

AFRICAN & AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PRESENTS:

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

featuring:

**Dr. Amanda Laury Kleintop
& Dr. Cora Wigger**



**Seating is limited!
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Get to Know Our Speakers:



Dr. Amanda Laury Kleintop is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History & Geography and Coordinator of the Museum Studies & Public History minor. A historian of the Civil War and Reconstruction, she researches and teaches about comparative slavery and emancipation, legal history, and Civil War memory. Her first book, *Counting the Cost of Freedom*, published with the University of North Carolina Press in 2025, explores the history and consequences of debates to compensate former enslavers for the value of enslaved people freed during the Civil War. As a CSRCS Scholar and CEL Scholar, Dr. Kleintop develops new opportunities for student engagement with Digital and Spatial Humanities research at Elon and in Alamance County.

Dr. Cora Wigger is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at Elon University. Her research contributes significantly to our understanding of the mechanisms by which education policy and housing policy can jointly reproduce or challenge patterns of socioeconomic and racial inequality. She is currently a Center for Engaged Learning Faculty Fellow, and has also served as an Advancing Equity Scholar. In addition to advancing her own research agenda, she has mentored undergraduate research students as they have investigated topics such as the effects of redlining on student achievement. Dr. Wigger is also actively engaged in pedagogical innovation regarding data literacy and equity in higher education.



Discussion Topic:

Americans tend to think of President Abraham Lincoln as the “Great Emancipator,” but his famous Emancipation Proclamation of January 1863 applied only to rebellious territory, but not the Border States, or slave states that remained in the US. To chip away at slavery there, the Lincoln administration and Congress promised to pay loyal Border State enslavers up to \$300 for enslaved men who enlisted or were drafted in the US Army and created the US Slave Claims Commissions to hear their claims. Although it’s unlikely that the US paid the 11,600 claims submitted from 1864–1866, the Commissions collected the names of the former enslavers and soldiers, rare demographic information about them, their families, and the monetary values of enslavers’ awards.

By working with genealogists and undergraduates at Elon, Kleintop and Wigger seek to make this rare archival information about Black soldiers and their families accessible to researchers and descendants. This presentation will describe the unique archival and ethical considerations regarding historical data about slavery in the US and explore the challenges and considerations for expanding the project into a collaborative effort.

