

THE RICHARD K. BENNETT DISTINGUISHED
LECTURESHIP FOR SOCIAL PEACE AND JUSTICE

RACISM IN AMERICA

UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY
AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN CULTURE



MONTGOMERY
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THE RICHARD K. BENNETT DISTINGUISHED
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UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY
AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN CULTURE

January 27 – May 5

Racism in America: How much do we really understand about the colonization of North America? What drove the Europeans to North America? What did the early colonizers hope to gain from colonizing? How much do we really know about the constructs of slavery and the policies and laws established to keep this system in place? Looking through a historical lens, this seven-part series will delve deep into why slavery came into existence and how slavery was constructed. We will analyze the impact of racism and “illuminate the efficient systems — both de jure and de facto — that were put in place” to control and “dehumanize African Americans,” a system of segregation and discrimination that is threaded deeply into our social system, which still permeates in our society today.

The Richard K. Bennett Distinguished Lectureship for Social Peace and Justice is supported through an endowment made from the William Penn Foundation through the Bennett Fund of the Montgomery County Community College Foundation.



Lecture Series Facilitator: Fran L. Lassiter, Ph.D.

Professor of English, Montgomery County Community College

Fran L. Lassiter is an Associate Professor of English at Montgomery County Community College (MCCC). She received her Ph.D. in English from Temple University, with a specialization in African American literature and early slave narratives. Her research and teaching focus broadly on questions of gendered and racialized identities in literature, and Africanisms as a theoretical approach for the reclamation of understudied slave narratives.

In 2008, she became the first Faculty Diversity Fellow at MCCC. She has presented papers at various national conferences on Black women writers; the rhetoric of 19th-century African American activists; and her paper titled “Journey to Equality: From Maria W. Stewart to Barack Obama” received the Northeast Modern Language Association’s CAITY Caucus Prize in 2010. In addition, her paper “From Toasts to Raps: New Approaches for Teaching the Harlem Renaissance,” published in *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition, and Culture*, offers a cross-disciplinary approach for teaching literature of the period.

Currently, she is completing a book on a free-Black family in Colonial-era Virginia. She is married and lives with her husband in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

AARON M. SHATZMAN, PH.D.

Dean of Social Sciences,
Montgomery County Community College

Session 1: “Europeans, Native Americans and Africans: The Origins of Slavery and Race Prejudice in the Americas”

Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2 PM

Virtual Event via Zoom (recorded)

Available to view until May 15, 2021, 11 PM

Dr. Shatzman will feature vivid visual evidence from English, French and Spanish America — including the first image of Native Americans to circulate widely in Europe — that will help us to understand the reasons for colonization, the expectations of the colonizers, and the attitudes of Europeans to both the peoples they encountered in the New World and the people they brought here from Africa. He will conclude with a discussion of two vastly different interpretations by historians of the nature and impact of slavery on the masters and the slaves.



CATHERINE KERRISON, PH.D.

Professor of History, Villanova University

Session 2: “The Construction of Race: Slavery, the Law, and Society”

Monday, February 8, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2 PM

Virtual Event via Zoom (recorded)

Available to view until May 15, 2021, 11 PM

Dr. Kerrison will explore the construction of race in English North America. An examination of a series of laws passed by the Virginia House of Burgesses (the colonial assembly) traces the incremental and intentional steps of this process. With each law, we ask two main questions: What are its deeper implications and what did the legislators stand to gain from it? By the end of the session, participants will understand why it is possible to have racist outcomes even without racist intentions. That is, they will have seen the ways in which the law institutionalizes racist attitudes while it also promotes and legitimizes racist practices, in mutually reinforcing ways.

Session 3: “The Construction of Race: Color, Condition, and Citizenship”

Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2 PM

Virtual Event via Zoom (recorded)

Available to view until May 15, 2021, 11 PM

In this follow-up session, Dr. Kerrison will show how, from the Revolutionary era through the antebellum period, skin color became determinative of a person’s condition as free or enslaved. This session traces how those formerly porous boundaries of condition become calcified, as whiteness became associated with freedom and blackness with enslavement. This racialized regime comes to define the limits of citizenship as well, as white Americans become increasingly unable to imagine a republic composed of white and Black citizens. Defined out of citizenship and relegated to menial labor by the Civil War, Black Americans will face an uphill climb even after the abolition of slavery in 1865.



Discussion on Race Follow-up Workshop 1: Hearing and Healing – A Reflection on the Racism in America Series

Friday, February 12, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2 PM
Live Virtual Event via Zoom (NOT recorded)

David Kowalski, Ph.D.

Associate VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Innovation,
Montgomery County Community College

Keima Sheriff, Ed.D.

Assistant Dean of Student Programs,
Montgomery County Community College

Dr. Sheriff and Dr. Kowalski will lead semi-structured discussions on Racism in America, a reflection on the themes presented in the workshops that allow people to process their thoughts and feelings on what they have learned. It is their hope to give people agency over their lives and that they will become more engaged and encouraged to actively participate in the healing and reimagining of Race in America.



The Black Reserve Bookstore Proudly Supports the Racism in America Series



Theresa Napson-Williams, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of History,
Montgomery County Community College

Session 4: “Abandoned and Violated: African Americans in the Jim Crow South, 1877-1945”

Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2 PM
Virtual Event via Zoom (recorded)
Available to view until May 15, 2021, 11 PM

Dr. Napson-Williams will discuss the rise of Jim Crow, a system of segregation and discrimination that took hold in the South after Reconstruction. This lecture will illuminate the efficient systems — both de jure and de facto — that were put in place. Jim Crow policies sought to exclude and dehumanize African Americans as they moved through Southern communities attempting to work, to vote and simply to exist. In addition, the bodies of African Americans were violated through acts of violence — including lynching, race riots and an unequal justice system. Thousands of men, women and children, accused of crimes, dangled at the end of a rope. Others faced swift injustice in Southern courts. Jim Crow policies ruthlessly perpetuated and enshrined African American subordination throughout most of the 20th century.



Discussion on Race Follow-up Workshop 2: Hearing and Healing – A Reflection on the Racism in America Series

Friday, March 12, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2 PM
Live Virtual Event via Zoom (NOT recorded)

David Kowalski, Ph.D.

Associate VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Innovation,
Montgomery County Community College

Keima Sheriff, Ed.D.

Assistant Dean of Student Programs, Montgomery County Community College

Dr. Sheriff and Dr. Kowalski will lead semi-structured discussions on Racism in America, a reflection on the themes presented in the workshops that allow people to process their thoughts and feelings on what they have learned. It is their hope to give people agency over their lives and that they will become more engaged and encouraged to actively participate in the healing and reimagining of Race in America.



Hyatt House Plymouth Meeting Supports The Lively Arts Series

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LAILAH DUNBAR-KEYES, M.ED.

Community College of Philadelphia

Session 5: “What Laws Were Created in the 20th Century That Further Perpetuated Racism and How Do These Laws Still Impact Us Today?”

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2 PM
Virtual Event via Zoom (recorded)
Available to view until May 15, 2021, 11 PM

Mrs. Dunbar-Keeyes will delve into how racism was proactively created and how it continues to affect American culture today. By the end of this session, participants will have a better understanding why these laws were created and how 20th-century policies influence our thinking today.



KRISTEN OSTENDORF, M.ED.

William Penn Charter School,
American and Global History

Session 6: “White Fragility and White Privilege: Unpacking the Truth of Racism”

Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2 PM
Virtual Event via Zoom (recorded)
Available to view until May 15, 2021, 11 PM

Ms. Ostendorf will examine the invisible force of racism and how even “nice” white people perpetuate racism in the United States. Using the work of Peggy McIntosh and Robin D’Angelo, among others, she will unpack the “invisible knapsacks” of white privilege and fragility in America. The first is the seemingly invisible white privilege in American society, and the second is the defensiveness many white people have around issues of race. By the end of the session, participants will be able to recognize fragility around racial issues and how, after decades of civil rights activism, racial inequality still permeates in our society.

LAILAH DUNBAR-KEEYS, M.ED.

Community College of Philadelphia

Session 7: “What Are We Doing Today That Continues to Perpetuate Racism and What Can We Do, as a Society, to Proactively Destroy Racism?”

Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2 PM

Virtual Event via Zoom (recorded)

Available to view until May 15, 2021, 11 PM

In this follow-up session, Mrs. Dunbar-Keeys explores how our society unconsciously perpetuates racism and examines ways we can proactively destroy racism. By the end of this session, participants will have a better understanding of what perpetuates racism and what we can do to help our nation heal.

Discussion on Race Follow-up Workshop 3: Hearing and Healing – A Reflection on the Racism in America Series

Friday, May 14, 2021, 12:30 PM – 2 PM

Live Virtual Event via Zoom (NOT recorded)

David Kowalski, Ph.D.

Associate VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Innovation,
Montgomery County Community College

Keima Sheriff, Ed.D.

Assistant Dean of Student Programs,
Montgomery County Community College

Dr. Sheriff and Dr. Kowalski will lead semi-structured discussions on Racism in America, a reflection on the themes presented in the workshops that allow people to process their thoughts and feelings on what they have learned. It is their hope to give people agency over their lives and that they will become more engaged and encouraged to actively participate in the healing and reimagining of Race in America.

Discussion on Race Workshop Facilitators:



David Kowalski, Ph.D.

David Kowalski is the Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Innovation at Montgomery County Community College. Dr. Kowalski has worked in the education sector in both K-12 and higher education, and as a visiting scholar and consultant for education companies. Dr. Kowalski holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Temple University and an M.A. in clinical psychology from La Salle University, and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Dr. Kowalski frequently writes about and presents on the topics of innovation, analytics, wellness and student success.



Keima Sheriff, Ph.D.

Dr. Keima Sheriff, Assistant Dean of Student Programs at Montgomery County Community College, has over 20 years of professional experience as an educator, program director and supervisor. Dr. Sheriff joined Montgomery County Community College in 2013 to launch and lead the Gateway to College Program. Dr. Sheriff founded the organizational management-consulting firm Institute for Balance and Restoration. The organization strives to identify and cultivate sustainable organizational, leadership and employee resiliency for academic institutions, corporate and non-profit business. Dr. Sheriff served as a consultant to several human

service, education and youth development programs in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs. She received a Bachelor of Arts for the combined study of psychology and political science at Albright College in 1996 and earned a Master of Social Service in program planning, development and analysis from Bryn Mawr College in 2003. Dr. Sheriff received her doctorate in higher education from Immaculata University in January 2019. Her dissertation, *"Finishing in Faith: An Autoethnographic Exploration of the Intersection of Faith and Doctoral Program Completion,"* examined how Black Christian women applied their faith as a persistence strategy to complete their doctoral programs. She hopes to use this research to advance strength-based research and persistence, and completion initiatives to support higher education program completion.

Ordering Books

1. Free books are available for you to learn more about lecture topics in each session. Attendees are limited to choosing only one book free. The number of books on-hand are limited and are on a first-come, first-serve basis until supplies run out.
2. You must order your books within the time limit listed under each session. Access to the book order form for a particular session will expire before the next session begins. If you are interested in receiving a particular book, make sure to order right after each session, as books will go very fast.
3. To order a book, please go to the link listed under each session, for example, the link will read mc3.edu/session1book. Fill out the order form, and we will process your order.
4. Books will be shipped from the Montgomery County Community College Library. We will do our very best to get them to you as soon as possible.
5. For questions about books or ordering a book, please email livelyarts@mc3.edu.

Dr. Aaron Shatzman

Session 1 • Book Order Form

Opens February 1, 2021, and Closes February 12, 2021

Link: mc3.edu/session1book

1. **The Old World, the New World and the Creation of the Modern World* by Aaron Shatzman
2. **White Over Black* by Winthrop Jordan (first 90 pages)
3. *Slavery* by Stanley Elkins
4. *Time on the Cross* by Fogel & Engerman

Dr. Catherine Kerrison

Session 2 and Session 3 • Book Order Form

Opens February 8, 2021, and Closes February 26, 2021

Link: mc3.edu/session2book

(There will not be a Session 3 link)

1. **Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race and Power in Colonial Virginia (1997)* by Kathleen Brown. See especially chapters 4-6.
2. *American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia (1975)* by Edmund S. Morgan
3. **Jefferson's Daughters: Three Sisters, White and Black, in a Young America* by Catherine Kerrison (Ballantine, 2018) for a reader-friendly approach to gender, race and the Revolution.
4. **Forging Freedom: Emancipation in Pennsylvania and its Aftermath* by Gary Nash and Jean R. Soderlund
5. **Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar
6. *A Gentleman of Color: The Life of James Forten* by Julie Winch
7. *Slavery and the Founders: Race and Liberty in the Age of Jefferson* by Paul Finkelman
8. *Forging Freedom: Black Women in the Pursuit of Liberty in the Antebellum* by Amrita Chakrabarti Myers
9. *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and their Global Quest for Liberty (2006)* by Cassandra Pybus
10. *Race and Revolution* by Gary B. Nash — For a selection of primary source documents, introduced by three chapters (“Revolutionary Generation Embraces Abolitionism,” “The Failure of Abolitionism,” “Black Americans in a White Republic”)

*Guest Speaker top picks that relate specifically to their presentations.

Dr. Theresa Napson-Williams

Session 4 • Book Order Form

Opens March 10, 2021, and Closes March 25, 2021

Link: mc3.edu/session4book

1. *Trouble in Mind — Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow* by Leon Litwack
2. *Making Whiteness — The Culture of Segregation in the South 1890-1940* by Grace Elizabeth Hale
3. *Remembering Jim Crow — Afrapsomican Americans Tell About Life in the Segregated South* Edited by William Chafe, Raymond Gavins, Robert Korstad
4. *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present* by Harriet A. Washington
5. *To 'Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors After the Civil War* by Tera W. Hunter

Lailah Dunbar-Keays

Session 5 • Book Order Form

Opens April 14, 2021, and Closes April 29, 2021

Link: mc3.edu/session5book

1. *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi
2. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein

Kristen Ostendorf

Session 6 • Book Order Form

Opens April 21, 2021, and Closes May 6, 2021

Link: mc3.edu/session6book

1. **White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo, forward by Michael Eric Dyson
2. **Blindspot: The Hidden Biases of Good People* by Mahzarin R. Banaji and Anthony G. Greenwald
3. *Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving
4. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander
5. *Loving: Racial Intimacy in America and the Threat to White Supremacy* by Sheryll Cashin

Lailah Dunbar-Keays

Session 7 • Book Order Form

Opens May 5, 2021, and Closes May 15, 2021

Link: mc3.edu/session7book

1. *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing* by Joy A. DeGruy
2. *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* by Resmaa Menakem

Recommended Supplementary Readings

Dr. Fran Lassiter

Suggested Readings for Children and Adults

1. **The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family* by Ibtihaj Muhammad with S.K. Ali, illustrations by Hatem Aly
2. **Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson
3. **All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color/Todos los colores de nuestra piel: La historia de por qué tenemos diferentes colores de piel* by Katie Kissinger
4. *I Am Enough* by Grace Byers
5. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
6. *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang
7. *Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice* by Bryan Stevenson
8. *How to Be Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi
9. *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
10. *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower* by Brittany Cooper
11. *Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot* by Mikki Kendall

Purchasing Books

Support our Montgomery County local businesses by purchasing the recommended supplementary readings from the Black Reserve Bookstore. Visit the website at theblackreservebookstore.com or call 267-221-3090.

Recommended Inspirational Films

1. ***Hidden Figures*** (2016), Directed by Theodore Melfi. Starring Taraji P. Henson, Janelle Monae, Octavia Spencer, Kevin Costner, Kirsten Dunst and Mahershala Ali.
2. ***The Express*** (2008), Directed by Gary Fleder. Starring Dennis Quaid, Rob Brown, Nicole Beharie, Clancy Brown, Omar Benson Miller, and Charles S. Dutton.
3. ***When They See Us*** (2019), Directed by Ava DuVernay. Starring Asante Blackk, Caleel Harris, Ethan Herisse, Jharrel Jerome, Marquis Rodriguez, Marsha Stephanie Blake, and Kylie Bunbury.
4. ***42*** (2013), Directed by Brian Helgeland. Starring Chadwick Boseman, Nicole Beharie and Harrison Ford.
5. ***The Banker*** (2020), Directed by George Nolfi. Starring Anthony Mackie, Nia Long, Samuel L. Jackson, and Nicholas Hoult.
6. ***Selma*** (2014), Directed by Ava DuVernay. Starring David Oyelowo, Oprah Winfrey, Tom Wilkinson, Tim Roth, Carmen Ejogo and Common.
7. ***I Am Not Your Negro*** (2016), Documentary Film, Directed by Raoul Peck. Based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript *Remember This House*. Narrated by Samuel L. Jackson.

* = Guest Speaker top picks that relate specifically to their presentations.

Recommended MCCC Classes

Dr. Fran Lassiter

(Classes listed below are offered in Fall/Spring semesters)

1. African American Literature I and II
2. African American Literature I (ENG 246), with Professor Hal Halbert
3. African American Literature II (ENG 247)

Dr. Theresa Napson-Williams

(Classes listed below are offered in Fall/Spring semesters)

1. HIS 203 ONLN – asynchronous
2. HIS 203 ONLN4 – asynchronous
3. HIS 203 ONLN6 – asynchronous – 7-week course
4. HIS 203 OSC – MWF 10:10 AM – 11:05 AM



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