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Liberating Sojourn 2: Transatlantic Abolitionists 1845-1860

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**Liberating Sojourn 2:
Transatlantic Abolitionists 1845-1860.
University of Liverpool, April 23-25, 2009**



In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Frederick Douglass' second visit to the United Kingdom, 1859-1860, we invite proposals for papers focusing on black abolitionists in Britain and Ireland in the period 1845-1860. Liberating Sojourn 2, expands on the colloquium concentrating on Douglass' first transatlantic voyage, held at Keele University in 1995, and will take place in Liverpool, the former slave port from which Douglass began his second UK tour.

The juncture of Douglass' return trip to Europe on the eve of the US Civil War offers an opportunity to review contemporary shifts in the transatlantic abolitionist movement and international reform community, and to consider afresh the various encounters, transformations and tensions resulting from the circulation of black abolitionists, reformers and ex-slaves, and their work, beyond the Americas. The aim of the symposium, therefore, is to bring together international scholarly perspectives on Douglass' second visit, as well as on the activities of other abolitionist campaigners and sojourners in the period. These include, but are not limited to: Harriet Jacobs, Henry Box Brown, William and Ellen Craft, William Wells Brown, Henry Highland Garnet, James McCune Smith, Martin Delaney and Sarah Parker Remond.

Literary, Historical, Cultural and interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged. Papers are invited across a range of subjects, examples of which might include: race, gender and reform; African Colonization; popular entertainment and racial performance; travel; religion and ethical culture; reform movements; resistance and revolt; constitution and law; blackness and empire (Portuguese, Spanish, British, American); nationalism; romanticism; the economics of slavery and anti-slavery; liberalism; philosophy and freedom; literary and political afterlives. Keynote speakers will be Richard Blackett, Vanderbilt University, and Jean Fagan Yellin, Pace University.

There will be a session on Abolitionists in the North West of England, and on Comparative Luso-Iberian perspectives. In addition, there will be a dedicated teaching session and proposals for papers with a specific pedagogical focus are welcome. Topics might include: Practical approaches to teaching Douglass in 2009; Interdisciplinary teaching: a case study; Teaching abolition and

transatlantic studies in literary, historical, American or Latin American studies programmes; Teaching textual and material culture in partnership with libraries and archives; Texts and technology: Using web 2.0 technology to teach transatlantic studies; Using archives and independent research in the classroom.

Proposals of no more than 250 words should be sent to Alan Rice (arice@uclan.ac.uk) or Fionnghuala Sweeney (fsweeney@liv.ac.uk) by 23 January 2009. Papers should be 20 minutes in length. Completed papers should be sent to individual panel chairs by 1 April 2009. Liberating Sojourn 2 is associated with the Commemorating Abolition initiative based at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) -- see www.uclan.ac.uk/abolition. Following the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in 2007, this project engages undergraduates in archival research into the visits of transatlantic abolitionists to Northern Britain. An exhibition of the findings of this research will feature at the colloquium. Panel sponsors include the English Subject Centre, the British Association for American Studies, the UCLAN Centre for Research Informed Teaching, the Centre for the Study of International Slavery in Liverpool and the Institute for the Study of Slavery at the University of Nottingham.