

Charles S. Casassa, SJ Lecture

Dr. Carolyn Finney

The Past is Prologue: Black Faces, White Spaces & the New Green “Real”

January 30, 1:00pm

MacIntosh Room (University Hall 3600)



Carolyn Finney, PhD is a storyteller, author and a cultural geographer. She is deeply interested in issues related to identity, difference, creativity, and resilience. Carolyn is grounded in both artistic and intellectual ways of knowing - she pursued an acting career for eleven years, but five years of backpacking trips through Africa and Asia, and living in Nepal changed the course of her life. Motivated by these experiences, Carolyn returned to school after a 15-year absence to complete a B.A., M.A. (gender and environmental issues in Kenya and Nepal) and a Ph.D. Along with public speaking, writing, media engagements, consulting & teaching (Wellesley, UC Berkeley and the University of Kentucky), she served on the U.S. National Parks Advisory Board for eight years which assists the National Park Service in building relationships of reciprocity with diverse communities. Her first book, *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors* was released in 2014 (UNC Press). Recent publications include “The Space Between the Words” (Harvard Design Journal Spring 2018), “A Thousand Oceans” (Geographical Research, Wiley Pub., Fall 2019) and “This Moment” (River Rail: Occupy Colby Fall 2019). She is working on a new book (creative

non-fiction) that explores identity, race, lived experience and the construction of a black environmental imaginary, and a performance piece about John Muir (The N Word: Nature Revisited). This fall she is the Artist-in-Residence for the Kentucky Foundation for Women’s Fall Residency Program and she is doing a two-year residency in the Franklin Environmental Center at Middlebury College as the Environmental Studies Professor of Practice.