

Friday, April 5 + Saturday, April 6, 2024





Center for the Study of the American South

A symposium and celebration in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Center for the Study of the American South and *Southern Cultures*, and the 50th anniversary of the Southern Oral History Program

Events will take place on the UNC campus at the Center for the Study of the American South (410 E. Franklin Street) and Wilson Library (200 South Road).

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

SOUTHERN CULTURES EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING

Time: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Center for the Study of the American South (Love House)

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Time: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Buchan House, UNC Arts and Sciences Foundation, 523 E. Franklin Street

SOUTHERN ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM ALUMNI LUNCH

catered by Mediterranean Deli

Time: 12:30-2:00 PM

Location: Center for the Study of the American South (Love House)

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS

Led by Southern Oral History Program Field Scholars and UNC Doctoral Candidates Hooper Schultz (History) and Sophie Tô (Public Health) with student interns

Time: 1:30-3:00 PM

Location: Special Collections Learning Center, Room 504, Wilson Library

30/50 EXHIBIT

"Rooms Unvisited: A History of the Center for the Study of the American South"

Time: 2:00-4:00 PM (Friday & Saturday)

Location: Center for the Study of the American South (Love House)

30/50 KEYNOTE

Speaker: **Bettina Love**, Columbia University, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Punished for Dreaming*, in conversation with **Blair LM Kelley**, Director, Center for the Study of the American South, and Joel R. Williamson Distinguished Professor of Southern Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill

Cosponsor: UNC School of Education

Time: 4:00-5:30 PM

Location: Pleasants Family Assembly Room, Wilson Library

OYSTER ROAST *(Ticketed)*

Featuring Chef Ricky Moore, 2022 James Beard Award winner and owner of Saltbox Seafood Joint, and **Matthew Booker**, Associate Professor of History, NCSU

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM (conversation at 7:00 PM)

Location: Center for the Study of the American South (Love House Lawn)

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

BREAKFAST

catered by Brandwein's Bagels

Time: 9:00–9:30 AM

Location: Lobby of Wilson Library

30/50 SYMPOSIUM

MORNING SESSIONS: 9:30 AM–NOON

Location: Pleasants Family Assembly Room, Wilson Library

WELCOME

Time: 9:30–9:45 AM

Blair LM Kelley, Director, Center for the Study of the American South

María Estorino, Vice Provost for University Libraries and University Librarian

INVOCATION

Poetry reading by award-winning *Southern Cultures* Poetry Editor

Gabrielle Calvocoressi

SESSION 1: OUR HISTORY

Time: 9:45–10:45 AM

Panel discussion with CSAS, *Southern Cultures*, and Southern Oral History Program founders and directors, moderated by Jim Leloudis

Panelists: William R. Ferris, Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, Blair LM Kelley, John Shelton Reed, Harry Watson

SESSION 2: SOUTHERN ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

50 Years of Archiving and Amplifying the South's Diverse Voices

Time: 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

moderated by interim director Renée Alexander Craft

Panelists: Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, Seth Kotch, Della Pollock, Rachel F. Seidman

LUNCH

Time: Noon to 1 PM

Lunch on your own, or boxed lunch from Neal's Deli (*purchased in advance*)

AFTERNOON SESSIONS: 1:00–4:15 PM

SESSION 3: SOUTHERN ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Amplifying Voices of the Southern Oral History Program's
Community Partners and Collaborators

Time: 1:00–2:00 PM

moderated by interim director Renée Alexander Craft

Panelists: George Barrett, Danita Mason-Hogans, Heidi Kim

SESSION 4: SOUTHERN CULTURES

Where Scholarship Meets Storytelling

Time: 2:00–3:00 PM

moderated by faculty editor Regina N. Bradley

Panelists: Emily Hilliard, Andy Horowitz, Jovonna Jones, Michelle Lanier

SESSION 5: SOUTHERN FUTURES

Emerging Voices in the South

Time: 3:15–4:15 PM

moderated by Hallie Brew and Agustin Orozco

Panelists: Ari Green, Zachary Faircloth, Emanuel Gomez-Gonzalez,
Jordan Lovejoy, Jada Weyand

30/50 KEYNOTE

Welcome: **Jim White**, Craver Family Dean of UNC College of Arts and Sciences

Speaker: **Sherrilyn Ifill**, inaugural Vernon E. Jordan Jr., Esq. Endowed Chair in Civil Rights, Howard Law School; former President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, in conversation with **Errin Haines**, Editor-at-Large, *The 19th*, and guest editor of *The Vote*, Spring 2024 issue of *Southern Cultures*

Cosponsor: Dean's Office of UNC School of Law

Time: 5:30–6:30 PM

Location: Pleasants Family Assembly Room, Wilson Library

30/50 GALA ANNIVERSARY COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND DINNER *(Ticketed)*

Cocktail Reception

Time: 6:30–7:00 PM

Location: First Floor Lobby, Wilson Library

Dinner, catered by Jacob Boehm, Chef and Owner of Snap Pea Creative Dining
Thank you to Fullsteam Brewery, Piedmont Wine Imports, Haw River Wine Man,
and Steel String Brewery

Time: 7:00–9:00 PM

Location: Fearrington Reading Room, Wilson Library

Center for the Study of the American South

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STAFF

Director: Blair LM Kelley

Administrative Manager: Terri Lorant

Administrative Assistant to the Director: Melissa Peng

Senior Leadership Advisor: Marcie Cohen Ferris

Research Assistants: 2023 & 2024: Melody Hunter-Pillion; 2024: Lauren Rekhelman

Curatorial Coordinator 30/50 Exhibit: Brittany Hutchinson

Student Communication Coordinator: Jessica Areeya Blumenthal

SILS Student Archivists: Camilla Katherine Crane and Wylie Thornquist

30/50 Design: Hudd Byard

Illustrations: YSSRS Creative

SOUTHERN CULTURES

Executive Editor: Ayşe Erginer

Art Director & Deputy Editor: Emily Wallace

Managing Editor: Annie Lubinsky

Associate Editor: Irene Newman

Faculty Editors: Marcie Cohen Ferris and Regina N. Bradley

Poetry Editors: Gabrielle Calvocoressi and Destiny Hemphill

Music Editor: Aaron Smithers

Designer: Hudd Byard

SOUTHERN ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Director: Seth Kotch

Interim Director: Renée Alexander Craft

Associate Director: Phillip MacDonald

SOHP Internship Seminar Instructor: Hooper Schultz

NAACP-LDF Grant Coordinator: Susie Penman

SOHP Field Scholars: Melody Hunter-Pillion, Irene Newman, Susie Penman, Hooper Schultz, and Sophie Tô

SOUTHERN FUTURES

Directors: Elizabeth Engelhardt and Blair LM Kelley

Assistant Director: Jordan Lovejoy

Coordinator of Student Programming: Tony Royle Jr.

Student Assistants: Hallie Brew and Agustin Orozco

CRITICAL ETHNIC STUDIES

Faculty Conveners: Michelle Robinson and Kumi Silva

CENTER ^{FOR} STUDY ^{OF} THE
AMERICAN SOUTH

Serves as a hub for interdisciplinary research, scholarship, teaching, and publishing about the American and Global South

**SouthernOral
HistoryProgram**

Documents the history of the American South through the voices of those who know it best

Southern
CULTURES

Publishes the region's leading thinkers, writers, and artists in a quarterly journal and in weekly digital features

SOUTHERN
FUTURES

Works for equity, justice, and possibility in southern communities by amplifying student initiatives across UNC

**CRITICAL
ETHNIC STUDIES**

Engages students around issues of reparation, sovereignty, (im)migration and labor, gender, activism, resistance, and more

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

GEORGE BARRETT, a UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus and the Marian Cheek Jackson Center executive director, is known for his leadership in university-community partnerships, home repair programs, neighborhood preservation initiatives, and his passion for dance and community goal facilitation.

MATTHEW BOOKER leads the fellowship program at the National Humanities Center and is professor of History at North Carolina State University. He teaches and publishes in environmental history, food history, and agricultural history. When time permits, he tends an oyster garden in the Rappahannock River, Virginia.

REGINA N. BRADLEY is an award-winning writer and researcher of the Black American South. She is associate professor of English and African diaspora studies at Kennesaw State University, author of the critically acclaimed book *Chronicling Stankonia: The Rise of the Hip-Hop South* (UNC Press, 2021), and a former Nasir Jones HipHop Fellow (Harvard University, Spring 2016). She is the faculty coeditor of *Southern Cultures* and editor of the *Sonic South* issue (Winter 2021).

HALLIE BREW is a Southern Futures Fellow majoring in American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, with a Health and Society minor. Her work is focused on public history, archival research, and community collaboration.

GABRIELLE CALVOCORESSI is the author of *The Last Time I Saw Amelia Earhart, Apocalyptic Swing* (a finalist for the L.A. Times Book Prize), and *Rocket Fantastic* (winner of the Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry). Calvocoressi is poetry editor at *Southern Cultures*, an editor-at-large at *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and associate professor of English and Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill.

RENÉE ALEXANDER CRAFT is a performance studies-trained Black feminist writer, scholar, and educator. A professor of Communication and Global Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, she currently serves as interim director of the Southern Oral History Program. Her research, teaching, and creative projects focus on the ways Black Diaspora communities use creativity and imagination as tools for liberation.

MARÍA ESTORINO is the vice provost of libraries and University Librarian at UNC-Chapel Hill. She has been a leader in academic libraries for more than 20 years. She joined the University Libraries in 2017 as associate university librarian for special collections and director of the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library. Estorino is a strong advocate for accessibility in libraries and has worked to build expansive and inclusive collaborations with North Carolina communities. Before coming to Carolina, Estorino was vice president of museum collections at HistoryMiami Museum in Florida. Prior to that, she spent 14 years in positions of increasing responsibility at the University of Miami Libraries, concluding as the Esperanza Bravo de Varona Chair of the Cuban Heritage Collection.

ZACHARY FAIRCLOTH is a PhD candidate in American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, where his work focuses on race and culture surrounding the Waccamaw River and Horry County in South Carolina. He is a Southern Futures Townsend Fellow and an active leader in organizing initiatives on and off campus.

WILLIAM FERRIS, the Joel R. Williamson Eminent Professor of History Emeritus at UNC-Chapel Hill, is a folklorist who studies the American South through its oral traditions of stories, music, and art. The former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (1997–2001), Ferris has

written or edited 16 books and created 15 documentary films. He is a coeditor of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. A box set of his documentary recordings and films, *Voices of Mississippi*, received two Grammy Awards in 2019.

EMANUEL GOMEZ-GONZALEZ received their BA in Media and Journalism from UNC-Chapel Hill, where they worked with the Southern Oral History Program and were a founding member of the Critical Ethnic Studies undergraduate collective. As a writer, they report on labor, race, class, land, activism, and gender.

ARI GREEN is a PhD candidate in American studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, where her work focuses on migration, gentrification, and displacement of Black peoples. She is a Southern Futures Townsend Fellow and works as a Community Engagement Analyst for the City of Sacramento, California.

ERRIN HAINES is a founding mother and editor-at-large for *The 19th*, a news organization focused on the intersection of gender, politics, and policy. Haines has previously worked at the *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, and Associated Press. A native of Atlanta, she is currently based in Philadelphia. Haines is guest editor of the spring 2024 issue of *Southern Cultures*, *The Vote*.

JACQUELYN DOWD HALL is the Julia Cherry Spruill Professor Emeritus at UNC-Chapel Hill and founding director of the Southern Oral History Program. She is past president of the Organization of American Historians and the Southern Historical Association and founding president of the Labor and Working Class History Association. In 1999, she was awarded a National Humanities Medal for her efforts to deepen the nation's engagement with the humanities by "recording history through the lives of ordinary people, and, in so doing, for making history."

EMILY HILLIARD is a folklorist at Berea College and the former West Virginia State Folklorist and founding director of the West Virginia Folklife Program. She is the author of *Making Our Future: Visionary Folklore and Everyday Culture in Appalachia* (UNC Press, 2022) and has contributed multiple essays to *Southern Cultures*. Hilliard is an alum of the American Studies graduate program at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she received an MA in Folklore in 2011.

ANDY HOROWITZ is associate professor of history at the University of Connecticut and the Connecticut state historian. The author of *Katrina: A History, 1915-2015* (Harvard University Press, 2020), he served as guest editor of the *Human/Nature* issue of *Southern Cultures* (Spring 2021) and is also a member of the journal's editorial board.

SHERRILYN IFILL is a civil rights lawyer and scholar. From 2013 to 2022, she served as the president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., the nation's premier civil rights law organization fighting for racial justice and equality. In fall 2023, Ifill was a Distinguished Professor of Practice at Harvard Law School. Ifill is a Ford Foundation Fellow at the Museum of Modern Art, leading a project focused on exploring the values of the 14th Amendment in artistic expression. Ifill was most recently appointed as the Inaugural Vernon Jordan Endowed Chair in Civil Rights at Howard Law School, where she is launching the 14th Amendment Center for Law and Democracy.

JOVONNA JONES is an assistant professor of African American literature and culture at Boston College. Her research and courses cover visual studies, Black feminisms, Black cultural criticism, and the built environment. She is a contributor to *Southern Cultures*, including an essay in the forthcoming *Sojourning* issue (Summer 2024).

BLAIR LM KELLEY is the Joel R. Williamson Distinguished Professor of Southern Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill and the director of the Center for the Study of the American South. A dedicated public historian, Kelley works to amplify the histories of Black southerners, chronicling the everyday impact of their activism. Kelley's newest book, *Black Folk: The Roots of the Black Working Class* (Liveright, 2023), one of the Smithsonian's Best Books of 2023, is a finalist for the L.A. Times Book Prize in history.

HEIDI KIM is a professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill whose work explores the narratives of Asian Americans through historical and literary lenses. With her acclaimed publications and leadership at the UNC Asian American Center, Kim's research spans 19th- and 20th-century American literature and Asian American studies.

SETH KOTCH is an associate professor of American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill specializing in modern American history, particularly the social history of criminal justice. His work illuminates critical aspects of southern history, including the complex evolution of the death penalty in North Carolina, lynching, and civil rights activism. Kotch is director of the Southern Oral History Program.

MICHELLE LANIER is a renowned folklorist, keeper of memory, educator, filmmaker, and author, rooted in AfroCarolina and inspired by the Global South. An experimental geographer, Lanier believes in the transformative power of land as witness. As a doctoral student in UNC's Department of Geography, Lanier is deepening her work around Black feminist and womanist cartographies. Among other contributions and collaborations with *Southern Cultures*, she is a guest editor of the forthcoming *Sojourning* issue (Summer 2024).

JIM LELOUDIS's research and teaching at UNC-Chapel Hill focus on the social and political history of the modern South, with par-

ticular interests in labor, education, poverty, and voting rights. His scholarship tells the stories of ordinary people who have fought long and enduring battles for a full measure of American citizenship. Together with Patricia Parker (Ruel W. Tyson Distinguished Professor and director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities), he co-chairs UNC's Commission on History, Race, and a Way Forward. Leloudis has also served as an expert witness in a number of recent voting rights cases tried in state and federal courts.

BETTINA L. LOVE holds the prestigious William F. Russell Professorship at Teachers College, Columbia University, and is the acclaimed author of the *New York Times* best-seller *Punished for Dreaming: How School Reform Harms Black Children and How We Heal*. As a cofounder of the Abolitionist Teaching Network, Love actively contributes to its mission of nurturing and empowering teachers and parents who are committed to fighting injustice within their educational institutions and communities. Love is also the celebrated author of the bestseller *We Want To Do More Than Survive*, solidifying her position as a leading voice in the field of education and social justice. In 2022, the Kennedy Center recognized Love as one of the Next 50 Leaders dedicated to making the world more inspired, inclusive, and compassionate.

JORDAN LOVEJOY is an American Council of Learned Societies Emerging Voices Fellow at the Center of the Study of the American South, where she also serves as the assistant director of Southern Futures. As a visiting assistant professor of American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, Lovejoy teaches about environmental folklife and Appalachian literature.

DANITA MASON-HOGANS is an award-winning civil rights historian and educator known for her work on storytelling as a social justice issue, documenting civil rights with various partners, and leadership in education and civil rights commemorations in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

CHEF RICKY MOORE—James Beard Foundation’s “Best Chef Southeast 2022”—opened the popular Saltbox Seafood Joint in 2012 in Durham, North Carolina. Praised by *Saveur* as “a tiny but mighty seafood shack,” the dining venue takes inspiration from Moore’s native Eastern Carolina coast and its traditional roadside fish shacks. Early in his career, Moore served as a cook in the US Army before attending and graduating from the esteemed Culinary Institute of America. Moore is the author of *The Saltbox Seafood Joint Cookbook* (written with KC Hysmith, UNC Press, 2019), and serves on the Advisory Board of NC Sea Grant.

AGUSTIN OROZCO is a Southern Futures Fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill, double majoring in Psychology and Data Science. His work lies at the intersection of digital humanities, algorithmic justice, and identity.

DELLA POLLOCK is an emeritus professor at UNC-Chapel Hill specializing in performance and cultural studies. She is known for her contributions to the understanding of oral history performance, community development, and performance for justice, as well as her role as the founding executive director of the Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History in Chapel Hill.

JOHN SHELTON REED has written a score of books, innumerable articles, and a few country songs, mostly about the South one way or another. He served as Chancellor of the Fellowship of Southern Writers and cofounder and Éminence Grease of the Campaign for Real Barbecue (TrueCue.org). The William Rand Kenan Jr. Professor Emeritus and former director of the Howard Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at UNC-Chapel Hill, Reed helped found the Center for the Study of the American South and is cofounder of the quarterly journal *Southern Cultures*.

HOOPER SCHULTZ is a PhD candidate in History at UNC-Chapel Hill and undergraduate course instructor in the Southern Oral History Program. His research focuses on gay liberation student activism in the US South.

RACHEL F. SEIDMAN is an American Women’s History Initiative Curator at the Smithsonian Institution’s Anacostia Community Museum. Her expertise includes US women’s history, social movements, the Civil War, oral history methodology, and community engaged research models. Her current research focuses on women’s environmental justice and healthcare roles through public history, scholarship, and activism.

SOPHIE TÔ is a field scholar in the Southern Oral History Program and a PhD candidate in Health Behavior at UNC-Chapel Hill. With a special focus on Asian American communities in the South, Tô is interested in using storytelling, art, and comedy as part of health advocacy.

HARRY WATSON, the Atlanta Distinguished Professor of Southern Culture Emeritus, retired from the UNC-Chapel Hill History Department in 2023. Watson and John Shelton Reed were founding editors of *Southern Cultures*, and Watson served as director of the Center for the Study of the American South for thirteen years. Watson’s own teaching and research have focused on the politics and culture of the 19th-century South, and he currently serves as senior content adviser to the North Carolina History Center on the Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

JADA WEYAND received her BA in Women’s and Gender Studies from UNC-Chapel Hill, where she was a Southern Futures Fellow. Their work focused on community engagement and public policy in her local school district, which she remains engaged in today.



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