



A Roundtable Discussion on Exploring Black Women's Experiences in Higher Education

Rutgers University
15 Seminary Place
West Wing 6th Floor, Room 6051
New Brunswick, NJ 08854

Thursday, November 30, 2023
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

THE EDITORS



Dr. Robin Phylisia Chapdelaine

Dr. Robin Phylisia Chapdelaine is an Associate Professor of Women's and Gender and African history and Director of Undergraduate Studies at Duquesne University. Her research focuses on global slavery, human trafficking, child labor, human rights, equity in higher education, and Black Joy practices. She is co-editor of newly published *When Will the Joy Come? Black Women in the Ivory Tower* (2023); author of *The Persistence of Slavery: An Economic History of Child Trafficking in Nigeria* (2021); and was awarded the 2021 best article prize by the Association for the Study of Worldwide African Diaspora for her article "Marriage Certificates and Walker Cards: Nigerian Migrant Labor, Wives and Prostitutes in Colonial Fernando Pó," in *African Economic History*. She has published articles in *Journal of West African History*, *Radical Teacher*, and *Bulletin of Ecumenical Theology* and has several chapters in co-edited volumes. She is currently working on her next book *Embrace Black Joy: How Empathetic Teaching Empowers All Students*. This text aims to be both a pedagogical tool that assists educators to embrace Black Joy as a worthy topic of inquiry in the classroom and a public mandate that encourages a socially responsible response to the Black Joy movement as one that can benefit all students.

Michelle Dionne Thompson, J.D., Ph.D. is the Founder and C.E.O. of Resistant Vision Coaching and Consulting, LLC. She works with women in academia and law to achieve their personal and professional goals by ensuring that have more pleasure in their professional and personal lives. Her extensive career has also included practicing poverty and labor law in the Washington, D.C. and Maryland area, and teaching history in schools around the New York City area.

In addition to *When Will the Joy Come: Black Women in the Ivory Tower*, Michelle has also published in *Caribbean Quarterly*. She is currently working on her monograph, *Resistant Vision*, about the descendants of Jamaica's Accompong Maroon community in 19th century Jamaica.



Dr. Michelle Dionne Thompson



**Dr. Abena Ampofoa
Asare**

Dr. Abena Ampofoa Asare is Associate Professor of Africana Studies and History at Stony Brook University. Her research and writing span questions of human rights, citizenship and transformative justice in Africa and the African diaspora. Her work can be found in *The Radical Teacher*, *The International Journal of Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, *African Arguments*, and *Foreign Policy in Focus*, among other places. She has been a Scholar-in-Residence at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Her book *Truth Without Reconciliation: A Human Rights History of Ghana* was chosen as a Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2018 by the American Library Association. She is currently curating, digitizing, and writing about the Stony Brook University Africana Studies Video Archive, a collection of over 100 videos documenting Black Studies programming at a public research university throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

THE RESPONDENTS

Alonna J. Carter-Donaldson is a public historian and freelance writer interested in African American Genealogy and History and a Visting Lecturer in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Her writing has been seen in the *New Pittsburgh Courier*, *The Soul Pitt Quarterly*, and *Public Source*, and she has contributed research to exhibitions for the Frick Pittsburgh and The Senator John Heinz History Center. Carter-Donaldson also serves as the Historian of the Dr. Edna B. McKenzie Branch of ASALH. In 2018, she was named an honoree at the New Pittsburgh Courier Fab 40 under 40 Awards. In 2021, she was selected as the Inaugural Burke Family Research Fellow at the Frick Pittsburgh for her work on African Americans in Pittsburgh's Gilded Age, and in 2022 she served as the inaugural Project Scholar for the WPDHAC's Intersection of Race and Disability Project. Carter-Donaldson holds a Bachelor of Arts from Carlow University in Philosophy/History with a concentration in Pre-Law and a Master of Professional Writing degree from Chatham University. She will receive a Master of Arts in Public History from Duquesne University in December 2023.



**Alonna J. Carter-
Donaldson**



**Dr. Leigh-Anne
Francis**

Dr. Leigh-Anne Francis is an Associate Professor with a dual appointment in the departments of African American Studies and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). She has a Ph.D. in United States and African American History, a Masters in U.S. and World History, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Illustration. Dr. Francis’ recent peer-reviewed publications appear in the *Journal of Women’s History*, *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*, and more. Her unpublished book manuscript, titled “Jane Crow (In)Justice: Race, Crime, and Punishment in New York State, 1893–1916,” analyzes the intersections of racism, sexism, poverty, crime, and work and situates Black women in the history of mass incarceration. She teaches courses on the history of African American women, and queer & trans people of color in the United States. When Dr. Francis is not teaching or writing, she is parenting her nine-year old twin sons, Rustin and Langston.

Dr. Deborah Gray White is Board of Governors Distinguished Professor of History at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey and a Distinguished Fellow at the Rutgers Institute for Global Racial Justice. She is author of *Ar’n’t I A Woman? Female Slaves in the Plantation South*; *Too Heavy a Load: Black Women in Defense of Themselves, 1894-1994*; several K-12 text books on United States History, and *Let My People Go, African Americans 1804-1860* (1999). In 2008, she published an edited work entitled *Telling Histories: Black Women in the Ivory Tower*, a collection of personal narratives written by African American women historians that chronicle the entry of black women into the historical profession and the development of the field of black women’s history. *Freedom On My Mind: A History of African Americans*, a co-authored college text, is in its third edition. As a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C, and as a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, White conducted research on her newest book, *Lost in the USA: American Identity from the Promise Keepers to the Million Mom March*. She holds the Carter G. Woodson Medallion and the Frederick Douglass Medal for excellence in African American history and was also awarded a Doctorate in Humane Letters from her undergraduate alma mater, Binghamton University. From 2016-2021 she co-directed the “Scarlet and Black Project” which investigates Native Americans and African Americans in the history of Rutgers University and is co-editor of the three-part Scarlet and Black series that explores this history.



Dr. Deborah Gray White



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