

Global Africa: African and African Diaspora Studies in the 21st Century

An International Conference

The Africa Institute, Sharjah, UAE
12-14 March 2019



Tuesday 12 March

10:00 am-11:00 am **Coffee and Registration**

11:15 am

Welcoming Remarks

Hoor Al Qasimi - President, The Africa Institute and President and Director, Sharjah Art Foundation

Introductory Remarks

Salah M. Hassan - Director, The Africa Institute and Goldwin Smith Professor and Director, Institute for Comparative Modernities, Cornell University, Ithaca, US

Carina E. Ray - Associate Professor, African and African-American Studies, Brandeis University, Boston, US

11:30 am- 1:30 pm

Session I: Africa and African Diaspora Studies: The State of the Discipline

Montreal and the Unfinished Business of 1969: Reflections on Whiteness, African Studies, and the Racial Politics of Knowledge Production in North America

Jean Allman - J.H. Hexter Professor in the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis, US

Black Studies in the 21st Century: The Science of Liberation in the Neo-Liberal Institution

Kehinde Andrews - Professor, Black Studies, Birmingham City University, UK

Cross-Examining African-centredness Debates: Whose Conversations, What Do They Say, Where, and To Whom?

Akosua Adomako Ampofo - Professor, African and Gender Studies, University of Ghana

Moderator and Discussant: Carina E. Ray - Associate Professor, African and African-American Studies and History, Brandeis University, Boston, US

1:30 pm-2:30 pm

Lunch

2:30 pm-4:30 pm

Session II: African/a Philosophy and The Black Intellectual Tradition

'Hegel and Haiti' in Retrospect

Susan Buck-Morss - Distinguished Professor of Political Philosophy, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, US and Professor Emeritus, Department of Government, Cornell University, Ithaca, US

How Language Stunts Knowledge Production in African Studies

Olúfẹ́mi Táíwò - Professor, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, US

Aimé Césaire's Publics: The Anticolonial Intellectual between Poetry and Politics (1935-1948)

Natalie Melas - Professor, Comparative Literature, Cornell University, Ithaca, US

Imaging Africa from the Diaspora: African Americans and the African Presence in the Library of Human Civilization

Mamadou Diouf - Leitner Family Professor of African Studies and History and Chair of the Middle Eastern, South Asia and African Studies Department, Columbia University, New York, US

Moderator and Discussant: Manthia Diawara - Distinguished University Professor, Film and Comparative Literature, New York University, US

4:30 pm-6:30 pm

Session III: African and African Diaspora Literature, and Performing Arts

The Films of Abderrahmane Sissako and the Right to African Interiority

Dagmawi Woubshet - Ahuja Family Presidential Associate Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, US

Naked Protest as Naked Agency in Africa

Naminata Diabate - Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature, Cornell University, Ithaca, US

The Aesthetics of Regard: Theorizing 21st-Century Black Feminist Art Praxis

Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman - Associate Professor, American Studies and English, Brown University, Providence, US

Moderator and Discussant: Tejumola Olaniyan - Louise Durham Mead Professor of English, African, and African Diaspora Literatures and Cultures Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, US

7:00 pm-9:30 pm

Dinner

**Wednesday
13 March**

11:00 am-1:00 pm

Session IV: African and African Diaspora Art History and Visual Studies

“My color does not disfigure my honor or my wit”: Curating ReSignifications

Awam Amkpa - Associate Professor, Africana Studies and the Tisch School, New York University, US

Africa and the World: The Indian Ocean as Art Historical Method

Sandy Prita Meier - Associate Professor, African Art History, New York University, US

Modernism in Different Forms: Re-conceptualizing Telsem Art

Elizabeth Wolde Giorgis - Associate Professor of Art History, Criticism and Theory, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Moderator and Discussant: Salah M. Hassan - Director, The Africa Institute and Goldwin Smith Professor and Director, Institute for Comparative Modernities, Cornell University, Ithaca, US

1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Lunch

2:30 pm-4:30 pm

Session V: New Directions in African and African Diaspora Historical Studies

Gender and the Stigma of Racial Slavery: From the Sa’di Sultan Ahmad al-Mansur to the ‘Alawi Sultan Mawlay Isma’il

Chouki El Hamel - Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Arizona State University, Phoenix, US

Becoming African: Chief Sam's Back-to-Africa Campaign, 1912-1917

Ebony Coletu - Assistant Professor, English and African American Studies, Pennsylvania State University, State College, US

The Afterlife of Radicalism: African American Activism, Africa, and the End of the Cold War

Benjamin Talton - Professor, African History, Temple University, Philadelphia, US

Moderator and Discussant: Ahmad Sikainga - Professor, African History, Ohio State University, Columbus, US

4:30 pm-6:30 pm

Session VI: Revisiting Afro-Arab Histories and Relations

Religion, Fundamentalisms and Globalization: Reflections from Africa

Ousmane Kane - Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Religion and Society, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, US (participating via Skype)

Enslaved People from Northeast Africa in Eastern Arabia and the Gulf in the Nineteenth and the Twentieth Centuries

Ahmad Sikainga - Professor, African History, Ohio State University, Columbus, US

W.E.B. Du Bois, Ibn Khaldun and the Gnawa: Theorizing the "Afro-Arab Dilemma"

Hisham Aidi - Professor, International and Public Affairs and the Institute of African Affairs, Columbia University, New York, US

Moderator and Discussant: Chouki El Hamel - Professor of History, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Arizona State University, Phoenix, US

**Thursday
14 March**

11:00 am-1:00 pm

Session VII: African Studies in Africa and the Diaspora: The Critical Humanities

Race and its Uncanny Returns: Building a Humanities Centre in a University of Apartheid

Premesh Lalu - Professor and Director, Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa

African Modernity Revisited

Manthia Diawara - Distinguished University Professor, Comparative Literature and Cinema, New York University, US

“Freedom” in Africa, the longue durée

Tejumola Olaniyan - Louise Durham Mead Professor of English, African, and African Diaspora Literatures and Cultures Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, US

Moderator and Discussant: Natalie Melas - Professor, Comparative Literature, Cornell University, Ithaca, US

1:30 pm-2:30 pm

Lunch

2:30 pm-4:30 pm

Session VIII: African Studies in Africa and the Diaspora: The Critical Social Sciences

Post-Colonial Africa and the World Economy

Fouad Makki - Associate Professor, Development Sociology, Cornell University, Ithaca, US

Decolonizing Sociology: The View from African and African Diaspora Studies

Zine Magubane - Associate Professor, Sociology, Boston College, US

Thinking Freedom: Why a Social Sciences and Humanities Lab in Angola?

Catarina Gomes - Co-coordinator, Social Sciences and Humanities Lab, Catholic University of Angola

Moderator and Discussant: Paul Tiyambe Zeleza - Vice Chancellor and Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, United States International University-Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

4:30 pm-6:30 pm

Session IX: Knowledge Production and Institution Building in Africa

36 Years of an African Academic Publishing Experience In the Americas

Kassahun Checole - Founder & Publisher of Africa World Press & the Red Sea Press, Inc., New Brunswick and Cape Town, South Africa

Building an Africa-Based Public Humanities for the 21st Century

Sarah Nuttall - Director of WiSER, Wits, Johannesburg

Leveraging Africa's Global Diasporas for the Continent's Development

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza - Vice Chancellor and Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, United States International University-Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

Moderator and Discussant: Premesh Lalu – Professor and Director, Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa

7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Closing Reception