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Meet the Author Catherine A. Stewart

Long Past Slavery: Representing Race in the Federal Writers' Project

Catherine A. Stewart

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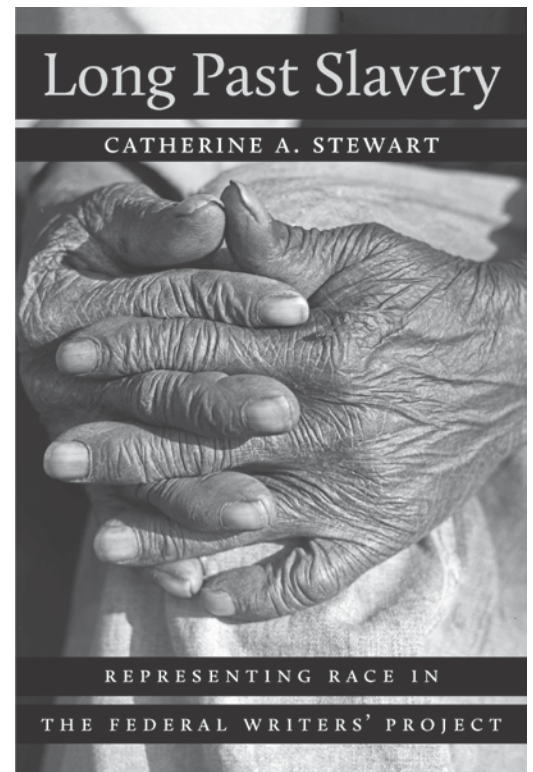
6 pm

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60 West Walton Street, Chicago

From 1936 to 1939, the New Deal's Federal Writers' Project collected life stories from more than 2,300 former African American slaves. These narratives are now widely used as a source to understand the lived experience of those who made the transition from slavery to freedom. But in this examination of the project and its legacy, Catherine A. Stewart shows it was the product of competing visions of the past, as ex-slaves' memories of bondage, emancipation, and life as freedpeople were used to craft arguments for and against full inclusion of African Americans in society.

By shedding new light on a critically important episode in the history of race, remembrance, and the legacy of slavery in the United States, Stewart compels readers to rethink a prominent archive used to construct that history.



After the talk, Stewart will sign copies of the book in the Newberry lobby. *Long Past Slavery* will be available for purchase in the Newberry Bookstore. Your purchase will help to support the Newberry Library, and this program's featured author.

Catherine Stewart is the Richard and Norma Small Distinguished Professor at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, where she teaches courses in late nineteenth- and twentieth-century U.S. social and cultural history. Her research interests include the Federal Writers' Ex-Slave Project, Zora Neale Hurston, public memory, and the politics of textual and visual representation. Stewart received her PhD from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1999. She is currently at work on her next book on race and domestic service during the Great Depression.

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