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Cotton series delves deeper into slavery and cotton culture Nov. 5

The Institute for Southern Studies will continue its yearlong lecture series into cotton with professor and author, Daina Ramey Berry presenting Thursday, Nov. 5.

Berry's talk titled, "Nothin' but de Cotton': Enslaved Life and Labor in the Deep South", will focus on slavery and cotton culture in the Deep South, with particular attention to Texas. The lecture is at 6 p.m. in room 104 of Sloan College and is free and open to the public.

"With its focus on the lives of slaves who worked the cotton fields in the Deep South, Professor Berry's talk will deepen our understanding of the crushing weight that slavery and cotton production had upon African Americans in the Old South," said Robert Brinkmeyer, Director of the Institute for Southern Studies.

Berry is an Associate Professor of History and African Diaspora Studies and is the George W. Littlefield Fellow in American History at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. Berry is the editor-in-chief of "Enslaved Women in America: An Encyclopedia" which was awarded one of the 2013 Outstanding Reference Sources by the American Library Association.

As a scholar, Berry focuses on the history of gender and slavery in the United States with an emphasis on the economic and social history of the nineteenth century. Her first book, "Swing the Sickle of the Harvest is Ripe: Gender and Slavery in Antebellum Georgia" examined labor, family and community among the enslaved.

The "Year of Cotton" series features monthly talks by guest speakers and university scholars representing disciplines that range from history, photography and literature to film, sociology and economics. Each talk explores how cotton has shaped and continues to shape the lives of Southerners and the history of Southern culture.

Berry's talk is sponsored in part by the Department of History and History Center in the university's College of Arts and Sciences. For more information about the Nov. 5 lecture or the series, call 803-777-2340 or visit the Institute for Southern Studies [website](#).

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