

20-22 May 2022
A Virtual Conference



Artist: Gigi Magloire

RELIGHTING THE CROSSROADS

**Historical and Cultural Encounters between
Haitians and African Americans**



Brooklyn College | 2900 Bedford Avenue | 1108 Boylan Hall
Brooklyn, NY 11210

PROGRAM

Sponsors

CUNY Haitian Studies Institute (HSI)

Africana Studies Department, Brooklyn College, CUNY

The Haitian Times

Haiti Cultural Exchange

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Asselin Charles

Margaret Cox

Gerarde Danton-Magloire

Paul Fadoul

Cynthia Hamilton

Jaïra Placide

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Friday, May 20, 2022

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM (EDT)

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Marie Lily Cerat, Ph.D., Associate Director, CUNY Haitian Studies Institute

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM (EDT)

Haitian Women in Diasporic Spaces

Moderator: Gabrielle Civil, Ph.D., California Institute of the Arts

“Women, Flora, and the Archive”

Shanna Jean-Baptiste, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of French, Rutgers University

“Haitian Women in Baltimore - An Émigré Kinship Network”

Andrew W. Maginn, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate and Program Coordinator, Roberson Project on Slavery, Race, & Reconciliation, University of the South

BREAK: 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM (EDT)

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM (EDT)

Haiti and Savannah, Georgia: A Roundtable Discussion

Moderator: Margaret Cox, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, Savannah State University

“Threesome Partners: War, Catholicism and Slavery”

Natacha Brookshire, The Institute for Black Catholic Studies, Xavier University of Louisiana

“A Cup of Goodwill: Major Richard Robert Wright’s Trans-Hemispheric Hospitality from Georgia to Haiti”

Patricia Ann West, Assistant Professor of English, Savannah State University

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM (EDT)

Keynote by Dr. Gerald Horne, Department of History, University of Houston

Saturday, May 21, 2022

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM (EDT)

Welcome

Marie Lily Cerat, Ph.D., Associate Director, CUNY Haitian Studies Institute

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM (EDT)

Harlem and Haiti: Activist and Artistic Encounters

Moderator: Asselin Charles, Ph.D.

“African Diasporic Religious Literacies: Linguaging Vodou in the Children’s Literature of Langston Hughes and Edwidge Danticat”

Kahdeidra Monét Martin, Ph.D.

“Internationalizing the Renaissance in Harlem: Haitian Trans-Atlantic Activism between the Two World Wars”

Felix Jean-Louis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of History, UC Irvine

“L’Afrique comme lieu des retrouvailles des indigénistes haïtiens et des écrivains de la Renaissance de Harlem (Africa as a place of reconnection for Haitian Indigenists and Harlem Renaissance writers)”

Joubert Satyre, Ph.D., French Studies Department, University of Guelph

BREAK: 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM (EDT)

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM (EDT)

Black Studies in Canada: Considering the Impact of the Caribbean and Haiti

Moderator: Vermonja R. Alston, JD, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, York University, Toronto, Canada

“Imagining the World Through Black Canadian Studies”

Darcy Ballantyne, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of English, Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University)

“Black Intellectualism as a Humanities Project”

Andrea A. Davis, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Black Cultures of the Americas and 2023 Academic Convenor of the Congress of the Humanities & Social Sciences, York University

“Social Justice Performance? Racial Reckoning and ‘Equity’ Programs in Canadian Postsecondary Education”

Carl E. James, Ph.D., Jean Augustine Chair in Education and Senior Advisor on Equity and Representation, York University

“Deciphering Caribbean Canadian Diasporic Aesthetics of the Haitian Revolution as Black Freedom Epistemes”

Bianca Beauchemin, Ph.D. in Gender Studies, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM (EDT)

Kafou Listwa | Historical Encounters

Moderator: Paul Fadoul, Ph.D., Lecturer, Queens College of CUNY

“We have tried to add our small weight to the scales of justice and righteousness”: Haitians’ and African American Emigrants’ Abolitionist Activity in Mid-19th-Century Haiti”

Bianca Dang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, History Department, University of Washington

“Mapping the Black Auxiliary Troops of King Carlos IV”

Justin P. Jones, Student in the Ph.D. program in History, Vanderbilt University

“Nat Turner’s Memory”

Riley Hanick, Doctoral candidate in English, University of Iowa

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM (EDT)

A Conversation with Joanne Hyppolite, Ph.D. (Museum Curator) and Karen Bauer, M.A. (Ph.D. candidate, University of Minnesota) on the Haitian Collection at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture

Moderator: Jaïra Placide, Student in the Ph.D. program in English, CUNY Graduate Center

Sunday, May 22, 2022

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

A Tribute to Michel-Rolph Trouillot: The Haitian Anthropologist and Activist Returns Home to Brooklyn College

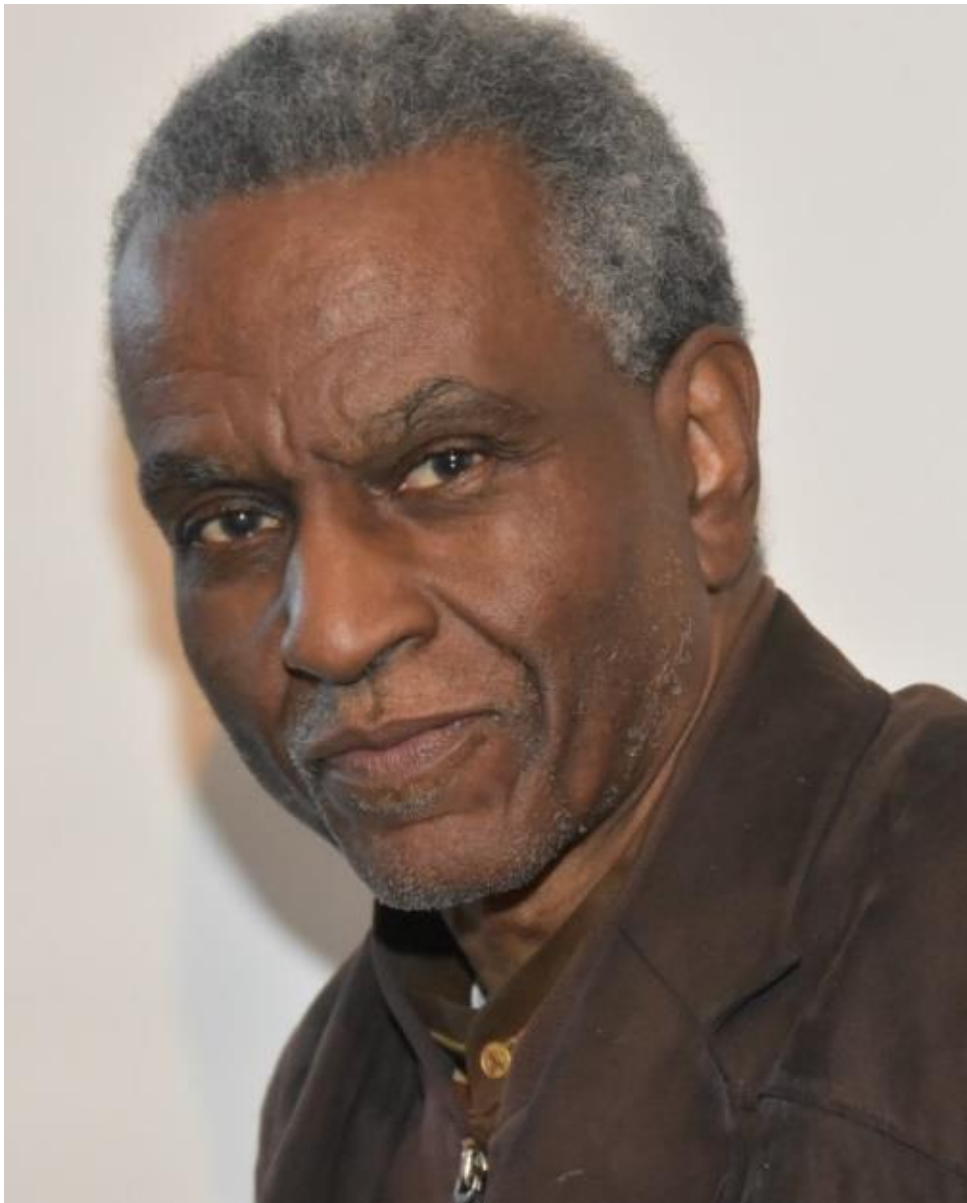
Moderator: Mamyrah Dougé-Prosper, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of California, Irvine

Nathalie Frédéric Pierre, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of History, Howard University

Philippe-Richard Marius, Ph.D., College of Staten Island/CUNY

Yarimar Bonilla, Ph.D., Director of the Puerto Rican Studies Institute (Centro) & Professor in the Department of Africana, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at Hunter College and in the Ph.D. Program in Anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Gerald Horne, the Moores Professor of History and African American Studies at the University of Houston, has published three dozen books, including *Confronting Black Jacobins: The U.S., the Haitian Revolution and the Origins of the Dominican Republic*. His book, *The Dawning of the Apocalypse: The Roots of Slavery, White Supremacy, Settler Colonialism and Capitalism in the Long 16th Century*, won the American Book Award in 2021.

Biographies

Margarett Alexandre earned a Ph.D. from The CUNY Graduate Center and a master's degree from Adelphi University in Nursing Administration and minor in Education. An Associate Professor of Nursing at (CUNY) York College, her research interest addresses disability in the post 2010 Haiti Earthquake. She also has great interest in transcultural nursing education, community engagement, service-learning, active learning strategies and health disparities. She has coordinated and taught service-learning courses in Haiti and the Free Republic of Moldova. She mentors high school summer research students, as well as undergraduate and graduate level students in their educational and professional pursuits. She is an active member of the HSI Executive Board, a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine (FNYAM), Vice-President of the Northeast Chapter of the Transcultural Nursing Society (TCNS), a and member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing—Alpha Omega Chapter. Dr. Alexandre has presented nationally and internationally and serves as a manuscript reviewer for several nursing journals.

Vermonja R. Alston is an associate professor of African Diaspora Literature and Cinema in the Department of Humanities at York University in Toronto. She has published on early 20th century African American travelers in the Caribbean, Caribbean poetics, and literature of environmental justice movements.

Darcy Ballantyne is an Assistant Professor, Department of English, Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University) in Toronto. She teaches and researches in the areas of Black Studies, Black Canadian literatures and cultures, city writing, Black memoir and critical mixed-race theory. Darcy has published articles in *TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*, *MaComère: The Journal of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars*, *A/B Auto/Biography Studies*, and *The Walrus Magazine*. She is currently co-editing a special issue of *Canadian Literature* on the topic of Black life in a post-pandemic world and working on two book-length projects, including a literary memoir. Darcy holds a Ph.D. in English Literature from York University, an MA in English Literature from Concordia University, and a BA in English Language and Literature from the University of Waterloo. Her SSHRC-funded dissertation, *A Poetics of the Contemporary Black Canadian City*, examines depictions of the city by Black Canadian writers within the context of plantation theory.

Karen Bauer is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota in the department of Anthropology with a minor in Public History and Heritage Studies. During 2020 and 2021, she was a curatorial research intern at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Under the supervision of Joanne Hyppolite, Bauer identified collections across the Smithsonian Institution units related to Haiti and organized the data to develop a user-friendly database and comprehensive summaries for each collection. During this internship she also conducted research to write a collection of stories about Haitian and African American connections during the Harlem Renaissance.

Bianca Beauchemin recently earned a Ph.D. in the Department of Gender Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She obtained her B.A. in Women's Studies with Honors at York University (*summa cum laude*) and attended Queen's University for a Master's in Gender Studies. She was the recipient of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) doctoral fellowship. She has also published a book review of Brittney C. Cooper's *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women in Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*. Her doctoral manuscript that she is preparing for publication entitled "*Arousing Freedoms: Re-Imagining the Haitian Revolution through Sensuous Marronage*," re-narrates the Haitian Revolution through Black feminist and Black queer epistemologies and methodologies. Disrupting the authority of the colonial archive and of prevalent masculinist framings of insurgency discourses, she explores the ways in which embodiment, labor, sensuousness, spirituality, marronage, resistance and alternative sexualities and genders, re-imagine the edicts of freedom and Black liberation.

Yarimar Bonilla is the Director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College. She is also a Professor in the Department of Africana, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at Hunter College and in the Ph.D. Program in Anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is the author of *Non-Sovereign Futures: French Caribbean Politics in the Wake of Disenchantment* (2015), co-editor of *Aftershocks of Disaster: Puerto Rico Before and After the Storm* (2019), and a founder of the Puerto Rico Syllabus Project.

Natacha Brookshire is a registered nurse with over 25 years of experience, currently working as a manager for a hospice company. She is a cradle Catholic and veteran of the United States Army. Natacha is the proud mother of two adult children and has five grandchildren. She obtained her bachelor's degree in nursing from Florida Atlantic University and is currently pursuing a Master's in Theology from Xavier University of Louisiana through the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (BCS). Her post-graduate studies focus on the contribution of African American to Catholicism within the United States. For her thesis, Natacha has chosen to research the impact of two groups of Haitian Catholics in antebellum Savannah, Georgia. The first group

of Haitians are the Chasseurs Volontaires soldiers who fought in the 1779 battle of Savannah during the American Revolution; the second group are the Haitians who migrated to Savannah as a result of the Haitian Revolution.

Marie Lily Cerat has a Ph.D. in Urban Education and a Certificate in Africana Studies from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). Dr. Cerat is Associate Director of the CUNY Haitian Studies Institute at Brooklyn College and teaches with the Africana Studies Department. Her research examines the effects of the exclusion of Haitian language, culture, and history in the education of Haitian learners. Dr. Cerat is the co-founder of Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, established in 1992 to assist Haitian immigrants seeking refuge in the United States.

Asselin Charles is an independent scholar and literary translator. Holder of a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Pennsylvania State University, he has taught at various institutions in the United States, Canada, Taiwan, Nigeria, and Haiti. His research focuses on the parallels and intersections in black Atlantic literatures, particularly in Harlem Renaissance writings and in the francophone, creolophone, and anglophone literatures of the Caribbean. Dr. Charles has produced the first English translation of Anténor Firmin's masterwork, *De l'Égalité des races humaines* (1885) [*The Equality of the Human Races*, 2000]. He has published the critically acclaimed English translation of Frankétienne's celebrated Kreyòl novel, *Dézafi* (University of Virginia Press, 2018). He has also translated the writings of such authors as René Depestre, René Maran, Boisrond Tonnerre, Dany Laferrière, and Monchoachi. In addition to these literary translations, Dr. Charles has published articles and review essays in journals such as *Journal of Pan-African Studies*, *Haitian Studies Journal*, *Small Axe*, *The Savannah Review* and *Metamorphoses*.

Gabrielle Civil is a black feminist performance artist, writer and poet, originally from Detroit, MI. She has premiered over fifty performance works around the world and collaborated with Haitian artist Vladimir Cybil Charlier on the image + text work "Tourist Art." Her performance memoirs include *Swallow the Fish* (2017), *Experiments in Joy* (2019), *(ghost gestures)* (2021), and *the déjà vu* (2022). Her writing has also appeared in *New Daughters of Africa*, *Teaching Black*, *Kitchen Table Translation*, and *Experiments in Joy: A Workbook*. She teaches at the California Institute of the Arts. The aim of her work is to open up space.

Margaret Cox was born in Carriacou, Grenada and grew up in Brooklyn, NY. She graduated with a Master of Arts in English from Brooklyn College and a Ph.D. in English from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She teaches English/African Diaspora Literature at Savannah State University.

Prudence D. Cumberbatch is the Chairperson of the Africana Studies Department at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. Dr. Cumberbatch received her Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University. In 2014, Dr. Cumberbatch served as a guest editor for a series of new online-only articles dealing with Baltimore where she discusses the city's unique place in African American history.

Bianca Dang is an Assistant Professor in the History Department at the University of Washington. Her research and teaching focus on the histories of Black freedom movements and state coercion in the Americas. Currently, she is working on her first manuscript, tentatively titled: *Making Meaningful Freedom: Land, Labor, and Migration in Struggles for Autonomy in Haiti and the United States after Emancipation*. This project traces how Haitians and African Americans emphasized autonomy, at times individual and at other times community-based, as they worked toward making freedom more than a legal status across the nineteenth century. It focuses especially on how Black women, both Haitian and American, enacted legal, diplomatic, and religious strategies to combat racism and misogyny in such pursuits.

Gerarde Danton-Magloire, Ph.D., was trained as a civilizationist at the Institute of French Studies of New York University. Her research has focused on Haitian thinkers in the French colonial context. She has had a dual career as an independent scholar and Professor and Program Head of English Training for Air Traffic Management at ENAC, the French Civil Aviation University in Toulouse, France.

Andrea A. Davis is Associate Professor in Black Cultures of the Americas in the Department of Humanities at York University in Toronto, the 2023 Academic Convenor of the Congress of the Humanities & Social Sciences, and co-editor of *The Journal of Canadian Studies*. She is former Chair of the Department of Humanities (2015-2020) and former Special Advisor on the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies' Anti-Black Racism Strategies (2020-2021). She holds cross-appointments in the graduate programs in English; Interdisciplinary Studies; Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies; and Social and Political Thought. Her research focuses on literary and cultural studies, Black diaspora and Caribbean studies, and youth studies. She is particularly interested in the intersections of the literatures of the Caribbean, the United States and Canada, and her work encourages an intertextual cross-cultural dialogue about Black women's experiences in diaspora. She is the author of *Horizon, Sea, Sound: Caribbean & African Women's Cultural Critiques of Nation* (Northwestern University Press, 2022).

Mamyrah Dougé-Prosper is an Assistant Professor of Global and International Studies at the University of California, Irvine. She specializes in Black social movements in the Caribbean and Latin America and is working on her manuscript "Development Contested in Occupied Haiti: Social Movements and the Gangster State." Dougé-Prosper is also the International Coordinator of the Pan-African Solidarity Network with Community Movement Builders.

Paul Fadoul teaches French language and literatures at Queens College-CUNY. His interests include the French and Francophone canons and Haitian Creole oraliture. He is currently working on an article that illustrates diversity and tolerance in Sixto's representation of Haiti. He participated in Edouard Glissant's seminars at the Graduate Center-CUNY and uses Glissant's concepts to illustrate the heterogeneity

and relations that communities reveal in their literatures. His dissertation (2016) is titled “How to be a French Jew: Proust, Lazare, Glissant.”

Dr. Cynthia Hamilton is a political scientist and African American Studies scholar. She is currently retired after more than two decades at the University of Rhode Island as a professor of political science and chair of the Africana Studies Department. Dr. Hamilton’s teaching, scholarship, and activism are rooted in her formative years growing up in 1960s Los Angeles in a politically conscious Black family originally from New Orleans. Her work and thought have also been considerably influenced by her experiences as a student and assistant of C. L. R. James in the late 1960s as well as by her grassroots radical activism in the era of the civil rights movement. Dr. Hamilton’s published writings encompass such themes as Black liberation, ecofeminism, and social and political revolution.

Riley Hanick is a writer and doctoral candidate in English at the University of Iowa. He is the author of a book-length essay, *Three Kinds of Motion* (Sarabande Books, 2015) and the lead author of *Mapping the Imaginary* (ALA Editions, 2019). His essays, journalism, and translations have been published in *Open Library of Humanities*, *Sonora Review*, *Seneca Review*, *eyeshot*, *Labor World*, and *No Depression*. His work has been included among the notable essays for the *Best American* series and supported by grants from the Jentel and McKnight foundations.

Joanne Hyppolite is the Supervisory Museum Curator of the African Diaspora at the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). She holds a Ph.D. in Literature, as well as an M.A. and B.A. in African American Studies. Her expertise and interests are in diasporic cultural expressions and Black immigrant American communities. Prior to joining the Smithsonian, she was the Chief Curator at HistoryMiami Museum for eight years. The exhibitions she has curated include *Cultural Expressions*, *Black Crossroads: The African Diaspora in Miami*, *Haitian Community Arts*, and *Black Freedom in Florida*. She is the current board president of the Museums Association of the Caribbean.

Carl E. James holds the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora in the Faculty of Education at York University, and is the Senior Advisor on Equity and Representation in the Office of the Vice President of Equity, People and Culture. He is a Professor in the Faculty of Education and holds cross-appointments in the Graduate Programs in Sociology, Social and Political Thought, and Social Work. James is widely recognized for his research contributions in the areas of intersectionality of race with ethnicity, gender, class and citizenship as they shape identification/identity; the ways in which accessible and equitable opportunities in education and employment account for the lived experiences of marginalized community members; and the complementary and contradictory nature of sports in the schooling and educational attainments of racialized students. In advocating for education for change, James documents the struggles, contradictions and paradoxes in the experiences of racialized students at all levels of the education system. In doing so, he seeks to address and move us beyond the essentialist, generalized and homogenizing discourses that account for the representation and achievements

of racialized people—particularly Black Canadians—in educational institutions, workplaces, and society generally.

Shanna Jean-Baptiste is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of French at Rutgers University. She earned a joint Ph.D. in French and African American Studies from Yale University in 2020. Her research and teaching interests include Francophone West African and Caribbean literatures, particularly Haitian literature; identity formation and gender politics; visual art and music; and Afrofuturist aesthetics in the Francophone world. She is currently working on a book manuscript that charts a literary history of national belonging and unbelonging and traces a genealogy of anticolonial and anti-imperial discourses in nineteenth-century Haitian literature and history. In fall 2022, Shanna will join the Department of French as an Assistant Professor.

Felix Jean-Louis is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of California at Irvine. He is a historian of the African diaspora who specializes in Caribbean and African American histories. His book project, *Exporting the Revolution: Haitian Internationalism in the Age of Global Blackness, 1885-1944* locates the role of Haitians in the various discussions and projects aimed at uniting people of African descent in efforts to abate colonialism and overthrow white supremacy. Jean-Louis teaches courses on Caribbean, Haitian, Cuban, African American, and Afro-European histories explored from a Black feminist lens.

Justin P. Jones is a recent graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a Helen D. Faison scholar and majored in History and Spanish, while minoring in Portuguese. He will be starting a Ph.D. program in history at Vanderbilt University in August, where he intends to research the Black Atlantic and the aftermath of the Haitian Revolution. Last summer, Jones participated in the Leadership Alliance Virtual Summer Research Early Identification Program at Vanderbilt University, where he had the opportunity to work with Dr. Jane Landers researching the Black Auxiliary Troops of King Carlos IV. Previously, he completed the Digital Atlas Design internship with Pitt's history department, where he used GIS to map the destinations of the refugees/exiles of the Haitian Revolution. He presented this project at the GIS Expo at the University of Pittsburgh in 2020 and the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference in 2021. Following his interest in Haiti, he has also worked with Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti, a charitable organization based in Pittsburgh. Jones is also a reporter at the *Pittwire* publication of the University of Pittsburgh.

Andrew W. Maginn is a transnational historian whose research focuses on the legacies of slavery and emancipation. His recently completed dissertation, "First Families of Haiti in the Trans-Atlantic World, 1791-1880" includes genealogical research of enslaved and free individuals of color in the United States, France, and the United Kingdom. The impact of this research was recognized by several grants, fellowships, and publications. Dr. Maginn is currently employed as the senior researcher and program coordinator at the University of the South's Race and Reconciliation Program, the Roberson Project. <https://new.sewanee.edu/roberson-project/>

Philippe-Richard Marius earned a BFA in film from New York University and a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). His research focuses on the uses of race, class, and culture by Western elites in the reproduction of privilege and social inequalities, and his book *The Unexceptional Case of Haiti: Race and Class Privilege in Postcolonial Bourgeois Society* was published by the University Press of Mississippi (2022). He teaches sociology and anthropology at the College of Staten Island/CUNY, where he is also Director of Assessment in the Office of Student Affairs.

Kahdeidra Monét Martin holds a B.A. degree in African & African American Studies with a minor in Linguistics from Stanford University. Dr. Martin received her Ph.D. in Urban Education from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and she uses qualitative methods to research African American Language, Black youth identity, literacy, decolonial and culturally sustaining pedagogy, and belonging in schools. Her dissertation won the 2022 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Qualitative Research SIG of the American Educational Research Association, and she currently works as a Lecturer of Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford. Dr. Martin is a Manbo Asogwe in the asson lineage of Haitian Vodou and a member of the Bizango society.

Nathalie Frédéric Pierre is an Assistant Professor of History at her undergraduate alma mater, Howard University. Her Ph.D. was earned from New York University after she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English and History. She is a political historian of the nineteenth century, and is currently writing her first book, *“The Vessel of Independence... Must Save Itself”: Haitian State Formation, from Makandal to the end of the Napoleonic Wars*. She is a current Board Member of the Haitian Studies Association, and from 2011 - 2017 was board chair of the Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project. Flanbwayan is an immigrant education advocacy group serving migrant Haitian teens and their families.

Jaïra Placide is currently a Ph.D. student in the English Department at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center and is a Graduate Student Fellow for Special Projects at the CUNY Haitian Studies Institute at Brooklyn College. She earned her M.A. in American Studies from New York University. She is the author of the young adult novel *Fresh Girl* which won the Golden Kite Award from the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. She is the former Associate Director of the Institute of African American Affairs & Center for Black Visual Culture at New York University.

Joubert Satyre joined the French Studies Department at the University of Guelph in 2003. He received his Ph.D. in Francophone literature from l’Université de Montréal in 2003. His areas of research include French Caribbean literature, Haitian literature, and the Baroque. He wrote the chapter on Caribbean literature in *Introduction aux littératures francophones*. He has published *Émille Ollivier: cohérence et lisibilité du*

baroque and edited *Horizons multiples de la littérature haïtienne contemporaine*. His articles have been published in journals including *Canadian Literature*, *L'Esprit Créateur*, *Présence Francophone*, *Horizons/Théâtre*, *Nouvelle Revue Francophone*, *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, *Dalhousie French Studies*.

Patricia Ann West is an Assistant Professor of English at Savannah State University where she focuses on African American literature influenced by place, space, and cultural studies. Besides interest in the historical significance of her conference subject Richard R. Wright, Sr. and his ties to Haiti, her research presentations and publications focus on author James Alan McPherson, Flannery O'Connor, and mapping Gullah Geechee narratives in American Literature. Since 1991, Prof. West has published poetry, scholarly peer-reviewed articles, reviews, and chapters; and she has presented at numerous workshops and conferences from Belize City, Central America to coast-to-coast United States locations. Her latest work is entitled [*Still Water Words: Poems and Stories from Ancestral Places*](#).