SEA Biennial Conference, March 3-7, 2021
All Virtual Conference (via ExOrdo)

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES KEYNOTE
Joycelyn Moody


LATINX STUDIES KEYNOTE: “YESTERPLACE”
Rodrigo Lazo

Rodrigo Lazo is professor of English at the University of California, Irvine. His research is highly interdisciplinary and is in dialogue with American literature, Latino studies, and Latin American studies. His latest book, Letters from Filadelfia: Early Latin American Literature and the Trans-American Elite (UVA Press, 2020) focuses on Spanish-language writing published in Philadelphia in the early nineteenth century and offers a detailed study of a hemispheric public sphere that veers away from the excessively Anglophone and Angloconcentric conceptions of traditional Latin American literature and culture. His work also appeared in an edited collection of articles called The Latin Nineteenth Century, which brings together prominent scholars working in the archival recovery and comparative textual analysis of writing by Latinos and Latinas who lived in the United States from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Other research projects include articles on archive theory and representations of torture.

NATIVE & INDIGENOUS STUDIES KEYNOTE ROUNDTABLE
Brooke Bauer, Malinda Maynor Lowery, & Julie L. Reed

Brooke Bauer is a citizen of the Catawba Nation of South Carolina, an Assistant Professor of History at the University of South Carolina Lancaster, and Co-Director of Native American Studies at USCCL. Her research and teaching interests center on Native American history, Early American History, women’s history, and Indigenous material culture. Bauer’s research concentrates on Catawba women’s crucial role in nation building from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries. She examines the ways that Catawba Indian’s female ancestors adapted to an evolving geopolitical space, a world shattered by Indian slavery, warfare, disease, and population decline and decimation. Catawba customs, however, persisted because of these women, and their practices were essential to building the Catawba Nation that we know today.

Malinda Maynor Lowery is a historian and documentary film producer who is a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. She is a Professor of History at UNC-Chapel Hill and Director of the Center for the Study of the American South. Her second book, The Lumbee Indian: An American Struggle, was published by UNC Press in 2018. The book is a survey of Lumbee history from the eighteenth century to the present, written for a general audience. Her first book, Lumbee Indians in the Jim Crow South: Race, Identity, and the Making of a Nation (UNC Press, 2018), won several awards, including Best First Book of 2018 in Native American & Indigenous Studies. She has written over twenty book chapters or articles on topics including American Indian migration and identity, school desegregation, federal recognition, religious revivalism, and foodways, and has published essays in the New York Times, Oxford American, The North Star, The Conversation, Daily Yonder, and SlateMagazine. She has won fellowships and grants from the Lumbee Heritage Foundation, the Documenting the Homfray, the Lumbee Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and others. Films she has produced include the Peabody Award-winning A Chef’s Life (PBM, 2013-2016), the Emmy-nominated Private Violence (broadcast on HBO in 2013), In the Light of Evermore (Focus on PBS in 2011), and two short films: Real Indian (1994), and Focus of Faith (1997), both of which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Julie L. Reed is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and an associate professor of history at Penn State University. Julie’s research focuses on Southeastern Indians, the history of social welfare, and American educational history. She is currently working on her second book, tentatively titled The Means of Education Shall Forever Be Encouraged in this Nation: A Cherokee and American Educational History. Her first book, Saving the Nation: Cherokee Sovereignty and Social Welfare, 1890-1940, examined the move from kinship based systems of care at the turn of the century to the development of national social service programs and institutions, including pensions, a prison, a mental health facility, and an orphanage in the aftermath of the Civil War. Recently, she has also co-authored articles in Anqiyi and American Antiquity that examine early uses of the Cherokee syllabary in caves in the southeast.

THE AGE OF PHILLIS: AN SEA COMMON READING INITIATIVE
KEYNOTE PLenary READING & COLLOQUI

Honoree Fanonne Jeffers is the author of five books of poetry, The Chapel of Race (Kent State, 2000), chosen by Lucille Clifton for the Stan and Tom Wick Prize for Poetry, Outshined Men (Riverburn, 2001), Red Clay Soil (Southern Illinois, 2007), The Glory Goes (Wesleyan, 2015) and The Age of Phillis (Wesleyan, 2020), a book of poetry based upon fifteen years of historical research on the life and times of Phillis Wheatley Peters, a formerly enslaved person who was the first African American woman to publish a book. In addition, Jeffers is the author of the forthcoming novel, The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois (Harper, 2021). In recognition of her research on Early African Americans, Jeffers was elected into the American Antiquarian Society, a learned organization to which fourteen U.S. presidents have been elected. She is the recipient of fellowships from the American Antiquarian Society, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the W.R. Hearst Foundation to research the Library of Congress, among others. She has won the Harper Lee Award for Literary Distinction for an American writer, and was inducted into the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame; both notations recognize lifetime achievement. Jeffers is Professor of English at the University of Oklahoma.

The SEA’s Common Reading Initiative is a collaboration with Atlanta University Center’s SBC’s and features Honoree Jeffers’s The Age of Phillis, a collection of poetry inspired by the 18th century poetess of Phillis Wheatley Peters. We welcome participation from faculty interested in incorporating the works of Jeffers and/or Wheatley Peters into their summer/fall/early spring curriculums or organizing student book clubs as a platform for students to engage the works. At the conference, Jeffers will give a keynote plenary reading from The Age of Phillis and students (and other conference participants) are invited to discuss their reading experiences in a plenary colloquy with the author, and exhibit their poster boards of their research.

Faculty interested in having their students participate can contact the initiative’s organizers:

Patrick Ebene, SEA President, University of West Georgia, pereben@westga.edu
Michelle Buchholz Robinson, Spelman College, mr-b10@spelman.edu
Candace L. Smith, University of Alabama, clemisth@ua.edu

The Age of Phillis
Honoree Fanonne Jeffers