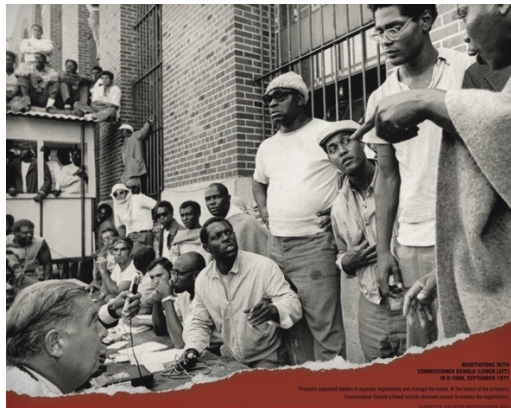




**Open Wounds: The 50-Year Legacy of the Attica Prison Uprising
On Display: Monday-Wednesday Sept. 13th-15th
@ the Seymour Student Union Gallery**

Event: Discussion @ Gallery, Tuesday, Sept. 14th, 5-7pm

with Will Walker, Joey Jackson Intercultural Center Coordinator, and Dr. Michael J. Kramer, Assistant Professor of History. **All welcome. Food served.**



“WE ARE MEN! WE ARE NOT BEASTS AND WE DO NOT INTEND TO BE BEATEN OR DRIVEN AS SUCH.” – L. D. BARKLEY, SPOKESMAN OF THE ATTICA UPRISING, 1971

In September 1971, incarcerated men at the Attica State Correctional Facility found themselves in a standoff against New York State. Conditions at the prison were deplorable and dehumanizing: abuse, overcrowding, and inadequate food and medical care among the problems. An argument between prisoners and guards on September 9th led to a fight. One Correction Officer, William Quinn, was badly beaten and died of his injuries two days later. Prisoners ultimately took 42 hostages from prison staff in an attempt to negotiate satisfactory changes, listing 28 demands that were similar to an earlier manifesto protesting their conditions at the prison. Some were met, but amnesty for the prison uprising was refused by New York State officials. The forcible retaking of Attica by New York State Police on September 13th, 1971 left 39 people dead, including nine hostages. All were killed by gunfire from law enforcement. Attica is remembered as both a failure of the American prison system and a call for justice against human-rights violations. This exhibition presents various viewpoints of the uprising and its aftermath and explains why this event is still important 50 years later.

Co-sponsored by the Department of History; the Department of African & African American Studies; the Department of Criminal Justice; the Joey Jackson Intercultural Center; the SUNY Brockport Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and the Seymour Student Union. Panels curated by the New York State Museum.

For Further Study

Books

- Heather Ann Thompson, *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy* (2016)
- George Jackson, *Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson* (1970)
- Deanne Quinn Miller co-written by Gary Craig, *The Prison Guard's Daughter: My Journey Through the Ashes of Attica* (2021)
- Charles River Editors, *The Attica Prison Riot: The History and Legacy of America's Most Famous Prison Uprising* (2015)
- Malcolm Bell, *The Attica Turkey Shoot: Carnage, Cover-Up, and the Pursuit of Justice* (2017)
- Tom Wicker, *A Time to Die: The Attica Prison Revolt* (1976)
- Angela Y. Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?* (2003)

Articles

- Gary Craig, "50th anniversary of Attica prison uprising sparks renewed push to unseal records," *Democrat and Chronicle*, 3 June 2021
- Jim Memmott, "Attica memoir opens the door on grief and reconciliation, adding to our understanding," *Democrat and Chronicle*, 27 August 2021
- Michael E. Deutsch, "Attica's 40th Anniversary: Still on the Wrong Road," *Truthout*, 24 September 2011
- Kelly Lytle Hernández, Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Heather Ann Thompson, "Introduction: Constructing the Carceral State," *Journal of American History* 102, 1 (June 2015): 18–24
- Rachel Kushner, "Is Prison Necessary? Ruth Wilson Gilmore Might Change Your Mind," *New York Times*, 17 April 2019
- Robert T. Chase, "We Are Not Slaves: Rethinking the Rise of Carceral States through the Lens of the Prisoners' Rights Movement," *Journal of American History* 102, 1 (June 2015): 73–86

Films

- *Attica*, dir. Stanley Nelson and Traci A. Curry (2021)
- *Betrayal at Attica*, dir. Michael J. Hull (2021)
- *Ghosts of Attica*, dir. Brad Lichtenstein (2001)
- *Attica*, dir. Cinda Firestone (1974), <https://youtu.be/oG1f7FzgXY8>
- *Attica Inmates*, dir. Sandy Rockowitz (1971), from the Visual Studies Workshop at SUNY Brockport, <http://www.vsw.org/collections/watch-portable-channel-videos/attica-inmates-1971/>

Online

- Heather Ann Thompson talks
 - The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Why It Matters Today, <https://www.icp.org/browse/archive/media/heather-ann-thompson-the-attica-prison-uprising-of-1971-and-why-it-matters>
 - Blood in the Water, The Attica Uprising of 1971, <https://youtu.be/MmlPxWRTfPQ>
 - Blood in the Water: The 1971 Attica Prison Uprising and Its Legacy, https://youtu.be/MGi_VV9kQQY
 - The Legacy of Attica, <https://youtu.be/oxg7F6KpYlo>
- Freedom Archives, "Struggle Inside September," https://www.freedomarchives.org/struggle_inside_Sept.html
- Michael Hull Attica Massacre Archive, <https://www.atticamassacre.com/about>
- Angela Y. Davis, "The Shifting Concept of the Prison Industrial Complex," <https://youtu.be/TwBuA2ZKpSo>

Compiled by Dr. Michael J. Kramer, Assistant Professor, Department of History. Getting interested in History, Public History, and/or African American History? Check out the History Department's curricular and extracurricular offerings: <https://www.brockport.edu/academics/history/>.