

University of Mississippi

eGrove

University of Mississippi News

9-8-2022

Historian to Discuss Work on Slavery and Race in America

Rebecca Lauck Cleary

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews>

Recommended Citation

Cleary, Rebecca Lauck, "Historian to Discuss Work on Slavery and Race in America" (2022). *University of Mississippi News*. 2324.

<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/2324>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Mississippi News by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Historian to Discuss Work on Slavery and Race in America

Daina Ramey Berry visiting UM for annual Gilder-Jordan Lecture in Southern History

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 BY [REBECCA LAUCK CLEARY](#)



OXFORD, Miss. – Historian Daina Ramey Berry has researched case studies from contemporary educators and various university faculty on what it means to teach the truth about slavery and the value of learning about race and slavery.

She will discuss her findings at 6 p.m. Tuesday (Sept. 13), during this year’s Gilder-Jordan Lecture in Southern Studies at the [University of Mississippi](#). Her lecture, “Teaching the Truth: Race and Slavery in the Modern Classroom,” is free and open to the public in Nutt Auditorium.

Berry is a prolific historian of slavery, African American history and gender, said Chuck Ross, acting chair and professor of history and African American studies. She is the author of six books, including “The Price for their Pound of Flesh: The Value of the Enslaved, from Womb to Grave, in the Building of a Nation” (Beacon Press, 2017).

“This work examines the life cycle of slaves and is exhaustive and meticulous when presenting the lengths that enslavers would go to maximize profits on their investments,” Ross said. “Dr. Berry’s research has been instrumental in building on the history of slavery in the United States of America.”

Berry is the Michael Douglas Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She previously was the Oliver H. Radkey Regents Professor of History and chair of the history department at the University of Texas, where she also served as associate dean of the Graduate School.

“Our students, faculty, staff and community members should take advantage of the opportunity to hear from such an accomplished scholar, who undoubtedly will give a talk that will facilitate much dialogue and future questions,” Ross said.

Besides her work as a university administrator and internationally recognized scholar of slavery, Berry is one of the most sought-after consultants for public-facing projects offered by museums, historical sites, K-12 educational initiatives, syndicated radio programs, online podcasts and public television.

Katie McKee, director of the UM [Center for the Study of Southern Culture](#), said she is delighted to have Berry on campus.

“The Center for the Study of Southern Culture has taken ‘Race in the Classroom’ as its programming theme this year precisely because classrooms are such vitally important spaces for gaining accurate, historically-based understandings of the roles race and racism have played in shaping our region and our nation,” McKee said.

Berry completed her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in African American studies and U.S. history at the University of California at Los Angeles. She is a scholar of the enslaved and a specialist on gender and slavery as well as Black women’s history in the United States.

She received several awards for “The Price for their Pound of Flesh,” including the Phyllis Wheatley Award for Scholarly Research from the Sons and Daughters of the U.S. Middle Passage; the 2018 Best Book Prize from the Society for the History of the Early American Republic; and the 2018 Hamilton Book Prize from the University Co-op for the best book among UT Austin faculty. The book was also a finalist for the 2018 Frederick Douglass Book Prize awarded by Yale University and the Gilder Lehman Institute in New York.



Respected historian Daina Ramey Berry is set to deliver this year’s Gilder-Jordan Lecture in Southern Studies at 6 p.m. Tuesday (Sept. 13) in Nutt Auditorium. Submitted photo

Follow us on social



Campus Briefs

Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children’s play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

Thank You To Our Donors

Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

Ole Miss In the News

Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith’s Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith’s enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith’s 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school’s first African-American student.

Berry has received prestigious fellowships for her work from the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Council of Learned Societies, American Association of University Women and the Ford Foundation. She also has received grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, as well as the Spencer Foundation and Humanities Texas to work with K-12 educators on teaching the history of slavery to American youth via the Texas Domestic Slave Trade Project.

She is associate editor for The Journal of African American History and one of the lead authors of McGraw Hill's revised high school and middle school U.S. history textbooks. She also is finishing a book on "The Myths of Slavery" for Beacon Press and a biography of Anna Murray Douglass for Yale University Press.

The Gilder-Jordan Lecture Series is organized by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, the Ole Miss departments of **History** and **African American Studies**, and the Center for Civil War Research. Made possible through the generosity of the Gilder Foundation Inc., it honors the late Richard Gilder, of New York, and his family, as well as UM alumni Dan and Lou Jordan, of Virginia.

 FILED UNDER: **CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE, NEWS RELEASES**

"James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier," a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

[Read the story ...](#)

[More Posts from this Category](#)