

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES CENTER SERIES:

HUMANITIES DECANTED

PRESENTING NEW PUBLICATIONS AND
CREATIVE PROJECTS BY HFA FACULTY

Join us for a dialogue between **Giuliana Perrone** (History) and **Jeannine DeLombard** (English) about Perrone's new book, *Nothing More than Freedom: The Failure of Abolition in American Law*. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, May 16 | 4:00 pm
McCune Conference Room, 6020 HSSB



GIULIANA PERRONE

Nothing More than Freedom: The Failure of Abolition in American Law
(Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Nothing More than Freedom explores the long and complex legal history of Black freedom in the United States. From the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865 until the end of Reconstruction in 1877, supreme courts in former slave states decided approximately 700 lawsuits associated with the struggle for Black freedom and equal citizenship. This litigation – the majority through private law – triggered questions about American liberty and reassessed the nation's legal and political order following the Civil War. Judicial decisions set the terms of debates about racial identity, civil rights, and national belonging, and established that slavery, as a legal institution and social practice, remained actionable in American law well after its ostensible demise. The verdicts determined how unresolved facets of slavery would undercut ongoing efforts for abolition and the realization of equality. Insightful and compelling, this work makes an important intervention in the history of post-Civil War law.

Giuliana Perrone is Assistant Professor of History at UC Santa Barbara.

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