

TRINITY SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE



ABOUT TSJI

The Trinity Social Justice Initiative (TSJI) curates conversations in the public humanities. Through public lectures and conversations, a monthly webinar series, research clusters, conferences, and the creation of digital archives, we seek to contribute to public and scholarly debates about struggles for social justice in the United States and the world. We work in partnership with Prof. Davarian Baldwin's Smart Cities Lab and alongside other groups on campus and in the community.



Participants of Education Must Be Defended, a two-day workshop, which included: Dansowaa Adu, Jordan T. Camp, Shaznene Hussain, Davarian L. Baldwin, Ujju Aggarwal, Christina Heatherton, Danyal Kade Doyle Griffiths Dingani, Felicia Denaud, Dean John Selders, Anthony Bogues, and Anthony Rosado.



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Cover image: Thulani Davis (right) interviewed by Jordan T. Camp (left) for *Conjuncture*, Season 2, Episode 4, "The Emancipation Circuit" which aired December 19, 2022.

Top: Felicia Denaud (University of Cincinnati) at Education Must Be Defended, a TSJI public event in March 2023.

Middle: Prof. Diana Aldrete (Trinity), member of the TSJI Entangled Histories Research Cluster with student-artist Tiana Sharpe (Trinity class of '23).

Bottom: Trinity students at puzzle night, a celebration of The World of the Harlem Renaissance, jigsaw puzzle with authoritative text by Davarian Baldwin (Trinity).

FROM THE DIRECTORS

The second year of the Trinity Social Justice Initiative (TSJI) was a big one. We continued to center student research, engaged pedagogy, and innovative teaching. A few highlights:

- From our workshop, "**Education Must Be Defended**," co-organized with Brown University's Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and Davarian Baldwin's Smart Cities Lab, to the conference, "**Researching Dark Money in Higher Education**," organized with Trinity Political Science professor Isaac Kamola, we developed dialogues with thinkers, teachers, and researchers invested in advancing democracy in higher education.
- The second season of our web series/ podcast **Conjuncture** situated this mission within the long history of freedom struggles. Guests like Thulani Davis, Mike Davis, and Robin D. G. Kelley, all helped us better understand the politics and histories of our current moment.
- We developed a new research cluster on **Abolitionist Accompaniment** alongside scholars and organizers working to confront the prison industrial complex nationally.
- We workshopped manuscripts on topics such as racist criminalization in Trinidad and fascism in Chicago, as well as George Lipsitz and George Hightower's ***The Danger Zone is Everywhere: How Housing Discrimination Steals Wealth and Harms Health***.
- In Fall 2023, we are pleased to welcome Professor **Channon Miller** as the inaugural **TSJI Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow**. She will also join us as a newly appointed Assistant Professor of American Studies and History. Stay tuned for details about her public lecture.

We look forward to future collaborations as we continue curating conversations, creating new curricula, and producing engaged scholarship adequate to meet the challenges of the moment.

Sincerely,

Christina Heatherton, Co-Director and Elting Associate Professor of American Studies and Human Rights, Trinity College

Jordan T. Camp, Co-Director and Associate Professor of American Studies, Trinity College



RESEARCH CLUSTERS

TSJI organizes its work through a series of interdisciplinary research clusters run by faculty, staff, and students across campus addressing a wide range of issues.

ENTANGLED HISTORIES

This cluster interrogates the historical relationships between racism, colonialism, capitalism, and Indigeneity. Participants include junior and senior scholars who workshop their research-in-progress together and also discuss publication strategies.

STUDENT RUN RESEARCH CLUSTER

Organized and run by Trinity students, this cluster features research on topics of their choosing. Previous years have featured research about structural racism and Trinity's campus.

EDUCATION MUST BE DEFENDED

Led by Political Science professor, Isaac Kamola, this cluster investigates the influence of far right funding on higher education. This year featured a conference with leading researchers.

HIDDEN BLACK CONNECTICUT

While New England prides itself on a prestigious abolitionist history, many of Connecticut's local Black leaders and heroes remain largely unknown. This cluster, led by Dean John Selders, guides students in researching overlooked figures and histories in local archives.

ABOLITIONIST ACCOMPANIMENT

This new cluster with national partners considers how scholars, organizers, and artists can accompany each other towards abolitionist goals in confronting the prison industrial complex.



CONJUNCTURE

A web series and podcast

Conjunction is a web series and podcast curated and co-produced by **Jordan T. Camp** and **Christina Heatheron** for the Trinity Social Justice Initiative since 2021. It features interviews with activists, artists, scholars, and public intellectuals. Taking its title from Antonio Gramsci and Stuart Hall’s conceptualization, it highlights intellectual work engaged in struggles over the meaning and memory of particular historical moments. Amidst a global crisis of hegemony, this web series curates conversations about the burning questions of the conjuncture.

Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, and YouTube.
Follow the podcast on Twitter at @Conjunctionpod.



**THE CHALLENGE OF
TELLING A STORY ABOUT
REVOLUTION IS
INTRODUCING PEOPLE
TO A HISTORY THEY
THINK THEY ALREADY
KNOW.**

Christina Heatherton
Conjuncture

S2 Ep2: Making Internationalism

CONJUNCTURE SEASON 2



S2 Ep 1: Against Pessimism

August 22, 2022

Jordan T. Camp speaks with historian **Robin D. G. Kelley** (UCLA) about the 20th anniversary edition of his book, *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination* (Beacon, 2022), the history of racial capitalism, the roots of fascism, and the freedom dreams of social movements.



S2 Ep 2: Making Internationalism

October 3, 2022

Jordan T. Camp speaks with **Christina Heatherton** about her new book *Arise! Global Radicalism in the Era of the Mexican Revolution* (UC Press, 2022), histories from below, and the making of internationalism in the Mexican Revolution.



S2 Ep 3: Manufacturing a Campus Culture War

October 3, 2022

Christina Heatherton speaks with **Isaac Kamola** (Trinity) about his new book *Free Speech and Koch Money: Manufacturing a Campus Culture War* (Pluto, 2021), the resurgence of the far right, and intellectual work in the current conjuncture.



S2 Ep 4: The Emancipation Circuit

December 19, 2022

Jordan T. Camp speaks with **Thulani Davis** (UW-Madison) about her new book, *The Emancipation Circuit: Black Activism Forging a Culture of Freedom* (Duke, 2022), Black political thought, and the unfinished business of freedom struggles.



S2 Ep 5: The Carceral Conjuncture in Central Appalachia

January 26, 2023

Christina Heatherton speaks with **Judah Schept** (Eastern Kentucky University) about his new book, *Coal, Cages, Crisis: The Rise of the Prison Economy in Central Appalachia* (NYU 2022), ecological disaster, and the renewed struggle against the building of a federal prison in Letcher County, KY.



S2 Ep 6: Mike Davis on American Nationalism

April 30, 2023

For this special May Day episode, we aired one of **Mike Davis**'s final public talks, a reading from his unfinished manuscript, *Star Spangled Leviathan: An Economic History of American Nationalism*. Originally recorded May 1, 2022, Mike had dedicated the talk to his friend, the late Trinity professor, Fred Pfeil.



S2 Ep 7: Housing Struggles in Post-Apartheid South Africa

June 30, 2023

Jordan T. Camp speaks with **Zachary Levenson** (Florida Int'l University) about his new book, *Delivery as Dispossession: Land Occupation and Eviction in the Post-Apartheid City* (Oxford, 2022) and displacement in the conjuncture.



A MOVEMENT THAT IS GOING TO MOBILIZE PEOPLE HAS TO HAVE A THEORY OF THE POLITICAL THAT LAYS OUT THE VISION OF WHERE THEY WANT TO GO.

Thulani Davis
Conjuncture
S2 Ep4: The Emancipation Circuit



PUBLIC EVENTS

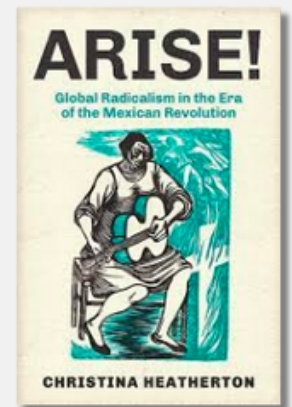
ARISE!

Lunch seminar

November 18, 2022

TSJI and the Smart Cities Lab co-hosted a morning seminar on **Christina Heatherton's** new book *Arise! Global Radicalism in the Era of the Mexican Revolution* (UV Press, 2022). Participants included Trinity College faculty, staff, and students. Moderated by **Davarian Baldwin** (Trinity).

Co-hosted by Smart Cities Lab.



ARISE! GLOBAL RADICALISM IN THE ERA OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION - SALON

Evening panel discussion

November 18, 2022



A salon in celebration of the new book by **Christina Heatherton** (Trinity), with **Justin Akers Chacón** (San Diego City College), **Dayo Gore** (Georgetown), and **A. Naomi Paik** (University of Illinois-Chicago), moderated by **Juliet Nebolon** (Trinity) and introduced by **Davarian Baldwin** (Trinity).

Co-hosted by American Studies, Human Rights, and the Smart Cities Lab.



EDUCATION MUST BE DEFENDED

Two-day workshop

March 3-4, 2023

This workshop united educators to think about holding critical space for research and pedagogy amidst multiple colliding crises. Participants: **Ujju Aggarwal** (New School), **Davarian Baldwin** (Trinity), **Anthony Bogues** (Brown), **Jordan T. Camp** (Trinity), **Robert Cotto, Jr.** (Trinity), **Felicia Denaud** (University of Cincinnati), **Danyal Kade Doyle Griffiths Dingani** (Brooklyn College), and **Christina Heatherton** (Trinity).

Co-organized by TSJI, Smart Cities Lab, and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Society, Brown University.

HISTORY, DEMOCRACY, AND THE VOCATION OF THE BLACK INTELLECTUAL: CHALLENGES FOR OUR TIMES

Keynote lecture

March 3, 2023

Public Keynote for Education Must Be Defended by **Anthony Bogues**, Asa Messer Professor of Humanities and Critical Theory, Director of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University.



History, Democracy, and the Vocation of the Black Intellectual: Challenges for our Times

**Education Must Be Defended
Keynote Lecture
by Anthony Bogues**

**Friday, March 3, 2023
4-6:30 p.m.
In person and online**

bit.ly/educationmustbedefended

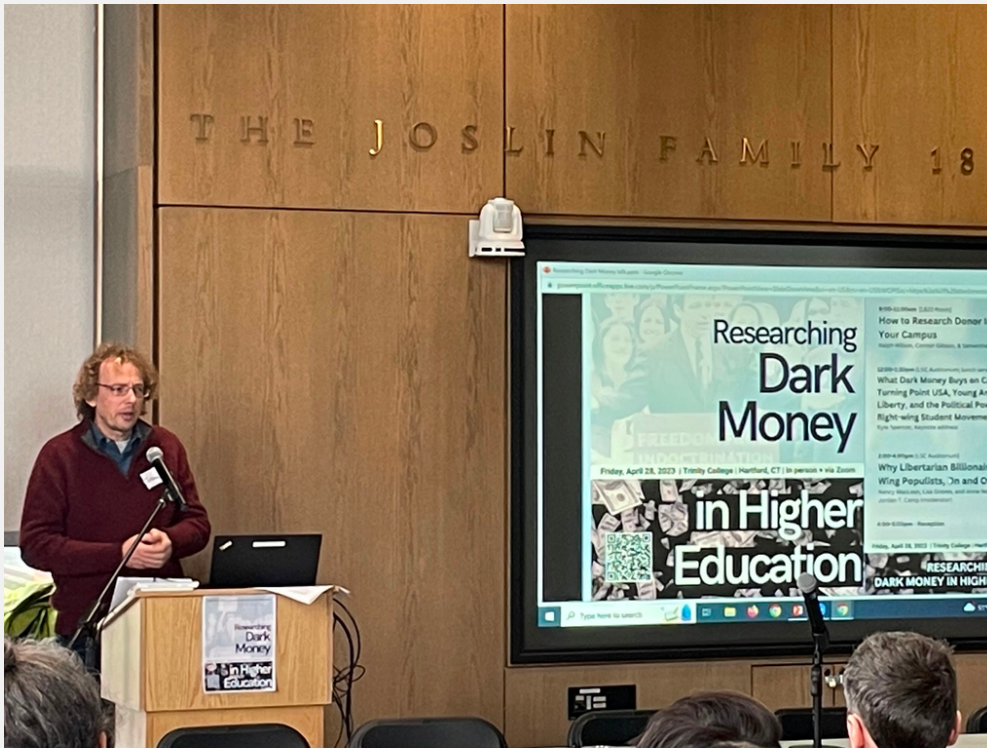
Presented by the Trinity Social Justice Initiative, the Smart Cities Lab, Trinity College, and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University



RESEARCHING DARK MONEY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

A one day conference

April 28, 2023

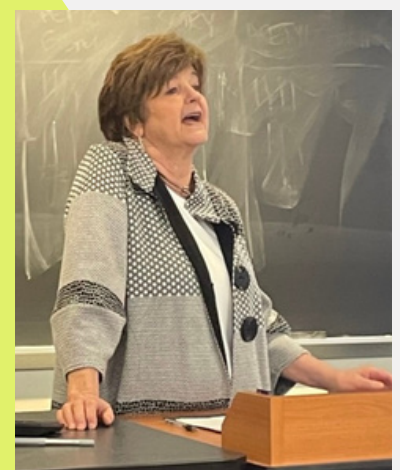


Above: Isaac Kamola offering introductory remarks

This conference featured leading scholars, journalists, researchers, and advocates at the forefront of researching the influence of unregulated dark money in higher education.

Participants included: **Connor Gibson** (Grassrootbeer Investigations), **Lisa Graves** (True North Research), **Isaac Kamola** (Trinity), **Nancy MacLean** (Duke), **Anne Nelson** (journalist), **Samantha Parsons** (UnKoch My Campus), **Kyle Spencer** (journalist), and **Ralph Wilson** (UnKoch My Campus), and **Jordan T. Camp** (Trinity).

Co-hosted by the Department of Political Science and TSJI.



From top right: Connor Gibson, Lisa Graves, Kyle Spencer, and Nancy MacLean



Leniqueca A. Welcome, "Over-Exposed," digital collage (2020)

MANUSCRIPT WORKSHOPS

The Danger Zone is Everywhere: How Housing Discrimination Steals Wealth and Harms Health

George Hightower (UC San Diego) and **George Lipsitz** (UC Santa Barbara),
December 3, 2022

With participants **Lundy Braun** (Brown), **Jasmine Kelekay** (UC Berkeley),
Nan Enstad (University of Wisconsin, Madison), **Johari Jabir** (University of
Illinois, Chicago), and **Annie Hikido** (Colby College).

Land of Darkness: Chicago and the Making of Race in Modern America

Davarian Baldwin (Trinity College), February 17, 2023

With participants **Jordan T. Camp**, **Christina Heatherton**, **Mary McNeil**
(Tufts), and **Leniqueca A. Welcome** (George Washington University) from
the TSJI Entangled Histories Research Cluster.

Come Out of this World: Beyond Criminalization to Where Life is Precious

Leniqueca A. Welcome (George Washington University), March 31, 2023

With participants **Jordan T. Camp** and **Christina Heatherton** from the TSJI
Entangled Histories Research Cluster.



Zoom workshop for "The Danger Zone is Everywhere."

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

DISMANTLING RACIAL CAPITALISM

Inaugural convening at NYU Law School
December 1, 2022

Opening plenary with **DaMareo Cooper** (Center for Popular Democracy), **Christina Heatherton** (Trinity), and **Lester Spence** (Johns Hopkins), moderated by **Joo-Hyun Kang** (The Action Lab). Closing plenary with **Jordan T. Camp** (Trinity), **NTanya Lee** (LeftRoots), and **Nara Roberta Silva** (Brooklyn Institute for Social Research), moderated by **John Whitlow** (CUNY Law School).

RACISM, LABOR, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

New Britain, CT
January 26, 2023

Davarian Baldwin (Trinity), **Christina Heatherton** (Trinity), and **John Selders** (Trinity) spoke with members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 4 about structural racism, histories of resistance, and the power of organized labor.

INTERPRETING THE CONJUNCTURE

University of Southern California
February 16, 2023

Since the economic crisis of 2008, **Jordan T. Camp** and **Christina Heatherton** have worked together alongside social justice movements to develop theoretically driven interventions. Their collaborations have addressed the conjoined crises of policing, housing, racism, and capitalism. In conversation with **Neetu Khanna** (USC), they will discuss how the process of interpreting the conjuncture has shaped their respective scholarly works.



USC AMERICAN STUDIES & ETHNICITY
INVITES YOU

interpreting the conjunction

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY
16TH, 2023
2-4 PM
KAP 445

Christina Heatherton

Elting Associate Professor of American Studies & Human Rights at Trinity College, and author of *Arise! Global Radicalism in the Era of the Mexican Revolution*



Jordan T. Camp

Assistant Professor of American Studies at Trinity College, and author of *Incarcerating the Crisis: Freedom Struggles and the Rise of the Neoliberal State*



RSVP below!



SCAN ME

<https://usc.zoom.us/j/>

in conversation with
Neetu Khanna

Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, USC

TSJI/ FORD POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Channon Miller

We are pleased to welcome Professor **Channon Miller** as the inaugural Ford Postdoctoral Fellow for the Trinity Social Justice Initiative beginning in Fall 2023. She will also be joining the faculty in American Studies and History at Trinity College. Born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut, Prof. Miller received her B.A. in American Studies from Trinity College in 2011. As she pursued her Ph.D. in American Studies at Boston University, with a focus on African American women's history, she developed a research project with a relational focus grounded in the city that raised her. During her postdoctoral fellowship at TSJI, she will be revising her manuscript, "Migrant Black Mothers: Intersecting Burdens, Resistance, and the Power of Cross-Ethnic Ties," for publication (under contract, Columbia University Press), deliver a public lecture, and participate in TSJI activities.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023-2024



In 2023-24, TSJI will be working on new gatherings, new research clusters, and new conversations. Season 3 of **Conjuncture** will begin with an interview with award-winning musician and singer-songwriter **Leyla McCalla**. Stay tuned...



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