

Diaspora

Seminar Meeting

**THE INSTITUTE
FOR
SIGNIFYING
SCRIPTURES**

The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa)

Shared Text:

Stephen Best, *None Like Us:
Blackness, Belonging, Aesthetic Life*
(Duke University Press, 2018)

February 5–7, 2026



In-Person Participation: \$100
Virtual Participation: \$50
Active ISS Membership required



iss

Registration for the 7th ISS Seminar Meeting:

In-person registration: \$100 (closed)

- ~ Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments on Friday 2/6 and Saturday 2/7
- ~ Closing dinner on Saturday evening 2/7
- ~ Group airport transportation on Thursday 2/5 and Sunday 2/8

Online/Virtual registration: \$50 – still open! Please join us!

- ~ participation in meeting sessions and conversations

Sign Up and Website: <https://signifyingscriptures.org/iss-annual-meeting-2026/>

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, February 5

Evening Reception Hotel Capstone, 5pm
Host: Arthur Carter, Phillips Theological Seminary
Conference Registration Pick-Up
Mingling and Refreshments

FRIDAY, February 6

Continental Breakfast Presidents Hall 210, 7:30am-8:15am

Conference Opening Woods Hall 115, 8:30am
Greetings and Participant Introductions
General Remarks: Rosamond Rodman–Georgia State University, Perimeter College
Felicitations (Various UA Administrators)
Introduction and Site Orientation: Sonya Harwood-Johnson–Director of Gorgas House

Opening Address Woods Hall 115, 9:00am
“Decoding Diaspora: Scripturalectics of Resilience”
Richard Newton–University of Alabama
Exhibition: *Decoding Diaspora: Signifying J. A. Rogers’ Mythic Africa*

Refreshment Break Presidents Hall 210, 10:15am

Response and Discussion on “Decoding Diaspora” Woods Hall 115, 10:30am
Facilitator: Tat-siong Benny Liew–College of the Holy Cross

Lunch Presidents Hall 210, Noon

Scriptures Everywhere! Live Woods Hall 115, 1:30pm
Discussion of Best’s “Introduction. Unfit for History”
Host: Jacqueline Hidalgo–University of San Diego

Coffee Break Presidents Hall 210, 2:30pm

FRIDAY, February 6 continued

Site Visit

Tuscaloosa: Dispersion, Disruption, and Diaspora

Led by UA Department of Religious Studies MA students

Meet at Gorgas House at 2:45pm

Dinner and Downtown Art Walk

Participants will arrange for their own meals.

Transportation to and from downtown is available.

Meet at Hotel Capstone at 6pm

SATURDAY, February 7

Continental Breakfast

Presidents Hall 210, 7:30-8:15am

Seminar Meeting

Discussion of "Part 1: On Thinking Like a Work of Art"

Facilitator: Tamara L. Siuda–Claremont Coptic Encyclopedia

Woods Hall 115, 9:00am

Refreshment Break

Presidents Hall 210, 10:15am

Seminar Meeting

Discussion of "Part 2: A History of Discontinuity"

Facilitator: Rachel Schwaller–University of Kansas

Woods Hall 115, 10:30am

Lunch

Presidents Hall 210, Noon

Site Visit

Hallowed Grounds Tour

UA Department of American Culture & Society

Meet at Gorgas House at 1:30pm

Coffee Break

Presidents Hall 210, 2:45pm

Conversations on the Future of ISS

Vincent L. Wimbush–ISS Executive Director

Woods Hall 115, 3:15pm

Refreshment Break

Seminar Conclusion

SATURDAY, February 7 continued

Dinner and Closing Reception

Master of Ceremonies:

Arthur Carter–Phillips Theological Seminary

Hotel Capstone, Presidents Room 6pm

SUNDAY, February 8 – Departures