

Hidden History: Understanding the Origins of Racial Inequity

Slavery to the Civil War, 1600s to 1860s

April 13, 2021, 7 p.m. ET

Moderator



Brian Conybeare joined the ABC57 News team as a main anchor in January 2018. Brian has helped shine a light on the racial divide between his hometown of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph with a 2019 special series called “The River” investigating the deaths of six Black men whose bodies were found in the water separating the two communities. Prior to joining ABC57, Brian worked as a general assignment reporter and fill-in anchor at CBS2 News in New York City. Brian also served as main anchor and managing editor at News12 Westchester where his investigative reporting earned him three New York Emmy Awards, five Edward R. Murrow Regional Awards and a national award from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Panelists



Kabria Baumgartner, Ph.D., is an associate professor of English and American Studies and core faculty in the Women’s and Gender Studies department at the University of New Hampshire, where she was named the 2019 Outstanding Assistant Professor. Her research and writing interests focus on African American history, literature, and culture in nineteenth-century New England. She is the author of the award-winning book, “In Pursuit of Knowledge: Black Women and Educational Activism in Antebellum America” (New York University Press, 2019), which tells the story of African American girls and women who fought to democratize public and private schools in the 19th century Northeast. She has also published numerous scholarly articles and book chapters.



Christy Clark-Pujara, Ph.D., is a historian whose research focuses on the experiences of Black people in French and British North America in the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries. She is particularly interested in retrieving the hidden and unexplored histories of African Americans in areas that historians have not sufficiently examined – small towns and cities in the North and Midwest. Her first book “Dark Work: The Business of Slavery in Rhode Island” (New York: New York University Press, 2016) examines how the business of slavery – economic activity that was directly related to the maintenance of slave holding in the Americas, specifically the buying and selling of people, food, and goods – shaped the experience of slavery, the process of emancipation, and the realities of Black freedom in Rhode Island from the colonial period through the American Civil War.



Jonathan Daniel Wells, Ph.D., is Professor of History in the Residential College, the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, and the Department of History at the University of Michigan. He is the author or editor of several books, including “The Origins of the Southern Middle Class: 1820-1861” (University of North Carolina Press, 2004); “Women Writers and Journalists in the Nineteenth-Century South” (Cambridge University Press, 2011); “The Southern Middle Class in the Long Nineteenth Century” (LSU Press, 2011); and “A House Divided: The Civil War and Nineteenth-Century America” (second ed., 2016). His most recent books are “Blind no More: African American Resistance, Free Soil Politics, and the Coming of the Civil War” (2019) and “The Kidnapping Club: Wall Street, Slavery, and Resistance on the Eve of the Civil War” (2020).