**Bios**

Blain Roberts and Ethan Kytle are professors of history at California State University, Fresno, where they have taught since 2007. They met in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, while earning their doctorates in U.S. history at the University of North Carolina. From 2005 to 2007, they lived in Charleston. Blain was a professor at the Citadel and Ethan had a postdoctoral fellowship at the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture and also taught at the Citadel.

Blain published her first book, *Pageants, Parlors, and Pretty Women: Race and Beauty in the Twentieth-Century South*, with the University of North Carolina Press in 2014. Ethan’s first book, published by Cambridge University Press, also in 2014, was *Romantic Reformers and the Antislavery Struggle in the Civil War Era*.

Their co-authored book, *Denmark Vesey’s Garden: Slavery and Memory in the Cradle of the Confederacy*, was published by The New Press in April. It was named a Summer 2018 must-read book by the *New York Times.* They will have discounted copies available for purchase at the conference.

Blain and Ethan’s work has also appeared in the *Journal of Southern History*, the *New York Times,*the *Washington Post*, the *Atlantic*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Daily Beast*, and the *Fresno Bee*. They live in Fresno, California, with their two daughters, Eloise and Hazel, and their dog, Roy Williams.

**Abstract**

A book that strikes at the source of the recent flare-ups over Confederate symbols in Charlottesville, New Orleans, and elsewhere, *Denmark Vesey’s Garden: Slavery and Memory in the Cradle of the Confederacy* (New Press, 2018) reveals the deep roots of these controversies and traces them to the capital of slavery in the United States: Charleston, South Carolina, where almost half of the slaves brought to the U.S. stepped onto our shores, where the first shot at Fort Sumter began the Civil War, and where Dylann Roof murdered nine people at Emanuel A.M.E. Church, which was co-founded by Denmark Vesey, a black revolutionary who plotted a massive slave insurrection in 1822.

As early as 1865, former slaveholders and their descendants began working to construct a romanticized memory of the antebellum South. In contrast, former slaves, their descendants, and some white allies have worked to preserve an honest, unvarnished account of slavery as the cruel system it was. Examining public rituals, controversial monuments, and competing musical traditions, *Denmark Vesey’s Garden* tracks these two rival memories from the Civil War to recent decades—when a segregated tourism industry reflecting these opposing visions of the past took hold in the popular vacation destination.