

# Legacies of American Slavery

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM  
April 6, 2022

## Legacies of Slavery: Past, Present & Future

Presented by



The Council of  
Independent Colleges

in collaboration with

Yale MACMILLAN CENTER

*Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study  
of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition*

with generous support from



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*Any views, findings, conclusions, or  
recommendations expressed in this  
symposium do not necessarily  
represent those of the NEH.*

## RECKONING SESSION #2

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# Reckoning in Classrooms and Communities



AUSTIN  
COLLEGE



Centenary  
COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA



HUSTON-TILLOTSON  
UNIVERSITY  
1875 AUSTIN, TEXAS

Legacies  
of American  
Slavery



The Council of  
Independent Colleges

# TODAY'S PRESENTERS

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Felix Harcourt

Assistant Professor of U.S. History,  
Austin College

Claire Wolnisty

Assistant Professor of U.S. History,  
Austin College

Chris Ciocchetti

Associate Professor of Philosophy,  
Centenary College of Louisiana

Bethany Hansen

Assistant Professor of Biology,  
Centenary College of Louisiana

Theodore S. Francis

Assistant Professor of History,  
Huston-Tillotson University

Amanda M. Masino

Associate Professor of Biology,  
Huston-Tillotson University

Christopher Sindt

Provost, Lewis University

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# Legacies of Slavery: Race, health, and medicine

## *Reckoning in classrooms and communities*

- Shreveport, Louisiana; <600 students; PWI
- Overall goal: develop & revise curriculum so students encounter lessons on Legacies of Slavery repeatedly and in varied disciplines
- Philosophy and Biology departments
  - Biol/Phil 212: Bioethics
  - Biology: Health Disparities course

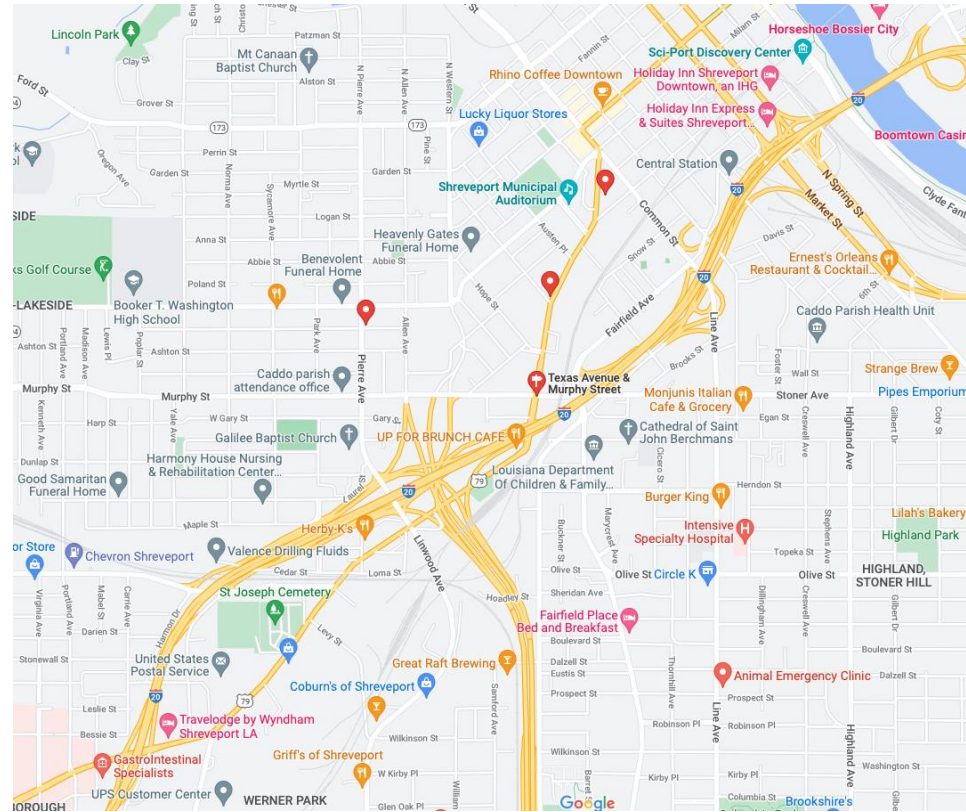
# The Bioethics Module

- Day One: First Attempt
- Day Two: Principles
- Day Three: Data
- Day Four: Visit MLK Health Center
- Day Five: Epistemic Justice
- Day Six: Turner Infirmary
- Day Seven: Radiolab: Playing God
- Day Eight: Repeat (and paper)



# Place-Based Learning

- Creating a Shreveport Timeline
- Using Locations
- Epistemic Injustice



# Lessons

- Abstract and Concrete
- Fewer Choices
- More explicit discussion of the virtues in conversations about race
- More focus on the concept of “White-Oriented Institutions”





# Course revision

## Intro Biology courses (101/202)

- Undergraduate assistants identifying areas where scientific accomplishments of people of color have been omitted



## Ecology; Conservation (upper-level courses)

- Added Environmental Justice lectures
- Fall 2021: Ecology students learned about and discussed Huston-Tillotson's 8th Building Green Justice Forum
- Future: additional Environmental Justice content & health content; partner with community organizations



# New course development

## Health Disparities

- Critical due to large number of students seeking health careers
- Literature & syllabus review complete
- Considerations: *introductory or upper-level course? Biology department or cross departmental?*



## Recent developments

- Decision: 300-level Biology course
- Tentative date (pending approval): Fall 2023
  - Aim to cross-list in new Kinesiology Department





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# Legacies of American Slavery at HT: Curriculum and Community

Theodore Francis, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of  
History

Amanda Masino, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Biology  
Chair of Natural Sciences

Archibald Vanderpuye, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice President  
of Academic Affairs



# Huston-Tillotson University

- Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in Austin, TX
- ~1100 students
  - 67% Black, 30% Hispanic
  - 45% first generation
  - 95% Federal Student Aid (73% Pell recipients)
- East Austin is a historically segregated, now gentrified area of Austin.





# Project Overview

Unifying Theme: How have the legacies of American slavery impacted and continue to impact the health of Austin's Black community?

Lenses: environmental justice; social determinants of health; health disparity

Project Arms:

- (1) Environmental justice and public health curriculum and programming
- (2) Historical investigation focused on Austin's Black community (health, resources)
- (3) Digitization of the HT archives





# Environmental Justice and Health

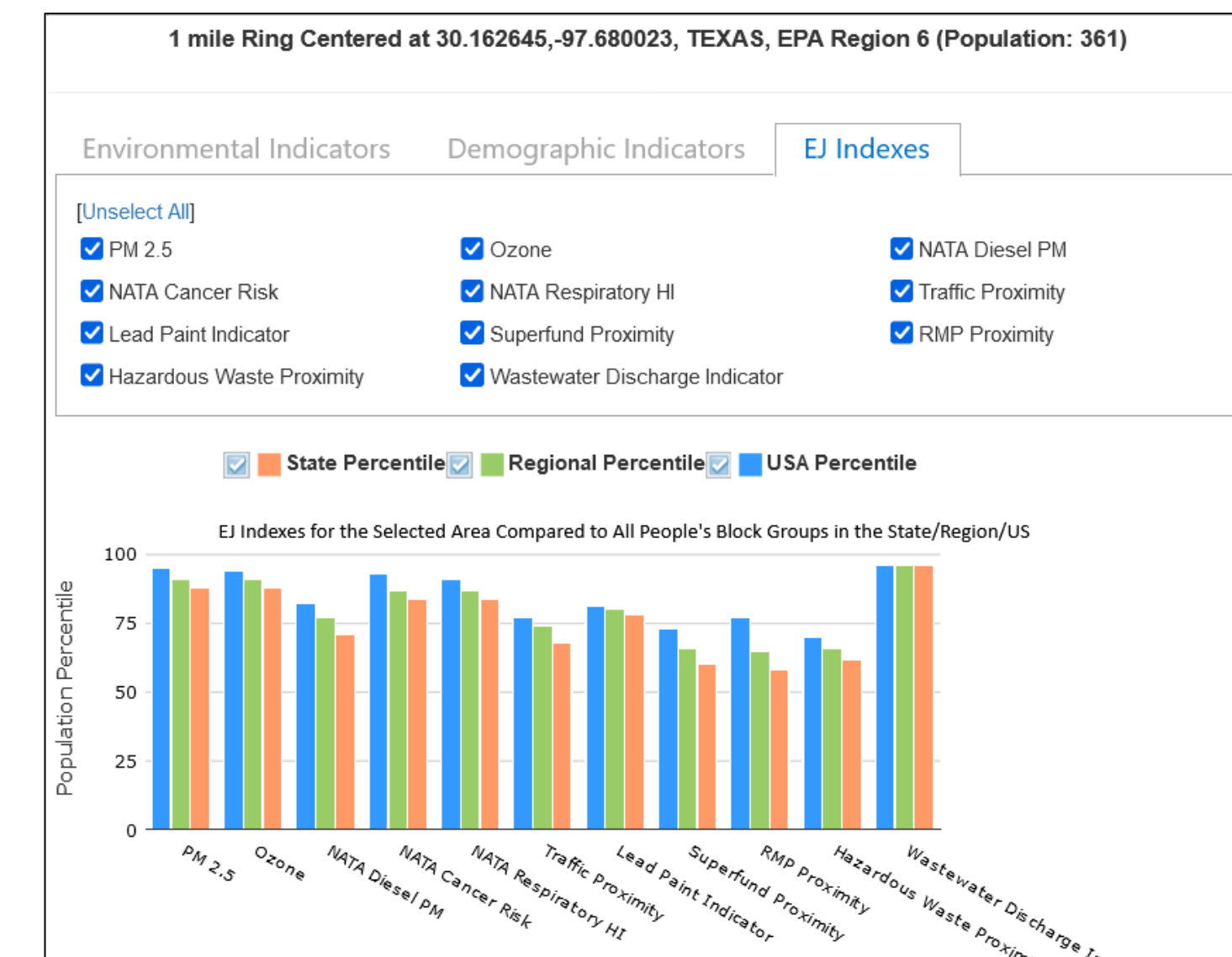
- Curriculum: “Introduction to Environmental Justice” course completed Fall 2021 and curriculum guide in progress.
- Interdisciplinary, team-taught course in the Environmental Justice major that fulfills both the writing intensive and diversity requirements within our core curriculum
- Students connect systemic and environmental racism (a legacy of slavery) to health disparities.
  - Case Studies: waste facility siting in Austin and Houston; air quality and health, lead exposure and violent crime
  - Learning project on food access in East Austin
  - Linked to a health equity speaker series focused on health equity this academic year

## EJSCREEN (RETRO VERSION)

FACILITY	NEIGHBORHOOD	TYPE LANDFILL/INCINERATOR	NEIGHBORHOOD ETHNICITY
FOURTH WARD	FOURTH WARD	BOTH	BLACK
HOLMES ROAD	SUNNYSIDE	BOTH	BLACK
REED ROAD	SUNNYSIDE	LANDFILL	BLACK
KIRKPATRICK	TRINITY GARDENS	LANDFILL	BLACK
WEST DONOVAN	ACRES HOMES	LANDFILL	BLACK
NORTHWEST	CARVERDALE	INCINERATOR	BLACK
PATTERSON STREET	COTTAGE GROVE	INCINERATOR	BLACK
KELLEY STREET	KASHMERE GARDENS	INCINERATOR	BLACK
NAVIGATION	SECOND WARD	INCINERATOR	HISPANIC
WESTPARK	LARCHMONT	INCINERATOR	WHITE



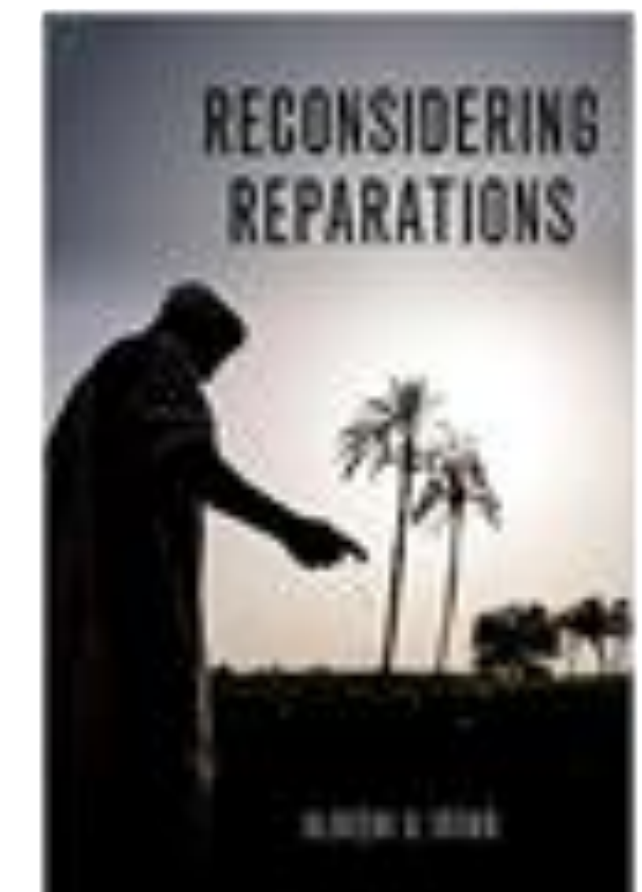
“82 percent of all solid waste disposed in Houston from the 1930s to 1978 was dumped in mostly black neighborhoods – even though blacks made up only 25 percent of Houston’s population” – **Robert Bullard**





# Campus -> Community Programming

- Building Green Justice Forum 2021 theme: “Repair, Regeneration, and Reparations”
  - Keynote by Olufemi Taiwo
  - Fully virtual event, over 200 attendees
  - Focused workshop on “Environmental Racism as a Legacy of American Slavery.”
- Carver Science Club seminar series
  - Health Equity Focus
  - Topics: Mental Health Disparities; Vaccine Equity; Equity, Cancer, and Community

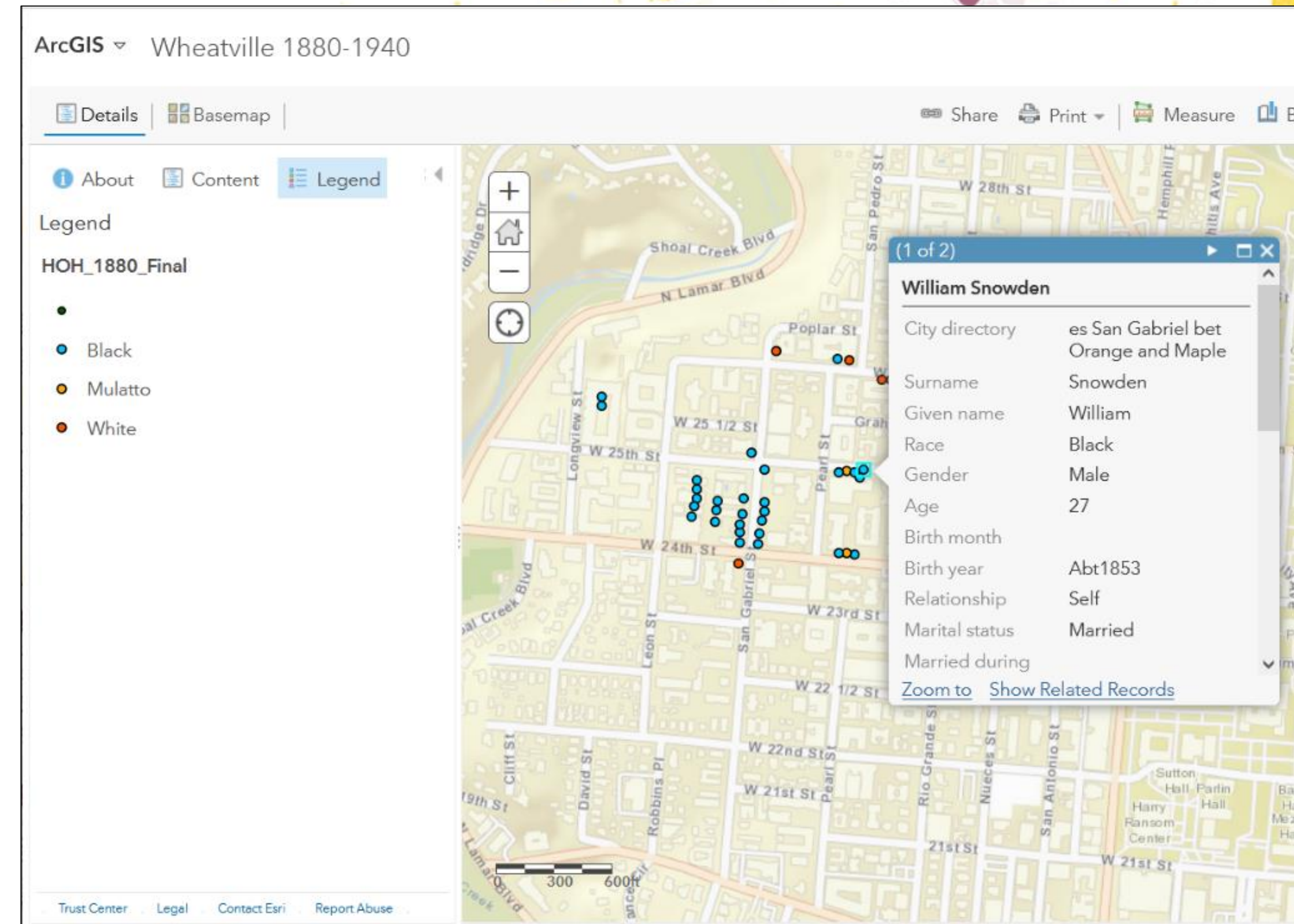


Keynote Presentation by  
Dr. Olufemi O. Taiwo, author of  
"Reconsidering Reparations"



# Historical Research I

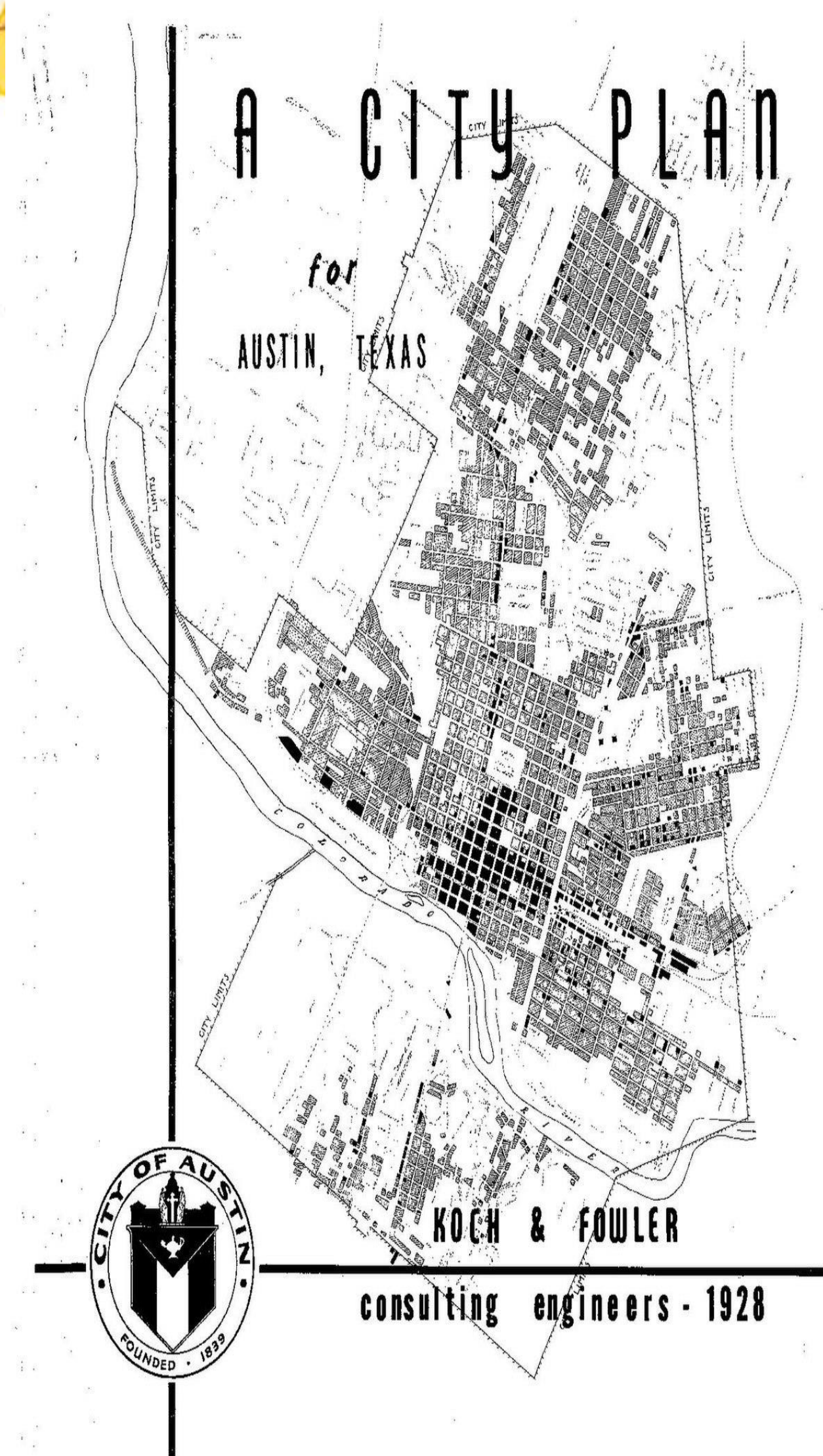
- Dr. Francis is collaborating with UT professor & Dean Dr. Ted Gordon and the City of Austin's Equity Office to research racist land grabs & land-loss by the City of Austin following the infamous 1928 city plan to segregate the city.
- An obvious legacy of racial inequity & the theft of Black property during the post-emancipation period mirrors the actual theft and possession of Black bodies during slavery.
- Aims:
  - Identify land owned/rented/occupied by Blacks in & around Austin using government census data both before and after 1928.
  - Calculate the material costs to Black Austinites in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
  - Connect to broader outcomes, including income and health.





# Historical Research II

- A joint UT/HT research team that includes HT students **Ebonee Hunt, Qyshawn Bradshaw & Devin Pineda** are currently participating in the following activities:
  - COLLECTION:** HT students are reviewing census data by race from the 1920 US government census and City of Austin state records
  - CLEANING:** address data of African American Austin residents is 'cleaned' i.e., handwritten address errors & misspellings are crosschecked & then entered into a database
  - MAPPING:** teams locate & mark African American addresses on historical maps of the city
  - VALUATION:** the 1920 value of African American properties are calculated using city tax records and insurance maps, etc.
  - VALUATION:** the 2022 value of lands formerly owned/occupied by African Americans is calculated using public city tax records and/or real estate
- **Research Outcomes** – online database & a public report of findings





- Dr. Masino's students are conducting research on health disparities and social determinants of health (Spring 2022)
- Community-engaged research course students will focus on health equity projects with local nonprofits (Spring 2022).
- Dr. Francis' historical research will continue, with student researchers involved in next stages (Spring 2022).
- Dr. Masino, Dr. Francis, and Professor Stewart will create a shareable resource for the introduction to environmental justice course (Spring-Summer 2022).
- Environmental Health course for Fall 2022 is in planning phase.

Thank you to our funders and partners!

Please reach out to us to get involved.

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# QUESTIONS?

## Contact Us

CIC:

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@CICnotes #CICLegacies

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Pexels / Arnab Das

Legacies  
of American  
Slavery

to all intents and purposes,  
Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude,  
the party shall have  
jurisdiction.



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# JOIN US FOR THE REMAINING SESSIONS

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## Tomorrow (Thursday, April 7)

2:30–3:45 p.m. EDT      Reckoning Session #3: *Voices of Change and Community*

**Lewis University** and **Meredith College**

4:00–5:15 p.m. EDT      *Teaching the Legacies of Slavery in the Face of Resistance*

**Kevin Gannon** (Grand View University) and **Sonya Douglass Horsford** (Teachers College, Columbia University)

Register for each session separately at [tinyurl.com/Legacies-of-Slavery](https://tinyurl.com/Legacies-of-Slavery)

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