



SOCIETY
OF EARLY
AMERICANISTS

The 2021 SEA Biennial: The Many Pasts, Presents, &

Futures of Early America

Virtual Conference (via ExOrdo)

March 3-7, 2021

CALL FOR COMPLETE PANELS and INDIVIDUAL PAPERS **FINAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

The SEA seeks submissions of **complete panels AND individual papers** for its twelfth biennial conference, which will take place virtually (via ExOrdo) March 3-7, 2021. **Important: We have extended the deadline for submitting complete panels until September 15, which is also the deadline for submitting individual papers (which will be selected by the conference program committee and matched with suitable papers/presentations).** We invite proposals for complete panels, roundtables, and experimental/innovative formats. We also seek proposals for papers in traditional formats as well as experimental formats. To submit your panel or paper proposal, please go to the [conference website](#) and select “Program” from the menu. All submissions will go through the conference management software ExOrdo.

Originally, the physical conference was to take place in Atlanta, GA; thus, we encouraged submissions on early Southeast and Georgia culture, literature, and history, as well as transhistorical connections, e.g. between early African American literature and the modern Civil Rights movement, between the early Indigenous Southeast and questions of Native political and cultural sovereignty today, and so forth. We continue to encourage submissions focuses on these topics and will provide virtual programming (virtual excursions, workshops, etc.) that sustains this original focus.

Potential panel and paper topics/approaches include, but are not limited to:

- Innovations in teaching early American literature, history, and culture; undergraduate and graduate student research.
- Reverberations of early America throughout history and the present; specifically, Atlanta as a window for connecting and discussing the Many Pasts, Presents, and Futures of Early America and Early American Studies.
- Significance of early America and early Americanist topics for debating the futures of the field and the public.
- Early America and the Global South; empire, colonialism, neocolonialism, and Post-Colonialism/Post-Colonial criticism.

- Regional approaches to early American studies: early Georgia and the Southeast.
- Native American and Indigenous Studies.
- African American Studies, Africana Studies, and Diaspora Studies.
- Hemispheric Studies, Latin American Studies, Latinx Studies, Chican@ Studies.
- Multilingual, Translingual, and Transnational Studies; Border Studies.
- Transatlantic, Transpacific, Maritime, and Oceanic Studies.
- Early Caribbean Studies.
- Religion, Theology, New Puritan Studies, Quaker Studies.
- Art History; Material and Visual Culture.
- Ecology, Ecocriticism, History of Science, Animal Studies, geographical imagination.
- Health Humanities, Medical Humanities, and Disability Studies.
- Queer Theory, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Bio- and Body Politics.
- Aesthetics, Poetics, and New Formalism; narrative theory and practice.
- Genre studies (fiction, non-fiction, life-writing, poetry, theater).
- History of the Book, Print Culture, and Periodical Studies.
- Archival Research and Archival Studies.
- Archeology and Architecture.
- Oral Culture and Transmission.
- Music and Sound Studies.
- Digital Humanities.
- Early America in Popular Culture (film, TV, fiction, graphic novels, etc.).
- Early America and the Public Sphere, politics, and political rhetoric.
Shape and direction of the field; the profession; the job market; early Americanists and the politics of Higher Education.

Virtual Conferencing Features (via Ex Ordo)

- Fully integrated conference platform, with everything under the same roof
- Stages: **unlimited** live video (via Cisco Webex) with participants; especially appropriate for keynotes and plenaries
- Bundles/Clusters: on-demand content released incrementally to approximate the stair-stepped conference experience
- Rooms: housing panels and presentations, via video or text and images
- Communication features will include live responses (especially for keynotes/live-streaming), messaging, interactive chats for each “Room”, etc.
- Access options will be many, i.e. participation can be restricted for registered attendees but also be opened to the public for individual events.
- Pricing for the virtual conference will be very affordable

Submissions

- A) Already submitted panels** (received by or since the former June 15th deadline): given the new, all-virtual conference platform, you may leave your panel as already submitted; they will be reviewed after the September 15 deadline; you may also add presenters, change features and requests, and/or adjust your format.
- B) New panels:** submit, via the ExOrdo link, information for the organizer/chair, the presenters, short CVs for all panel participants, a short abstract (one paragraph), and a longer (circa 250 words) panel proposal in PDF format that includes a specific description of the panel format/approach (e.g. roundtable, traditional presentations, experimental panels, etc.)
- C) Individual papers:** submit, via the ExOrdo link, your personal information, a very short abstract of your paper proposal, and a specific paper proposal (circa 250 words).

Panels, Papers, and their Virtual Presentation Mode: As some panels were already submitted before move to an all-virtual format was announced, we will first complete the submissions process by September 15, send acceptances to proposers, and then ask each panel to request their specific virtual presentation mode, i.e. whether they request a live stage (particularly useful for roundtables) or on-demand delivery content options (e.g. for pre-loaded papers or video recordings).

Keynotes



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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 Eleanor 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 Philadelphia: 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-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 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 *Sealawag 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 Indians* (1996), and *Sounds of Faith* (1997), both of which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

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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, 1800-1917*, 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 Barbucue* (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 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 electronic poster boards of their research.

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

Patrick Erben, SEA President, University of West Georgia, perben@westga.edu

Michelle Bachelor Robinson, Spelman College, mrobin50@spelman.edu

Cassander L. Smith, University of Alabama, csmith17@ua.edu

