At This Place: History, Race, and A Way Forward
Universities Studying Slavery Spring 2023 Conference
March 15 – 19

The University of North Carolina and its Commission on History, Race, and A Way Forward will host the Spring 2023 Universities Studying Slavery Conference in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The Commission’s charge is to explore and teach UNC’s history with race, and to provide recommendations on how our university must reckon with its historical relationship with slavery, the dispossession of Indigenous lands, and the promulgation of white supremacy. Our work focuses on research and scholarship, curriculum development and pedagogy, public history, and ethical community engagement. We aspire to think critically about the ways that history can be put to work in the present to shape a more just and equitable future.

Taking inspiration from this charge, our conference theme will be At This Place: History, Race, and a Way Forward. We invite participants to share ongoing work in their institutions and communities, with an eye to informing a collective conversation about race, reckoning, and repair. The Commission welcomes contributions from scholars, students, community partners and organizations, artists, librarians and archivists, museum professionals, and others who are engaged in this shared endeavor.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Decolonizing institutional archives
- Reckoning with spaces of memory and sites of conscience
- Centering descendant voices and community-led initiatives
- Tracing histories of student and community activism
- Deploying critical pedagogies in the classroom and public square
- Translating historical awareness into institutional priorities
- Navigating the challenges of institutional governance

We are eager to celebrate successes, and to learn from disappointments. We are also deeply interested in forms of participation that expand the scope of a typical scholarly conference, including dance and performance, public readings and conversations, art installations, and film.

Presentation proposals will be accepted here: Proposal Submissions Form. Submissions are due by November 14, 2022. Presenters will be notified by late December 2022 if their proposal has been selected.

Email any questions to: historyandrace.unc@gmail.com