The Global History of Black Girlhood Conference will gather scholars from diverse disciplines to explore new approaches to black girls’ history. Until recently, many believed that black girls were inaccessible in the historical archives, silenced by gender, race, and in some cases, poverty and illiteracy. New work has proven that the voices of black girls can be recovered through creative archival strategies. This conference offers the opportunity to place the emerging field of black girls’ history in an interdisciplinary frame, think critically about the unconventional archives of black girlhood, and consider how our understanding of black girl pasts changes when approached from a global perspective.

To date, the burgeoning field of black girls' studies has centered on particular regions and cities, often within the United States. This conference's emphasis on diasporic black girlhood will make it the first to expand the frame of the new subfield in "black girls' studies" to include work on girls of African descent in Europe, Africa and the Americas together. What does it mean to think about black girls' studies through a global lens?

The first day of the conference will begin with a panel on slavery and freedom that will explore the meaning of black girl in a historical context. There will be other panels like: Global Black Girl Politics, Activists Reflect on Youth, Justice, and Girlhoods, Pleasure and Play, Criminalization and Justice, and many more. These panels hope to explore the meaning of black girlhood in various transnational and/or local contexts, with commentary that highlights shared findings and regional divergences. During the second day, an undergraduate portion will convene on the second day of the conference; March 18th from 3:00 pm - 5:00pm.

Submission Requirements:
Submissions for the undergraduate portion of the conference are due December 16th, 2016. Proposals should include a title, as well as author's name, email address, institution affiliation, and area of study along with a 400-word abstract and 200-word biographical statement sent to GBGCUVA@gmail.com. Authors should address how the proposed paper/project engages with the categories of age, gender and
race. Submissions should also discuss how their papers/projects engage with the historical broadly construed. A variety of disciplinary perspectives are encouraged such as art, poetry, spoken word, visual media, and any form that engages with research on global black girlhood is welcomed.

The organizing committee will confirm receipt of proposals. Announcements of presenters will be made by January 16, 2016.

For questions please contact the Global Black Girlhood Undergraduate Committee: GBGCUVA@gmail.com

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History of Black Girlhood Network: The HBGN provides a forum for sharing work, collaborating on conference panels, and promoting research into the history of black girls and girlhood in all regions and time periods. If you would like to join this network, please send your contact information, a description of your current research, and a list of your publications relevant to black girlhood—or a link to your webpage if you prefer—to Corinne Field, cff6d@virginia.edu