

## INTERPRETING AMERICAN HISTORY

**Myth, Memory, and Mirage:  
Rethinking American History in Times of Crisis**

# Kelly Elaine Navies, MLIIS

Oral Historian, Writer, and Poet



**Kelly Elaine Navies** is the Museum Specialist in oral history at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. In this role, she coordinates the Oral History Initiative. Navies received her undergraduate degree in African American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley and an MLIIS (Masters in Library and Information Science) degree from the Catholic University of America. She has also studied at the Southern Oral History Program (SOHP) as a graduate student in History at UNC Chapel Hill.

Navies' oral history projects and interviews are located at the SOHP, The Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture, the Washington DC Public Library Peoples' Archive, and at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). Her writing and poetry may be found in several publications including, *Musical Crossroads: Stories Behind the Objects of African American Music* ed. by Dwandalyn Reece (2023), *Affrilachia: Testimonies with photographer, Chris Aluka Berry* (2024), *This Unruly Witness: June Jordan's Legacy* ed. by Muller, Thomson, Callier, and Hill (2025) and the upcoming, *Story Work for A Just Future: Exploring the Plurality of Knowledge and Method within the Digital Storytelling Community with Philippa Rapport* (2026). Finally, she is the former President of the Oral History Association (2023-2024).

**WED  
March 25  
2026**

### **Graduate Student**

#### **Workshop and Luncheon**

12:00-2:00 PM

Room 308, Van Dyck Hall  
16 Seminary Pl,  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

### **Public Lecture, open to all**

5:00-6:30 PM

Room 2400  
Academic Building-East  
15 Seminary Pl,  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901