

Mab Segrest

Biographical Sketch

Mab Segrest has worked for forty years as a public intellectual, teacher, and activist in social justice movements nationally and globally. She was a founder of North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence (NCARRV), for which she worked as coordinator in the 1980s organizing against a virulent far-right movement in North Carolina (a story told in her award winning *Memoir of a Race Traitor*); and Southerners on New Ground, or SONG, now 28 years into groundbreaking intersectional work to integrate work on race, class, gender, and sexuality into southern movements. Her new book, *Administrations of Lunacy: Racism and the Haunting of American Psychiatry at the Milledgeville Asylum* (The New Press 2020), draws on fifteen years of research and writing. “In a gripping narrative, Segrest retells southern history through the experiences of patients committed to the Georgia Asylum, Yale C Van Woodward Professor of History wrote: “It’s an astonishing and compelling feat.” Spelman College’s Cooper Professor of Women’s Studies noted the book’s “meticulous research [that] foregrounds the shameful connections between white supremacy, Cherokee removal, slavery, patriarchy and the psychiatric profession over the past century and a half in the South” — all comprising “an urgent call for prison reform.” The Center for Court Innovation’s Julian Adler called it “a must-read volume for every mental health professional in the United States,” Segrest lives in Durham NC where she works with Durham Beyond Policing.