

The 8th Annual Herman C. Hudson Symposium
“Black Is...Black Ain’t”: Reconceptualizing the African Diaspora

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Herman C. Hudson Symposium History and Details



Only two years after the historically groundbreaking Black Studies Program commenced at San Francisco State University, **Herman C. Hudson** founded and chaired the present-day African American and African Diaspora Studies Department (AAADS) at Indiana University, Bloomington, adding it to the richly budding movement.

Growing exponentially from its three faculty members, Hudson's department now houses over forty faculty, staff, and adjunct professors. Distinguished as one of the nation's premier programs in the field, the AAADS department at IUB introduces students to a wide range of current research and scholarly opinion on the history, culture, and social status of Black people throughout the world. In addition, the department stresses service learning as part of its philosophy, ensuring that faculty and students create and maintain reciprocity with the Bloomington community as well as with African Diasporic communities.

The Herman C. Hudson Symposium memorializes the department's founder, and strives to integrate the insights of students and faculty from multiple disciplines in the pursuit of scholarship on the African Diaspora. The symposium is produced by the graduate students in AAADS who, in keeping with the long tradition of student activism and involvement in creating ground breaking research and movements, work throughout the year to select papers that not only honor the multiple traditions from which Black Studies was born, but also those that expand and challenge the field itself. The end result is a space, a community, in which interdisciplinary, interracial, and intercultural dialogues occur, and where the vision of Herman C. Hudson is re-imagined and deepened every year.

Welcome to the 8th Annual Herman C. Hudson Symposium, "*Black Is...Black Ain't*": *Reconceptualizing the African Diaspora*. We invite you to reconsider all that you have learned about yourself and others in order that we may envision and create African Diasporic communities in ways that perhaps only Herman C. Hudson could have dreamed over forty years ago.

Graduate Student Society
Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies

Michele Wallace
Professor, Ph.D. Program in English,
Women's Studies and the Film Certificate Program
City University of New York Graduate Center
Founder of The Faith Ringgold Society



Photo Credit: Stacy Long

Michele Wallace, a feminist cultural critic and public intellectual, is the author of *Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman* (The Dial Press, 1979; reissue Verso 1990); *Invisibility Blues: From Pop to Theory and Back Again* (Verso, 1990; reissue second edition Verso 2004), and *Black Popular Culture* (Bay Press, 1991; reissued New Press 2000).

Her work includes *Dark Designs and Visual Culture* (Duke UP, October 2004), as well as essays on race in silent cinema in “The Good Lynching and The Birth of a Nation: Discourses and Aesthetics of Jim Crow” in *Cinema Journal*, (43:1, FALL 2003); “Uncle Tom’s Cabin: Before and After the Jim Crow Era,” in *TDR* (44:1, Spring 2000); and “Oscar Micheaux’s Within Our Gates: The Possibilities for Alternative Visions,” in *Oscar Micheaux and His Circle: African American Filmmaking and Race Cinema* of the Silent Era edits by Charles Musser, Jane Gaines and Pearl Bowser (Indiana UP, 2001).

As the oldest daughter of the noted African American artist Faith Ringgold, Wallace has also written extensively on her mother’s work, most recently in “The French Collection: Momma Jones, Mommy Faye and Me” in *Dancing at the Louvre: The French Collection and Other Quilt Paintings by Faith Ringgold* edited by Dan Cameron (California UP and The New Museum, 1998) and in “The Mona Lisa Interview, with Faith Ringgold” (<http://www.faihringgold.com>).

Currently, Wallace is working on a series of projects having to do with photography and visual culture. The first of these is devoted to collecting and organizing the photographic collections of the 4 branches of her family (maternal and paternal) from Harlem to Jamaica into a book-length photo-essay project entitled *Talking in Pictures* and designed to comment on constructions of history, aesthetics and nationality in general, as well as the use of photographs as a form of communication. The second project involves writing a chronological series of case studies of constructions of race, blackness, African-ness and ethnicity in photography from the turn-of-the century (i.e. W.E.B. DuBois’s Negro Exhibition) through the fifties (i.e. Moma’s family of Man).

PROGRAM

Registration— 7:45 AM—8:15 AM

Room: Lobby

Welcome—8:15 AM—8:45 AM

Speaker: Professor Valerie Grim, Department Chair

Room: Grand Hall

Morning Panels

Panel 1—9:00 AM—10:15 AM

Power and the People: Blackness as an Intellectual and Cultural Resource

Facilitator: Professor Valerie Grim

Panelists: Mark Christian, Byron Craig, Wideline Seraphin

Room: A201

“Black Power and African American Studies Methodology, Pedagogy, Practice and the Problematic Intellectual Environment” - Dr. Mark Christian

This presentation is concerned with tackling the thorny issues of authentic intellectual empowerment and Africana/African American Studies scholars. Part of my research since 1992 has related to the idea and practice of building a stronger field/discipline in Africana/Black Studies. This presentation will draw from the literature of Black Power to show that there is a problematic experience for scholars that directly emerge from the field/discipline to work in mainstream academic settings.

Dr. Mark Christian, born and raised in England, arrived at Miami University in 2000 as a senior Fulbright recipient, and with 8 years teaching experience in community and university sectors in the UK and US. His teaching and research areas are in Sociology and Black World Studies, with an emphasis on the social construction of racialized identities in the African Diaspora, critical race theory, social stratification, and historical sociology. He has published 3 books, and numerous refereed journal articles in both his fields. He is recognized in Europe and North America for his work in Sociology and Black World Studies.

“Knowledge + Action: Oppressive Discourses and Black Political Agency” –

Byron Craig

In this paper, I seek to suggest different approaches for addressing how we might make the university better respond to racial inequity and inequality in policy, in its scholarship, and in its politics when we better understand that our differences are significant and should be instructive. Specifically I wish to address the necessity for a stronger understanding of how crafting rhetorical discourse as responses to a legacy of inequality and racism can better suit a black liberation and black political project.

Byron Craig is a Ph.D. candidate in the Dept. of Communication and Culture. His research looks at how we talk about race in America vis-à-vis social controversy. Currently he is on faculty at the Kelley School of Business in the Business Communication Department.

“Tapping into Cultural Resources: A Case for Haitian Resiliency and Viability Outside of Haiti and in the American Classroom” - Wideline Seraphin

My paper will look at the history of the Haitian Diaspora to the United States and trace the legacy of Haitian stigmatization. The paper will also connect how this stigmatization has had a negative effect on Haitian and Haitian-American students. I argue that Haitians have a cultural resource of resiliency, as made evident through their struggles as a people, and that this cultural resource also values the education. Ultimately, I want to dispel ideas surrounding Haitian academic underperformance in the U.S. and discuss strategies that would improve Haitian performance.

Wideline Seraphin, the daughter of Haitian immigrant parents, was born and raised in Miami, FL. Schooling experiences as a Haitian-American student spurred her research interests in the development of the Haitian and Haitian-American identity within the American public education system. She is a second year master’s student in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her research topics include transnational practices of the Haitian Diaspora and implementing best practices to improve the academic performance of Haitian students.

Panel 2—9:00 AM—10:15 AM

“ ‘Y Yo Soy Negro Tambien’! ”: The Role of Migration Narratives in Forming New Identities

Facilitator: Professor Micol Seigel

Panelists: Rafael Gomez, Philip Janzen, Carmen Lanos Williams

Room: Bridgwaters Lounge

‘Y Yo Soy Negro Tambien’! (...and I am Black Too!): Dominican Diasporic Notions of Blackness, Racial Identification and Black Solidarity” - Rafael Gomez

Historically, Dominicans have had a contentious relationship with Blackness to the point where they are considered to be a people that ‘hide the black behind the ears.’ Yet, what happens when Dominicans migrate to the United States? Do they retain the same racial attitudes or do these attitudes change? This paper seeks to show there are instances in the diaspora when, after coming in contact with other

Afro-descended groups, Dominicans embrace Blackness in ways that are affirmative and emancipatory. The paper also asks if, for Dominicans, being racially aware can lead to encounters of [racial] solidarity and engagement with other Afro-Diasporic groups at the socio-political level.

Rafael Gomez is a first year Ph.D. student at the University of Albany, SUNY, in the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Department. His area of concentration is religion in colonial Latin America, specifically, the evangelization and Christianization of the African slaves that were brought over across the Atlantic. He holds a Masters Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Bachelors degree from Lehman College (CUNY). A native of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Gomez calls The Bronx, New York his home.

“The First Black Professional Soccer Players in Britain: The Diasporic Identities of Arthur Wharton and Walter Tull”- Philip Janzen

Arthur Wharton and Walter Tull were two of the earliest black professional soccer players in Britain, but who were they away from the athletic field? More specifically, how did migrations, both their own and those of their ancestors, shape their identities? Wharton was Grenadian, Scottish, and Fante. Tull was Barbadian and British. Wharton travelled between the Gold Coast and England, and Tull journeyed from England to Latin America. This paper will look at the impacts of these migrations while incorporating some of the ideas in Paul Gilroy’s *The Black Atlantic* and C. L. R. James’ *Beyond a Boundary*.

Philip Janzen finished his undergraduate degree in history at the University of Ottawa (in Ottawa, Canada) in December 2010. He has applied to graduate history programs and is currently waiting for the decisions to be handed down.

“Everybody... Misapprehends Me”: *Identity, Blackness, and Oral Sexuality in Junot Diaz’s The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*” - Carmen Lanos Williams

Junot Diaz’s *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* is a narrative that is very much engaged with the politics of identity as it relates to migration, citizenship, and diaspora. The novel’s central character, Oscar de Leon, is an overweight, black, Dominican-American man who comes of age in 1980’s New Jersey. While Diaz specifically constructs Oscar as a “black” kid, Oscar’s race is never central to his (Oscar’s) story.

Carmen Lanos Williams is a Ph.D. student in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her areas of interests include how migration narratives help immigrants reconstruct national, racial, and cultural identities.

KEYNOTE—10:30 AM—12:00 PM

American People, Black Light: Faith Ringgold's Paintings of the 1960s

Keynote Address: Professor Michele Wallace

Introduced by Wideline Seraphin,
Vice-President of the AAADS Graduate Society

Room: Grand Hall

LUNCH— 12:00 PM — 12:45 PM

Room: Grand Hall

Afternoon Panels

PANEL 3 – 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Radical Reclamations: Memory, Healing, and “the Unuterrable”

Facilitator: AAADS Faculty Member

Panelists: Maria E. Hamilton Abegunde, Israel Durham, Jelani (W. M.) Hamm

Room: Bridgwaters Lounge

“Sankofa in Action: Creating a Plan that Works – Healing the Causes of Violence to Stop the Violence” - Maria E. Hamilton Abegunde

September 24, 2009, Chicago, Illinois: Four teenage boys beat sixteen-year-old Derrion Albert to death. As I struggled to respond to this young man's death, emotionally and theoretically, I realized that I could only try to make sense of this from a holistic spiritual context. I contend that Derrion's murder is a symptom of a larger problem in Black communities, one that transcends poverty, educational gaps, limited political power, shrinking financial opportunities, or ineffective public policies. In this paper, I discuss Derrion's murder, and offer a community-based healing process that is grounded in a different approach to Sankofa.

Abegunde, an egungun priest in the Yoruba Orisa tradition and Reiki Master, is a Caven Canem fellow and the author of three poetry chapbooks. She has received fellowships from Norcroft, Sacatar, and Ragdale foundations for fiction and non-fiction. She was ritualist-in-residence for the UNESCO-Transatlantic Slave Trade Project-USA for ten years. She is a doctoral student in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her areas of research include embodied memory, trauma, and healing related to the Middle Passage.

“A Loving Reclamation of the Unutterable” - Israel Durham

This paper exposes the proverbial naming and claiming of “it” accomplished in performances of excellence by Patricia Hill Collins, Hortense Spillers and Nina Simone. Engaging the academic and the musical conversationally, this paper attempts to show that the act of reclamation in which these women partake is of quasi-biblical proportions. They are predisposed to lovingly speaking the truth of the history of nomenclature associated with black female bodies. The multidisciplinary approach they respectively take gives dimensions to the sociopolitical, historical, and artistic nuances bound up in the totality of the black existence in this continental context.

Israel Durham is a native of West Haven, CT. Following the completion of his Bachelor of Arts degree in architecture with a concentration in design at the University of Pennsylvania, he enrolled at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ and is currently completing his final year as a candidate for the Master of Divinity degree.

“RAGS, GUMBO, MOURNING and the BITTERSWEET- Lessons from Goree Island: Reframing Hegemonic Memory in the Black Atlantic” - Jelani (W. M.) Hamm

Using Goree Island, off the coast of Dakar, Senegal as a site of exploration, I intend to examine how “diasporic” communities have visited the island as a site of transformation. I will concentrate on how African Americans have used creative inventions, through acts of bricolage, syncretism, and hybridity that enable them to cause change against structural and cultural memories. However, perhaps more importantly in the process of resisting hegemonic pressure, these groups engage in an act of refabulation of the stories they tell. This investigation will include a mixed methodology of various cultural studies approaches.

Jelani has traveled extensively in Africa, especially Senegal. He has an MA in Theater and he holds an MFA in Film Producing from UCLA and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in World Arts and Culture at UCLA. Jelani has worked for the past two decades in the LA public school system.

PANEL 4 – 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

From the Edge to Center: Marginal Communities at the Core of Research

Facilitator: Professor Frederick McElroy

Panelists: Scott Barton, LaNita Gregory Campbell, Fatima Kalpalki, Carl Suddler

Room: A201

“Siddiance Zat: Slaves and Mercenaries, Scheduled Tribes and Nobles; “Ami Soghle Ekh”?” - Scott Barton

This paper includes a review of various historic texts in translation from Portuguese, English and Arabic sources; some early travel narratives focusing on the history and historiography of the Indian Ocean slave trade; and the seeds of the 16th and 17th century Lusophone Empire as an early global network. This history references how the Sidi and Habsi communities existent in modern India have been both reified and marginalized by early entrepreneurial food and commodity enterprises.

Scott Barton is a doctoral candidate in Food Studies at NYU. Scott has worked as an Executive Chef/Culinary Consultant for twenty-five years. He was distinguished as one of the top 25 African American Chefs by *Ebony Magazine*. He’s been interviewed on TV Rede Bahia, Soterópolis, and *A Tarde* newspaper for his research. Scott received a fellowship to Instituto Sacatar in Brazil. He has presented at ASFS, NAES, SSSL and Princeton conferences and served on the Board of Southern Foodways Alliance.

“Gardasil Dick and Gardasil Jane: Public Anxiety and the Fear of Human Papilloma Virus” - LaNita Gregory Campbell

This paper utilizes a cultural studies approach consisting of historical and content analysis to address cultural notions of disease and contagion as they intersect with race, class, gender, and sexuality. While most public attention concerning human papilloma virus (HPV) and Gardasil is geared towards women and cervical cancer, there has been little to no consideration of men’s health and HPV. These discussions are often prevented before they can begin, primarily because of the controversial debates surrounding the vaccine and youth sexuality. In the 21st century, Black Studies departments represent an ideal space to converse intellectually, and practically, about a virus that drastically impacts the African American community.

LaNita Campbell, a first year doctoral student in Gender Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington, is interested in the cultural politics of medicine. She recently completed her M.A. thesis, which investigated the social constructions of HIV/AIDS and the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality in a 1980s Spanish language comic book series. In addition to finishing her M.A. in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at IU she currently works at the Asian Culture Center.

“Women and Colonialism in The Mimic Men” - Dr. Fatma Kalpakli

The existence of the binary oppositions and the colonial tendencies in patriarchal cultures pave the way for the exploitation of women. In patriarchal societies, not only men oppress women, but also women oppress women. To exemplify, generally the white woman takes the role of a master and the black woman takes the role of a servant. Thus, patriarchal colonial tendencies implement the seeds of hatred within the same sex and, therefore, sisterhood among the women becomes impossible. Moreover, a close look at the patriarchal/colonial cultures will reveal that the patriarchal/colonial cultures disturb all women regardless of their racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds. In this article, all these issues will be discussed with reference to V.S. Naipaul’s *The Mimic Men*.

Dr. Fatma Kalpakli received her Ph.D. in British Cultural Studies at Hacettepe University in 2008 and is currently a postdoctoral research scholar in Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago. Her research interests include gender studies, environmental studies, multiculturalism, immigrant identity, and popular culture. Her book, *British Novelists and Indian Nationalism: contrasting approaches in the works of Mary Margaret Kaye, James Gordon Farrell and Zadie Smith*, came out in 2009.

“Marginalized by the Margin: The Streets in Black Diaspora Studies” - Carl Suddler

Marginalized by the Margin: The Streets in Black Diaspora Studies invokes Black studies programs to begin a discussion of how to make the incorporation of the streets into the academy successful, and not exploitive. The men, women, and children that make up this marginal community are often silenced by the Academy and relegated as victims of society. I argue that the experiences of this population must be contextualized within the broader lived experiences of the Black Diaspora, and it is up to Black Studies Departments to incorporate them into the broader analytical and interpretive frameworks of traditional Black Diaspora discourse.

Carl Suddler is a doctoral student in the Department of History at Indiana University, Bloomington. His research examines how urban youth culture during the postwar era helped shape the development of 20th century U.S. cities. He seeks to uncover various ways that young people have impacted the social, political, and geographical climate of city life, while simultaneously being influenced by the social, political, and geographical elements of the cities themselves.

PANEL 5 – 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Love and Rhetoric: Reconceptualizing Black Male Masculinity

Facilitator: Professor Marlon Bailey

Panelists: Aleya Crable, Steve Rahko, John Rawlins

Room: Grand Hall

“Love Don’t Live Here Anymore: Black Masculinity, Love, and African and Black Diaspora Studies” - Aleya Crable

This study anticipates to expose hindrances within the state of Black love with the intention to create awareness among African Americans so that a greater understanding can occur surrounding the influences of how Black masculinity shapes Black love. It argues that research in the area of Black love, and on how Black masculinity in America shapes Black love in heterosexual relationships, offers one direction for the practical application of African Diaspora Studies/ Black Studies in the 21st century.

Aleya Lynne Crable is a Pennsylvania native who is currently obtaining her Master of Arts in Women and Gender Studies at DePaul University. She is an alumna of Roosevelt University with a master’s in integrated marketing communications and Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor’s in communications media. Her research interests include: utilizing methods of performance-based scholarship to create social change and resistance, 21st century studies of the African/Black Diaspora, and identity politics regarding women of color in the United States.

“Marking the Civic Body: Race, Rhetoric, and the Media Response to the Reverend Jeremiah Wright” - Steve Rahko

African Diaspora Studies has been engaged in the problem of democratic citizenship as it interfaces at the site of race in American public culture. This paper seeks to enrich this scholarly discourse by performing a case study of the way the American mass media received the rhetoric of Reverend Jeremiah Wright's criticism of American imperialism during the 2008 Democratic Primary race between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, and to reveal how archetypal and residual figures historically used to mark black civic bodies were appropriated to marginalize post 9/11 dissent against America's culture of war.

Steve Rahko is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Communication and Culture at Indiana University, Bloomington. His research largely focuses on the rhetoric of the American corporation, but his research interests pertain to the rhetoric of American foreign policy, globalization, capitalism, and specifically how these phenomena interface with contemporary American public culture at the sites of race, class, and the performance of democratic citizenship.

“Black Masculinity in Historically Black Fraternities: Reconceptualizing Black Masculinity in a Time of Collapsing Gender Categories” - John “J. R.” Rawlins

This paper will explore historically black fraternities as a lens to understand how African-American men reclaim and restore a sense of masculinity in a time of multiple, overlapping gender categories. Perhaps they are responding to the lack of discrete gender categories available for the African American male. It is also possible that these students are celebrating “black masculinity” as a backlash to the fractured, race-based, identity-politics divisions so prevalent in the modern university. Through my research, I hope to unravel these dynamics and explore the collapsing culture(s) of masculinity.

J. R. is currently a Ph.D. student in American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University. He recently won second-place for the Shanklin competition, the university’s most prestigious academic competition, for his work on “Bob Marley as a Vernacular Intellectual”.

PANEL 6 – 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Visualizing Blackness: What You See Is Not All There Is

Facilitator: Professor David Wall

Panelists: Shelleen Greene, Sharon Joseph, Turtel Onli

Room: A201

“Haile Gerima’s “Adwa: An African Victory” and Isaac Julien’s “Western Union: small boats”: Of Migration, Modernity, and the African Diaspora in Postcolonial Italy” - Shelleen Greene

Although scholars have identified the many ironic parallels between Italian emigration at the turn of the century, the internal migrations of the post-war period, and contemporary immigration to the European Union, Iain Chambers advocates a fundamental rethinking of the relation between the “West” and “non-West,” one that reveals the cultures against which the West defines itself are at the core of modern European identity. I examine two recent works by Haile Gerima and Isaac Julien, filmmakers who chart alternative geographies of Africa, the Mediterranean, and Europe in order to write new histories of migration and African diasporic identity formation.

Shelleen Greene is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art and Design, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Her research interests include film and media studies, visual cultural studies, race and representation, and postcolonial studies. Currently, she is completing her manuscript, *Equivocal Subjects: Between Italy and Africa – Constructions of Racial and National Identities in the Italian Cinema*, which will be published through Continuum Press.

“Strangers in the Promised Land: Representations of Non-Jewish African Workers in Israeli Cinema” - Sharon Joseph

The growing migration of non-Jewish African workers to Israel has been met with great consternation by several segments of the nation. However, “Foreign Sister” (2000) and “James’ Journey to Jerusalem” (2004) are the only two Israeli films featuring the plight of non-Jewish African undocumented workers in their narrative and each was met with different receptions. This presentation will examine the history of the African colonial tropes in internationally distributed films, how they have shaped the expectations of the Israeli audience and why of these problematic representations are still being reproduced and consumed by the global audience.

Sharon Joseph is a British born African American of Jamaican and Grenadian heritage and a Ph.D. student at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Her heritage has a strong influence on her scholarly areas of interest, which are racially gendered representations in film and television, political economy of media, media multi-based curriculum and instruction and black femininity.

“Black Age Comics” - Turtel Onli

Could you imagine growing up in a world where the validity of Superman would be under debate due to his being White. Black culture, the Black community, and non-Blacks who have an interest in the Black community often see the autonomy of Black Age (its characters and creators) as becoming a force that promotes literacy, values, culture, and true diversity. It is important for the creation of Black super heroes to add voice, presences, styles, and even market shares along with addressing at times issues that plague the urban scenario.

Turtel Onli was raised in Hyde Park and was a teen during the counter cultural and Black Cultural revolutions. Out of his experiences he founded a guild of young artists to focus on transitioning from students to professionals. He has worked as a major market illustrator in a field largely dominated by Whites. Responses to his work led him to understand that the American comic book industry offered him the opportunity to help audiences see beyond their racial limitations and perceptions.

PANEL 7 - 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Continental Exchanges: Africa, India, and Europe in Black Studies Dialogues

Facilitator: Professor A. B. Assensoh

Panelists: L. Addison Bradford, Amanda Brown, Nadine Golly

Room: Bridgwaters Lounge

“Examining the Place of Africa in the African Diaspora: Toward a Broader Understanding of the Continent” - L. Addison Bradford

Within western historical thought, the image of Africa, both as an actual physical space as well as the metaphorical means for establishing an identity of resistance in the West, is generally perceived as a singular bounded entity. Utilizing the lived experience of Black Moroccans as a starting point, the goal of this paper is to begin to uncover that which has been overlooked or purposefully hidden from view in our understanding of Africa. What have we missed in our production and reproduction of the continent and what impact does this have on the place and space of the African Diaspora?

L. Addison Bradford is a second year Ph.D. student in IU’s Department of Anthropology, and a FLAS Fellow in the African Studies Program. He is also finishing a Master’s Degree in International Studies at DePaul University in Chicago. He graduated from Grinnell College with a B.A. in sociology and served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco. His research focuses on the interplay of race, identity and landscape in southern Morocco.

“Peace and the East: The Intellectual Exchange Between the Modern African American Community and Third World India” - Amanda Brown

This essay examines the intellectual exchange between the modern African American community and Third World India, primarily between the post-WWI era and the late 1960’s. Focusing on nonviolence and anti-imperialism, this study focuses on the close relationship between the Indian independence movement and American Civil Rights. It positions African American intellectuals as major contributors to the global discussion on oppression and suggests that scholarship on the black diaspora ought to cover more than the plight of race alone. By looking at conversations with those outside the diaspora, scholars can get a more complete understanding of the big picture issues contributing to global inequality.

Amanda Brown is a graduate student of History at Lehigh University. She holds an MA in American Studies from Lehigh as well as a BA in American Studies and a BA in Advertising from Penn State University. Her academic interests include intellectual history, public history, cultural history, social movements, religion, and peace.

“Black and German“– the Black Community and Their Re/conceptualizing of the African Diaspora and the Impact and Application for Black Studies” -

Nadine Golly

Slavery and the Atlantic triangle are a constituting historical moment for definitions of and research into African Diaspora, although there are additional moments for definitions in Europe. Black as a notion is not exclusively used to refer to people of African descent, but has been applied to all people of color who face racism and discrimination on the basis of assumed race, culture, ethnicity, religion. But, what the term intends to express is the beginnings of a specific Diaspora existence and a political project of counter history. Therefore, I argue for a BLACK IS as acknowledgement for multiple roots that come together and that represent a fundamental source for inspiration and strength.

Nadine Golly is a social scientist at the Leuphana University Lueneburg, Germany and at the University Giessen, Germany within the following research and teaching areas: Black Diasporan Studies in Europe, especially Scandinavia and Germany, postcolonial theory and education for sustainable development, migration, cultural politics, biographies, memory (politics), gender, Pan-African agendas, postcolonising methodologies, epistemologies of (teaching) emancipatory knowledges.

Plenary - 4:00 PM —5:15 PM

Reconceptualizing the African Diaspora: A Cross-Panel Conversation

Speakers: Panel Facilitators

Room: Grand Hall

CLOSING – 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Speakers: Malaika Baxa, President of Graduate Society and Professor Iris Rosa,

Director of Graduate Studies

Room: Grand Hall

Notes

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