The Matter of Black Lives
Black Experiences in the United States
and the Question of Genocide
4-5 March 2017, Stockton University

Saturday, 4 March, Stockton University, Galloway Campus

5:00 Dinner (D-Wing Atrium)

6:00 Performances by Stockton Students (Alton Auditorium)
Naijasia Thomas will perform “Theme for English B” and
“Memo to Non-White People”
Nataliia Maciejewski will perform “The Cats of St. Nicholas” and
“My Land is Hurt”
Megan Coates will perform “The Death of John Prince”

6:30
Opening Remarks, Reverend William Williams, United
Methodist Church, Atlantic City

Keynote Lecture
Chad Williams, Brandeis University
Responding to Charleston: The Practice of African American
History in the Black Lives Matter Moment

7:45-9:15 Film: 13th

Sunday, 5 March, Carnegie Center, Atlantic City

9:00-9:15 Opening Remarks

9:15-10:15 Re-Conceptualizing Genocide
Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, Stockton University
The ‘Where’ of Genocide: Bodies, Reproductive Violence, and
Community Destruction

Raz Segal, Stockton University
Holocaust and Genocide Studies: Shall we Revise a Traditional
View?

10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-12:00 New Approaches to the Present
Janice Joseph, Stockton University
*Mass Incarceration of Blacks in the U.S.: Is This a New Form of Genocide?*

Elizabeth B. Erbaugh, Stockton University
*Reproductive Justice and Black Lives*

Donnetrice C. Allison, Stockton University
*Framing the Victim: Do Black Lives Matter to the Media?*

12:00-12:30 Performances by Stockton Students
Tatayania Robinson will perform “The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain”
Jade Fleming will perform “Seven People Dancing”

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-2:30 The Dialectics of Remembering and Eliding
Susan Eva O’Donovan, University of Memphis
*Remembering the 1866 Memphis Massacre: Towards a New Historical Iconography*

Robert Gregg, Stockton University
*The Birth of an Empire: African American Invisibility in the Making of the US*

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-3:45 The Body in Space
Jess Bonnan-White, Stockton University
*Riots, Protests, Demonstrations: America’s Problem with Discontent*

Christina Jackson, Stockton University
*Black Lives Matter: Using a Genocide Framework to Understand the Relationship between the Black Community and Urban Spaces Historically*
3:45-4:45 The Corporate Body
Lissa Skitolsky, Susquehanna University & and Alfred Frankowski, Northeastern Illinois University
The ‘Event’ and the Invisibility of Anti-Black Genocidal Practices: Rethinking the Ontology of Genocide

4:45-5:00 Break

5:00-5:45 Rikers is a Concentration Camp at the Epicenter of American Culture
A slide show with Don Christian Jones, mural artist and rapper

5:45-7:00 Hip Hop Music and Resistance to Anti-Black Racism
Lissa Skitolsky, Susquehanna University
Gabriel Baez (stage name: Kelo), Joshua Tebar (stage name: J Remedy), Andrew Barbeau (stage name: DJ Cash Out Casper), Monique Shirelle (stage name: B.L. Shirelle), and Joaquin Whitehurst (stage name: Dynasty)

7:00-7:30 Closing Remarks
Rev. Willie Dwayne Francois, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Atlantic City
Bios

**Donnetrice C. Allison** currently serves as Associate Professor of both Communication Studies and Africana Studies at Stockton University in Galloway, NJ. Dr. Allison also serves as coordinator/chair of the Africana Studies Program, and she teaches numerous Africana Studies courses. In addition to Africana Studies, Dr. Allison has been a Communication Studies scholar for more than two decades and has published several articles and dozens of conference presentations on hip hop culture and media portrayals of African Americans. Moreover, Dr. Allison has coordinated three Hip Hop Summits at Stockton University, hosting more than 100 scholars and entertainers from the local area. In 2016, Dr. Allison served as sole editor of the book *Black Women's Portrayals on Reality Television: The New Sapphire*, published by Lexington Books; and she recently contributed an article titled, “The Perpetuation of Racial Stereotypes in American Media,” for the two-volume book set, *Race in America: How a Pseudo-Scientific Concept Shaped Human Interaction*, published by Praeger Books.

**Gabriel Baez** a.k.a. Kelo was born in the Bronx in 1977 on Halloween. This event in itself could be used as a metaphor to describe his unique personality and eclectic personna. Born to Black & Latino parents, he was raised in Brooklyn until the age of five. He then was “born again,” as he says, in Harlem on 110 St & Madison Ave in a middle class complex known as The Schomburg Houses. His career in the music industry started out like many youths at that time; as a street dancer, break dancing on cardboard boxes, listening to Hip Hop, and watching Ralph Mcdaniels on Video Music Box. Then things changed in the early 1990s, when his group Trouble Neck Brothers (TNB) got signed to Stepsun Records along with Miss Jones (Hot 97) and they performed at clubs such as The Latin Quarter, Mecca, Home Base, and The Tunnel (with Funkmaster Flex). However, the record company went bankrupt, and it seemed as though things were over for the group. So Kelo re-invented himself and by 1996 his new conglomerate, Die Hard Records, was “going hard” on Dj Clue tapes that featured artists like The Lox, Mase, and Lord Tariq. His new artist was Genovese, and with production by SKI from Rock A Block (of Jay Z fame), things were looking up. Yet, with an extensive line up and limited resources, things fell through once again. Never daunted in the pursuit of his dream, he returned to the business of doing street team work, working with groups like Nore, Gangstarr, Mobb Deep, Eminem, Ruff Ryders, Clispe, Busta, Flipmode Squad Lox, and Mase. Kelo traveled all over the world, developing good relationships with Dj’s media contacts and artists and building his network into what is now known as the Global Thugz Network / NFE (Nii**a’s From Everywhere). All his hard work has now put him in the business of
radio/mixshow promotion and mixtapes. By doing national mixshow promotions for giants like Jive, TVT, and Def Jam Records, Kelo has mastered the art of breaking records and at this point in his career he feels ready to put out some good music.

**Jess Bonnan-White** (PhD, University of Iowa, Anthropology) is a disaster studies and homeland security scholar in the Criminal Justice Program at Stockton University. Her most recent work can be found published in *The Journal of Humanitarian Action, Contemporary Justice Review, PLOS Currents – Disasters, Journal of Trauma & Dissociation, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Peace Review, Agriculture and Human Values* and the *International Association for Emergency Management (IAEM) Bulletin*. With domestic and international fieldwork experience, she focuses her scholarship on emergency preparedness and response in conflict areas and exploring social processes that increase community resiliency. She is the Director of Education and Training for the Forage Center for Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Education, and volunteers with the American Red Cross – New Jersey Region.

**Elizabeth B. Erbaugh** is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Stockton University. Her research and teaching focus on gender, race and reproductive health, community engagement research methods, and feminist theory. Dr. Erbaugh holds a PhD and MA from the University of New Mexico in Sociology, an MA from the University of Notre Dame in International Peace Studies, and a BA from Tufts University in Philosophy. She has been named the Service-Learning Faculty Fellow of Stockton University for 2017-18.

**Willie Dwayne Francois, III** is a 2009 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Religion, named the ranking scholar in both departments. Francois is a member of various honor societies and holds two fellowships from the Fund for Theological Education. While at Morehouse, he served as the president of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel Assistants Program and was named the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar. Francois received a Master of Divinity from Harvard University’s Divinity School, where he was awarded the Hopkins Shareholders Award—the school’s highest academic recognition—and served as class commencement speaker.

Called and committed to empower people through transformative preaching, teaching and organizing, Francois serves as the Senior Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church of Pleasantville, NJ. From 2013 to 2015, Francois served as the Associate Pastor of First Corinthian Baptist Church
(FCBC) in Harlem, New York, where Pastor Michael A. Walrond, Jr. is the pastor. Prior to joining the FCBC team, he served as the Minister of Christian Education and Discipleship at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church of Houston, Texas, under his pastor, Rev. Dr. Marcus D. Cosby. Francois also fulfilled several highly intensive and structured ministerial internships at Wheeler Avenue, FCBC and Morning Star Baptist church (of Mattapan, Massachusetts, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. John M. Borders III). Francois was licensed and ordained at the First Union Baptist Church of Galveston, Texas.

Francois lives into the intersection of the life of the spirit and the life of the mind. Along with Rev. Martha L. Simmons, Esq., he is the co-author of Christian Minister’s Manual: For the Pulpit and the Public Square for All Denomination—the most progressive and comprehensive clergy resource for priestly and prophetic ministries. In addition to publishing various articles and sermons, Francois served as a member of the Young Preachers’ Leadership Team of the Academy of Preachers, the director of the Young Ministers’ Corner of the African American Lectionary, a research assistant for Dr. Jonathan L. Walton, a Civil Rights Scholar for the imaging of the King Paper collection through the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (in Atlanta). Likewise, he holds an adjunct position in the African American Studies program at the University of Houston.

Associated with various organization, boards and initiatives, Francois works to dismantle the racialized prison industrial complex in America. Through the Bill Lucy Fellowship, Francois represented the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference in a global conversation on mass incarceration at the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race at the University of London-Birkbeck in London, England. Francois serves as co-chair of the Theological Working Group of the Black Church Center for Justice and Equality. For 2014-2015, Francois was named a Beatitudes Society Fellow, focusing on congregational responses to Mass Incarceration and empowering returning citizens. Also a charter core team member of Black Lives Matter: Atlantic City, Francois’ pastoral activism is organized around racial and economic justice and criminal justice reform.

Francois attributes his love of life and dedication to doing the so-called impossible to his close-knit family. He is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.
Alfred Frankowski is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Northeastern Illinois University. He specializes in 19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy, Critical Race Theory, Post-Colonialism, Aesthetics and Genocide Studies. He is author of *The post-racial limits of memorialization: Toward a political sense of mourning* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield/Lexington Books, 2015) and co-editor of *Rethinking Genocide in African and the African Diaspora* (forthcoming). He is currently completing a book project, entitled *Decolonial Aesthetics and the Post-Genocide Situation*.

Robert Gregg is Professor of History and Dean of the School of General Studies at Stockton University. He previously served as the Dean of Arts and Humanities at Stockton. His publications include a work on African-American migration (*Sparks from the Anvil of Oppression: Philadelphia’s African Methodist and the Southern Migrants*), one on comparative history (*Inside Out, Outside In*), a co-edited encyclopedia (*Routledge's Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Culture*), and an on-line volume (*Histrionyx: Rethinking Migration in American Studies*). He has co-written and produced two musicals, *A Midsummer Night’s Scream* and *Frogs Reimagined*.

Christina Jackson is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Stockton University who participates in community work in both Atlantic City and Philadelphia. She is a core team member of the Black Lives Matter Atlantic City chapter, helping to facilitate monthly forums with community residents, and she has worked with The New Jersey Organizing Project’s Sandy Truth Project. Dr. Jackson teaches classes and conducts research on inequality, urban places, gender, social movements, and the politics of redevelopment and gentrification. She has published in *Sociology Compass*, and in two books: *Black California Dreamin’: The Crises of California’s African-American Communities* and *The Ghetto: Contemporary Global Issues and Controversies*. Dr. Jackson also reviews for academic journals such as *City and Community* and *Contemporary Sociology*. She is an avid supporter of integrating service-learning into her teaching pedagogy. She is a board member of a girls’ leadership camp and year-long program called Camp Sojourner, based in West Philadelphia.
Elisa von Joeden-Forgey is Associate Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton University in New Jersey, where she also directs the Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program. She is also founder of the Genocide Prevention Certificate Program at Stockton. She serves as President of Genocide Watch and First Vice President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. She teaches undergraduate and graduate classes on the Holocaust, comparative genocide, gender, sexual violence, war, human rights, imperialism and genocide prevention, and has lectured and published widely on these topics. Most recently she spoke at the United Nations for the inaugural Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and the Prevention of This Crime, the United Nations symposium on “Defending Religious Freedom and Other Human Rights: Stopping Mass Atrocities Against Christians and Other Believers,” and the Second Global Forum on Genocide Prevention. Her current work examines the reproductive justice dimension of genocidal violence and how this can be helpful in early warning and prevention efforts.

Don Christina Jones is a New York based rapper, producer, and visual artist. His work spans musical and visual performances, rap mixtapes, installations, and public murals, blending genres of painting and hip hop referencing classical and contemporary styles. He has completed over twenty public works, and shown and performed at institutions both here and abroad, such as the Whitney Museum and Webster Hall. His 2015 mixtape Renzo Piano was named one of the best albums of the year by U.K. music journal The Quietus.

Janice Joseph, Ph.D. is a Distinguished Professor of the Criminal Justice Program at Stockton University in New Jersey. In 2010, she became the 47th President of Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), a national criminal justice organization, with over 2,000 members. She is also presently the organization’s official ACJS NGO representative at national and international meetings of the United Nations. She is the Editor of the Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice, a scholarly criminal justice journal. Her broad research interests include gangs, youth violence, juvenile delinquency, violence against women, and women and criminal justice. She has over 70 publications and made over 130 presentations in more than 25 different countries. She was elected four times as a member of the Executive Board of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC) of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, Milan, Italy, and she is also the Chair of the Working Party on Violence Against Women for that UN institute. She has also testified before
the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Criminal Intelligence Service, Alberta, Canada, served as a peer reviewer for U.S. Department of Justice and the Fulbright Scholar Program, External Faculty Reviewer for 14 faculty members in two countries, and External Examiner for Ph.D. candidates in Trinidad, Tobago, and South Africa. She is also an elected member of the World Society of Victimology’s Executive Committee and the UN Liaison Committee of that organization.

**Susan Eva O’Donovan** is Associate Professor of History at the University of Memphis. She is a former editor with the Freedmen and Southern Society Project, the co-editor of two volumes of *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867* (University of North Carolina Press, 2008 and 2013), author of *Becoming Free in the Cotton South* (Harvard University Press, 2007), and co-director of the Memphis Massacre Project. An OAH Distinguished Lecturer, she has been the recipient of several awards, including fellowships at the Newberry Library and the Gilder Lehman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition. She is completing a political history of slaves.

**Raz Segal** holds a Ph.D. in History from Clark University (the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, 2013). He is Assistant Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Sara and Sam Schoffer Professor of Holocaust Studies at Stockton University. Focusing on central and southeast Europe, Dr. Segal is engaged in his work with the challenges of exploring the Holocaust as an integral part of late modern processes of imperial collapse, the formation and occasional de-formation of nation-states, and their devastating impact on the societies they sought to break and remake. He has held, *inter alia*, a Harry Frank Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright Fellowship, and a Lady Davis Fellowship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His last book is *Genocide in the Carpathians: War, Social Breakdown, and Mass Violence, 1914-1945* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2016).

**Monique Shirelle**, a.k.a B.L. Shirelle, was born in Philadelphia, PA. She started writing poetry at the age of 7, and she began to receive acknowledgement for her rapping and multi-instrumental musicianship by the age of 9. At the age of 11 she entered into a life of crime. Her mother was a crack addict and as a result exposed B.L., her oldest child, to a fast and often violent street lifestyle growing up. She was sent to a number of Juvenile detention placements, and by the age of 17, was sentenced to 12 years. Now B.L. Shirelle has become a voice of freedom. She had made various live appearances, including her participation in Ted Talks on mass
incarceration, and she has written and recorded vocals for the album, “The Die Jim Crow EP,” a conceptual piece about systemic oppression in the U.S. prison system. B.L. Shirelle uses her talents and her music as a voice for the oppressed, while at the same time reinforcing the ideas of self-determination and accountability. She is now writing and recording her debut EP, “Restricted Movement 2,” a follow up to her well received underground mixtape, “Restricted Movement.”

**Lissa Skitolsky** is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Susquehanna University. Her research in the fields of Continental philosophy and genocide studies aims to interrogate our cultural and political responses to state sanctioned violence and the suffering that follows. Recently she has published articles about the role that our notion of the ‘criminal’ has played in genocides in the past and present. As part of this project she draws on hip-hop as testimony to carceral violence and the genocidal wounds inflicted by the US criminal justice system. She is currently working on a manuscript titled “Can I Get a Witness? Hip hop as philosophical text and testimony,” which illustrates the philosophical importance of underground rap music for critical race theory, cultural studies, trauma theory, and genocide studies.

**Joshua Tebar** a.k.a J-Remedy was brought into this world December 11th 1986 in Brooklyn New York. Due to family situations and life circumstances, the state of New York took custody and placed him into an orphanage. His sibling later relocated them to Pennsylvania, with his maternal grandmother in hopes of a better life. Unfortunately, being a troubled teen landed him several years in a youth institution and later state penitentiaries. A three-year sentence in Western State Penitentiary and becoming a single father of three kids was the wake-up call he needed to chase and accomplish his dreams and goals. J-Remedy is now becoming the fastest growing Hip Hop artist in Central Pennsylvania. His music is real, and his pain and stories are real. He has toured with big names in Hip Hop such as Cassidy, Joe Budden, Beanie Sigel, Freeway, Vado, JR Writer, and many more. J-Remedy has also traveled to several different states and cities to perform at back to back venues. He was nominated and won an award for entrepreneur of the year for his hard work as an artist and promoter for hosting Indie events as well as celebrity events in the PA Area.
**Joaquin Whitehurst** a.k.a. Dynasty. I am twenty-one years old, from New Jersey, and have been writing since 5th grade. I started off writing poetry which eventually turned into songwriting. Only recently I felt that I was ready to share my music with the world. I was always confident in my ability, but wanted to produce the best quality possible. I have been mastering my craft for years, and at the age of twenty, I dropped my first project titled “First of Many” and stepped onto the stage for the first time at Susquehanna University on March 23rd, 2016. Hip-Hop is something that has always been embedded in my DNA. It is not only music, but a lifestyle, a feeling, and most importantly, a voice for the people. My music represents that voice.

**Chad Williams** is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of African and Afro-American Studies at Brandeis University. Chad earned a BA with honors in History and African American Studies from UCLA, and received both his MA and Ph.D. in History from Princeton University. He specializes in African American and modern United States History, African American military history, the World War I era and African American intellectual history. His first book, *Torchbearers of Democracy: African American Soldiers in the World War I Era*, was published in 2010 by the University of North Carolina Press. Widely praised as a landmark study, *Torchbearers of Democracy* won the 2011 Liberty Legacy Foundation Award from the Organization of American Historians, the 2011 Distinguished Book Award from the Society for Military History and designation as a 2011 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title. He is co-editor of *Charleston Syllabus: Readings on Race, Racism and Racial Violence* (University of Georgia Press, 2016) and *Major Problems in African American History*, 2nd edition (Cengage Learning, 2016). Chad has published articles and book reviews in numerous leading journals and collections. He has earned fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Ford Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. He is currently completing a study of W. E. B. Du Bois and World War I.

**Rev. William M. Williams, III** is a husband to Joyce and father to Julia, William, IV, and James. He is an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, and is currently under appointment at the Asbury United Methodist Church of Atlantic City. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Swarthmore College and a Masters of Divinity degree from Drew University School of Theology. He is a member of the Black Lives Matter – New Jersey: Atlantic City core team.
Thank you to the following organizations for their support of The Matter of Black Lives: Black Experiences in the USA and the Question of Genocide Workshop

The Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies
The School of General Studies
The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center
The 2020 Committee for Engagement
The Office of Global Engagement
The MAHG Society
STAND