



## TEACHING THE SPEECHES OF BARBARA JORDAN • WEBINAR

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

### HUMANITIES TEXAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR

**March 29, 2023** -----

5:00–6:30 pm

#### **Teaching the Speeches of Barbara Jordan**

Karen Kossie-Chernyshev, Texas Southern University

Chassidy Olainu-Alade, Fort Bend ISD

Camesha Scruggs, Central Connecticut State University

Meeting with civil rights leaders, February 13, 1967. (From l to r:) Andy Biemillier (Legislative Director, AFL-CIO); Texas State Senator Barbara Jordan; and John Doar (Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice). LBJ Presidential Library photo by Yoichi Okamoto.

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## FACULTY

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**KAREN KOSSIE-CHERNYSHEV**, PhD, a native Houstonian and fifth-generation Texan, is a three-time graduate of Rice University, where she earned a dual BA in French and English, an MA in history, and a PhD in history. She is the first African American to earn a PhD in history from Rice and the first African American woman to earn a PhD in history from a Texas institution. Dr. Kossie-Chernyshev also holds an MA in Francophone African Literature from Michigan State University and a post-baccalaureate BA in music from Texas Southern University. She has been awarded numerous fellowships and grants, including awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Texas Council for the Humanities, Humanities Texas, and Summerlee Foundation. She has taught for Rice University's Language Programs, University of Houston, Oberlin College, and Texas Southern University, where she is a tenured full professor of history. Her research focuses on African American women's intellectual history and religion in the African diaspora, particularly in Texas. She recently served as co-producer and writer for "The Legacy of Barbara Jordan," a video produced in partnership with the University of North Texas history department and The Portal to Texas History. Her latest essay, "Texas, Our Texas: My Family's Deep Roots in the Lone Star State," published in *Stirpes* (September 2022), traces her family's roots to Mexican Texas history. Her edited works include *Angie Brown: A Jim Crow Romance* (Outskirts Press, 2017) and *Recovering Five Generations Hence: The Life and Writing of Lillian Jones Horace* (Texas A & M University Press, 2013), an edited collection containing and annotated version of Horace's historic first novel and a collection of scholarly essays treating various aspects of her work. Dr. Kossie-Chernyshev is the founding director of SWATH, a summer workshop on African American Texas History for local K-16 teachers from various fields of expertise. Committed to making a difference, she has served as chair of the Education and Community Engagement Committee for Councilmember Tarsha Jackson. She has served as an outside evaluation consultant for the Young Women's Initiative, an affiliate of the Texas Women's Foundation, National Young Women's Initiative Collaborative, Girls for Gender Equity, and the Earl Carl Institute (Texas Southern University).

**CHASSIDY OLAINU-ALADE** is a career social studies educator and curriculum expert. She holds a bachelor's degree in history and secondary education from Louisiana State University, as well as an MEd in secondary social studies from Texas Southern University. A major focus of her coursework and area of research has been African American studies and the history of American South. Chassidy moved to Texas in 2006 and served as a classroom teacher of eighth-grade American history for seven years before becoming an instructional coach for secondary social studies. As the former secondary social studies coordinator for Fort Bend ISD, she led the creation and implementation of FB-1, the locally adopted standard to address local history within the district curriculum. Presently she serves as the coordinator for community and civic engagement in Fort Bend ISD where she is a leader and advocate for the education of the convict leasing system and memorialization of the Sugar Land 95. In 2022, she was named the Mel Miller Social Studies Leader of the Year by the National Social Studies Supervisors Association, following being recognized as the 2021 Texas Social Studies Leader of the Year by the Texas Social Studies Supervisors Association. In addition to her advocacy, she develops instructional resources and exhibitions on topics related to African American history, including the period of convict leasing and other aspects of post-Reconstruction America. As a proponent of inquiry-based learning in social studies, she has a keen interest in developing curriculum based on primary source documents and archival resources.

**CAMESHA SCRUGGS** is a professor of history at Central Connecticut State University. She received her PhD in history from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. A native Texan, she received a BA and MA in history from Texas Southern University, a Historically Black College and University. Her research fields are twentieth-century U.S. history, African American history, public history and gender and empire. She recently served on the executive board of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, an organization established by Carter G. Woodson, the father of Black History Month. Her service recently ended on the executive board for the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, an advocacy organization that centers, preserves, and interprets the important role of women and gender non-conforming individuals in the American story. Finally, she performs volunteer work for various community preservation initiatives, bringing stories to broader audiences. She is a recent contributor to "It's Our Movement Now: Black Women's Politics and the 1977 National Women's Conference." Her scholarship examines the lived experiences of African American women in the twentieth century. Her current project examines the lived experiences of Texas African American women domestic servants in the early twentieth century and how interventions from social, civic, government, and higher education institutions impact the occupation.