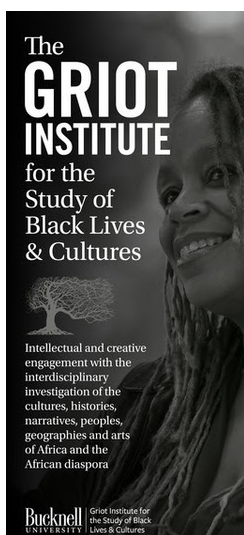




Griot (n): a member of a class of traveling poets, musicians, and storytellers who maintain a tradition of oral history in parts of West Africa

---News from The Griot---



Dear Griot Family and Friends,

We had an incredibly impactful opening of the semester (to learn more read the [Griot Institute Intern Blog](#)) with a set of lunches to meet and welcome new community members, as well as a drumming and dance workshop and talk back with the Soul in Motion artists to accompany the energizing opening event. We are coming to a quieter and yet still robust set of engagements. These are designed as preparation for the Spring Lecture Series and Symposium on the theme *Decolonial Education and Liberatory Learning*. Autumn Equinox has just come, and Fall has properly arrived. To move us through the season, the Griot Institute has planned several

engagements and events that are likely to grab your interest. These include book groups, a reading challenge, book launches, cosponsored lectures, and symposiums.

We are particularly excited to announce that **the Dancing Mind Challenge** is back and will take place Saturday September 28. This is an opportunity to unplug, specifically from the internet, in order to read and think. You can invite your students to the challenge.

Those who want to participate can do so by registering by Saturday morning (September 28) and entering a blog after completing the readings by the end of the day on September 28. To join please visit <https://dancingmind.blogs.bucknell.edu>. Anyone who blogs will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate to one of 3 bookstores (Barnes and Noble, Midtown Scholar, and Mondragon).

Below is a quick glance at planned Griot Institute Fall events. We look forward to seeing many of you in person or via ZOOM at a number of these events.

Warmly,

Cymone Fourshey, Director of The Griot Institute and Faculty in History and International Relations

REMAINING SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- **Tuesday September 24, 7pm: Black Experiences Lecture.** A cosponsored event organized by CSREG scholar and artist Tommy DeFrantz will speak at 7:00pm in ELC Forum on the topic of “Dancing the African Diaspora: Shared Memories and Memorializations in Motion”.
- **Wednesday September 25, 12 - 1 pm: Bucknell in the Caribbean Info Session.** Lunch at 12 noon in the Hildreth-Mirza Great Room session for students interested in joining or learning more about participating in the 3-week summer course that brings together historical, literary, and engineering issues to understand Island Nations’ experiences of the economic impacts of social institutions and natural disasters.
- **Saturday, September 28: Dancing Mind Challenge.** The Challenge takes place all day. We encourage participants to set down devices and read from two to eight hours (2 to 8). Reading can take place anywhere. Several locations around campus will have snacks available for readers: Willard Smith, Traditional Reading Room, Hildreth-Mirza will all have snacks and be inspired and quiet spaces to read. If you would like to read one of the books for an October Griot book group please email griot@bucknell.edu

OCTOBER EVENTS

- **Wednesday, October 2, 12 - 1 pm: Book Group *Imagination: A Manifesto*** Hildreth-Mirza Great Room, Lunch provided Books will be given to the first 20 people to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/2YAiS94YxJiaY1Lq6> A world without prisons? Ridiculous. Schools that foster the genius of every child? Impossible. A society where everyone has food, shelter, love? In your dreams. EXACTLY. *Imagination: A Manifesto* is a proclamation of the power of the imagination.
- **Thursday October 3, 7 pm: Cosponsored with Jazz at Bucknell "Freedom First."** Keith Lamar is a poet on death row who will perform via bluetooth speaker during the concert in Rooke Recital Hall
- **Tuesday October 8, 12 - 1 pm: Book Launch of *Biomythography Bayou*, a Griot Book Series publication.** Join us as we host Mel Michelle Lewis, author of a new multi-genre memoir blending nonfiction essays, recipes, folk tales and poetry influenced by West African, Black American, Indigenous and Southern culture and inspired by the tradition of writers like Audre Lorde, Zora Neale Hurston, Octavia Butler and Alexis Pauline Gumbs.
- **Wednesday October 22, 5 - 6 pm: Bucknell in the Caribbean Info Session.** Dinner provided in the Hildreth-Mirza Great Room session for students interested in joining or learning more about participating in the 3-week summer course that brings together historical, literary, and engineering issues to understand Island Nations’ experiences of the economic impacts of social institutions and

natural disasters.

- **Thursday- Saturday October 24-26: CoSponsored Symposium organized by Anna Paparcone "The Right to Be (Seen): Afrodescendant Women Artists in Italy and Beyond National Borders"**
<https://righttobeseen.scholar.bucknell.edu/>
- **Wednesday, October 30, 12 - 1 pm: Book Group *Dark Agoras*** Hildreth-Mirza Great Room, Lunch provided Books will be given to the first 20 people to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/2YAiS94YxJiaY1Lq6> J.T. Roane demonstrates how working-class Black communities cultivated two interdependent modes of insurgent assembly—dark agoras—in twentieth century Philadelphia. He investigates the ways they transposed rural imaginaries about and practices of place as part of their spatial resistances and efforts to contour industrial neighborhoods.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- **Wednesday November 6, 12 - 1 pm: Cosponsored with the Humanities Center Book Launch of Music Faculty Ben Barson's *Brassroots Democracy: Maroon Ecologies and the Jazz Commons***
Hildreth-Mirza Great Room, Lunch Provided. A new understanding of the birth of jazz through a fine-grained social history of early African American musicians Benjamin Barson presents a "music history from below," following the musicians as they built communes, performed at Civil Rights rallies, and participated in general strikes. Perhaps most importantly, Barson locates the first emancipatory revolution in the Americas—Haiti—as a nexus for cultural and political change in nineteenth-century Louisiana. In dialogue with the work of recent historians who have inverted traditional histories of Latin American and Caribbean independence by centering the influence of Haitian activists abroad, this work traces the impact of Haitian culture in New Orleans and its legacy in movements for liberation.

---General Information---

- For more information, see the [Griot Institute Webpage](#)
- Read up on what Griot Interns are thinking about on [The Griot Institute Intern Blog](#)
- To check event dates, [link to subscribe to the Griot Institute Public Event Calendar](#)
- To contact us, email griot@bucknell.edu or reach us by phone at 570-577-2123. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
- Who to contact: Director: [C. Cymone Fourshey](#); Program Manager: [Michelle Lauver](#)
- Location and Hours: 2nd floor Hildreth-Mirza; M-F, 8-3 or by appointment

---Upcoming Events---

West African Drumming Lessons

Lessons have begun! This opportunity is free of charge and is open to the Bucknell community, as well as the public! No experience is necessary and instruments are provided. Because we have a limited number of instruments, please register by emailing griot@bucknell.edu.

About the instructor: Urie Kline is a versatile percussionist active across Central Pennsylvania. He first began studying West African drumming -- specifically the Jembe and Dunan tradition of the Mande -- in 2015. His educational experiences include masterclasses under both Dr. Djo Bi (Ivory Coast) and M'bemba Bangoura (Guinea). He has taught Mande drumming during his World Drumming course at Lycoming College since 2018 and started instructing at The Griot Institute in 2022.

West African Drumming Lessons

Mondays, 4:30 - 5:30

Hildreth-Mirza Great Room



About the Instructor:

Urie Kline is a versatile percussionist active across Central Pennsylvania. He first began studying West African drumming -- specifically the Jembe and Dunan tradition of the Mande -- in 2015. His educational experiences include masterclasses under both Dr. Djo Bi (Ivory Coast) and M'bemba Bangoura (Guinea). He has taught Mande drumming during his World Drumming course at Lycoming College since 2018 and started instructing at the Griot Institute in 2022.



No experience needed! No cost!
Email griot@bucknell.edu to register.

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Griot Institute
for the Study of
Black Lives & Cultures

Wednesday, September 25, 12 - 1 pm

Tuesday, October 22, 5 - 6 pm

Hildreth-Mirza Great Room, Meal Provided

RSVP for a session: <https://forms.gle/Lg7p74U79aRTW3DUA>

In the course Disaster in Paradise: History, Literature and Engineering, students earn course credit while spending time in the richly historied islands of Puerto Rico and Antigua during summer of 2025. This 3-week course will be held in May - June 2025. Bucknell in the Caribbean is an experiential and intellectual synergy. Students will deal with historical and contemporary knowledge and immerse themselves in learning about the rich cultures of the Caribbean while meeting people to discuss the impacts of natural disasters in urban and rural communities. The program includes daily group trips to community organizations and/or historical locales in Puerto Rico and Antigua. Readings and assignments delve into the Caribbean's diverse literary, historical, linguistic and disaster ecologies and geographies.

If you would like to attend but cannot make either session, please email griot@bucknell.edu.

Bucknell in the

CARIBBEAN

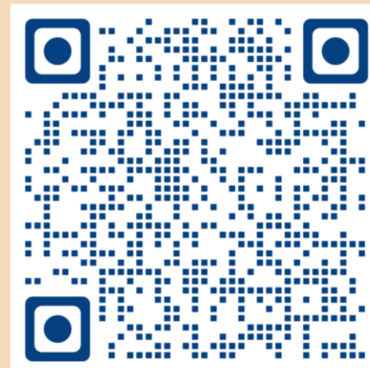
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Study Abroad Info Sessions:
September 25 - 12 pm *Lunch will be provided.
October 22 - 5 pm *Dinner will be provided.

The various historical, cultural and scenic locales on the the Caribbean islands of Puerto Rico and Antigua will be our classroom. Students earn one Bucknell credit for the class.



Please RSVP!



If you are interested, but unable to attend either session, please email griot@bucknell.edu

www.bucknell.edu/incaribbean

Bucknell
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the Study of Black
Lives & Cultures

The Dancing Mind Challenge is back!



**Saturday,
September 28**

Do you have what it takes to run a mental marathon?

More Details:
<https://dancingmind.blogs.bucknell.edu/>



Step Out of Your Comfort Zone . . .

1. Register



2. Unplug and READ for 2-8 Hours

3. Post your blog & enter to win

Bucknell | Griot Institute for
UNIVERSITY the Study of Black
Lives & Cultures

Griot Institute Fall Book Groups

Imagination: A Manifesto

Wednesday, October 2, 12 - 1 pm

Hildreth-Mirza Great Room, Lunch provided

Books will be given to the first 20 people to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/2YAiS94YxJiaY1Lq6>

A world without prisons? Ridiculous. Schools that foster the genius of every child?

Impossible. A society where everyone has food, shelter, love? In your dreams.

EXACTLY. *Imagination: A Manifesto* is a proclamation of the power of the imagination.

Dark Agoras

Wednesday, October 30, 12 - 1 pm

Hildreth-Mirza Great Room, Lunch provided

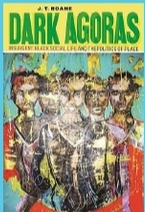
Books will be given to the first 20 people to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/2YAiS94YxJiaY1Lq6>

J.T. Roane shows how working-class Black communities cultivated two interdependent modes of insurgent assembly—dark agoras—in twentieth century Philadelphia. He investigates the ways they transposed rural imaginaries about and practices of place as part of their spatial resistances and efforts to contour industrial neighborhoods.

GRIOT INSTITUTE FALL 2024 BOOK GROUPS

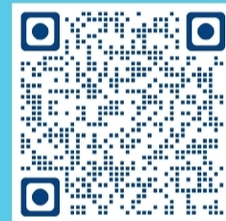


*October 2, 12- 1:
Imagination by
Ruha Benjamin*

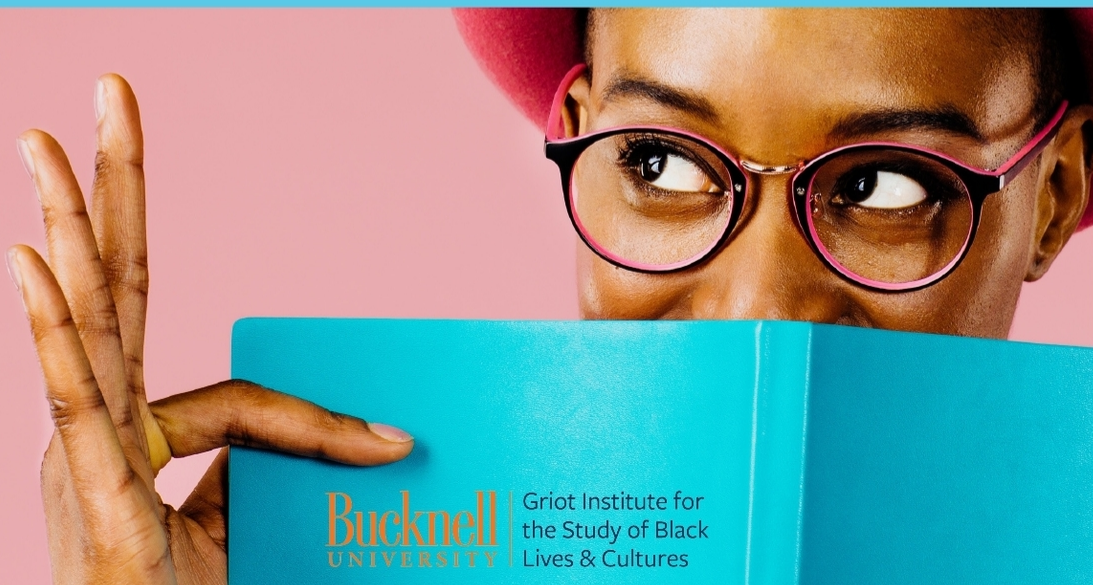


*October 30, 12- 1:
Dark Agoras by
J. T. Roane*

RSVP PLEASE!



The first 20 people to RSVP will receive a free book! Lunch provided.



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Griot Institute for
the Study of Black
Lives & Cultures

BOOK LAUNCH

DR. MEL MICHELLE LEWIS

Biomythography Bayou

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 12 – 1 p.m. (EST)

Please join Bucknell University Press, The Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives & Cultures, and Dr. Lewis in person OR via Zoom for a reading and conversation.

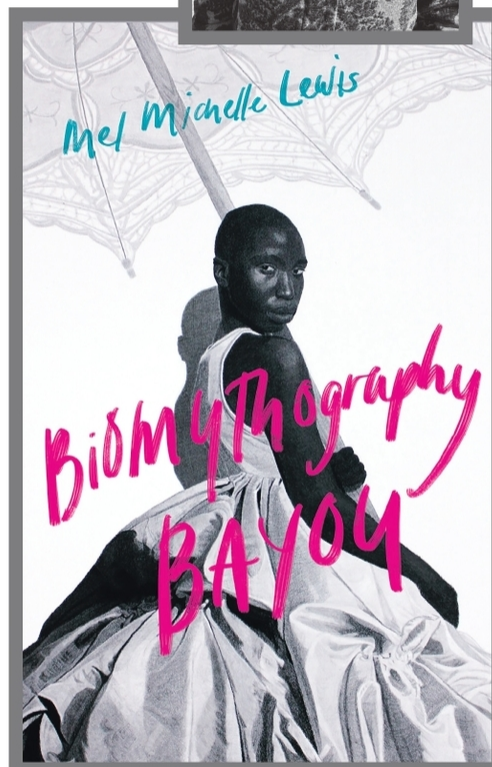
Zoom link will be provided upon request. Please email griot@bucknell.edu.

Join us as we host Mel Michelle Lewis, author of a new multi-genre memoir blending nonfiction essays, recipes, folk tales, and poetry influenced by West African, Black American, Indigenous, and Southern culture and inspired by the tradition of writers like Audre Lorde, Zora Neale Hurston, Octavia Butler, and Alexis Pauline Gumbs.

MEL MICHELLE LEWIS is vice president for people, justice, and cultural affairs at American Rivers; an affiliated researcher with the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania; and a multidisciplinary artist, writer, teacher, and environmental justice practitioner.



*Please RSVP for
in-person attendance*



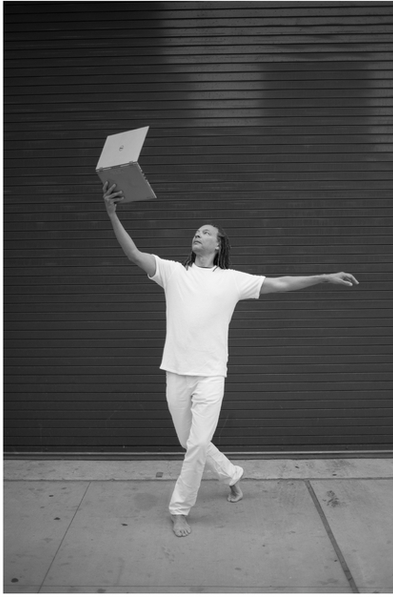
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Griot Institute for
the Study of Black
Lives & Cultures

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---Griot Cosponsored Events---

Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Gender (CSREG)
38th ANNUAL BLACK EXPERIENCES LECTURE



Thomas F. DeFrantz

Northwestern University

Dancing the African Diaspora: Shared Memories and Memorializations in Motion

Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 7pm
ELC Forum

To dance is to re-member, with the body, past occurrences, circumstances, and possibilities. Dance operates like a language, but beyond the structures of comprehensible writing or speech. To dance might not be to proclaim or proselytise, but dancing might bring forward explicit modes of social encounter and social provocation. This talk focuses on modes of African American dance expression built from the social impulse to memorialise and remember pasts. Turf Dancing, Second-Line Dancing, Liturgical Dancing (Praise Dance) and selected theatrical dance works tilted towards the expression of a shared memory demonstrate how African American communities have moved through dance as a mode of social expression and memorialisation.

Bio: Thomas F. DeFrantz directs SLIPPAGE: Performance | Culture | Technology — A research group that explores emerging technology in live performance applications. DeFrantz believes in our shared capacity to engage our creative spirit for a collective good that is anti-racist, anti-homophobic, proto-feminist, and queer affirming. He acted as a consultant for the Smithsonian Museum of African American Life and Culture.

Co-sponsored by the Departments of Theatre and Dance and History, and the Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives & Culture

Rooke Chapel Field Trip



You are invited to join Rooke Chapel as we take a field trip to visit First Baptist Church of Glenarden, Maryland on **Sunday, September 29, 2024**. Please RSVP so that we can plan for transportation. Email kdnoo4@bucknell.edu with questions or for more information.

No cost to participate!

There will be no Rooke Chapel Sunday morning service on this day.

Tentative Schedule for Sunday, September 29:

8:00am Leave campus

12:00pm Worship Service at First Baptist Church

1:30 pm Lunch

6:30pm Arrive back on campus (at the latest)

With more than 11,000 active members, FBCG is one of the largest congregations in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.



[Sign Up Here!](#)

[The Griot Intern Blog](#)

For more information on specific Griot Institute events, please read our intern-authored blogs throughout the academic year. The blogs also include many updates and reports on what is happening around campus in connection to Black lives and cultures.



**Griot intern contributors: Jeremiah Charles '27, Athaliah Elvis '26, Mercy Ifiegbu '26, Holiness Kerandi '26, Jesse Leon '28, Ryleigh Roberts '25 (graduate student and editor), Da'Mirah Vinson '26 and Barbara Wankollie '25.

New Blog Posts:

(Click on each link to read more)

[Griot Institute Opening Celebration](#) by Ryleigh Roberts

[Power & Politics: Black Political Engagement and the 2024 Election](#) by Athaliah Elvis

[New Faculty Welcome Lunch](#) by Holiness Kerandi

[In the Studio with Soul in Motion](#) by Mercy Ifiegbu

[Bringing Together Bucknell Student Orgs](#) by Holiness Kerandi

Attention Faculty!

The Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives and Cultures is offering faculty funding up to \$3500 for research projects. Preferences will be given to projects that address Decolonial Education and/or Liberatory Learning. Applications will be read on a rolling basis starting July 20, 2024.

Please see details below for guidelines and eligibility, and feel free to contact the Griot Institute (griot@bucknell.edu) with any questions.

Details:

The Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives and Cultures offers grants for faculty research, reimbursable funds for travel to archives and conferences and other research related expenses. Applications will be read on a rolling basis starting July 20, 2024.

Please complete the Cover Sheet: <https://forms.gle/D7wVb3daEepSenPw9>

The Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives and Cultures grants are directed at projects that support interdisciplinary research on issues of Black Lives and Cultures. Preference will be given to project proposals that are closely linked to and that directly address the 2024/25 Griot Series theme of Decolonial Education and Liberatory Learning. The Griot Institute Advisory Board recognizes that faculty employ a variety of approaches to critically analyze and respectfully depict Black lives and cultures. Thus, we support work that is artistic, intellectual, or activist in nature. The following funds are available for any continuing faculty (i.e. those not in the last year of an appointment):

A. Reimbursable funds to travel for a conference, purchase relevant research materials, writing institutes, and other research needs are available through a Griot Institute Grant (GIG). The maximum award is \$500. Examples of such reimbursable expenses, for example, might be: books related to your research, materials ordered from an archive, or expenses related to primary research (oral histories, interviews, photocopying, videotaping, etc.). The application should include a description of the proposed activity, the project's relevance to the mission of The Griot Institute and its 2024/25 theme. Please name other sources of funding received and/or applied for this academic year (2024/25). Submit applications to the Faculty Director and the Programs Manager (Griot@bucknell.edu).

B. Open access publication subvention cost supplements are available through a GIG. The maximum award is \$750. The Griot Institute has funds to supplement the cost of subvention for open access publication to make your scholarly work on Black lives and cultures more accessible in the Global South and to communities in the Global North with few resources and little accumulated wealth. Requests should include a description of the publication you seek to publish through open access, its relevance to the mission of The Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives and Cultures, and other sources of funding received and/or applied for towards this aim. The application should include a description of the proposed activity, the project's relevance to the mission of The Griot Institute and its 2024/25 theme. Please name other sources of funding received and/or applied for this academic year (2024/25). Submit applications to the Faculty Director and the Programs Manager (Griot@bucknell.edu).

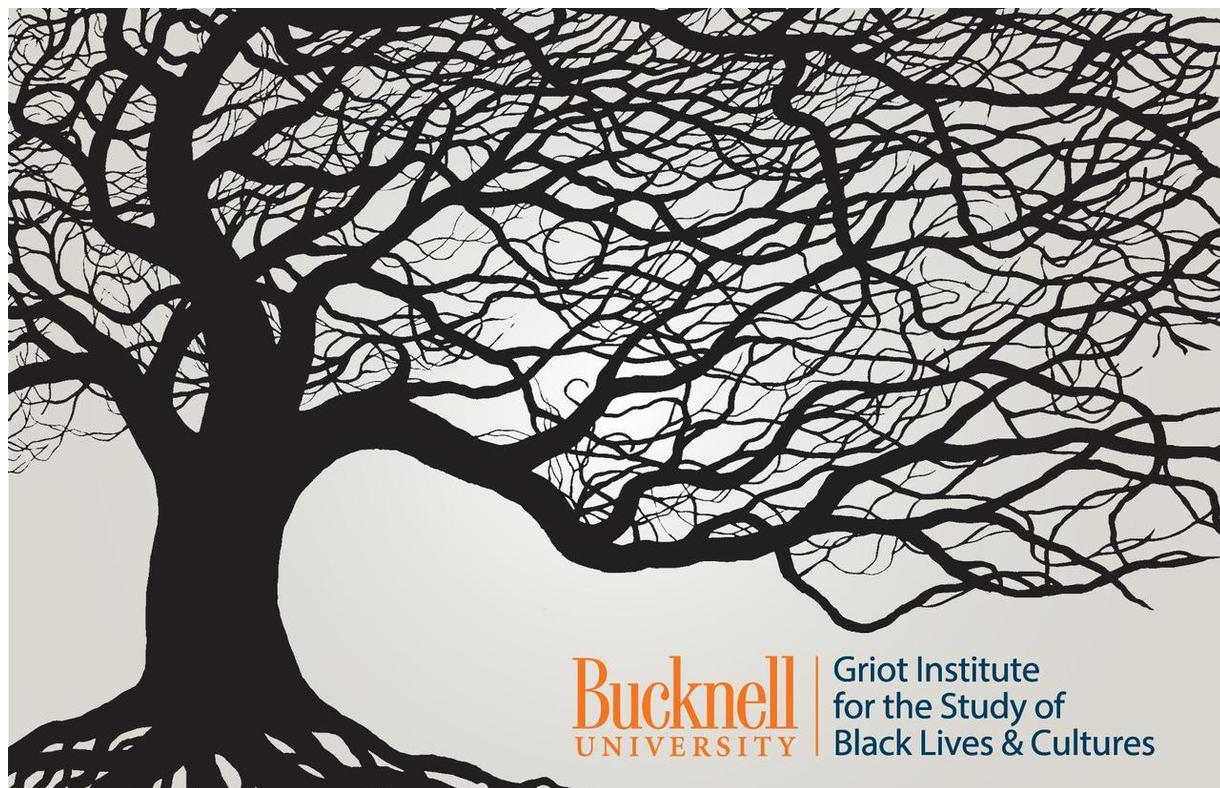
C. Research and writing grants are available through a GIG. The maximum award is \$3500. The Griot Institute has funds to scholarly publication or artistic production about and centering Black lives and cultures by faculty in any discipline. This work may be conducted between August 2024 and June 2025 during the academic year. The work should result in a publication, presentation, or other tangible product relevant to the applicant's field of study. Requests should include a description of the publication you seek to publish through open access, its relevance to the mission of The Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives and Cultures, and other sources of funding received and/or applied for towards this aim. The application should include a description of the proposed activity, the expected outcome (publication, presentation, production, or other outcome), the project's relevance to the mission of The Griot Institute and its 2024/25 theme. Please name other sources of funding received and/or applied for this academic year (2024/25). Submit applications to the Faculty Director and the Programs Manager (Griot@bucknell.edu).

Faculty may apply for more than one type of scholarly development grant (e.g., FDC, Summer Research Session, or BIPP) or more than one type of curriculum development grant (e.g., FDC, CCC, BIPP, Digital Course Design, or Stroup) with the understanding that each of these processes is competitive and that, in general, one will not receive funding for more than one of these grants in the same year. However, exceptions to this general rule

may be made by the Provost or relevant Dean or if the total of funds from all sources does not exceed \$6000. Faculty in the last year of an appointment are not eligible for funding through these grants.

The Griot Institute theme in 2024/25, Decolonial Education and Liberatory Learning, centers the simultaneous yearning for and creation of decoloniality in Black intellectual, artistic, activist, and educational traditions. Decoloniality is both an alternative approach to and a critique of ways that are extractive, appropriating, and violating. Decolonial approaches contemplate ethics and aesthetics rather than reducing people, places, and things to evidence alienated from social, cultural, and philosophical context. Building on Toni Morrison's vision of a clearing, the Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives and Cultures intends for this year-long focus to create a clearing for the Bucknell community to grapple with how to create and support decolonial education and liberatory learning. In response to questions raised by students -- and as we cross over the 150-year mark of Black students studying at Bucknell -- the aim is to foster conversations across campus about the legacies of colonialism, the erasures of non-European ways of thinking and doing, the persistent practices of anti-blackness, and how we might apply decolonial approaches in reclaiming alternative strategies in our lives. By providing alternative conceptualizations and examples of how to exist in the world, a decolonial approach fosters liberatory ways of interacting with knowledge.

****In March of 2025, The Griot Institute will host a conference related to the theme, Decolonial Education and Liberatory Learning. Members of the campus community are welcome to submit research papers, art panels, performance pieces, pop up events or other innovative conference forms.**



Bucknell University

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