

**Program for the 2024 Virginia Forum
at Virginia Museum of History and Culture
in Richmond, VA
on April 4 to 6, 2024**

****Registration WALK-UP ONLY as of April 4****

Hotel Information:

- **Graduate Richmond - 301 W Franklin St, Richmond, VA 23220**
 - \$199/night
 - [Reservation Link](#)
- **Quirk Richmond - 201 W Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220**
 - \$189/night on Thursday, \$269/night on Friday + Saturday
 - [Reservation Link](#)
- **Linden Row**
 - [Reservation Link](#)
- **Richmond Marriott Downtown - 500 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219**
(NOTE: new expiration date of April 4!)
 - [Reservation Link](#)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM:

Thursday, April 4

4:00 to 6:00 pm: Registration

5:30 to 6:45 pm: Welcome Remarks and Keynote

Jim Ambuske of R2 Studios at George Mason University: “Turning Worlds Upside Down: Challenging Public Assumptions about the Past through podcasting”

Jim Ambuske is a Historian and Senior Producer at R2 Studios. A historian of the American Revolution, Scotland, and the British Atlantic World, he received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia in 2016. He is the author and co-author of several publications on the American Revolution, transatlantic legal history, and King George III, including “The law of loyalism: The Campbell family, the court of session, and the price of loyalty in the revolutionary Atlantic world” (Atlantic Studies, 2023), and with Randall Flaherty, “Reading Law in the Early Republic: Legal Education in the Age of Jefferson” in The Founding of Mr. Jefferson’s University (2019). He is currently at work on a book titled The Fury of Emigration: Scotland, The American Revolution, and the Fate of Empire.

At R2 Studios, Ambuske is the creator, writer, and narrator of Worlds Turned Upside Down, a narrative podcast about the history of the American Revolution. He also serves as executive producer of The Green Tunnel podcast, a series about the history of the Appalachian Trail, and Your Most Obedient & Humble Servant, a series about eighteenth and nineteenth-century women and the letters they wrote. Before joining R2 Studios, Ambuske led the Center for Digital History at the Washington Library at George Washington’s Mount Vernon.

7:30 to 8:45 pm: Evening Event

Cheers, Virginia Forum!: A Discussion with Richmond Beeristoric

Moderator: Paige Newman, Virginia Museum of History & Culture, and Lee Graves & Mike Gorman, Richmond Beeristoric

Friday, April 5

8:00 am: Registration opens

Complimentary coffee, tea, and light snacks

8:30 to 10:00 am: Session I

Panel 1: Moving Towards Justice: A History of Medical Racism & Institutional Accountability at Virginia Commonwealth University

Moderator: Christine Cynn, Virginia Commonwealth University

“Remembrance and Reverence: Contextualizing the East Marshall Street Well Project”

- Margaret Unverzagt Goddard, Virginia Commonwealth University

“Student Research Spotlight: Oral History as Memorialization”

- Michael Verner and Sunday Wright, Virginia Commonwealth University

“Race, Resistance, and Anatomical Dissection: Symbolic Justice for the Victims of Medical Graverobbing”

- Daniel Sunshine, Virginia Commonwealth University

“Combating Systemic Bias: Creating the VCU Racism and Health Guide”

- Erica Brody, Virginia Commonwealth University

Panel 2: Inheritance: Slavery & The Cost of “Motherhood”

Moderator: George Oberle, George Mason University

“Not Satisfied with the Provisions Made for Her: Elizabeth Mary Ann Barnes Hooe, the Mason Family, and the Transfer of Property in Early Virginia”

- David Armstrong, George Mason University

“Partus Sequitur Ventrum & Infanticide among Enslaved Black Women in Virginia”

- Shemika Curvey, George Mason University

“Motherhood On the Run: Enslaved and Enslaving Women Defining Womanhood in Antebellum Virginia”

- Annabelle Spencer, George Mason University

Panel 3: This is What Democracy Looks Like: Virginians as Activists

Moderator: Emilie E. Raymond, Virginia Commonwealth University

“Richmond Jews in Social Activism, 1970s to Present Day: What roles has the Jewish community played in shaping Richmond?”

- Tracy Herman, Virginia Commonwealth University

“Modeling Citizenship: Black Parents Confront Virginia’s Pupil Placement Board, 1957-1965”

- Angela Lehman, Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia

Panel 4: Advocating for Change: Institutional (In)justices in the Twentieth Century

Moderator: Stanley K. Arnold, Northern Illinois University

“Lucian Louis Watts, Advocate for Virginia’s Blind”

- Nadia Bukach, Virginia Commonwealth University

“The Legacy of June Purcell Guild: Social Worker, Attorney, and Civil Rights Advocate”

- Alice Woodworth Campbell, Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries

“Challenging the Racial Classification of Virginia Indians in the Military Selective Service System”

- Mika Endo, George Mason University

“White Coats and Black Shrouds: The Role of Virginia's State Anatomical Board in the Jim Crow Era”

- Kevin Hegg, James Madison University's Libraries

10:00 to 10:15 am: Break

Complimentary coffee, tea, and light snacks

10:15 to 11:45 am: Session II

Panel 5: Making and Unmaking Virginians: Eugenics at 100

Moderator: Peter M. Hedlund, Virginia Humanities

“Eugenics at the University of Virginia”

- P. Preston Reynolds, University of Virginia

“Elite Political Pressure and the Making of Eugenics”

- Patricia Miller, Virginia Humanities

“Eugenic Sterilization in Virginia”

- Elizabeth Catte, Passel LLC - Applied History Consultants

“The Paper Genocide in Virginia”

- Ashley Atkins Spivey, Kenah Consulting LLC

Panel 6: Teaching Virginia Histories as DEI

Moderator and Commentator: Dwana Waugh, Sweet Briar College

“Tarter and Dabney Compared: Teaching Virginia History as DEI”

- Tom Costa, University of Virginia's College at Wise

“Using Virginia History to Introduce Students to DEI”

- Mathias D. Bergman, Randolph-Macon College

Panel 7: Roundtable on After Emancipation: Racism and Resistance at the University of Virginia

Moderators: Kirt von Daacke, University of Virginia, and Andrea Douglas, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, editors of After Emancipation

Participants:

- Ashley Schmidt, Academic Program Officer, President’s Commission on the University in the Age of Segregation at the University of Virginia
- Countess Hughes, University of Virginia alumna and UVA employee in Housing & Residence Life
- Leslie M. Scott-Jones, Curator of Learning Engagement & Public Programs at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
- Ty’Leik Chambers (UVA ’22), Community Outreach Coordinator for the Getting Word African American Oral History Project at Monticello and Youth & College President Of The Virginia State Conference NAACP
- Jay Pun, music teacher at Renaissance School and Advisory Board member of the Eko Ise Music Program at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

Panel 8: Remembering and Forgetting in Virginia

Moderator: Sheri Ann Huerta, George Mason University

“Finding Belinda Brown in Unexpected Places: Traces of a Black Wife, Mother, and Independent Thinker in a Lost Cause Narrative”

- Catherine E. Saunders, George Mason University

“Commemoration versus Community: The Establishment of the National Park Service’s Chimborazo Medical Museum in Richmond, Virginia in the 1950s”

- Laura Brannan Fretwell, George Mason University

“Who curates and comprises William & Mary’s History?: T-Shirts as Tools of Remembering and Forgetting”

- Tyler Goldberger and Mitzy Colligan, William & Mary

11:45 am to 1:30 pm: Lunch Break

Boxed lunches available for registered attendees

12:15-1:15 pm: Virginia Forum Board Meeting

Open to all registered attendees (Harry M. Bluford Classroom)

1:30 to 3:00 pm: Session III

Panel 9: Slavery, Law, and Power in Virginia and the British Atlantic World: Digital Humanities Research and Best Practices

Moderator: Holly Brewer, University of Maryland

“Virginia’s 1705 Slave Code in British Imperial Context”

- Michael J. Becker, William & Mary

“Manuscript Codes and Virginia Slave & Servant Laws, 1690-1706”

- Holly Brewer, University of Maryland

“The Power of Collaboration: SLP and the Humanities Lab Model”

- Dylan Bails, University of Maryland

“Search Engines, Tags, and User Interfaces: Making SLP Accessible to All Audiences”

- Alexandra Kadis, University of Maryland

Panel 10: “But I’m trying to carry on as normal now:” A Roundtable Discussion on the State of Post-Pandemic Secondary Education

Moderator: Anna Kiefer-Douglas, Mount Tabor High School and Laurel Ridge Community College

Participants:

- Jennifer Pisini-Martin, Mount Tabor High School
- Meredith Wooten, Mount Tabor High School
- Heather C. Oberle, Prince William County Public Schools

Panel 11: Women and the Civil War from 1862 to 2023

Moderator: Warren E. Milteer, Jr., George Washington University

“Negotiating the Lost Cause: Women and Reform in Progressive Era Virginia”

- Clayton McClure Brooks, Mary Baldwin University

“Resistance to Reconstruction: White Virginia Women’s Resentment in 1862-1870”

- Madeleine Stout, Florida State University

“Living History and the U.S. Supreme Court: Challenges in Portraying the Civil War”

- Joshua M. Howard, Passel LLC - Applied History Consultants

Panel 12: Telling the Stories of Indigenous and Black Virginians at the Library of Virginia

Moderator: Brent Tarter, Library of Virginia (retired) and co-author of *Justice For Ourselves: Black Virginians Claim Their Freedom After Slavery*

Participants (all from the Library of Virginia):

- Barbara C. Batson, Exhibitions Coordinator, Indigenous Perspectives
- Ashley Ramey Craig, Community Engagement & Partnerships Specialist, Indigenous Perspectives
- John G. Deal, co-author, *Justice For Ourselves: Black Virginians Claim Their Freedom After Slavery*
- Marianne E. Julienne, co-author, *Justice For Ourselves: Black Virginians Claim Their Freedom After Slavery*

3:00 to 3:15 pm: Break

Complimentary coffee, tea, and light snacks

3:15 to 4:45 pm: Session IV

Panel 13: The Intertwined Histories of Black and White Virginians Across Three Centuries: A Roundtable on Latest Books and Newest Trends

Moderator: Nadine Zimmerli, University of Virginia Press

Participants:

- Marvin T. Chiles, Old Dominion University, author of *The Struggle for Change: Race and the Politics of Reconciliation in Modern Richmond*
- Gianluca De Fazio, James Madison University, editor of *Lynching in Virginia: Racial Terror and its Legacy*
- Christopher Alan Graham, American Civil War Museum, author of *Faith, Race, and the Lost Cause: Confessions of a Southern Church*
- Tom Shoop, public historian, author of *A Place Called Ilda: Race and Resilience at a Northern Virginia Crossroads*
- Daniel B. Thorp, Virginia Tech, author of *In the True Blue’s Wake: Slavery and Freedom among the Families of Smithfield Plantation*

Panel 14: Virginians and the Path Forward After Gun Violence: A Roundtable

Moderator: Thomas P. Kapsidelis, University of Richmond

Participants:

- Megan Doney, New River Community College, author of *Unarmed* (October publication), an essay collection on safety in the shadow of tragedy
- Thomas P. Kapsidelis, University of Richmond, author of *After Virginia Tech*
- Joseph Samaha, Victim Advocacy and Outreach Director for VTVCare, a mission of the VTV Family Outreach Foundation

Panel 15: Virginian and European: Three Lives in the Early Republic

Moderator: J. Jefferson Looney, Thomas Jefferson Foundation

“Jean Miller Skipwith: Rooted in Scotland and Virginia”

- Gaye S. Wilson, Thomas Jefferson Foundation

“A Virginian Outside of Virginia”

- Megan R. Brett, Thomas Jefferson Foundation

“A Jewish Immigrant and his Mixed-Race Family”

- Olivia Brown, Thomas Jefferson Foundation

Panel 16: Beyond the Scenic Blue Ridge: Stories of the Displaced Families of Shenandoah National Park

Moderator: Marina E. Curry, Rockingham County Circuit Court

“The Creation of Shenandoah National Park”

- Megan Schoeman, Rockingham County Circuit Court

“The Histories Along the Blue Ridge (HBR) Project: Digitization Intricacies, Funding, and Evolution”

- Sydney Ring, James Madison University

4:45 to 5:45 pm: Historical Walking Tour of the VMHC and VMFA Campus

5:45 to 7:00 pm: Plenary, with Reception to follow

Jon Kukla on “250 Years Later: Some Pivotal Events in Virginia of 1774”

Jon Kukla (Ph.D. University of Toronto) is an elected member of the American Antiquarian Society and his recent books aspire to present first-rate historical scholarship accessible for general readers. He is currently reassessing the origins of the American Revolution in a book entitled *Rehearsal for Revolution: The Stamp Act Rebellion, 1764-1766*. Kukla’s most recent book, *Patrick Henry: Champion of Liberty* (Simon & Schuster, 2017) won the Slatten Award for Biography from the Virginia Museum of History and Culture and was a finalist for the George Washington Prize as well as the Library of Virginia’s People’s Choice Award. His previous books include *Mr. Jefferson's Women* (Knopf, 2007) and *A Wilderness So Immense: The*

Louisiana Purchase and the Destiny of America (Knopf, 2003) – both Book-of-the-Month and History Book Club selections.

Saturday, April 6

8:30 to 10:00 am: Session V

Panel 17: Beyond the Big House: Teaching Plantation History Through Virtual Reality

Moderator: Joseph M. Rizzo, Wilton House Museum

“What Once Was: Opportunities and Challenges of the Virtual Past”

- Nathan R. Prestopnik, Wes Brown, Joey Miciotta, and Tyler Dossat, Shenandoah University

“Research and Interpretation for Relocated Historic Home”

- Erica Blake, Wilton House Museum

Panel 18: A Roundtable on A People’s Guide to Richmond and Central Virginia: Telling Virginians’ Stories of Power and Resistance through Public and Community-Engaged Histories

Moderators: Melissa Ooten, University of Richmond, and Jason Sawyer, Old Dominion University, authors of A People’s Guide to Richmond and Central Virginia

Participants:

- Cheryl Groce-Wright, Kaleidoscope Collaborative RVA LLC
- Kim Lee Schmidt, Kim Lee Photography
- Cathy Woodson, Virginia Organizing (retired)

Panel 19: The Limits of Being a Virginian: Race and Power in the Old Dominion

Moderator and Commentator: Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Norfolk State University

“Accounting as Social Control: The 1836 Census of Free Blacks in Norfolk, Virginia”

- Charles H. Ford, Norfolk State University

“‘So that her usefulness may be a blessing to her race’: The Legacy of Alexandria Teacher Jane Solomon Crouch”

- Amy Bertsch, Independent Scholar

“From the Old Dominion to the Lone Star State: Albert F. Keeble and the Myth of the Frontier in Early American History”

- Jeffrey L. Littlejohn, Sam Houston State University

Panel 20: Geographies of Inequity in Northern Virginia

Moderator: Krystyn R. Moon, University of Mary Washington

“Fade to White – Ilda and the Right to Remain”

- Mandy Katz, George Mason University

“Separate, But Self-Determined: Black Education & Community in Occoquan”

- Stephanie Martinez, George Mason University

“Bridgett Town: How Hostile Nostalgia Obscured its Memory and how Henri Lefebvre's Production of Space Could Bring It Back”

- Kristina Nohe, George Mason University

10:00 to 10:15 am: Break

Complimentary coffee, tea, and light snacks

10:15 to 11:45 am: Session VI

Panel 21: Uncovering the Narratives of Enslaved People Who Built Virginia Universities and Colleges – UVA Descendant Project and The Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation

Moderators: Jody Allen, William & Mary and Carolyn M. Dillard, University of Virginia

Participants:

- Jajuan Johnson, Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Research Associate at William & Mary
- Shelley Viola Murphy, Descendant Project Researcher at the University of Virginia

Panel 22: Telling Virginia Labor History through Material Culture

Moderator: Anna Kiefer-Douglas, Mount Tabor High School and Laurel Ridge Community College

“Laboring in Revolutionary Virginia’s Public Armory”

- Joel Cameron Anderson, Independent Public Historian

“Workers in the Margins, the 'Hidden Hands' in the Trade Shops of Virginia in the eighteenth Century: Searching for the Identities of Indentured and Enslaved Laborers in Colonial Virginia”

- Jacqueline A. Delisle, General Counsel for BSC America

“‘I Come Creeping’: Untold Women from the Battle of Blair Mountain”

- Adrienne E. Robertson, Independent Historian

Panel 23: “A ‘Perfectly Novel’ Solution to a Thorny Constitutional Problem: Virginians, Pennsylvanians, and the Creation of the Federal Executive at the Philadelphia Convention, 1787”

Moderator: Terri Halperin, University of Richmond

Presenters:

- Warren R. Hofstra, Shenandoah University
- Kevin R. Hardwick, James Madison University

Panel 24: New Histories of Civil War in the Old Dominion: Representation and Remembrance

Moderator: James J. Broomall, Shepherd University

“Pardoned by Two Presidents: Charles Cowlam’s Pardons from Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis”

- Frank W. Garmon, Jr., Christopher Newport University

“‘Demoting’ Davis: Resistance, Activism, and the Rhetorics of Museum Display”

- Nicole Maurantonio, University of Richmond

“Reverie in Richmond: Women Artists Reimagine Virginia’s Past”

- Paige Sellars, Virginia Museum of History and Culture

“Picturing Wartime Virginia: Visual Culture of the Civil War Soldier”

- James Brookes, Virginia Museum of History and Culture

11:45 to 1:15 pm: Lunch Break

Boxed lunches available for registered attendees

1:30 to 3:00 pm: Session VII

Panel 25: Community Stories: Virginia in Microhistory

Moderator: Phillip Hamilton, Christopher Newport University

“Displaced but not Forgotten: Translocal Citizenship and the Significance of Community Ties in the Green Valley neighborhood of Arlington, Virginia”

- Delario A. Lindsey, Marymount University

“Old Commonwealth, New Communities: A Look at the Virginia Piedmont’s Small-Town Jewish Experience”

- Matthew S. Gottlieb, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

“‘Registered and numbered in a book . . .’: the Rediscovered Early Register of Free Blacks for Orange County, Virginia and Related Research on the Regional Antebellum Free Black Community”

- Ann L. Miller, Virginia Transportation Research Council

“Local Histories & Social Network Analysis in Virginian Cities & Counties”

- Lynn Rainville, Historic Consultant

Panel 26: The American Dream: Land in Early Virginia

Moderator: Jon Kukla, Richmond, Virginia

“Washington's Sheepshead: Revolutionary Virginia Leaders and the Biological Environment of the Chesapeake Estuary”

- Albert H. Tillson, Jr., University of Tampa, Emeritus

“Red Land, Black Labor, White Colleges: Virginia, 1850s–1950s”

- Peter Wallenstein, Virginia Tech

“The White Male Land Ownership Question in Antebellum Virginia”

- John J. Zaborney, University of Maine at Presque Isle

Panel 27: Yearning to be Free: Slavery and Abolition in Antebellum Virginia

Moderator: Joe Stinnett, retired editor, The Roanoke Times and the Lynchburg News & Advance

“Black legal culture in slavery in Antebellum Virginia”

- David Lacy, University of Toledo

“Virginians in Liberia”

- Deborah A. Lee, Independent Scholar

“‘The Last Sayings of Sarah Terrell’ and Its Impact on Revolutionary-era Quaker Abolitionism in Virginia”

- Rebecca Pickard, South River Quaker Meeting House and Burial Ground Committee

“Interpreting the Architecture for Enslaved Households in Virginia: Period Evidence and Modern Preservation Issues”

- Douglas W. Sanford, Virginia Slave Housing Project

Panel 28: Virginia in Three Centuries: Complicating Historical Notions of Race across Time and Space

Moderator: Steven Harris-Scott, George Mason University

“East Indians and Mobility in Virginia, 1635-1750”

- Jason R. Sellers, University of Mary Washington

“The Honesty Family of Northern Virginia, 1740s-1900s”

- Heather K. Bollinger, Tudor Place

“The Creation of NOVA and Black Commuters from Falls Church, Virginia, 1890s-1950s”

- Krystyn R. Moon, University of Mary Washington