



Afterlives of Slavery Conference

“The Troubles I’ve Seen: Religious Dimensions of Slavery & Its Afterlives”

An International, Interdisciplinary conference organized by Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ in collaboration with the National Museum of African American History & Culture, Washington D.C., Howard University Divinity School, Washington, D.C., and the University of Liberia, Monrovia.

Venues:

**Howard Divinity School, Washington DC
National Museum of African American History & Culture, Washington D.C**

Date:

October 19 (Thursday) – 21 (Saturday) 2023



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Day 1: Thursday, October 19

Location: Howard University Divinity School

10:00-12:30 **Arrival and Registration**
(Location: Foyer of Holy Cross Hall)

1:00-1:50 **Welcome and Opening Greetings**
(Location: Dunbarton)
Presiding: Afe Adogame

2:00-3:00 **Keynote #1:**
Presiding: Eric Williams

- Daina Ramey Berry, University of California, Santa Barbara
“A Spirit too Bold and Daring for a Slave’: Lineage, Legacy, and Legitimizing History”

3:00-3:30 **Coffee Break**
(Location: Foyer of Holy Cross Hall)

3:30-4:45 **Panel #1: Institutional Presidents**
(Location: Dunbarton)
Presiding: Gordon Mikoski

- Jonathan Walton, President, Princeton Theological Seminary, USA
- Julius Nelson, President, University of Liberia, Liberia
- Erika Gault, Director of the Center for the Study of African American Religious Life, Smithsonian Museum for African American History and Culture, USA
- Romelle Horton, President, Cuttington University, Liberia
- Ben Vinson III, President, Howard University, USA

4:50-6:15 **Parallel Paper Session #1:**

A Regions: Africa I
(Location: Room 300)
Presiding: Kenyatta Gilbert

- Okelloh Ogera (Kenya) || “The Continuing Legacy of ‘Enslavement’: An Appraisal of the Experiences of the Frere Town Freed Slaves Community”
- Clement Donard Fumbo (Tanzania) || “Consequences of enslavements for contemporary life in Tanzania and transnationally”
- Telesia Musili (Kenya) || “Sex for Work: Unearthing Colonial Legacies of Slavery in Kericho Tea Farms in Kenya”

- Olufemi Akanji Olaleye (Nigeria) || “Sounding Politics, Religions, and Enslavement of Cultural Oath-Taking Systems in Southwest Nigeria: 2015-2022” (([Video recording](#)))

B Theological Issues I

(Location: Room 320)

Presiding: Selena Stone

- Matthew Elia (Venezuela/USA) || “The Origins of the Christian Master: Augustine in the Afterlife of Slavery”
- Lawrence A. Whitney (USA) || “Ain’t I Elect? – Protestant Logic from Slavery through Intersectionality”
- David Latimore (USA) || “The Troubles I’ve Seen: Religious and Economic Dimensions of Slavery & Its Afterlives”
- Jolyon G. Pruszinski (USA) || “Lex Orandi, Lex Servitutis: Slavery as Valorized in the Language of the *Book of Common Prayer*”

C The Arts I (Narrative)

(Location: Room 420)

Presiding: Janice A. McLean-Farrell

- Jordan Burton (USA) || “Non-Agency in the Anti-Black State: A Comparative Study of Method”
- David Childs (USA) || “All God’s Chillun Got Wings: The Theological and Sociological Meaning and Origin of the Myth of the Flying African”
- Aaron C. Waldon (Cuba) || “A Strange Fruit: A Theopoetics of Colonization & Chattel Slavery in Amerika”
- Andre LePelle Keitt (USA) || “Bringing the Freedom Trail to Life, For Real!”

Day 2: Friday 10/20

Morning Location: Smithsonian National Museum of Africa-American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

Afternoon Location: Howard University Divinity School

Smithsonian National Museum of Africa-American History and Culture

8:00-9:00 Arrival and Registration

8:30-9:30 Keynote#2:
(Location: NMAAHC Oprah Winfrey Theater)
Presiding: Erika Gault

- Yolanda Pierce, Vanderbilt Divinity School
“Laying on of Hands: Slavery’s Sins & Divine Healing”

- 9:30 – 10:00 Introduction to Spirit in the Dark (OWT)
- 10:00-11:30 Museum Tour
- 11:30-1:00 Lunch at NMAAHC Sweet Home
- 1:00-2:00 Travel to Howard University Divinity School
(45 minutes: walking + Metro + walking)

Howard University Divinity School:

- 2:00-3:00 Panel #2: “Christian Nationalism and Self-Determination in African Americans’ Participation in the African Missions Movement (1820-1925)”
(*Location: Dunbarton*)

Presiding: William Allen

- Kimberly Hill (USA), University of Texas at Dallas
- Jenny McGill (USA), Indiana Wesleyan University
- Andrew N. Wegmann (USA), Delta State University
- Ben Wright (USA), University of Texas at Dallas
- Nemata Blyden (USA), George Washington University

- 3:00-4:30 Parallel Paper Session #2:

D Regions: Africa II

(*Location: Room 300*)

Presiding: Clement Donard Fumbo

- William E. Allen (Liberia) || “The future is not known: The Rise of Liberia's Congoes from Enslaved and Wardship to Power”
- Ignatius Afe Oshiomogwe (Nigeria/USA) || “The Afterlives of Slavery and the Religious Ethics of the Metal Peace Tree on Providence Island, Monrovia, Liberia”
- Francis Ethelbert Kwabena (Ghana/Finland) || “Afterlives of Slavery and the Re-Emergence of Memory, Culture and Religion in Ghana and Beyond”
- Grace Umezurike (Nigeria) || “Ohu and Osu Slavery System: It’s Nature, Dynamics, and Impact on the Contemporary Igbo Society”
- Samaila Wada Ayuba (Nigeria/USA) || The Nexus Between Formerly Enslaved Persons, Identity Negotiation and the Making of Hausa Christianity in Northern Nigeria”

E Educational Issues

(Location: Room 320)

Presiding: Itohan M Idumwonyi

- Monique Jones (USA) || Sin, Shame, and the Anti-DEI Movement in Parochial Schools”
- Jairus Hallums (USA) || “On the Come Up in Massa’s House: Twenty-First Century Black Educational Leader Sensemaking Under the White Gaze”
- Taulby H. Edmondson (USA) || “Knights of the Lost Cause: Neo-Confederate Fraternities and the Christian Myths of the Lost Cause on Campus”
- Anthony Harris (USA) || “The Land of the Free and Home of the Brave?”

F Historical Perspectives

(Location: Room 420)

Presiding: Andrew Wegmann

- David Childs (USA) || “Jordan River I’m Bound to Cross: Researching Slavery and Religion in Northern Kentucky and Ohio”
- Ken Miyagi (Japan/USA) || “Religious Discursive Resistance: Theodore Sedgwick Wright’s Anti-Colonization Thought”
- Kimberly Akano (Nigeria/USA) || “Learning Africa: African Americans, Religious Education, and the Pursuit of Freedom”
- David Daniels III (USA) || “Before Slave Religion: The Theological Contours of Kongolese-American Christianity, 1619-1750”

4:30-4:50

Coffee Break

(Location: Foyer of Holy Cross Hall)

4.50-5:50

Panel #4: Pastors Roundtable

(Location: Dunbarton)

Presiding: David Latimore

- Rev. Kenneth Rioland, Paramount Baptist Church, Washington D.C.
- Rev. William Lamar, Metropolitan AME Church, Washington D.C.
- Rev. John H. Molina-Moore, National Capitol Presbytery, Rockville, MD

Day 3: Saturday 10/21

Location: Howard University Divinity School

8:30-9:30 Keynote#3:

(Location: Dunbarton)

Presiding: David Daniels III

- Jacob Olupona, Harvard University
“The Afterlife of Slavery in Africa: Unforeseen Religious and Sociocultural Consequences”

9:30-11:00 Parallel Paper Session #3:

G Regions: Caribbean, the Americas, and Europe

(Location: Room 300)

Presiding: Philip Wingeier-Rayo

- Jorge William Falcão Junior (Brazil) || “What to do after abolition? A Presbyterian Missionary’s Perspectives on Brazil and the United States of America”
- Eloy Alfaro (Ecuador) || “Reasons to prefer Semi slavery. Afro-descendants who stayed on the San José - Ecuador country state, after the manumission 1850–1970”
- Selina Stone (Jamaican/Britain) || From Mis-Education to Re-Formation: Colonialism, Slavery and The Task of Decolonising Theological Education in Britain
- Binu Varghese (India/USA) || “Roots and Routes of discontent: Indian Ocean Slave trade and Indian Americans”

H Theological Issues II

(Location: Room 320)

Presiding: David Childs

- Isaac Sekyi Nana Mensah (Ghana/USA) || “Slave Cost not a little”: Racial Baptism on Jesuit Slave Plantations in Maryland”
- Yanan Rahim Navarez Melo (Philippines/USA) || “Black Body and Blood: The Eucharistic Imagination of Racial Capitalism”
- Donna J. Sloan (USA) || “The Religious/Spiritual Journey of Africans in America”
- Itohan M Idumwonyi (Nigeria/USA) || “Sexploitation of Women in Slavery and Women in African Pentecostal Church in the United States”

I The Arts II

(Location: Room 420)

Presiding: Jolyon G. Pruszinski

- Olukayode Odujobi (Nigeria) || “From Oral Tradition to Historical National Treasure: Preservation and Documentation of Negro Spirituals from 1867 to 2007”
- Emily Pruszinski (USA) || Ethical Challenges for the Black Christ in White Church Iconography: Problematizing Jeannine Baker-Fletcher's "Ghostly Grace"
- Janice A. McLean-Farrell (Jamaica/USA) || “Singing Songs of Freedom to exorcise the demons: Interrogating the relationship between Caribbean Christianity, U.S. Hegemony and the Status Quo”
- Anna Stamborski (USA) || “Who Defines? Who Decides?: How Black Congregants Define ‘Antiracism’ and Role of the Black Church in Antiracist Efforts” **(Video recording)**

J Contemporary Issues

(Location: Houston Hall, Room 4)

Presiding: Kimberley Hill

- Richard X, III (USA) || “It look like a Slave Ship in There”: Rikers Island as the Afterlife of Slavery”
- Evan Dietrich Gosen (USA) || “Punishment Obsession: The American Criminal Legal System as a Vestige of Enslavement Ideology
- Nosizwe Breaux-Abdur-Rahman || “Race, Culture and Islam: Indigenous African American Muslim and Non-Indigenous Muslim Relationships”
- Michael Brandon McCormack (USA) || “Original Sin or Exotic Notions? Mitch McConnell, 1619, and the Afterlives of Slavery”

11:00-11:15

Coffee Break

(Location: Foyer of Holy Cross Hall)

11:15-12:15

Panel #5: “Whitewashing Ancient Slavery and its Modern Legacies”

(Location: Dunbarton)

Presiding: Frederick Ware

- Chance Bonar, Tufts University
- Mónica Rey, Boston University
- Ella Karev, Mónica Rey
- Ericka Dunbar, Baylor University
- Kevin Burell, Wilfrid Laurier University

12:20- 12:50

Closing Session

(Location: Dunbarton)

