Friday Colloquium Series

Focusing on the antebellum Black press, Kinder Institute Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow Lily Santoro’s season-opening colloquium will explore how, in the face of the growing influence of racial science on religion, politics, and law, editors, authors, and even advertisers used the tools of enlightenment reason, science, and scripture to craft a dynamic discourse about Black humanity and citizenship that would reverberate into the abolitionist movement and post-Civil War struggle for equal rights.

FEB. 9 Americans in a World at War: Intimate Histories from the Crash of Pan Am’s Yankee Clipper
Reconstructing the backstories of seven worldly Americans who were aboard Pan American Airways’ celebrated seaplane, the Yankee Clipper, when it crashed in the Tagus River in 1943, Boston University Professor of History Brooke L. Blower will unpack how their personal histories, politics, and wartime movements upended common, combat GI-driven narratives of Americans abroad during World War II.

FEB. 23 Tennessee and the Fourteenth Amendment
Drawing on the wealth of information published in Tennessee newspapers in 1866, Mark A. Graber, Regents Professor at University of Maryland’s Carey School of Law, will use the state as a case study for considering how the public understood the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment during the process of framing and state ratification, as well as the significance of uncovering this narrative to current studies in history and law.

MARCH 8 The Slaving State: Confiscation, Public Labor, and the Black Experience of the American Revolution
Democracy Lab Invited Lecture
For the third installment of this annual spring lecture series, first-year students in our Kinder Institute Democracy Lab FIG have invited Colorado Mesa University Assistant Professor of History Sean Gallagher to campus to share his research on how the Continental Army’s wartime practice of public slavery recontextualizes Black loyalists as full-fledged political refugees who fled both their enslavers and the tyranny of the nascent nation’s political institutions.

MARCH 15-16 Electocracy in America

APRIL 26 Democracy, Juries, and the Rule of Law
Co-sponsored with the Department of History
University of Michigan Josiah Ober Collegiate Professor of Ancient History Sara Forsdyke will round out Colloquium Series programming for the semester by turning to the juries of the ancient world to meditate on the question of whether or not a justice system reliant only on ordinary citizens could achieve the consistency required for the rule of law to prevail.

Race and the American Story Book Talk

FEB. 16 Race and the American Story
Co-sponsored with the Michael A. Middleton Center for Race, Citizenship, and Justice
Returning to the campus where their now national “Race and the American Story” project got its start, co-founders Stephanie Shonekan (University of Maryland) and Adam Seagrave (Arizona State University) will reflect on the project’s origins and evolution and share excerpts from their new co-authored book, as they assess where we stand as a nation and a people in the long struggle for racial justice and equality.

ASH Scholars Fête

APRIL 11 The Santa Fe Trail: Three Centuries of Western History
Kicking off a two-day celebration of our inaugural ASH Scholars team’s tireless work researching the history of the Santa Fe Trail, University of Arkansas Alumni Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus Elliott West’s talk will traverse three centuries and 80 miles of the Trail, making four stops between the Kansas border and La Junta, Colorado, which shine light on the rise and collapse of Native superpowers, the entanglement of the American West and the wider world, and the ironies and tragedies of conquest.

Check the Kinder Institute website for the time and location of Prof. West’s talk.

Spring Conference

MARCH 15-16 Electocracy in America

What is it that we’re defending when we defend open and competitive elections? Convened by Kinder Institute Chair in Early American History Jeff Pasley and Duke University Associate Professor of History Reeve Huston, the March 15-16 conference will answer that question and more by test driving “electocracy” as a historical concept, gathering scholars of electoral and governmental practices and institutions, organized dissent, and contextualized political thought from around the globe to stimulate interdisciplinary, cross-national discussion of election-based regimes as systems of power.

A full schedule of panels and talks associated with the conference will be published on the Kinder Institute website, democracy.missouri.edu, in February.