FRIDAY, MAY 3

Breakfast
8:30 a.m.
Buttrick Atrium

Welcoming Remarks
9:00–9:15 a.m.
Lisa Guenther, Vanderbilt University
Buttrick Atrium

Friday Morning Session I
9:15–10:45 a.m.
Gender and Prison Education
Moderator: Sarah Tyson, University of Colorado, Denver
Buttrick 205

“Transforming Spaces: The Experiences of Women Teaching in Women’s Prisons,” Breea C. Willingham, SUNY Oneonta

“Abolition Pedagogy: Bringing Antiprison Movements into Women’s Studies Classrooms,” Courtney D. Marshall, University of New Hampshire

“To Instill Love for Our People’: Recovering Religion in Formerly Incarcerated People’s Movements for Transforming the Prison System,” Laura McTighe, Columbia University

Friday Morning Session I
9:15–10:45 a.m.
Rethinking Prisons through the Lens of Reproductive Justice
Moderator: Amy McKiernan, Vanderbilt University
Buttrick 206

“Birthing Behind Bars: Formerly Incarcerated Women Lead a Campaign for Reproductive Justice,” Victoria Law, Independent Scholar

“I Never Thought of Advocating Outside of Prison’: Lived Experience as Expertise,” Mercedes Smith, Outreach/Policy Specialist, Women on the Rise Telling HerStory (WORTH), formerly incarcerated mother

“She Doesn’t Deserve to be Treated Like This’: The Violation of Pregnant Women’s Rights and Health in Prison,” Rachel Roth, Independent Scholar

Friday Morning Session I
9:15–10:45 a.m.
Neoliberalism and Punishment
Moderator: Rob Scott, University of Illinois
Buttrick 306

“Death Penalty Abolition in Neoliberal Times: The Failure of the SAFE California Act and the Nexus of Savings and Security,” Andrew Dilts, Loyola Marymount University

“It’s Going to Happen Again’: Queer Time and the Future of the Neoliberal-Carceral State,” Stephen Dillon, University of Minnesota

“Hypothecation: Neoliberal ‘Bondage,’” Salmon Frye, Independent Scholar, and Micol Seigel, Indiana University Bloomington
Friday Morning Session II
11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Transformative Prison Education and Its Challenges
Moderator: Lora Bex Lempert, University of Michigan

Buttrick 205

“Therapeutic Philosophy in Prisons,” Dan Cheon, University of Oklahoma


“Rethinking Prisons, Reconsidering Philosophy: Doing Philosophy with Prison Inmates,” Michael D. Burroughs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Friday Morning Session II
11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Prison Mentorship from the Inside Out
Moderator: Tony Gaskew, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and Inside Out Instructor at FCI McKean

Buttrick 206

“The Reconstruct Program: Reconstructing Lives One at a Time,” Talib Shakir, Federal Correctional Institution McKean

“Inmate Mentorship,” Adam Bentley Clausen, Federal Correctional Institution McKean

Friday Morning Session II
11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Safety Beyond Incarceration: Normative Foundations and Community
Moderator: Adam Turk, Vanderbilt University

Buttrick 306

“Kant, Bakunin, and a ‘Constellation of Ends’: The Categorical Imperative of Prison Abolition,” James A. Manos, DePaul University

“Incarceration, Debt, and Right as Social Pathology,” Chad Kautzer, University of Colorado, Denver

“Precarious Safety: Toward Noncarceral Communities,” Sarah Tyson, University of Colorado, Denver

Friday Afternoon Session I
2:00–3:30 p.m.
Entries Down the Rabbit Hole: Exploring Zero Tolerance and the Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Moderator: Janet Wolf

Buttrick 205

Damien Durr, Independent Scholar and Activist
Shakya Cherry-Donaldson, Independent Scholar, Activist, Educator, Sister of Ex-Insider
Ndume Olatushani, Ex-Death Row Insider, Activist, Artist

Friday Afternoon Session I
2:00–3:30 p.m.
Gender Noncomformity and Queer/Trans Sexuality in Prison
Moderator: Geoffrey Adelsberg, Vanderbilt University

Buttrick 206

“A Means of Assuring the Safe and Efficient Operation of a Prison’: Administrative Segregation, Security, and Gender Nonconformity,” Elias Vitulli, University of Minnesota

“Constellating Connections: Trans Justice, Prison Activism, and Participatory Action Research,” Pascal Emmer, University of California at Santa Cruz

“Epistemic Injustices in Correctional Health Care: Policies Affecting LGBTQI Prison Populations,” Andrea Pitts, Vanderbilt University
Friday Afternoon Session I

2:00–3:30 p.m.

**Foucault Incarcerated**

Moderator: Brady Heiner, University of California, Fullerton

*Buttrick 306*

“Prison Education and the Myth of Separation,” Steven DeCaroli, Goucher College

“Spaces of the Self: Foucault and Goffman on the Micro-Physics of Discipline,” Robert S. Leib, Villanova University

“On Being Already Outside: Religious Transcendence and the Great Confinement in Foucault’s History of Madness,” Adrian Switzer, Western Kentucky University

“Foucault, Tranquility, and the Work of Reform,” Perry Zurn, DePaul University

**Coffee Break**

3:30–4:00 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Session II

4:00–5:30 p.m.

**Locked Out: The Challenges of Writing about Prisons in Journalism and the Academy**

Moderator: Jessica Crowell, Rutgers University

*Buttrick 205*

“(Un)covering Prisons: Reporting on America’s Domestic Black Sites,” Jean Casella, Solitary Watch

Liliana Segura, *The Nation*

“From the Public Technology of Chain to the Living Death of Supermax Confinement,” Colin Dayan, Vanderbilt University

Friday Afternoon Session II

4:00–5:30 p.m.

**The Interstices of Punishment and Discipline: Interrogating Race, Gender, Sexuality and Incarceration**

Moderator: Courtney Marshall, University of New Hampshire

*Buttrick 206*


“(Re)Building Community and (Re)Creating Alternatives: Black Women and Mass Incarceration,” Haile Eshe Cole, Doctoral Candidate, The University of Texas at Austin

“The Skunk in the Box”—The Theatrical (Re)production of Truth and Justice at the Intersections of Sexuality, Race, Gender, and Class,” Elvia Mendoza, The University of Texas at Austin
Friday Reception
Light Dinner and Drinks
5:30–7:00 p.m.
Buttrick Atrium

Keynote Address
7:00 p.m.
Buttrick 101
Susan Rosenberg
Writer, Educator, Former Political Prisoner
Author of An American Radical: A Political Prisoner In My Own Country (2011)

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Breakfast
8:30 a.m.
Buttrick Atrium

Saturday Morning Session I
9:00–10:30 a.m.
Legal and Comparative Perspectives on Mass Incarceration
Moderator: James Manos, DePaul University
Buttrick 205

“The Procedural Entrapment of Mass Incarceration: Prosecution, Race, and the Unfinished Project of American Abolition,” Brady Heiner, California State University, Fullerton

“The Inmate Education and Rehabilitation: An International Comparison,” Obi N.I. Ebbe, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga


“Aristotelian Flourishing and Virtue as the Benchmarks for Rehabilitation,” Andrew C. Koehl, Roberts Wesleyan College

Saturday Morning Session I
9:00–10:30 a.m.
Slavery, Prison Abolition and Black Radical Politics
Moderator: Breea Willingham, SUNY Oneonta
Buttrick 206

“I can still…teach people’: Genuine Solidarity, African American Literature, and the Coalitional Project of Abolition Pedagogy,” Patrick Elliot Alexander, University of Mississippi

“Abolition’s Legacies: Historical Memory and Contemporary Anti-Prison Organizing,” Joshua Mitchell, University of Southern California

“The Extermination of the North American Third World Left: How Black Power was Pivotal in the Expansion of the Prison-Industrial Complex,” Lisa M. Corrigan, University of Arkansas

Saturday Morning Session II
11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Race, Disability, Gender, and Ageing Beyond Bars
Moderator: William Andrews, Chicago Theological Seminary
Buttrick 205
“The Role of Empowerment in the Job Search Process of Re-Entering African American Males,” Chloe Jackson, Georgia State University
“Dual Stigmas Beyond the Bars: An Initial Investigation into Employment Outcomes for People with Disabilities and Criminal Histories,” Jason E. Gines, Penn State University
“The Elderly on Death Row: An Exploration of Emerging Issues,” Margaret Vandiver, University of Memphis
“Advancing Humanity: Beginning a Discourse on Women’s Health and Incarceration,” Evelyn Patterson and Helena E. Dagadu, Vanderbilt University, Sociology

Saturday Morning Session II
11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Teaching Freedom: Humanities Education in the Prison Classroom
Moderator: Andrew Dilts, Loyola Marymount University
Buttrick 206
“Dignity and the Prison Classroom,” Grace Hunt, Bard Prison Initiative and Bard College

Saturday Morning Session II
11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Transformation Within/Without: Prisons and the Restoration of Human Dignity
Moderator: Ulrike Wiethaus, Wake Forest University
Buttrick 306
“The Children of God: Race, Class, Religion, and Punishment in America,” Ron Neal, Wake Forest University
“Correctional Reform: The View from Inside the Walls,” Daniel Redding, Alexander Correctional Institution (Taylorsville, NC)
“Racial Tyranny and the Making of the American Gulag,” Rev. Joe Ingle, United Church of Christ

Lunch
12:30–2:00 p.m.
Keynote Address
2:00–3:30 p.m.
Buttrick 101
Mark L. Taylor
Maxwell M. Upson Professor of Theology and Culture, Princeton Theological Seminary
Author of The Theological and the Political: On the Weight of the World (2011) and The Executed God: The Way of the Cross in Lockdown America (2001)
Coffee Break
3:30–4:00 p.m.
Buttrick Atrium
Saturday Afternoon Session II
4:00–5:30 p.m.
Critical Prison Pedagogy in Theory and Practice
Moderator: Wende Ballew, Reforming Arts, Georgia
Buttrick 205
“Punishment and Curing Through Culturally Relevant Curriculum,” Tria Andrews, University of California, Berkeley
“Distinguishing Radical Teaching from Merely Having Intense Experiences while Teaching in Prison,” Robert Scott, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
“Making a Map for Learning: The Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project,” Kyes Stevens, Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project, Auburn University
“Building a Post-Secondary Education Program in the Prison: A Model for State Collaboration and Technology in the Prison Classroom,” Julie Doochin, Doctoral Candidate, Lipscomb University; Program Director, College Program at Charles Bass Correctional Complex

Saturday Afternoon Session II
4:00–5:30 p.m.
Teaching and Learning at Nashville Area Prisons
Moderator: Bruce Morill, Vanderbilt University
Buttrick 206
Richard Goode, Lipscomb University
Daniel Joranko, Vanderbilt University
Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt University
Bruce Morrill, Vanderbilt University

Saturday Afternoon Session II
4:00–5:30 p.m.
Carceral Geographies
Moderator: Micol Seigel, Indiana University Bloomington
Buttrick 306
“Organizing for Freedom: Abolitionist Reforms and the Angola Special Civics Project,” Lydia Pelot-Hobbs, Graduate Center, City University of New York
“Demolition Futures: Camden’s Real Estate,” Mercy Romero, University of California, Berkeley
“The Prison ‘Outside’: A Rematerialization of the Prison in the Everyday Life of the Urban ‘Million-Dollar Block,’” Brett Story, University of Toronto

Keynote Address
5:45 p.m.
Buttrick 101
Joy James
Presidential Professor of Humanities and Professor in Political Science, Williams College; Visiting Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies, University of Texas at Austin

Conference Reception
7:15–11:00 p.m.
Drinks and refreshments in the Vanderbilt Divinity School Reading Room
SUNDAY, MAY 5

Breakfast
8:30–9:00 a.m.
Buttrick Atrium

Sunday Morning Session I
9:00–10:30 a.m.
Private Incarceration and Prisons in the Socio-Political Imaginary
Moderator: Shela Van Ness, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Buttrick 205

“Criminal Aliens’ and the Critique of Private Incarceration,” Matt Whitt, Warren Wilson College
“The Political and Societal Impact of the Private Prison Industry,” Alex Friedmann, Prison Legal News
“The Intersection of Supermax Confinement and Politics in an Age of Fear,” Shela Van Ness, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Sunday Morning Session I
9:00–10:30 a.m.
Philosophy and Critical Prison Pedagogy
Moderator: Carolyn Cusick, Vanderbilt University
Buttrick 206

“Meliorism and Abolitionism in Prison Teaching and Research Collaborations,” Drew Leder, Loyola University Maryland, and Joshua Miller, Morgan State University

Sunday Morning Session I
9:00–10:30 a.m.
Rethinking Prisoner Reentry
Moderator: Margaret Vandiver, University of Memphis
Buttrick 306

“Beyond the Prison Walls: A Du Boisian Analysis of Ex-Offender Reentry in the Age of Mass Incarceration,” Kim Wilson, Temple University
“The Role of Broadband Access and Training in Philadelphia’s Prisoner Reentry Programs,” Jessica Crowell, Rutgers University
Five Brim, Prison Activist, Stop Stop and Frisk Campaign, NYC
“Critical Rebirth,” Leroy Jones, Prison Activist, Nashville

Sunday Morning Session II
11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Prison Activism and Community Organizing
Moderator: Julie Doochin, Lipscomb University; College Program at Charles Bass Correctional Complex
Buttrick 205

Clemmie Greenlee, Nashville Peace Makers, Founder and Executive Director
Lamont Lester, Nashville Peace Makers, Program Director
Shirley Sims-Saldana, Nashville Peace Makers, Community Volunteer; The Rights of All–A Global Perspective, Founder; Human Rights Activist
Sunday Morning Session II
11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
SALT Program at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution
Moderator: TBA
Buttrick 206
Presenters TBA

Critical Perspectives on the Death Penalty
Moderator: Laura McTighe, Columbia University
Buttrick 306
“The Death Row Syndrome,” Megan Spatz, Independent Filmmaker and Activist
“Soulful Resistance: Theological Body Knowledge on Tennessee’s Death Row,” Andrew Krinks, Vanderbilt University
“Broken Beyond Repair: The Reality of Tennessee’s Death Penalty,” Stacy Rector, Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (Nashville)

Sunday Afternoon Session I
2:00–3:30 p.m.
The Clemency Campaign for Abu Ali Abdur’Rahman
Moderator: Bruce Morrill, Vanderbilt University
Buttrick 206
Bradley A. MacLean, Tennessee Office of the Post-Conviction Offender
Linda Manning, Vanderbilt Center for Integrative Health

Sunday Afternoon Session I
2:00–3:30 p.m.
Tennessee Prisons, Past and Present
Moderator: Shaeeda Meensah, Penn State University
Buttrick 306
“The Abolitionist Imagination and American Literature,” Katy Ryan, West Virginia University, Founder of the Appalachian Prison Book Project
“Autobiography as Resistance: Rethinking the Personal as Political,” Amy McKiernan, Vanderbilt University
“Between General Population and Supermax: Gang Validation as a Tool for Social Control and Disciplinary Power,” Carmela Hill-Burke, Vanderbilt University

Lunch
12:30–2:00 p.m.
**Concluding Plenary**
4:00–5:30 p.m.
*Buttrick 101*

REACH Coalition

REACH is a coalition of prisoners on death row at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution and volunteers from the outside.


**Closing Remarks**
5:30–5:45 p.m.
Lisa Guenther, Vanderbilt University
*Buttrick Atrium*

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**ACCOMMODATIONS**

All of the following hotels are close to one another and within walking distance of the Vanderbilt campus.

**Hampton Inn & Suites**
2330 Elliston Place
Nashville, TN 37203
p. (615) 320-6060
t-f. (800) 741-5072

**Courtyard by Marriott**
1901 West End Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203
p. (615) 327-9900
t-f. (800) 245-1959
f. (615) 327-5490

**Scarritt-Bennett Center**
1008 19th Ave. South
Nashville, TN 37212
p. (615) 340-7500
t-f. (866) 420-5486

**Holiday Inn**
2613 West End Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203
p. (615) 327-4707
t-f. (877) 863-4780, (877) 327-4707
f. (615) 327-8034

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**Conference Format**

The aim of this conference is to bring together scholars, activists, and practitioners to discuss issues raised by prisons and the death penalty.

The format for parallel sessions will be discussion-based workshops. To facilitate discussion, we ask that you limit your formal presentation to 10-15 minutes. We invite you to speak extemporaneously about the issues, methods, strategies, and motivations that shape your work, and to explain these in a way that is accessible to others beyond your field and/or home institution.

We have posted the abstracts for individual presentations and organized panels online at rethinkingprisons.wordpress.com to provide a broader context for engagement.

All conference proceedings are free and open to the public.

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**Childcare**

Nannies of Green Hills
p. (615) 673-1150
nanniesofgreenhills.com

Family Care Connection
p. (615) 371-0600
familycareconnection.net
WALKING DIRECTIONS

Walking Directions from Courtyard Marriott

Turn left when you exit the hotel and walk straight down West End Avenue. When you arrive at 23rd Avenue, turn left to enter campus and walk straight. You will pass Alumni Hall on your left, then Sarratt Student Center and Rand Hall on your right. Buttrick Hall will be the building right in front of you at the end of the straight path. You will enter on the side entrance.

Walking Directions from Hampton Inn

Exit hotel and turn right to reach 24th Avenue North. Turn left at 24th Avenue and walk one block to West End Avenue. Turn left at West End and walk one block to 23rd Avenue. Turn right to enter campus and walk straight. You will pass Alumni Hall on your left, then Sarratt Student Center and Rand Hall on your right. Buttrick Hall will be the building right in front of you at the end of the straight path. You will enter on the side entrance.

Walking Directions from the Scarritt-Bennett Center

Exit the Scarritt-Bennett Center on 19th Avenue and walk straight down Scarritt Place. You will cross 21st Avenue at the light and walk straight up the path next to the library. You will need to climb a short flight of stairs and then continue walking straight along the side of Library Lawn. The building facing Central Library is Buttrick Hall. You can enter either from the front or side entrance.

Walking Directions from Holiday Inn

Exit hotel and turn right. Walk down West End Avenue to 23rd Avenue. Turn right to enter campus and walk straight. You will pass Alumni Hall on your left, then Sarratt Student Center and Rand Hall on your right. Buttrick Hall will be the building right in front of you at the end of the straight path. You will enter on the side entrance.

See map on back page for suggested walking paths.

See also: vanderbilt.edu/map

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