

# Author Talk with Brian Dolinar

Discussion:

*The Negro in Illinois:  
The WPA Papers*

Saturday, February 15  
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Lewis Auditorium  
(Ground Floor)

Join us for a compelling look at the history of African Americans in the “Land of Lincoln.” Editor and historian Brian Dolinar will discuss his recently released book, *The Negro in Illinois: The WPA Papers*.

Originally part of President Roosevelt’s Illinois Writers’ Project, the project employed many major African American Chicago writers, including Richard Wright, Margaret Walker, and Katherine Dunham. They documented Black history in Illinois from Jean Point Baptiste DuSable, the Black founder of Chicago, to Lincoln’s Emancipation and the Great Migration. Editor Brian Dolinar helped to rescue this nearly-lost project and will talk about some of the amazing history it uncovers.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

*The Champaign County Historical Archives will also display photos, newspaper articles, and artifacts from significant events and people in local African American history.*

Dr. Brian Dolinar is a scholar of African American literature and culture from the Depression era who also authored *The Black Cultural Front: Black Writers and Artists of the Depression Generation* (2012). He completed his Ph.D. in Cultural Studies at Claremont Graduate University in 2005. He currently teaches in the Department of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • Adult Services • 217-367-4405 • [urbanafreelibrary.org](http://urbanafreelibrary.org)