

**Preliminary Program**

2023 Southern Studies Conference Program  
April 6-8  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
Montgomery, Alabama

v. 3.0

## Welcome to Auburn University at Montgomery's Southern Studies Conference 2023

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 13<sup>th</sup> iteration of the event, and it is the first to be held in-person since 2020 and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 2023 Southern Studies Conference features 22 individual panels on themes related to the South. In addition to these events, we are also pleased to host three plenary sessions, a gallery exhibit, and a poster/exhibit hall event. All plenary sessions occur in Goodwyn Hall, auditorium 109, and the poster/exhibit session will be in the Goodwyn Hall Lobby. Each plenary address will be followed by an audience Q&A session.

Our first plenary event, which occurs on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 11:50 am, features an artist talk by Professors Jocelyn Evans (University of West Florida) and Keith Gaddie (University of Oklahoma). Their address considers the photography they have exhibited in AUM's Cason McDermott Art Gallery (Goodwyn Hall) between April 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Their exhibit, entitled, *A Lens on Historic Georgia Courthouse Architecture*, examines the architecture of democratic spaces throughout the state of Georgia.

Our second plenary session, which occurs on Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 5:45 pm, features Montgomery artist-activist, Michelle Browder. Browder has recently come to national prominence for her efforts to highlight the "Mothers of Gynecology"—enslaved Alabama women upon whom medical experiments were conducted that helped to establish the modern field of gynecology. Browder's keynote address is entitled, "Repairing the Breach: Art, History & Reparations."

Our third plenary event, which occurs on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 to 2:50 pm, features the work of Professor Seth McKee (Oklahoma State University). McKee's recent work has considered the partisan realignment of rural Republicans in the South. His keynote address is entitled, "The South's Newest Electorate and Its Political Consequences," and focuses upon recent population changes in the South and their payoffs for electoral outcomes.

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  
Roy Choudury  
Catherine Gooch

Brett Lehman  
Tony Veronese  
Wyatt Wells

Rounan Zhang

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 2023 Southern Studies Conference Possible, but we would especially like to recognize:

Bill Broadway, Information Technology Services  
Keri Burnett, University Marketing  
Aaron Cobb, Department of English and Philosophy  
Andrew Cortell, Department of Political Science and Public Administration  
Will Fenn, Department of Fine Arts  
Allison Frost, Department of Political Science and Public Administration  
Marie Harrington, Conference Services  
James Jackson, University Marketing  
Jonathan Jett, Campus Services  
Benjamin Lee, Campus Catering  
Rachael Mann, Information Technology Services  
William Stevens, Campus Services  
Kaitlyn Stuart, Student Accounts

## **Sponsors**

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

Alabama Humanities Alliance  
Auburn University at Montgomery Civil Rights and Civic Virtue Society  
Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee  
John Templeton Foundation

## **Conference Wi-Fi Information**

During your time on the AUM campus, Wi-Fi is available to all attendees using SSID: Warhawk-SE and Password, SSCguests2023.

Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

**Conference Kickoff Social**

5:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Pine Bar  
501 Cloverdale Rd.  
Montgomery, AL 36106

Welcome to Montgomery! Come to historic Old Cloverdale to meet your fellow conference attendees, and enjoy a cold beverage on the Pine Bar patio.

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am to 8:30 am

**Conference Shuttle**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 am

Shuttle from Hampton Inn & Suites Montgomery-EastChase to AUM  
campus

---

**Registration**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby

Registration, check-in, and name-badge acquisition

---

**Social Period**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am to 8:30 am  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby

Morning coffee, bagels, and socialization

---

Conference Opening: Frida, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am to 8:50 am

**Conference Opening**

8:30 am to 8:50 am  
Goodwyn Hall, 109

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: Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 10:20 am Panels

**A. The South and the Creative Arts**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:20 am  
Liberal Arts TW 110

**Chair:** Tony Veronese, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

Architecture, Landscape, and the Development of Community Identity: St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Cahaba, Alabama, USA

*Kimberly Pyszka, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Mapping Out Your Tenure Efforts by Leveraging the Creative Process in Your Classroom, Service, and Research Efforts

*Chris Stagl, University of Alabama*

Mississippi Modernism: A Survey of the Visual Arts - Walter Anderson, Dusti Bonge, and Andrew Bucci

*Bryce Speed, University of Alabama*

---

**B. Roundtable Discussion: Shifting Landscapes in (New) Southern Studies**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:20 am  
Liberal Arts TW 111

**Chair:** Catherine Gooch, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

*Emma Butler, Auburn University at Montgomery*

*Robby Bradford, Auburn University at Montgomery*

*Angela Caver, Auburn University at Montgomery*

*Torry Kindall, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:20 am  
Liberal Arts TW 211

### **C. History of Southern Educational Institutions**

**Chair:** Michel Aaij, Auburn University at Montgomery

#### **Participants**

“Taxpayer Whorehouses”? Debates in 1970s Florida over Dorm Visitations and Rape

*David Nelson, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College-Bainbridge*

The System Works as Intended: Alabama’s Public Schools and Property Tax Policies Post-1965

*Brucie Porter, Auburn University*

Walking a Tight Rope: The John Birch Society’s Relationship with General Edwin Walker and Its Response to the Riots at the University of Mississippi

*Ben, Heidenreich, Auburn University*

---

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:20 am  
Liberal Arts TW 311

### **D. Conflicting Headings: Remapping the American South in Recent Travel Writing**

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

#### **Participants**

Road(block)s to Reconciliation: Cross-Racial Encounters in Recent Travel Writing about the U.S. South

*Christopher M. Keirstead, Auburn University*

“My Spirit is Tired”: Cultural Memory, Trauma, and Black Diasporic Travel Writing

*Kayla Frye, Auburn University*

Anywhere and Somewhere in the American South

*Garrity Ward, Auburn University*

Plenary Session I: Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am to 11:50 am

**Artist Talk: Keith Gaddie and Jocelyn Evans**

10:30 am to 11:50 am  
Goodwyn Hall, 109

A Lens on Historic Georgia Courthouse Architecture

Description: Historic county courthouses are an icon of the American South. Sitting in the center of town, they symbolically orient the community towards civic engagement, and they visually cement the public image of the city. This can be seen in public art, historic images, and local merchandise. Along the journey, we repeatedly encountered community conversations about the future of these spaces. These conversations revealed generalizable themes, including efforts at preservation, efforts at memorialization, and efforts at commercialization. We uncovered persistent questions and wicked problems. Are these buildings a time capsule of the past? Or are they a living treasure upon which to build a vibrant revitalized town center? What should happen to contested sites of public memory? Who should decide? This exhibit and the accompanying sketchbook are the creative expressions of our sustained effort to understand these places and their meaning.

One of the most remarkable features of historic Georgia courthouses is the sheer diversity of architectural styles used to build similar judicial spaces of vernacular democracy. This diversity challenges us to think about the ways in which civic spaces carry meaning. Throughout this project, we explore how civic design shapes and also reflects community values and memory. We ask you to pause in this space. Reflect on the meaning that attaches to historic southern courthouses. Why are they designed as they are? How do events define how we think about them? How do you balance power and justice and process in space?

Nothing speaks of the beauty, irony, and history of Georgia quite like her courthouses and courthouse towns. Grand aspiration and grim history find a common voice in these tiny capitols. The collected images tell visual stories of grand and everyday places. They provide our lens on historic Georgia courthouse architecture -- art hidden in plain sight.

**Exhibit on Display in Goodwyn Hall, Cason McDermott Art Gallery**

Lunch and Poster Session: Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

**Lunch Break**

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby

Buffet-style lunch for conference participants

---

**Poster and Exhibit Session**

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby

**Chairs:** Rounan Zhang and Roy Choudury

**Participants**

US-China Rival Relationship on Cybersecurity Capacity Building in Developing Countries

*Remilekun Adeniyi-Jones, Texas Tech University*

Exposure of Time: The Birth and Evolution of Photography in North Alabama

*Jose Betancourt, University of Alabama at Huntsville*

*Sean Berry, University of Alabama at Huntsville*

Sherpas, Western Climbers, and a Reconceptualized Notion of the Good Death

*Karen Hoefer, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Countering Terrorism and the Rise of an Authoritarian Regime in Bangladesh

*Md Sahidul Islam*

New Democracy in the South? Multiracial Coalitions in Southern Democratic Parties, 1970-2010

*Nathan Jordan, Auburn University at Montgomery*

A Monumental Deception: How the United Daughters of the Confederacy influenced how the Civil War is Remembered

*Mirya Lessman, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Roadside Rubbish: Pandemic Photographs, Face Coverings, and Litter in a Southern Town

*Jason Ulsperger, Arkansas Tech University*

*Kristen Ulsperger, Arkansas Tech University*

*Ella Ulsperger, Russellville School District*

Reclamation of a Legacy: Black Land Ownership in the U.S. South

*Jai Williams, University of Mississippi*

Session 2: Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm to 2:50 pm Panels

**A. Criminal Justice and the South**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 pm to 2:50 pm  
Liberal Arts TW 110

**Chair:** Courtney Waid, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

Theories of Crime and Punishment: Looking through a Cultural Appropriate Lens

*Doris Krakrafaa-Bestman, Alabama A&M University*

Investigating the Role of an Open Personality Style on the CSI Effect and Jurors' Response to Expert Witnesses

*Josie Leonhardt, University of Alabama*

An Evaluation of Tablet-Based Education in Southern and Midwestern State Prisons

*Shelby Vaughn-Somervell, University of Alabama*

*Susan Dewey, University of Alabama*

---

**B. Race, Violence, and Civil Rights**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 pm to 2:50 pm  
Liberal Arts TW 111

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

**Participants**

The Fight for Antilynching Legislation: Public Awareness and Federal Responses after the Lynching of Claude Neal

*Travis Patterson, University of Mississippi*

Ralph David Abernathy's Last Campaign: The Political Use of Autobiography

*Scott Blusiewicz, University of Mississippi*

Move on Over: The Role of Black Women in the Creation of the Lowndes County Freedom Organization

*Regina Moorner, Alabama State University*

"To Think Just Like You Do": Visions of Black Freedom in the Thought of Henry Highland Garnet and Maria Weston Chapman

*Ian Gutgold, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

### C. Southern Women's Literature Studies

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 pm to 2:50 pm  
Liberal Arts TW 211

**Chair:** Catherine Gooch, Auburn University at Montgomery

#### Participants

Silenced Southern Voices in Bobbie Ann Mason's "Shiloh"  
*Angela Caver, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Differing Portrayals of Femininity in *The Great Gatsby*  
*Marina Roddy, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Identity Confusion, Erasure, and Concealment in Southern Women's Literature  
*Tyson Wilson, Auburn University at Montgomery*

---

### D. Special Film Exhibit: The South in Documentary

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 pm to 2:50 pm  
Liberal Arts TW 311

**Chair:** Neil Seibel, Auburn University at Montgomery

#### Participants

State of Success  
*Chris Stagl, Troy University*  
*Nathan Hobbs*  
*Howard Purvee*  
*Marley Davis*  
*Kat Anderton*

Description: This film showcase highlights eight films that tell the personal success stories of graduates from the Alabama Education System. These films were created by 12 students at Troy University. These mini-documentaries were created as a part of the ALL-In-AL campaign for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. **Runtime: 40 minutes.**

When the Water Goes Down  
*Patrick Cooley, Eastern Tennessee State University*  
*Jacob Higgs, Eastern Tennessee State University*

Description: This film is an expository documentary examining the impact of climate change, bureaucratic apathy, and the 24-hour news cycle on the citizens of Breathitt County, Kentucky following the devastating floods of 2022 in central Appalachia. **Runtime: 20 minutes.**

Session 3: Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm to 4:20 pm Panels

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 pm to 4:20 pm  
Liberal Arts TW 110

**A. Southern Political Realignment and Polarization**

**Chair:** Nicholas Howard, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

The 11<sup>th</sup>: Politics, Polarization, and Political Change in a District

*Christopher Cooper, Western Carolina University*

An Overview of Southern Voter Participation, 1876-2022

*Matthew Gunning, Georgia Gwinnett College*

The 1990s Party Realignment in U.S. Presidential Elections: Was the South the Leader or Follower?

*Joseph Airstrup, Auburn University*

*Binita Mahalo, Auburn University*

*John Morris, Auburn University*

The Partisan Realignment of American State Supreme Courts, 1970-2020

*David Hughes, Auburn University at Montgomery*

---

**B. Socio-Psychological Behaviors**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 pm to 4:20 pm  
Liberal Arts TW 111

**Chair:** LisaMarie Malischke, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

Madness or Collective Power? The Politicization of Crowd Theory—A Sociological Synthesis

*Cristina Stephens, Kennesaw State University*

Southern Purity Culture, Religious Trauma, and Addiction

*Andrea Hunt, University of North Alabama*

Predicting Counterproductive Work Behaviors: The Interaction of Stressors, Emotions, and Narcissism in the Least Developed Countries

*Joseph Chirwa, Northern Arizona University*

Social Support and Suicide Attempts among Adults

*Karen Hoefler, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 pm to 4:20 pm  
Liberal Arts TW 211

### **C. Ethnography, Interviews, and Style in Southern Literature**

**Chair:** Eric Sterling, Auburn University at Montgomery

#### **Participants**

A Witness in Liberty

*Cullen Clark, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Leaving the South: The Dangerous (and Perhaps Unadvisable) Migration  
North after Slavery Officially Ended

*Eric Sterling, Auburn University at Montgomery*

“The New Orleans Story”: A Theoretical Metanarrative of Regional  
Exceptionalism and Cultural Sustainability

*Paul Mahaffey, University of Montevallo*

Plenary Session 2: Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm to 5:45 pm

**Keynote Lecture: Michelle Browder**

4:30 pm to 5:45 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, 109

Repairing The Breach: Art, History & Reparations

Description: Local activist/artist, Michelle Browder, “is best known for her powerful artwork and civil rights tour company, More Than Tours. Her stops include Montgomery’s former slave market and the old Greyhound bus station where 21 young Freedom Riders fought a vicious battle against an angry mob in 1961. When Browder was 18 years old, she discovered a 1952 painting of white men in suits studying a young Black girl on an exam table. Although it never sat right with her, it inspired her to learn more about The Mothers of Gynecology: Anarcha, Lucy and Betsey. These were the women who suffered under the alleged father of gynecology, J. Marion Sims, who performed a number of horrendous experiments on the enslaved Black women.”

Source: *Because of Them We Can* (9 November 2022).

<https://www.becauseofthemwecan.com/blogs/news/michelle-browder-building-a-museum-to-preserve-site-where-experiments-were-done-enslaved-women>

Generously sponsored by the Alabama Humanities Alliance and the Auburn University at Montgomery Civil Rights to Civic Virtue Society

---

**Reception**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
5:45 pm to 6:30 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby

Light refreshments provided for attendees following keynote lecture

---

**Conference Shuttle**

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 pm

Shuttle from AUM campus to Hampton Inn & Suites Montgomery-EastChase

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am to 9:00 am

**Conference Shuttle**

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 am

Shuttle from Hampton Inn & Suites Montgomery-EastChase to AUM  
campus

---

**Registration**

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby

Registration, check-in, and name-badge acquisition

---

**Social Period**

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am to 9:00 am  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby

Morning coffee, bagels, and socialization

---

Session 4: Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 10:20 am Panels

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:20 am  
Liberal Arts TW 110

**A. Southern Criminology: New Research from the University of Alabama**

**Chair:** Doris Krakrafaa-Bestman, Alabama A&M University

**Participants**

Southern Women's Pathways to and through Prison

*Susan Dewey, University of Alabama*

Analyzing Police Incident Reports at a Southern District Attorney's Office

*Melissa DiPano, University of Alabama*

Are Southerners More Likely to Support the Death Penalty?

*Christine Poole, University of Alabama*

Personality Traits among People Incarcerated in Southern Jails

*Shelby Vaughn-Somervell, University of Alabama*

Contrasting Trial and Media Portrayals of Serial Killers' Mental Health in Florida and Wisconsin

*Paige Sackman, University of Alabama*

---

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:20 am  
Liberal Arts TW 111

**B. Literature and Southern Identity**

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

**Participants**

Misfit Literary Identities: The "North of the South" in James Branch Cabell's Writings from Richmond-in-Virginia

*Bob Coleman, University of South Alabama*

The Mirror of the Othered

*Torrey Kindall, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Lie or History? The Historical Narrator in Joseph G. Baldwin's "Ovid Bolus, Esq."

*Robert Klevay, Auburn University at Montgomery*

"Keep the Skin Soft and White": Skin Color and Slavery in the American South and Kate Chopin's "Desiree's Baby"

*Joyce Kelley, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 10:20 am  
Liberal Arts TW 211

### **C. Roundtable Discussion: Uniting STEM and Social Sciences to Build New Research Outreach Models in College Education**

#### **Participants**

*Ramakrishnan Alagan, Alabama State University*

*Robert White, Alabama State University*

Description: Experts discuss the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics with Social Sciences for enhancing, broadening, and advancing sustainable research and education. While many in STEM fields take it for granted that the public accepts their findings, societies have become increasingly complex with information technology, social media, and, most importantly, increasing mistrust in medical science findings. Trustworthy communication skills and diversity are, therefore, vital tools for achieving productive social goals, distributing knowledge, and winning minds among the public.

---

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 to 10:20 am  
Liberal Arts TW 210

### **D. Southern Problems in Public Spending and Administration**

**Chair:** Tracey Bark, Auburn University at Montgomery

#### **Participants**

Taxation through Fines and Fees: Following the Revenue Generated from Courts in Alabama

*Peter Jones, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

*Libby Hill, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

*Leah Nelson, Alabama Appleseed*

Explaining State Policy Directives in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Was the South as a Region Different Than the Outside South?

*Deepika Chandel, Auburn University*

*Joseph Airstrup, Auburn University*

The Black America Report

*Ramon Jackson*

Session 5: Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am to 11:50 am Panels

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 am to 11:50 am  
Liberal Arts TW 110

**A. Roundtable: The Importance of Community of Inquiry for African Americans Who Attend Predominantly White Institutions**

**Participants**

*Jessica McCarty, University of South Alabama*  
*Cameron Hatcher Owens, University of South Alabama*  
*Brenton Baker, University of South Alabama*  
*Jason Brooks, University of South Alabama*  
*Naomi Tyson, University of Alabama*  
*Ariana Ruffin, University of South Alabama*

---

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 am to 11:50 am  
Liberal Arts TW 111

**B. Historiography, the Rural South, and Indigenous History**

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

**Participants**

Telling Stories: Oral History, Mountain People, and Mountain Lives

*Alex Macaulay, Western Carolina University*

(Re)Imagining Community: Facebook and the Remediation of a “Lost” Southern Rural Culture

*Bruce Craft, Southeastern Louisiana University*

White and Black and Rode All Over: Revelations and Rewards from a Journey Into Family History

*Bob Stewart, Nashville, Tennessee*

Indigenous Strategies on the Colonial Frontier: A Case Study of the Yamacraws

*Lisa Crutchfield, University of Lynchburg*

Lost of Power

*Jacob Kennedy, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 am to 11:50 am  
Liberal Arts TW 210

### C. The History of Slavery, Race, and Segregation

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

#### Participants

Alabama's Race Laws, 1875-1903: A Compendium and Teaching Tool  
*Marty Olliff, Troy University*

The Authoritarian That Wasn't: John Birch Society Recruitment in the Early Years  
*Ben Heidenreich, Auburn University*

America's Last Slave Ship: A Historical Overview of the Clotilda  
*Kelly Jackson, University of Alabama at Birmingham*  
*Joyce-Zoe Farley, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Enslaved Practices of Care in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Alabama  
*Filipe Robles, University of Alabama*

---

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 am to 11:50 am  
Liberal Arts TW 211

### D. Special Exhibit: Author Reading and Book Signing in Southern Gothic Literature

#### Presentation

An Author's Reading and Book Signing from *Ballad of Jasmine Wills* and *Backwaters: 12 Murky Tales*  
*Lee Rozelle, University of Montevallo*

Description: Meet novelist and University of Montevallo professor, Lee Rozelle, who will deliver a reading from two of his recent works, *Ballad of Jasmine Wills* and *Backwaters: 12 Murky Tales*.

*Ballad of Jasmine Wills* is a darkly humorous Southern Gothic for the social media age. Kidnapped by reality TV producers and trapped inside a backwoods studio, the strong-willed and full-bodied Jasmine fights back against her regimen of diet food, self-help videos, and cardio routines.

*Backwaters: 12 Murky Tales* is a collection of twelve intertwined tales combining body horror and Southern Gothic humor in a clash between a cabal of dark scientists and gospel-preaching wrestlers with a secret past. In turns terrifying and bizarre, this forthcoming new fiction is a shocking journey into murky medicine, conspiracy, and the horrors of watershed destruction.

For more from the author, visit: <https://leerozelle.com/>.

Lunch: Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

**Lunch Break**

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby

Box-style lunch for conference participants

Plenary Session 3: Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm to 2:50 pm

**Keynote Lecture: Seth McKee (Oklahoma State University)**

1:30 pm to 2:50 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, 109

The South's Newest Electorate and Its Political Consequences

Description: The American South is a region of perpetual change, particularly with respect to its population and politics. These changes are of course, related. This talk examines party system change in the South from the 1990s to the present, with an emphasis on how population change contributes to electoral outcomes. Recent scholarship has turned its focus toward how population growth appears to advantage Democrats and what this portends for party politics. With several data sources at both the aggregate- and individual-level, I will tell a complex and often nuanced story of how changes to the South's electorate are impacting the region's politics.

Generously supported by the Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee

Session 6: Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm to 4:20 pm Panels

**A. Literature, Cuisine, and Southern Identity**

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 pm to 4:20 pm  
Liberal Arts TW 110

**Chair:** Joyce Kelley, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

Certified a Bastard: Althusser and Allison, Reckoning with Class and Identity in *Bastard out of Carolina*

*Emma Butler, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Southern Food and Culinary Injustices: How Women from the African Diaspora are Reclaiming Their Foodways

*Jai Williams, University of Mississippi*

Southern Echoes: The Past and Present South in the Oral History Tradition

*Mark Dolan, University of Mississippi*

Internal Orientalism of the American South

*Zac Hyden*

*Reggie Bolton*

*Josh Stewart*

*Aaron Pollack*

The Politics of Enslavement and Removal in Nashville's Foster Family Portrait of 1825

*Rachel Stephens, University of Alabama*

---

**B. Alabama History**

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 pm to 4:20 pm  
Liberal Arts TW 111

**Chair:** Ben Severance, Auburn University at Montgomery

**Participants**

Sidney and Clifford Lanier and Their Legacy in Montgomery

*Michel Aaij, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Anti-Polio Vaccination in Montgomery, Alabama

*Keith Krawczynski, Auburn University at Montgomery*

Mobile's Antebellum Ambassadors, The Old South Symbolism of the Azalea Trail Maids

*Mia Brown, Alabama School of Math and Science*

Be Real Southern Gentlemen: The Alabama State Troopers, Racial Discrimination, and the Work of White Supremacy

*David Stephens, Auburn University*

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 pm to 4:20 pm  
Liberal Arts TW 210

### **C. Journalism and Alabama Politics**

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

#### **Participants**

Erin Davis  
*WSFA News*

Lee Hedgepeth  
*Tread*

Carolyn Hutcheson  
*Troy Public Radio*

Todd Stacey  
*Alabama Daily News, Alabama Public Television*

Generously supported by the Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures  
Committee

Conference Closing: Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm to 4:45 pm

**Conference Closing**

4:30 pm to 4:45 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, 109

Closing remarks by David Hughes, Conference Chair

---

**Reception**

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
4:45 pm to 5:15 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby

Light refreshments provided for attendees following closing remarks

---

**Conference Shuttle**

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
5:15 pm

Shuttle from AUM campus to Hampton Inn & Suites Montgomery-  
EastChase