

**DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAM**  
**“FOR 2026: WARTIME TRANSFORMATIONS”**  
**OCTOBER 24-25, 2025**

*All sessions with the exception of the afternoon plenaries take place here:*

**William & Mary School of Education**  
**301 Monticello Avenue**  
**Williamsburg, VA 23185**

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*Registrants are invited to attend any of the following sessions.*

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**Friday, October 24**

**9:00-10:30 a.m.**

**1. “New Spatial Histories of Revolution: Wartime Transformations of Networks, Borders, and Place”**

**Matoaka Room A**

Chair & Comment    Lauren Duval, University of Oklahoma

Panelists            Adam X. McNeil, Woodson Institute at the University of Virginia, “‘stole my Child from me and Sent it to Virginia’: Black Mothers and the Separation of Children in the Revolutionary South”

Alexandra Montgomery, Center for Digital History, George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, “War and Settlement on the Frontiers of the American Revolution”

Alec Zuercher Reichardt, University of Missouri, “Keepers of a Moving Door: Mohawk Spatiality and Sovereignty Amid the Revolutionary War”

Helena Yoo-Roth, CUNY Graduate Center, "Temporal and Spatial Configurations of War and Peace: Richard Howe in 1755 and 1776"

## **2. "Religion, Conscience, and the Public Sphere"**

### **Matoaka Room B**

Chair & Comment Jessica Harland-Jacobs, University of Florida

Panelists Peter William Walker, University of Wyoming, "Reexamining Church and State during the Revolutionary War: Oaths, Fasts, and Prayers for the King"

Samuel Spencer Wells, Southern Utah University, "Damned Loyalists: Politicizing Conscience in the Revolutionary Era"

Kevin John Murphy, SUNY Stonybrook, "Coercion, Conscience, and Loyalty Oaths Amidst a Civil War, 1776-1783"

## **3. "Slavery, Race, and War in the Era of American Independence"**

### **Holly Room**

Chair & Comment John Harpham, University of Oklahoma

Panelists Steven Sarson, Université Jean Moulin, "'A Piratical Warfare': Jefferson's Attack on the Illegal Slave Trade as a Defense of American Slavery"

Christa Dierksheide, University of Virginia, "Aliens and Enemies: Jefferson's Wartime Antislavery"

Hannah Spahn, Freie Universität Berlin, "Wartime Transformations of the Declaration of Independence in the Black Enlightenment"

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### **Slate Seminar Session 1: "The Great Debate: Writing and the Williamsburg Bray School, 1760–1774"**

#### **Dogwood Room**

This session returns to and updates the debate on whether writing was taught at the Williamsburg Bray School.

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#### 4. "Divided Loyalties and the Consequences of Trans-Atlantic Civil War"

**Room 2056 (Note: Room 2056 is on the SECOND FLOOR.)**

Chair & Comment Rebecca Brannon, James Madison University

Panelists Travis Glasson, Temple University, "The Prohibitory Act and Choosing Sides in Revolutionary New York: The Case of the Ship George"

G. Patrick O'Brien, University of Tampa, "'One of Those Peaceable & Upright Citizens Who Were Associated with the Enemies of our Independence': Familial Patronage and Allegiance in the Revolutionary Era"

Shealynn Hendry, University of Cambridge, "'Our New Citizens are to Feast': James G. Forbes, the Haitian Revolution, and the Making of Americanness"

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#### **RevEd Sessions 1-3**

*All RevEd sessions will be held on the second floor of the building.*

RevEd 1: Julie Richter, Robyn Schroeder, & Sarah McCartney, National Institute of American History & Democracy, "History is an Active Verb: Using Buildings Material Objects to Connect Students to History"

**Room 2060**

RevEd 2: Jaie Pizzetti, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, "'No Property In Man': Slavery, Antislavery, and the Constitution at Philadelphia, 1787"

**Room 2066**

RevEd 3: Mitch Brown, William & Mary, "The American Revolution and the Classical Tradition"

**Room 2030**

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**11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

## 5. “Transforming Religious Commitment at the Edges of Empire”

### Matoaka Room A

Chair & Comment Christopher Hodson, Brigham Young University

Panelists Christopher Jones, Brigham Young University, “On the Margins of a Holy Nation: Dorcas Lillie and Quakerism in the Revolutionary Atlantic World”

Sarah Barringer Gordon, University of Pennsylvania, “The Price: Faith and Loss in the Revolution”

Kara M. French, William & Mary, “Ann Lee's Treason: Sexuality and Religion in Revolutionary NY”

## 6. “Interpreting the Material and Ecological Revolution”

### Matoaka Room B

Chair & Comment Julie Richter, William & Mary

Panelists Kenneth Cohen, Smithsonian Institution, “Interpreting the Gunboat Philadelphia Anew: Toward a Public-Facing Labor History of the Revolution”

Evan Bell, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, “Discovering the Williamsburg Barracks”

John Peter Antonacci, Binghamton University, “The Seven Years' War and the Environmental Transformation of the American Frontier”

## 7. “Trauma and Transformation in the Revolutionary War”

### Holly Room

Chair & Comment Don Johnson, North Dakota State University

Panelists Mary Stockwell, Independent Scholar/Lourdes University, “‘This Horrid Trade of Blood’: The Revolutionary Transformation of Anthony Wayne”

Julia Osman, Mississippi State University, “Where Global Meets Local: The American Revolution in the Lives of French Soldiers”

Samantha Vivian, University of Kentucky, “Cadence and Consequence: Instrumental Traumatic Response in Soldiers during the American Revolutionary War”

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**Slate Seminar Session 2: “African Americans and the Year of the Environment”**

**Dogwood Room**

In honor of W&M’s Year of the Environment, this session explores engagement with local land and waterways.

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**8. Workshop: “Pensions, Petitions, and Property: Charting Wartime Transformations through Primary Sources for Educators”**

**Room 2056 (Note: Room 2056 is on the SECOND FLOOR.)**

Moderator Christopher Minty, University of Virginia

Discussants Abby Mullen, US Naval Academy

Dillon Streifeneder, US Naval Academy

Matthew Dziennik, US Naval Academy

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**RevEd Sessions 4-5**

RevEd 4: Cece D’Arville, The Valentine Museum, “Revolutionary Moments: Using Timelines to Support Student Critical Thinking”

**Room 2060**

RevEd 5: Isabel Rivero & Celia Maldonado, Queen Sofía Spanish Institute, “Spanish Influence on the American Revolution: Explore the Digital Resource Suite”

**Room 2066**

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**LUNCH 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.**

*Food trucks will be parked outside the School of Education and there are many other options along Monticello Road and on Richmond Road as well.*

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**2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

**9. Roundtable: “Reflections on and/or Recent Developments in the Military History of the American Revolution”**

**Matoaka Room A**

Chair                      Ricardo A. Herrera, U.S. Army War College

Discussants            H.E. Selesky, University of Alabama

                              Huw Davies, King’s College London

                              Friederike Baer, Penn State-Abington

                              David Preston, The Citadel

**10. “Slavery, Abolition, and Religion”**

**Matoaka Room B**

Chair & Comment      Dee E. Andrews, Cal State East Bay

Panelists                Jonah Rowen, Vassar College, “Land, Labor, and Liberation in Sierra Leone after the War of Independence”

                              John T. Lowe, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, “Early Evangelical Abolitionism through the American Revolution”

John Balz, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Revisiting German Opposition to the 1780 Pennsylvania Abolition Law"

## 11. "Gender, Violence, and Revolution"

### Holly Room

Chair & Comment Alexandra Garrett, St. Michael's College

Panelists Ervin Leon Jordan, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia "I gave her eighty lashes, well laid on': Experiences of Afro-Virginian Women in Revolutionary War Virginia"

Emilee N.K. Robbins, UNC-Greensboro, "Female Autobiography and the Impacts of Independence"

Kirsten A. Smitherman, William & Mary, "Liberty, Seduction, and Subjugation: The Sexualized Female Body in Revolutionary Political Imagery"

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### Slate Seminar Session 3: "Wartime Transformations: Bray School Scholars and the American Revolution"

#### Dogwood Room

In keeping with this year's conference theme, this session will explore how Bray School scholars and their descendants shaped and were shaped by the American Revolution and American military service more broadly.

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### RevEd Sessions 6-7

RevEd 6: Sophia McCrimmon, The Valentine Museum & Geneva Weidhaas, Preservation Virginia, "The Chief Justice, The Traitor, and the Tory: Exploring Aaron Burr's Treason Trial"  
**Room 2060**

RevEd 7: Anne Walker, Prince William County Schools and Northern Virginia Community College, "Revolution Through Native Eyes: The Oneida and Virginia's Indigenous Communities"

Room 2066

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**5:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

**A Talk by Shirley L. Green**

University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University, Director of the Toledo Police Museum

“Revolutionary Blacks: Discovering the Frank Brothers, Freeborn Men of Color, Soldiers of Independence”

*Dr. Green will speak about her recent book, Revolutionary Blacks: Discovering the Frank Brothers, Freeborn Men of Color, Soldiers of Independence (Westholme Publishing, 2023). The narrative follows the lives of William and Benjamin Frank, two brothers who enlisted in Second Rhode Island Regiment during the American Revolutionary War in the spring of 1777. Their military experiences quickly diverged, and Dr. Green explores their stories to provide context and substance to the Black experience during the war years, as well as underscore the significant distinction between free Blacks in military service and those who had been enslaved.*

Hennage Auditorium  
Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg  
301 South Nassau Street  
Williamsburg, VA

Seating begins at 4:30 p.m. | Program begins at 5:00 p.m.

Reception follows.

\*On-the-street parking is available near the museum, including several Handicapped Accessible spaces. In addition, the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) bus #8 stops in front of the School of Education and travels to the W&M Campus Center on Jamestown Road (a 10-minute walk from the Art Museum.)

The walking distance between the School of Education and the Art Museum is approximately 40 minutes.

**Saturday, October 25**

**9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

**12. Home and Away: “Experiences of Community, Family, and Conflict in the Atlantic World”**



### **Matoaka Room A**

Chair & Comment     Scott Heerman, Omohundro Institute

Panelists             Avonlea Claire-Maline Bowthorpe, William & Mary, "Gifts for Catherine Russell: Gender, Conflict, and Commerce in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World"

Marley Lix-Jones, Harvard University, "Disturbed Districts: Home, Black Placemaking, and Slave Rebellions in the Age of Revolutions"

Greta Swain, University of North Texas, "Nodes and Networks: Female Connections, Kinship and Mobility in the 18th Century Chesapeake"

### **13. Roundtable: "Disability in the Vast Early Americas: State-of-the-Field"**

#### **Matoaka Room B**

Moderators             Laurel Daen, University of Notre Dame

Stefanie Hunt-Kennedy, University of New Brunswick

Discussants             Ittai Orr, University of Michigan

Sari Altschuler, Northeastern University

Dea Boster, Columbus State Community College

Benjamin Irvin, University of Indiana, Bloomington

### **14. "Diplomacy and Political Strategy in the American Revolution"**

#### **Holly Room**

Chair & Comment     Jessica Choppin Roney, Temple University

Panelists             Nathaniel Green, Northern Virginia Community College, "The Three-Fifths Strategy: The American Revolution and the Origins of the Three-Fifths Clause"

Sandra Moats, University of Wisconsin, Parkside, "A Transformative Approach to American Diplomacy"

Tyson Reeder, Brigham Young University, "James Madison on Currency Depreciation and National Security"

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**Slate Seminar Session 4: “Lord Dunmore’s Proclamation at 250: Revisiting Virginia’s Black Loyalist History”**

**Dogwood Room**

Marking 250 years since Lord Dunmore’s Proclamation, this session explores the significance of Dunmore’s Proclamation and connections to Black Loyalist journeys.

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**RevEd Sessions 8-10**

RevEd 8: Craig Blackman, Norfolk County Historical Society, “In Search of the Promised Land: Black Loyalist Migration after the American Revolution”

**Room 2060**

RevEd 9: Adrienne G. Whaley, Museum of the American Revolution, “When Women Lost the Vote: A Revolutionary Story in Documents and Objects”

**Room 2066**

RevEd 10: Heather Nice & Jordan Hammond, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, “Welcome to the Revolution: Using history.org’s Primary Sources and Engaging Videos to Teach Wartime Transformations”

**Room 2030**

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**11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**15. “Revolutionary Violence and the Law”**

**Matoaka Room A**

Chair & Comment     Sally Hadden, Western Michigan University

Panelists             Holly Brewer, University of Maryland, “Revolutionary Promises and Imperial Debts: Protecting Slavery in the Treaty of Paris”

Daniel Hulsebosch, NYU School of Law, "The Crowd and the Law"

William Novak, University of Michigan Law School, "Legislation, Regulation, and Administration in the American Revolution"

## 16. "War on the Peripheries of the British, French, and Spanish Empires"

### Matoaka Room B

Chair & Comment Kathleen DuVal, University of North Carolina

Presenters Nicholas McKenna, Johns Hopkins University, "Before the Shot (Heard 'Round the World)"

Heather Freund, University of Copenhagen, "The French Occupation of the Ceded Islands"

Max Flomen, West Virginia University, "The Age of Revolutions in the US-Mexico Borderlands, 1780s-1820s"

## 17. "Legacies of Violence in the Empire and the Republic"

### Holly Room

Chair & Comment Robert Parkinson, Binghamton University

Presenters: Christian Sloan, University of Notre Dame, "The Warrior and the Weapon: Applying Lessons in Warfare to Visions of Empire and Nation"

Justin Iverson, US Air Force, "'With Slavery and Tyrants to Obey': Revolutionary Veterans and the Ethiopian Regiment"

John Ruddiman, Wake Forest University, "Seeing and Hiding Black Continental Soldiers"

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## Slate Seminar Session 5: "*The New Negro* at 100: Are We Having a Williamsburg Renaissance?"

### Dogwood Room

This session celebrates the 100th anniversary of Alain Locke’s edited collection, *The New Negro*, and surveys artistic and cultural production in the Williamsburg area.

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## **18. “Local and State Governance in the American Revolution”**

**Room 1056 (Note: Room 1056 is on the FIRST FLOOR.)**

Chair & Comment     Rosemarie Zagarri, George Mason University

Panelists             Mark Boonshoft, Virginia Military Institute, “Constitution Writing”

                             Susan Brynne Long, University of Nebraska, “Transformation of Prisoner Administration”

                             James Hrdlicka, Arizona State University, “Studying State Governments during the Revolution: Challenges and Opportunities”

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## **RevEd Sessions 11-13**

RevEd 11: Felicia Abrams and Alexandra Powell, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, “Escape from the Ordinary: Using Escape Rooms to Explore Founding Principles”

### **Room 2060**

RevEd 12: Julia Chaffers, Encyclopedia Virginia with Peter Hedlund, Chris Mathews, and Anne Walker, “A Revolutionary Resource: Using Encyclopedia Virginia in the Classroom”

### **Room 2066**

RevEd 13: Sam Futrell & Conor Molloy, William & Mary, “Sound the Revolution: Podcasting for Deeper Learning”

### **Room 2030**

**LUNCH 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.**

*Food trucks will be parked outside the School of Education and there are many other options along Monticello Road and on Richmond Road as well.*

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**2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

**19. Workshop: “Beyond Lafayette: Telling the French Story in Revolutionary Public History and Digital Humanities”**

**Matoaka Room A**

Moderator Iris deRode, University of Virginia

Discussants Thomas G. Lannon, American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati

Alexandra Montgomery, Center for Digital History, George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon

James Taub, Museum of the American Revolution

Johnny Carawan, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, National Park Service

**20. “Local Economies at War”**

**Matoaka Room B**

Chair & Comment Andrew Schocket, Bowling Green State University

- Panelists                      Donovan Fifield, University of Tübingen, "Municipal Finance and the Political Economy of Revolution: The Case of Boston, 1768-1775"
- Eleanor McConnell, Frostburg State University, "The Property of Anguish: Economic Discontent in the Early National 'Colony' of New Jersey"
- Ken Banks, Wofford College, "The Privateer Prize-Auction Nexus: Sustaining Maritime Communities in Revolutionary War"

## 21. "Refugees and Returnees: War and Post-War Dislocations"

### Holly Room

- Chair & Comment        Martha J. King, Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Princeton University
- Panelists                      Christopher F. Minty, Center for Digital Editing, University of Virginia, "Loyalism and the Realities of Wartime Allegiances in Revolutionary New York"
- William M. Ferraro, Washington Papers, University of Virginia, "The Dark Side of the British Surrender at Yorktown: Virginia Officials, George Washington, and the Fates of Enslaved Laborers"
- Holly A. Mayer, Duquesne University, "Women's Places with the Continental Army: Moving Households by Choice and under Duress"

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## Slate Seminar Session 6: "*Bray School Stories* on Location: Deepening Understanding and Connection"

### Dogwood Room

In a W&M Bray School Lab first, genealogist Elizabeth Drembus closes the Slate Seminar by hosting an episode of her monthly genealogy series, *Bray School Stories*, with special guests and research updates.

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## 22. "Native Experiences of War and Revolution"

**Room 1056 (Note: Room 1056 is on the FIRST FLOOR.)**

Chair & Comment     TBD

Presenters            Bryan C. Rindfleisch, Marquette University, "The Corn Wars of the American Revolution: Warfare, Gender, the Environment, & Colonialism in the Native South"

John W. Nelson, Texas Tech University, "Unconquered Anishinaabewaki: Indigenous Chicago's Long War for Independence"

Jennifer McCutchen, University of St. Thomas, "Gunpowder Diplomacy and Muskogee Creek Power during the American Revolution"

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**RevEd Sessions 14-16**

RevEd 14: Kara Lawrence, Norfolk Public Schools, "Homecoming & Revolution: Mapping the Geography of Freedom in Norfolk"

**Room 2060**

RevEd 15: Catherine VanDyke, Geri Kuster, & Shannon Kuster, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, "Personal Revolutions: Analyzing Wartime Choices, Challenges, and Changes"

**Room 2066**

RevEd 16: Heather Nice & Andy Engel, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, "Transformative Ideas: How the Declaration of Independence Shaped American Ideals and Values"

**Room 2030**

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**5:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

**A Talk by Robert Parkinson**  
Binghamton University  
"Heart of American Darkness"

*On April 30, 1774, something very terrible happened where Yellow Creek empties into the Ohio River, which led to the deaths of eight Indigenous people. That incident spiraled into a bloody war between Virginia and Native peoples in the Ohio County at the same time that the First Continental Congress sat in Philadelphia. This talk will explore how the Yellow Creek Massacre happened, who did it, and what it means—and how we narrate it.*

Glenn Close Theatre  
PBK Memorial Hall  
Campus of William & Mary  
601 Jamestown Road,  
Williamsburg, VA  
Seating begins at 4:30 p.m. | Program begins at 5:00 p.m.  
Reception follows.

The walk between the W&M School of Education and PBK Hall, beginning at Compton Drive (behind the W&M SOE), is approximately 25 minutes. (Alas, no WATA bus service runs from the W&M SOE on Saturdays.)

There is ample parking near the theatre. W&M Parking restrictions are not enforced between 5:00 p.m. on Fridays and 7:00 a.m. on Mondays. Spaces marked Faculty/Staff, etc., are open to all.