**Brooks Forum Panelists**

**Mr. Madison W. Cates**

-Paper title: “A Local and National Treasure: Progress, Poverty, and Place in the Fight to Save the New River, 1962-1976”

Professional Bio:  Madison Cates is a 2013 graduate of Gardner-Webb University (BA in History) and a 2015 graduate of NC State University (MA in History). Now a 4th year Ph.D candidate at the University of Florida, his doctoral studies are under the direction of Dr. William Link. His dissertation research examines the precarious relationship between economic development and the preservation of the American South’s natural and cultural heritage from the War on Poverty to the 1990s.  This research has been supported by the North Caroliniana Society, the UF Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, and the Florida Division of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America. As a public historian, he has also worked with the Jessie Ball duPont Fund to help engage in local discussions surrounding Confederate monuments in Jacksonville, Florida.

**Joel Iliff**

Paper title: “‘The Pillars whereupon the House Standeth’: Contesting the Great Communion, 1850–1865”

Professional bio: Joel Iliff is a PhD candidate in history at Baylor University. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Yale and BA in history and classics from the University of South Carolina. His dissertation, “The Great Communion of Scholars: The American South, Germany, and the Creation of Modernity in the Nineteenth Century,” not only reveals extensive contact between theologians in the US South and Germany, but also significant German influence on southern thought. Rather than feeling alienated from the rest of the world on the brink of the Civil War, southern intellectuals perceived themselves as part of a transatlantic communion of scholars battling the twin forces of political radicalism and religious infidelity. Joel’s research has been supported by grants from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Baden-Württemberg Foundation.

**John Bardes**

Paper Title: "The Problem of Incarceration in the Age of Slavery."

Professional Bio: John Bardes is a sixth-year Ph.D. candidate in American History at Tulane University.  His research examines prisons and policing in the context of slavery and emancipation, and the questions raised regarding race, class, gender, inequality, citizenship, freedom, violence, and state power.  His work has been featured in the *Journal of Southern History*, *Southern Cultures*, and *American Quarterly*(forthcoming).  His dissertation examines prison development in New Orleans, and the incarceration of enslaved, free, and freed labor.  This work has been supported by grants from the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South and Tulane University’s School of Liberal Arts, and by a 2019-2020 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Competition Fellowship.  Papers based on this research have also received the Southern Historical Association’s prestigious William F. Holmes Award, and the Louisiana Historical Association’s Hugh F. Rankin Prize.