

ASALH Academic Program Committee Report

February 2021

I. Call for Papers and All-Academic Set-up:

<https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/asalh/asalh21/>

The 2021 ASALH Academic Program Committee invites proposals for individual papers, entire sessions, presentations, performances, films, round-tables, workshops, conversations, or alternative formats dealing with the 2021 theme, “The Black Family”.

The Black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines such as history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Its representation, identity, and diversity have been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the period of enslavement to our own time. Since family reunions and genetic-ancestry searches testify to the spread of family members across states, nations, and continents, the Black family knows no single location. Not only are individual Black families diasporic, but Africa and the diaspora itself have been long portrayed as the Black family writ large. While the role of the Black family has been described by some as a microcosm of the entire race, its complexity as the “foundation” of African American life and history can be seen in numerous debates over how to represent its meaning and typicality from a historical perspective—as slave or free, as patriarchal or matriarchal/matrifocal, as single-headed or dual-headed household, as augmented, extended or nuclear, as fictive kin or blood lineage, as legal or common law, and as Black or interracial, etc. Variation appears, as well, in discussions on the nature and impact of parenting, childhood, marriage, gender norms, sexuality, and incarceration. The Black family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present. The Academic Program Committee seeks a diverse slate of presenters and panels representing a variety of professional and institutional backgrounds, perspectives, and voices. We are interested in detailed, comprehensive, and descriptive proposals that outline the theme, scope, and aim of participants.

The committee particularly seeks presentations that probe the traditional fields of economic, political, intellectual, and cultural history; the established fields of urban, race, ethnic, labor, and women’s/gender history as well as southern and western history; along with the rapidly expanding fields of sexuality, LGBTQIA+, and queer history; environmental and public history; African American intellectual history; literature; and the social sciences.

We encourage proposals from scholars working across a variety of temporal, geographical, thematic, and topical areas in Black history, life and culture. We seek to foster a space of inclusion in the ASALH program and encourage submissions from anyone interested in presenting including: historians, students, new professionals, first-time presenters, activists,

and practitioners from allied professions. Deadlines for submission of proposals are as follows: Early Bird Submissions will be accepted until **March 15, 2021** at 5 PM (EST). Responses to Early Bird submissions will be sent out by **April 15, 2021** at 5 PM (EST). After this date, the committee will accept all submissions until the deadline of April 30, 2021. Regular Submissions will be responded to by June 15.

II. Virtual Capacity

The ASALH Annual Conference is scheduled for September 14-30, 2021. Sessions will run Tuesdays, Thursdays (12:30 PM – 9:00 PM) and Saturdays (11:30 PM – 8:00 PM)

Tuesdays/ Thursdays

12:30- 1:20 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1:30- 2:20 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
2:30- 3:20 PM	BOOK ROUNDTABLES
2:30- 3:30 PM	POSTER SESSIONS
2:30- 3:20 PM	YOGA/MEDITATION/WELLNESS
3:30- 4:00 PM	NETWORKING/ ASALH LOUNGE
4:00- 6:00 PM	PLENARY SESSIONS
6:00- 9:00 PM	ASALH LOUNGE
7:00- 9:00 PM	FILM FESTIVAL

Saturdays

11:30- 12:20 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
12:30- 1:20 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1:30-2:20 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
2:30- 3:20 PM	BOOK ROUNDTABLES
2:30- 3:30 PM	POSTER SESSIONS
2:30- 3:20 PM	YOGA/MEDITATION/WELLNESS
3:30- 5:30 PM	PLENARY SESSIONS
5:30- 8:00 PM	ASALH LOUNGE
6:00- 8:00 PM	FILM FESTIVAL

Totals (Wednesday Workshops for NY Life or Mellon Fdn and Teachers Workshop NOT INCLUDED):

- 64 Sessions (panels, papers, workshops)
- 7 Roundtables/ Presidential Sessions
- 5 Networking Sessions
- 7 Plenaries
- 7 Film Festival
- Business Meeting
- Branch Workshop

Grand Total is 92 total events without the workshops

III. Plenaries:

- 1) National Park Conservation Association Plenary
- 2) Black History and Family Legacies- this session will explore the historical legacies of major Black historical figures through their family members living today
 - a. Michelle Duster, great granddaughter of Ida B. Wells
 - b. A'Lelia Bundles, great granddaughter of Madame C.J. Walker
 - c. Khalil Muhammad, grandson of Elijah Muhammad
 - d. Jonathan Jackson, son of Jesse Jackson
 - e. Layla Ali, daughter of Muhammad Ali
 - f. Juliet E.K. Walker, scholar, University of Texas Austin, researcher- Free Frank McWhorter
- 3) Black Families and Public Policy: New Frontiers in the Fight for Black Families- this session will examine the impact of historic and recent public policy decisions on today's Black families.
 - a. Andre M. Perry- Brookings Institute / American University
 - b. Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor- Princeton University
 - c. Nikole Hannah Jones, *New York Times Magazine* or Noliwe Rooks, Cornell University
 - d. Kimberle Crenshaw, Columbia Law School, African American Policy Forum
 - e. Catherine Coleman Flowers, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice, 2020 MacArthur Fellow, moderator
- 4) From *Roots* to Ancestry.com: Doing Black Family History (potentially co-sponsored with AAHGS)
 - a. Elizabeth Clark Lewis, co-founder of AAHGS- Howard University
 - b. Debra Newman Ham, co-founder of AAHGS- retired, Library of Congress, Morgan State University
 - c. Frazine K. Taylor, archivist, genealogist- retired archivist, Alabama Department of Archives & History- president, Alabama Historical Association
 - d. Dorothy Spruill Redford- retired, Somerset Plantation; genealogist
 - e. Gina Paige- *African Ancestry*
 - f. Troy Duster, sociologist, grandson of Ida B. Wells - retired, University of California Berkeley

- 5) Black Families on Screen- a look at how Black families are represented on film and television
 - a. Kevin Wilmott, film maker and University of Kansas professor
 - b. Stanley Nelson, film maker
 - c. *Blackish* writers or producers
 - d. Julie Dash, film maker
 - e. John David Washington, actor; son of Denzel and Paulette Washington
 - f. LeVar Burton- *Roots*

- 6) Black People, Health and Wellness: A Historical Perspective (next year's theme)
 - a. Harriet Washington, Harvard Medical School
 - b. Alondra Nelson, White House
 - c. Samuel Roberts, Columbia University
 - d. Vanessa Northington Gamble, George Washington University

- 7) The Centennial Anniversary of the Tulsa Race Riot and Anti-Black Violence
 - a. John W. Franklin, former curator, National Museum of African American History & Culture and son of John Hope Franklin
 - b. "Watchmen" series rep
 - c. "Lovecraft Country" series rep
 - d. Expert from Tulsa, OK
 - i. Karlos Hill, Oklahoma
 - ii. Melissa Stuckey, Elizabeth City State University

IV. Book Roundtables:

- 1) Tyrone Freeman:
<https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/43qme5pk9780252043451.html>
- 2) Jarvis Givens: *Proposal already submitted to ASALH all-academic by me last night (Education / Woodson)*
- 3) Alison Parker: *(NACW)*; <https://uncpress.org/book/9781469659381/unceasing-militant/>
- 4) *Mia Bay: (Black Travel)*;
<https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674979963&content=bios>
- 5) Brandi Brimmer: *(Reconstruction)*; <https://www.dukeupress.edu/claiming-union-widowhood>
- 6) *Alternatives: In case, the top five decline the invitation*
 - a. *Eddie Cole*;
<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691206745/the-campus-color-line>
 - b. *Vanessa Holden*;
<https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/63sbw5tn9780252043864.html>
 - c. *Tamika Nunley*;
<https://uncpress.org/book/9781469662220/at-the-threshold-of-liberty/>

V. KEY Sessions & Presidential Sessions:

- 1) Black Women and the Family in the Civil War Era
 - a. Thavolia Glymph's *The Women's Fight*
 - b. Tera Hunter's *Bound by Wedlock*
 - c. Heather Williams, moderator
 - d.

- 2) State of the Field: New International Scholarship in Black Women's History (see if ABWH would co-sponsor)
 - a. Jessica Marie Johnson, *Wicked Flesh*
 - b. Annette Joseph-Gabriel, *Reimagining Liberation*
 - c. Tiffany Florvil, *Mobilizing Black Germany*
 - d. Erika Edwards- *Hiding in Plain Sight in Argentina*

- 3) Black Faith Leaders: A Legacy of Service
 - a. Rev. Otis Moss, III- Trinity United Christian Church
 - b. Rev. Carlyle Fielding Stewart, III, The Empowerment Church
 - c. Rev. Bernice King, The King Center
 - d. Dr. Dennis Dickerson, Vanderbilt

- 4) Black Writers and Black Families (KEY Session)
 - a. Imani Perry- *Breathe*—Black sons
 - b. Pearl Cleage- several books—Black families
 - c. Billie Jean Young- Mac Fellow; books on Black women and Black family in the Black Belt
 - d. Jessamyn Ward- several books—Black families
 - e. Tayari Jones
 - f. John Edgar Wideman

- 5) Creating Black Families: Black Marriage and Black Love (KEY Session)
 - a. Randal Jelks, University of Kansas
 - b. Ayesha Hardison, University of Kansas
 - c. Codie and Tommy Oliver, Producers, Black Love series, OWN
 - d. E. Patrick Johnson, Northwestern University
 - e. James Weldon Johnson- A Phillip Randolph/Jacksonville Families

Workshops:

- 1) Black Digital Humanities Workshops
- 2) Black Family History Workshop Series (NY Life)**
- 3) Black Family & Social Justice Workshop Series (Howard/Mellon)**
- 4) Felix Armfield Workshop Series (included in Sessions or Networking)
- 5) Teachers' Workshop**

** pre-conference workshops & Workshop Wednesdays**

VI. Academic Program Committee (tentative):

Shawn Leigh Alexander, co-chair, University of Kansas
Tara White, co-chair, Wallace Community College Selma
Hilary N. Green, vice-chair, University of Alabama

Ida Jones, Morgan State University
Rose Thevenin, Florida Memorial University
Eric Jackson (Council), Northern Kentucky University
Simon Balto, University of Iowa
Aaisha Haykal (Council), College of Charleston
Michael Blum, Jarvis Christian College
Devin Fergus, University of Missouri
Derrick White, University of Kentucky
Dwight Watson, Texas State University
Moses Massenburg (Council), Michigan State University
Derrick Alridge, University of Virginia
Michelle Duster, Independent Scholar
Sundiata Keita Cha-Jua (Council), PhD student, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Jarvis Givens, Harvard University
Greg Mixon, University of North Carolina Charlotte
Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University
Patrick Jones, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Sonya Ramsey, University of North Carolina Charlotte
Deidre Bennett Flowers, Queens College, Columbia University
Jacob Dorman, University of Nevada-Reno
Kaisha Esty, Wesleyan University
Kellie Carter Jackson, Wellesley College
Kendra Boyd, Rutgers University-Camden
Jasmin Young, University of California, Riverside
Camesha Scruggs (Council), PhD student, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Takea Anthony, Kentucky State University
Deidre Hill Butler, Union University
Kimberly Brown Pellow, Florida A & M University
Sylvea Burks Hollis, Montgomery College
Howard Robinson, Alabama State University
Le'Trice Donaldson, University of Wisconsin-Stout
Kenvi Phillips, Schlesinger Library, Harvard University

Subcommittees:

Proposal Review: Hilary Green (chair)

Program Review: Shawn Alexander (co-chair); Hilary Green (co-chair); Tara White (co-chair)

Communications/ AP Marketing: Deidre Bennett Flowers (co-chair); Lopez Matthews (co-chair); Zebulon Miletsky (Liaison to PR/Marketing Committee)

Information Desk: Dwight Watson (chair)

Poster Sessions: Thura Mack (co-chair) and Adreonna Simmons-Bennett (co-chair)

Graduate/Early Career/Professional Development: Rose Thevenin (co-chair); Cherisse Jones-Branch (co-chair); Kaisha Esty (Networking co-chair); Anton House (Networking co-chair)

Evening Events: Takeia Anthony (co-chair); TBD (co-chair)

Hine-Horne Book Roundtable: Jarvis Givens (co-chair); LaShawn Harris (co-chair)

Film: Ida Jones (co-chair); TBD (co-chair)

Public History: Aaisha Haykal (co-chair); Kenvi Phillips (co-chair)