

APRIL 26- 27, 2012
DEPARTMENT OF PAN-
AFRICAN STUDIES
OSCAR RITCHIE HALL

Conference Organizing Committee:

Amoaba Gooden
Babacar M'baye
Mwatabu Okantah
Wendy Wilson-Fall

Student Coordinator:

Jamila Okantah

SLAVERY, COLONIALISM
AND
AFRICAN IDENTITIES
IN THE ATLANTIC
WORLD

Special thanks to:

Ms. Pauline Clark
Ms. Latesha Dukes
Ms. Latoya Small
Student Volunteers



Organized with support from
University Teaching Council
Office of the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Office of the Vice-President (Research)
Department of Pan-African Studies
Institute of African American Affairs
Center for Pan-African Culture

About The Conference

The Department of Pan African Studies at Kent State University is on the move, and it's very exciting. The conference on *Slavery, Colonialism and African*

Identities is a good example of the spirit of inquiry, scholarship, and excellent teaching that characterize the current dynamics here at Pan African Studies. We are proud to welcome all conference participants to our campus and to historic Oscar Ritchie Hall, once known as the Institute for African American Affairs, or the "Tute." Created in response to student demand more than forty years ago, the department remains committed to student success and global learning experiences.

The conference seeks to examine the variability in perspectives in teaching in Africana Studies. The Department of Pan-African Studies recognize **Africana Studies** to be inclusive of fields of study referred to as Pan-African Studies, African American Studies, African and Diaspora Studies, Black Studies, and African Caribbean Studies etc. Our goal is to provide an avenue through which researchers and scholars from a variety of fields and disciplines who have an interest in teaching about people of African descent can interrogate and discuss the experiences of people of African descent.

What is Pan-African Studies?

The Department of Pan-African Studies at Kent State University serves a vital need in the university community. Pan African Studies is the study of communities of people of African descent both on the continent of Africa and in various countries throughout the world. The Department focuses on bringing the local point of view of diverse communities into a global context, where specific national stories (U.S.A., Haiti, Jamaica, etc.) and specific regional stories (West Africa, North Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Indian Ocean, etc.) can be understood in a world context.

Faculty

Department of Pan-African Studies:

Dr. Alene Barnes

Prof. El Dabh

Dr. Francis E. Dorsey

Dr. George Garrison

Dr. Amoaba Gooden

Dr. Babacar M'Baye

Prof. Mwatabu Okantah

Prof. Idris Kabir Syed

Dr. M. Temu

Dr. Chris Williams

Prof. Traci Williams

Dr. Wendy Wilson-Fall (Chair)

English Writing Program:

Prof. Christina McVay

Prof. Shannon Christen-Syed

Prof. Linda Piccirillo-Smith

Prof. Denise Harrison

Part Time Staff:

Prof. Anita Maldonado

Prof. Willard Jenkins

Prof. Cinnamon Small

About the Pan-African Studies Department

- Students learn the importance of informed judgment, and life-long learning; students develop specialized understanding, specialized and general knowledge and skills that they are prepared to apply responsibly in new and complex settings
- Students are involved in learning based in inquiry, evidence analysis, critical and creative thought, and collaborative problem-solving

Students gain intercultural knowledge and competencies through students' direct involvement in research, creative activity, community outreach, and through progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards of performance across the Disciplines.



*Dr. Sylviane Diouf
Keynote Speaker*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Sylviane Diouf is an award-winning historian specializing in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, slavery, and migrations. She is the author most recently of *Dreams of Africa in Alabama: The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Story of the Last Africans Brought to America* (Oxford) which received awards from the American Historical Association, the Alabama Historical Association, and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Her book *Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas* (NYU) was named Outstanding Academic Book. She is the editor of *Fighting the Slave Trade: West African Strategies* (Ohio) and the co-editor of *In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience* (National Geographic). A recipient of the Dr. Betty Shabazz Achievement Award, the Warith Deen Mohammed Award, the Pen and Brush Achievement Award, and the Rosa Parks Award, Dr. Diouf has appeared in several documentaries. She is a Curator at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Saturday April 28th
Pan African Festival Continuation
7:30 - Oscar Ritchie 250
Black Woman's Words: An Evening With Mary Weems

Student Open Mic
Poet Prof. Mwatabu Okantah
Guest Poet Mary Weems



Mary Weems

8:00-11:00 Reggae Night

**2012 Pan African Festival Kick Off
Akron's Rhodes Street Rude Boys**

KSU Student Center - Rathskeller



Rhodes Street Rude Boys

Thursday April 26th

3:00-7:00 Registration—Oscar Ritchie Foyer

3:00 – 5:00 Faculty Workshop—Oscar Ritchie Hall 250

“Curating Digital Projects.” Facilitator: Dr. Sylviane Diouf

5:00-7:00 Reception - Oscar Ritchie Foyer

Friday April 27th

8:00-12:00 Registration

Oscar Ritchie Hall 2nd Floor Lobby

9:00-9:30 Welcome – ORH 250

Dr. Todd Diacon

Provost - Kent State University

Dr. Babacar M’Baye and Professor Mwatabu Okantah

9:30 – 11:00 Session 1—ORH 250

Slavery and Colonization Across the Atlantic World

Chair: Mahli Xuan Mechenbier, Kent State U.

1) Michael Modarelli, Walsh University, “Frederick Douglass and the Anglo-Saxon Argument.”

2) Chris Williams, Kent State University, “Sierra Leone Krios/ Americo-Liberians.”

3) Alex Lovit, Charles F. Kettering Foundation, “ The American Colonization Society and the Construction of African American Identity.”

4) Maximo G. Martinez, West Virginia University, “Public Policy and Africana Studies.”

Commentator: Denise A. Harrison, Kent State U.

9:30 – 11:00 Session II – ORH 214

Black Studies in Transnational Context

Chair: Timothy Scarnecchia, Kent State U.

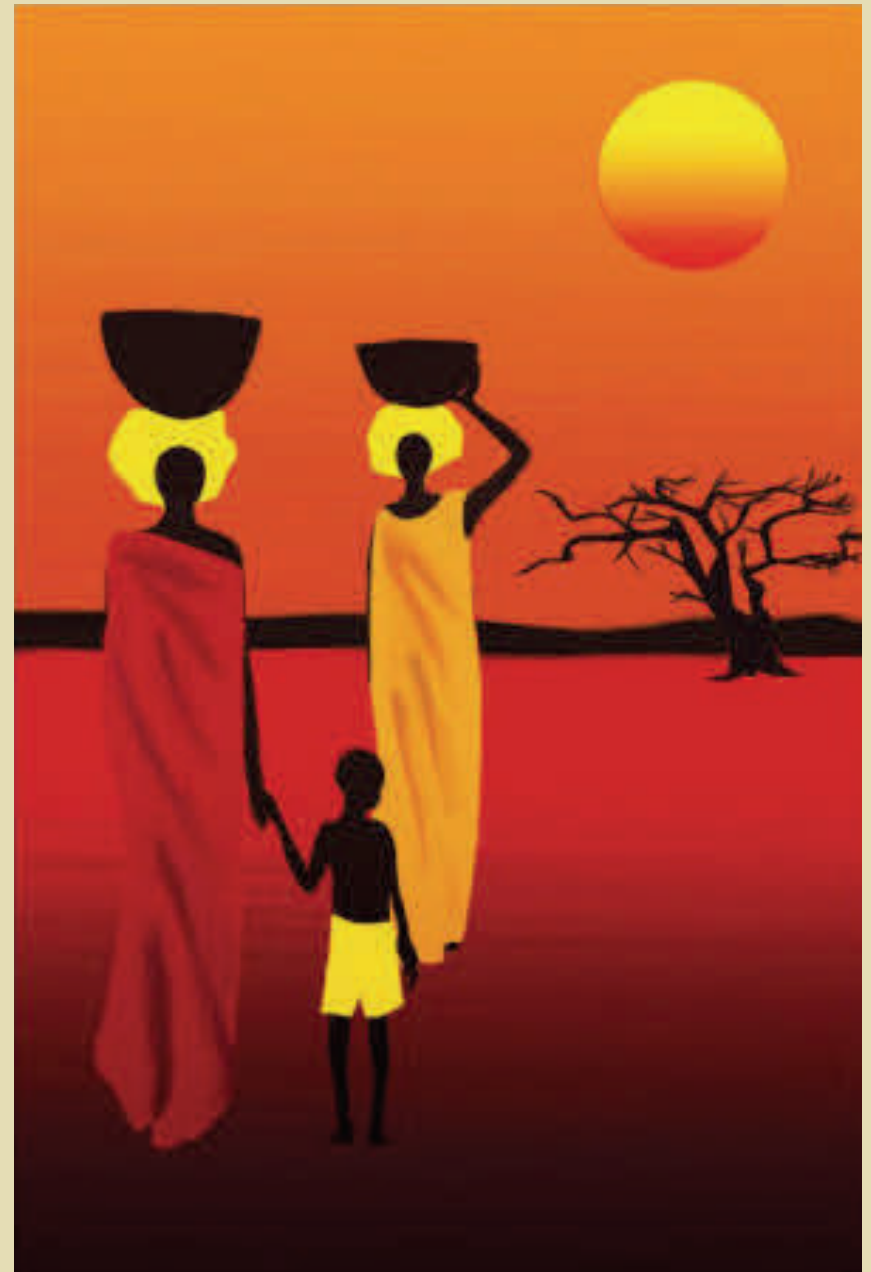
- 1) Bincy Abdul Samad, Kent State University, "Hegemony and Alienation in *Native Son*: A Postcolonial Reading."
- 2) Babacar Faye, Bowling Green University, "Political and Economic Agency in Postcolonial Theory."
- 3) Arnissa Hopkins, Cleveland Metropolitan Schools, "Redefining African American Identity."
- 4) Leroy Davis, Emory University, "Under the Shadow of Good Health': Mariamne Samad, George Allman and the Saga of a Black Transnational Family in the African Diaspora: The Harlem Years."

11:00 – 12:15 Session III – ORH 214

*Critical Feminism and Undiminished Differences:
Gender, Race, Class, Sexualities*

Chair: Pam Lieske, Kent State U.

- 1) Walter Gershon, Kent State University, "Embodying Blackness: Reconceptualizing African American Girls' Ways of Being in Urban Classrooms and their Implications for STEM Education."
- 2) Suzanne Holt, Kent State University, "Gender Essentialism and its Shadows."
- 3) Nicole Rousseau, Kent State University, "Historical Womanist Theory."



4:00 – 5:30 Session VIII – ORH 214

*Charting African Identities: From Origins to
Contemporary Time*

Chair: Wendy Wilson-Fall, Kent State U.

- 1) George Garrison, Kent State University, “How Africans Traveled in Pre- Columbian America.”
- 2) Idris Syed, Kent State University, “Africanisms in Art: An Examination of Multi- Modal Art in the Historical and Modern Charlestown Maroon Community.”
- 3) Julio Pino, Kent State University, “ Cultural Resistance, Slavery and the City: Afro-Muslims of Salvador, Brazil.”
- 4) Wendy Wilson-Fall, Kent State University. “A New Pan-Africanism.”

Commentator: Babaccar M’Baye, Kent State U.

5:30-6:00 Closing of Conference—ORH 250

Chair, Department of Pan-African Studies

11:00 – 12:15 Session IV – ORH 215

Culture and Politics in the African Diaspora

Chair: Brian Huot, Kent State U.

- 1) Bobbie Hopkins, Warrensville Heights School System, “Music and African American Culture.”
- 2) Kevin McMullen, Kent State University, “Roles of the Trickster Character in African American Folktales.”
- 3) Jamila Okantah, Kent State University “Rasta Movement and Colonization of Jamaica.”
- 4) Dominique Zordich, Kent State University, “The Contributions of Eric Williams.”

12:15 – 1:15 Lunch - ORH 250

1:15 – 2:15

Welcome

Dr. Timothy Moerland
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Wendy Wilson-Fall
Chair, Department of Pan-African Studies

Keynote Address

Dr. Sylviane Diouf
Digital Curator, Schomburg Center for Research in Black
Culture
*“Deconstructing and Reconstructing Africans’ Identities
During Slavery”*

2:30 – 4:00 Session V – ORH 214

Blackness in Literature and Practice

Chair: Pamela Takayoshi, Kent State U.

- 1) Dan Mills, Clayton State University, “Aphra Behn and John Locke on Slavery, Inherited Rule and Regicide.”
- 2) Joshua M. Murray, Kent State University, “‘The Wonder of the World’: Claude McKay’s Denationalization of the Harlem Renaissance in *Home to Harlem*.”
- 3) Melissa R. Pompili, Eastern Michigan University, “A Literary Cosmogram: The Influence of Western Narrative Tradition and African Oral Tradition in Michelle Cliff’s *Free Enterprise*.”
- 4) Daryl M. Peavy, Independent Researcher, “Artworks of Great Benin: The Pedagogy of Theft in Africana Studies.”
- 5) Lasana Kazembe, University of Illinois at Chicago, “Spiritwork and Conjurefolk: Unpacking Nommo, Griot, and the Role of the Black Arts Movement in the Development of Africana Studies.”

Commentator: M.L. Nambuo Temu, Kent State U.

2:30 – 4:00 Session VI – ORH 250

Revisiting President Barack Obama in Historical, Political and Literary Context

Chair: D.M. Hassler, Kent State University U.

- 1) Zachary R. Williams, Akron University, “What the African American Wants: African American Policy Matters and the Obama Administration.”
- 2) Willie J. Harrell, Jr., Kent State University, “We Face an Immediate Economic Emergency that Requires Urgent Action.”

3) Mwatabu Okantah, Kent State University, “Notes of Another Native Son.”

4) Babacar M’Baye, Kent State University, “Africa and Black Identity in Barack Obama’s *Dreams of My Father*.”

5) Bridgett A. King, Kent State University, “State Policy and Turn-out.”

Commentator: Walter Gershon, Kent State U.

4:00 – 5:30 Session VII – ORH 250

Locating Gender

Chair: Nicole Bissessar, Kent State U.

- 1) Christian Pinnen, University of Southern Mississippi, “Slavery, Freedom and Gender in Colonial Spanish Natchez, 1781-1799.”
- 2) Sharon Bell, Kent State University, “‘The Woman Who Went to Man’s Town’: A Haitian Woman Folk Heroine.”
- 3) Suzanne Ondrus, Kent State University, “Writing as Survival in Sade Adeniran’s *Imagine This*.”
- 4) Sandra M. Cox, Shawnee State University, “African American Studies in Appalachia: Teaching Literature about Slavery and its Antecedents along the Mason-Dixon Line.”

Commentator: Alene Barnes, Kent State U.