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 13th 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 7th 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 6th and 8th. 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 7th 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 8th, 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
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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 6th

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 7th, 8:00 am to 8:30 am**

### Conference Shuttle

**Friday, April 7th**  
7:30 am  
Shuttle from Hampton Inn & Suites Montgomery-EastChase to AUM campus

### Registration

**Friday, April 7th**  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby  
Registration, check-in, and name-badge acquisition

### Social Period

**Friday, April 7th**  
8:00 am to 8:30 am  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby  
Morning coffee, bagels, and socialization
<table>
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<td>8:30 am to 8:50 am</td>
<td>Opening remarks by David Hughes, Conference Chair, and Andrew McMichael, Dean of the Auburn University at Montgomery College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences</td>
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Conference Opening: Frida, April 7th, 8:30 am to 8:50 am
Session 1: Friday, April 7th, 9:00 am to 10:20 am Panels

A. The South and the Creative Arts

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

   Bryce Speed, University of Alabama

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

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
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

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
**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 7th, 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

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
A. Criminal Justice and the South

Chair: Courtney Waid, Auburn University at Montgomery

Participants
Theories of Crime and Punishment: Looking through a Cultural Appropriate Lens
  Doris Krakrafia-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

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 Moorer, 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

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

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 7th, 3:00 pm to 4:20 pm Panels

A. Southern Political Realignment and Polarization

Chair: Nicholas Howard, Auburn University at Montgomery

Participants
The 11th: 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
    David Hughes, Auburn University at Montgomery

B. Socio-Psychological Behaviors

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 Hoefer, University of Alabama at Birmingham
C. Ethnography, Interviews, and Style in Southern Literature

Friday, April 7\textsuperscript{th}
3:00 pm to 4:20 pm
Liberal Arts TW 211

Chair: Eric Sterling, Auburn University at Montgomery

Participants

A Witness in Liberty
   \textit{Cullen Clark, University of Alabama at Birmingham}

Leaving the South: The Dangerous (and Perhaps Unadvisable) Migration North after Slavery Officially Ended
   \textit{Eric Sterling, Auburn University at Montgomery}

“The New Orleans Story”: A Theoretical Metanarrative of Regional Exceptionalism and Cultural Sustainability
   \textit{Paul Mahaffey, University of Montevallo}
Keynote Lecture: Michelle Browder

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

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-ro-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 7th
5:45 pm to 6:30 pm
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby

Conference Shuttle

Friday, April 7th
6:30 pm
Shuttle from AUM campus to Hampton Inn & Suites Montgomery-EastChase
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Session 4: Saturday, April 8th, 9:00 am to 10:20 am Panels

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

Chair: Doris Krakrafba-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

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

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

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.

D. Southern Problems in Public Spending and Administration

Saturday, April 8th
9:00 to 10:20 am
Chair: Tracey Bark, Auburn University at Montgomery
Liberal Arts TW 210

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 8th, 10:30 am to 11:50 am Panels

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

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
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 19th Century Alabama
Filipe Robles, University of Alabama

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 8th, 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Lunch Break

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
Box-style lunch for conference participants
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby
Keynote Lecture: Seth McKee (Oklahoma State University)

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 8th, 3:00 pm to 4:20 pm Panels

A. Literature, Cuisine, and Southern Identity

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

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
C. Journalism and Alabama Politics

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

**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

**4:30 pm to 4:45 pm**  
Goodwyn Hall, 109  
Closing remarks by David Hughes, Conference Chair

### Reception

**Saturday, April 8**  
**4:45 pm to 5:15 pm**  
Goodwyn Hall, Lobby  
Light refreshments provided for attendees following closing remarks

### Conference Shuttle

**Saturday, April 8**  
**5:15 pm**  
Shuttle from AUM campus to Hampton Inn & Suites Montgomery-EastChase