



SOCIETY  
OF EARLY  
AMERICANISTS

# KEYNOTES & PLENARIES

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

### AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES KEYNOTE

#### Joycelyn Moody

**Joycelyn Moody** is the Sue E. Denman Distinguished Chair in American Literature at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where she teaches courses on African American literature and life writing, US slavery, Black feminisms, and 19th-century (African) American literature. A former editor of *African American Review*, she has served as founding coeditor of the West Virginia University Press book series Regenerations: African American Literature with John Ernest since 2009. She reissued the *Memoirs of Elleanor Eldridge* through Regenerations series in 2014 and contributed to *Reading African American Autobiography*, edited by Eric Lamore (2017). She most recently edited *A History of African American Autobiography*, which is forthcoming from Cambridge UP. With Cassander Smith, she is Series Editor of Cambridge UP's African American Literature in Transition.



### 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 Latino 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 Anglocentric conceptions of traditional American literature and culture. His work also appeared in an edited collection of articles called *The Latino 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 in culture.



### 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 USCL. 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-sixteenth 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 dislocation and decline. Catawba customs, however, persisted because of those 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 Indians: 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, 2010), won several awards, including Best First Book of 2010 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 music, and foodways, and has published essays in the *New York Times*, *Oxford American*, *The North Star*, *The Conversation*, *Daily Yonder*, and *Scalawag Magazine*. She has won fellowships and grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Sundance Institute, the Ford Foundation, and others. Films she has produced include the Peabody Award-winning *A Chef's Life* (PBS, 2013-2018), the Emmy-nominated

*Private Violence* (broadcast on HBO in 2014), *In the Light of Reverence* (broadcast on PBS in 2001), and two short films, *Real Indian* (1996), and *Sounds 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, *Serving the Nation: Cherokee Sovereignty and Social Welfare, 1800-1907*, 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 *Antiquity* 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 & COLLOQUY



**Honorée Fanonne Jeffers** is the author of five books of poetry, *The Gospel of Barbecue* (Kent State, 2000), chosen by Lucille Clifton for the Stan and Tom Wick Prize for Poetry, *Outlandish Blues* (Wesleyan, 2003), *Red Clay Suite* (Southern Illinois, 2007), *The Glory Gets* (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 Witter Bynner Foundation through the Library of Congress, among others. She has won the Harper Lee Award for Literary Distinction for an Alabama 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 HBCUs and features Honorée Jeffers's *The Age of Phillis*, a collection of poetry inspired by the 18th century poetics 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 electronic poster boards of their research.

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

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