

# KINDER INSTITUTE EVENTS SPRING 2021

## Friday Colloquium Series

All colloquia will be held on Fridays at 3:30pm via Zoom unless otherwise noted. Anyone interested in being added to the email list of people who receive Zoom links for all Kinder Institute talks on the morning of events should contact Thomas Kane, [KaneTC@missouri.edu](mailto:KaneTC@missouri.edu).

- 1/22 Hidden Laws: Understanding the Resilience of the American Constitution**  
Leading off our spring programming, Howard University political scientist **Robinson Woodward-Burns** will explain the longevity of the U.S. Constitution, the world's longest-lived as of this writing, by provocatively crediting the *state* constitutions for this federal success. Ongoing state constitutional revision, he argues, resolves national constitutional controversies, preempting amendments to the federal Constitution and quieting conflict between the branches of the federal government.
- 1/29 Small Islands, Great Depression: Jamaica and Barbados, 1932-1939**  
In the first of many trans-Atlantic talks this semester, Dr. **Michael Joseph**, M.G. Brock Junior Research Fellow at University of Oxford (Corpus Christi College), will revisit the period of labor unrest and economic depression in 1930s Jamaica and Barbados to draw out the forms of anti-colonial nationalism that evolved in British Caribbean politics and political thought during this time.
- 2/5 "A terror to others": Thomas Jefferson's Quiet Campaign against the Slave Trade, 1801-1807**  
For the next installment in our "Contextualizing Jefferson" speaker series, co-authors **Andrew J. B. Fagal**, Associate Editor of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, and **Craig Hollander**, Associate Professor of History at the College of New Jersey, will discuss their recent essay which examines how the Jefferson administration, with the aid of various other institutions acting under his direct orders, waged a vigorous campaign against the international slave trade even before the constitutionally-delayed 1808 ban through the enforcement of existing anti-trade legislation.
- 2/12 Lincoln, the Founding, and the Challenge of Self-Government**  
In a talk delivered on Lincoln's birthday, **Lucas Morel**, John K. Boardman, Jr. Professor of Politics and Head of the Politics Department at Washington and Lee University, will examine the 16th President's political thought through the lens of how it was influenced by the principles of the U.S. Founding, especially those articulated in the Declaration of Independence, and the structures and political practices of the early American republic.
- 2/19 The Missouri Compromise, Black Americans, and the Problem of State Citizenship in the Antebellum United States**  
In a talk illuminating the importance of the often-neglected question of state citizenship in the history of the struggle for Black civil rights, Prof. **Kate Masur** of Northwestern University will assess the impact on national politics and legal history of the debates that raged over acceptance of the proposed 1820 Missouri constitution, with its instruction that the legislature bar African Americans from migrating into the state. The talk will draw on Prof. Masur's forthcoming W.W. Norton book, *Until Justice Be Done: America's First Civil Rights Movement, from the Revolution to Reconstruction*.
- 2/26 Misleading Myths of the Missouri Crisis**  
Presenting a key contribution to the Kinder Institute's forthcoming Missouri bicentennial book, *A Fire-Bell in the Past*, Rothermere American Institute Senior Research Fellow **Donald Ratcliffe**, perhaps the world's foremost authority on the politics of the early American republic, will challenge popular interpretations of the Missouri Compromise, arguing, among other things, that the legislation's passage was *not* a result of weak-willed Northern doughfaces' betrayal of the antislavery cause but was rather the culmination of the strategic work of a handful of strongly antislavery congressmen.
- 3/5 The 2020 Election Crisis in Global Perspective**  
Historians from around the globe will join Kinder Institute Chair **Jay Sexton** to discuss how America's current electoral crisis is being understood abroad and place it in a frame of reference beyond U.S. presidential politics. What damage is being done to the liberal international order and how does the volatility experienced in other polities relate and compare to recent events in America?
- 3/12 Viceregalism: Constitutional Crises, Heads of State, and their History in Britain and the Postcolonial World**  
The last of our trans-Atlantic speakers in the Spring 2021 semester, University of Edinburgh Senior Lecturer in British Politics **Harshan Kumarasingham** will revisit Walter Bagehot's 1867 writings on the function of the British monarch, specifically exploring the role and rights of a Parliamentary Head of State in modern moments of crisis in order to foster greater understanding of the importance of this neglected position.

1pm Start Time

- 3/19 The Prescient Mind of James Madison: A Mini-Symposium**  
Rebooting an event that was originally scheduled for Spring 2020, two leading scholars of the U.S. Founders' political thought will speak on the career of James Madison. KICD Distinguished Research Fellow **Alan Gibson** will present "James Madison: Thinking Revolutionary," combining insights into Madison's methodology for addressing political questions with examination of some of his most prescient and intelligent observations as a politician and ethicist. Then, **Michael Zuckert**, Nancy R. Dreux Professor of Political Science Emeritus at the University of Notre Dame, will address not only Madison but also some of the events of 2020 and the debates arising from them in "Slavery and the Constitution: A Neo-Madisonian Perspective."
- 3/26 The Recurring Crises of American Democracy**  
Co-authors **Suzanne Mettler**, John L. Senior Professor of American Institutions in Cornell University's Department of Government, and **Robert C. Lieberman**, Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins, will present on their August 2020 St. Martin's Press book, *Four Threats: The Recurring Crises of American Democracy*, an urgent, historically-contextualized exploration of the major factors that undermine democracy in the U.S. and what we can do to address them.
- 4/9 Two Views of Universal Suffrage: Anticolonial and Neoliberal**  
**Kevin Duong**, Assistant Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia, will reconstruct and assess two competing, post-WW II utopian constructs of universal suffrage: anticolonial radicals' conception of the mass franchise as paving the way to economic democracy and "African" socialism, and early neoliberal economists' counterargument that the free market offered a form of suffrage superior to "one person, one vote."
- 4/16 Rethinking the Separation of Powers**  
**Jacob T. Levy**, Tomlinson Professor of Political Theory at McGill University in Montreal, will explore two sources of dysfunction in the separation of powers as currently understood—the interaction of separate powers with separate parties, and the growing complexity of the executive branch—arguing that the first calls for serious reform, while the second demands far-reaching re-consideration of how we conceive of executive power.
- 4/23 Music and Politics in the Young Republic: A Symposium**  
We're excited to host a special afternoon of Zoom panels on the broad subject of Kinder Institute Postdoctoral Fellow and Residential College Coordinator **Billy Coleman's** newly published book, *Harnessing Harmony: Music, Power, and Politics in the United States, 1788–1865*, not so much the musical but rather the sonic history of early America.
- 4/30 Patronage and Money in the Making of the Second Party System, 1825-1840**  
An annual Kinder Institute tradition, Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow **Reeve Huston** (Duke University) will present a chapter from the book project he's been at work on while in Columbia which examines how patronage appointments and legislative favors not only provided the labor and cash necessary to fuel a mid-19th-century revival of partisan democracy but also bred discontent in the masses with the corruption of political parties and electoral politics.

## Black History Month Lecture

- 2/18 Undermining Marriage: White Supremacy and the Black Family**  
As part of 2021 Black History Month programming at Mizzou, the Kinder Institute, in partnership with the Truman School of Public Affairs, will bring Seymour Institute for Black Church and Policy Studies Executive Director **Jacqueline C. Rivers** to campus (via Zoom) for a talk on the structural disadvantages and cultural patterns that have led to fewer black people participating in marriage in recent decades; the generational consequences of this trend; and the social policy levers and church-based action that might help us begin the long, difficult process of reversing it.
- 3:30 pm**

## Missouri Regional Seminar on Early American History

Following their 3:30 colloquium talk on February 5, **Andrew J. B. Fagal** and **Craig Hollander** will lead a discussion of their co-authored essay, "A terror to others": Thomas Jefferson's Quiet Campaign against the Slave Trade, 1801-1807." As part of April's "Music and Politics in the Young Republic" symposium, MRSEAH participants will gather on April 23 at 3:30pm to discuss Wichita State Professor of English **Rebecca Bechtold's** article-in-progress on slavery and the antebellum Southern soundscape, "My ears flop in your favor": Early American Plantation Novels and the Sounds of Slavery."

