

The History Department's Spring Lecture Series Presents:

Early African American Authors and Intergenerational Readers:

Old Technologies, and Speculative Futures

Early African American authors expressed hope and encouragement for a free future beyond themselves. 18th- and 19th-century Black authors addressed inter-generational audiences, reaching beyond any individual author's scope to speculate about the future and to address the actual Black children who they acknowledged as part of their communities, among their potential readers, and as would-be beneficiaries of their work. When we consider print technologies among the larger scope of Black technoculture and theological discourse alongside other notions of the speculative, we can understand early Black community, literature, and generational address as a form of (proto)Afrofuturism. The fullest understanding of Black literary sociality is generational in scale, extending Black print from producing Black community to imagining Black futurity.

Friday, March 18 4 p.m.
Armstrong Hall 102 or Virtually

Visit sbs.mnsu.edu/history-lecture-series for additional information and virtual event registration.



Brigitte Fielder is an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of *Relative Races: Genealogies of Interracial Kinship in Nineteenth-Century America* (Duke University Press, 2020) and coeditor of *Against a Sharp White Background: Infrastructures of African American Print* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2019).



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