

Kevin Winstead; University of Delaware

Bio:

Kevin earned his Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Maryland. Currently, he is a 2019-2021 CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow with The Colored Conventions Project at the University of Delaware. His scholarship includes published articles on social movements and religion. In "Black Catholicism and Black Lives Matter: the process towards joining a movement" (Ethnic and Racial Studies, 2017), Kevin uses an adaptation of social movement frame analysis to examine how Black Catholics define and construct the ongoing political issues within the Black Lives Matter movement. Kevin has a forthcoming manuscript entitled, *Emancipatory Hope: Reclaiming Black Social Movement Continuity*. In his previous work, he served as Project Manager for the Andrew W. Mellon funded African American History, Culture, and Digital Humanities where he convened and facilitates project events and other scholarly activities making the digital humanities more inclusive of African American history and culture and enriching African American studies research with new methods, archives and tools.

His work with CCP implements and supervises new, multi-institutional partnerships for gathering documents, organizing research data, and sharing metadata related to the nineteenth-century Colored Conventions. Working with the digital archives committee, Winstead coordinates CCP undergraduate and graduate student project work in data curation. He also organizes yearly workshops and panel discussions about data curation and its importance for Black communities for and in conjunction with local community archives and groups.

Presentation Title:

Hope in Hopeless Times: Social Movements from a Black Perspective

Abstract:

The movement for Black Lives has dominated the American political consciousness since its naming in the wake of Michael Brown's shooting. It has also commanded the field of social movements to rethink how we understand Black political mobilization post the Black Power era. Moments that are cast as deaths of the Civil Rights/Black Power era must now be re-examined as abeyance formations, the carry-overs and carry-ons of a social movement's continuity. This research explores how the continuity of the movement for Black Lives. Particularly I ask, how do Black Social movement organizations and activists pass on emancipatory strategies and tactics for future opportunities of political engagement? Using a combination of content analysis of Twitter data, participant observations at conferences and in settings where Black activists assemble, and in interviews with contemporary Black activists this research examines three questions: 1) How was the movement able to transition out of abeyance, activating its resources, and seizing on political opportunity; 2) What role does everyday discourse and digital activism play in developing a movement; 3) How does the movement sustain itself while negotiating with power elites through philanthropy and the political process. This work has implications for both the fields of social movements and Black Studies. There are also implications for activists and everyday people in evaluating the success and sustainability of political engagement.