Section Three: Workshop Faculty

Tim Crimmins, Project Director
Dr. Timothy J. Crimmins is Professor of History at Georgia State University, where he has served on the faculty since 1972. He has taught in the public schools of Baltimore, Maryland. He teaches courses on historic preservation and urban history, which use historic sites to teach history. He has been co-lead historian (with Glenn Eskew) for two Teaching American History Grants—Fulton County Schools and Cobb County Schools (2009-14). His research on Atlanta history has appeared in exhibits at the Atlanta History Center, in an eight-part series on Atlanta Public Television (1991-3), and in The New Georgia Guide and Stadt Bauwelt (1996) and Urban Wildlife (1998). His coauthored book, Democracy Restored: A History of the Georgia Capitol, (University of Georgia Press, 2007) tells the story of segregation and integration. With an NEH grant he has produced the digital “Georgia Capitol Tour” (2012), a free download from iTunes. He has directed the Following the Color Line Workshops in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012. Dr. Crimmins will serve as lecturer and site guide, using his knowledge of landmark sites in Atlanta and his experience in using historic places to illuminate the past.

Glenn Eskew
Dr. Glenn T. Eskew, Professor of History at Georgia State University, has written extensively on southern race relations since the civil war. In addition to his study But For Birmingham: The Local and National Movements in the Civil Rights Struggle, Eskew has published two edited volumes on southern history, essays in other collected works, and articles in The Journal of Southern History and The Historian. His most recent work is a biography, Johnny Mercer: Southern Songwriter for the World (University of Georgia Press, 2014). Dr. Eskew has lectured in the NEH-funded Stony the Road We Trod workshop in Birmingham. Dr. Eskew will use the works of Fitzhugh Brundage and David Blight to set the intellectual framework for the workshops and then use his research to examine how race relations are interpreted in history and memory through civil rights memorials. He will also lead discussions of the writings of Joel Chandler Harris, Flannery O’Conner, and Tom Wolfe.
Akinyele Umoja

Akinyele Umoja is Associate Professor and Chair of African-American Studies at Georgia State University. Dr. Umoja has taught in the Atlanta Public Schools. He teaches courses related to the history of people of African descent in Georgia, the civil rights movement and other African American political and social movements. He has written *We Will Shoot Back: Armed Resistance in the Mississippi Freedom Movement* (NYU Press, 2013). Umoja articles have appeared in the *Journal of Black Studies, New Political Science, Radical History Review* and *Socialism and Democracy*. Dr. Umoja will deliver lectures on W. E. B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and will participate in all workshop sessions.

Martha Battle

Teacher Facilitator/Social Studies Lesson Plan Coordinator

Martha Battle has thirty-three years as a classroom teacher and twenty-seven years as division chairman with supervisory responsibility of up to fifteen social studies teachers. As Teaching American History Grant coordinator for three years, Mrs. Battle oversaw professional development for thirty U.S. History teachers, and she coordinated with professors from Georgia State University establishing symposiums and related travel experiences. Teaching Advanced Placement courses in U.S. History and participating as a faculty consult with the Educational Testing Service as a reader, table leader and exam leader contributed to her leadership and curriculum development skills. Mrs. Battle has served as a consultant to local and state curriculum and testing initiatives and participated as a Library of Congress American Memory fellow.
The arc of Tomiko Brown-Nagin’s career as a scholar began as a young girl listening to her father’s stories about attending the segregated schools of Edgefield County, South Carolina, the home of Strom Thurmond and a host of other prominent southern politicians who at the time were committed to segregation. Her father’s experiences stirred in her a lifelong interest in the issues of education, equality, and race, and accounts for her engagement with them as a lawyer and a professor.

Brown-Nagin stayed true to that early vision. Now Daniel P.S. Paul Professor of Constitutional Law at Harvard University, Brown-Nagin took a doctorate in history from Duke and a law degree from Yale, where she was an editor of the Yale Law Journal. Brown-Nagin is an award-winning legal historian and expert in constitutional law and education law and policy. Her 2011 book, *Courage to Dissent: Atlanta and the Long History of the Civil Rights Movement* (Oxford), won the Bancroft Prize in US History, the highest honor awarded annually to a work in the field of history. As a self-described “child of Brown,” who fully appreciates its emblematic importance to the civil rights movement, she, too, chooses to honor it by bringing a critical perspective to the complex social and political environment surrounding that landmark decision and the NAACP’s entire campaign for civil rights. Her keynote lecture examining the long history of the civil rights movement in Atlanta will conclude the first workshop and begin the second.

Dr. Beverly Sheftall is founding director of the Women’s Research and Resource Center (since 1981) and Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women’s Studies at Spelman College. She co-edited *Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature* and authored *Daughters of Sorrow: Attitudes toward Black Women, 1880-1920*. She co-authored with Johnnetta Betsch Cole, *Gender
Talk: The Struggle for Equality in African American Communities which was published by Random House in February 2003. She is the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, among them a National Kellogg Fellowship and a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for dissertations in Women’s Studies. Professor Sheftall will address the role of women in the civil rights movement.

Dr. Wendy Venet

Dr. Wendy Venet is Professor of history at Georgia State University. Professor Venet specializes in nineteenth century U.S. history. Her most recent publication is A Changing Wind: Commerce and Conflict in Civil War Atlanta (Yale University Press, 2014). She has also produced the edited work, Sam Richards’s Civil War Diary: A Chronicle of the Atlanta Home Front (2009). She is the author of two monographs. A Strong-Minded Woman: The Life of Mary Livermore was published in 2005 and Neither Ballots nor Bullets: Women Abolitionists and the Civil War in 1991. She is co-editor of two collections, Union in Crisis (2003) and Midwestern Women: Work, Community, and Leadership at the Crossroads (1997). As an Advisory Board member, she helped to conceptualize exhibits for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Professor Venet will detail the workings of the slave economy in Atlanta before the Civil War and the evolving etiquette of race relations in the city in its aftermath.