

Constructing the Past,  
Creating the Future:  
The Legacy of  
Nell Irvin Painter

Friday, April 2, 2004  
and Saturday, April 3, 2004  
Princeton University  
McCosh Hall 10



Conference Schedule  
Constructing the Past, Creating the Future:  
The Legacy of Nell Irvin Painter

**Friday, April 2, 2004**  
**McCosh Hall 10**

**Welcome: Valerie Smith**  
Chair, Program in African American Studies at Princeton

**Teaching to Transgress: The Legacy**  
**3:00-5:00 PM**

Testimonial: Samuel Roberts, Columbia University

Panel:  
**Moderator:** Francille Rusan Wilson, University of Maryland

Jennifer Delton, Skidmore College  
Crystal Feimster, Boston College  
Cheryl Hicks, Williams College  
Ken Mack, Harvard Law School

**Respondent:** Jane Dailey, The Johns Hopkins University

**Keynote Address:** Robin D. G. Kelley, Columbia University  
**5:30-7:00 PM**

**Saturday, April 3, 2004**  
**McCosh Hall 10**

**Reading Race, Writing History: The Scholarship**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Testimonial: Patricia Ann Schechter, Portland State University

Panel:  
**Moderator:** Tera Hunter, Carnegie Mellon University

David Levering Lewis, New York University  
Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Brown University  
Annette Gordon-Reed, New York Law School

**Respondent:** Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Harvard University

Lunch Break  
12:00 – 2:00 PM

**Broadening the Boundaries: The Discipline**  
**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

Testimonial: Barbara Krauthamer, New York University

Panel:

**Moderator:** Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Clement Price, Rutgers University-Newark  
David Roediger, University of Illinois-Chicago  
Barbara Savage, University of Pennsylvania

**Respondent:** Hendrik Hartog, Princeton University

**On Gendered Ground: The Spirit**  
**4:15 – 6:15 PM**

Testimonial: Steve Kantrowitz, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Panel:

**Moderator:** Elizabeth Lunbeck, Princeton University

Glenda Gilmore, Yale University  
Walter Johnson, New York University  
Deborah Gray White, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

**Respondent:** Cheryl Wall, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

**Wrap-Up**  
**6:15 – 6:45 PM**

Saje Mathieu, Princeton University  
Colin Palmer, Princeton University

**Reception and Testimonials—Palmer House**  
**6:45-9:00 PM**

**Moderator:** Charles H. McGruder III, Western Kentucky University

Nellie Y. McKay, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Thadious Davis, Vanderbilt University

Copies of Professor Painter's books will be available for purchase outside of McCosh 10  
from 1:30-7:00 PM

## The Legacy of Nell Irvin Painter

**Nell Irvin Painter** is a leading historian of the United States. Currently the Edwards Professor of American History at Princeton University, she was Director of Princeton's Program in African-American Studies from 1997 to 2000. In addition to her doctorate in history from Harvard University, she has received honorary doctorates from Wesleyan, Dartmouth, SUNY-New Paltz, and Yale.

As a scholar, Professor Painter has published numerous books, articles, reviews, and other essays. Her most recent book is *Southern History Across the Color Line*. Six earlier books are also still in print. She has served on numerous editorial boards and as an officer of many different professional organizations, including the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the American Antiquarian Society, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, and the Association of Black Women Historians. She has been a Councillor of the American Antiquarian society and belongs to the Society of American Historians.

As a public intellectual, Professor Painter is frequently called upon for interviews, some of which have appeared on public television and in numerous film documentaries. In addition, Professor Painter is widely known as a mentor of younger scholars. She has advised more than twenty dissertations at four major universities and has also mentored numerous other young historians and scholars in related disciplines, at universities across the United States. In 2000, the American Historical Association awarded her the Roelker Mentorship Award as recognition for this work.

Professor Painter's current work is interdisciplinary. In addition to traditional courses in American history and African-American studies, she teaches on the social construction of gender, race, and personal beauty. She plans to complete three books in the next few years. Oxford University Press will publish *Creating Black Americans*, which shows how African Americans have drawn on art and history to develop their identity in the United States. W.W. Norton will publish *The History of White People* and *Personal Beauty: Biology or Culture?*