

Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy  
20th Anniversary Celebration

STATE OF THE FIELD CONFERENCE  
AFRICAN AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY:  
PAST AND PRESENT



Carnegie Mellon University

October 2 - 4, 2015

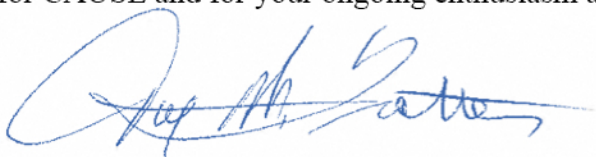
Dear Friends and Conference Participants:

Welcome and thanks for attending the 20th Anniversary Conference of Carnegie Mellon University's Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy (CAUSE). CAUSE had its genesis in the 20th century Modern Black Freedom Movement. The Civil Rights and Black Power movements not only opened the doors of higher education to increasing numbers of African American students, faculty, staff, and administrators, but also spurred research, writing, publications, and education on the black experience from the transatlantic slave trade through recent times. In the spring of 1995, with enthusiastic support from colleagues, friends, staff, university administrators, area foundations, and members of the larger Pittsburgh community, CAUSE opened with an inaugural conference, titled "Race, Workers, and the Urban Economy: Recent Trends in Scholarship," April 21-22.

Over the next two decades, we vigorously pursued our mission to encourage research, education, and public service programs on the African American urban experience. Our accomplishments include a variety of CAUSE-sponsored graduate, postdoctoral, and faculty research projects; speakers series; scholarly conferences and publications; an oral history project on the Pittsburgh region; and collaboration with scholars at other universities within and outside the United States.

At our inaugural conference in 1995, my friend and colleague historian Earl Lewis delivered the keynote address. Two decades later, we are pleased to welcome him back as A. W. Mellon Foundation President and keynote presenter for our 20th Anniversary Conference, "The State of the Field Conference on African American Urban History: Past and Present." We are also pleased to present a stellar roster of leading scholars of the African American experience from across the United States and the United Kingdom. To Dr. Lewis and all of our participants, thanks for traveling to Pittsburgh to share your expertise, energy, and enthusiasm for scholarship on African American urban life, history, and culture.

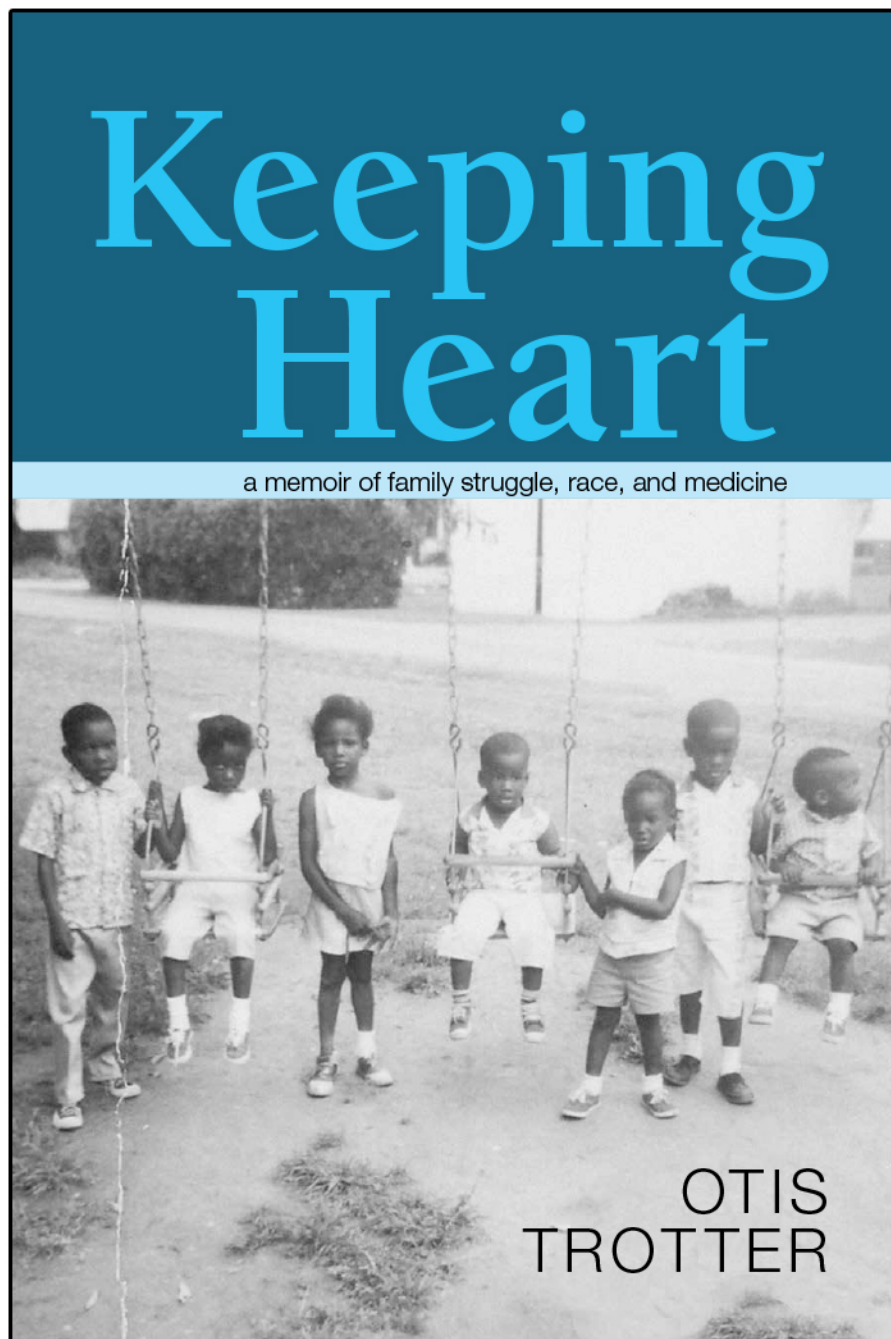
For helping to launch and sustain the Center over the past twenty years, we are indebted to numerous colleagues, students, staff, and friends; our advisory board, area foundations, and members of the larger Pittsburgh community; the offices of the President, Provost, and Dean of both Dietrich and Heinz College; and History Department Heads. Again, thanks for joining us for this landmark occasion for CAUSE and for your ongoing enthusiasm and interest in our work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe W. Trotter, Jr.", with a stylized, flowing script.

Joe William Trotter, Jr.  
Founder and Director  
Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy (CAUSE)  
Giant Eagle Professor of History and Social Justice

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On a personal note, in 1995, we dedicated our opening conference in honor of my mother, Thelma Odell Trotter, who had passed away less than a month earlier. Today, we dedicate the 20th Anniversary Conference to my brother, Otis Trotter, one of the “Trotter-14,” the siblings of Joe William Trotter, Sr. and Thelma Odell Trotter, in honor of his work as chronicler of the family’s history in his new book, *Keeping Heart: A Memoir of Family Struggle, Race, and Medicine* (Ohio University Press, 2015).





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## MISSION

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Founded in 1995, CAUSE is an interdisciplinary research and education center in the Department of History, Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Carnegie Mellon University. Focusing on African American urban life and history since the transatlantic slave trade, the Center encourages scholarship that addresses the historian's interest in understanding socioeconomic, political, and cultural change; employs a variety of interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives; and attends to the impact of broader national and global developments on the black experience.

CAUSE also aims to develop programs of graduate and postdoctoral education and training; facilitate scholarly research, data collection and education; collect, transcribe, and deposit oral interviews on the role of blacks in the late industrial and recent post-industrial economy, particularly in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania; and build bridges between the University and communities in the larger metropolitan region, the state, the nation, and the world.

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## PROGRAMS

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Since its inception in 1995, the Center has sponsored a variety of programs and projects designed to achieve its mission. These include programs of graduate, postdoctoral, and faculty research on topics defined within the Center's mission statement; support for historical and interdisciplinary scholarly publications (both books and articles in professional journals) that appeal to a broad cross section of scholars and students, public policy experts, and public audiences; support for an undergraduate minor in African and African American Studies; a regular speakers series; scholarly conferences on specific topics of interest to historians, educators, activists, and policy makers; collaboration with scholars at other universities through such programs as the Midwest Consortium for Black Studies, the Heinz Regional History Center, a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate, the African Studies Research Consortium, and the Labor and Working Class History Association; projects aimed at strengthening ties between the University and the larger Pittsburgh metropolitan region, including programs with the Urban League of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Public Schools, and the August Wilson Center for African American Culture; and our "Remembering African Americans in Pittsburgh" ("RAP") Oral History Project as well as periodic workshops and special lectures for religious, fraternal, business, professional, labor, social service, and government organizations.



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER: EARL LEWIS

President, A. W. Mellon Foundation



Earl Lewis became the sixth President of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in March 2013. A noted social historian, Mr. Lewis has held faculty appointments at the University of California at Berkeley (1984–89), and the University of Michigan (1989–2004). Prior to joining The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Mr. Lewis served as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of History and African American Studies at Emory University.

He is the author and co-editor of several books, including his pioneering study, *In Their Own Interests: Race, Class and Power in 20th Century Norfolk* (University of California Press, 1991); *The African American Urban Experience: Perspectives from the Colonial Period to the Present* (with Joe William Trotter and Tera W. Hunter, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004); and the award-winning *To Make Our World Anew: A History of African Americans* (with Robin D.G. Kelley, Oxford University Press, 2000).

### GUEST SPEAKER: CAROL ANDERSON

Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of African American Studies and  
Chair, Department of African American Studies, Emory University



Carol Anderson is the Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of African American Studies and Chair, Department of African American Studies at Emory University. She is the author of *Eyes Off the Prize: The United Nations and the African-American Struggle for Human Rights, 1944–1955* (Cambridge University Press), which was awarded both the Gustavus Myers and Myrna Bernath Book Awards. Her latest book, also published by Cambridge, is *Bourgeois Radicals: The NAACP and the Struggle for Colonial Liberation, 1941–1960*.

Her research has garnered substantial fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Ford Foundation, National Humanities Center, Harvard University, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

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## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

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### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

McConomy Auditorium, Cohon University Center

4:00-5:00pm Registration and Reception

5:00-5:30pm Opening Remarks

5:30-6:30pm Keynote Address: **Earl Lewis**  
President, A. W. Mellon Foundation

**“Moving Through and Beyond the Academy: From Norfolk to New York”**

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Singleton Room, Roberts Hall

8:00-9:00am Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:30am **Session I: Rethinking the Relationship between Cities and Social Justice in the 21st Century**

Moderator: **Nico Slate**

Associate Professor, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University

Guest Speaker: **Carol Anderson**

Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of African American Studies and  
Chair, Department of African American Studies, Emory University

**“When the Levees Broke’: A History of Un-Civil Rights in America”**

10:45am-12:45pm **Session II: Race, Class, and Early American Cities**

Chair: **Leslie Harris**

Associate Professor, History and African American Studies, Emory University

**Michael Gomez**

Professor, Department of History, New York University

“The Relativity of Motion in American Urban Space: Emancipatory Vision and Experience during Slavery”

**Emma Hart**

Lecturer, School of History, University of St. Andrews

“Black life in Colonial Charleston: An Atlantic World Perspective”

**Leslie Alexander**

Associate Professor, African American and African Studies, Ohio State University

“We Are A Distinct People’: Black Culture and Political Thought in New York City, 1790-1860”

12:45-2:00pm Lunch

2:00-3:30pm **Session III: Emancipation, the Great Migration, Emergence of the Black Metropolis**

Chair: **Clarence Lang**

Associate Professor, African and African-American Studies, University of Kansas

**Brian Kelly**

Reader in U.S. History, School of History and Anthropology, Queen’s University

“From the Slaves’ Jubilee to White ‘Redemption’ in the Holy City: Black Life in Charleston, 1865-1900”

**Millington Bergeson-Lockwood**

Community Liaison Office Coordinator, US Embassy, Malawi

“Party, Patronage, and Pride: Black Urban Politics in Reconstruction Era Boston”

**Davarian Baldwin**

Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of American Studies, Trinity College

“Chicago could be the Vienna of American Fascism’: The Political Culture of Black Anti-Fascism before World War II”



3:45-5:00pm **Session IV: Modern Freedom Struggle, Deindustrialization, and New Politics**

Chair: **Rhonda Williams**

Associate Professor, Department of History, Case Western Reserve University

**Marcus A. Hunter**

Assistant Professor, Sociology Department, University of California-Los Angeles

"Black Citymakers: How The Philadelphia Negro Changed Urban America"

**Donna Murch**

Associate Professor, Department of History, State University of New Jersey, Rutgers

"Fortress L.A.: Race, Neoliberalism, and Punishment in the Late 20th Century City"

**Kwame Holmes**

Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies Department, University of Colorado

"African Americans in Washington D.C. during the Late 20th Century"

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

Hilton Garden Inn, University Place (3454 Forbes Avenue)

8:00-9:00am Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:30am **Remembering African American Pittsburgh: Oral History Project**

Moderator: **Ralph Proctor**

Professor, Ethnic and Diversity Studies Department, Community College of Allegheny County

Guest Speaker: **Benjamin Houston**

Senior Lecturer in Modern U.S. History, School of History C & A, Newcastle University

**"Race in the Rust Belt: Narratives of Race Relations in Deindustrialising Pittsburgh"**

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## PEOPLE

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**JOE WILLIAM TROTTER, JR.,**  
Founder and Director  
Giant Eagle Professor of History and Social Justice



**HIKARI ADAY**  
Program Coordinator



**STEPHANIE BODDIE**  
CAUSE Postdoctoral Fellow, 2015-16

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Charles "Teenie" Harris

American, 1908–1998

Boys learning how to operate press in machine shop, possibly at Connelley Trade School, c. 1955-1970

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Inquiries concerning application of these statements should be directed to the Provost, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, telephone 412-268-6684 or the Vice President for Campus Affairs, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, telephone 412-268-2057.

Carnegie Mellon University publishes an annual campus security report describing the university's security, alcohol and drug, and sexual assault policies and containing statistics about the number and type of crimes committed on the campus during the preceding three years. You can obtain a copy by contacting the Carnegie Mellon Police Department at 412-268-2323. The security report is available through the World Wide Web at [www.cmu.edu/police/](http://www.cmu.edu/police/).

Obtain general information about Carnegie Mellon University by calling 412-268- 2000.

**Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU) is a global research university with more than 13,200 students, 100,000 alumni and 5,000 faculty and staff. CMU has been a birthplace of innovation since its founding in 1900. Today, we are a global leader bringing groundbreaking ideas to market and creating successful startup businesses. Our award-winning faculty members are renowned for working closely with students to solve major scientific, technological and societal challenges. We put a strong emphasis on creating things—from art to robots. Our students are recruited by some of the world's most innovative companies. We have campuses in Pittsburgh, Qatar and Silicon Valley, and degree-granting programs around the world, including Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and Latin America. CMU consists of seven schools and colleges: College of Engineering, College of Fine Arts, Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Heinz College, Mellon College of Science, School of Computer Science and the Tepper School of Business.

**Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences** is no ordinary liberal arts school. From creative writing and neuroscience to behavioral economics and bioethics, the Dietrich College is home to eight departments as well as many programs and research centers that often cross disciplines to solve real-world problems. The Marianna Brown Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences is the second largest of Carnegie Mellon's seven schools and colleges with an enrollment of approximately 1,440 students. The college has eight academic departments and some 60 majors and minors spanning disciplines as varied as cognitive neuroscience and modern languages. The New York Times has called the college's approach to studies "the most creative general education program of any American university."

**The Department of History** offers three different degree programs: the B.A. in Social and Political History, the B.A. in Global Studies, and the interdepartmental B.A. or B.S. in Ethics, History, and Public Policy. All three focus on connections between past and present and on how historical knowledge facilitates understanding of social, cultural, and policy change. Our degree programs emphasize empirical methods and conceptual analysis, as well as specific research skills relevant to many types of jobs and further professional training. The Department's mission also includes courses introducing students to various societal settings and diverse types of controversial public issues, thus contributing actively to both liberal education and professional development