



This conference is co-sponsored with the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World (CLAW) Program at the College of Charleston.



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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.



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28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

JUNE 12TH-14TH, 2025

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, 12TH JUNE

11:00 am

REGISTRATION OPENS

Alumni Hall in Randolph Hall
66 George Street, 2nd floor
Charleston, SC

1:30 pm -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: Sandra Slater, College of Charleston
• 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

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

BREAK

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

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

SESSION 3

KEYNOTE LECTURE
A talk by Deirdre Cooper Owens
Mother Emanuel 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

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

FRIDAY, 13TH JUNE

9:00 am - 10:30 am

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

10:30 am – 11:00 am

BREAK

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

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"

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

LUNCH

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

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

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

Continued on other side.