

# THE FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR LECTURE SERIES



**UCDAVIS**  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

*The Free People of Color Lecture Series* is hosted by the Aoki Center at King Hall and the UC Davis Department of History to explore the rights of people of color in the United States following the Civil War and inquire how that history continues to shape our thinking today. The Series will bring leading scholars from around the country to answer such questions as: What does freedom mean in the absence of chattel slavery? Which rights adhere to all free people, and which rights functioned more as privileges belonging to a narrow few? How did the establishment of birthright national citizenship transform the legal rights both of citizens and of so-called aliens? These questions were sharply contested before, during, and after the Civil War, in the battles over Chinese and Irish immigration on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts, in struggles over Native American sovereignty and belonging, in debates over the rights of married and single women, in laws over apprenticeship for minors, in statutes that segregated races by place and privileges and rights, and in the reform of prisons and jails across the country. This UC Davis Humanities Institute Transcollege Research Cluster will provide opportunities for students and faculty in law and history to collaborate on scholarship and to exchange ideas that will enrich their work.

# LOOKING IN THE MIRROR: EXPLORING THE RACIAL HISTORY OF THE WESTERN ACADEMY

Racial discrimination in the United States bypassed neither the West nor the academy. While many southern and eastern universities have explored their links to slavery and Jim Crow, western schools have lagged. This conference features distinguished scholars who have entered this terrain, exploring antisemitism at Stanford and the naming of buildings at great public universities after oppressors of Tribal Nations, African Americans and Asians. In addition to their results, these researchers will discuss both their motivations and their methodologies. Time permitting, we hope to discuss investigation of historical racism at UC Davis.

## **Welcome Speaker:**

**Dean Kevin Johnson**  
UC Davis (Law)

## **Panelists:**

**Charles Petersen**  
Cornell University (History)  
**Charles Reichmann**  
UC Berkeley (Law)  
**Beth Rose Middleton**  
UC Davis (Native American Studies)  
**Virginia Scharff**  
University of New Mexico (History)  
**Stacey Smith**  
Oregon State (History)

## **Commentators:**

**Wendy A. Garcia Nava**  
UC Davis (Law)  
**Khrystan Nicole Policarpio**  
UC Davis (Law)  
**Yutong Zhan**  
UC Davis (History)

## **References:**

**Charles Reichmann:**  
[How the discovery of a racist speech led to the denaming of Berkeley's Boalt Hall | University of California](#)  
**Beth Rose Middleton:**  
[Renaming the John Muir Institute of the Environment to Be More Inclusive | Institute of the Environment](#)  
**Charles Petersen:**  
[How I Discovered Stanford's Jewish Quota](#)  
**Stacey Smith:**  
[Gray Areas](#)  
**Virginia Scharff:**  
[Seal Design](#)

## **Co-Organizers:**

**Gabriel J. Chin**  
UC Davis (Law)  
**Greg Downs**  
UC Davis (History)  
**Mary Louise Frampton**  
UC Davis (Law)  
**Staff Director: Nina-Marie Bell**  
UC Davis (Law)

Thank you to the *UC Davis Humanities Institute Research Cluster Award* for making this series possible

**Wednesday, April 20**  
1 — 4 P.M.  
Room 2040 or via Zoom  
Refreshments Provided

