

Iris Ford

Iris Carter Ford is a professor (emerita) of anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland, The Public Honors College at Historic St. Mary's City. Her research and teaching focus on consumption, materialism, and popular culture in Africa and the African Diaspora.

Ford has conducted ethnographic research in both East and West Africa, and archival research at Oxford. She was the recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities grants to explore materialism in human life, and serves as a Descendant Advisor on a research project, *Understanding the Overseer: Examining Status and Identity at James Madison's Montpelier*, also funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Ford is a founding board member of the Montpelier Descendants Committee, a co-steward of the estate and museum. She is a current Fellow and former board member of Historic Sotterley, a National Historic Landmark and the only Tidewater plantation in Maryland open to the public. She is also a former two-time board member at Historic St. Mary's City, a museum of living history and archaeology on the site of Maryland's first capital, and currently serves on the Working Group in collaboration with the Smithsonian to conduct archaeological research on the earliest individuals of African descent ever studied in Maryland.