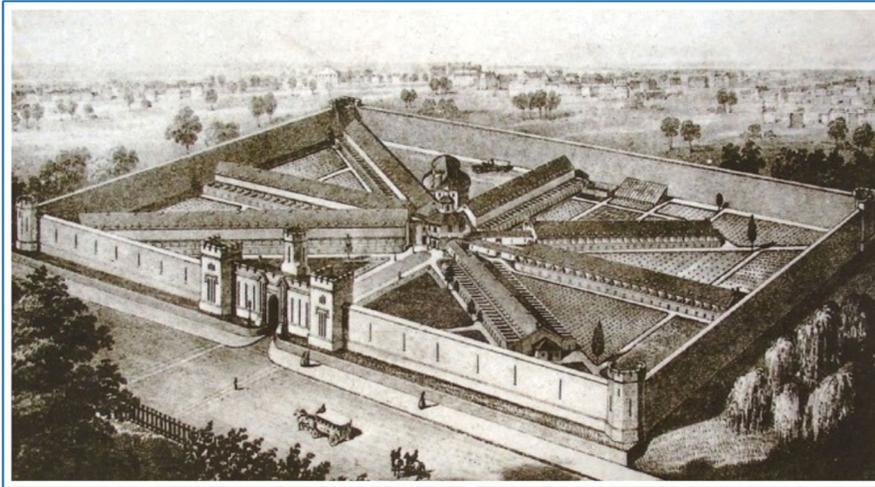


University of Georgia



Historical Profiles of American Incarceration

A meeting sponsored by



**Willson Center for
Humanities & Arts**
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Department of History
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

2019

October 3-4

**Willson Center
Digital Humanities Lab**

University of Georgia

300 Main Library

320 S. Jackson St.

Athens, GA 30602

(706)542-5998

digi@uga.edu



On Thursday and Friday, October 3-4, over a dozen scholars from the United States, Canada, and Europe will meet in the University of Georgia's DigiLab (Main Library, 3rd floor) to discuss the technical, archival, and historical dimensions of a proposed database and website of American prison records. Inspired in part by the relatively recent American phenomenon of "mass incarceration," in part by the successful creation in the United Kingdom of *The Digital Panopticon* (www.digitalpanopticon.org), a searchable database of the records of over 90,000 men and women convicted of crimes between 1780 and 1925, the participants in this meeting will share their knowledge of American prison records, address the practical challenge of obtaining and processing large sets of prison data, and discuss the educational as well as political and ethical issues raised by the creation of a public database and website containing massive quantities of individual prison records. There will be two sessions – one each day – dedicated to brief individual presentations; most of the other sessions will feature open, informal conversations aimed at laying the groundwork for the realization of a database and website, tentatively entitled, *Historical Profiles of American Incarceration*.

Please join us!

Participants

Barry Godfrey, Project Co-Director

Professor of Social Justice, Department of Sociology, Social Policy, and Criminology, University of Liverpool

Steven Soper, Project Co-Director

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Georgia

Catrien Bijleveld

Director, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement;
Professor, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

Marianne Fisher-Giorlando

Professor Emerita, Grambling State University



The New South and the New Slavery: Convict labor in Georgia

**On Display July 26 –
December 13**

This exhibit explores the forced labor of prisoners in Georgia from the start of the convict lease system in 1868 until the abolition of the chain gang in 1945. Penitentiary reports, lease contracts, correspondence, newspaper articles, and more expose the motivations of the businessmen and politicians who created these systems and illuminate the lives of prisoners who toiled within them. Cultural productions, including autobiography, fiction, film, and songs, reveal the many ways prison labor has come to be represented in American memory.

Richard B. Russell Special
Collections Libraries
Hargrett Library Gallery

300 S Hull Street, Athens, GA
30605

Participants, cont'd

Kris Inwood

Professor of History and Economics, Colleges of Arts and Business and Economics, University of Guelph

Nora Krinitsky

Lecturer, University of Michigan; Interim Director, the University of Michigan Prison Creative Arts Project; Project Director, the University of Michigan Carceral State Project

Emily McGinn

Digital Humanities Coordinator, University of Georgia

Jayne Mooney

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York

Nathalie Rech

Ph.D. candidate in History, Université du Québec, Montréal

Natalie Ring

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Associate Professor of History, University of Texas at Dallas

Sarah Shannon

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia

Bjørn Stillion Southard

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies, University of Georgia

Alex Tepperman

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, University of South Carolina Upstate; founder and moderator of the North American Historical Criminology Network (NAHCN)

The GA Incarceration Performance Project presents: *By Our Hands* Friday, November 8 at 8:00pm - More dates through November 17, 2019

"By Our Hands" is a cross-institutional theatrical experience between Spelman College, the University of Georgia, librarians, archivists, students, professionals, incarcerated individuals, and community partners. The Georgia Incarceration Performance Project incorporates scenes directly from Georgia history to negotiate the relationship between incarceration, race, and the impact of forced labor through dance, media, and dramatic performance. This unique experience will be limited to four shows only.

This production is available free to the public due to the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Willson Center for the Humanities & Arts, the Ferman Fund, the McCay Fund, and the Franklin Excellence Fund. Part of the 2019 Spotlight on the Arts festival.

Fine Arts Building, Fine Arts Theatre
255 Baldwin Street, Athens, GA 30602

MEETING PROGRAM

PLEASE NOTE: All sessions except the tour of the Special Collections Library exhibit* will take place in the DigiLab (Main Library, 3rd floor)

Thursday, Oct. 3

9:00-10:15 – Greeting, brief introductions, discussion of our goals for both days of the meeting.

break

10:45-12:00 – Aims and possibilities (Barry Godfrey).

lunch

1:30-3:00 – *Special Collections Library (300 S. Hull St.) tour of the current exhibit on the history of convict labor in Georgia; introduction of the upcoming GA Incarceration Theater Project: *By Our Hands*.

break

3:30-4:30 – Presentations by Nora Krinitsky and Natalie Ring.

Friday, Oct. 4

9:00-10:15 – Presentations by Alex Tepperman, Jayne Mooney, and Kris Inwood.

break

10:45-12:00 – Data acquisition and processing: discussion of existing digitized prison records, prison records that could be digitized, participants' experience with American prison data.

lunch

2:00-3:15 – Politics and ethics of a prison database and website: consideration of the potential impact of the project on living persons, including descendants of prisoners; the political significance of different database parameters; potential engagement with academic and non-academic organizations and agencies (e.g., prisoner advocacy groups, criminal justice reform groups, historical societies, museums).

break

3:45-5:00 – Plans for further development and realization of the project: building a larger network of project leaders and participants; additional research tasks; ideas for a NEH Digital Humanities Level II grant proposal.