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**MARCH 21-25, 2018**

A program of [vfh](http://vfh.org) Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

## National Book Award Winner Dr. Ibram X. Kendi Joins 2018 Virginia Festival of the Book Line-Up

February 21, 2018—Charlottesville, Va.—A program of Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH), the Virginia Festival of the Book announces that **Dr. Ibram X. Kendi**, author of *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, will give a **keynote lecture as part of the 2018 Festival** in March, sponsored by the Center for Race and Public Education in the South and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, in partnership with the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies at UVA; Congregate Charlottesville; Jefferson School African American Heritage Center; Power, Violence & Inequality Collective at UVA; Project on Religion and Its Publics at UVA; Restoration Village Arts; the UVA Department of History; and the UVA Department of Politics.

### **Racist Ideas in America: From Slavery to Black Lives Matter**

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 23, 2018, 2:00-3:30 PM

**Location:** UVa Ruth Caplin Theatre, 109 Culbreth Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903

**Tickets:** FREE to attend but reserved tickets are required; [VaBook.org/program/racist-ideas-in-america](http://VaBook.org/program/racist-ideas-in-america)

**As one of the nation's most prolific and accomplished young professors of race**, writing and speaking to both scholarly and general audiences, Kendi will deliver a lecture that builds on his firm belief that **in order to understand racism in America today, we must confront the history of anti-Black ideas**. Kendi traces this history of racist ideas; beginning in 15th century Europe when racist ideas were used to legitimize slave trade, up until modern day American when unarmed human beings were being killed at the hands of law enforcement officials and #BlackLivesMatter was born. **In shedding light on the history of racist ideas, he gives his audience the tools to expose them and reason to hope for the future.**

Signed books will be available for sale after the keynote. The program is free to attend, but reserved tickets are required. To learn more and reserve free tickets, visit [VaBook.org/program/racist-ideas-in-america](http://VaBook.org/program/racist-ideas-in-america).

**About the author:** Ibram X. Kendi, author of *Stamped from the Beginning*, is professor of History and International Relations and the founding director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University. He **received the 2016 National Book Award** for *Stamped from the Beginning* and, at 34 years old was the **youngest ever winner** of that award.

**About the book:** “*Stamped from the Beginning* turns our ideas of the term ‘racism’ upside-down. **Kendi writes as a thoughtful cultural historian, aware that he is challenging deeply held, often progressive assumptions.** Using a masterful voyage through the history of the U.S. political rhetoric, he argues that even the most fervent anti-racists have been infected with that resilient virus. With his learning, he dares us to find a cure.”—Inscription, 2016 National Book Award, Nonfiction Judges

- **Winner of the 2016 National Book Award for Nonfiction**
- **Finalist for the 2016 National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction**
- **Nominated for the 2016 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work of Nonfiction**
- **Nominated for the 2017 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in Nonfiction**

Some Americans cling desperately to the myth that we are living in a post-racial society. In fact, **racist thought is alive and well in America**—more sophisticated and more insidious than ever. **In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-Black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history.** *Stamped from the Beginning* uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to offer a window into the contentious debates between assimilationists and segregationists and between racists and antiracists. From Cotton Mather to Thomas Jefferson, from abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison to scholar W.E.B. Du Bois to activist Angela Davis, Kendi shows how and why some of our leading proslavery and pro-civil rights thinkers have challenged or helped cement racist ideas.

Contrary to popular conceptions, **racist ideas did not arise from ignorance or hatred.** Instead, they were devised by some of the most brilliant minds of each era. These intellectuals used their brilliance to rationalize deeply entrenched discriminatory policies and the nation's racial disparities in everything from wealth to health. **And while racist ideas are easily produced and easily consumed, they can also be discredited.** In shedding much-needed light on the history of racist ideas, *Stamped from the Beginning* offers us the tools we need to expose them—and in the process, gives us reason to hope.

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For additional details about the 2018 Festival and a complete schedule, visit [VaBook.org](http://VaBook.org).

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**About the Virginia Festival of the Book:** A signature program of Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH) and the Virginia Center for the Book, the Virginia Festival of the Book brings readers and writers together for a five-day program of mostly free events including author readings, book signings, panel discussions, programs for children, and more. **The 24th annual Festival will be held March 21-25, 2018**, in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia. The Festival has consistently attracted audiences of more than 20,000 from more than forty states each year, with an estimated local economic impact of about \$4 million annually. To learn more, browse the full schedule, or purchase tickets to select programs, visit [VaBook.org](http://VaBook.org).

**About VFH:** The mission of Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH) is to connect people and ideas to explore the human experience and inspire cultural engagement. VFH reaches an estimated annual audience of 23 million through Community Programs, Digital Initiatives, Scholarship, and the Virginia Center for the Book. For more information, visit [VirginiaHumanities.org](http://VirginiaHumanities.org).

**About the Center for Race and Public Education in the South:** The Center for Race and Public Education in the South at the University of Virginia Curry School of Education produces and supports empirical research on a variety of issues that lie at the intersection of race, education, and schooling in the southern United States. The Center is particularly strong in the following research areas: race and ethnicity as social contexts for youth development; the history of African American education; the ways in which families and schools promote or inhibit the intellectual and academic development of low-income and immigrant children, and the relationships between racial socialization and racial identity and other developmental processes. To learn more, visit [Curry.Virginia.edu](http://Curry.Virginia.edu).

**About the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture:** The Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture is an interdisciplinary research center and intellectual community located at the University of Virginia, consistently ranked as one of the nation's premier public universities. The Institute is committed to analyzing contemporary cultural change, training young scholars, and providing intellectual leadership in service to the public good. To learn more, visit [IASCulture.org](http://IASCulture.org).