

# UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RACE, DEMOCRACY AND THE ONGOING STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 18  
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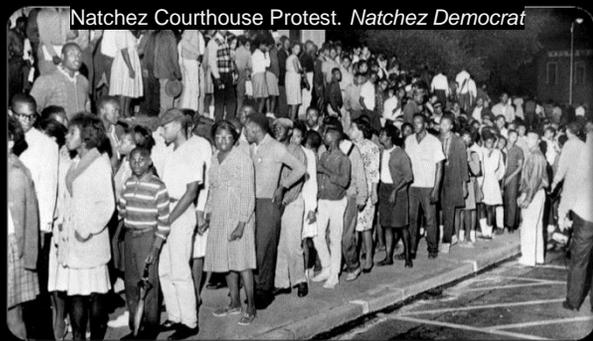
A GRADUATE STUDENT PANEL AT THE  
NATCHEZ MUSEUM OF  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HISTORY AND CULTURE  
301 MAIN ST • QUESTIONS? (601) 445-0728

*One Community.  
Many Voices.*

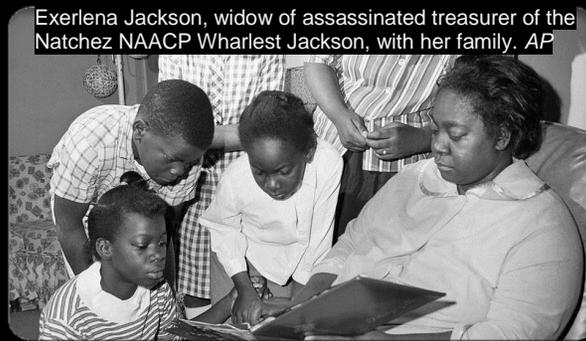


**SAMUEL PROCTOR  
ORAL HISTORY  
PROGRAM**

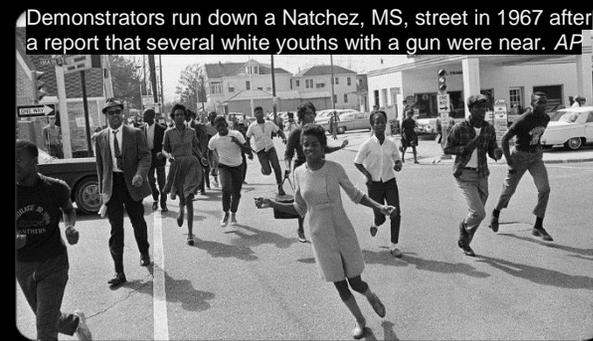
**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA



Natchez Courthouse Protest. *Natchez Democrat*



Exlerena Jackson, widow of assassinated treasurer of the Natchez NAACP Wharlest Jackson, with her family. *AP*



Demonstrators run down a Natchez, MS, street in 1967 after a report that several white youths with a gun were near. *AP*

Doctoral students from the University of Florida will present on a range of topics from the emotional and psychological consequences of freedom fighting on Civil Rights Movement veterans to the continuous neglect of Black, female activists in the historical accounts of the Civil Rights Movement, to the present status of democracy in a society riddled with police brutality and state violence.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS: RACE, DEMOCRACY AND THE ONGOING STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

This year, the nation has witnessed and commemorated a series of Civil Rights Anniversaries. The fiftieth anniversaries of “Bloody Sunday” and the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 have encouraged the public to celebrate the courage and resolve of both the sung and unsung figures of the Civil Rights Movement. However, the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the Watts Uprising in Los Angeles, in the context of the recent uprisings in Ferguson, Baltimore and New York, is a sobering reminder that the resolve and courage of the Civil Rights figures is desperately and urgently necessary today. For as Martha Ragland, former president of the Tennessee Council of Human Relations, declared, “We need quickly and massively to attend to the unfinished business of democracy.”

Recognizing the “unfinished” project of democracy, the members of this panel will address race, democracy and ongoing struggles for civil rights in academia, communities and the nation at large. The presentations range from meditations on the emotional and psychological effects of freedom fighting on Civil Rights figures to discussions of the continuous neglect of Black, female activists in the historical accounts of the Civil Rights to inquiries into the present status of democracy in a society riddled with police brutality and state violence. The “Unfinished Business: Race, Democracy and the Ongoing Struggle for Civil Rights” panel seeks to bring all of these issues to the forefront to highlight the vital need for nuanced, collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to both the past and present racial struggles.

### PANEL PARTICIPANTS

**Justin Dunnivant** is a doctoral student studying archaeology in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida. He has worked at SPOHP’s African American History Project since 2012, first as a volunteer and later as a graduate coordinator. Justin’s research interests focus generally on the historical archaeology of Africa and the African Diaspora, focusing on the archaeology and heritage of Ethiopia.

After receiving his B.A.s in History and Anthropology at Howard University in 2009, he completed a Fulbright in Jamaica before continuing his studies at UF.

In addition to his academics, Justin is also a founding member of the Society of Black Archaeologists, blogs for GradHacker.org, and lectures in the African American Studies Program. He has been named a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow for 2014-2015.

**Randi Gill-Sadler** is a doctoral candidate in the English Department and joined SPOHP in Fall 2014 as a graduate coordinator. Randi completed her B.A. degree in English at Gardner-Webb University, where she received the Most Outstanding Female Graduate and English Major awards, and her M.A. degree in English at the University of Florida.

Randi is currently writing her dissertation entitled “Not Yo’ Daddy’s Empire: African Americans, U.S. Imperialism and Diaspora” which analyzes the material history and cultural representations of African Americans who participated in U.S. imperial exploits in the 19th and 20th century

During her time at UF, Randi has taught classes for the University Writing Program and the English department, including a special topics in American literature course about U.S. imperialism and an upper level Black Cultural Studies course, for which she was recently awarded the English Department Teaching Award for 2014-2015

**Justin Hosbey** is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida. His doctoral research interrogates the social consequences of the privatization of public schools and prisons in post-Katrina New Orleans, Louisiana. He started work at SPOHP as a graduate coordinator for the African American History Project.

Justin a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow as well as a Florida Educational Fund McKnight Fellow. His dissertation work has been supported by research grants from the Ford Foundation and National Science Foundation (AC-SBE Alliance). Justin received his B.A. in Anthropology from Georgia State University in 2008 and his M.A. in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida in 2011.



Justin Dunnivant



Randi Gill-Sadler



Justin Hosbey