

## **Program**

Southern Studies Conference 2024  
March 28-29, 2024  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
Montgomery, Alabama

v. 4.0

## **Welcome to Auburn University at Montgomery's Southern Studies Conference 2024**

The Southern Studies Conference is an interdisciplinary gathering of scholars, artists, practitioners, and community members that is dedicated to the study of the history, politics, literature, arts, and overall culture of the American South. This year's meeting is the 14<sup>th</sup> iteration of the event. On behalf of the entire Auburn University at Montgomery community, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Montgomery, Alabama and the AUM campus.

The 2024 Southern Studies Conference features 21 individual panels/roundtables on themes related to the South. In addition to these events, we are also pleased to host two keynote addresses, a musical presentation, and a poster/exhibit hall event. All plenary, poster/exhibit sessions, and luncheons occur in Taylor Center 230. Each keynote address will be followed by an audience Q&A.

Our first keynote address, which occurs on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:45 to 1:45 pm, features Frye Gaillard, a writer in residence at the University of South Alabama. His address is entitled, "A Hard Rain: The South and the Sixties, Lessons and Warnings for Our Time."

Our second keynote address, which occurs on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:45 to 1:45 pm, features Katharine Burnett, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Arts & Languages at Fisk University. Her address is entitled, "Speculating the South: Projecting and Constructing Identity from the Early South to the Present Day."

Additionally, this year's conference will also include a musical presentation from Alabama State University faculty, Jonathan Houghtling, Kristofer Sanchack, and Cordelia Anderson. Their musical demonstration, "The Evolution of the Negro Spiritual from the Slave Quarters to the Concert Stage," will occur on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:45 to 11:45 am in Taylor Center 230.

And finally, this year's poster and special exhibit will be on display Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm in Taylor Center 230. This year, we have research posters, photography, and much more, so be sure to catch this special exhibit and meet our presenters.

Allow me to reiterate how thrilled we are to have you with us for this meeting of the Southern Studies Conference. Along the way, I hope you encounter thought-provoking material, stimulating colleagues, and a renewed desire to study the most fascinating section of the United States.

David Hughes  
Conference Chair

### **Southern Studies Conference Committee**

David Hughes, Chair  
Gina Allen  
Roy Choudury

Prit Kaur  
Seth Reno  
Tate Sommer

Wyatt Wells

Andrew McMichael, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Kim Brackett, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

## **Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to the many Auburn University at Montgomery faculty and staff who helped make the 2024 Southern Studies Conference Possible, but we would especially like to recognize:

Bill Broadway, Information Technology Services  
Andrew Cortell, Department of Political Science and Public Administration  
Aaron Frazee, University Marketing  
Allison Frost, Department of Political Science and Public Administration  
Marie Harrington, Conference Services  
James Jackson, University Marketing  
Rachael Mann, Information Technology Services  
Marcus Washington, University Marketing

## **Sponsors**

The following organizations generously sponsored elements of the Southern Studies Conference:

Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee  
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Sociology, Online MA Program

## **Conference Wi-Fi Information**

During your time on the AUM campus, Wi-Fi is available to all attendees using SSID: Warhawk-SE and Password, AUMSSC2024!

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am to 8:30 am

**Registration**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
8:15 am to 4:30 pm  
Taylor Center Lobby

Registration, check-in, and name-badge acquisition

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**Social Period**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
8:15 am to 8:50 am  
Taylor Center 230

Morning coffee, bagels, and socialization

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Conference Opening: Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am to 8:50 am

**Conference Opening**

8:30 am to 8:50 am  
Taylor Center 230

Opening remarks by David Hughes, Conference Chair, and Andrew McMichael, Dean of the Auburn University at Montgomery College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Session I: Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 10:30 am Panels

**A. Ghost-Towns and Boom-Towns: A History**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:30 am  
Taylor Center 221

**Chair:** Wyatt Wells, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

“From Red Scare to Red Tape: How the Evolution from the NACA to NASA Induced Bureaucratic Expansion and the Dissipation of Local Communities”

*Sofia Foradori, Auburn University*

“Walking the Line: Daniel Pratt and the Building of a New South”

*Samuel Kuykendall, Samford University*

“Old Cahawba, the Black Belt’s Ghost Town

*Emily Minor, University of Alabama*

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**B. Education in the South**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:30 am  
Taylor Center 223

**Chair:** John Young, Amridge University

**Participants**

“The Southern Folk School: Mission Drift and Future Potential”

*Brad Busbee, Samford University*

“The Origins of Black Education in Arkansas”

*Matthew Caston, University of Arkansas*

“Let’s Get Ready to Advance”

*Jessica McCarty, University of South Alabama*

“White Resisters’ Final Stand: Segregation Academies and Rural Alabama’s Fight against School Integration”

*Amberly Sheffield, University of Mississippi*

“The Effects of Ethnic Racial Identity on Resilience and Academic Engagement.”

*Eryn Smith, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:45 am to 11:45 am

**Musical Performance: Jonathan Houghtling, Cordelia Anderson, and Kristofer Sanchack (Alabama State University)**

10:45 to 11:45 am  
Taylor Center 230

“The Evolution of the Negro Spiritual from the Slave Quarters to the Concert Stage”

Description: The Negro Spiritual was born in the South out of necessity; as a way for slaves to express themselves. In a horrific life of oppression and suffering, spirituals helped slaves to find their own voice. Since the start of widespread slavery of Africans in the US in the year 1619, spirituals evolved from working songs, to worship songs, to code songs for freedom, and eventually to the concert stage. Spirituals can be viewed as the quintessential, original American musical art form.

In this presentation, through the use of a PowerPoint presentation in combination with live performances featuring trombone, voice, and piano, we will showcase the evolution of spirituals over hundreds of years leading to the modern day. The meaning behind each selected spiritual and its lyrics will be explained, as well as categorizing it into one of the three genres of spirituals: working songs, worship songs, and secret codes for escaping to freedom. The connection to the slave trade in Montgomery, Alabama will also be explored as it relates to the history of spirituals.

Luncheon and Keynote Address: Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 to 12:45 pm

**Lunch Break**

12:00 to 12:45 pm  
Taylor Center 230

Buffet-style lunch for conference participants

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**Keynote Lecture: Frye Gaillard (University of South Alabama)**

12:45 to 1:45 pm  
Taylor Center 230

A Hard Rain: The South and the Sixties, Lessons and Warnings for Our Time

Author Frye Gaillard, former writer in residence at the University of South Alabama, discusses the new paperback edition of his award-winning book, A Hard Rain: America in the 1960s, Our Decade of Hope, Possibilities, and Innocence Lost. Gaillard argues that the competing themes of a pivotal decade - idealism and hope on the one hand, division and violence on the other - continue to shape the life and politics of our country.

**Generously sponsored by the Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee**



Session 2: Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 to 3:30 pm Panels

**A. Identity and Belonging in the American South**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 to 3:30 pm  
Taylor Center 221

**Chair:** Gina Allen, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

“Queerness and Rurality: A Fly in the Buttermilk”

*Phil Colquitt, Washington University in St. Louis*

“From Chamoun’s to Cedars: Tracing Lebanese Immigrant Integration through Cuisine”

*Julia Kraus, University of Mississippi*

“In and Out of Family and Belonging: Asian International Students’ Experiences of (Non)Belonging at a Southern PWI”

*Lizzie Tighe, Auburn University*

“The Hearing of Her Words: The Function of Sound in Sarah Broom’s *The Yellow House*”

*Janie Brown, Auburn University*

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**B. Art and Architecture in Southern Cities**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 to 3:30 pm  
Taylor Center 222

**Chair:** Kimberly Pyszka, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

“Exposure of Time: The Birth and Evolution of Photography in Huntsville, Alabama”

*Jose Betancourt, University of Alabama at Huntsville*

*Sean Berry University of Alabama at Huntsville*

“Historical Built Environment Revitalization of Black Communities in the Rural South”

*Johnnifer Brown, Western Carolina University*

“Architectural Racism: The Case of Wallace Rayfield”

*Kelly Jackson, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

“What Has Been Will Be Again: A Photographic Journey across Place, Time, and the Politics of Remembrance”

*Jared Ragland, Utah State University*

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 to 3:30 pm  
Taylor Center 223

### **C. Roundtable: Health Disparity Landscapes in the South**

**Chair:** Ram Alagan, Alabama State University

#### **Participants**

“Health Disparity Landscapes in the South: Leading the Way in Developing Truthful Models in Public Health

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

*Robert White, Alabama State University*

*Maurice Robinson, Alabama State University*

*Seela Aladuwaka, Alabama State University*

Abstract: The research studies health disparities from a historical and contemporary healthcare policy lens. Studies underline evidence that Social Determinants of Health (SDH), environmental, and disfranchised policies are closely associated with healthcare. Associating the above factors concerning minority healthcare is timely and noteworthy. Trustworthy healthcare policies and communication skills are paramount mechanisms and integrating the social sciences (SS) within STEM education offers the most effective research methods to improve healthcare. The current status quo of healthcare in Alabama does not adequately support minority communities. This raises concerns about how we can work together to merge STEM and SS and benefit each other. The research employed historical, environmental, and GIS to outline the prevailing healthcare stories. We utilized environmental conditions and its impact on lung cancer among the African American population, and we integrated GIS to analyze and display the health disparity. Exploring healthcare disparities and providing an equitable health policy is significant.

Session 3: Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:45 to 5:15 pm Panels

**A. Southern Electoral Politics**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
3:45 to 5:15 pm  
Taylor Center 221

**Chair:** David Hughes, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

“This Campaign We On Is Eternal’: The Political Influence of Jesse Jackson”

*Scott Blusiewicz, University of Mississippi*

“Who to Choose?: Dueling Republican Incumbents in an Alabama Primary”

*Trey Hood, University of Georgia*

*David Hughes, Auburn University at Montgomery*

*Seth McKee, Oklahoma State University*

“New Democracy in the South?: Biracial Coalitions in Southern Democratic Parties, 1970-2010”

*Nathan Jordan, Auburn University at Montgomery*

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**B. The History of Montgomery, Alabama**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
3:45 to 5:15 pm  
Taylor Center 222

**Chair:** Keith Krawczynski, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

“From Beauvoir Club to Montgomery Country Club: The Lost Cause of Montgomery’s Upper Crust”

*Michel Aaij, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“Park Segregation and Park Access: An Environmental Justice Inquiry of Urban Parks in Montgomery, Alabama”

*Binita Mahato, Auburn University*

“The City of St. Jude: A Hidden Gem in the History of Alabama”

*Jimmy Schomburg, Huntingdon College*

“From Ann Street to Amridge: The Montgomery Bible School and Its Successors”

*John Young, Amridge University*

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
3:45 to 5:15 pm  
Taylor Center 223

### **C. Critical Evaluations of Literature and Screen**

**Chair:** Tate Sommer, Auburn University at Montgomery

#### **Participants**

“Goddess of Creation: A Look at God, Divine Femininity, and the Spirituality in *The Color Purple*”

*Emma Butler, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“Digging Deep in the Delta: Vertical Travel, Place, and History in Richard Grant’s *Dispatches from Pluto* and *The Deepest South of All*”

*Christopher Keirstead, Auburn University*

“Southern Noir in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Burden of the Anti-Hero and Femme Fatale Heritage in Reading/Teaching Or, Why “[t]he past is not dead. It’s not even past” (Still and Again)”

*Amy Pardo, University of Alabama*

“The Importance of *Moonlight*’s Healthy Depiction of Masculinity”

*Devin Vaughn, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Reception: Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:15 to 5:45 pm

**Reception**

Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
5:15 to 5:45 pm  
Taylor Center 230

Light refreshments provided for attendees

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:15 to 9:00 am

**Registration**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
8:15 am to 4:30 pm  
Taylor Center Lobby

Registration, check-in, and name-badge acquisition

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**Social Period**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
8:15 am to 9:00 am  
Taylor Center 230

Morning coffee, bagels, and socialization

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Session 4: Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 to 10:30 am Panels

**A. Literary Demonstration**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:30 am  
Taylor Center 221

**Participants**

“Echoes of Justice: A Journey through Time and Conscience”  
*Joi’a Austin, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“Echoes of Justice” takes readers on a riveting journey through time and conscience, intertwining the compelling narrative of Jamal Dudley with the echoes of historical figures who shaped the Civil Rights Movement. Set against the backdrop of the deep South, the story unfolds as Jamal, a modern-day young man, finds himself mysteriously transported to pivotal moments in the struggle for justice. As Jamal grapples with his own identity and the weight of history, he encounters iconic figures such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Fannie Lou Hamer. Each encounter becomes a portal into the past, offering Jamal profound insights into the sacrifices, resilience, and unwavering determination that defined this transformative era.

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**B. Roundtable: Magical Realism and a Book Signing**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:30 am  
Taylor Center 230

**Participants**

Crocodile Tears Didn’t Cause the Flood  
*Bradley Sides, Calhoun Community College*

The South is a magical place, but oftentimes the South is not the setting of choice in magical realism short fiction. In Bradley Sides’ latest short story collection, *Crocodile Tears Didn’t Cause the Flood*, the weird engages with the South. In Sides’ collection, there is a pond monster and an organic garlic farm run by vampires in rural Tennessee. There is a Dead-Dead Monster haunting folks on the brink of death in Alabama. There’s a father protecting his moth family and another man leaving a letter for his ghost daughter in nameless rural towns. There are front porches, watermelons, and quilt making, too. Sides’ stories very much exist to highlight the magic of our Southern world. Bradley Sides’ *Crocodile Tears Didn’t Cause the Flood* (Montag Press), releases in February 2024, and the book has received glowing early praise from some of the best magical realists writing today. The book will be covered in national and regional venues.

### **C. Indigenous Heritage in the South**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:30 am  
Taylor Center 222

**Chair:** Wyatt Wells, Auburn University at Montgomery

#### **Participants**

To ‘Live in Great Friendship with Our People’: Indigenous-Colonial Cooperation in Colonial Georgia”

*Lisa Crutchfield, University of Lynchburg*

“NAGPRA: From Regulations to Healing in AUM’s Archaeology Lab”

*Lacey Sloan, Auburn University at Montgomery*

*Kimberly Pyszka, Auburn University at Montgomery*

*Megan LeBlanc, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“From Hunting to Hide Processing: A Study of the Lithic Assemblage from the Walnut Creek Site”

*Thomas Nordquist, Troy University*

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### **D. The Sociology and History of Place**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:30 am  
Taylor Center 223

**Chair:** Bruce Craft, Southeastern Louisiana University

#### **Participants**

“Alabama and the Promise of the Sociological Perspective”

*Derrick Shapley, University of Montevallo*

*Chris Bounds, University of Montevallo*

“Peeping inside the Cage: Advertising and the Angola Prison Rodeo”

*Bruce Craft, Southeastern Louisiana University*

“From Remembrance to Redevelopment: Memory, Place, and the General Textile Strike of 1934

*Darren Grem, University of Mississippi*

“The Most Southern Place on Earth? Finding and Deconstructing ‘The Mystique of the Delta’”

*Cosmo McGee, University of Mississippi*



Poster and Special Exhibit Session

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
10:45 am to 11:45 am  
Taylor Center 230

**Chair: Agnitra Roy Choudhury, Auburn University at Montgomery**

**Participants**

“Scales of Justice (Sculpture of Cast Iron and Rope)”

*Taylor Allen-Galusha*

“Unsilenced Voices: The Impact of the Black Press on Wilmington’s Path to 1898”

*Mashayla Billups, Howard University*

“Kindred: The Southern Significance of Family”

*Madison Cagle, Jacksonville State University*

“The Rx Revolution: Combatting Health Disparity Amidst Food Deserts”

*Rontrell Catlin, Alabama State University*

*Manoj Mishra, Alabama State University*

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

*Seela Aladuwaka, Alabama State University*

“SCEN for Southern Communities (Short Film)”

*Abigail Franks, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

“Breast Cancer Disparities: Understanding the Role of Social Determinant of Health in Alabama”

*Charlia Hardy, Alabama State University*

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

*Seela Aladuwaka, Alabama State University*

*Manoj Mishra, Alabama State University*

“The CROWN Act: Civil Rights Policy Adoption in the States”

*Nathan Jordan, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“Respecting the Past, Empowering the Present: NAGPRA, College Students, and a Renewed Commitment to Indigenous Heritage:

*Megan LeBlanc, Auburn University at Montgomery*

*Sarah Bishop, Auburn University at Montgomery*

*Hunter Bobbitt, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“Free Form”

*Debanjaly Sen, University of Alabama*

“African American Artists of Alabama and the South”

*Mary Soylu, Alabama State University*

*Ronald Martin, Alabama State University*

*Brittany Myburgh, Jackson State University*

“Association of Cervical Cancer and Socioeconomic Status and Health Disparity in the Black Belt Region, Alabama”

*May Moore, Alabama State University*

*Jamiya Alexander, Alabama State University*

*Seela Aladuwaka, Alabama State University*

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

*Manoj Mishra, Alabama State University*

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**Student Paper and Poster Awards**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
11:45 am to 12:00 pm  
Taylor Center 230

Student awards for best undergraduate and graduate papers and posters

**Generously sponsored and presented by the University of Alabama at Birmingham Online MA in Sociology Program**

Luncheon and Keynote Address: Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 to 12:45 pm

**Lunch Break**

12:00 to 12:45 pm  
Taylor Center 230

Buffet-style lunch for conference participants

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**Keynote Lecture: Katharine Burnett (Fisk University)**

12:45 to 1:45 pm  
Taylor Center 230

Speculating the South: Projecting and Constructing Identity from the Early South to the Present Day

The South has never been a real space, at least not in the imaginations of authors from colonization-forward. From early works of the colonial era and nineteenth century, to the wave of Afrofuturist texts of the past several decades, the South has been a space of alternative realities, a site of speculation upon which authors projected imagined presents and futures. The throughline in all of these representations—what makes them “speculative”—is the treatment of the region. The “otherness” of the South has always lent the region a speculative bent in the US and global imagination. Reality-building around the US South, both within and beyond the nation, allows writers to reimagine the South and its history, then to challenge traditional definitions. Focusing on speculative fiction published during the antebellum period, this talk will examine southern literature's role in creating and sustaining ideas of the region. The images of "South" created in the literature uphold long-standing stereotypes, but also work to undermine those stereotypes. This is especially true of the earliest texts published by self-identified southerners in the 18th and 19th centuries. To understand the endurance and widespread influence of dominant versions of “South,” it is necessary to examine their literary origin points and not just the aftershocks and reverberations. Like writing about the South, writing from the South during the nineteenth century was always a speculative exercise, made especially evident when focusing on works by those invested in continuing an idea of “South” that lay the foundation for ideologies circulating long after the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of the Civil War.

**Generously sponsored by the Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee**

Session 5: Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 to 3:30 pm Panels

**A. Roundtable: Reflections on Fear: The Land Exclusion Acts of 2023**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 to 3:30 pm  
Taylor Center 230

**Participants**

*Michael Guo-Brennan, Troy University*

*Adam Rutkowski, Troy University*

*Linyuan Guo-Brennan, Troy University*

*Zhiyong Wang, Troy University*

*Lily Moore, Auburn University at Montgomery*

*Daowei Zhang, Auburn University*

Between January and June 2023, 15 states enacted laws to restrict certain individuals and entities from China, Russia, Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, Iran, and North Korea to own real property (land). This includes many Southern states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Virginia. In addition, 20 states have proposed legislation that would restrict ownership of real property if enacted. The purpose of this panel is to ignite a discussion on this issue and the implications of these laws. The panel discussion will center on the impact of these laws in six main areas: National sovereignty to control borders and citizenship (legal); State sovereignty to control land use (legal, policy); Impact of land purchase restrictions on land use (legal, political, policy); Economic development and innovation; Political impact of restrictive land purchase policy (political, policy); Political and civic engagement of minority groups in the South (cultural, political, education); Tactics, misinformation, and disinformation used in passing Alabama HB 379.

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**B. Alabama History**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 to 3:30 pm  
Taylor Center 221

**Chair:** Keith Krawczynski, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

“The Wade Hall Postcard Collection: Alabama History in Postcards”

*Ruth Elder, Troy University*

“Heritage of Heroes: Alabama Recipients of the Carnegie Hero Award”

*Keith Krawczynski, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“The Martyrdom of Father James Cole”

*Timothy Sutton, Samford University*

“‘When Will They Reopen Our Hospital?’ The Rise and Fall of Holy Family Hospital”

*Haley Wells, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 to 3:30 pm  
Taylor Center 222

### **C. Military History**

**Chair:** Gerald Chaudron, University of Memphis

#### **Participants**

“‘Calling the United States and Mid-South’: A POW’s Radio Message from Japan, 1944”

*Gerald Chaudron, University of Memphis*

“The USS Alabama: A Service History and Lesson in WWII Naval Theory”

*Sterling Jones, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“Full of Sound and Fury but Resulting in Nothing: The C.E. Menke Case under the Espionage and Sedition Acts”

*Scott Merriman, Troy University*

“The Army Ballistic Missile Agency, Postwar Army Identity, and the Early Space Race”

*Victor Rodriguez, Auburn University*

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Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 to 3:30 pm  
Taylor Center 223

### **D. Race, Violence, and Story-Telling in the South**

**Chair:** David Hughes, Auburn University at Montgomery

#### **Participants**

“Unsolicited Notoriety”

*Constance Briggs, Kennesaw State University*

“The Racial Integration of the Alabama Circuit Courts”

*David Hughes, Auburn University at Montgomery*

*Nathan Jordan, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“Transatlantic Slavery: The Birth of Multi-Ethnicities”

*Mashawn Mathis, Troy University*

“Ghostly Distraction and the Debate Surrounding It”

*Lori Sadler, Auburn University*

Session 6: Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 3:45 to 5:15 pm Panels

**A. Technological Divides in the South**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
3:45 to 5:15 pm  
Taylor Center 222

**Chair:** Agnitra Roy Choudhury, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

“Bridging the Digital Divide in Rural Alabama and the Black Belt Region”  
*Takudzwa Modza, Alabama State University*

“Globalization and Digital Media Technology Influence on Migratory Decisions”  
*Glory Okereke, Florida International University*

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**B. Roundtable: Following the Money: The Connection between public Punishment and Public Revenue in Alabama**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
3:45 to 5:15 pm  
Taylor Center 230

**Chair:** Peter Jones, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Participants**

*Peter Jones, University of Alabama at Birmingham*  
*Leah Nelson, Alabama Appleseed*  
*David Hughes, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Research shows that excessive fines and fees imposed to penalize violations, misdemeanors, and felonies hurt the debtors who owe them. Less examined is the role this criminal legal debt plays in funding public infrastructure and services in Alabama. In this roundtable, we will discuss fines and fees associated with the criminal justice system in Alabama. Presentations will highlight questions pertaining to the efficiency, efficacy, and equity of assessed fines and fees, also known as legal financial obligations. The roundtable will feature researchers from Auburn University at Montgomery, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Alabama Appleseed.

### **C. Executions and Lynching in the South**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
3:45 to 5:15 pm  
Taylor Center 223

**Chair: Prit Kaur, Auburn University at Montgomery**

#### **Participants**

“Historical Perspective of Alabama Capital Punishment: A Labored Evolution in an Enlightened Age”

*Taylor Allen-Galusha*

“Black Anti-Lynching Activism and the 1898 Lynching of Frazier and Julia Baker in Lake City, South Carolina”

*David Carter, Auburn University*

“The Rots of Memory: A Lynching Tree and Its Legacies”

*Travis Patterson, University of Mississippi*

“The ‘Espy File’ and Its Significance to Capital Punishment Policy”

*Corina Schulze, University of South Alabama*

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### **D. Art, History, and Intent**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
3:45 to 5:15 pm  
Taylor Center 221

**Chair: Mirya Lessman, Auburn University at Montgomery**

#### **Participants**

“Purvis Young’s Galactic Geopolitical Maelstroms of Black Maternity”

*Danelle Bernten, Florida State University*

“A Monumental Deception: How the United Daughters of the Confederacy Influenced How the Civil War is Remembered”

*Mirya Lessman, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“‘Where Did You Sleep Last Night’: A Feminist Affirmative Action”

*Elham Shabani, University of Alabama*

Conference Closing: Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:15 pm

**Conference Closing**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
5:15 pm  
Taylor Center 230

Closing remarks by David Hughes, Conference Chair

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**Reception**

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 pm  
Taylor Center 230

Light refreshments provided for attendees following closing remarks