

HISTORICIZING HERITAGE

A FOLGER INSTITUTE SCHOLARLY PROGRAM

THURSDAY 5/26 - SATURDAY 5/28
WVU DOWNTOWN CAMPUS
COLSON HALL, ROOM 130

How are familial, ethnic, and regional heritages constructed, and what affects and politics are mobilized in the processes?

What do historical narratives and reenactments — be they factual, counterfactual, utopian, or all three — allow individuals and communities to reveal, desire, perpetuate, or protest? Participants in this weekend workshop will consider some effects of historicism by exploring public, performative, and literary examples of heritage-making from both modern and premodern sources. Those traveling to Morgantown, West Virginia will be well situated to consider the ardor for, and pursue alternatives to, heritages conceived as purity, insularity, or sanctification of an antiquity that never existed.

Reductive or fanciful characterizations of Appalachia often equate it with an antiquated, even premodern, past. The state of West Virginia, like the Appalachian region it centers, is a frequent site of discourses of heritage that promote both solidarity and isolationism, both innovation and obsolescence. While gathered in this contact zone of contradictory legacies, workshop participants will contribute to an open-access, multidisciplinary “How to do things with heritage” syllabus, and session leaders will share and encourage research on the ways primary source material can be enfolded into heritage-making.

Directors:
Carolyn
Dinshaw
&
Christine
Hoffmann

Sponsors:



All program participants are invited to adopt for the workshop a single artefact of intangible cultural heritage. (As defined by UNESCO, such an artefact might be an object, instrument or craft; it might be a word, a ritual, a place, a practice, a thought.) It may emerge from your own research; it need not pertain to Appalachia directly. Please bring this artefact to the workshop -- in representation or 3D, or however you see fit.

HERITAGE: TANGIBLE & INTANGIBLE

Thursday, 5/26

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5:00 - 7:00 pm

Plenary Session

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Welcome from Kathleen Lynch,
Executive Director, Folger Library

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Opening remarks: Carolyn
Dinshaw, Christine Hoffmann

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Panel: Kimberly Borchard
(Randolph Macon), Mike Costello
(Lost Creek Farm), Lowell Duckert
(UDelaware), Mary Louise Pratt
(NYU)

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7:30 to 9:30 pm

Dinner at Flour & Feed (156 Clay
Street, Morgantown)

HERITAGE: FAMILIES, MUSEUMS & OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Friday, 5/27

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9:30 - 11:30 am

Race, Racialization & Writing

Panel: Matthieu Chapman (SUNY New Paltz),
Amy Alvarez (WVU), Rosemary Hathaway (WVU)

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Lunch on your own

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1:30 - 3:00 pm

Property & Affect

Panel: Kathleen Stewart (UTexas), Jane Anderson
(NYU), Beth Toren (WVU)

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3:30 - 5:30 pm

Clio walking tour, including Morgantown
History Museum

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Dinner on your own

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7:30 - 9:00 pm

A Conversation on Appalachian Heritage
Narratives with Ann Pancake (WVU) and Travis
Stimeling (WVU)

HERITAGE: CHOSEN AND UNCHOSEN

Saturday, 5/28

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9:30 - 10:00 am

Meet in WV Regional History
Center (downtown library, sixth
floor)

Feat: Stewart Plein (WVU)

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10:15 am (back in Colson 130)

Feat: Jason Cohen (Hanover
Research)

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Breakout Groups
Syllabus Building + Heritage Site
Design

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11:30ish

Coffee Break

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12:00 pm

What's Next?