Plantation Weddings Symposium Further Reading Syllabus

Developed by Elon Cook Lee, Lizzie Mekonnen, and Kristelle Hicks

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Color of Change Campaign - Tell the Wedding Industry There’s Nothing Romantic about Slavery

The Color of Change Campaign called on the country’s major wedding platforms to stop glorifying plantations as nostalgic sites of celebration today.

News Articles


- Clarissa-Jan Lim. “Brides And Grooms Who Got Married At A Former Slave Plantation Are Speaking Out About Criticism Of The Venues.” *Buzzfeed News*, December 17, 2019

- Danielle DeCourcey. "This Black Event Planner's Facebook Post Reveals a Disturbing Trend in Weddings" *ATTN*, January 8, 2017.


- Michael T. Luongo. "Despite Everything People Still Have Weddings at Plantation Sites" *New York Times*, Updated October 20, 2020


Books and Scholarly Articles


• Dr. Frances Smith Foster. 'Til Death or Distance Do Us Part: Love and Marriage in African America. Oxford University Press, 2010.


• Dr. Karen Wilkes (January 2013). “From the Landscape to the White Female Body: Representations of Postcolonial Luxury in Contemporary Tourism Visual Texts.” Mediating the Tourist Experience: From Brochures to Virtual Encounters. 33-55


• National Trust for Historic Preservation. *Engaging Descendant Communities in the Interpretation of Slavery at Museums and Historic Sites* – A Rubric of Best Practices Established by the National Summit on Teaching Slavery.


**Videos & Podcast Resources**

• *Wedding Belles and Enslaved Brides: Plantation Weddings Fact, Fiction, and Folklore* (YouTube)

  A pre-recorded symposium session with Dr. Cherry Levin, who teaches at the College of Marin and additionally owns and operates Frances Lane, a boutique event rental studio located in the San Francisco Bay Area. She earned her doctorate from the Louisiana State University where she concentrated on various aspects of plantation culture, ultimately focusing on the plantation as a site for both white and black marriages.

• *The Nightly Show – Planning a Plantation Wedding* (*Comedy Central*, March 1, 2016)

  Robin Thede and Mike Yard go undercover in Kentucky to investigate the growing phenomenon of plantation weddings

White Columns, Southern Fantasies - This segment includes a discussion of nostalgia and southern "neoplantation architecture" with Dr. Philip M. Herrington.

- "I Asked My Friend WHY She Had a Plantation Wedding \ Tips on How to Have an Anti-racist Wedding" (NotYourMommasHistory on YouTube)

- “When White People Say Plantation” (The Sporkful Podcast with Dan Pashman, June 1, 2020)

An exploration of how the term plantation has been used to market a variety of foods, recipes, products, and restaurants.

**General Online Resources**

[What is a Plantation?](http://www.nationalhumanitiescenter.org/toolbox-library/what-is-a-plantation) (National Humanities Center Toolbox Library)

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