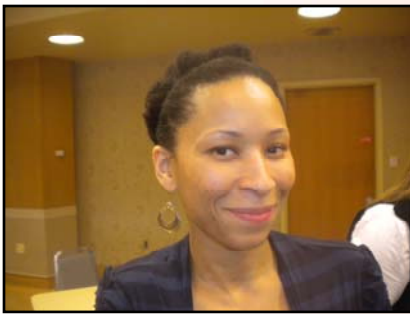


# Harriet Jacobs

## Lecture Series in Humanities & Arts

### Erykah Badu's Mothership: Transforming Maternal Tropes in Black Popular Culture



Marlo D. David is an assistant professor of English and Women's Studies at Purdue University, specializing in 20th and 21st-century African-American literature and culture as well as gender and sexuality studies. Marlo's interdisciplinary research concentrates on the following topics: literary representations of black mothers, feminist conceptions of motherhood, experimental film and music of the African diaspora, and black sexualities. Her essays have appeared in *Black Camera*, *The African American Review*, and *Home Girls Make Some Noise: A Hip Hop Feminist Anthology*. She is currently completing her manuscript, *Mama's Gun: Maternal Figures, Black Women and the Politics of Transgression*.

**Tuesday Feb. 28, 2012**  
**4:00 pm**  
**Stew Center, Room 202**



Harriet Ann Jacobs (1813 - March 7, 1897) was an abolitionist and writer. She is best-known as the writer of the 1861 slave narrative, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, published under the pseudonym Linda Brent. Much of *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* is devoted to Jacobs' struggle to free her two children after running away herself. Linda spends seven years hiding in a tiny space built above her grandmother's storeroom in order to occasionally see and hear the voices of her children. Jacobs changed the names of all characters in the narrative, including her own, to conceal their true identities. Prior to unearthing documents of authenticity, many had accused the narrative of being a fictional slave narrative, but it is now considered the major antebellum slave narrative by a black woman.

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