

Call for Proposals: **Black Lives and Black Studies in South Carolina**



South Carolina has a distinct historical, cultural, and material place within both the African Diaspora and the broader Atlantic world. In the spirit of the Akan aphorism “Sankofa,” which emphasizes the importance of looking to the past to achieve a better future, we must recognize that South Carolina was a major center of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and acknowledge its downstream consequences. Since these key historical antecedents, peoples of African descent have gone on to profoundly shape South Carolina’s physical, cultural, economic, and political environment. As academicians, it is incumbent upon us to examine the impact this legacy has on our past, present, and future circumstances.

Likewise, in South Carolina’s institutions of higher education, faculty remain deeply engaged in research, teaching, and service projects that coalesce around what we can call “Black Lives.” Such efforts are institutionalized in programs alternatively referred to as African Studies, African American Studies, Africana Studies, Black Studies, African Diaspora Studies, or Global Black Studies. This dynamic scholarship crosses multiple disciplines and methods in the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and in professional programs such as education, public health, and business. What are the common threads between these scholarly interventions? How can the wide range of interdisciplinary perspectives deepen and complicate our understanding of the ways that South Carolina, its people and its history, enliven the goals of Black Studies?

We seek contributions for an edited volume or special issue of a scholarly journal that speaks to the experiences of our programs, and to the methods that we have employed to conduct research and teaching about Black people from the United States and throughout the African Diaspora from the distinct vantage point of South Carolina. Our aim is to divide the volume into sections that include:

- Essays that demonstrate how scholarly research in and about Black lives in South Carolina can shed new light on social, political, economic, and environmental issues that impact the nation.
- Essays from faculty in SC Black Studies programs and concentrations, showcasing aspects of their research that are influenced by the state’s history, culture, and communities.
- Essays that describe pedagogical approaches to teaching Black Studies at the college level in light of the persistent institutional barriers and unexpected opportunities in South Carolina.

Submit proposals of at least 250 words and a current CV by Friday, March 17, 2023, to Kaifa Roland loroland@clermson.edu, Christopher Day dayc@cofc.edu, and Qiana Whitted whitted@sc.edu. Submissions from any academic discipline are welcome but should be accessible to a diverse set of participants. Selections will be made by the end of March. Contributors will also be invited to take part in the annual conference of South Carolina’s Africana Studies programs hosted by the SC Higher Education Africana Studies Marketing (SCHEASM) on April 21, 2023. Final drafts of 6,000-7,000 words will be due by October 8, 2023.