THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE CENTER FOR MATERIAL CULTURE STUDIES, THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE UNIVERSITY OF DELWARE LIBRARY ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE INAUGURAL LECTURE IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MATERIAL CULTURE AND PUBLIC HISTORY SPEAKER SERIES

## How Sweet the Sound

## African American Performances of Class and Citizenship Using the Piano



## Professor Psyche Williams-Forson, University of Maryland March 1, 2016, 4:00pm, Morris Library Reading Room

This talk considers the piano in spaces used to support women's cooperative economic labor, and expressions of pleasure, political desire, opinion, and creativity to argue that African American materialism was critically related to the quest, fulfillment, and/or realization of citizenship. It will also argue for a deeper examination of how this materialism was complicated by intraracial class disparities.

Professor Williams-Forson is an internationally renowned scholar of material culture. She is professor and chair of American Studies, and affiliate professor of

Women's Studies and African American Studies, and a member of the Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity at the University of Maryland. She is the editor of Taking Food Public: Redefining Foodways In A Changing World and the author of the award-winning, Building Houses Out of Chicken Legs: Black Women, Food, and Power. Her most recent completed book manuscript explores food shaming and food policing in communities of color. Her talk issues from a further project that analyzes African American class and material culture through late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century domestic interiors.



