

Interpreting Landscapes of Enslavement
Garden and Landscape Studies Colloquium
October 25, 2019

Speaker Biographies

Niya Bates, *Director of African American History and Getting Word Oral History Project, Monticello*

Niya Bates is Director of African American History and Getting Word Oral History Project in the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello. She has been with Monticello since 2016. Started in 1993, Getting Word is a growing archive of over 200 oral histories of people descended from slaves at Monticello. Niya works to engage local and national audiences in dialogue about Monticello, slavery and its enduring legacies, and race. She earned a B.A. in African and African American Studies and an M.A. in Architectural History and Historic Preservation – both from the University of Virginia. Her research focuses on enslaved families at Monticello, African American life in the Reconstruction Era in Virginia, and rural cultural preservation. She has published articles in *Arris: Journal of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians* and *Thomas Jefferson's Monticello*.

Elizabeth Chew, *Executive Vice President and Chief Curator, James Madison's Montpelier*

Elizabeth Chew is Executive Vice President and Chief Curator at James Madison's Montpelier, where she oversees the Curatorial, Education, Archaeology, Preservation, and Research departments. At Montpelier she has overseen the excavation and reconstruction of six slave dwellings and work buildings, the creation of the exhibition *The Mere Distinction of Colour*, winner of six national awards, and the National Summit on Teaching Slavery. As curator at Monticello for thirteen years, she was instrumental in expanding interpretation to include women, slavery, and domestic work. She curated the exhibition "'To Try All Things': Monticello as Experiment" in the David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center and was co-curator, with Rex Ellis of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, of the exhibition *Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello: Paradox of Liberty*. She has taught art history at the University of Virginia, James Madison University, Wake Forest University, and Davidson College.

Elgin Cleckley, *Assistant Professor of Architecture and Design Thinking, University of Virginia School of Architecture*

Elgin Cleckley is a designer, educator, and principal of _mpathic design, a Design Thinking initiative, pedagogy, and professional practice focusing on socio-cultural design projects. He has collaborated with DLR Group (Seattle), MRSA Architects (Chicago), and Baird Sampson Neuert Architects (Toronto) on award-winning civic projects. Elgin currently facilitates Design Thinking Workshops and project development with national clients through _mpathic design, utilizing its core methodology, the mosaic. Before joining UVA's new Design Thinking program in 2016, he was the 3D Group Leader and Design Coordinator at the Ontario Science Centre (Toronto), Visitor Experience / Science Content and Design, and Agents of Change Initiative, since 2001. Elgin teaches a University-wide Introduction to Design and Thinking course for undergraduates and multi-level seminars on topics ranging from James Monroe's Highland to Dr. Carter G. Woodson's Birthplace in New Canton, Virginia.

Brandon Dillard, *Manager of Special Programs, Monticello*

Brandon Dillard is Monticello's Manager of Special Programs. Working primarily with the education team, Dillard focuses on the interpretation of slavery and its legacies. Dillard joined the Thomas Jefferson Foundation in 2010. After working several years as a frontline interpreter, he moved into his current administrative role. Dillard has a passion for discussing justice and equity, and has dedicated his life to bringing marginalized narratives to the forefront of public history. Dillard holds degrees in philosophy from Georgia State University (BA, 2006), anthropology from the University of Virginia (MA, 2018), and a certificate in Museum Management from the Virginia Association of Museums (2015). His academic work focuses on identity, public memory, and power at museums, monuments, and historic sites.

Jillian E. Galle, *Project Director, The Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery, Thomas Jefferson Foundation*

Jillian E. Galle has directed The Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (www.daacs.org) at Monticello since its inception in 2000. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in 2006. Galle specializes in early-modern Atlantic World material culture and studies how women and men used material culture to navigate slavery and freedom throughout the Caribbean and Southeast in the 18th and 19th centuries. She has active fieldwork collaborations in Jamaica and has led fieldwork in Nevis, St. Kitts, Virginia and Tennessee. She is the editor of *Engendering African American Archaeology* (2004) and has published articles in *American Antiquity*, *The Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*, and numerous edited volumes. She is currently editing a volume for the University of Alabama Press titled *Beyond the Mansion: 30 Years of Archaeological Research on Slavery at The Hermitage*.

Hilary N. Green, *Associate Professor of History, Department of Gender and Race Studies, The University of Alabama*

Hilary N. Green is an Associate Professor of History and Co-Program Director of African American Studies in the Department of Gender and Race Studies at the University of Alabama. She earned her Ph.D. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2010, her M.A. in History from Tufts University in 2003 and her B.A. in History with minors in Africana Studies and Pre-Healing Arts from Franklin and Marshall College in 1999. She is the author of *Educational Reconstruction: African American Schools in the Urban South, 1865-1890* (Fordham University Press, 2016). In early 2015, she developed the Hallowed Grounds Tour and Project that explores the slavery, the experiences of enslaved laborers and memory at the University of Alabama. She is currently developing a book manuscript on how everyday African Americans remembered and commemorated the Civil War.

Fraser D. Neiman, Director, Department of Archaeology, Monticello

Fraser D. Neiman is Director of Archaeology at Monticello and a lecturer in the departments of Anthropology and Architectural History at the University of Virginia. Neiman's research interests include cultural evolutionary theory, quantitative data analysis, and the archaeology and architecture of slave societies of the North American South and the Caribbean. The topics addressed in his Monticello Plantation research include agricultural ecology, land use, settlement patterns, and household organization. Monticello's Archaeology Department is also home to the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (www.daacs.org). Web site: www.people.virginia.edu/~fn9r

Brian Palmer, Journalist, Brian Palmer Photography /Volunteer Cemetery Reclaimer/ Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University

Brian Palmer is a Richmond-based journalist and reporting fellow at Type Investigations (formerly the Investigative Fund). Before going freelance in 2002, he served in a number of staff positions—photographer and Beijing bureau chief (US News & World Report); writer (Fortune); and on-air correspondent (CNN). Palmer's photos and articles have appeared in the New York Times, the Nation, Smithsonian Magazine, and on websites such as BuzzFeed, ColorLines.com, and Narrative.ly. With his collaborator, Seth Wessler, he received the Peabody and Online Journalism Awards for “Monumental Lies,” a 2018 story for Reveal radio about public funding for Confederate sites. Palmer has taught at Hampton University, New York University, University of Richmond, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Baruch College (CUNY), and the School of Visual Arts (SVA), where he is currently a member of the board of directors.

Ashley Rogers, Executive Director, Whitney Plantation

Ashley Rogers is the Executive Director of the Whitney Plantation Museum in Wallace, Louisiana. Whitney Plantation is a museum and memorial dedicated to the history of enslavement on a historical indigo, rice and sugarcane plantation. Rogers spearheaded a project to research 20th century life and labor at the Whitney Plantation, which included the preservation of hundreds of original documents, conducting oral history interviews with former workers, and opening an exhibit in 2018. Rogers is a frequent speaker on the topics of slavery interpretation and memorialization and has consulted on interpretive projects with James Madison's Montpelier; Stenton in Philadelphia and the Atlanta History Center, among others. She is an editor and contributing writer of *The Inclusive Historian's Handbook* and the MASS Action toolkit. Rogers is a doctoral student at Louisiana State University where her research focuses on labor and industrialization in 20th-century Louisiana.

Adam Rothman, Professor, History Department, Georgetown University

Adam Rothman studies the history of the United States from the Revolution to the Civil War, and the history of slavery and abolition in the Atlantic world. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Atlantic history, 19th century U.S. history, and the history of slavery. His most recent book is *Beyond Freedom's Reach: A Kidnapping in the Twilight of Slavery* (Harvard University Press, 2015). Adam's first book was *Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South* (Harvard University Press, 2005). Adam served on Georgetown's Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation in 2015-2016, and is currently the principal curator of the *Georgetown Slavery Archive*. He was a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress in 2018, where he created the *African-American Passages: Black Lives in the 19th Century* podcast.

Ibrahima Seck, Director of Research, Whitney Plantation Museum/ Professor at University Cheikh Anta Diop (Dakar, Senegal)

Ibrahima Seck is a member of the History department of University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (UCAD), Senegal. His research is mostly devoted to the historical and cultural links between West Africa and Louisiana with a special interest for religious beliefs, music, foodways, and miscellaneous aspects of culture. Dr. Seck is now holding the position of Director of research of the Whitney Plantation Slavery Museum located in St. John the Baptist Parish in Louisiana. He is the author of a book on this historic site entitled “Bouki fait Gombo: A History of the Slave Community of Habitation Haydel (Whitney Plantation) Louisiana, 1750-1860. [New Orleans: UNO Press, 2014