

BLACK GEOGRAPHIES SPECIALTY GROUP NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2019

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

A few months ago, I followed The Nap Ministry on the social media app Instagram. In early March 2019, they posted, "You are not a machine. Why would you need to grind? Rest is a liberation practice. Rest provides space to heal and imagine new possibilities." This statement resonated with me, as I often struggle to find the balance between doing the work I love and recognizing my personal needs. Compared to our first full year as the BGSB, the past year has been noticeably more subdued. At first, I was concerned by the low pulse of activity. However, it allowed me, and perhaps the rest of the BGSB Leadership Team, an opportunity for rest and deliberation – as liberation.

In my reflections, I often found myself reminiscing about the 2018 AAG Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Serving as Co-Chair of the Black Geographies Featured Theme, alongside Aretina Hamilton, was so fulfilling. Though many of us were "running on fumes" by the end, the effort was entirely worth it. I continue to receive positive comments from attendees, particularly those who witnessed our plenary with D.J. Lynnée Denise. I am grateful to every volunteer, presenter, and supporter of last year's meeting. In addition to serving as Co-Chair for the Featured Theme with me, Aretina served as our BGSB annual meeting organizer. She managed a committee of volunteers, approved sponsorship requests, and invited a number of interdisciplinary scholars to engage in conversation with us, including Dr. George Lipsitz. Aretina's contribution to the BGSB and the Annual Meeting's success is invaluable. Please send her a note of gratitude. She graciously reprised the role for the 2019 meeting and enlisted Danielle Purifoy as her co-organizer. I look forward to the range of sessions and events ahead of us in Washington.

As I look forward, there are some impending transformations for BGSB as our leadership team will change substantially after the D.C. meeting. I want to thank Jovan Lewis, Camilla Hawthorne, Willie Wright, Sophonie Bazile, Brian Williams, and Mae Miller for taking on their respective leadership positions over the last two years. Creating a specialty group and carving out officer roles is no easy task, particularly for a team comprised entirely of early career faculty and graduate students. I appreciate them for laying the groundwork as part of the inaugural BGSB board. Likewise, I welcome our 2019-2021 leaders, alongside our returning officers Celeste Winston and Mia White, and look forward to collaborating with them to move the BGSB into its next phase.

Decades (centuries...?) of contributions by Black geographers to the discipline have broadly been overlooked. That is, until very recently. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Rickie Saunders, Joe Darden, Katherine McKittrick, and David Padgett, who will all receive awards and honors at the AAG D.C. meeting. I am beyond thrilled about their recognition. The AAG Honors and Awards descriptions and winners can be viewed here: <http://www.aag.org/cs/cs/honors>.

Finally, as you may have heard, I have been elected to a 2019-2022 National Councilor role within the AAG. In line with my commitment to Black Geographies as both an intellectual endeavor and a site of belonging, I bring the needs and concerns of the BGSB and my fellow Black Geographers to the AAG Council. It remains a priority for me to keep my door open. Please always reach out to me – via phone, Skype, social media, or email. Always.

In Solidarity,

LaToya

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BLACK GEOGRAPHIES SPECIALTY GROUP OFFICERS

Chair: Dr. LaToya Eaves (latoya.eaves@mtsu.edu)

Vice-Chair: Dr. Jovan Scott Lewis (jovan@berkeley.edu)

Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Camilla Hawthorne (camilla.hawthorne@gmail.com)

Communications Directors: Dr. Willie J. Wright (wwright@fsu.edu); Dr. Brian Williams (Brian.S.Williams@Dartmouth.edu); Dr. Mia White (whitemc@newschool.edu)

Student Representatives: Sophonie Bazile (bazile.se@uky.edu); Mae Miller

(mmiller5@gradcenter.cuny.edu); Celeste Winston (celestewinston@gmail.com)

2019 AAG Annual Meeting Coordinators: Dr. Aretina Hamilton (hamilton.georesearch@gmail.com) and Dr. Danielle Purifoy (danielle.purifoy@gmail.com)

Sophonie Bazile is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky. Using queer theory as an analytical lens, her doctoral research examines how immigration categories are used to organize, police, and discipline Haitian migrant lives across rural spaces in Kentucky. As a Graduate Student Representative, she assists the BGSB Conference Committee in facilitating BGSB panels at the AAG.

LaToya Elise Eaves was born and raised in Shelby, North Carolina. A Scorpio Sun with Venus in Virgo, she demonstrates love and care through observation and action. She needs the ocean, espresso, the color orange, fall leaves, and North Carolina's mountains and red clay earth. Black Geographies came to her in 2011 and was solidified through the words of Clyde Woods and Katherine McKittrick. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Studies and Human Geography at Middle Tennessee State University.

Camilla Hawthorne is Assistant Professor of Sociology at UC Santa Cruz. She is a principal faculty member in the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Program, and a faculty affiliate of the Science & Justice Research Center and the Legal Studies program at UCSC. Camilla received her PhD in Geography with a designated emphasis in Science and Technology Studies from UC Berkeley in 2018. She also holds an MPA from Brown University. Camilla's work addresses the politics of migration and citizenship, racism and inequality, and social movements. Her book manuscript, *Citizenship and Diasporic Ethics: Youth Politics in the Black Mediterranean*, explores the relationship between Blackness and citizenship in contemporary Italy. Camilla also serves as faculty member and project manager of the Summer School on Black Europe in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Along with Jovan Scott Lewis, she co-organized the 2017 Berkeley Black Geographies symposium. She has also been working with the executive committee to coordinate BGSB travel and student paper awards, manage the specialty group's budget, and organize officer elections.

Jovan Scott Lewis is Assistant Professor of Geography and African-American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He also serves as the co-Chair of the Economic Disparities Research Cluster at Berkeley's Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society (HIFIS). He received his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. His research is concerned with the affective and structural understanding of the broad concepts of the market, capital, poverty, race, and post-coloniality, which he examines through raced experiences of the economy. Jovan's current research considers the function of capital, value, and reciprocity through the 'Jamaican Lottery Scam,' a money transfer scheme that targets white North Americans, to think about relations of capital and blackness in the overlapping wakes of colonial

independence and structural adjustment. As vice-Chair of the BGSB, Jovan has worked alongside the Chair, LaToya Eaves, to facilitate the great work of the Group. Also, in the Fall of 2017, he alongside fellow officer, Camilla Hawthorne, organized UC Berkeley's first Black Geographies Symposium.

Mae Miller is a doctoral student of Earth and Environmental Sciences (Geography) at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Her dissertation considers the politics and poetics of storytelling, political consciousness, and solidarities among Black maritime workers in the early twentieth century. Miller's research is informed by a capacious archive of the Black Atlantic and Black internationalism that includes the oral histories of jazz in Britain and Jamaican labor rebellions, the letters of afro-Guyanese communist organizer Hermina Huiswoud, and the novels of Alice Childress and Claude McKay. She currently serves as a student representative to the Black Geographies Specialty Group. As a student representative, Mae has collaborated with other officers to promote the inaugural Clyde Woods student paper competition and coordinate mentoring sessions for the 2018 annual meeting.

Mia White is Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies in the Environmental Studies Program at The New School for Public Engagement, with a co-teaching appointment at the Milano School for International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy. She has a bachelors degree in Anthropology and Political Science from the State University of NY at Stonybrook, a Master of International Affairs (Environmental Policy) from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), and a Ph.D in Urban Studies and Planning (Housing and Environment) from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). Given the diversity of her training, Mia's work is interdisciplinary and she situates herself among radical geographers (race geography) and applied anthropologists, planning/urban theorists (fugitive planning), radical sociologists/historians and those others seeking to link social science concepts of space and race, to the humanities via art and protest.

Brian Williams is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Geography at Dartmouth College, and received a PhD in Geography from the University of Georgia in 2018. His works traces a political ecology of pesticides, racism, and environmental justice in the United States South and Central America. As one of the communications directors of the BGSB, Brian has helped to put together the newsletter and maintain the Black Geographies bibliography, and occasionally attends to the BGSB website and social media. In January 2020, he will be joining the Department of Geosciences at Mississippi State University.

Celeste Winston is a PhD candidate in Earth and Environmental Sciences (Geography) at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Her dissertation develops a theory of maroon geographies, which she defines as spaces of black flight from and placemaking beyond racial violence. Celeste has mobilized her theory to argue that maroon geographies provide long-term models for how to move beyond policing in efforts to ensure public safety and security.

Willie Jamaal Wright is an Assistant Professor of Geography and African American Studies at Florida State University where his research and teaching address the relationships between race and space, cultural geography, and the afterlives of social movements in the United States. Dr. Wright is a Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellow and a recipient of the Urban Geography Journal's inaugural Workshop/Seminar Award. As a Communications Director he floods the black geographies listserv with ideas and opportunities.

COMMITTEES

This year, the efforts of three committees have helped bring forward specific projects and initiatives of the Black Geographies Specialty Group: The Committee on Supporting Physical Geographers and GIS Practitioners, The Reading List Committee, and the Awards Committee.

The Black Geographies Specialty Group Awards Committee

Jovan Scott Lewis (Chair), Brandi T Summers, Mia White, Camilla Hawthorne, and Mae Miller.

The Black Geographies Specialty Group Committee on Supporting Physical Geographers and GIS Practitioners

Jonathan Hall (Chair), Dorris Scott, Dewitt King, David Padgett, Rashad Shabazz, Reginald Archer, Melanie Malone, Terra Darden.

The Black Geographies Specialty Group Reading List Committee

Nehal El-Hadi (Co-Chair), Leslie Gross-Wyrtzen (Co-Chair), Terra Darden, Rachel Goffe, Suzanne Nimoh, Inge Salo, Alexandra Giancarlo, Symon James-Wilson, Brian Williams

STUDENT AWARDS

The Black Geographies Specialty Group is pleased to offer two student awards. This year's awards will be announced at the BGSF business meeting in Washington, D.C.

Clyde Woods Black Geographies Graduate Student Paper Award (Sponsored by Antipode)

Developed to honor the legacy of the late Dr. Clyde Adrian Woods, and to support graduate students whose work focuses on Black geographies, the Clyde Woods Graduate Student Paper Award is offered to the best paper on a Black geographies topic written by a Masters or PhD level student. One (1) award will be given each year. Applicants must be a BGSF member.

In 2018, Teona Williams was awarded the inaugural Clyde Woods Black Geographies Specialty Group Graduate Student Paper Award for her paper entitled "Build a wall around Hyde Park: Race and Contested Spaces in Chicago's Southside".

Black Geographies Specialty Group Student Travel Award

The Black Geographies Specialty Group (BGSF) student travel award will be given to support graduate student travel to present a paper on a Black geographies topic at the AAG annual meeting. This competition is open to all Masters and PhD level students. One (1) \$155.00 award will be given to offset the cost of the student registration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tia-Simone Gardner participated in the [Project Row Houses](#) (PRH) round of installations. PRH is a community-based, internationally renowned organization that highlight public art. [Round 48: Beyond Social Practice](#) centered around social practice art and activism through works of women artists of color. Written below is a description of Simone-Gardner's installation.

Black Power Station: Somewhere I Read

The *Black Power Station (BPS): Somewhere I Read* is both a collection of audio-text by Black writers and how the generous readers who love them are working to speak life into their words and in Houston she chose texts, along with Houston-based poet Fady Joudah. The works read into the archive included Achelle Mbembe's essay "Necropolitics," "Rubaiyat," "Eleven Planets in the Last Andalusian Sky," and "The Red Indians Penultimate Speech to the White Man." Three poems by the late Palestinian poet, Mahmoud Darwish, translated by Fady Joudah are also included in the archive. Taken together the chosen texts push us to consider Black-Palestinian solidarities. The project also entailed listening

groups in which participants listened to a voice recording of the essay "Mathematics Black Life" by Black Feminist Geographer Katherine McKittrick. Alongside McKittrick, the installation ask how do we "think and write and share as de-colonial scholars and foster a commitment to acknowledging violence and undoing its persistent frame, rather than simply analytically reprising violence?" Our memories are archives, banks, that allow us to hold accounts of life and living. What stories do we possess, but perhaps have forgotten, about Black life and Black death that allow us to notice moments of joy and surprise? Listeners were given the audio text to listen to ahead of our meeting and there was a facilitated discussion on the text, guided by Tia-Simone Gardner and local Houston artists, Rontaye Butler and Jamie Robertson who also work with archival material and questions of geography. The Black Power Station is an ongoing project as there are many text from Black authors, essays, articles, novels, autobiographies, and short-fictions that we can re-animate with the human voice. The digital platform for this work is still being completed by you can follow the project by visiting <https://www.tiasimonegardner.info/the-black-power-station>

BLACK GEOGRAPHIES SPECIALTY GROUP CALENDAR
Annual Conference of the American Association of Geographers
Washington, D.C.
April 3-April 7, 2019

Wednesday, April 3

Enough!

9:55 AM-11:55 AM

Cabinet Room, Omni, West

Blue Collar Scholarship 1

12:40 PM-2:20 PM

Virginia C, Marriott, Lobby Level

Blue Collar Scholarship 2

2:35 PM-4:15 PM

Virginia C, Marriott, Lobby Level

Blue Collar Scholarship 3

4:30 PM-6:10 PM

Virginia C, Marriott, Lobby Level

Author Meets Critic: Food Justice Now: Deepening the Roots of Social Struggle by Joshua

Sbicca

4:30 PM-6:10 PM

Roosevelt 5, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Thursday, April 4

South-South Solidarities: Convergences and Ruptures in Theory and Politics

8:00 AM-9:40 AM

8216, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Latinx Geographies 1

8:00 AM-9:40 AM

Room: Virginia A, Marriott, Lobby Level

Teaching Critical Physical Geography

8:00 AM-9:40 AM

Harding, Marriott, Mezzanine Level

Racial Regimes of Property I: EXTRACTION

8:00 AM-9:40 AM

Washington 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Latinx Geographies 2

9:55 AM-11:35 AM

Virginia A, Marriott, Lobby Level

Racial Regimes of Property II: VALUE

9:55 AM-11:35 AM

Washington 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Racial Regimes of Property III: (RE)MAKING

1:10 PM-2:50 PM

Washington 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Author-Meets-Critics: Marisol LeBrón's Policing Life and Death: Race, Violence, and

Resistance in Puerto Rico

1:10 PM- 2:50 PM

Virginia A, Marriott, Lobby Level

Black Geographies and Ethnic Geography

1:10 PM-2:50 PM

Lincoln 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Towards a Global Geography of the Plantation I

1:10 PM-2:50 PM

Directors Room, Omni, West

Racial Regimes of Property IV: FUTURES

3:05 PM-4:45 PM

Washington 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Towards a Global Geography of the Plantation II

3:05 PM-4:45 PM

Directors Room, Omni, West

Critical Environmental Justice (III): Intersectional Environmental Justice

3:05 PM-4:45 PM

Executive Room, Omni, West

Black Geographies Plenary: Chocolate Cities: The Black Map of American Life

5:00 PM-6:40 PM

Washington 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Friday, April 5

And the Band Played On: Defeating Depression and The Imposter Syndrome in Academia

8:00 AM-9:40 AM

Wilson C, Marriott, Mezzanine Level

Narrative, Creativity, and HIV Inequity: A Case for Minding Black Queer Expressions

8:00 AM-9:40 AM

Stones Throw 3 - Mica, Marriott, Mezzanine Level

Author Meets Critics: "Black Food Geographies: Race, Self-Resilience, and Food Access in Washington, DC"

9:55 AM-11:35 AM

8211, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Black Geographies Specialty Group Business Meeting

11:45 AM-1:00 PM

Virginia A, Marriott, Lobby Level

Colonial Debts

1:10 PM-2:50 PM

Senate Room, Omni, West

Decolonizing Geography - A call to action

1:10 PM-2:50 PM

8211, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Doing Latinx Geographies in the Borderlands: Luchas, Corazón y Compromiso

1:10 PM-2:50 PM

Embassy Room, Omni, East

Learning Geography at/from/with HBCUs

1:10 PM-2:50 PM

Wilson C, Marriott, Mezzanine Level

A Conversation on Atlanta, Georgia

3:05 PM-4:45 PM

Embassy Room, Omni, East

The Long Wars I: Mapping Liberal Empire through the War on Drugs and the War on Terror

3:05 PM-4:45 PM

8211, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Advancing Critical Climate Change Studies: Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender

5:00 PM-6:40 PM

Washington 5, Marriott, Exhibition Level

The Long Wars II: Mapping Liberal Empire through the War on Drugs and the War on Terror

5:00 PM-6:40 PM

8211, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Black Matters are Spatial Matters

5:00 PM-6:40 PM

Embassy Room, Omni, East

Saturday, April 6

Freddie Gray's Baltimore and the Geography of Structural Racism (Field Trip)

8:00 AM-6:00 PM

Advance Registration Required

Creating a Soundscape of Radical Imagination: Podcasts as Scholarship

8:00 AM-9:40 AM

Roosevelt 5, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Reframing Marxism and Race: The Scholarship of Bobby Wilson

8:00 AM-9:40 AM

8226, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Reframing Marxism and Race: The Scholarship of Bobby Wilson II

9:55 AM-11:35 AM

8226, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Space, Place and Music: New Research in the Study of Geography and Music

1:10 PM-2:50 PM

8226, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Reinvigorating Imaginaries of Economic Change: Intersections with Gender, Identity, Race, and Sexuality I

3:05 PM-4:45 PM

8226, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Reinvigorating Imaginaries of Economic Change: Intersections with Gender, Identity, Race, and Sexuality II

5:00 PM-6:40 PM

8226, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Black Spatial Imaginaries and Place-Making Practices

5:00 PM-6:40 PM

8201, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Sunday, April 7

Organizing in Chocolate City: Race, Planning, and Social Justice in Washington, DC

8:00 AM-9:40 AM

Marshall East, Marriott, Mezzanine Level

Just and Unjust Geographies

8:00 AM-9:40 AM

8216, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Just and Unjust Geographies, Part II

9:55 AM-11:35 AM

8216, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Enacting anti-colonialism and antiracism through a caring praxis

9:55 AM-11:35 AM

8222, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Remembering Black Diasporic Place-Making: Adams Morgan and Malcolm X Park (Field Trip)

10:00-2:30

Advance Registration Required

(Author Meets Colleagues) Monica White's Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance & the Black Freedom Movement

2:00 PM-3:40 PM

8216, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

Geographies of Black Liberation

3:55 PM-5:35 PM

8216, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Allen, D., Lawhon, M., & Pierce, J. (2018). Placing race: On the resonance of place with black geographies. *Progress in Human Geography*.
- Bishop, J. M. (2018). *A Critical Case Study on (Anti)Blackness, Geography and Education Pathways in Twinsburg Heights, Ohio*. UCLA.
- Bledsoe, A. (2019). Afro-Brazilian Resistance to Extractivism in the Bay of Aratu. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*.
- Bledsoe, A., Eaves, L. E., Williams, B., & Wright, W. J. (2019). Enacting Black Geographies: Introduction. *Southeastern Geographer*., pp. 1-19.
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- Bledsoe, A., & Wright, W. J. (2019). The Pluralities of Black Geographies. *Antipode*, 51(2), 419–437.
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- Courtheyn, C. (2018). De-indigenized but not defeated: race and resistance in Colombia's Peace Community and Campesino University. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 1–20.
- Daigle, M., & Ramírez, M. M. (2018). Decolonial Geographies. *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*.
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- Davis, J. (2018). Black faces, black spaces: Rethinking African American underrepresentation in wildland spaces and outdoor recreation. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.
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- Hall, Jonathan. (2018, April 26). Hunting While Black. Retrieved April 28, 2018, from <https://explorepartsunknown.com/west-virginia/killing-deer-and-stereotypes-in-the-wilderness/>
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- Hamilton, A. R., & Foote, K. (2018). Police Torture in Chicago: Theorizing Violence and Social Justice in a Racialized City. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 108(2), 399–410.
- Hawthorne, C. 2019. Dangerous Networks: Internet Regulations as Racial Border Control in Italy. In *digitalSTS: A Fieldguide*, eds. Janet Vertesi and David Ribes. Princeton: Princeton University Press (forthcoming)

- Hawthorne, Camilla. 2019. "Making Italy: Afro-Italian Entrepreneurs and the Racial Boundaries of Citizenship." *Social and Cultural Geography* (in press).
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- Purifoy, D. (2019). The South is Everywhere. *Scalawag*. <https://www.scalawagmagazine.org/2019/03/chocolate-cities/>
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- Reese, A. M. (2019). *Black Food Geographies: Race, Self-Reliance, and Food Access in Washington, D.C.* Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

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