

Monday, 10.01.2022, 16:15 - 18:00 CET

Karen Woods Weierman, Worcester State University (USA)

The Case of the Slave-Child, Med and the Problem of “No Evidence”

Abstract:

Karen Woods Weierman's recent book, *The Case of the Slave-Child, Med: Free Soil in Antislavery Boston*, restores the complicated history of antislavery Boston's greatest legal victory and most devastating failure. Following a successful freedom suit on her behalf, little Med became a trope, discarded after her test case and forgotten when her death disrupted the triumphalist antislavery narrative. Dr. Weierman's presentation will discuss the challenge of finding a child in the archives, the power and danger of weaponized white motherhood, and the historical lessons for our fraught cultural moment.

Bio:

Dr. Karen Woods Weierman is Professor of English at Worcester State University (MA), where she teaches U.S. literatures and first-year writing. She holds a B.A. in American Studies from Georgetown University and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Minnesota. She is the author of *One Nation, One Blood: Interracial Marriage in American Fiction, Scandal, and Law, 1820-1870* (2005) and *The Case of the Slave-Child, Med: Free Soil in Antislavery Boston* (2019), both published by the University of Massachusetts Press. Her current project explores narratives and rhetorics of reparations during Reconstruction and beyond.