



Talk: Embodied Ownership: Sheppard Lee and Proprietary Whiteness in Jacksonian America

NOV
10
TUE

3:00 – 4:00 PM
Zoom | Register at
<https://bit.ly/Schocken-RFG>

MERAV SCHOCKEN
UC Santa Barbara

This workshop will discuss a **precirculated** chapter from Merav Schocken's dissertation, "Functional Fictions: Practices of Self-Deception in 19th-Century America."

The chapter explores the narrative practices of self-deception that underlie the consolidation of proprietary whiteness in Jacksonian America. Schocken focuses on Robert Montgomery Bird's *Sheppard Lee* (1836), claiming that the novel registers, and seeks to reconcile, anxieties among upper-class whites about the inclusion of propertyless white men in the electorate. Looking at the novel's representation of whiteness as a neutral category as embodied by its propertyless white protagonist,

Schocken argues that Black subjugation constituted a central yet crucially unacknowledged means by which the white subject, regardless of class, affirmed his belonging to the white man's republic.

The precirculated paper will be available after Oct. 31; please visit: <https://bit.ly/Schocken-RFG>

Sponsored by the IHC's Slavery, Captivity & the Meaning of Freedom Research Focus Group

Image: George Catlin, The Virginia Constitutional Convention, 1830