



Spring 2022

Nishnaabeg scholar finds solidarity with Black writer

When much of the world entered pandemic lockdown in spring 2020, [Leanne Betasamosake Simpson](#), a Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg scholar, writer, and musician, and [Robyn Maynard](#), a Canadian writer and scholar, and author of *Policing Black Lives: State violence in Canada from slavery*



to the present, began writing each other letters—a gesture sparked by friendship and solidarity. They had a desire for kinship and connection in a world shattering under the intersecting crises of pandemic, police killings, and climate catastrophe. Focusing on her first letter, Simpson

shares her experiences of this transformative collaboration in her [virtual talk](#) “Rehearsals for Living: My First Letter” on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 12 p.m. as the OHC’s 2021–22 Robert D. Clark Lecturer. Her collaboration with Maynard has resulted in a book, *Rehearsals*

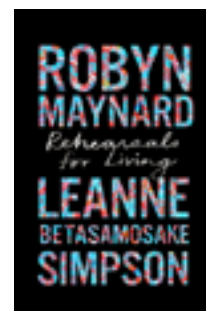
for Living, which will be released in the U.S. in June 2022.

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, a member of Alderville First Nation, has worked for over two decades as an independent scholar using Nishnaabeg intellectual practices—teaching at univer-

sities across Canada and the U.S. Her work is the result of a journey to reconnect to an ancestral homeland and traditions that she was disconnected from as a child and youth, living off the reserve. As a young adult, Simpson immersed herself in her cultural traditions by connecting with Northern Nishnaabeg elders in community. She earned a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Manitoba and currently teaches at the [Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning](#), an Indigenous land-based education center in northern Canada.

A strong proponent of Indigenous

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Historian’s research delves into community archives to fight for truth, racial healing, and transformation

On December 4, 1931, a mob of white men in Salisbury, Maryland, lynched and set ablaze a twenty-three-year-old Black man named Matthew Williams. His gruesome murder was part of a wave of silent White terrorism in the wake of the stock market crash of 1929, which exposed Black laborers to White rage in response to economic anxieties. For nearly a century, the lynching of Matthew Williams has lived in the shadows of the more well-known incidents of racial terror in the deep South.

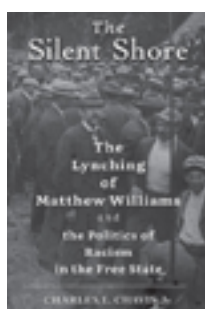
As the OHC’s 2021–22 Tzedek Lecturer [Charles Chavis, Jr.](#) will screen [Hidden in Full View: Out of the Archive, Racist Plans are Laid Bare](#) a short film he produced and co-wrote that introduces the story of the lynching. After the screening he will discuss the process of researching and writing *The Silent Shore: The Lynching of Matthew Williams and the Politics of*

[Racism in the Free State](#) (2022). He will focus on the institutional and descriptive challenges of archival research and the importance of community archives in the fight for transformative justice. Chavis will appear in Portland on Monday, May 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the [Ecotrust Building](#), 721



Chavis’s book *Silent Shore* offers a definitive account of the lynching, the subsequent investigation, and the legacy of “modern-day” lynchings.

In his book, Chavis breaks the silence that surrounded Williams’s death. Though Maryland lacked the



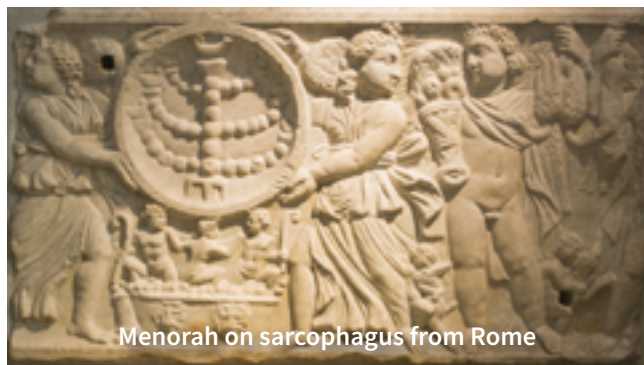
notoriety for racial violence of Alabama or Mississippi, it nonetheless was the site of at least 40 spectacle lynchings after the abolition of slavery in 1864. Families of lynching victims rarely obtained any form of actual justice, but Williams’s death would have a curious afterlife: Maryland’s Albert C. Ritchie was one of the first governors in the United States to

Each talk will be followed by a book sale and signing. Backstory Books and Yarns will sell books in Portland. J. Michaels Books will sell books in Eugene.

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Coleman-Guitteau Professor enriches class with esteemed speakers

During spring term [Kristen Seaman](#), associate professor of the History of Art and Architecture and a 2021–22 OHC Sherl K. Coleman and Margaret E. Guitteau Professor, will teach a new interdisciplinary course she developed last summer: ARH 321, Jewish Art and Architecture. The class will be cross-listed in the Department of Classics and the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies. It also will



Menorah on sarcophagus from Rome

satisfy the university's Core Education Arts and Letters and Global Perspectives requirements.

Seaman developed the course for students to investigate intellectual and cultural questions such as: Was there really an ancient "Jewish artlessness" because of the Second Commandment's prohibition of images, as many people in the modern world commonly believe? How did ancient Jewish rulers construct and communicate their power through art, architecture, and patronage? And how did Jewish art and architecture interact with Greek and Roman art and architecture in the multicultural ancient Mediterranean world? Students will develop skills in the critical analysis of ancient material culture and modern scholarship as they read, write, and attend class.

As part of the class, Seaman will host six virtual lectures given by esteemed scholars. [Erich Gruen](#), the Gladys Rehard

Wood Professor of History and Classics (emerit) at the University of California-Berkeley will speak on "Displaced in Diaspora? Jewish Communities in the Greco-Roman World." [Jodi Magness](#), the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Director of the Excavations at Huqoq in Galilee, will speak on "More than Just

Mosaics: The Ancient Synagogue at Huqoq in Israel's Galilee." [Steven Fine](#), the Dean Pinkhos Churgin Professor of History at Yeshiva University and the Director of the Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies, will talk about "Jews, Samaritans, and the Art of the Ancient Synagogue." [Jaś Elsner](#), Professor of Late Ant-

ique Art at Oxford University and Humfry Payne Senior Research Fellow in Classical Art at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, will speak on "Dura Europos in Its Conceptual Context between Eurasian Fantasy and Mandate Archaeology." [Zeev Weiss](#), the El-eazar L. Sukenik Professor of Archaeology at Institute of Archaeology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Director of the Sepphoris Excavations will speak on "The Synagogue in the Shadow of the Temple and after Its Destruction." [Sean Burrus](#), the interim curator and Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art and the co-director of the NWxNE project, a digital initiative, will speak on "Making Jewish Place and Marking Jewish Space: Jewish Art at Rome, Beit Shearim, and Dura Europos."

These talks are free and open to the public. [Details and registration.](#)

According to Seaman, "Jewish art and

architecture were significant elements of ancient cultural production, but they are largely ignored today. Such an absence in both scholarship and the classroom has led to what Steven Fine has called a 'rhetoric of Jewish artlessness,' the misconception of scholars, students, and the general public that Jews were not active participants in artistic production and art-criticism in the ancient world.

I'm indebted to the Sherl K. Coleman and [Margaret E. Guitteau Professorship in the Humanities](#) from the Oregon Humanities Center for making the lecture series possible, enriching the students' experience of the course through the purchase of books for the UO Library, and benefitting the university community more broadly."

Author readings will be in person in spring

The OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities cosponsors the [Creative Writing Program's Reading Series](#). Readings will be in person this spring.

Poet [Paisley Rekdal](#) will give a reading on Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. in the EMU Crater Lake Room. She is the author of six books of poetry, most recently *Nightingale* (2019). She is Utah's poet laureate.

Fiction writer [Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah](#) will read from his bestselling short story collection *Friday Black* (2018) on Thursday, May 12 at 7 p.m. in the EMU Crater Lake Room. The *Breakwater Review* selected him as the winner of the 2nd Annual *Breakwater Review* Fiction Contest.

For information and updates go to crwr.uoregon.edu



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Scholars explore race, media, and visual culture May 10–11, 2022

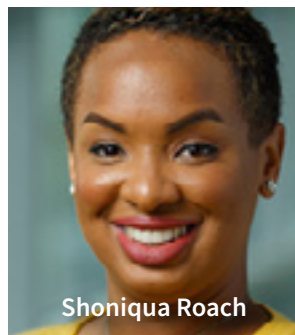
“Rethinking Popular Performance: a Symposium on Race, Media, and Visual Culture,” a virtual two-day interdisciplinary event, will explore how scholars are engaging Black-feminist and queer-of-color critique to interpret popular TV, film, media, and performance. Discussions will consider how principles of Black-feminist and queer-of-color critique can continue to support equity and inclusion at the University of Oregon. The symposium will include academic panels, an artists’ showcase, and guest speakers.



Guest speakers include E. Patrick Johnson and Shoniqua Roach. [E. Patrick Johnson](#) is Dean of the School of Communication and Annenberg

University Professor of Performance Studies and African American Studies at Northwestern University. Johnson codified the field of Black queer studies in the groundbreaking anthology *Black Queer Studies* (2005). Johnson’s talk will center on his monograph *HoneyPot: Black Southern Women Who Love Women* (2019). *HoneyPot* combines Black feminist critique, storytelling, and performance in an exploration

of Black queer women’s histories in the American South.



University. She has published widely in interdisciplinary feminist journals including *Signs* and *differences*. Roach’s current book project provisionally titled *Black Sexual Sanctuaries*, explores the possibilities for black women’s sexual citizenship and erotic freedom within overlooked or dismissed domains such as privacy and domesticity.

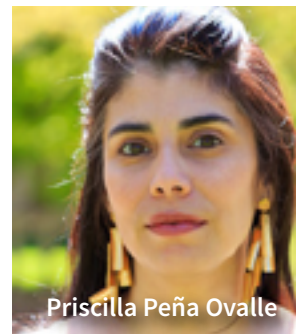
UO faculty will engage in interdis-



[Shoniqua Roach](#) is Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis

University. She has published widely in interdisciplinary feminist journals including *Signs* and *differences*. Roach’s current book project provisionally titled *Black Sexual Sanctuaries*, explores the possibilities for black women’s sexual citizenship and erotic freedom within overlooked or dismissed domains such as privacy and domesticity.

sectionality in School of Journalism and Communication. Examining the television industry, social media, and fandom, Chatman’s scholarship utilizes interdisciplinary methods from Black feminist media studies. [Priscilla Peña Ovalle](#) is Associate Professor of Cinema Studies and Chair of Cinema Studies. Ovalle’s work bridges sound studies, performance studies, and Latinx studies. Ovalle is author of *Dance and the Hollywood Latina: Race, Sex, and Stardom* (2011) and is currently working on a book project on hair performance that models how Black feminist methodologies can ethically inform critical analysis across racial and ethnic categories.



The symposium, cosponsored by the OHC’s Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities, is free and open to the public. For more information go to symposium2022.wordpress.com

Listen to podcasts of *UO Today* and lectures at soundcloud.com/oregonhumanitiescenter

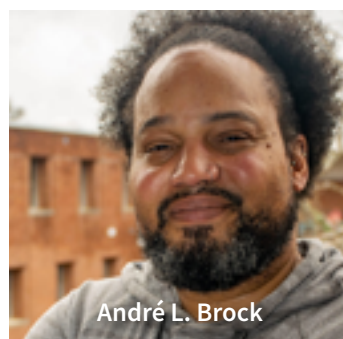
Media scholar examines the racial politics in technoculture

The UO’s [New Media & Culture Certificate](#) (NMCC) Program will host André L. Brock giving a talk titled “The Illumination of Blackness: Afro-optimism and Digital Cultures” on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 4 p.m., venue TBA.

According to organizer Colin Koopman, Philosophy and affiliated faculty member in NMCC, “André Brock’s scholarship examines the racial politics of technoculture and how bias, exclusion, underrepresentation, and racism inform our experience of social media and internet technologies more broadly. This event will be of great interest to a campus that’s positioned itself as a regional hub for technological innovation and industry partnership. It will also be invaluable to a number of faculty and graduate students

in the humanities whose work is focused on critical data studies and the role of race in digital technologies.”

[André L. Brock](#) is an associate professor in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication at Georgia Tech. He is the author of *Distributed Blackness: African American Cybercultures* (2020). Brock’s interdisciplinary scholarship includes published articles on racial representations in videogames, Black women and weblogs, Whiteness, Blackness, and digital technoculture, as well as groundbreaking research on Black Twitter. His article “From the Blackhand Side: Twitter as a



Cultural Conversation” challenged social science and communication research to confront the ways in which the field preserved “a color-blind perspective on online endeavors by normalizing Whiteness and othering everyone else” and sparked a conversation that continues, as Twitter, in particular, continues to evolve.

Brock’s talk, cosponsored by the OHC’s Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities, is free and open to the public. For more information and updates go to newmediaculture.uoregon.edu

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land of the Kalapuya people.

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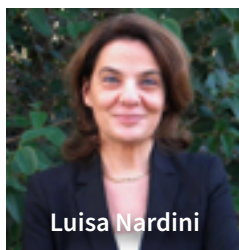
Musicking Conference hosts two in-person concerts

In its sixth year, the 2022 [Musicking Conference](#) will present some in-person events along with virtual events that will allow international artists to participate.

Two live concerts will take place at Central Lutheran Church. The University of Oregon Oratorio Ensemble will perform Giovanni Paolo Colonna's *La Profezia d'Eliseo* (1686) on Friday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. The final concert titled "Sacred Music in Baroque Naples" with guest artist Kraig Scott, organ, will be performed on Sunday, April 24 at 4 p.m. Other events include panels, a live organ masterclass, a keynote address "Instrumental Music in Eighteenth-Century Naples: Repertory, Culture, and Institutions" given by Guido Olivieri, and Intermezzo Lecture-Concerts each day but the final. [See the complete schedule for details.](#)

This year three guest artists are featured at the conference. [Luisa Nardini](#) is a musicologist at the Butler School of Music at The University of Texas, Austin. Her research focuses on extended repertoires of sacred music cultivated in southern Italy during the Middle Ages that reveal the cultural influences of Romans, Franks, Normans, Byzantines, Jews, and Muslims, who were active in the region at different times and with various political roles. She will give a talk "Re-texting the Liturgy in Southern Italy: Prosulas for the Proper of the Mass" on Wednesday, April 20.

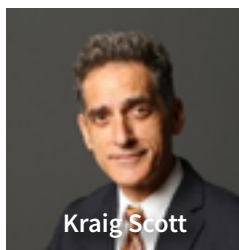
[Guido Olivieri](#) is a musicologist at The University of Texas,



Luisa Nardini



Guido Olivieri



Kraig Scott

Austin, where he also directs the Early Music Ensemble Austinito. He has co-edited with UO's Marc Vanscheeuwijck the volume *Arcom-elo 2013. Studi in occasione del terzo centenario della nascita di Arcangelo Corelli* (2015). His groundbreaking research has promoted the revival of interest on Neapolitan instrumental music.

[Kraig Scott](#) directs the choirs and teaches organ and harpsichord at Walla Walla University. He has made recital appearances throughout North America, Europe, Korea, and China. Under his leadership I Cantori, the select choir of Walla Walla University, has performed throughout North America. Scott has led festival choirs throughout the Pacific Northwest and directed the 400-voice choir of the SDA International Choral Congress in Bucha, Ukraine.

The Musicking Conference is cosponsored by the OHC's Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities. All events are free and open to the public. Musicking events will be broadcast to their YouTube channel, "[UO Musicking Conference](#)."

To participate in panels and presentations via Zoom, [registration is required](#). Space is limited.

