

The Nicknames of Distortion: a Hortense Spillers Symposium

Friday-Saturday
November 11-12, 2022
Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women

Friday, November 11

1:00-1:15

Welcome

Wendy Allison Lee, Brown University

Introduction

Tara Holman, Brown University

1:15-2:00

The Hortense Spillers Papers: Behind the Scenes

Amanda Knox and **Mary Murphy**,

Pembroke Center Archives, Brown University

Discussant: **Christopher Lasasso**, Brown University

2:00-4:00

Panel 1: In Her Words: Spillers Through the Archive

Kiana Murphy, Brown University

“‘whatever marvels of my own inventiveness’: Black Feminist Archival Tradition in the Notebooks of Hortense Spillers”

Zalika U. Ibaorimi, University of Texas at Austin

“The Correspondence of ‘Negative Capability’: ‘Sula,’ Spillers, and the Repertoire of ‘Things We Choose Not to Be’”

Ra Malika Imhotep, University of California, Riverside

“Experiments in Spillerian Ecdysis : black feminine figures, embodied archives, and the sticky matter of survival”

Discussants: **Donald Brown**, Brown University and **Aliyyah**

Abdur-Rahman, Brown University

4:00-4:15

Break

4:15

Keynote Lecture

C. Riley Snorton, University of Chicago

“Thinking Gender in the Interstice”

This symposium is led by Brown graduate students **Tara Holman, Christopher Lasasso, Kiran Saili, and Semilore Sobande** in collaboration with the Pembroke Center.

Co-sponsored by
the Department of Africana Studies, the Department of American Studies, the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, and the Department of English.
Presented with the support of
the Friends of the Pembroke Center.

Saturday, November 12

9:30-10:00

Continental breakfast

10:00-12:00

Panel 2: "Learn[ing] To Hear it Well": Exercises in Psychoanalytics

Devon Clifton, Brown University

"In Pursuit of 'Psychoanalytics'"

dee(dee) c. ardan, Independent Scholar

"Black Studies Beloved(s); or, Afro-Pessimism, 'Psychoanalytics'
Sung Anew"

Andrew Blackley, Independent Scholar

"...Peacock's, or Much Like it, and the "Faulty" Unconscious..."

Benjamin Schwartz, Vanderbilt University

"Interior Intersubjectivity and Black Women Teachers'
Project of Emancipation"

Discussants: **Megan Finch**, Brown University and **Adrián
Hernández-Acosta**, Brown University

12:00-1:00

Lunch break

1:00-3:00

Panel 3: Inventiveness & Revising Public Discourses

Ariel Lawrence, Emory University

"Rich Life, Word Poor: Black Women's Lifewriting as Art, Criticism,
and Theory"

Kress Stewart, Independent Scholar

"Pornotroping Black Trans Feminist Futures for PrEP Access through
POSE"

Sihle Motsa, University of Cape Town

"(Un)historical and Future Archives, the Collage as Black Women's
Grammar"

Discussants: **Kevin E. Quashie**, Brown University and **Shoniqua
Roach**, Brandeis University

3:00-3:15

Break

3:15-4:00

Closing Session

Hortense Spillers, Vanderbilt University

Margo Natalie Crawford, University of Pennsylvania