

2021

SLAVERY, RACE & MEMORY PROJECT

Interim Report



With the emergence of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, the Slavery, Race and Memory Project has continued providing programming, support, and guidance towards the research, preservation, and communication of an accurate depiction of the University's relationship to slavery and its implications across Wake Forest's history.

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*Wake Forest Historical Museum Internship
Awarded to Kate Pearson*



"...I have held a special interest in the genealogy of Black people in the United States."

After a rigorous selection process, the Wake Forest Historical Museum has hired a Wake Forest University student intern to assist museum staff with research related to the Slavery, Race, and Memory Project during the spring 2021 semester. Under the mentorship of museum professionals, Kate Pearson will conduct research to identify and learn more about African Americans connected to Wake Forest University's original campus between 1820 and 1930. This project will support the development of future courses and exhibits at the Wake Forest Historical Museum and provide a resource for community members interested in family history and genealogical research.

"Before my arrival at Wake Forest University, I have held a special interest in the genealogy of Black people in the United States. Whether it has been working behind the scenes at local historical sites in my hometown of Mount Holly, New Jersey, or my most recent work with the Reynolda House Museum, I have been pushing for equitable and diverse representation of Black experiences in archival spaces."

Kate Pearson
Junior, Wake Forest University
Wake Forest Historical Museum Intern

“Representation Matters: Art, Space and Racial Restitution,” A Virtual Webinar

In January 2020, 16 students in art history professor Jay Curley’s seminar class started researching and studying Black contemporary art for the spring semester. The research included viewing and discussing works in a collection belonging to Wes and Missy Cochran, a LaGrange, Georgia, couple who has amassed more than 700 works. Eager to see these works shine a light on Black life and culture, the Cochrans invited students to select works from their collection for an exhibition in Wake Forest’s Hanes Gallery. 41 works were selected and are on exhibit in Wake Forest University’s Hanes Gallery through March 28, 2021.

**WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY**

Co-Sponsored by
Slavery, Race, & Memory Project &
#WaketheArts

Representation Matters: Art, Space, and Racial Restitution Virtual Webinar

Featuring: "Explorations of Self:
Black Portraiture from the
Cochran Collection" at the
Hanes Gallery

September 30, 2020
6:00p - 7:30p



Corey D. B. Walker
Wake Forest Professor
of the Humanities
Moderator



Omari Scott Simmons
Howard L. Oleck Prof. of
Business Law
Director of Business Law, WFU



John J. Curley
Associate Professor
of Modern & Contemporary Art, WFU



Jane Anderson
Principal, Cultural Practice Director
SmithGroup, WFU '93



Camille Billops
Kaokiang Series #9
1998, 2012, color offset lithograph
Courtesy of the Cochran Collection,
Permission to reproduce by Hatch Billops Collection

SRMP Vision Statement

To guide the research,
preservation, and communication
of an accurate depiction of the
University's relationship to
slavery and its implications across
Wake Forest's history.

Register for Virtual Webinar at:
https://wakeforest-university.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lgfmw50cREur_onRBNHOVQ

On September 30, 2020, with Wake the Arts, SRMP sponsored a virtual webinar entitled, "Representation Matters: Arts, Space, and Racial Restitution." Panelist included Wake Forest law professor Omari Scott Simmons, former co-owner of an art gallery with an extensive collection of Black art, Jane Anderson, a Wake Forest alumna and architect whose work with cultural institutions confronts the challenges of race, history and memory, and Curley, whose students curated the works on exhibit.

-Kim McGrath
Media Contact

Universities Studying Slavery Fall 2020 Webinar "Complicity & Complexity: Facing Unbearable Truths in North Carolina"

As a result of the uncertainties of COVID-19, Fall 2020 conference hosts Guilford College, Greensboro, NC and Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, postponed our Fall 2020 USS conference hosting to Spring 2022. As a prelude to the Spring 2022 meeting, six North Carolina institutions offered a webinar on Thursday, October 1, 2020. Presenters previewed their research as well as the memorials, markers, and museums that participants will have an opportunity to visit when the event returns to Greensboro and Winston-Salem, North Carolina in Spring 2022. Institutions of the Triad region of North Carolina came together for a panel to share discoveries and insights from interdisciplinary place-based research on slavery and its enduring legacies

With the recent killings of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and so many others as a direct legacy of slavery, following the panel space was provided for participants to join an open conversation on slavery, race and policing in the context of our work with Universities Studying Slavery which was contextualized in a keynote address by Wake Forest University Vice Provost and SRMP Co-Chair Kami Chavis.

Universities Studying Slavery (USS)

Fall 2020 Webinar: "Complicity & Complexity: Facing Unbearable Truths in North Carolina"

Oct. 1, 2020
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. EST (Free via Zoom)

Join us on **October 1, 2020** as institutions of the **Triad region of North Carolina** come together for a panel to share **discoveries and insights** from interdisciplinary place-based research on **slavery** and its **enduring legacies**. Following the panel, you are invited to an open discussion on the history of **slavery, race and policing**.

Presenters:

- Guilford College
- International Civil Rights Center and Museum
- North Carolina A&T State University
- Old Salem Museum & Gardens
- Salem Academy and College
- Wake Forest University

Registration: <https://bit.ly/USSwebinar>

Robert W. Lee: A Virtual Conversation

On October 7, 2020, as part of *A Deeper Dive – Cultivating Inclusive Spaces Series* by the Wake Forest Baptist Health Office of Inclusion and Diversity, and the Hospital Medicine Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and SRMP co-sponsored Virtual Conversation with Robert W. Lee.

Lee, a local pastor who is a descendent of the infamous confederate general, Robert. E. Lee and author of *A Sin By Any Other Name*. The author discussed his personal experience growing up in North Carolina and his journey fighting for racial justice as an example for others.

"Rev. Robert W. Lee... shared his powerful insights regarding the legacy of race and racism. His voice is particularly inspiring as he provided us a model for unlearning normative language, traditions, ways of being in the world, and committing ourselves to projects to support racial equity and anti-racism.



Rev. Robert W. Lee

"He provided us a model for unlearning normative language...and committing ourselves to projects to support racial equity and anti-racism."

Dave McIntosh, Ph.D

Vice President and
Chief Inclusion and
Diversity Officer
Wake Forest Baptist
Medical Center

On the Subject of Roots: The Ancestor as Institutional Foundation



Roderick Ferguson, Ph.D

October 20, 2020, Roderick Ferguson, Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and American Studies at Yale University, discussed how interdisciplinary fields are constituted by their negotiation with political power beyond the university and institutional power within it. Professor Ferguson addressed Wake Forest's present endeavors to research and document its racist past and to establish programs and centers of study on race and African American Studies.

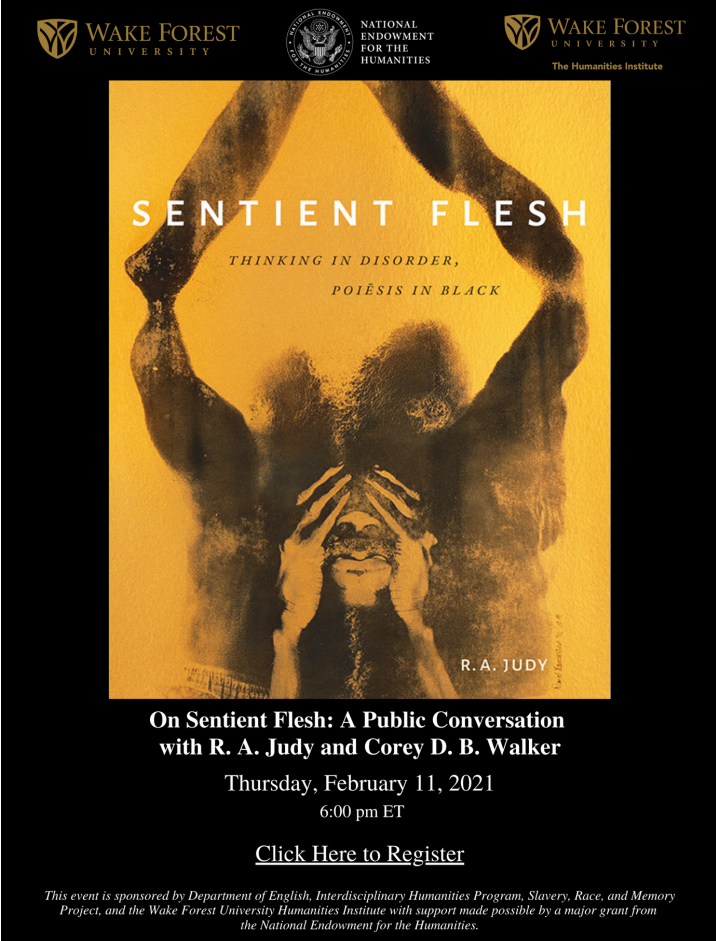
A panel of Wake Forest faculty — Kristina Gupta, William Mosley, and Corey D.B. Walker — reflected on and responded to Professor Ferguson's talk at its conclusion. This event was sponsored by Wake Forest University Humanities Institute and Slavery, Race and Memory Project.

"Professor Ferguson closed by enjoining us to "to insert into the everyday practice of teaching the 'undisciplined'," adding that "students are our opportunity. The existing model is about disciplining students into existing logics. [However] it is completely within our power to produce other kinds of teaching that don't make disciplinarity—fitting them within the discipline, getting them to pledge allegiance [to a single model of knowledge]—its goal. That is completely possible." "

Dean Franco
Professor of English
Humanities Institute, Director

On Sentient Flesh

On February 11, 2021, Professor of Critical and Cultural Studies in the Department of English at the University of Pittsburgh, R.A. Judy will join Wake Forest Professor of the Humanities, Corey D.B. Walker for a public conversation on Judy's latest book, *Sentient Flesh: Thinking in Disorder, Poiesis in Black*. This event is being sponsored by African American Studies, English, Interdisciplinary Humanities, Slavery, Race, and Memory Project, and Wake Forest University Humanities Institute. The event will be presented via Zoom and is open to the public.



The poster features a central image of a person's face and hands, rendered in a dark, textured style against a bright yellow background. The title 'SENTIENT FLESH' is prominently displayed in white capital letters. Below it, the subtitle 'THINKING IN DISORDER, POIESIS IN BLACK' is written in a smaller, italicized font. The names 'R. A. JUDY' and 'Corey D. B. Walker' are visible in the bottom right corner of the image area. The top of the poster includes logos for Wake Forest University, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Wake Forest University Humanities Institute. The event details, including the date and time, are listed below the image, along with a link to register. At the bottom, a small line of text provides information about the event's sponsorship.

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
The Humanities Institute

SENTIENT FLESH
*THINKING IN DISORDER,
POIESIS IN BLACK*
R. A. JUDY
Corey D. B. Walker

**On Sentient Flesh: A Public Conversation
with R. A. Judy and Corey D. B. Walker**
Thursday, February 11, 2021
6:00 pm ET
[Click Here to Register](#)

This event is sponsored by Department of English, Interdisciplinary Humanities Program, Slavery, Race, and Memory Project, and the Wake Forest University Humanities Institute with support made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Spring 2021 Upcoming Events

For upcoming events please visit our [website](#).

To stay informed of our progress and upcoming events of interest
[subscribe to our mailing list](#).