Culture, Politics, and the Dilemmas of African American Citizenship in the Antebellum U.S.

The Guild Lounge, Scott Hall, 601 University Place

Thursday, April 22, 5:30 P.M.

Keynote Address

Walter Johnson
Harvard University

"The Negro Fever," "The South," and the Ignominious Effort to Reopen the Slave Trade

Friday, April 23

9:30-11:30

Rethinking African American Literary History

John Ernest (University of West Virginia), "A Nation Within a Nation: Rethinking Antebellum Community and History"
Garrett Morrison (Northwestern), "Reprinted Poems, Remixed Biographies, and the Reception of Phillis Wheatley in the Abolitionist Press"
Stephen Kantrowitz (Wisconsin), "Heroic Slavery, Undue Deference, and the Politics of Freemasonry in Martin Delany’s Origins and Objects"
Kate Masur (Northwestern), Chair and Commentator

1:00-3:00

Visualizing Blackness and Citizenship

Jordana Cox (Northwestern), "Governing the Stage": Shadow Politics at The African Theatre, 1821-1823"
Faye Gleisser (Northwestern), "Object Lessons: Topsy-Turvy Dolls and the Afterlife of Slavery"
Ivy Wilson (Northwestern), Chair and Commentator

3:15-5:15

Cultures of Respectability

Erica Ball (CSU Fullerton), "To Encourage All the Upward Tendencies of the Coloured Man": Slave Narratives, Conduct Discourse, and Black Middle-Class Self-Fashioning"
Jesse Nasta (Northwestern), "All Colored Strangers Were Liable to Be Sent to Prison": African American Mobility, Citizenship, and the Law in Antebellum St. Louis"
Xiomara Santamarina (Michigan), "African American Chroniclers of the ‘Higher’ Classes."
Sherwin Bryant (Northwestern), Chair and Commentator

Conference sponsored by The Center for African American History, WCAS, The Graduate School, The Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies, the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the Department of History, and the Department of English.