The decades between the American Revolution and the Civil War witnessed two economic transformations: the harnessing of machinery and capital into an industrial revolution and the vast expansion of slavery across a so-called Cotton Kingdom. These were not rival developments, but rather the twin engines of the nineteenth-century American economy. This three-day conference will showcase the latest research on the role of slavery in American economic development, pointing toward a new history of capitalism itself.
Thursday, April 7

Salomon Hall
Brown University

3:00-4:00 Undergraduate Research Poster Session
Salomon Hall lobby

4:00-5:30 Keynote Address, President Ruth Simmons
Salomon 101

Friday, April 8

All sessions in Crystal Room, Alumnae Hall,
Brown University

8:30-8:55 Coffee and Registration

9:00-11:00 FINANCE
Chair: Michael Vorenberg, Brown University

The Contours of Cotton Capitalism: Speculation, Slavery, and Economic Panic in Mississippi, 1832-1841
Joshua D. Rothman, University of Alabama

Neighbor to Neighbor: Local Lending Networks Building Economies by Mortgaging Slaves
Bonnie Martin, Southern Methodist University

The Common Thread: Cotton, Slavery and the Development of Merchant Banking
Kathryn Boodry, Harvard University

11:00-11:25 Coffee Break

11:30-1:00 DEVELOPMENT
Chair: Ted Widmer, John Carter Brown Library

Defining the National Mainstream: Slavery, Capitalism, and the Limestone South
John Majewski, University of California–Santa Barbara

Did Slavery Need Capitalism, or did Capitalism Need Slavery?
Stanley Engerman, University of Rochester

Comment: Kaivan Munshi, Brown University

1:00-1:55 Lunch

2:00-4:00 COMMERCE
Chair: Cécile Vidal, L’École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

Quantifying Complicity: New Englanders and the Slave Economies of the West Indies
Eric Kimball, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

The Coastwise Slave Trade and a Mercantile Community of Interest
Calvin Schermerhorn, Arizona State University

Slavery, Technology and the Richmond-Rio Circuit
Daniel Rood, American Antiquarian Society

Comment: Ronald Bailey, Savannah State University
Saturday, April 9

All Sessions in Thompson Room, Barker Center
Harvard University

8:30-9:00 Coffee and Registration

9:00–11:00 **PLANTATION PRACTICES**
Chair: Joyce Chaplin, Harvard University

*The Whipping Machine*
Edward Baptist, Cornell University

*Improving the South: Plantation Slavery and American Industrialization*
Ian Beamish, Johns Hopkins University

*From Slavery to Scientific Management: Accounting for Mastery*
Caitlin Rosenthal, Harvard University

Comment: Lorena Walsh, Colonial Williamsburg (retired)

11:00–11:25 Coffee Break

11:30–1:00 **HUMAN CAPITAL**
Chair: Richard Rabinowitz, American History Workshop

*“Broad is de Road dat Leads ter Death”: Human Capital & Enslaved Mortality*
Daina Ramey Berry, University of Texas

*Slave Breeding: An Antebellum Argument over Commodity Relations, Love, and Personhood*
Amy Dru Stanley, University of Chicago

Comment: Walter Johnson, Harvard University

1:00–1:55 Lunch and Undergraduate Poster Session on Harvard and Slavery

2:00–4:00 **INSTITUTIONS AND IDEAS**
Chair: John Stauffer, Harvard University

*“The Very Name of a West Indian”: Atlantic Wealth and the Rise of the American College*
Craig Wilder, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

*Capitalism, Slavery, and Mathew Carey’s 1819*
Andrew Shankman, Rutgers University–Camden

*“No God But Gain”: The Business of Cuba and U.S. Foreign Policy*
Stephen Chambers, Brown University

*Utility, Slavery, and Market in American Legal Thought*
Alfred Brophy, University of North Carolina School of Law

Comment: James T. Campbell, Stanford University

4:00–5:00 Concluding Roundtable
Sven Beckert, Seth Rockman, and the Audience