



*Silence*

*22/95*

*Ariskell 09*

# **BLACK STUDIES & ROMANTICISM**

**A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

**JUNE 24-25, 2021**

*Image by David Driskell. Silence from the Doorway Portfolio, 2008 Reductive serigraph, Partial gift of Curlee Raven Holton and purchase with the Ann Nelson Behrman (Class of 1954) Art Acquisition Fund, 2012.49.3, © Estate of David C. Driskell.*

Hortense Spillers suggests that a new “grammar” for thinking and instigating Black liberation from white history is necessary. With this conference we offer a platform, one virtual but intimate, for people interested in seeking what new grammars we in the eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and present centuries need to learn from Black Studies in our period-bound disciplines. Our hope for the conference is that it will address the white power structures that support anti-Blackness in the larger world and in the field of Romanticism broadly understood. Romanticism entails a history of promised but failed revolutions, a history that terrorizes as much as it transforms. While the field has long been shaped by histories and discourses of whiteness and patriarchy, this conference avows and solicits new and ongoing scholarship on race, anti-slavery, abolition, and indigeneity.

### THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many, many thanks to the Mount Holyoke Department of English, the Mount Holyoke Critical Social Thought program, as well as MHC Latinx Studies, Africana Studies, and the Dean’s Office for their financial and intellectual support. A special thanks to Alex Wirth-Cauchon, Lindsey Freer, Sarah Oelker, and LITS for their technical prowess and to Amanda Blake Davis for her digital and conference expertise. The program and website design were fashioned up by the amazing Kate Turner (MHC ‘21) with the help of Ellen Alvord and Aaron Miller at the MHC Art Museum, who helped us gain permission to use David Driskell’s work. Lily Gurton-Wachter, lyko Day, Amy E. Martin, Omar F. Miranda, Emily Stanback, and Ashley Cross gave crucial advice, along with Kerry Sinanan, who has been valiant in guiding all of us toward non-white-supremacist and anti-racist practices. Despite the intellectual and managerial difficulty of this year, Elizabeth Young threw her and the department’s support behind this fledgling idea, as did Dorothy Mosby, MHC Dean of Faculty. Students of “Revolution & Change in the Age of Necropolitics” took my semi-insane charge to write conference papers during our pandemic 7.5 week course and created beautiful and awe-inspiring work. Suzanne Barnett graciously offered her copy-editing prowess. Thank you to Mara Simon for loving childcare and to Chris Tait for all his listening superpowers. Most of all I offer gratitude to our plenary and keynote speakers who have given their time, energy, and brilliance.

### LIVE ZOOM PANELS & RECORDED PANELS

The [conference](#) will take place in two parts: live Zoom panels on June 24th and June 25th and asynchronously recorded undergraduate panels and submitted work. Please [register](#) for the conference, which will provide you with access to the password for both the [Zoom Program](#) and the [Undergraduate Work](#).

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Sponsored by the English Department, the Critical Social Thought Program, a Racial Equity Research and Action (RERA) Grant, and a Davis Educational Foundation Grant.

## **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

### **THURSDAY, JUNE 24TH**

9-9:20a EST	Opening Welcome
9:30a-10:45 EST	Panel 1 **PLEASE VISIT OUR ASYNCHRONOUS PANELS OF UNDERGRADUATE WORK AT ANYTIME ON THE WEBSITE!
	Panel 2
11a-12:30p EST	Panel 3
	Panel 4
12:30-1:30p EST	LUNCH
1:45-3:15p EST	Plenary Collaboration: "Citation, Appropriation, and Abolition" Kerry Sinanan (University of Texas at San Antonio) Eugenia Zuroski (McMaster University) Matt Sandler (Columbia University)
3:30-4:45 EST	Panel 5
	Panel 6
5-6:15p EST	Emerging Scholars Panel (TBA)
6:30p EST	Happy Hour & informal breakout rooms for those interested

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 25TH**

9-10:30a EST	Plenary Collaboration: "Black Studies in and Around Romanticism" Nicole Aljoe (Northeastern U) Bakary Diaby (Skidmore College) Annette Joseph-Gabriel (University of Michigan)
10:45-Noon EST	Panel 7 **PLEASE VISIT OUR ASYNCHRONOUS PANELS OF

BLACK STUDIES AND ROMANTICISM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE  
Mount Holyoke College • June 24th & 25th

3

UNDERGRADUATE WORK AT ANYTIME ON THE WEBSITE!

Panel 8

Noon - 1p

LUNCH

1:15-2:45p

Zakiyyah Iman Jackson (USC), Keynote  
“Against Criticism: Notes on Decipherment and the Force of Art”

3-4:15p

Panel 9

Panel 10

4:30-5:45p

Panel 11

Panel 12

6p

Closing Remarks + Happy Hour (if so desired)

## CONFERENCE PANELS

### THURSDAY, JUNE 24TH

#### 9:30a-10:45 EST

##### Panel 1

#### **Musics of Race**

Presider: Amelia Worsley (Amherst College)

Mary L. Shannon (University of Roehampton), “Billy Waters and Romantic Print and Visual Culture”

Roger Hansford (U.K.-based independent scholar), “In No Way Reform: Philip Klitz’s Blackface Ballads, Black Lives, and Artistic Afterlives.”

Adeline Mueller (Mount Holyoke College), “Racial Exceptionalism in the Reception of Elite Musicians of African Descent”

##### Panel 2

#### **Aesthetics in Black and White**

Presider: Arif Camoglu (Northwestern University)

Eric Lindstrom (University of Vermont), “Negative Capability and the Poetics of Black Life”

Andrew McInnes (Edge Hill), “‘I am h / am h am I a / m’: Black Humour in M. NourbeSe Philip’s *Zong!* and S. T. Coleridge’s ‘Rime of the Ancient Mariner’”

Joel Faflak (Western University), “Break the Dance, Scatter the Song: *Prometheus Unbound* and the Sound of Revolution”

#### 11a-12:30p EST

##### Panel 3

#### **Common Justice**

Presider: Katey Castellano (James Madison University)

Joseph Albernaz (Columbia University), “Robert Wedderburn and the Insurgent Commons”

Sören Hammerschmidt (GateWay Community College), “Sancho’s Hands”

Marie Hologa (TU Dortmund), “A.W. Amo: An African Enlightenment Philosopher and His Legacy”

Daniel Parker (U.S.-based independent scholar), “What If Hope Was a Black Woman? Reading Against Shelley’s Racism”

##### Panel 4

#### **Imperial Intimacies in *The Woman of Colour***

Presider: Kerry Sinanan (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Kerry Sinanan (University of Texas at San Antonio), “Black and White Motherhood: Violent Intimacies in *The Woman of Colour*”

Mariam Wassif (The University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), “The Contemporary and Romantic *Woman of Colour*”

J. Ereck Jarvis (Northwestern State University of Louisiana), “Anonymous Correspondence and

Inexact Inheritance”

Rebecca Barr (University of Cambridge), “The Intimate Imperialism of Romance in *The Woman of Colour*”

**12:30-1:30p EST**

**LUNCH**

**1:45-3:15p EST**

**Plenary Collaboration:**

**“Citation, Appropriation, and Abolition”**

Kerry Sinanan (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Eugenia Zuroski (McMaster University)

Matt Sandler (Columbia University)

**3:30p-4:45p EST**

Panel 5

**Abolitionary Affects**

Presider: Carmen Faye Mathes (University of Regina)

Taylor Schey (University of Michigan), “‘Black Despair’ and White Abolitionism”

Matt Rowney (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), “Romantic Calenture”

Lily Gurton-Wachter (Smith College), “Fireflies, Opacities, and Other Abolitionisms”

Panel 6

**Visual Cultures of Protest**

Presider: Lauren Dembowitz (UCLA)

Joey S. Kim (University of Toledo), “The Racial Sublime in Romanticism”

Lauren Dembowitz (UCLA), “Re-Forging the Black Venus: Robin Coste Lewis, William Blake, and Embodied Atlantic Archives”

Chris Bundock (University of Essex), “Kent Monkman’s Romantic Revisions”

**5:00-6:30p EST**

**Emerging Scholars Roundtable**

Presider: Kos Pozoukidis (University of Maryland, College Park)

Corey Greathouse (University of Texas at San Antonio), “The Deconstruction of Race Law in Antebellum and Post-Civil War Slave Narratives”

Aravis Thomas (Texas A&M University), “State Intervention and the Commodification and De-stabilization of Poor Black Families”

Daniel Yu (St. Mary’s College of Maryland), “August Disgust: Distinction and Race in *The Woman of Colour*”

Leigh-Michil George (UCLA), “Reading Romance While Black: Jane Austen’s Afterlives and *Bridgerton*”

Stacy Creech (McMaster University), “Reclaiming the Gothic: Transatlantic Networks in the Long Eighteenth Century.”

**6:30p EST**

Happy Hour & informal breakout rooms for those interested

**FRIDAY, JUNE 25TH**

**9-10:30a EST**

**Plenary Collaboration:**

**“Black Studies In and Around Romanticism”**

Nicole Aljoe (Northeastern University)

Bakary Diaby (Skidmore College)

Annette Joseph-Gabriel (University of Michigan)

**10:45a-NOON EST**

Panel 7

**Dissenting Bildung and Sexualities**

Presider: Andrew McInnes (Edge Hill)

Lydia Craig (Loyola University Chicago), “Views of West Indian Wealth and Blackness in  
Alicia Le Fanu’s Fashionable Connexions”

Enit Steiner (Université de Lausanne), “Unapologetic Blackness”

Andrew Elfenbein (University of Minnesota), “Blackness and Byronic Sexuality”

Panel 8

**Racial Climates & Racial Sciences**

Presider: Aaron Ottinger (Seattle University)

Mathelinda Nabugodi (University of Cambridge), “‘Wool instead of hair’: the Role of Hair in  
the Construction of Race in Scientific Discourse, c. 1750-1850”

Jeremy Cameron Goheen (University of Texas at Austin), “Race, Racism, Atmospheric  
Passages”

**Noon - 1p**

**LUNCH**

**1:15-2:45p EST**

**Zakiyyah Iman Jackson (USC), Keynote**

**“Against Criticism: Notes on Decipherment and the Force of  
Art”**

**3-4:15p EST**

Panel 9

**Haitian Re-volutions**

Presider: Katherine Bergren (Trinity College)

Tristram Wolff (Northwestern University), “The Blackened Tree-Trunk Speaks: Listening to  
Haitian Nature in Oswald Durand’s “L’Arbre de la Vallée”

Michele Speitz (Furman University), “On Haitian Revolutionary Romanticism and  
Contingent Desolations”

Harrison Patten (Auburn University), “Tigers Dripping with Blood: Haitian Political  
Philosophy from 1758 to 1820”

Panel 10

**Black Math, Monogenesis, Taxonomy**

Presider: Robert Anderson (Oakland University)

Aaron Ottinger (Seattle University), “Black Math in *Frankenstein*”

Julian S. Whitney (Wabash College), “Ottobah Cugoano and the Case for a Post-Racial England”

Robert Anderson (Oakland University), “Taxonomy of Race in Douglass and *Frankenstein*”

**4:30p-5:45p EST**

Panel 11

**Goth/Crip Caribbean Resistances**

Presider: Katey Castellano (James Madison University)

Grace Gerrish (Boston College), “Spirits of the Dead, Spirits of Rebellion: Reassessing the Roles of Obeah & Coromantee Identity in Literary Representations of Jamaican Slave Revolts”

Katey Castellano (James Madison University), “‘She trafficked on her own account’: Commoning Geographies in Robert Wedderburn’s *Horrors of Slavery* (1824) and *History of Mary Prince* (1831)”

Konstantinos (Kos) Pozoukidis, (University of Maryland, College Park), “The Other History of Mary Prince: Black-Crip Resistance”

Panel 12

**Archives & Autobiographies**

Presider: Ashley J. Cross (Manhattan College)

Olivia Carpenter (Harvard University), “Grainlines”

Elizabeth Neiman (University of Maine), “Race & Romanticism Now”

Erin Saladin (Harvard University), “Rebecca Cox Jackson’s Romantic Visions”

**6:00p EST**

**Closing Remarks + Happy Hour (if so desired)**



## **UNDERGRADUATE WORK**

As part of this conference we offered space for undergraduate work, which you can find on the [“Undergraduate Work” page](#) in the online conference portal of the website. We offered these papers asynchronously with the possibility of commenting, so please support our next generation of scholars, organic intellectuals, and activists by engaging with their presentations and offering some supportive comments.

### **Papers from English 389/Critical Social Thought 349, “Revolution and Change in the Age of Necropolitics,” Taught by Kate Singer (Mount Holyoke College)**

#### **Marooning Marronage: Cross-dressing, Shoals, and Nonhuman Agencies**

Lucy James-Olson, “Sociogenic Gendering(s)”

Felix O’Connor, “Fluidity and the Shoals”

Rose Sheehan, “The Swamp and the Mountain: Spaces of Marronage”

#### **The Nature(s) of Rebellion in Haiti**

Sophie Gronbeck, “Planting Seeds of Resistance: Reframing Nature in Relation to Revolution”

A’mara Braynen, “Affirmations of Oppression: White Supremacy and the Making of the Revolutionary Subject”

Emma Watkins, “The Gendering of Revolutionary Ideals”

#### **Resistant Slave Narratives: Religion, Nondisclosure, and White Privilege**

Rachael Amoruso, “Where Necropolitics Resides in Religion: The Resistances of Prince and Douglass”

Anneke Craig, “‘Fitted to the Burden’: Resistance, Death-Worlds, and the Choice to Disclose”

Gillian Petrarca, “The Necropolitics of White Privilege”

#### **Good Lives without Social Death: Indigenous Vitality**

Maggie Kamb, “The Dead Are Not Powerless: Indigenous Imaginaries and Resistance to Necropolitical Elimination”

Owen Contri, “What Fantasy Can Do”

Bethany Powell, “Our Dead Never Forget”

Kelly Lynch, “‘The Song That Sang Itself’: Poetry as Resistance to Biopolitical Erasure”

### **Papers from English 459**

#### **“Race and Romanticism Now”**

**Taught by Elizabeth Neiman (University of Maine at Orono)**

Kevin Cass, "Differential Limitations: How Being "Marked" by Race Impacts Imagination"

Madeleine Gernhard, "*Citizen: An American Lyric* and the Evolution of Romantic Conventions"

Molly Glueck, "Living With Limitations: Reimagining Agony, Freedom, and the Sublime"

**Paper from MUSIC-282,  
"History of Western Music 2: Music from 1700 to 1900"  
Taught by Adeline Mueller (Mount Holyoke College)**

Kyla Legrand (MHC '22), "Il Guarany (1870): Colonialism's Effects on Brazilian Opera"