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## Greetings from DEFCon

We know that this is an especially difficult time for so many reasons. Here at DEFCon, we've been trying to focus on the work we're doing to build capacity for teaching at the intersections of ethnic studies fields and digital humanities. The courses that we hope to offer students can equip them with knowledge about digital literacy and advocacy, all crucial skills for navigating the world we're living in.

Last month, we had our first talk in the [DEFCon Speaker Series](#), by **Dr. Jennifer Guiliano** at IUPUI. In this wonderful event, Dr. Guiliano took us on a robust tour of digital pedagogy, drawing on her forthcoming book, [A Primer for Teaching Digital History](#) (Duke UP, 2022). Even if you aren't a historian, Dr. Guiliano's work has lots of ideas for you! If you missed the talk, check out [the video](#).

We've given out our first DEFCon Teaching Mentorships: \$2500 stipends for faculty developing courses that blend ethnic studies and digital humanities. We are delighted to be supporting course development in Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian-American digital humanities. We also selected our first cycle of DEFCon Mentors and are so grateful that they are sharing their wealth of knowledge with our Teaching Fellows. Check out [our exciting list of recipients](#)

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We've also continued planning our DEFCon Speaker Series and our Virtual Annual Meeting. More information about our [upcoming events](#) is below.

If you have events, resources, and publications to share with our community, drop us a note at [digitaletnicfutures@gmail.com](mailto:digitaletnicfutures@gmail.com). We're also open to discussions about potential partnership and collaborations.

Warm wishes,

Roopika Risam, DEFCon Director, and Keja Valens, Associate Director on behalf of the [DEFCon Steering Committee](#)

## Keynote Announcement: DEFCon Virtual Annual Meeting

Our **DEFCon Virtual Annual Meeting** will take place on **Friday, May 13, 2022** from 11am Eastern/8am Pacific to 4pm Eastern/1pm Pacific.

[Register here!](#)



We are delighted to share that our keynote speaker will be **Dr. Joanne V. Gabbin**, Executive Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center and Professor of English at James Madison University. Dr. Gabbin will discuss her work developing the Furious Flower digital archive with students, in conversation with DEFCon's own **Dr. Sonya Donaldson**. The keynote will take place at 11am Eastern/8am Pacific.

Dr. Gabbin's conversation with Dr. Donaldson will be followed by a program featuring the work of DEFCon Teaching

Fellows and Mentors, as well as opportunities for informal networking among geographical regions.

## DEFCon Speaker Series: Elisa Beshero-Bondar &

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Digital Ethnic Futures Consortium  
Speaker Series

**Black DH and a  
Challenge in  
Document Data  
Modeling**

Anna Julia Cooper's  
Responses to the Survey of  
Negro College Graduates

with Dr. Shirley Moody-  
Turner, Penn State &  
Dr. Elisa Beshero-Bondar,  
Penn State Behrend

MAR 30, 2022  
3:30-4:45 PM EASTERN

REGISTER AT  
TINYURL.COM/DEFCONSPEAKERSTEBB

We're delighted to be joined on **Wednesday, March 30th at 3:30pm Eastern** for **Dr. Elisa Beshero-Bondar and Dr. Shirley Moody-Turner's** talk, "**Black DH and a Challenge in Document Data Modeling: Anna Julia Cooper's Responses to the Survey of Negro College Graduates**"

[Register here!](#)

Description: In this presentation, we explore ways to engage students with manuscripts and complex textual

documents in order to give them a chance to be decision-makers about digital representation. We will speak about how we came to collaborate around Anna Julia Cooper and the different communities of practice our collaboration has included. From demystifying scholarly editing for undergraduates, to expanding the idea of what and who counts as a textual scholar, to engaging undergraduates and graduate students with digital tools, we share a pedagogical and scholarly practice that seeks to build communities within and beyond the classroom.

We share an example drawn from a 2020 collaboration addressing an interesting and particularly challenging document drawn from Cooper's archive. In the 1930s, Dr. Cooper, educator and foremother of Black feminist thought, responded to a Survey of Negro College Graduates. Cooper's response to one question about her "racial philosophy" exceeded the limits of the form and was later published as an essay, removed from its original context. In Fall 2020, Alice Rong led undergraduates in PSU Behrend's Text Encoding class to prepare a [digital scholarly edition](#) of [the entire document](#). In preparing the experimental project assignment, Dr. Beshero-Bondar was guided by Dr. Moody-Turner, who collaborated with Dr. Lopez Matthews at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center on the digitization of [Cooper's collection](#) at Howard University. The project we worked on in Fall 2020 represents a new approach to modeling documents that enmesh print with handwriting in a back-and-forth

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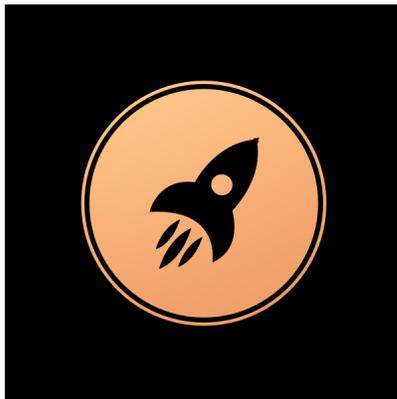
inviting the students to make scholarly decisions when confronting specific problems for representation and annotation. Our collaboration highlights the importance of digital scholarly editing for Black digital humanities research that involves undergraduates with faculty scholars in making resources meaningful, legible, and findable.

**Dr. Elisa Beshero-Bondar** is professor of Digital Humanities and program chair of Digital Media, Arts, and Technology at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

**Dr. Shirley Moody-Turner** is associate professor and award-winning teacher of English and African American Studies at Penn State University.

For their full bios, more information, or to register, visit the [DEFCon site](#).

## Save the Date: DEFCon Speaker Series with Jim McGrath



Save the date for our April speaker! On **April 25, 2022** at 5pm Eastern/3pm Pacific, **Dr. Jim McGrath** will give his talk, "**Networks of Injustice: Reflections on Teaching Digital Public History and Data Literacy.**"

[Register now!](#)

### Questions, Thoughts, Concerns, Ideas?

Have an idea for a DEFCon event, project, program, or collaboration? Please contact Consortium Director Roopika Risam at [digitaletnicfutures@gmail.com](mailto:digitaletnicfutures@gmail.com).

*The Digital Ethnic Futures Consortium is made possible through the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.*

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