

Underwriting Souls Essential Reading

The Archives and Exhibitions of *Underwriting Souls* are deeply informed and motivated by a host of thinkers within Black Studies and the Black Digital Humanities. Too often ignored, these scholars offer novel archival practices and methods, challenging us to interrogate the tensions between the past and the present. Here is a shortlist of some of the work that guides *Underwriting Souls*. Some of these texts may be difficult to access due to academic paywalls. Many of these materials can be accessed with a membership to the [British Library](#). Visit your local library for questions around accessibility.

Core Reading:

Berry, Daina Ramey. *The Price for their Pound of Flesh: The Value of the Enslaved, From Womb to Grave, in the Building of a Nation*. Beacon Press, 2017.

Donington, Katie. *The Bonds of Family: Slavery, Commerce and Culture in the British Atlantic World*. Manchester University Press, 2019.

Draper, Nicholas. "The City of London and Slavery: Evidence from the First Dock Companies, 1795–1800 1." *The Economic History Review*. 61, No. 2 (2008): pp. 432-466.

Fuentes, Marisa J. *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016.

Gallon, K. (2016). "Making a Case for the Black Digital Humanities." *Debates in the Digital Humanities*, 42-49.

Gumbs, Alexis Pauline. *Spill: Scenes of Black Feminist Fugitivity*. Duke University Press, 2016.

Hall, Catherine, Nicholas Draper, Keith McClelland, Katie Donington, and Rachel Lang. *Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Hall, Rebecca. *Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts*. Simon and Schuster, 2022.

Hartman, Saidiya. "Venus in Two Acts." *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism*. 12, No. 2 (2008): pp. 1-14.

Hartman, Saidiya. "Intimate History, Radical Narrative." *Black Perspectives*. (2020).

Inikori, Joseph E. *Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England: A Study in International Trade and Economic Development*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Jackson, Zakiyyah Iman. *Becoming Human*. New York University Press, 2020.

Johnson, Jessica Marie. "Markup Bodies: Black [Life] Studies and Slavery [Death] Studies at the Digital Crossroads." *Social Text*. 36, No. 4 (2018): pp. 57-79.

Johnson, Jessica Marie. *Wicked Flesh: Black Women, Intimacy, and Freedom in the Atlantic World*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020.

McKittrick, Katherine. "Mathematics Black Life." *The Black Scholar*. 44, No. 2 (2014): pp. 16-28.

Mitchell, Elise A. "On Slavery, Medicine, Speculation, and the Archive." *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*. 53, No. 1 (2023): pp. 82-85.

Morgan, Jennifer L. "Accounting for 'The Most Excruciating Torment:' Gender, Slavery, and Trans-Atlantic Passages." *History of the Present*. 6, No. 2 (2016): pp. 184-207.

Morgan, Jennifer L. *Reckoning with Slavery: Gender, Kinship, and Capitalism in the Early Black Atlantic*. Duke University Press, 2021.

Mustakeem, Sowande. *Slavery at Sea: Terror, Sex, and Sickness in the Middle Passage*. University of Illinois Press, 2016.

Roberts, Carolyn Elizabeth. "To Heal and to Harm: Medicine, Knowledge, and Power in the Atlantic Slave Trade." (Dissertation). Harvard University, 2017.

Rupprecht, Anita. "Inherent Vice: Marine Insurance, Slave Ship Rebellion, and the Law." *Race & Class*. 57, No. 3. (2016): pp. 31-44.

Sharpe, Christina. *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*. Duke University Press, 2016.

Smallwood, Stephanie E. *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora*. Harvard University Press, 2007.

Williams, Eric E. *Capitalism & Slavery*. University of North Carolina Press, 1994.

Broader Reading:

Baucom, Ian. *Specters of the Atlantic: Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History*. Duke University Press, 2005.

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Bergin, Cathy, and Anita Rupprecht. "Reparative Histories: Tracing Narratives of Black Resistance and White Entitlement." *Race & Class*. 60, No. 1. (2018): pp. 22-37.

Berry, Daina Ramey. *The Price for their Pound of Flesh: The Value of the Enslaved, From Womb to Grave, in the Building of a Nation*. Beacon Press, 2017.

Brown, Vincent. "Mapping a Slave Revolt: Visualizing Spatial History through the Archives of Slavery." *Social Text*. 33, No. 4. (2015): pp. 134-141.

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Crowell, Caitlin Love. "Her Heart, My Hands: Writing An Intimate Life." In *Why We Write*. pp. 68-81. Routledge, 2013.

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Fuentes, Marisa J. *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016.

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Lurvink, Karin. "Underwriting Slavery: Insurance and Slavery in the Dutch Republic (1718–1778)." *Slavery & Abolition*. 40, No. 3 (2019): pp. 472-493.

Makalani, Minkah. "The Politically Unimaginable in Black Marxist Thought." *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism*. 22, No. 2 (2018): pp. 18-34.

McKittrick, Katherine. "Mathematics Black Life." *The Black Scholar*. 44, No. 2 (2014): pp. 16-28.

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Wynter, Sylvia. "Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its overrepresentation — An Argument." *CR: The New Centennial Review*. 3, No. 3 (2003): pp. 257-337.