

SHAWN MICHELLE SMITH

Curriculum Vitae

Professor and Chair of Visual and Critical Studies
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
ssmith8@saic.edu

Education:

Ph.D. University of California, San Diego
M.A. University of California, San Diego
B.A. Stanford University, with Distinction and Honors in Humanities

Scholarly Publications:

Books:

- 2020 Photographic Returns: Racial Justice and the Time of Photography.
Duke University Press.
- 2021 Ray and Pat Browne Award for Best Work in Popular and American Culture,
Popular Culture Association
- 2020 Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Title
- 2017 Photography and the Optical Unconscious. Co-edited with Sharon Sliwinski.
Duke University Press.
- 2013 At the Edge of Sight: Photography and the Unseen. Duke University Press.
- 2014 Lawrence W. Levine Award for best book in American cultural history,
Organization of American Historians
- 2014 Jean Goldman Book Prize, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2012 Pictures and Progress: Early Photography and the Making of African American Identity. Co-
edited with Maurice O. Wallace. Duke University Press.
- 2007 Lynching Photographs. Co-authored with Dora Apel. Volume 2, *Defining Moments in
American Photography*. Ed. Anthony Lee. University of California Press.
- 2004 Photography on the Color Line: W. E. B. Du Bois, Race, and Visual Culture.
Duke University Press. A John Hope Franklin Center Book.
- 2005 Phi Beta Kappa Book Award, Saint Louis University
- 1999 American Archives: Gender, Race, and Class in Visual Culture.
Princeton University Press.

Journal Special Issue:

- 2014 Guest Editor, Special Issue on Visual Culture and Race, MELUS: Multi-Ethnic
Literature of the United States 39:2 (Summer).

Selected Articles and Essays:

- 2023 "Introduction" to *In Another's Hand* by Ken Gonzales-Day. Archives of American Art 62.1 (Spring): 62.
- 2021 "Photography, Darkness, and the Underground Railroad: Dawoud Bey's *Night Coming Tenderly, Black*." American Quarterly 73.1 (March): 25-52.
- 2021 "An Orientation to the Sea." Art Journal 80.1 (Spring): 48-65.
- 2021 "Références phototextuelles: 9 Props de Lorna Simpson." Translated by Marianne Bouvier. Le Phototexte engagé: Une culture visuelle du militantisme au XX siècle, eds. Charlotte Foucher Zarmanian and Magali Nachtergaele, Les Presses du Réel. 161-182.
- 2020 "Occupational Portraits and Escape Artists." Imagining Everyday Life: Engagements with Vernacular Photography, eds. Brian Wallis, Marianne Hirsch, Tina Campt, and Gil Hochberg, The Walther Collection/Steidl. 200-204.
- 2020 "The Performative Index: James VanDerZee, Roland Barthes, Lorna Simpson and the Photographic Imagination." Photography and Imagination, eds. Margaret Olin and Amos Morris-Reich. Routledge. 133-146.
- 2018 "Archive of the Ordinary: Jason Lazarus, *Too Hard to Keep*." Special Issue, "Affect at the Limits of Photography." Eds. Lisa Cartwright and Elizabeth Wolfson. Journal of Visual Culture 17.2 (August): 198-206.
- 2018 "Anticipatory Photographs: Sarah Pickering and An-My Lê." Photography and Ontology: Unsettling Images. Eds. Donna West Brett and Natalya Lusty. Routledge. 72-86.
- 2018 "Escape Artist." *Black One Shot*. Eds. Michael Gillespie and Lisa Uddin. ASAP/J, open-access platform of the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (July).
- 2018 "The Mug Shot: A Brief History." Aperture 230 (Spring): 30-33.
- 2017 "Looking Forward and Looking Back: Rashid Johnson and Frederick Douglass on Photography." Pictures and Power: Imaging and Imagining Frederick Douglass 1818-2018. Eds. Celeste-Marie Bernier and Bill E. Lawson. Liverpool Studies in International Slavery 12. Liverpool University Press. 254-273.
- 2017 "Augustus Washington Looks to Liberia." Special Issue on American Art in Dialogue with Africa and its Diaspora. Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art 41 (November): 6-13.
- 2017 "Feeling Family Photography: A Cautionary Note." Special Issue "Seeing Family." Eds. Jennifer Orpana and Sarah Parsons. Photography and Culture 10.2 (Fall): 165-167.
- 2016 "Photographic Remains: Sally Mann at Antietam." The Civil War in Art and Memory. Ed. Kirk Savage. *Studies in the History of Art*. National Gallery of Art. 103-124.
- 2015 "The Afterimages of Emmett Till." Special issue on "Photography and History." Ed. Martin A. Berger. American Art 29.1 (Spring): 22-27.
- 2014 "Photography Between Desire and Grief: Roland Barthes and F. Holland Day." Feeling Photography. Eds. Elspeth Brown and Thy Phu. Duke University Press. 29-46.

- 2013 "Booker T. Washington's Photographic Messages." ELN Forum: Introducing the Advisory Board. *English Language Notes* 51.1 (Spring/Summer): 137-146.
- 2012 "Augustus Washington and the Civil Contract of Photography." *Visual Cultures – Transatlantic Perspectives*. Ed. Volker Depkat. Universitätsverlag Winter. 87-106.
- 2010 "Nursing the Nation: The 1930s Public Health Nurse as Image and Icon." *Imagining Illness: Histories of Public Health and Visual Culture*. Ed. David Serlin. University of Minnesota Press. 143-165.
- 2009 "Obama's Whiteness." Questionnaire on Barack Obama. *Journal of Visual Culture* 8:2 (August): 129-133.
- 2009 "Laying Claim to the Land(scape): Chansonetta Stanley Emmons (1858-1937)." *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 26:2, 346-369.
- 2009 "Race and Reproduction in Camera Lucida." *Photography: Theoretical Snapshots*. Eds. Jonathan Long, Andrea Noble, and Edward Welch. Routledge. 98-111.
Reprinted in *Photography Degree Zero*, ed. Geoffrey Batchen, MIT Press, 243-258.
- 2007 "Second-Sight: Du Bois and the Black Masculine Gaze." *Next to the Color Line: Gender, Sexuality, and W. E. B. Du Bois*. Eds. Susan Gillman and Alys Eve Weinbaum. University of Minnesota Press. 350-377.
- 2006 "Afterimages: White Womanhood, Lynching, and the War in Iraq." Special Issue: Strange Fruit: Lynching, Visuality, and Empire. *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art*. Number 20 (Fall): 72-85.
- 2006 "The Half of Whiteness." Special Issue on Photography and Literature. Forum on Photography and Race. *English Language Notes* 44:2 (Fall/Winter): 189-194.
- 2000 "'Looking at One's Self Through the Eyes of Others': W. E. B. Du Bois's Photographs for the 1900 Paris Exposition." *African American Review* 34:4: 581-599.
- 1999 "Photographing the 'American Negro': Nation, Race, and Photography at the Paris Exposition of 1900." *With Other Eyes: Looking at Race and Gender in Visual Culture*. Ed. Lisa Bloom. University of Minnesota Press. 58-87.
- 1998 "'Baby's Picture is Always Treasured': Eugenics and the Reproduction of Whiteness in the Family Photograph Album." *The Yale Journal of Criticism* 11:1 (Spring): 197-220.

Selected Fellowships:

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, 2022.
The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Critical Race Theory and Visual Culture Fellowship, 2022-2023.
Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Research Center Fellowship, 2012-2013.
Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah, Visiting Research Fellowship, 2001-2002.
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Irene Diamond Foundation Fellowship, 1999-2000.
Center for the Humanities, Oregon State University, Visiting Research Fellowship, 1998-1999.

Editorial Boards and Collectives:

American Art, Editorial Board, 2019-present.
Journal of Visual Culture, Editorial Board, 2016-present.
Photography and Culture, Editorial Advisory Board, 2008-present.
English Language Notes, Advisory Board, 2012-present.
American Literature, Editorial Board, 2006-2008.
Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies, Editorial Board, 1997-2002.

Selected Exhibitions, Artwork (* denotes solo show):

- 2023 * *Light in a Dark Box*. January 6-March 4. Slemmons Gallery, Epiphany Center for the Arts, Chicago, Illinois. (Chicago Cluster Project. Invited by Jan Tichy.)
- 2020- "Keeper of the Hearth" exhibition, to mark the fortieth anniversary of the
2021 publication of Roland Barthes's Camera Lucida. September 10-January 10. Curated by Odette England. Houston Center for Photography, Houston, Texas.
<https://hcponline.org/exhibit/keeper-of-the-hearth/>
- 2019 "Faculty Projects" exhibition. August 27-October 19. *Reading Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Sullivan Galleries, School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
- 2016 "Untitled.jpg." April 7-May 7. Jurors: Meghan Maloney and Wannita Makaroon. Pierro Gallery, Baird Center, South Orange, New Jersey.
- 2015 "I Can't Breathe." November 25-December 19. Jurors: Romi Crawford and Mary Patten. ARC Gallery, Chicago, Illinois. Honorable Mention award for *Untitled (Little Rock)*.
- 2015 "Exercising Authority: Racial Minorities and the American Legal System." November 3-December 11. Wiseman Gallery, Rogue Community College, Grants Pass, Oregon.
- 2014 * "At Work in the Archive." Gallery of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America. March 11-May 31. Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.
- 2013 "Photography 2013: Inventing Perspective." November 21-December 13. Juror Corey Keller. LH Horton Jr Gallery, San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton, California.
- 2013 "Post-Racial U.S.?" October 25-December 21. Juror Andrew Connors. New Mexico State University Art Gallery, Las Cruces, New Mexico.
- 2013 * "In the Details." June 7-September 21. The Sheldon Art Galleries, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2011 "Think Art: Memory." October 7-28. Commonwealth Art Gallery, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2011 "Paducah Photo 2011." Juror: Karen Irvine. June 18-July 30. Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, Kentucky.
- 2011 "Voyeur: See and Be Seen." June 25- July 5. Brooklyn Artists Gym, Brooklyn, New York.
- 2011 *Images for Isaac Lowery*. February 3-28. Hardee Center for the Arts, North Florida Community College, Madison, Florida.
- 2011 "Intimacy." Juror: Andrea Green. February 2-26. ARC Gallery, Chicago, Illinois.

- 2010 "All Aboard! Riding the Rails." Photostop Gallery, White River Junction, Vermont.
- 2010 "Propaganda!" Desotorow Gallery, Savannah, Georgia.
- 2009 "Censored." Georgia College and State University Museum, Milledgeville, Georgia.
- 2009 "F3." Mad Art Gallery, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2006 "Domestic Details." Chemeketa Community College Art Gallery, Salem, Oregon.
- 2005 * *Economies of Happiness; Hey, Little Man; Ruth Dedman's Fabulous Dance Revue.* Saint Louis University Museum of Art, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2004- "Showcase 3: St. Louis Photography and Video Invitational." Curator:
2005 Olivia Lahs-Gonzales. The Sheldon Art Galleries, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2002 * *Maintaining a Life.* Gallery 1101, Department of Cinema and Photography, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.
- 2000 "Genealogies, Miscegenations, Missed Generations." Curator: Erin Valentino. The William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.
- 1999 * *Fragments from a Family Album.* Exit Gallery, University of Nevada, Reno.
- 1999 Soho Photo Gallery 1999 National Photography Competition. Juror: Adam Weinberg. Soho Photo Gallery, New York, New York.
- 1998 * *Fragments from a Family Album.* Relay Zone Gallery, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, Missouri.
- 1998 * *Fragments from a Family Album.* FotoCircle Gallery, Seattle, Washington.
- 1997 *Fragments from a Family Album.* Fine Art Gallery, Tucson Jewish Community Center, Tucson, Arizona.
- 1996 "Searching for Ground: Reconfiguring the Family Album." Workspace Gallery, University of Colorado, Boulder.
- 1996 "Selections." Barksdale Gallery, Tucson, Arizona.
- 1995 Camera Works 1 Juried Exhibition. Juror: Miguel Gandert. Ruth Ramberg Gallery, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Selected Publications, Artwork:

- 2022 *Reading Uncle Tom's Cabin*, triptych, and one-page statement, On Site review 40 (Winter): 12-13.
- 2020 Work featured in publications about *Keeper of the Hearth – Picturing Roland Barthes' Unseen Photograph*:
Leica Fotografie International, May 20, 2020
<https://lfi-online.de/ceemes/en/blog/book-of-the-month-april-2126.html>
Lensculture
<https://www.lensculture.com/articles/odette-england-keeper-of-the-hearth>
In the In-Between: Journal of New and New Media Photography, July 11, 2020

- <https://www.inthein-between.com/the-second-drawer-odette-englands-keeper-of-the-hearth/>
Humble Arts Foundation, March 17, 2020
<http://hafny.org/blog/2020/3/200-photographers-artists-and-writers-respond-to-roland-barthes-winter-garden-photograph>
- Lenscratch: Fine Art Photography Daily*, March 9, 2020
<http://lenscratch.com/2020/03/keeper-of-the-hearth-picturing-roland-barthes-unseen-photograph/>
- F-Stop: A Photography Magazine*, April 30, 2020
<https://www.fstopmagazine.com/blog/2020/04/book-review-keeper-of-the-hearth-picturing-roland-barthes-unseen-photograph-by-odette-england/>
- Bird in Flight (Russian)
<https://birdinflight.com/ru/vdohnovenie/critika/budushhee-prinadlezhit-prizrakam-kak-fotografiya-plodit-prividenij.html>
- 2020 Keeper of the Hearth – Picturing Roland Barthes’ Unseen Photograph, edited by Odette England, Schilt Publishing, 2020.
- 2013 Riverfront Times (St. Louis), June 20, 2013.
- 2013 PENCanaa blog, January 31, 2013.
<http://pencanada.ca/blog/shedding-light-on-the-dark-side/>
- 2010 Violence, Visual Culture, and the Black Male Body, by Cassandra Jackson (Routledge).
- 2010 Representing Segregation: The Aesthetics of Living Jim Crow, and Other Kinds of Racial Division, eds. Brian Norman and Piper Kendrix Williams (New York: SUNY Press) 11, 12, 40, 90, 164, 220.
- 2009 On Site 22 (2009): 24.
- 2008 African American Review 42:1 (Spring 2008): 41-46.
- 2007 F-News online, "Art Politique."
- 2006 Cover, and pages 112-113, Women Writing Women, eds. Patricia Hart, Karen Weathermon, and Susan H. Armitage, University of Nebraska Press.
- 2000 Art New England 21:4 (August/September).
- 2000 Catalogue, Genealogies, Miscegenations, Missed Generations. The William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut.
- 1998 Cover, and pages 12-13, Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies 19:3 (Winter).
- 1997 Cover, Camerawork: A Journal of Photographic Arts 24:1 (Spring/Summer).

Exhibitions, Curatorial Work:

- 2018 Guest Curator, *Meridel Rubenstein, Eden Turned on Its Side*, University of New Mexico Art Museum, 2 February-16 June.
- 2002-2006 *Photography on the Color Line*. Pius XII Memorial Library, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri.

Keynote Lectures and Plenary Presentations:

- 2018 "The Photography of History: Sally Mann at Antietam." Lecture delivered 27 September, International Workshop on Visual History & Theory, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2018 "Phototextual Referral: Lorna Simpson's *9 Props*." Lecture delivered 1 June, Committed Phototext: From Activism to Struggles for Visibility Conference, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Saint Denis, Paris, France.
- 2018 "Photographic Remains: Sally Mann at Antietam." Lecture delivered 30 March, State of Exposure: "Post-Truth" and the Politics of Looking, Visual Culture Graduate Student Symposium, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.
- 2017 "Archive of the Ordinary: Jason Lazarus, *Too Hard to Keep*." Lecture delivered 18 May, After Post-Photography 3 Conference, European University, St. Petersburg, Russia. Supported by the U.S. Embassy Moscow Speakers Office and the U.S. Consulate General in St. Petersburg.
- 2017 "Archive of the Ordinary: Jason Lazarus, *Too Hard to Keep*." Lecture delivered 11 March, Hiding in Plain Site: Seeing and Feeling the Everyday, Graduate Student Symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2016 "Looking Forward and Looking Back: Rashid Johnson and Frederick Douglass on Photography." Lecture delivered 2 June, Photography.Ontology Symposium, The University of Sydney, Australia.
- 2012 "Visions of the Nineteenth-Century Nation: Augustus Washington and the Civil Contract of Photography." Lecture delivered 22 March, Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference, Lexington, Kentucky.
- 2011 "On Seeing and Not Seeing: Photography and Visual Culture." Paper presented 25 March, Visual Culture Plenary Panel, Cultural Studies Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2010 "Photography on the Color Line: W. E. B. Du Bois's Photographs for the 1900 Paris Exposition." 8 October, Autograph ABP, Rivington Place, London, England.
- 2009 "Photography Between Desire and Grief: Roland Barthes and F. Holland Day." 17 October, Feeling Photography Conference, University of Toronto, Canada.
- 2009 "Laying Claim to the Land(scape): Chansonetta Stanley Emmons." 21 March, Great Lakes American Studies Association Conference, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.
- 2008 "The Politics of Pictorialism: Race and Eroticism in the Photographs of F. Holland Day." 6 November, Photography and the Technologies of Empire and Race Conference, Visual Culture Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2008 "Seeing Sexuality: Another Look at F. Holland Day." 12 April, Constructed Light, Constructed Meanings Visual Culture Graduate Student Conference, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2005 "Race and Reproduction in *Camera Lucida*." 8 July, Thinking Photography -- Again Conference, Durham Centre for Advanced Photography Studies, Hatfield College, University of Durham, Durham, England.

- 2000 "Photography on the Color Line: W. E. B. Du Bois and the 1900 Paris Exposition." 26 October, African American Literature and Culture Society Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Selected Invited Papers and Presentations:

- 2023 "Witness Trees: Ken Gonzales-Day Re-surveys the US West." Critical Image Forum: Research in Photography and Expanded Documentary, University of British Columbia. 4 October, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- 2023 "Thinking Species." Society of Fellows and Film and Media Studies Department, Dartmouth College. 28 March, Hanover, New Hampshire.
- 2023 "Thinking Species." The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute. 21 February, Williamstown, Massachusetts.
- 2023 "Frederick Douglass in Photographs." Conversation with artist Aaron Turner, 11 January, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, Illinois (online).
- 2021 Guest Speaker, Roundtable. "Imperfect History and the Archive," 20 September, Virtual Exhibition Opening, Library Company of Philadelphia, online webinar.
- 2020 "Author Meets Critics" panel for *Photographic Returns: Racial Justice and the Time of Photography*. 16 October, "People, Politics, and Representation," Humanities Council Symposium/Webinar, Appalachian State University (Boone, North Carolina), online.
- 2019 "Photographic Reenactments: Carrie Mae Weems's *Constructing History*." Lecture delivered 28 January, "Violence in the Arts" lecture series, University of the Arts, Berlin, Germany.
- 2018 "Occupational Portraits and Escape Artists." Talk delivered 20 October, Imagining Everyday Life: Engagements with Vernacular Photography Symposium, Lenfest Center for the Arts, Columbia University, New York.
- 2018 "Pictures and Progress: Frederick Douglass on Photography." Lecture presented 14 April, History, Photography, and Race in the South: From the Civil War to Now Symposium, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 2018 "The Performative Photographic Index: Lorna Simpson's *9 Props*." Paper presented 8 March, Critical Visualities 2 Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2017 "The Scene of the Crime: Taryn Simon's *The Innocents*." Paper presented 22 May, Fotografika, St. Petersburg, Russia. Supported by the U.S. Embassy Moscow Speakers Office and the U.S. Consulate General in St. Petersburg.
- 2017 "Photographic Returns: Lorna Simpson's *9 Props*." Paper presented 21 April, Photographic Imagination Workshop, The Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts.
- 2017 "Reenacting Photographs: Carrie Mae Weems's *Constructing History*." Paper presented 14 April, Critical Visualities Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2016 "Looking Forward and Looking Back: Rashid Johnson and Frederick Douglass on Photography." Paper presented 13 October, American Studies, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts.
- 2016 "Photography and Feeling: Jason Lazarus's *Too Hard to Keep*." Paper presented 15 April, Feeling Photography: A Workshop on Affect, Photography, and

- Transmedia, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California.
- 2016 "Photographic Remains: Sally Mann at Antietam." Paper presented 31 March, Spirit Pictures Symposium, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.
- 2016 "Photographic Returns: Lorna Simpson's *9 Props*." Paper presented 27 January, Visual and Media Cultures Colloquia Series, University of California, Santa Cruz.
- 2015 "Photographic Remains: Sally Mann at Antietam." Paper presented 17 November, Street Hall Lecture Series, Department of the History of Art, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
- 2015 "Photographic Returns: Lorna Simpson's *9 Props*." Paper presented 5 November, History of Art Department, the Black Room Collective and the Townsend Center for the Humanities, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2014 "The Scene of the Crime: Taryn Simon's *The Innocents*." Paper presented 5 November, Visual and Critical Studies Forum, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, California.
- 2014 "'Pictures and Progress': Frederick Douglass on Photography." Paper presented 1 November, "Artifacts as Evidence: The Material Record of Politics" Symposium, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2014 "The Scene of the Crime: Taryn Simon's *The Innocents*." Paper presented 18 April, Film Theory and Visual Culture seminar, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 2014 "Pictures and Progress: Frederick Douglass and the Revolutionary Power of Photography." Paper presented 3 April, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, Illinois.
- 2014 "At the Edge of Sight: Photography and the Unseen." Roundtable 12 May, International Graduate Colloquium "Visualizing Empire: Photography and (Non)Sovereignty," Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.
- 2014 "Taryn Simon: The Scene of the Crime." Paper presented 11 March, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.
- 2013 "The Photograph's Deferral: Sally Mann at Antietam." Paper presented 9 November, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts Symposium, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 2013 "Artist conversation" with Myra Greene. Interview conducted 19 October, Histories/Photographies Symposium, DePaul University Art Museum, Chicago.
- 2013 "Augustus Washington's Liberian Daguerreotypes and the Civil Contract of Photography." Paper presented 4 October, American Art in Dialogue with Africa and its Diaspora Symposium, Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.
- 2013 "Taryn Simon: The Scene of the Crime." Lecture presented 22 May, Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Research Center, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 2013 "Taryn Simon: The Scene of the Crime." Paper presented 3 May, Inaugural Lecture, Modern American Art and Culture Scholar Series, University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

- 2013 "The Politics of Pictorialism: Another Look at F. Holland Day." Lecture presented 12 April, Department of Art History, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, New York.
- 2013 "Difficult Images: Jason Lazarus." Paper presented 28 February, "Crossing the Line: A Symposium on Difficult Images," Art Gallery of York University, Toronto, Canada.
- 2012 "First Photographs." Paper presented 21 September, "The Photographic Situation" Workshop, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.
- 2012 "'A Hiding Place in Waking Dreams: Walter Benjamin's 'Little History of Photography.'" Paper delivered 27 April, "Photography and Its Origins" Symposium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- 2012 "The Politics of Pictorialism: Another Look at F. Holland Day." Wittreich Lecture delivered 21 March, Department of English, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.
- 2012 "After the Mugshot: On the Limits of Photographic Evidence." Paper presented 27 January, The Newberry Seminar in American Art and Visual Culture, The Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2011 "Visions of the Nineteenth-Century Nation: Photography, Race, and Citizenship." Paper presented 2 November, Critical Issues Speaker Series, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.
- 2011 "Augustus Washington and the Civil Contract of Photography." Paper presented 6 April, Faculty-Graduate Seminar, Center for African American Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.
- 2011 "Images for Isaac Lowery." Artist's talk presented 24 February, North Florida Community College, Madison, Florida.
- 2011 "Augustus Washington and the Civil Contract of Photography." Lecture delivered 15 February, Humanities Research Center, Rice University, Houston, Texas.
- 2011 "Photography on the Color Line." 2011 W. E. B. Du Bois Lecture delivered 10 February, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.
- 2010 "Augustus Washington and the Civil Contract of Photography." 14 October, Cultural Studies Colloquium, Columbia College, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2010 "Laying Claim to the Land(scape): Chansonetta Stanley Emmons." 27 May, Maine Historical Society, Portland, Maine.
- 2010 "The Evidence of Lynching Photographs." 6 April, Freedom Center, National Underground Railroad Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2010 "Augustus Washington and the Civil Contract of Photography." 25 March, Art History Lecture Series, University of Texas, Austin.
- 2009 "The Politics of Pictorialism: Race and Erotics in the Photographs of F. Holland Day." 6 October, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Columbia University, New York, New York.
- 2009 "Seeing Sexuality and Race in the Photographs of F. Holland Day, 1890-1910."

- 24 September, Department of History, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, Illinois.
- 2009 "Imag(in)ing Race and Nation: Augustus Washington and the Photographic Encounter." 3 July, Visual Cultures – Transatlantic Perspectives Conference, Bavarian American Academy, Munich, Germany.
- 2009 "Photographing Photography: Chansonetta Stanley Emmons." 12 June, Women in the Archives -- Maine Women Writers Collection 50th Anniversary Symposium, University of New England, Portland, Maine.
- 2009 "The Politics of Pictorialism: Another Look at F. Holland Day." Alumni Lecture, 14 May, Department of Literature, University of California, San Diego.
- 2009 "Seeing Sexuality: Another Look at F. Holland Day." 20 March, Bentley Historical Library, Visual Culture Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2008 "Seeing Sexuality: Another Look at F. Holland Day." 11 November, Department of English Colloquium, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.
- 2007 "The Evidence of Lynching Photographs." 27 September, Centre for the Study of the United States, Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto, Canada.
- 2007 "The Evidence of Lynching Photographs." 22 February, American Seminar, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.
- 2007 "Afterimages of Abu Ghraib: Remembering the Woman in the Pictures." 10 February, Abu Ghraib: The Pornography of Warfare Symposium, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2006 "The Evidence of Lynching Photographs." 22 September, Spectacular Fictions: Race and Visual Culture Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.
- 2006 "The Evidence of Lynching Photographs." 25 April, Beinecke Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
- 2006 "Studying Photography and Race." Seminar co-lead with Maurice Wallace, 25 April, Photography and Memory Workshop, Beinecke Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
- 2006 "The Evidence of Lynching Photographs." 8 February, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado.
- 2005 "Girls on Film." 7 December, Lunch and Learn lecture series, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2005 "Lynching and Photography." 19 November, African American History Series, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2005 "Race and Reproduction in Camera Lucida." 23 September, Department of English Colloquium, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.
- 2005 "Uncontrollable Archives: The Visual Culture of the War in Iraq." 7 April, American Studies Colloquium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- 2005 "Uncontrollable Archives: The Visual Culture of the War in Iraq." 1 April, College of Mass Communication and Media Arts Colloquium, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

- 2004 "Uncontrollable Archives: The Visual Culture of the War in Iraq." 17 September, Gender in the Archive Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- 2004 "Photography on the Color Line." 21 April, Material Culture/Visual Culture working group, David C. Driskell Center, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.
- 2004 "Photography on the Color Line." 16 February, John Hope Franklin Center, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.
- 2003 "Nursing the Nation: The 1930s Public Health Nurse as Image and Icon." 16 October, Visual Culture and Public Health Symposium, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland.
- 2002 "The Visual Culture of the Color Line." 5 April, New Work in 19th-Century American Literature and Culture lecture series, Department of English, University of California, Davis.
- 2000 "Spectacles of White Supremacy." 14 May, Lynching and the Cultures of the United States panel, New York Metropolitan American Studies Association, New York Historical Society, in conjunction with the exhibition "Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America."

Selected Conference Presentations:

- 2020 New Media Caucus, Annual Meeting of the College Art Association, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- 2017 Reframing Family Photography Conference, Toronto, Canada.
- 2015 Visual Culture Caucus, Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Toronto.
- 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Los Angeles, California.
- 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Washington, D.C.
- 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2012 C-19 Conference, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Washington, D.C.
- 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Oakland, California.
- 2001 Annual Meeting of the Modern Language Association, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2001 Annual Meeting of the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association, Eugene, Oregon.
- 2001 Annual Meeting of the College Art Association, Chicago, Illinois.
- 1999 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, Montreal, Quebec.