



**2023 UK Appalachian Research Symposium
and Arts Showcase**

***“Race, Space, Place - Racial Capitalism &
Appalachia”***

Saturday, February 25th, 2023

8:00 AM – 5:15 PM (all times Eastern)

Jacobs Science Building, RM 321 (680 Rose Street, Lexington, KY 40506
& Virtually Via Zoom: (Registered participants will receive the Zoom link; Sessions 1, 2, 3, & 4 to be livestreamed; Dr. McCommons’ keynote will NOT be livestreamed or recorded)

Schedule of Events

8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Registration, Breakfast, and Poster Set-Up

9:00 AM to 9:30 AM

Welcome and Introductions

- Jed DeBruin, President, UK Graduate Appalachian Research Community (GARC)
- Kathryn Engle, Director, UK Appalachian Center
- Ann Kingsolver, Director, UK Appalachian Studies Program

9:45 AM to 11:00 AM

Session 1 – Representation

- "Multi-Racial Identity in Appalachia: The Melungeon Story," Meredith Ahmed, Warren Wilson College

- "Representation of Appalachia in Digital Library Spaces," Crissandra George, University of Kentucky
- "I don't think of it as being southern I think of it as Appalachian, because there is a difference!: Perceptions of linguistic variation within Southwest Virginia," Adam Bowen, Virginia Tech

11:15 AM to 12:30 PM

Keynote Address

- Dr. Jillean McCommons, Assistant Professor of History & Africana Studies, University of Richmond



About the Keynote Speaker

- Jillean McCommons is Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies at the University of Richmond. She earned her Ph.D. in history from the University of Kentucky in May 2022. Her current book project examines the history of Black Power in Appalachia. She is a member of the Appalachian Studies Association and a governor-appointed member of the Kentucky Oral History Commission.

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

Lunch and Networking

1:30 PM to 2:45 PM

Session 2 – Health

- "County Health Departments' Approach to Community Health Needs Assessment and Improvement Plans in Kentucky," Bradley Firchow, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, and Katie Boroughs, University of Kentucky College of Public Health
- "Hollow: Appalachian Bodies in Poetry," Dane Ritter, University of Kentucky
- "Exhuming Industrial Waste: Vulnerability and the Institutionalization of Disabled Coal Miners In Somerset County, PA," Kevin Slovinsky, University of Kentucky

3:00 PM to 4:15 PM

Session 3 – Environment

- "‘Eastern Kentucky is Hell in the Hollows:’ Strip Mining and Power," Jacob Johnson, University of Kentucky
- "Not Here, Not Now: Toxicity, Appalachia, and Utopian Performativity," Shelby Roberts, University of Kentucky
- "50 Years of Unnatural Disturbance: A Case Study from Robinson Forest, eastern Kentucky," Samuel Sapeta, University of Kentucky
- "Sustaining Appalachia: Narratives of Development and the Appalachian Regional Commission," Rachel Noble-Varney, University of Kentucky

4:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Session 4 – Posters

- "A Case Study of Ending Trachoma Blindness in Children," Ossaah Fariduddin, University of Kentucky
- "Providers' Stigmas and the Effects on Patients with Opioid Use Disorder," Peyton Skaggs, University of Kentucky College of Medicine
- "Moonshine in the Mountains: The Politics, Violence, and Social Views on Moonshine and Appalachian Stereotypes," Arshiya Jeelani, University of Kentucky
- "Implementation of the Universal Mental Health Curriculum DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) STEPS-A (Skills Training for Emotional Problem Solving for Adolescents) in an Appalachian Middle School," Kathryn Williams, West Virginia University

5:00 PM to 5:15 PM

Closing Remarks

- Michelle Roberts, Vice President, UK Graduate Appalachian Research Community (GARC)

Policies, Procedures, Sponsors, and Organizational Details

University of Kentucky Mask Policy

As of June 3, 2022, masks are optional on the campus of the University of Kentucky, as well as the use of plexiglass. This move does not apply to UK HealthCare facilities.

- We also have ample masks, plexiglass, cleaning equipment and other supplies for our community to utilize as necessary.
- While masks will now be optional, we want to strongly encourage members of our community who want to do so to wear them as an added layer of protection. Just as we will respect those who no longer want to wear masks, we should — and we will — respect the decisions of those who choose to do so.

Logistics and Maps

The Symposium will be held in the University of Kentucky's Don and Cathy Jacobs Science Building (JSB), located at 680 Rose Street in Lexington. For easiest parking, use the Rose St. Parking Garage, which is located next to the JSB on 301 Hilltop Ave. Below is a campus map with "Parking Garage No. 2" highlighted in blue, to the right of JSB. Once inside, take the main stairwell up to RM 321, where registration, breakfast, and poster set up will take place. The JSB's single toilet lockable bathroom is on the first floor, RM 160.



Things To Do Around Lexington

Come a day early or stay a day late! Kentucky has amazing art, cultural, historical, and environmental recreation opportunities! Here are just a few in Lexington and surrounding areas:

- Did you know that 95% of the world's bourbon is made in Kentucky? Make a stop at a distillery on the [Kentucky Bourbon Trail!](#) The [Barrel House Distillery](#) is also conveniently located in Lexington.
- There are over 450 champion horse farms in Kentucky. Visit over 1,000 horses at the [Kentucky Horse Park](#), a 20-minute drive from UK's campus.

- As Kentucky's oldest garden cemetery and home to Henry Clay's mausoleum, the [Lexington Cemetery](#) is an excellent place to walk, jog, reflect, and watch nature. The cemetery also hosts the second-largest basswood tree in North America!
- Famous for its world-class rock climbing, hiking, archaeological sites, natural rock bridges ([Natural Bridge](#)) and breathtaking scenery the Red River Gorge in the [Daniel Boone National Forest](#) is a 1.25-hour drive south from Lexington.
- The [Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill](#), the largest surviving historic collection of dwellings built by this utopian sect and only a 35-minute drive from Lexington!
- The [Mary Todd Lincoln House Museum](#), the family home of the wife of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln is a great place to learn more about this famous American family!
- Visit the [UK Art Museum](#) located in the heart of campus with FREE admission to all!

Dining

- Breakfast & lunch will be provided at the symposium.
- Please note any specific dietary needs and restrictions (allergies, vegetarian, vegan, etc.) in your registration.
- Dinner will **NOT** be provided.
- Please consult our [local restaurant guide](#) or ask a local attendee for restaurant recommendations!



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Thank You to Our Sponsors

The Appalachian Research Community would like to thank the UK Appalachian Center & Appalachian Studies Program, UK Student Government, UK Student Sustainability Council, Hazard Coffee Company, and Campus Kitchen for their generous support in making the 2023 Research Symposium and Art Showcase possible.



Land & Labor Acknowledgement and Commitment

The University of Kentucky Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program acknowledge that we are on the lands inhabited for millennia by the ancestors of the Shawnee, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and other Nations, and that these traditional territories were taken by force through settler colonial and white-centered institutions. In Appalachian Studies, we have a particular responsibility in our scholarship to counter historical narratives that marginalize or erase indigenous and minoritized voices in the region's past and present. As a land-grant institution, the University of Kentucky must actively attend to the historical narratives and well-being of the descendants of those who were displaced from these lands, which enabled this institution to grow in this place for the past 150 years. We commit to this acknowledgement being more than a token statement, and to center Indigenous and minoritized perspectives and experiences going forward. We join with others across this university community in actively pursuing those conversations and collaborations, including advocating for increasing the presence of, and support for, those who identify as minoritized in student, staff, faculty, and administrative positions. We also acknowledge the reliance on the labor of those who have been enslaved, displaced, and minoritized in the building of the spaces and institutions which constitute the University of Kentucky, and we join in the efforts to recognize, and value with a living wage, the work of all of those who make everyday life on and beyond the campus of the University of Kentucky possible.

