



Author and Historian Isabel Wilkerson Gives Virtual Talk in Nevada

Nevada Humanities and Several Nevada System of Higher Education Institutions Welcome Celebrated Historian to Speak with Communities across the State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 18, 2021—RENO, Nev—Nevada Humanities, in collaboration with Core Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Nevada, Reno, The Humanities Center at Great Basin College, and with the Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies at UNLV, welcomes author and historian Isabel Wilkerson to a keynote talk about race, Black migration throughout the western United States, and her new book *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, a comprehensive analysis of the United States as a hierarchical society. [*Isabel Wilkerson on Caste, Community, and Injustice in America*](#) will be held virtually on March 4, 2021, at 3 - 4 pm PST on Zoom. Event registration is required. [Register](#) for this event at nevadahumanities.org. A short question and answer session will follow; questions for the author can be submitted in advance to info@nevadahumanities.org.

Wilkerson's 2010 book, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, addresses the 20th century migration of African American people from the southern United States to northern cities, including New York, Chicago, and Oakland. Wilkerson will expand on this topic in her talk, describing the experience of African Americans traveling through and settling in Nevada. Expanding on themes from her newest book, *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, Wilkerson will clarify an understanding of this country's history and entrenched systems of racism.

"At Nevada Humanities, we appreciate that understanding our current condition as a nation requires us to examine, interrogate, and learn from history," states Christina Barr, executive director of Nevada Humanities. "Isabel Wilkerson is one of this country's foremost experts on the history of race in the United States, and we are thrilled to host her virtually in Nevada to share her ideas and knowledge about Black migration, systemic racism, and the hope we can cultivate by coming together to talk about these important issues."

"We are so excited to be able to join with the other partners to support Nevada Humanities in welcoming Isabel Wilkerson to Nevada. Being able to do this event virtually gives our Great Basin College students and the rural communities we serve, a rare chance to participate in this important event," states Gail Rappa, Humanities Center Coordinator at Great Basin College.

"Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste* has been at the top of many reading lists regarding racial justice that circulated last year in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. We are happy to be able to collaborate on this opportunity to bring such a renowned author to our students and communities," said Anne Stevens, chair of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

“Bringing Isabel Wilkerson to speak with Nevadans, and especially our students, is a great privilege,” notes Katherine Fusco, Director of Core Humanities, College of Liberal Arts at the University of Nevada, Reno. “Core Humanities is pleased to be part of facilitating this important dialogue on the history of human division, its ongoing damage, and paths forward.”

The Warmth of Other Suns won the National Book Critics Circle Award, among other honors, and was named to more than 30 Best of the Year lists, including *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Washington Post*. *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, was published in August 2020 to critical acclaim and became a Number 1 *New York Times* bestseller. Dwight Garner of *The New York Times* called it, “An instant American classic and almost certainly the keynote nonfiction book of the American century thus far.”

Nevada Humanities will host a follow-up discussion with scholars from around the state about the growth of the Comstock mine in northern Nevada and the development of the historic Westside community in Las Vegas. [Black Migration to Nevada](#) will be held on March 9, 2021, at 4:00 pm PST on Zoom. [Register](#) for this event at [nevadahumanities.org](#).

Caste, Community, and Injustice in America is produced by Nevada Humanities, Core Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Nevada, Reno, The Humanities Center at Great Basin College, and by the Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies at UNLV. This program is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and is also a part of the “Democracy and the Informed Citizen” Initiative, administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This program is also supported by the Nevada Center for the Book, produced by Nevada Humanities and made possible with support from Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records, The Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

About Nevada Humanities: Nevada Humanities is one of 56 independent, nonprofit state and territorial humanities councils affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. With offices in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada Humanities creates public programs and supports public projects statewide that define the Nevada experience and facilitate the exploration of issues that matter to the people of Nevada and their communities. For more information about Nevada Humanities visit [nevadahumanities.org](#).

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