

*TRUTH AND  
RECONCILIATION:  
ARCHIVISTS AS  
REPARATIONS  
ACTIVISTS*

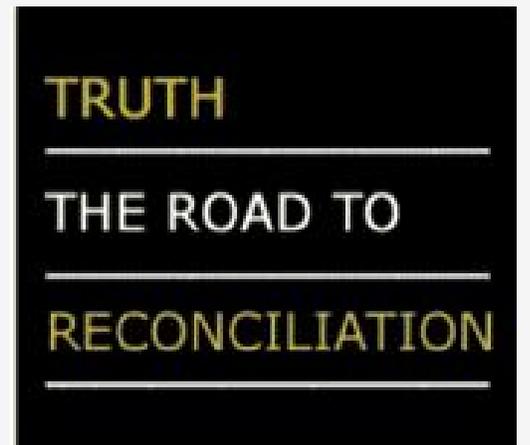
*Anna Robinson-Sweet*

# Reparations

*“measures to satisfy victims, such as revealing the truth, holding perpetrators accountable, and ceasing ongoing violations...”*

-International Center for  
Transitional Justice

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# Activism

*“The commodification of memory obliterates the distinction between the victim and the executioner, and consequently enables the state to realise what it has always dreamed of: the abolition of debt and the possibility of starting fresh.”*

-Achille Mbembe

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- **Achille Mbembe:** archive’s power lies in its ability to resist chronophagy
  - **Verne Harris:** archivists who turn back on activist risk becoming “pawns in bigger power plays”
  - **Randall C. Jimerson:** activism falls within the normal bounds of archival practice
  - **Wendy N. Duff, et al.:** archives need to measure social justice impact
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# Case Study: Norwegian War Children

*“The records in question were created by the very same public bodies that discriminated against the war children and neglected their needs, and they created the records to justify exactly the same actions. Consequently, the war children’s own voices are not present in the Norwegian archival heritage.”*

- Gudmund Valderhag



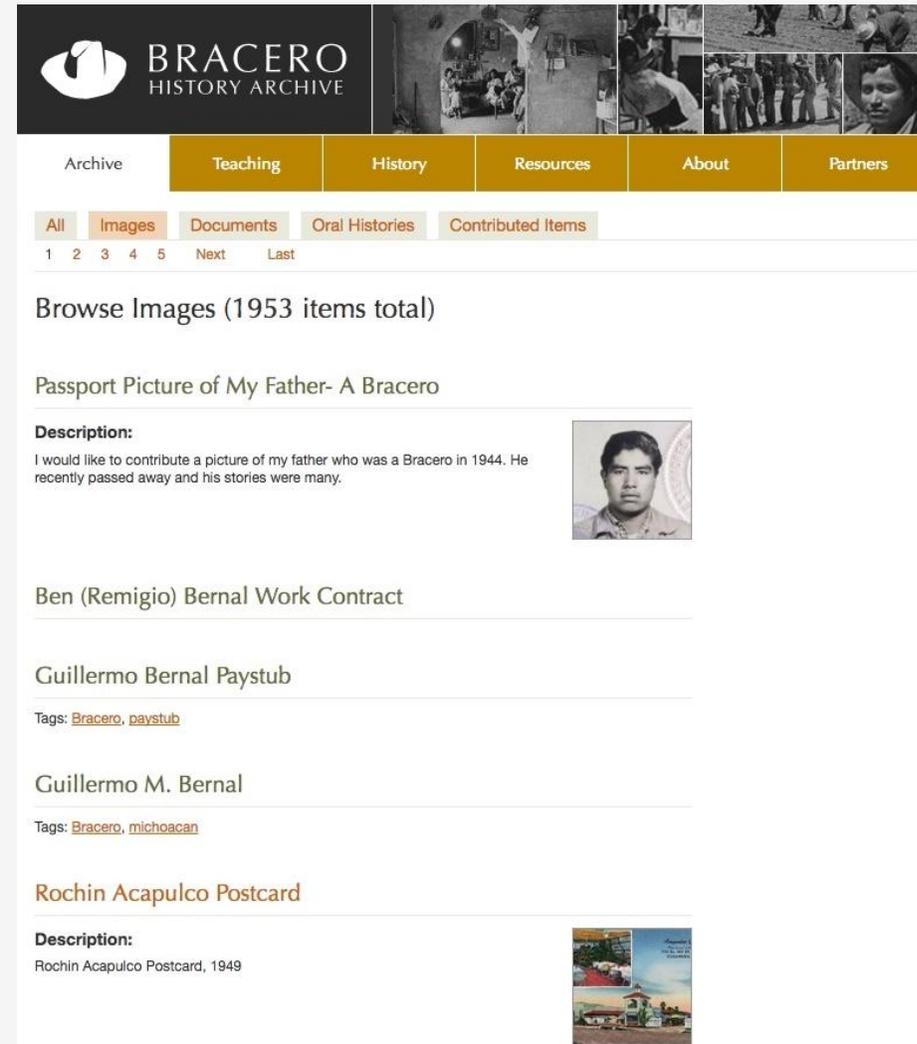
# Case Study: Japanese-American Internment

- Records held at NARA establish case for reparations
- Archives themselves become part of reparative justice



# Case Study: Bracero Guest Workers

- Archivists working in tandem with activists seeking reparations
- In absence of official action, archive becomes reparative
- Particularly important in current political climate



The screenshot shows the Bracero History Archive website. The header includes the logo and navigation tabs for Archive, Teaching, History, Resources, About, and Partners. Below the header, there are filters for All, Images, Documents, Oral Histories, and Contributed Items. The main content area displays a list of items:

- Browse Images (1953 items total)**
- Passport Picture of My Father- A Bracero**
  - Description:** I would like to contribute a picture of my father who was a Bracero in 1944. He recently passed away and his stories were many.
  - 
- Ben (Remigio) Bernal Work Contract**
- Guillermo Bernal Paystub**
  - Tags: [Bracero](#), [paystub](#)
- Guillermo M. Bernal**
  - Tags: [Bracero](#), [michoacan](#)
- Rochin Acapulco Postcard**
  - Description:** Rochin Acapulco Postcard, 1949
  - 

# The Case For Slavery Reparations

*“To proudly claim the veteran and disown the slaveholder is patriotism à la carte. A nation outlives its generations.”*

*The Atlantic*  
250 years of slavery.  
90 years of Jim Crow.  
60 years of separate but equal.  
35 years of state-sanctioned redlining.  
Until we reckon with the compounding moral debts of our ancestors, America will never be whole.

**THE CASE FOR REPARATIONS**  
BY TA-NEHISI COATES

What Does Vladimir Putin Think? 11-17	The Latest Crucial of America's Scams 11-17	What Are How to Deal on an Airline Scam 11-17	My Boss Night With a Hollywood Trigone 11-17	Will Steven's Billions Stunt 11-17
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# Slavery Reparations in the Archive

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database

## Voyages

Voyages Database Assessing the Slave Trade Resources Educational Materials About the Project Language

Home Sitemap FAQs Demos Glossary Legal



**The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database has information on almost 36,000 slaving voyages** that forcibly embarked over 10 million Africans for transport to the Americas between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. The actual number is estimated to have been as high as 12.5 million. The database and the separate estimates interface offer researchers, students and the general public a chance to rediscover the reality of one of the largest forced movements of peoples in world history.

Roll over names of designated regions on the map above for descriptions of the role of each in the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

**Search the Voyages Database**  
Look for particular voyages in this database of documented slaving expeditions. Create listings, tables, and maps that draw on the database.

**Examine Estimates of the Slave Trade**  
Slaves on documented voyages represent four-fifths of the number who were actually transported. Use the interactive estimates page to analyze our estimate of the full volume of the slave trade.

**Explore the African Names Database**  
This database identifies 91,491 Africans taken from captured slave ships or from African trading sites. It displays the African name, age, gender, origin, country, and places of embarkation and disembarkation of each individual.

**Special features** [Introductory Maps](#) [Timeline and Chronology](#)

## The Georgetown Slavery Archive

Home Gallery Inventory Browse Collections Descendants Map About Get in touch with us



The Georgetown Slavery Archive is a repository of materials relating to the Maryland Jesuits, Georgetown University, and slavery. This project was initiated by the Archives Subgroup of the [Georgetown University Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation](#).

### RECENTLY ADDED ITEMS

**Payroll of Laborers Employed at West Oak plantation, Iberville Parish, La., October 17, 1867**



This payroll from the Freedmen's Bureau records lists laborers at West Oak plantation in Iberville Parish, Louisiana. Many of the people listed in...

*“The time for activism, in other words, is never past. When we give up on activism, we give up on democracy.”*

-Verne Harris

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*“And so we must imagine a new country. Reparations—by which I mean the full acceptance of our collective biography and its consequences—is the price we must pay to see ourselves squarely”*

-Ta-nahisi Coates

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