



Tennessee  
TECH

# Eighth Annual Womack Lecture

"Hillbilly Highway: The  
Transappalachian Migration  
and the Transformation of  
American Politics"

Max Fraser, Ph.D.



Nov. 4, 2024  
6 p.m.

Stonecipher Lecture  
Hall, Room 113

**Max Fraser** is currently visiting assistant professor of history at Dartmouth College, where he specializes in American labor, cultural and political history in the twentieth century. His recent book, *Hillbilly Highway: The Transappalachian Migration and the Making of a White Working Class* (Princeton, 2023), has been covered widely in both academic and popular outlets, and was awarded Honorable Mention for the 2024 Frederick Jackson Turner Award by the Organization of American Historians. A former journalist, Fraser's writing on work, the economy, the labor movement and American politics has also appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Nation* and elsewhere.

Over the first two-thirds of the 20th century, the so-called hillbilly highway carried more than eight million people from declining farming communities and mining towns in the rural Upper South to the booming cities and factory towns of the industrial Midwest. One of the largest internal population movements in American history, the Transappalachian migration reshaped American society, culture and politics in far-reaching ways--yet until now it has largely escaped close study by scholars of the period. In his talk, Fraser recounts the story of this migration, its transformative significance for the people and places involved, and its enduring impact on the political landscape of modern America.

Free and open to the public.

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