Critical Conversations Spring 2021 series is organized around two themes: celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Barbara T. Christian, an architect of Black feminist criticism, a founding member of our Department and a gifted writer and teacher; and exploring the concept of “abolition democracy,” thinking creatively and collaboratively about the practice of abolition as necessary to building life-affirming institutions and robust democratic structures. Through both themes, we ask: what are the lessons of the Black Feminist, Black Radical, and Black intellectual traditions for our moment and what is the role of Black Studies in building more just futures?

Online Event Schedule

Monday, January 25
Barbara Christian and the Futures of Black Studies: A roundtable with her former students
Arlene Keizer, Xavier Livermon, Fred Moten, Lisa Ze Winters
Ula Yvette Taylor, moderator

Monday, February 15
Reaping What We Sow: A Conversation with Alice Walker
Darieck Scott and Ra Malika Imhotep, moderators
With support from Stanford University’s Center for Comparative Studies in Race & Ethnicity

Monday, February 22
Black Feminism and the Sonic Archive
Daphne Brooks, Carter Mathes
Leigh Raiford, moderator

Monday, March 1
Abolition, Black Studies and the Law
Geoff Ward, Phil Goff
Nikki Jones, moderator

Monday, March 29
“Abolition for the People”: A Conversation with Kaepernick Publishing
Mariame Kaba, Ameer Loggins, Christopher Petrella, Connie Wun
Nikki Jones and Gabriel Regalado, moderators

Monday, April 5
Black Feminist Geographies of Emancipation
Savannah Shange, Brandi Thompson Summers
Tianna S. Paschel and reelaviolette botts-ward, moderators

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Image: “Field Hands” by Courtney Desiree Morris