

What is contained in a photograph is at the heart of considering **“Lynching as Leisure.”** As an ongoing analysis that was initiated in 2002 of past lynching photography, news accounts on lynchings, archival documents defending and condemning lynchings, and modern-day lynching effigies and symbolism utilizes a visual methodological perspective. The talk engages a discussion of the American fascination with the practice, specifically those that were/are racially motivated. Just the sheer number of Black lynching victims within the 30-year period of 1880-1930, in particular, raises questions that moves us past discussions of the debase extrajudicial criminality and historical accounting but the sociological implications when we begin to consider those who chose to be a lynching event spectator, collector of post-cards, and scavenger of bodily remains. Thus, modern concerns of the discovery of lynching post-cards found at garage sales, victims of apparent lynchings that have been found since the 1980s, and the use of lynching imagery in effigy and as a rhetorical term in political discourse should give us pause in 2014.