

Fourth Annual HSS College Symposium

Race and Democracy

College of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Northern Colorado
October 23, 2008, 5:30 pm

Panorama Room, University Center
10th Avenue at 20th Street
Greeley, Colorado

Join us for a reception for presenters and audience members. Food and drink will be served.

Join us for a panel of presentations about historical and contemporary intersections of race and democracy. These scholarly presentations represent a variety of academic disciplines and approaches, all seeking answers to common questions. What role as race played in democratic structures in the US or abroad? What has assisted or hampered democratic institutions in the process of achieving racial equality? What rhetorical tools have emerged from these endeavors and how does language reflect our values regarding race? What can we in Northern Colorado learn about our own community by looking at specific examples of race and democracy now and in the past, as well as at home and abroad?

Presentations

Kyle T. Bulthuis, “Democracy and Race in the Destruction of St. Philip’s Parish, New York, 1834”

In the summer of 1834, 8,000 white men in New York City attacked symbols of the antislavery movement and the African American community. At the end of their riot St. Philip’s Episcopal Church lay in ruins. This paper examines St. Philip’s destruction in light of the connection between popular democracy and racial fears in Jacksonian America. At this time, European visitors and American citizens alike hailed the United States as a center of democracy. But many Americans who participated in that democracy viewed well-off blacks, and elite whites, as dangers to their independence. In the minds of the mob, elite domination from whites above and racial mixing from blacks below combined to feed a frenzy of destruction.

Raymond Krohn, “The Status of Former Slaves and the Fate of Antislavery History: Race, Democracy, and the Memory of Abolitionism after the Civil War”

Abolitionists who wrote their memoirs during the Reconstruction period and as late as the Jim Crow era left a legacy for future generations of Americans and also hoped to secure a favorable historical reputation for the abolitionist movement. The status and condition of African Americans affected the ways in which antislavery agitators recalled and memorialized the abolitionist movement throughout the late 19th century. This paper is primarily concerned with whether or not these most outspoken champions of racial justice remained vigilant on behalf of black rights and committed to original antislavery principles when they became abolitionist historians. How white abolitionist-memoirists remembered or forgot abolitionist racial egalitarianism is closely connected to the rise and fall of a biracial democracy in the South.

Anita Fleming-Rife, “The Dispersion of Somalis: The UN’s Failed Attempt to Democratize the Embattled Horn”

There are more than 400 Somalis living, working, and worshipping in Greeley now. Their children attend Greeley schools as their families join other immigrant groups who have come to this country seeking the

American dream. That includes being a part of the Democratic process--something that eluded them in their own country. This presentation provides a historical, political and cultural backdrop for the conflict that led to the 1993 United Nations Security Council mandate for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) to broker peace among the various clans and to implement democracy in that country. Additionally, it describes how those efforts collided with the ethnic, cultural and religious peoples of that region.

Lin Allen, "Race and Diversity: A Rhetorical Analysis of *Grutter v. Bollinger et al*"

The Supreme Court decided in *Grutter v. Bollinger et al.* (2003) whether a law school may factor race into admissions decisions. This presentation of *Grutter v. Bollinger* analyzes the Majority and Dissenting Opinion through a dramatic model. Ways in which the Court encoded the terms of scene, act, agent, agency, and purpose are compared, followed by a determination of prevailing ratios. The presentation highlights the linguistic premises upon which the case correlates are based and what these interpretations mean for race and democracy in comprising a university student body.

About the presenters –

Kyle T. Bulthuis is Visiting Assistant Professor of History. He holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Davis and has also taught at Metropolitan State College and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Bulthuis conducts research on U.S. history with an emphasis on early America.

Raymond Krohn is a part-time Instructor of History. He is currently completing Ph.D. requirements in History at Purdue University. His dissertation explores the issue of abolitionist memory after the Civil War. Mr. Krohn's research interests and publications revolve around the broader history of slavery and abolitionism in the United States.

Anita Fleming-Rife is Visiting Professor of Africana Studies. She earned a Ph.D. in Journalism from Southern Illinois University and has served as Chair of the Department of Mass Communications at Grambling State University, as well as Public Information Officer for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). Her research interests include media representations of *Brown vs. the Board of Education* and international perspectives on Africa.

Lin Allen is Associate Professor of Communication Studies. She holds a Ph.D. in Speech Communication from the University of Oregon. Dr. Allen has taught at UNC since 1992. Her research interests and publications relate to heroes and public memory, rhetorical theory and criticism, popular culture, and Supreme Court discourse.

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