



March 15-16 2018

American University, Washington, DC

VULNERABLE VOICES:

**POWER AND
PRIVILEGE
IN ORAL
HISTORY**

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VISIT AT OHMAR.ORG

**PUBLIC
HISTORY**

American University

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VULNERABLE VOICES: POWER & PRIVILEGE IN ORAL HISTORY

March 15 & 16, 2018

American University | Washington, DC

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CONFERENCE THEME

In this Digital Age, electronic media stokes the creation and consumption of oral histories. Through communication, creation, capture, and curation, oral histories cross traditional social divisions and explore race, class, age, health, and gender. When considering both community and thesis-driven projects, interviewers must be mindful of both audience and privilege, as well as the legacy of their work.

How do we effectively—and ethically—record and preserve narratives from vulnerable voices? In turn, how can we acknowledge distinctions, record perspectives, and interpret experiences while maintaining the narrator’s ownership or agency? When interviews conclude and release forms are signed, how much control do narrators have over the content of “their” stories?

OHMAR BOARD MEMBERS

Anna F. Kaplan, At-Large Board Member and 2018 Conference Co-Chair
American University | DC Oral History Collaborative

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Melissa Ziobro, At-Large Board Member
Monmouth University

CONFERENCE HOSTS



Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region

OHMAR is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and improvement of oral history. This body responds to the needs of those actively practicing or otherwise interested in oral history in the Mid-Atlantic region.

OHMAR provides a forum for sharing information about the techniques and application of oral history, promotes standards of quality among practitioners, and assists those interested in the methodology. Members include public and academic historians, librarians, archivists, teachers, folklorists, and independent researchers.

Our vision is to support established and emerging oral historians in the practice of oral history by providing information and resources, an accessible community of expertise, and a vibrant professional and social network. Identified by our leadership and affirmed by our members, all priorities and actions will be guided by these five values: openness, passion, community, education, and expertise.

David J. Caruso, President | contact@ohmar.org | www.ohmar.org



Public History Program at American University

The Master of Arts in Public History opens the door to careers in museums, cultural tourism, community history, historic preservation, cultural resource management, libraries, archives, new media, and many other professional fields. In this program, students explore how audiences understand the past while developing research and interpretive skills to enrich the public's understanding of history. They learn the best practices in public history and develop expertise in their chosen historical field, learning how professional historians conduct scholarly analysis.

AU's unique combination of research and scholarship with hands-on, real-world experience help develop a deeper historical understanding and becoming a better historian. In addition to developing a firm base of historical knowledge and practice, students explore the many facets of public history, supplementing coursework and applying skills outside of the classroom with projects and partnerships with AU faculty, local communities, national organizations, and area institutions.

Daniel Kerr & Margorzata Rymsza-Pawlowska, Directors |
www.american.edu/cas/history/public

SCHEDULE

MGC = Mary Graydon Center

Thursday, March 15, 2018

8:30am Registration
 MGC 3-4

9:00am–9:45am Keynote Speaker: John Johnson, Anacostia Unmapped
 www.anacostiaunmapped.com
 MGC 3-4

9:45am–11:15am Concurrent Sessions

Student Vulnerabilities Then and Now: The Challenges of Representing a Student-Led Movement as Novice Oral Historians (roundtable)	Soldier Stories: Preserving Oral Histories of Combat Veterans
<i>MGC 245</i>	<i>MGC 247</i>
Jennifer Whitmer Taylor, Chair	Renate L. Chancellor, Chair
Catelyn Cocuzzi	Nick Atlas
Evan Daverio	
Lauren Eisenhart-Purvis	Tawanda Johnson
Katherine Millard	
Ron Owens	Taylor Nickels
Celia Phillips	
Anna Samuels	Lorie Scott
Grant Stoner	
Alexandra Zaremba	Joseph Smith

11:30am–1:00pm Concurrent Sessions

Speaking with Many Voices: An Oral History Documentary (15 min film and discussion)	Negotiating Identity through Oral History
<i>MGC 245</i>	<i>MGC 247</i>
Julie Rogers, Chair	Anne Rush, Chair
Sarah Wilson	Katie Singer, “Responsibilities in Listening”
	Pavithra Suresh, “An Auralty of Alterity: Complexifying Narratives of ‘Indian Women’”

1:00pm–3:00pm Pogue Award Lunch & OHMAR Business Meeting
MGC 3-4

3:15pm–4:45pm Concurrent Sessions

Classroom Conduits: Creating and Interpreting Student Oral History Projects	9/11 Oral Histories
<i>MGC 245</i>	<i>MGC 247</i>
Melissa Ziobro, Chair	Lee Berry, Chair
Charlotte Fryar, “Documenting Racial Justice: Student Activism from the Inside Out (or Is that Outside In?)”	Rebecca Brenner, “From the Top of the World Trade Center: A Study of Three Individual Remembrances of September 11, 2001”
Jess Lamar Reese Holler, “Student Labor in Oral History: ‘Sharing Authority’ in the Neoliberal University?”	Joanna O’Shea and Keith Murphy, “Documenting Post-Traumatic Narrator-Centered History”
Janneken Smucker, “I Hear Dead People: Working with Legacy Interview Collections in the College Classroom”	

5:00pm–7:00pm Evening Reception
Tenley Bar & Grill, 4611 41st St., NW
www.tenleybar.com

Friday, March 16, 2018

9:00am Registration
 MGC 3-4

9:45am–11:15am Concurrent Sessions

Local Oral Histories	Postmemories of War
<i>MGC 245</i>	<i>MGC 247</i>
Anna Kaplan, Chair	Megan Harris, Chair
Hannah Byrne, “Fighting for Forty: Whitman-Walker Health and HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC”	Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, “Military Service Experiences of Alexandria, Virginia, Residents”
James Deutsch, “Vulnerable Voices of the Homeless: Oral Histories from Washington, D.C.”	Micaela Procopio, “Marching Forward”
Ben Spohn and Amrys O. Williams, “Work and Class along the Brandywine: Power and Privilege in a Legacy Oral History Collection”	

11:30am–1:30pm Coffee Break/Networking
 MGC 3-4
 Lunch on your own

1:30pm–2:30pm US Senate Historical Office Tour
Registration required. Sign up when you register for the conference.
Travel on your own; Hart Senate Office Building. Closest metro stop is Union Station on the Red Line (toward Glenmont/Silver Spring if traveling from American University).
https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/Senate_Historical_Office.htm

2:00pm NPR Headquarters Tour
Registration required. Sign up when you register for the conference.
Travel on your own; 1111 North Capitol Street, NE. Closest metro stop is NOMA–Gallaudet U/New York Ave. on the Red Line (toward Glenmont/Silver Spring if traveling from American University).
<https://www.npr.org/about-npr/177066727/visit-npr>

Main Campus

46th Street
Mass Ave Field
45th Street
Sedgewick Street
44th Street
Massachusetts Avenue
Nebraska Avenue
Wesley Theological Seminary
Cassell
Leonard
McDowell
Hughes
Kogod
Kay
Sports Center
Bender Arena
Butler Pavilion
Battelle-Tompkins
Mary Graydon (MGC)
McKinley
Bender Library
SIS
Clark
Roper
Gray
McCabe
Letts
Anderson
Centennial
Osborn
Asbury
AU Central
Beeghly
Hurst
Woods Gate (closed)
Hannay Gate (closed)
East Quad
Constitution
Federal
Congressional
Don Myers TIB
New Mexico Avenue
Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist
East Campus
Ward Circle
Katzen Arts Center
Admissions Welcome Center
President's Building
Glover Gate
Woods-Brown Amphitheater
Nebraska

Tenley Campus
Washington College of Law
4200 Wisconsin Avenue
4401 Connecticut Avenue
METRO

TRANSPORTATION & DINING

Public Transportation

The closest metro station to American University is the Tenleytown station on the Red Line. Free AU shuttles run between the metro station and campus. The shuttle stop is at 40th St. NW and Ablemarle St., NW, near the Whole Foods.

Parking

Pay-As-You-Go parking is available for visitors in the Katzen Arts Center and the School of International Service parking garages.

More information is available at <https://www.american.edu/about/visiting-campus.cfm>.

Dining Near American University

- On Campus
 - The Davenport Lounge in SIS Building
 - Starbucks
 - Subway
 - Vendors in MGC
- Off Campus - New Mexico Ave.
 - Al Dente Italian Restaurant
 - Chef Geoff's
 - Starbucks
 - Wagshal's
- Off Campus - Tenleytown
 - Cava
 - Chick-fil-A
 - Chipotle
 - Buredo
 - Burger Tap & Shake
 - Guapo's Restaurant
 - Masala Art
 - Nando's Peri Peri
 - Panera Bread
 - Tenley Bar & Grill
 - Whole Foods

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



John Johnson

Anacostia Unmapped

www.anacostiaunmapped.com

John Johnson is a native Washingtonian, a graduate from the University of the District of Columbia and holds a BA in Theatre Arts. He is a three-time Artist Fellow with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. With the help of a Community Partnership Grant from the DC Oral History Collaborative, he completed an oral history project last year, “Anacostia Unmapped,” that highlighted the lives of Washington, DC residents east of the river. Anacostia Unmapped has been featured on American University’s radio station WAMU 88.5 and uses a ‘neighbor interviewing neighbor’ approach to capturing oral history narratives. John is currently exploring a unique improvisational form of storytelling called Playback Theatre with middle school youth through a city-wide initiative with District of Columbia’s Public Schools called Empowering Males of Colors.

POGUE AWARD



Roger Horowitz, 2018 Recipient

Director, Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society at the Hagley Museum and Library | Professor of History, University of Delaware

Roger Horowitz has published widely in the area of food history, most recently *Kosher USA: How Coke Became Kosher and Other Tales of Modern Food* (Columbia University Press, 2016). *Kosher USA* has received the Dorothy Rosenberg Prize from the American Historical Association and the National Jewish Book Award for American Studies, and was named an Outstanding Academic Title by *Choice*.

Oral history has been a part of his research and teaching activities for 30 years. In the mid-1980s he worked on a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to interview workers in the American meatpacking industry. These interviews were a major source for his dissertation, and some excerpts were published in his book, *Meatpackers: An Oral History of Black Packinghouse Workers and their Struggle for Racial and Economic Equality*. Since then Dr. Horowitz has continued to use oral interviews as part of this research, taught many oral history training sessions, and offered courses on oral history at the University of Delaware. At Hagley he oversees the work of its Oral History Office, and has written a number of grants for oral history activities. He has served as President of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region, as a member of its board 1996-2017, and as a member of the executive council of the Oral History Association 2005-2008.

BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

There are five board positions open this spring: secretary, communications director, development director, and two at-large members. The secretary, communications director, and development director serve a two-year term; at-large members serve a three-year term. All board members must be OHMAR members in good standing. Duties include attending regular OHMAR meetings (usually done via conference call once a month), assisting with program planning, and serving on committees as needed.

OHMAR announced the slate of candidates in February and members will vote on them at the conference during the OHMAR Business Meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2018.

CANDIDATES:

Secretary

Anne Spry Rush is the current Secretary of OHMAR and a Lecturer in History at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her interests include oral history, the modern British Empire, citizenship, the history of lawlessness, and post-1945 immigration. She has been involved in oral history work since interviewing Caribbean migrants to Britain and the United States for her book *Bonds of Empire* (Oxford University Press, 2011). At UMD she teaches classes in oral history & immigration in which students interview local immigrants for inclusion in the “Immigrant Voices” Oral History Project at the university’s Center for Global Migration Studies (<http://www.globalmigration.umd.edu/index.php>).

Communications Director

Zackary Biro – *current Board Member; running for re-election as Communications Director*
Zack Biro is a public historian at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia where he uses digital storytelling, public programming, and scholarly research to explore the intersection of science history and contemporary issues. He also conducts oral history interviews and transcript edits for various Science History Institute projects. Currently, Zack is using oral histories in his research on public spaces and toxicity in post industrial communities. He has been the OHMAR Communication Director for the last two years and is responsible for the OHMAR social media accounts, website updates and maintenance, newsletter and blog, and monitoring the OHMAR email account. Zack has an MA in History and a BA in History and Religion Studies from Lehigh University.

Development Director

Samantha Blatt – *current Board Member; running for re-election as Development Director*

Samantha Blatt received her bachelor's degree in history from Penn State University before pursuing a certificate in Historic Preservation from Bucks County Community College. After time at Bucks County Historical Society and the National Museum of American Jewish History, Samantha joined the Center for Oral History at the Science History Institute. Her work in the Center not only involves conducting interviews for various projects and developing the oral history collection more generally, but also creating and cultivating public engagement pieces and public history events including the bi-annual oral history training institute, the National Academy of Engineers regional meeting in Philadelphia, and the *Things Fall Apart* oral history walking tour. Samantha has volunteered her time as Events Chair for the Young Friends of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania since 2015 and as the Development Director of OHMAR for the last two years. In this latter capacity, she has been responsible for the programmatic elements of OHMAR's fundraising, including those for GivingTuesday, the Martha Ross Prize, and OHMAR's annual meeting, as well as for direct work with individual and corporate donors and sponsors.

At-Large

Mattea Sanders

Mattea is a PhD student in American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and recently started working for the National Park Service. Her statement of interest: I am very interested in serving on the OHMAR Board to become more involved in the organization and to be able to shape the future of the organization. I have served in other organizations' executive boards including the Society for the History of the Federal Government. I would like to be able to connect the organizations to be able to co-host annual meetings and other events to support the missions of both organizations. I also hope to contribute to the work of the organization in increasing the involvement of graduate students and supporting the oral history work of graduate students. I hope to become more involved in planning workshops and other events that help graduate students to network with oral historians both in the academy and the federal government. I believe I could bring a unique perspective to OHMAR as a federal historian and graduate student.



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- Internships available in leading public history institutions
- Alumni employed at Frick Art and Historical Center, Heinz History Center, Carnegie Museum of Art, and National Archives and Record Administration

M.A. in Historical Studies

- Concentrations in U.S., European, and Global history
- Alumni pursuing Ph.D.s at Ohio State, UC-San Diego, Carnegie Mellon University and employed at public and private K-12 schools, local and state government



412.396.6470 | history@duq.edu | duq.edu/graduate-history

NOTES

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OHMAR '18!

We'll see you next spring at...



MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & ANTHROPOLOGY

Your attendance helps support the Martha Ross Prize, with \$10 from every registration benefiting the scholarship.

Please join us next year as we award the inaugural prize!

Interested in serving on our scholarship committee? Please contact Samantha Blatt at contact@ohmar.org for more details.



ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION