**Bound/Unbound**: Contemporary Black Marriage in Research, Policy, and Practice

Center for Africana Studies at The Johns Hopkins University and the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University

The Motor House and Red Emma’s Bookstore Coffeehouse
Baltimore, Maryland
March 8-9, 2018

**Organizers**
Katrina Bell McDonald (Center for Africana Studies/Department of Sociology, JHU)
Tera R. Jordan (Human Development and Family Studies, ISU)
Jessica Marie Johnson (Center for Africana Studies/Department History, JHU)

**Preliminary Symposium Schedule**

**Description:**
The purpose of this symposium is to explore contemporary Black marriage across a wide range of legal, political, and cultural tensions and social, economic, cultural, and historical influences. It convenes an interdisciplinary group of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers who will address the current status of Black intimate relationships in all of its forms and orientations--relationships bound and unbound, in slavery and freedom, from “traditional” to “queer.” Presentations will encompass a wide scope of theoretical and political perspectives and are designed to generate exciting, open exchanges about the limits of traditional theorizing about Black families. Workshops on seeking policy solutions and communicating our concerns through the media will also be offered. Our featured guest will be Dr. Tera W. Hunter of Princeton University, author of *Bound in Wedlock: Slave and Free Black Marriage in the Nineteenth Century*. Dr. Katrina Bell McDonald’s new book, *Marriage in Black: The Pursuit of Married Life among American-born and Immigrant Blacks* is due out early March.

**Thursday, March 8**
Motor House Theater

8:00am - 3:00pm: Check-In
pre-registration required

8:30am - 8:45am: Welcome
Katrina Bell McDonald, Tera Jordan, Jessica Marie Johnson,
Provost Sunil Kumar

8:45am - 9:30am: Opening Keynote
Alicia Sanchez Gill, Director, YWCA

9:30am -11:30am: Panel I. Black Families, Black Kinship
Jeffrey Shears, North Carolina A&T State University &
The University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Caitlin Cross-Barnet, George Mason University
Mignon Moore, Barnard College

**Discussants**
M. Belinda Tucker, University of California, Los Angeles
Bianca Laureano, Women of Color Sexual Health Network
11:30am - 1:00pm: Lunch
Symposium participants see conference packet for nearby locations
Symposium presenters will convene for a private lunch.

1:00pm - 3:00pm: Panel II. Methods and Data
Angela Hattery, George Mason University
Earl Smith, Wake Forest University
Chalandra Bryant, University of Georgia & National Science Foundation
Marlo David, Purdue University

Discussants
Tera Jordan, ISU
Katrina Bell McDonald, JHU

3:00pm - 5:00pm: Panel III. Social Policy
Mansa Bilal Mark King, Morehouse College

Discussants
Andrew Cherlin, JHU
Diann Dawson, Director of Strengthening Families, Global Peace Foundation (Formerly of the Administration for Children and Families)

5:00pm - 7:00pm: Reception/Book Sales and Signing
The Motor House

Friday, March 9
The Motor House

8:00am - 1:30pm: Check-In
pre-registration required

8:30am - 8:45am: Symposium Reflections
Katrina Bell McDonald, Tera Jordan, Jessica Marie Johnson

9:00am - 11:30am: Concurrent Sessions

Session I. Developing Op-ed Pieces
Supporting Black Marriage Scholarship and Policy
Andrew Cherlin, JHU
Lester Spence, JHU

Session II. Collaborative Workshop on Developing Course Syllabi on Black Marriage and Relationships
pre-registration required
Chalandra Bryant, University of Georgia & National Science Foundation
Antoinette Landor, University of Missouri

11:30am - 1:30pm: Session III. “Love and Marriage in Slavery’s Archive: A Workshop with Tera W. Hunter”
cosponsored by the Sex and Slavery Lab
graduate students only, pre-registration required

11:30am - 1:30pm: Lunch Break
For those not attending Session III. See conference packet for nearby eating establishments
1:30pm - 3:00pm: View the film “Step” and discussion

The senior year of a girls’ high school step team in inner-city Baltimore is documented, as they try to become the first in their families to attend college. The girls strive to make their dancing a success against the backdrop of social unrest.

Director: Amanda Lipitz
Cast: Cori Grainger (JHU), Paula Dofat, Tayla Solomon
Executive Producers: Paul Allen, Scott Rudin, Regina K. Scully, more
Music composed by: Raphael Saadiq, Laura Karpman

6:00pm – 8:00pm: Session IV, Special Roundtable Discussion
(Red Emma’s)

Featuring Tera W. Hunter’s

*Bound in Wedlock: Slave and Free Black Marriage in the Nineteenth Century*

Jessica Marie Johnson, Moderator, JHU
Vanessa Holden, University of Kentucky
Martha S. Jones, JHU
Katrina Bell McDonald, JHU
Shani Mott, JHU
Christina Thomas, JHU