



&



NASA Amerikanistendag 2022

Friday, 3 June 2022

**Filmzaal Provinciehuis
Abdij 9
4331 BK Middelburg**

PROGRAM

10.30-11:00 Registration with coffee/tea

11:00-11:15 Welcome

Damian Pargas, Director RIAS

Markha Valenta, President NASA

Debby-Esmée de Vlugt, Editor of *Netherlands American Studies Review*

11:15-12:15 Keynote

Jessie Morgan-Owens (Leiden University): “#FreeRenty: Lanier v. Harvard, and the Future of the Photographic Archive”

In March of 2019, Tamara Lanier bought a case against Harvard University concerning daguerreotypes of her ancestors Renty and Delia, that were commissioned by Harvard professor Louis Agassiz in 1850 and held by the Peabody Museum. Lanier contends that the subjects were “stripped naked and forced to pose for the daguerreotypes without consent, dignity or compensation”; therefore, Harvard’s use of these images for advertisement and commercial purposes constitutes “wrongful seizure, possession, and expropriation of photographic images of the patriarch of her family.” The lawsuit demands just damages, reparations, and the restitution of these historically significant daguerreotypes to Lanier. Public opinion, including that of Agassiz’s descendants, stands with Lanier; so far, the courts have not. Oral arguments for the appeal of the court’s decision are ongoing.

Should this case be successful—should Harvard #freeRenty—preservationists and institutions that hold such artifacts of historical significance would be made to give up their treasured artifacts to private claimants. To return these photographs, with damages, would be akin to the release of the British Museum’s hold on the Elgin Marbles, and as I explore in this essay, a decolonization of the archive would impact artistic and historical research in profound ways: if the archive releases these images, we could see Lanier achieve reparations for the unpaid representational labor of her ancestor, giving rise to claimants around the world whose ancestors underwent photography without consent.

12:15-13:15 Lunch

**NB: Lunch is not provided but there are several excellent cafes in the immediate vicinity!*

13:15-14:15 Student Presentations: Panel 1

Chair: Damian Pargas (RIAS/LU)

Alish Lalor (Leiden University, ResMA CMGI), “Capitalism-Free Food? Imagined Food Utopias in the Back-to-the-Land Movement in the US, 1965-1975”

Lisette Brussee (Radboud University Nijmegen), “A Partnership Forged by Water: The Role of the Netherlands Embassy in Washington D.C. in Promoting Dutch Water Expertise in the U.S. after Hurricane Katrina”

14:15-15:30 Student Presentations: Panel 2

Chair: Heleen Blommers (VU)

Stijn Berendsen (Leiden University), "The Overseas Private Investment Organization (OPIC) during the Carter Presidency"

Jelle Rietveld (Leiden University), "The (Un-)American South"

Karla Kiefer (Radboud University Nijmegen), "Why an African American Community, Seneca Village, Was Displaced to Create Central Park?"

15:30-15:45 Break

15:45-16:00 Presentation Theodore Roosevelt American History Award 2022

Damian Pargas (RIAS/UL), Tim Jelfs (RUG), Heleen Blommers (VU), Melanie van der Elsen (RUN), Jennifer DeWitt Walsh (American Consul General, Amsterdam)

16:00-16:15 Special Presentation *Geschiedenis Magazine*: "75th Anniversary of the Marshall Plan"

Albertine Bloemendal (RUN), Jorrit van den Berk (RUN), Jennifer DeWitt Walsh (American Consul General, Amsterdam)

16:15-17:00 Closing Roundtable: Women's Rights and the Culture Wars

Markha Valenta (University College Utrecht) and student organization representatives

17:00-18:00 Reception

This event is organized by

Roosevelt Institute for American Studies (www.roosevelt.nl)

Netherlands American Studies Association (<https://www.netherlands-america.nl/>)

This event is sponsored by



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

THE HAGUE • THE NETHERLANDS