



C. SHELBY
ROOKS
Lecture & Award
Chicago Theological Seminary

2024 C. Shelby Rooks Lecture

**DR. JUAN
FLOYD-THOMAS**

**OCTOBER 10, 2024
6:00 PM — 7:30 PM**

SPEAKER: JUAN FLOYD-THOMAS

Dr. Juan Floyd-Thomas is Associate Professor of African American Religious History at Vanderbilt University. In his teaching and research interests as a religious historian, Dr. Floyd-Thomas emphasizes race, ethnicity, and religious pluralism within the modern United States; the history of new / alternative religious movements; the varieties of African American religious experience; critical discourses on religion and popular culture; and African American churches and sociopolitical reform; religion and economics; religion and international relations; and interdisciplinary theories and methodological approaches within religious studies. He holds a B.A. from Rutgers University, a M.A. from Temple University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.



In addition to his numerous journal articles and book chapters, Dr. Floyd-Thomas is author of *The Origins of Black Humanism: Reverend Ethelred Brown and the Unitarian Church* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008) and *Liberating Black Church History: Making It Plain* (Abingdon Press, 2014), as well as co-author of *Black Church Studies: An Introduction* (Abingdon Press, 2007) and *The Altars Where We Worship: The Religious Significance of Popular Culture in the United States* with Mark Toulouse and Stacey Floyd-Thomas (Westminster John Knox, 2016). Most recently, Dr. Floyd-Thomas co-edited *Religion in the Age of Obama* with Anthony B. Pinn (Bloomsbury Press, 2018). He is currently working on two book projects: a history of African diasporic religions in Harlem; and a collection of essays on white supremacy, Christian nationalism, and violence in the ongoing Culture Wars.

Currently, Dr. Floyd-Thomas serves as the Vice President of the Society for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion (SRER) and is also a member of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), Organization of American Historians (OAH), American Historical Association (AHA), American Society of Church History (ASCH), and Collegium of African American Research (CAAR). He also serves as an Associate Editor of the AAR's Reading Religion website. In 2018, Dr. Floyd-Thomas was inducted into the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. College of Ministers and Laity, Collegium of Scholars. Additionally, he is both a co-founder and an executive board member of the Black Religious Scholars Group (BRSg).

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests.....	Dr. Brad R. Braxton <i>President</i>
Invocation	Min. Deneen Collins and Mr. Doug Barret
Musical Video Presentation.....	"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
The Rooks Legacy	Ms. Aisha Subhan <i>PhD Student</i>
Presentation of Rooks Award.....	Dr. Emily Vogt <i>Academic Dean</i>
CSBFL Scholarship Recipient.....	Rev. Dr. Nolan Shaw <i>PhD Student</i>
Securing the Rooks Legacy.....	Mr. Chad R. Schwickerath <i>Vice President of Advancement & Strategic Initiatives</i>
Introduction of Lecturer.....	Rev. Dr. Brian E. Smith <i>Director of Community Relations & Strategic Partnerships</i>
Musical Video Presentation.....	"Someday We'll All Be Free"

THE 18TH ANNUAL C. SHELBY ROOKS LECTURE

DR. JUAN FLOYD-THOMAS

"INHERITORS OF A SPECIAL PERIL: PUBLIC THEOLOGY, PROPHET-
IC WITNESS, AND JUST PEACEMAKING IN TROUBLED TIMES"

CONVERSATION

Dr. Juan Floyd-Thomas, Rev. Dr. Kamilah Hall Sharp,
and Dr. José Francisco Morales Torres

Closing Blessing.....	Mr. Rajae Fatiha <i>DMin Student</i>
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BLACK FAITH LEADER COLLECTIVE

The Rooks Lecture is part of a series of programs, open to the community, that invites individuals and communities, lay and clergy, scholars and practitioners, to engage in religious and theological reflection on issues relevant to African American faith, freedom, and justice. The Black Faith Leader Collective continues the tradition of C. Shelby Rooks at CTS and furthers our Commitment to Black Faith and Life.

CHARLES SHELBY ROOKS

This annual lecture is named for C. Shelby Rooks, the first African American to serve as President of a predominately white theological school in the United States of America. He served as President of the Chicago Theological Seminary from 1974-1984. President Rooks was committed to the study of Black religion, academic excellence, and church ministry.



ADRIENNE M. & C. SHELBY ROOKS FELLOWSHIP

The **Adrienne M. and Charles Shelby Rooks Fellowship** was established to support the seminary education of members of the United Church of Christ from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in our church who are committed to serving the UCC and who are enrolled in a school of theology accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. Grants are made to both full-time and part-time students and may be renewed. For more information visit: ucc.org/rooks_doctoral_degree or ucc.org/rooks_masters_degree



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