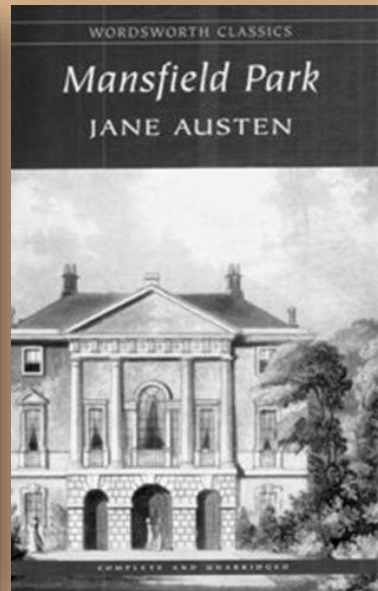
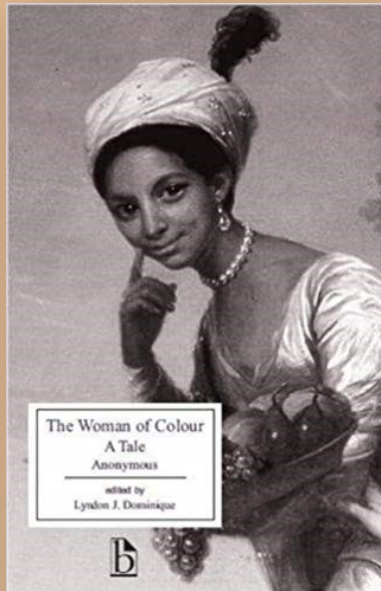


“I HAVE NO MASTER”: MARRIAGE AND/AS THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE



DR. PATRICIA A. MATTHEW
Associate Professor of English
Montclair State University

This lecture focuses on *The Woman of Colour, A Tale* and *Mansfield Park* and shows how the anonymous author of *Woman of Colour* and Jane Austen use the marriage market and its laws to comment on women’s oppression and its links to institutions of slavery. With heroines whose subject positions shift as they travel from slave culture to slave culture (Olivia Fairfield from Jamaica to Bristol and Fanny Price from Portsmouth to Northampton and the world of *Mansfield Park*) and for whom marriage offers tantalizing access to security, both novelists use metaphors and narrative tropes that evoke the slave trade—the middle passage, slave markets, and women’s slave narratives, and the 1772 Somerset decision settled by Lord Mansfield. Further, Olivia and Fanny both rely on enslavers for their material stability. Both women are willing to “yield up” their independence, but, as Amma Asante makes clear in her film “*Belle*” their doing so highlights the limits of abolitionist sentiments, protest, and respectability politics.

Patricia Matthew is an associate professor of English at Montclair State University and writes about the history of the novel and British abolitionist literature and culture. Her work has been published in various journals and magazines including *Women’s Writing*, *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*, *the Keats-Shelley Journal*, *PMLA*, *European Romantic Review* (with Manu Chander), *The Atlantic* and *Lapham’s Quarterly*. She is currently writing a book on sugar, gender, and protests in nineteenth-century literature. She is also a specialist in diversity and inclusion in higher education and the editor of *Written/Unwritten: Diversity and the Hidden Truths of Tenure* (UNC Press, 2016).

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

4:10 P.M. | STEPS 290

RECEPTION FOLLOWING | STEPS 411