

5th Annual Lemon Project Spring Symposium April 10th & 11th, 2015

Call for Proposals

The fifth annual Lemon Project Spring Symposium, "Ghosts of Slavery: The Afterlives of Racial Bondage," will take place on the evening of Friday, April 10th and during the day on Saturday, April 11th, 2015 at William & Mary in Williams-burg, Virginia. Research presentations will be given on April 11th. "The Lemon Project is a multifaceted and dynamic attempt to rectify wrongs perpetrated against African Americans by the College through action or inaction." This symposium is an opportunity for scholars and non-scholars to come together to share research and discuss ideas related to the afterlives of racial slavery. For more about the Lemon Project go to: www.wm.edu/lemonproject.

Description

How does one tell the stories of racial slavery's lives renewed in the wake of its supposed formal or legal deaths? "Ghosts of Slavery: The Afterlives of Racial Bondage" is a symposium that seeks to engage the problems and perils of what Saidiya Hartman calls the afterlife of racial slavery, or the tragic continuities between pre- and post-emancipation structures of white supremacy and black subjection apparent in the diminished possibilities, untimely deaths, imprisonment, impoverishment, and other chronic liabilities disparately bore by black people. We seek paper proposals that deal with the specters of slavery that haunt and hound post-emancipation and contemporary life across a range of time periods, methodologies, and places and spaces, including those connected with the state of Virginia and William & Mary. Central to the symposium's concerns is how to commemorate and confront a "past" that is profoundly present in the sense that its effects have yet to end and seemingly are made anew. The symposium also invites participants to grapple with the vexing question of how to repair the ongoing losses and wreckages to black life left in racial slavery's aftermath.

Possible paper topics include but are not limited to:

- Black resistance/activism in response to racial oppression and lessons applicable to contemporary society
- history, memory, and the complexities of memorializing an ongoing past
- the intransigence of social death, racial life, and racism
- post-emancipation forms of capitalism and commodification ghosted by the logic of chattel slavery
- racial slavery's preservation or resurrection in post-emancipation and contemporary modes of governance including those connected with laws and customs such as Jim Crow and institutions like the modern prison industrial complex
- dispossessions and/or inheritances of social, economic, and/or cultural capital conferred through slavery
- bodily and collective social traumas endured by those injured by racial slavery and its afterlives

Cover Sheet

Please include a **cover sheet** with the following:

Contact Information: Name - Email - Phone

Institutional Affiliation

Indicate whether you are a/an: Undergraduate Student, Graduate Student, Law Student, Community Member, Faculty, Staff, Administrator

Proposal

Title? What is your project? How does it relate to the theme?

300-500 words double-spaced

Brief bio (not more than 200 words) Submit proposal to: lemon@wm.edu no later than Saturday, February 28th.