Lisa Materson, "A Crisis of Political History? A View of the Field through the Lens of African American Women's Electoral Activism"

Annual Emma Lou Thornbrough Lecture

November 4, 2016
5:00-6:00 p.m.,
reception to follow

Irwin Library
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A recent New York Times op-ed lamenting the decline of U.S political history has sparked discussion over the state of the field. Positioning this debate in the context of African American women's electoral activism, **Lisa Materson** instead highlights the field's vitality and the centrality of such activism between the 1870s and 1930s for understanding key questions about American party politics.

Lisa G. Materson is an associate professor of history at the University of California, Davis, and a specialist in U.S. women's political history. She is the author of For the *Freedom of Her Race: Black Women and Electoral Politics in Illinois, 1877–1932* (2009). She is a coeditor of the forthcoming Oxford Handbook in American Women's and Gender History. Her work has been supported by Harvard University's Charles Warren for Studies in American History and Princeton University's Center for the Study of Religion. Materson is currently writing a political biography of Ruth Reynolds, a leading activist in the movement for Puerto Rico's independence.

Questions? email vdeno@butler.edu