science Center Room 101

Chair: Matthew Mulcahy, Loyola University Maryland

- Patrick Barker, Miami Dade College, "Extreme Weather and Plantation Life in Early Nineteenth Century Trinidad"
- Rob Paulett, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, "The Breeches of Britain: Using Deerskins to Rethink Production and Consumption in the Eighteenth-century Atlantic"

- Charlotte Leib, Yale University, "Revolutions in the Grass: Little Ice Age Agricultural Adjustments and the Acceleration of the 1740's-1770's in the Middle Colonies"

Comment: Eric Herschthal, University of Utah

Session 5: "Childhood in Vast Early America"

Rita Science Center Room 102

Chair: Holly White, William & Mary

- Aaron Hoggle, University of Alabama, "'I Have Bestowed a Livery': An English Widow and an Enslaved African Boy in Colonial South Carolina"
- Xinyi Hu, New York University, "Racial and Patriarchal Capitalism under the Apprenticeship System in Jamaica, 1834-1838"
- A.B. Wilkinson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, "Mixed-Heritage Families in the Colonial Chesapeake"

Comment: Audience

Session 6: "Women and Unfree Labor in Vast Early America"

Rita Science Center Room 103

Chair: Shavagne Scott, The Ohio State University

- Lindsay Keiter, Penn State Altoona, "Marriage Settlements and Family Property in Antebellum South Carolina"
- Deirdre Lyons, University of Chicago, "Women and Family Freedom Strategies in the French Antilles, 1830-1852"
- James Spady, Siena Taylor, Keito Newman (Soka University), and Anjan Rana Magar (Claremont Graduate University), "Where Were the Black Women of Charleston? Mapping Little-Known, Global Stories of Anti-slavery, Anti-racist Survivance in the early 1820s"

Comment: Audience

BREAK

10:30-11:00

SESSIONS 7-9

11:00-12:30

Session 7: “Faith, Empire, and Identity in the Atlantic World”

Rita Science Center Room 101

Chair/Comment: Doug Winiarski, University of Richmond

- Gail Coughlin, University of Minnesota, "'Thou Ancient Oak!': The Cognitive Roots of Religious Colonial Identities and Environmental Possession in 19th century Massachusetts and Minnesota"
- James L. Gorman, Johnson University, "'To Beget the Strongest Prejudices against Christianity': Missionary Motives for Opposing Slavery in the Early National Era"

Session 8: “Markets and Morals in the Early Atlantic World”

Rita Science Center Room 102

Chair/Comment: Lee Wilson, Clemson University

- Katie A. Moore, University of California, Santa Barbara, "Counter-history and Political Economy: Financial Instruments as Literary Texts in Early America"
- Greg Brooking, Fulton County Schools, "Henry Laurens: A Gentleman of Character and Experience in Trade"
- Lauren Davila, Tulane University, “The Largest Domestic Slave Auction: Overcoming Silences Through Public History”

Session 9: “Authority and its Discontents in Colonial New England”

Rita Science Center Room 103

Chair/Comment: Paul Musselwhite, Dartmouth College

- Can Mert Kökerer, University of Chicago, “The Meaning of Democracy in the Massachusetts Bay Colony: Unlimited Domination, Anti-Authority, or Mixed Government?”
- Nathan Braccio, Clark University, “Not Having the Fear of God Before Thine Eyes: Killing and Authority in Puritan New England”
- Arthur George Kamya, Boston University, “The Limits of Authority: Penal Policy and Servitude in Massachusetts Bay Colony”

LUNCH

12:30-2:00

Complimentary boxed lunches will be available in the book exhibit area.

SESSIONS 10-12

2:00-3:30

Session 10: “Porous Empires: the Circulation of People Beyond Imperial Frontiers”

Rita Science Center Room 101

Chair: María Esther Hammack, The Ohio State University

- Kristen Block, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, “Prestige and Danger at the Boundaries of Medicine and Empire”
- Ségolène Boutinot, Université de Sorbonne, “Self-interest and imperial loyalty: The Irish in the 18th Century French Caribbean Islands”
- Elodie Peyrol-Kleiber, Université de Poitiers, “From La Rochelle to Barbados and St. Kitts: French indentured servants in an English colony?”

Comment: Chris Hodson, Brigham Young University

Session 11: “Hebraic Models and Political Imagination in Early America”

Rita Science Center Room 102

Chair: Michael Hoberman, Fitchburg State University

- Israel Benporat, Yeshiva University, “Atlantic Exodus: Political Hebraism in Plymouth Colony”
- Nan Goodman, University of Colorado Boulder, “Increase Mather, Sabbatai Sevi, and Puritan Political Identity”
- Daniel Slate, University of Notre Dame, “The Chief Magistrate: Executive Power in light of Hebraic Republicanism”

Comment: Adam Lebovitz, University of Florida

Session 12: “Indigenous Sovereignty and Public History”

Rita Science Center Room 103

Chair/Comment: Brooke Bauer, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

- Joshua Catalano, Clemson University
- Denise Bossy, University of North Florida
- Stephen Criswell, University of South Carolina, Lancaster

BREAK

3:30-4:00

SESSIONS 13-15

4:00-5:30

Session 13: “Navigating Warscapes: Everyday Experiences of Warfare in the Greater Caribbean”

Rita Science Center Room 101

Chair/Comment: Ernesto Bassi, Cornell University

- Phoebe Labat, Brown University, “The American Revolution and Natural Disasters: A History of the Everyday Lives of Slaves in the French Caribbean”
- Rachel Tils, University of Chicago, “Marketing in the System: Policing the Antillean Internal Economy, 1776-1789”

Session 14: “Fluid Identities/Contested Spaces in Vast Early America”

Rita Science Center Room 102

Chair: Sophie White, University of Notre Dame

- Frances Kolb Turnbull, University of North Alabama, “Boundary Crossings and Expanded Opportunities: British Merchants and British Atlantic Trade Networks in the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1763-1783”
- Justin P. Jones, Vanderbilt University, “Sovereignty at Sea?: The Changing Oceanic Identities of Participants in the Illegal Slave Trade”
- Jessica Power, Fisk University, “The Occupation of Pensacola: Slavery and Sovereignty in the Gulf World Borderlands”

Comment: Kristen Block, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Session 15: “Environmental History in the Caribbean Beyond the Sugar Plantation”

Rita Science Center Room 103

Chair: Jennifer Anderson, Stonybrook University

- Keith Richards, Tulane University, “Land Use and the Environment in Cuba’s Cattle Industry, 1492-1700”
- Mary Draper, MSU Texas, “The Environmental History of the Port Royal Earthquake”

Comment: Keith Pluymers, Illinois State University

Saturday, June 14, 2025

Coffee service and a book exhibit are available both Friday and Saturday in Randolph Hall in the historic Cistern Yard just around the corner from the Rita Science Center. Please follow the signs.

SESSIONS 16-18
10:30-12:00

Session 16: “The Home Front: Households, Power, and Resistance in the Atlantic World”

Rita Science Center Room 101

Chair/Comment: Rob Taber, Fayetteville State University

- Hannah R. Abrahamson, College of the Holycross, “Hands that Grind and Feed: Maya Women’s Labor in Multiethnic Colonial Households”
- Amanda Faulkner, Columbia University, “Households Divided: Transatlantic Households in New Netherland”
- Caylin Carbonell, Bowdoin College, “Bonds of Unfreedom in Colonial New England Households”

Session 17: “Copper, Rainforest, and the Open Boat: Environmental Histories of the Early Caribbean”

Rita Science Center Room 102

Chair/Comment: Blake Scott, College of Charleston

- Handy Acosta Cuellar, Tulane University, “Forging Connections: Enslaved African Metallurgists and the Circulation of Technology in Early Colonial Cuba”
- Giovanna Montenegro, Binghamton University, “Moravian Missionaries and their Engagement with Saamaka Maroons’ Cultural Traditions”
- Catherine R. Peters, Omohundro Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, “The Open Boat and the Marketplace: Afro-Asian Histories and Ecologies of Early Nineteenth Century Trinidad”

Session 18: “Crossing boundaries: geographies of the passage between life and death”

Rita Science Center Room 103

Moderator: Peter Inker, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF)

- Cathy Hellier, CWF, “Taking Care of Horses”: Travel and Autonomy for Enslaved Male Domesticity in Eighteenth-Century Virginia”
- Kelly Brennan, CWF, “Within the graveyard's bounds: British North American burial spaces and the limits of British cultural influence”
- Nicole Isenbarger, Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, “A "Lot" not in "Common": Archaeological research on the c.1670 capital of the English Carolina colony”
- Sarah Platt, College of Charleston, “...and for mending the Guns of some of the Chickasaw Indians”: Colonial Entanglements and the Archaeology of Gunsmithing at 87 Church Street, Charleston

LUNCH

12:00-1:30

Complimentary boxed lunches will be available in the book exhibit area.

SESSIONS 19-21

1:30-3:00

Session 19: “Generations of Struggle: Black Life in South Carolina”

A panel sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies (MCEAS)

Rita Science Center Room 101

Chair: Emma Hart, MCEAS

- Erica Duncan, New York University, "Scripting Black Childhoods in Colonial South Carolina"
- Mélena “Mae” Laudig, Princeton University, "Carolina Crossroads: Black Childhood and the Spirit Worlds of Antebellum South Carolina"
- Madison Ogletree, Columbia University, “Geographies of Freedom: Mapping Free Afro-Americans in Rural South Carolina, 1790-1860”

Comment: Miya-Carey Agyemang, Loyola University Maryland

Session 20: “Closer and Closer Apart: Challenges and Opportunities in Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution”

Rita Science Center Room 102

Chair: Lawrence Peskin, Morgan State University

- Sarah Pearsall, The Johns Hopkins University

- Adam McNeil, Rutgers University
- Katherine Pemberton, South Carolina 250
- Alyssa Mt. Pleasant, ATW Research
- Sarah Weicksel, American Historical Association

Session 21: “Problematizing the Archive”

Rita Science Center Room 103

Chair/Comment: Juliana Barr, Duke University

- Zoe Waldman, University of Michigan, "Native Resistance at the Treaty of Hopewell, 1785-86"
- Kai Werner, William & Mary, "Inventing New Mexico: False Histories and Imaginative Geographies in Seventeenth-Century North America"
- Javaria Khalid Abbasi, University of Oxford, "Epistolary Conquest: The native world(s) of Hernán Cortés's *Cartas de relación* (1520) and John Smith's *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles* (1624)"

BREAK

3:00-3:30

SESSION 22

“Current Trends in Environmental History”

3:30-5:00

Rita Science Center Room 101

Chair: Matthew Mulcahy, Loyola University Maryland

- Jennifer Anderson, Stonybrook University
- Ryan Kashanipour, University of Arizona
- Hayley Negrin, University of Illinois Chicago
- Keith Pluymers, Illinois State University
- Thomas Wickman, Trinity College

Reception in Courtyard