

BIOS OF PANELISTS

David W. Blight is the Class of 1954 Professor of American History, and Director of the Gilder Lehman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition at Yale University. He is one of the nation's foremost authorities on the U.S. Civil War and its legacy. Blight is the author of *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*, which received eight book awards, including the Bancroft Prize, the Abraham Lincoln Prize, and the Frederick Douglass Prize as well as four awards from the Organization of American Historians, including the Merle Curtis prizes for both intellectual and social history.

Douglas A. Blackmon is the Atlanta Bureau Chief of the *Wall Street Journal* and has written extensively about the American quandary of race, the economy, American society, and the interplay of wealth, corporate conduct, and racial segregation. Blackmon is the 2009 Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Slavery By Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*. Blackmon's book tells the unfamiliar story of "neo-slavery" that reached beyond the de-facto slavery of tenant farming and debt peonage.

Bill Gaskins is a lecturer in the Departments of Photography and Art and Design History and Theory at Parsons The New School for Design. He is the author of the monograph *Good And Bad Hair: Photographs by Bill Gaskins*. As an artist, teacher, scholar, and essayist, Bill Gaskins' artwork, teaching, writing, and public lectures examine photography and the portrait, the history of photography, race and representation, the politics of visual culture, and the artist as citizen.

Michelle Materre is assistant professor of Media Studies and Film at The New School for General Studies. Her professional background is in the independent film and television industry as producer, writer, arts administrator, outreach consultant, distribution/marketing specialist and teacher. As a founding partner of KJM3 Entertainment Group, Inc., a film distribution and marketing company that specialized in multicultural film and television projects, she directly managed the marketing and positioning of 23 films including the successful theatrical release of *Daughters of the Dust*, the highly acclaimed film by Julie Dash. For the past 14 years, she has been the lead curator of the Creatively Speaking film series. She recently served on the Board of Directors of New York Women in Film and Television, and is sought after as a frequent guest lecturer at colleges, universities, film festivals, and media arts institutions across the United States and abroad on a variety of film related topics.

Miriam Petty is assistant professor of Visual and Performing Arts at Rutgers University-Newark. She has taught and lectured widely on film, African American literature, Black popular culture, and media studies. Her upcoming book *Stealing The Show: African American Performers and Audiences in 1930's Hollywood* explores the complex relationships between black audiences and black performers in the classical Hollywood era.

Michelle Wallace is a cultural critic and professor of English at the City College and the PhD program in English at the Graduate Center. Her work focuses on African-American literature and poetics; feminist literature and poetics; gender and sexuality; queer theory; literary theory; American cinema and film theory; American visual culture and popular culture. Professor Wallace is the author of *Dark Designs and Visual Culture*.