

Archiving In Conversation:

An archivist, a historian, and an architect



Thursday, 23rd Jan. 2025

5:30 pm

MMCH 103

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What is an archive? How do archives shape our understanding of knowledge, histories, cultures, and societies? How are digital methods implicated in archival work, access, and erasure? How do archivists, historians, architects, and designers use and question “archives?” Today, archivists work in various sectors with different collecting missions and goals.

In this talk and discussion, archivist, **Dr. shady Radical**, historian, **Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black**, and architect, **Dr. Francesca Torello** discuss how they employ archives and archival materials in their work.

Moderated by: **Vernelle A.A. Noel**

Assistant Professor of Computational Design

The Lucian and Rita Caste Assistant Professor in Architecture and Urban Design

A TALK AND DISCUSSION



Dr. shady Radical

Dr. shady Radical is the Associate Director of Training and Development of Archival Services at Heritage Werks in Atlanta, Georgia and the Founder and Lead archivist of The Radical Archive of Preservation, LLC. Her creative practice involves working with artists in Atlanta’s art, film, and television industries; teaching the relationship between Art, History, and Archives at Spelman College; and preserving the work of Black performance companies in Atlanta and Tanzania. She exposes young people to careers in preservation, while creating access to some of our nation’s most valuable historical materials. She guides and exposes early and mid-career archival workers to a range of collections and careers in corporate, academic, and community archives.



Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black

Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black is a Professor in the Department of History and the Director of the Dietrich College Humanities Center at CMU. Her research specialty is the trans-national history of West African rice farmers, peasant farmers in pre-colonial Upper Guinea Coast and enslaved laborers on rice plantations in the antebellum South Carolina and Georgia Lowcountry. Dr. Fields-Black uses interdisciplinary sources and methods to uncover the voices of historical actors in pre-colonial West Africa and the African Diaspora who did not author written sources. Her new book, **COMBEE: Harriet Tubman, the Combahee River Raid, and Black Freedom during the Civil War** offers the fullest account to date of Tubman’s Civil War service.



Dr. Francesca Torello

Dr. Francesca Torello is an architectural historian and Special Faculty with the CMU School of Architecture in Pittsburgh, USA. She writes on the role of history and historical imagination in architectural pedagogy and practice, particularly at the turn of the twentieth century. Her research investigates American travel and tourism, “Grand Tour surrogates” and architecture’s rich connections with the visual and media culture of its time. Through digital humanities projects she explores architecture’s latent virtuality and the cultural shifts brought about by digital technologies in storied cultural institutions, such as museums and archives.