



McKINNEY
SCHOOL OF LAW
Indianapolis



Call for Papers

SLAVERY PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE: 9th Global Meeting, 26 - 28th June 2025

To be held in person in Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Experiential component(s) on 26th June 2025 (covered by conference registration fee)

Boat Tour (explore Dutch slavery footprint in Amsterdam)



National Slavery Memorial in Oosterpark, Amsterdam (Photo credit: David Bulla)

Slavery (the treatment of humans as chattel) and enslavement through conquest, birth, gender, race, ethnicity, kinship, and exploitation of indebtedness have been an intrinsic part of human societies.

Slavery and a variety of other forms of exploitation existed in ancient societies across the world, and in many other states and territories. The Transatlantic Slave Trade furnished at least 10 million Africans for slavery throughout the Americas.

Controversial and contested estimates indicate that up to 40 million people worldwide are enslaved today. This modern re-emergence of slavery into public view, following legal abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade over two hundred years ago, is said to be linked to the deepening interconnectedness of countries in the global economy, overpopulation, and the economic and other vulnerabilities of individual victims and communities.

But should we think of these people as enslaved? And, if so, is slavery an inevitable part of the human condition? Like 'consumers' of past eras, such as early industrialization, are we dependent on the exploitation of others? What does the persistence and mutations of different forms of exploitation mean in the context of abolition and recognition of universal individual and collective human rights?

The varieties of contemporary forms of exploitation appear to be endless. This interdisciplinary conference will facilitate a multidisciplinary exploration of slavery and enslavement in all its dimensions.

In keeping with previous meetings, the format of the Slavery Past, Present and Future Conference this year will be plenary. We intend to hold the meetings in person and expect those who register to attend all the sessions to facilitate a genuine cross-fertilization of ideas across identities, disciplines, and subject areas.

Tentative Schedule:

- **26th June, Thursday: Boat Tour on Amsterdam canals focusing on Dutch slavery footprint**
- **27th June, Friday: Conference proceedings**
- **28th June, Saturday: Conference proceedings**

Submissions are sought from people from all walks of life and identities, including:

- **Academics:** from all disciplines, such as art, film, anthropology, sociology, law, history, ethnic studies, politics, social work, economics, mass communication and any field that touches the study of exploitation
- **Civil society members:** human rights activists, leaders in non-governmental organizations, and others in the NGO or social advocacy fields
- **Professionals:** social workers, lawyers, corporate social responsibility and business ethics professionals, business leaders, and health care professionals
- **Government actors:** representatives, policymakers, lobbyists, and analysts

- **Global citizens with personal connections to slavery or exploitation:** former enslaved persons or indentured laborers and their descendants, descendants of enslavers, members of at-risk populations, migrant or guest workers, non-regularized immigrants, and refugees

We particularly encourage submissions from those in the Global South.

Please note that we are open to receiving papers on a wide variety of topics related to slavery, including but not limited to those listed below.

Potential Themes and Sub-Themes:

1. Defining Slavery

2. Slavery of the Past

The Transatlantic Slave Trade

The Arabic/Islamic Slave Trade

Indigenous (African/Asian/European/Native American/Pacific) Slavery Practices

The Involvement of Africans/Asians/Europeans/Native Americans/Pacific Islanders in the Perpetration of the Slave Trades

Hidden Figures/Methods of Enslavement

The Role of Indigenous (African/Asian/Europeans/Native American/Pacific Islander) Traditions and Religions

3. Public Health Policies in Enslaved Societies

Health Deficits and Disease among Enslaved People

Slavery and Health on Plantations

Forced Medical Experiments

Freed Blacks' Post Abolition Health Inequalities

4. Human Trafficking and other Forms of Contemporary Exploitation

Geographic Routes

Corporate Involvement

Root Causes

International Institutions and the US TVPA Regime

Anti-Slavery Politics and Funding

Hidden Figures of Human Trafficking

(Dis)similarities Between Historic and Contemporary Forms of Human

Exploitation

Consideration of the Modern Trade in Human Beings as a Business and Enterprise

5. Voices of the Enslaved, Enslavers, and Descendants

Oral Histories

Written First Person Narratives

Visual Art, Music, Fiction and Poetry

Published Histories and Biographies

6. Legacies of Slavery

Racism and Tribalism

Gender Discrimination

Social and Economic Inequalities

Underdevelopment

Colonialism and Neocolonialism

The Challenges Posed by Law Enforcement

7. Anti-slavery – Past, Present and Future

8. Transitional Justice

Reparations

Memorialization

Monument Building

Sites of Resistance

Living Quarters and Burial Grounds of the Enslaved

Human Auction Artifacts

Historic Marker Campaigns

Archive Development

9. Education Initiatives

Global Initiatives- Comparative Perspectives

Role of Museums, Exhibits, and Archives

Mis/Non-Educating About Slavery and its Legacies

Submitting Your Proposal:

Please use this form linked below to submit your proposal. The form gathers a small amount of contact information and then allows for a file upload of your proposal, which should be in a Word.doc or docx.

Submission Link: https://webster.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cNn2eITOpKPZQk6

The following information will be requested on the form:

1. Affiliation as you would like it to appear in the conference program
2. Author(s) as you would like listed in the conference program
3. Main author/submitter's email address

Proposal Upload File Format: Microsoft Word (DOC or DOCX)

The following information must be in the Microsoft Word file:

- Title of proposal
- Body of proposal (maximum of 300 words)
- Keywords (maximum of ten)

Please keep the following in mind:

- All text must be in Times New Roman 12.
- No footnotes or special formatting (bold, underline, or italicization) must be used.

Finally:

- By sending an abstract you are committing yourself to attend all the sessions in order to engage fully in the emerging debates.

Proposals should be submitted no later than Friday, Feb 28 ,2025.

Evaluating Your Proposal

All abstracts will be double-blind peer reviewed, and you will be notified of the Steering Committee’s decision no later than **Friday, March 14, 2025**. If a positive decision is made, you will be asked to promptly register online by Friday, **March 28, 2025**. You will be asked to submit a draft paper of no more than 2000 words by **Friday, June 6th, 2025**.

The conference registration fee is Euro 220 (June 26 - 28, 2025).

Cost Per Participant:

Description	Amount
Conference fee	EUR 220

We offer a limited number of fellowships to participants for the conference who would otherwise be foreclosed from attending. The fellowships take the form of registration deferrals.

Steering Committee:

- Emmanuel John A. Awine (Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, USA)
- Karen E. Bravo (Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Indiana, USA)
- David Bulla (Augusta University, Georgia, USA)
- Judith Onwubiko (London South Bank University, United Kingdom)
- Ulrich Pallua (University of Innsbruck, Austria)
- Sheetal Shah (Webster Leiden Campus, Webster University USA, The Netherlands)
- Judith Spicksley (Independent Scholar, United Kingdom)

Conference Host:

Amisah Bakuri

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam