The Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Digital Archive Conference

OCTOBER 6-7, 2022 • NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY • BOSTON CAMPUS
On September 27, 2022, the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ) at Northeastern University School of Law launched the CRRJ Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive. Built by students in the CRRJ Clinic over the course of 15 years, the Archive is a publicly accessible digital collection about racially motivated violence targeting African Americans in the Jim Crow South. It comprises 1,000 cases and 20,000 documents sourced from government agencies, libraries and newspapers. The Archive documents and transforms the narrative of American history.

Today, we mark the release of the Archive and the publication of Professor Margaret Burnham’s book *By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow’s Legal Executioners.*

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**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6**

716 COLUMBUS AVE., ALUMNI CENTER, 6TH FLOOR
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

5:30 - 7:30 PM  CRRJ Archive Launch and Student Recognition Event

A celebration of the students whose research led to the creation of the CRRJ Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive.

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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7**

AMILCAR CABRAL CENTER, 40 LEON ST.
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

8:00 - 9:00 AM  Breakfast

9:00 - 9:30 AM  Welcome Remarks

Margaret Burnham, Director, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, and University Distinguished Professor of Law, Northeastern University School of Law

Dan Cohen, Dean of Libraries, Vice Provost for Information Collaboration, and Professor of History, Northeastern University

James Hackney, Dean, Northeastern University School of Law

Deborah Jackson, Managing Director, Center for Law, Equity and Race (CLEAR), Northeastern University School of Law

9:30 - 10:30 AM  Archival Collections and Restorative History

*Archives have long been called to task for their colonial practices – collecting and valuing the powerful and dominant, limiting research to academic audiences, subjugating community knowledge, and trying to maintain an impossible standard – neutrality. This panel puts CRRJ into context with archives that have rejected colonial values and instead used their collections (analog and digital) to promote restorative history practices, increase the public’s understanding of the United States’ violently racialized history, and restore communities’ traditional practices through digital means.*

MODERATOR: Gina Nortonsmith, Project Archivist, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, Northeastern University

PANELISTS:

Daniel B. Domingues da Silva, Associate Professor of History, Rice University

Monica Muñoz Martínez, Associate Professor of History, University of Texas at Austin; Co-founder, Refusing to Forget

Tsione Wolde-Michael, Founding Director, Center for Restorative History, Smithsonian National Museum of American History

10:30 - 10:45 AM  Break
10:45 - 11:45 AM  Historical Racial Violence in the Classroom: What are We Teaching?

This panel will explore three academic programs in which students investigate and gather archival material on the subject of historical violence — and what it means to teach this historical material in an experiential modality.

MODERATOR: Rose Zoltek-Jick, Associate Director, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, Northeastern University School of Law

PANELISTS:
Ada Goodly Lampkin, Director, Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice, Southern University Law Center
Hank Klibanoff, Professor of Practice, English and Creative Writing, Emory College of Arts and Sciences
Katie Sandson, Program Director, Racial Redress and Reparations Lab, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, Northeastern University School of Law

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM  Lunch

12:30 - 12:45 PM  CRRJ Archive Presentation

2:00 - 2:15 PM  Break

2:15 - 3:15 PM  Historical Violence, Contemporary Inequality and Future Advocacy

Our understanding of historical racial violence in the American South during the Jim Crow era is vastly affected by what the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive reveals, but the cases therein also offer a window into contemporary conflicts and enduring inequities. While it is indisputable that past violence resonates long after the underlying events have transpired, researchers continue to puzzle over the theoretical conduits and empirical underpinnings that can trace how and why this history affects lived realities in the present. Here, we explore how the persistent undertow of violence shows up in our lives today, and the implications for policy and practice.

MODERATOR: Melvin Kelley, Associate Professor of Law and Business, Northeastern University

PANELISTS:
Dania Francis, Assistant Professor of Economics, College of Liberal Arts, UMass Boston
Marissa Jackson Sow, Assistant Professor, University of Richmond School of Law
Inga Laurent, Professor, Gonzaga University School of Law
Christina Simko, Associate Professor of Sociology, Williams College

3:30 - 4:30 PM  A Conversation: Margaret Burnham and Melissa Nobles — Lessons Learned and Hopes for the Archive

Book Signing: By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow’s Legal Executioners by Margaret Burnham
THANK YOU.

A special thank you to all those who contributed to the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive.

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Margaret Burnham        Lydia Beal CSSH ’22
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