

CLAW 2024

Archives in the Atlantic



THURSDAY & FRIDAY, MAY 16-17, 2024

**Optional Day (tours) on Saturday, May 18*

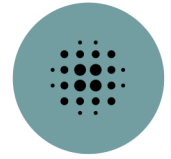
College of Charleston

66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29424

**SPONSORED BY THE CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY AND ATLANTIC
WORLD PROGRAM AND THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
LIBRARIES**

CLAW 2024

Archives in the Atlantic



DAY 1

Thursday, May 16

REGISTRATION AND LIGHT BREAKFAST
9:00 - 9:45



WELCOME REMARKS
9:45 - 10:00

Location: RITA 101

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #1

10:00 - 11:30

Session 1A: Provoking Indigeneity through Embodied Memory, Movement, and Soiled African Bodies: How Germaine Acogny's École Des Sables Preserves/Presents/Piques Place in Pina Bausch's "The Rite of Spring" at The Gaillard Center

Location: RITA 102

shady Radical (chair), Aku Kadogo, and Victoria Rae Boynton Moore

African bodies on a dirt covered stage presented the choreography of Pina Bausch's The Rite of Spring on the first weekend of Black History Month at The Gaillard Center. The 32 African dancers representing 14 African countries from Germaine Acogny's Ecole du Sables, Senegal scratched the surface of what we can know through our bodies in a particular space/place. This panel brings together interpretations of and meditations on this piece from the perspectives of black memory work with shady Radical and The Radical Archive of Preservation; performance art with Aku Kadogo, director of Ochre & Dust, a theatrical response to her work with indigenous communities in the Central desert of Australia, and homeplace and community with Victoria Rae, a local Charleston arts leader and Director of TINYisPOWERFUL.

Session 1B: Listening to Silences: Digitally Enhancing the Visibility of Enslaved Persons in South Carolina's Historic Record

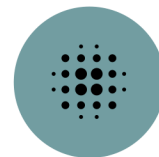
Location: RITA 103

Virginia Ellison, Molly Silliman, Leah Worthington

This panel focuses on a multi-year project to digitize 13,000+ records related to the lives of enslaved people in the collections of the South Carolina Historical Society. Presenters will discuss the selection and digitization of materials, stories uncovered along the way, and the importance of connecting these materials with researchers.

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**DAY 1
(CONT.)**

Thursday, May 16



LUNCH
12:00 - 1:15

Location: TBD

[Details to follow]

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #2 **1:30 - 3:00**

Session 2A: Absurd Evidence: The Memory Workers Guild and Black Atlantic Imaginations

Location: RITA 102

Ainsley Wynn Eakins, Tafari Robertson, Malkia Okech

The Memory Workers Guild, a decentralized platform for Black storytelling, fosters Black imagination, memorial, and unity as tools for resistance against absurd hegemonic historical narratives that harm our communities. In this panel, three guild members will share their stories and explore how they play with, transform, and undo ideas of permanence, evidence, and value.

Session 2A: Unsilencing Narratives of the Lowcountry through Digital Archives and Exhibits

Location: RITA 103

Brenna Reilley, Paige Little, Rachael Mockalis, and Katie Gardner

This panel will explore underrepresented narratives in the Lowcountry through digital exhibits, historical interpretation, digitization, and community engagement. The panelists will discuss their behind-the-scenes contributions to the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (LDHI) and the Lowcountry Digital Library (LCDL).



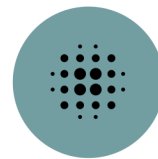
BREAK
3:00 - 3:30

Location: RITA 101

Light refreshments and coffee will be served.

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DAY 1
(CONT)

Thursday, May 16

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #3: 3:30 - 4:45

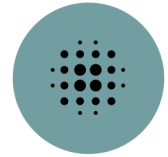
Session 3A: Black Feminisms and Identity

Location: RITA 102

- Mrs-Spelling: A Reparative Description of an oral history collection at the Anacostia Community Museum
 - *Amelia Verkerk, Virginia Tech*
 - *At the Anacostia Community Museum, the original finding aid of an oral history collection effectively obscured the identities of the Black women participants due to the outdated practices that labeled these women by their married names. Verkerk will share the way reparative descriptive practices transformed the collection.*
- Red Clay Daisies: Blooming in Southern Fertile Ground
 - *Kay Brown, Disturbers of the South Digital Archive*
 - *Disturbers Of The South (D.O.T.S.) is a digital archive that disturbs monolithic assumptions of the U.S. South by curating the vibrant lives of Black Southerners. D.O.T.S expands networks of belongings & representation by being a mirror for Black Southerners. By connecting archival materials with interdisciplinary sources, D.O.T.S. disrupts the institutional gaze to solidify the South as fertile ground. In this presentation, Brown will discuss the complexity of her upbringing as a Black Southern Woman and the creation of D.O.T.S through the lens of Black Feminist Praxis.*
- Teaching about the Diversity of Display
 - *Michelle McDonald, American Philosophical Society*
 - *The teaching of race and sexuality has been transformed in the last several decades. A parallel transformation has happened in public history. This presentation explores several case studies of museums exploring questions of race, diversity, and inclusivity, and charts the shift from museums as temples of truth to agents of activism.*
- Archival Contours and Black Resistance in the Atlantic World
 - *Jessica Parr, Northeastern University*
 - *This project explores the question of where Black archives of resistance appear geospatially and includes a dataset of Black anti-slavery writers and resisters who appear primarily on English sources in North America, West Africa, the Caribbean, and Northern Europe. Parr will discuss her analysis of who appears where and in what types of sources, with a particular focus on exploring the testimonials, archival fragments, and gender roles.*

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DAY 1
(CONT)

Thursday, May 16

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #3: 3:30 - 4:45 (CONT.)

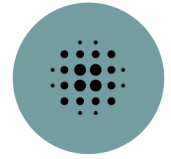
Session 3B: Transnational Memory Making

Location: RITA 103

- The Ethics and Challenges of Generating Collections in The Gambia
 - Liza Gijanto, St. Mary's College of Maryland
 - Archaeologists and historians working in African contexts often generate collections and datasets that, for a number of reasons, are either removed from the host country, or deposited in host institutions that lack the resources and personnel to manage and conserve such collections. In this presentation, Gijanto will share a sample of the challenges encountered in this form of overseas research and current work to alleviate the current challenges of maintenance and access considered in collaboration with her Gambian counterparts. This includes developing digital catalogs, images, and finding aids to allow National Center for Arts and Culture (NCAC) staff to track the location of different collections as well as make the data accessible to researchers on a global scale. The limitations of access to such materials in The Gambia are also considered.
- District #1: The Land Which Will Bring Them Bread
 - Bilphena Yahwon
 - [description coming soon]
- Memorializing the Afro-Atlantic Diaspora: Comparative Insights from Valongo Wharf (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and Gadsden's Wharf
 - Sergio Suiama, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
 - The presentation offers a comparative analysis of current memorialization processes at Valongo Wharf (Rio de Janeiro) and Gadsden's Wharf (Charleston). It explores shared elements, consistencies, disparities, and connections within Afro-Atlantic diaspora narratives. The research reflects on how societies, marked by structural racism, have addressed this topic in challenging memorial sites.
- Charleston's Largest Domestic Slave Auction
 - Lauren Davila, College of Charleston
 - The domestic slave trade in Charleston, South Carolina was an extremely pervasive and profitable business that shaped Charleston. In 1835, the Jervy, Waring, and White slave trading firm posted an advertisement for the sale of 600 enslaved people at the Exchange Building. Their participation in the domestic slave trade has been largely erased from public memory, though it greatly contributed to the legacy they left behind. This paper explores the causes of this insufficient explanation of the men who made up this slave trading firm and analyzes their present-day public memory.

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DAY 1
(CONT)

Thursday, May 16

WORKSHOP
3:30 - 5:00

Community Cultural Care & Collaging Workshop: Identifying Discipline in Cultural Heritage Institutions, Imagining Alternatives

Location: RITA 101

Facilitated by Ainsley Wynn Eakins, William Way LGBTQ Archives and Library Company of Philadelphia

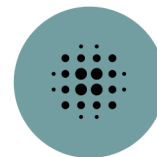
*In this guided presentation, participants will explore how GLAM institutions (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) are conditioned by ideas of crime, carcerality, discipline, and power. We will unpack how carceral structures limit the infosphere and make cultural learning and sharing less accessible, especially to Black, indigenous, queer, low-income, migrant, and disabled members of society, or generally all who don't occupy the optimal status criteria of the Western empire. As we navigate examples like the MOVE Bombing victims' remains used as teaching aids at the Penn Museum, the \$1 million embezzlement at the Mark Twain House, the disturbing case of the Tswana warrior displayed for a century as "El Negro de Banyoles," and more, we will think critically about the social currents of discipline. We will explore questions such as, what kinds of "crimes" occur *in* GLAM institutions? What kinds of "crimes" are committed *by* GLAM institutions? Who is responsible for identifying harm & enacting discipline? What kinds of memories and histories are preserved by disciplinary relations?*

Throughout the presentation, participants will be reminded to reflect on their somatic experiences; there will be opportunities to share out loud, but collage supplies will also be provided to invite creative, embodied reflection. As we unpack the similarities between carceral spaces and cultural heritage institutions, we will also challenge ourselves to expand what cultural learning could be. What kinds of emotions, relationships, and memories make the prison and the museum incompatible? What kinds of resources could be shared to ensure the library never resembles a jail? What kinds of methods could be abolished to ensure that archives are not sites of surveillance?

This workshop values diverse experiences and perspectives, teaching participants to recognize lived experiences and memories as essential knowledge sources. Participants can leave with a collage and a tapestry of stories to use for reducing the harms of disciplinary, carceral, surveillance culture in GLAM institutions.

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**DAY 1
(CONT)**

Thursday, May 16

EVENING RECEPTION 5:00 - 6:00

Location: Rita Liddy Hollings Center



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: YOMAIRA C. FIGUEROA - VÁSQUEZ
6:00 - 7:30**

Location: RITA 101

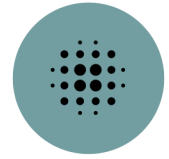
Intimate Archives, Public Projects and *The Survival of a People*

Yomaira C. Figueroa-Vásquez is an Afro-Puerto Rican writer, teacher, and scholar from Hoboken, NJ. She is a Professor of Africana, Puerto Rican, and Latino Studies at CUNY Hunter and is the Directora of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO). She is the author of the award-winning book *Decolonizing Diasporas: Radical Mappings of Afro-Atlantic Literature* (Northwestern University Press, 2020; translation, Editora Educación Emergente, 2023), and the forthcoming book, *The Survival of a People* (under contract with Duke University Press). Her published work can be found in *Hypatia*, *Decolonization*, *CENTRO Journal*, *Small Axe*, *Frontiers Journal*, *Hispanofilia*, *Contemporânea*, *Diálogos*, and *Feminist Formations*.

A first-generation high-school and college graduate, Dr. Figueroa-Vásquez is passionate about mentoring underrepresented and first-generation students. She earned her BA in English, Puerto Rican & Latino Studies, and Women's & Gender Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick (Douglass College), and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley. At her former institution, (Michigan State University) she founded the Mentoring Underrepresented Students in English Program (MUSE), the Womxn of Color Initiative, #ProyectoPalabrasPR, and the award-winning digital/material project Taller Electric Marronage. She has served on the leadership board of the American Studies Association, The Puerto Rican Studies Association, the Caribbean Philosophical Association, the Latin American Studies Association, and the Modern Languages Association. Dr. Figueroa-Vásquez was a Duke University Mellon SITPA Fellow, a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, and a Cornell University Society for the Humanities Fellow. She is the PI and co-director of the 2022-2024 Andrew W. Mellon funded "Diaspora Solidarities Lab," a \$2M Higher Learning project focused on Black feminist digital humanities initiatives that support solidarity work in Black and Ethnic Studies.

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DAY 2

Friday, May 17



REGISTRATION LIGHT BREAKFAST

9:00 – 10:00

Location: RITA 101

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #4

10:00 – 11:30

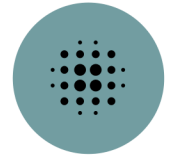
Session 4A: Archival Memory

Location: RITA 102

- Bricklayers, Hands, Cooks, and Carpenters: Making Slavery Visible in the Thomas Crutchfield papers
 - Molly Copeland, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
 - Description and digitization of the Thomas Crutchfield papers is presented as a case study in applying reparative description to records documenting enslaved people in East Tennessee. Focusing on the labor of archival description and ethical stewardship, this presentation discusses persistent challenges in representing enslaved people in archival materials.
- History's Lost and Found
 - Mari Crabtree, College of Charleston
 - This paper considers archival silences that are not a reflection of power (its presence, absence, or reclamation) so much as the ways in which everyday life often gets in the way of saving materials or passing along and preserving stories for posterity. So, what can these silences teach us?
- Hear Me Now: A Retrospective of the Archives Underfoot
 - Jason Young, University of Michigan
 - This presentation offers the first retrospective treatment of "Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina" and the multimodal archives that it has activated since first opening in 2022. The exhibition has since traveled to museums in New York City, Boston, Ann Arbor, and Atlanta. "Hear Me Now" is a witnessing of slavery rendered on an industrial scale, of the etching and aching of poets and potters. It is an ancestral clarion call and a quickening to action. But the exhibition is also an archive. Young, a co-curator of the exhibition, will share his experiences moving with the show, not only in the galleries where it has been on view, but also in the churches and community centers, kaolin mines and kiln sites where the histories of Edgefield pottery have been maintained.
- The Miguel Malo Archaeological Collection: Decolonizing the Narrative of the Historical Museum of San Miguel de Allende
 - Alberto Aveleyra, Amigos de Museo de San Miguel
 - San Miguel de Allende has more than one hundred archaeological sites. In the 1960s, Miguel Malo collected hundreds of objects coming from these sites in order to create a Museum for the San Miguel community. Due to draconian changes in Mexico's heritage laws, the collection was confiscated by authorities. In 2022, the historic archaeological collection returned to San Miguel de Allende. This presentation will demonstrate how curators decolonized the narrative of the Historical Museum of San Miguel and highlight its new regional archaeology permanent exhibition at the community museum.

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**DAY 2
(CONT.)**

Friday, May 17

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #4 **10:00 - 11:30 (CONT.)**

Session 4B: Maps, Markers, and Mother Trees: (Re)interpreting An Abolitionist College Landscape as Networked Archives

Location: RITA 103

Tony VanWinkle, Sarah Thuesen, and Gwen Gosney Erickson

Examining the networked interpretive resources of historical records, historical markers, and historical ecologies, this panel reckons with the legacies of abolition that adhere in the multifaceted archival repositories of Guilford College, a Quaker institution founded in 1837 in New Garden, North Carolina. Guilford College is recognized as both a site and a research facility for the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program and there is currently great pride in the ties of the campus to abolitionist activities in the 19th century. But what is the fuller story? How have the archives historically functioned to service dearly-held narratives of Quaker beneficence, and what non-traditional archival sources might contribute to deeper and more inclusive understandings of the land where the college exists today? These are stories of interconnections - some more visible than others - and complicated histories that reassess institutional identity narratives and how we learn from our past.



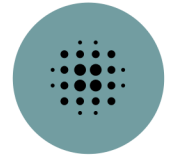
LUNCH **12:00 - 1:15**

Location: TBD

[Details forthcoming]

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**DAY 2
(CONT.)**

Friday May 17

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #5 **1:30 - 3:00**

Session 5A: Reclaiming Black Stories & Black Land: Preserving Gullah Geechee History and Culture Through Heritage Interpretation

Location: RITA 101

Erica Veal, CIG/T; Akua Page, CIG; Tendaji Bailey, CIG

Moderator: Dr. Tamara Butler, CIG

Charleston, South Carolina was the capital for the importation of enslaved Africans to North America. It became the richest city in colonial America because of the contributions of African people who made up the majority of the population. Although responsible for building the wealth of the region, Africans had no access to it. Today, Charleston is a top tourist destination and has been for over a decade. Whether they know it or not, tourists come to Charleston to experience the culture (which came to be known as Gullah Geechee) and the landscapes of Africans and their descendants. Every brick, every building, every garden, every green space; the language, the cuisine and even recreational activities are the direct result of the labor and influences of Gullah Geechee people. Yet, as was the case with their ancestors, Gullah Geechee people largely have no access to the wealth generated by the multibillion dollar a year tourism industry that continues to thrive off and exploit their culture.

There is little consistency in the interpretation of Gullah Geechee history, culture and contributions from one historic site to the next and Black stories are often lost, misrepresented or misinterpreted. Black tourism professionals will share the importance of telling our own stories. Panelists will discuss how becoming a Certified Interpretive Guide empowered them to reclaim control of how their stories are told and how interpretation aids in the preservation and promotion of Gullah Geechee history and culture.

Session 5B: African Building Heritage

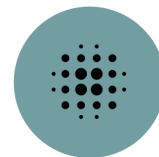
Location: RITA 102

Jessica Parr, Killion Mokwete, Patricia Davis, Bahare Sanaie-Movahed

The African Building Heritage Project is an international and multidisciplinary team that is currently comprised of scholars in the United States and Benin. The project aims to build a geospatial archive of 3D models of at-risk sub-Saharan African buildings and append oral histories of local stakeholders to preserve the memory of those buildings. It has important implications for digital cultural heritage projects and collaborations with the Global South. This presentation will discuss the conception and prototype of this project, as well as efforts to connect the buildings to local stories.

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**DAY 2
(CONT.)**

Friday May 17

CONCURRENT SESSIONS #5

1:30 - 3:00

Session 5C: Finding the patients, following the careers, and encouraging new audiences: enhancing the academic, archival and wider learning potential of the Waring Library's inaugural thesis collection

Location: RITA 103

Stephen Kenny, Tabitha Y. Samuel, Brooke Fox, Anna Schuldt

This session provides critical archival and historical perspectives on the history and future of the inaugural thesis collection at the Medical University of South Carolina's Waring Historical Library. Changes in cataloging and digitization of the collection create the potential for recovering hidden histories and greater use by a wider public.



BREAK

3:00 - 3:30

Location: RITA 101

Light refreshments and coffee will be served.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE ATLANTIC WORLD: WORLD CAFE/UNCONFERENCE

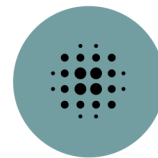
3:30 - 5:00

Location: RITA 101

Join conference attendees for a world cafe session where participants will break out into at least five groups to discuss topics chosen by the attendees during the conference. Potential topics include community outreach, diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, emotional labor and burnout, archival description, digital humanities, and interpretation. The session will begin with an introduction and then separate into groups. Each group will have a designated leader who is familiar with the topic and can guide the conversation and keep time. Twenty minutes before the end of the session the session leader will reconvene the group and allow one person from each group to share out on their findings and share tools with the entire group.

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**DAY 3
(OPTIONAL)**

Saturday, May 18

UNTOLD STORIES CAMPUS TOUR

1:30 (check-in: 1:20pm)

Location: Porter's Lodge, 66 George Street (1/2 block east of RITA)

Join the College of Charleston's Committee for Commemoration and Landscapes as we discuss how the campus's history reflects Charleston's diverse stories and ongoing evolution including the stories of women, African-descended, Indigenous, and LGBTQIA+ people who contributed to growth of the College.

- [Register here!](#)
- Space is limited to 15 participants and advance registration is required. **Please register by May 17 at 5pm.**
- The tour will last approximately 90 minutes. Please dress comfortably for the outdoors. We will be walking for about a mile. Sunscreen, water bottles, and bug spray are all encouraged!

UNTOLD STORIES

"We need to be taught to study rather than believe, to inquire rather than to affirm"
- Septima P. Clark

CAMPUS HISTORY GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Join us for a guided walking tour
at the College of Charleston
as we explore our campus's diverse
stories & ongoing evolution
FREE FOR CLAW CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

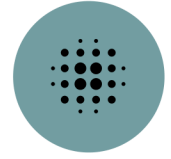
REGISTER HERE:
TINYURL.COM/UNTOLDCLAW

**MAY 18
130PM**

Sponsored by the Committee for Commemoration and Landscapes

CLAW 2024

Archives in the Atlantic



**DAY 3
(OPTIONAL)**

Saturday, May 18



DISCOUNTED VISIT WITH CHARLESTON AREA CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

Various locations throughout the city

[Site specific information coming soon!]