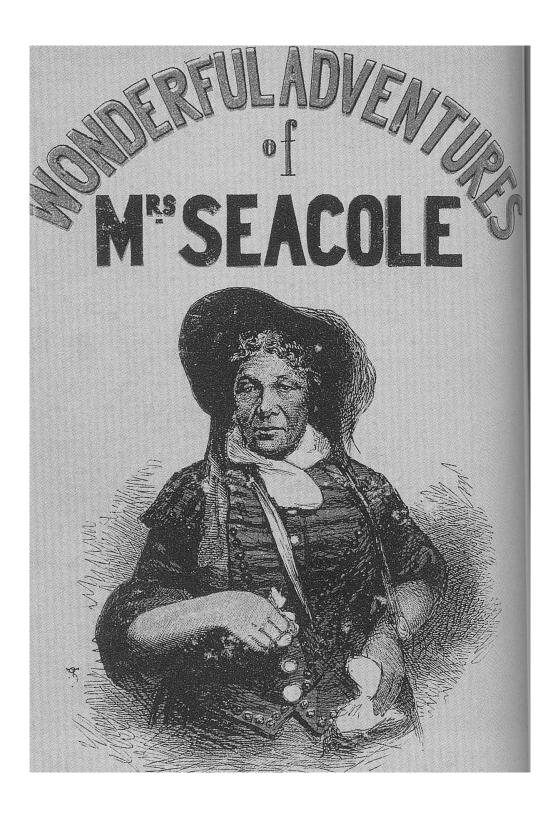
About



Acknowledgements

The organizing committee for this year's virtual conference is composed of Benjamin Hudson (Rollins College), Angela Runciman (SUNY Binghamton), and Rebecca Schneider (Fort Lewis College).

The organizing committee wishes to thank the executive board of the **British Women Writers Association** for their guidance and support.

The organizing committee also wishes to thank Joel Bennett, Dan Maloney, and Jose Soria Monasterio from Information Services at Santa Clara University for their help staging this virtual conference and Darian Williams, the Business Manager of UGA English, for helping to process honoraria for our speakers.

This year's speakers have been sponsored by the University of Georgia's Colloquium in Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Literature, which is supported by UGA's <u>Willson Center for Humanities and Arts</u>, as well as by the English Department's Rodney Baine Lecture Fund. Brigitte Fielder's Antiracist Pedagogy Workshop is co-sponsored by the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts and the British Women Writers Association.

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Edit

Conference Announcement

Reorienting the BWWC

Revised: February 2021.

For its virtual 2021 annual conference, the British Women Writers Association announces "Reorientations." In the past, the British Women Writers Conference has featured panels, plenaries, and keynotes that address race and representation, but in response to the ongoing transformations of the field, we seek to reorient the conference with a singular focus on the work of women of color, both from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and today. This year, the conference will be held June 1-4 over Zoom.

The 2021 conference will open with a workshop on antiracist pedagogy led by Brigitte Fielder (University of Wisconsin, Madison). Days two and three will feature two panels of plenary speakers bringing innovative approaches to archival materials and women of color in the Revolutionary and Victorian periods. The plenary addresses will be delivered by Jessica Marie Johnson (Johns Hopkins), Marisa J. Fuentes (Rutgers), **Jazzmen Lee-Johnson** (2020 Artist Fellow at the RISD Museum), Ryan Fong (Kalamazoo College), **Hilary Nicholson** (*Video for Change*, Jamaica), and Samantha Pinto (University of Texas at Austin). On the fourth and final day of the conference, participants will discuss two recently published texts centering Black women writers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries: Honorée Fanonne Jeffers's *The Age of Phillis* (2020) and Jackie Sibblies Drury's *Marys Seacole* (2019). The Common Reads event, new to this year's BWWC, is an opportunity to host virtually the kind of fellowship that makes the annual conference so special, while expanding the conference's historical focus to include work by contemporary Black writers.

We are grateful for the feedback we received on the initial Call for Papers. We apologize for perpetuating the institutional racism which pervades the profession and which this year's conference seeks to counter. The revised conference announcement aligns more clearly with the goals for this year's conference. Inclusivity and equity have always been at the core of the BWWA by surfacing the work of underread women writers. This task demands continual reorientations

and re-examinations, specifically to combat a history of canon formation that privileges whiteness. We are aiming to stage an inclusive, antiracist virtual conference that practices a conscious engagement with the history of exclusion within the field.



Schedule

June 1-4, 2021

Workshop and Plenary Panels

June 1, 3-4:30 PM EDT: Antiracist Pedagogy Workshop with Brigitte Fielder (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

June 2, 3-4:30 PM EDT: Eighteenth-century Plenary Panel featuring talks from Jessica Marie Johnson (Johns Hopkins), Marisa J. Fuentes (Rutgers), <u>Jazzmen</u> <u>Lee-Johnson</u> (2020 Artist Fellow at the RISD Museum)

June 3, 3-4:30 PM EDT: Nineteenth-century Plenary Panel featuring talks from Ryan Fong (Kalamazoo College), <u>Hilary Nicholson</u> (*Video for Change*, Jamaica), and Samantha Pinto (University of Texas at Austin)

Common Read Discussions

June 4, 1-2 PM EDT: Common Read Discussion of Honorée Fanonne Jeffers's *The Age of Phillis*

June 4, 3:30-4:30 PM EDT: Common Read Discussion of Jackie Sibblies Drury's *Marys Seacole*



One thought on "Schedule"

Pingback: <u>Register for the 2021 BWWC, "Reorientations" (1-4 June 2021) – British Women Writers Association Edit</u>

Comments are closed.

Speakers

Brigitte Fielder

Brigitte Fielder is an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of **Relative Races**: Genealogies of Interracial Kinship in Nineteenth-Century **America** (Duke University Press, 2020) and coeditor of Against a **Sharp White Background:** <u>Infrastructures of African</u> American Print (University of Wisconsin Press, 2019). She is currently writing a book about racialized human-animal relationships in the long nineteenth century which shows how childhood becomes a key site for (often simultaneous) humanization and racialization. Fielder has conducted



workshops for staff and faculty across disciplines on topics such as antiracist pedagogy, scholarship, and colleagueship, and on best practices for mentoring across positions of difference.

Ryan Fong

Ryan D. Fong is an associate professor of English at Kalamazoo College, where he also directs the Women, Gender and Sexuality program. Trained as a Victorianist,



he teaches classes in nineteenth and twentieth-century British literature, which routinely focus on issues of empire, race, sexuality, and gender. Dr. Fong's first monograph, Unsettling: Indigenous Literatures and the Work of Victorian Studies, is under contract with SUNY Press. An excerpt from this project on Khoisan oral culture and Olive Schriener's The Story of an African Farm recently appeared in the "Undisciplining Victoran Studies" special issue of Victorian Studies. He was also a co-editor on a special issue of Victorian Literature and Culture on "The Wide Nineteenth Century." In addition to these publications, he is one of the

organizers of the digital humanities project *Undisciplining the Victorian Classroom*, and co-organizing the upcoming Dickens Universe conference in 2022 on *David Copperfield* and *Iola Leroy*. Finally, he is currently in the middle of a a two-year fellowship at Kalamazoo College's Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership, where he is working on projects to center indigeneity in the curriculum and to build better and more ethical relationships with the local Potawatomi tribes of Michigan.

Marisa J. Fuentes

Marisa J. Fuentes is the Presidential Term Chair in African American History and Associate Professor of History and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Rutgers University—New Brunswick. Her scholarship explores historical methods, gender, slavery, and archives of the early modern Caribbean and Atlantic world. Fuentes is the author of Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive

(University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016) which won book prizes from the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, the Association of Black Women Historians and the Caribbean Studies Association. She is also co-editor of *History of the Present*'s special issue on "Slavery's Archive, (2016)" and Scarlet and Black: Slavery and Dispossession in Rutgers History, Volumes 1-3 (Rutgers University Press, 2016-2021). Fuentes's recent publications include essays in Small Axe, Diacritics, and English Language Notes. Her next project will explore the connections between racial capitalism, the transatlantic slave trade, and the disposability of black lives in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.



Jessica Marie Johnson



Professor in the Department of History at the Johns Hopkins University. Johnson is a historian of Atlantic slavery and the Atlantic African diaspora and the author of *Wicked* Flesh: Black Women, Intimacy, and Freedom in the Atlantic World (University of Pennsylvania Press, August 2020). She is co-editor with Lauren Tilton and David Mmimo of Debates in the Digital Humanities: Computational Humanities (University of Minnesota Press). She is guest editor of Slavery in the Machine, a special issue of archipelagos journal (2019) and coeditor with Dr. Mark Anthony Neal (Duke University) of Black Code: A Special Issue of the Black Scholar (2017). Her work has appeared in Slavery & Abolition, The Black Scholar, Meridians: Feminism, Race and

Jessica Marie Johnson is an Assistant

Transnationalism, American Quarterly, Social Text, The Journal of African

American History, The William & Mary Quarterly, Debates in the Digital Humanities, Forum Journal, Bitch Magazine, Black Perspectives (AAIHS), Somatosphere, and Post-Colonial Digital Humanities (DHPoco) and her book chapters have appeared in multiple edited collections.

Jazzmen Lee-Johnson

Jazzmen Lee-Johnson is a visual artist, scholar, composer, and curator. Her practice centers on the interplay of animation, printmaking, music, and dance, informed by a yearning to understand how our current circumstance is tethered to the trauma of the past. Through her visual, sonic, and movement investigations across time and technology she disrupts and asserts ideas of history, body, liberation, and otherness. She received her BFA in Film, Animation, and Video at RISD, her MA in Public Humanities at Brown University, and a heavy dose of education working with youth in Baltimore, South Africa, and New York City. She has curated exhibitions at the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Artist Proof Studio and the



ABSA Art Gallery in Johannesburg, South Africa; RISD Museum; and Brown University Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, where she was also a Public History of Slavery Fellow. She was the 2019 inaugural Artist in Residence at the Rhode Island Department of Health utilizing the arts to confront health disparities and shape health equity. She is currently a music mentor to teens at New Urban Arts and the 2020/21-ish Artist Fellow at the RISD Museum, creating work in response to the collection. She is always eager to radically reimagine the possibilities of the present by disturbing fixed notions of the past, and conjuring a future that might come to be.

Hilary Nicholson

Hilary Nicholson has has worked for over 30 years in the Jamaican



and Caribbean movement for women's rights and gender justice, as an advocate, trainer, researcher and lecturer. She was active with the pioneering Sistren Theatre Collective from its inception and then moved on to become a founding member of Women's Media Watch (re-branded in 2012 as WMW-Jamaica), a non-profit organization promoting gender equality and the reduction of gender-based violence. At the Caribbean School for Media and Communications (University of the West Indies) Hilary teaches the course "Media, Gender and Development." She has been a

guest presenter at fora in London, New York, Brussels, Mexico City, Havana and many other Caribbean countries. In the mid 1990s, Hilary co-founded Video for Change, a small film production company, and has produced some twenty-five documentaries on Jamaican history, heritage and social development, using drama and a creative gender lens to bring legendary figures to life. Hilary also continues to be active in the world of theatre, more onstage than offstage, and has performed to critical acclaim in a diverse range of productions.

Samantha Pinto

Samantha Pinto is Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of **Difficult Diasporas:**The Transnational Feminist Aesthetic of the Black Atlantic (NYU Press, 2013) and Infamous Bodies: Early Black Women's Celebrity and the

Afterlives of Rights

(Duke UP, 2020). She also co-edited *Writing Beyond* the State (Palgrave, 2020) with Alexandra S. Moore. She is currently working on a third book, *Under the Skin*, on race, embodiment, and scientific discourse in African American and African Diaspora culture, as well as a book of essays on feminist ambivalence.



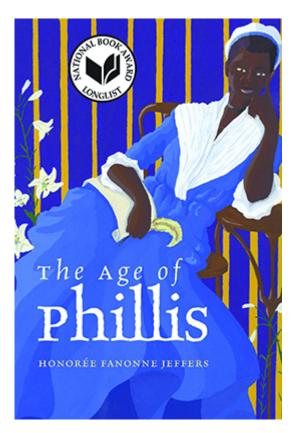
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Edit

Common Reads

June 4, 1-2 PM EST
Common Read Discussion of
Honorée Fanonne Jeffers's *The Age of Phillis* (2020)



From the publisher's website: "In 1773, a young, African American woman named Phillis Wheatley published a book of poetry that challenged Western prejudices about African and female intellectual capabilities. Based on fifteen years of archival research, The Age of Phillis, by award-winning writer Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, imagines the life and times of Wheatley: her childhood in the Gambia, West Africa, her life with her white American owners, her friendship with Obour Tanner, and her marriage to the enigmatic John Peters. Woven throughout are poems about Wheatley's "age"—the era that encompassed political, philosophical, and religious upheaval, as well as the transatlantic slave trade. For the first time in verse, Wheatley's relationship to black people and their individual "mercies" is

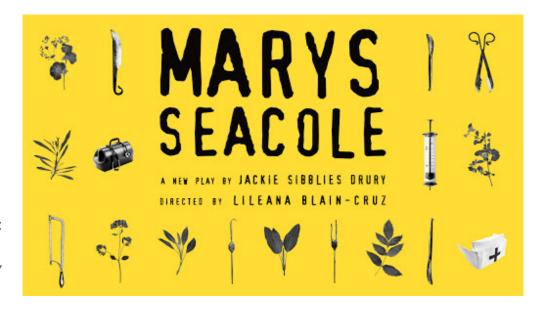
foregrounded, and here we see her as not simply a racial or literary symbol, but a human being who lived and loved while making her indelible mark on history." Jeffers's work is available from **Bookshop.org**.

June 4, 3:30-4:30 PM EST
Common Read Discussion of
Jackie Sibblies Drury's *Marys Seacole (2019)*

Drury's play can be purchased as an unpublished digital manuscript from

<u>Dramatists</u> <u>Play Service</u>:

"Born in 1805 Jamaica, Mary Seacole is determined to

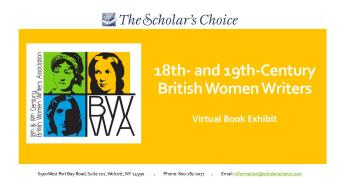


live an extraordinary life. As she travels across oceans and centuries, through a Jamaican hospital, a Crimean battlefront, a contemporary nursing home, and everywhere in between, Mary moves through life with Herculean fortitude. But as her brazen spirit meets historical reality, Mary's world explodes, splitting, multiplying, and redefining her narrative. Based on the life of the famous nurse and entrepreneur, *Marys Seacole* is an examination of what it means to be a woman paid to care." To view Drury's manuscript from DPS, please download and install **Adobe Digital Editions**. DPS has general instructions for viewing their eplays **here**.



Scholar's Choice Book Exhibit

Please note that although Marisa J. Fuentes's book *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive* does not appear on the image below for the University of Pennsylvania Press, the conference discount code does work for Dr. Fuentes's book on the press's website until July 15, 2021.





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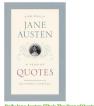


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Conference Registration

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Following your submission of the form, you will receive an email confirmation with a single Zoom link that will allow you to access each day's events. You will also be prompted to submit your BWWA dues at

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The conference organizers and the BWWA are excited to welcome you all to our virtual conference in June!



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