

Panelist Biographies

Allison Bigelow is an assistant professor of Spanish in the University of Virginia's Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese with research interests in the history of colonial science.

Max Edelson is a professor of History at the University of Virginia and Co-Director of the UVA Early American Seminar at Monticello. His research examines space, place, and culture in colonial North America and the Caribbean.

Reed Gochberg is Assistant Director of Studies and a Lecturer in the History and Literature program at Harvard University, where she teaches courses in American Studies, museum studies, and material culture.

Ervin Jordan is an associate professor and research archivist at the University of Virginia's Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, and an affiliated faculty member at the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History. He specializes in Civil War and African American history and is the author of three books.

Louis Nelson is Vice Provost for Academic Research and a professor of Architectural History at the University of Virginia. He is a specialist in the built environments of the early modern Atlantic world.

Jalane Schmidt is an associate professor in the University of Virginia's Department of Religious Studies. Her teaching and research consider the effects of colonization and the slave trade upon the Americas.

Kirt von Daacke is an assistant dean and professor of History at the University of Virginia. He is co-chair of the UVA President's Commission on Slavery and the University.

Richard Guy Wilson is a Commonwealth Professor of Architectural History at the University of Virginia. He studies the architecture, design, and art of the 18th to the 21st centuries.



Science & Learning in the University of Virginia's First Library

A public symposium and event culminating in the unveiling of a celestial map projected onto the Rotunda's ceiling

November 1, 2019
Rotunda Dome Room
Charlottesville, VA



IHGC | Institute of the Humanities
& Global Cultures

- 2:00 pm** **Opening Remarks**
John Unsworth
Dean of Libraries, University of Virginia
- The Rotunda, Revisted**
Louis Nelson (moderator)
- Richard Guy Wilson
The Rotunda: Jefferson's Greatest
- Kirt von Daacke
A Smart, Practical Knowledge: Rethinking the Rotunda's Early Years
- Jalane Schmidt
Architectural Markers of Whiteness: How the UVA Rotunda Maps Race onto Place
- Ervin Jordan
White Space: African Americans in the Shadows of the Rotunda, 1820s–2000s
- 3:30 pm** **Coffee and Refreshments**
- 3:45 pm** **Science and Learning in Early America**
Sam Lemley (moderator)
- Allison Bigelow
Mining Down: Science and Translation in the Early Americas
- Max Edelson
Jefferson's American Geography: Reflections on Books and Objects from UVA's First Library
- Reed Gochberg
"To Form a Museum": Defining Useful Knowledge in Early American Collections
- 4:45 pm** **Coffee and Refreshments**

- 6:30 pm** **Keynote**
Sara J. Schechner
Astronomy Inside and Out: Jefferson's Vision for the University of Virginia
- 7:30 pm** **Planetarium Launch**
The projection will be on view until 10 pm.

Keynote Speaker

Sara J. Schechner, PhD is the David P. Wheatland Curator of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments at Harvard University. She is a historian of science, specializing in material culture and the history of astronomy. At Harvard, she is a Lecturer in the History of Science Department and has been on the faculty of the Museum Studies program.

Schechner's numerous publications include *Comets, Popular Culture, and the Birth of Modern Cosmology* (1997), *Time and Time Again: How Science and Culture Shape the Past, Present, and Future* (2014), and *Tangible Things: Making History through Objects* (2015, with Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Ivan Gaskell, and Sarah Carter). Her research, teaching, and exhibition work has earned her many awards, including the 2018 LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for Historical Astronomy, which the American Astronomical Society awards to an individual who has significantly influenced the field of history of astronomy through a career-long effort. Schechner was the first woman to receive this award.

About Rotunda Planetarium

This art installation projects images of constellations onto the University of Virginia's Rotunda dome, creatively reimagining 19th-century plans for the space. A paired exhibition displays books, instruments, specimens, and artifacts related to the Rotunda's early history to tell stories of the people who built, worked, taught, and learned in the building. Learn more and receive updates at rotundaplanetarium.org.