A BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE: TRANSFORMATIVE BLACK STUDIES IN SHIFTING POLITICAL LANDSCAPES—A SUMMIT OF DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

APRIL 12-14, 2012
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Welcome to Northwestern University!

The Department of African American Studies is pleased to welcome you to, “A Beautiful Struggle: Transformative Black Studies in Shifting Political Landscapes—A Summit of Doctoral Programs.”

Founded in 1972, our department is a vibrant place for intellectual exchange, pedagogical innovation, and community engagement. With a strong diasporic focus, we engage questions of race and blackness as they manifest all over the globe. Our doctoral program, launched in 2006, seeks to train the next generation of African Americanists in the areas of Expressive Arts and Cultural Studies; Politics, Society, and Culture; and Historical Studies.

I know that over the next several days, we will engage in an exciting and stimulating set of discussions about the past contributions, current questions, and future directions of African American Studies and the state of doctoral education in the field. This is also an important opportunity to strengthen ties among institutions that offer doctorates in African American Studies as we share best practices, introduce our students to each other, and reflect on our intellectual, institutional, and community investments.

We welcome each and every participant to this important event and hope that you find the conference illuminating. This is an exciting time to be an African American Studies scholar!

Warmest regards,

Celeste Watkins-Hayes

Associate Professor of African American Studies and Sociology
Chair, Department of African American Studies
2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Afternoon Session
Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor

Welcome
Celeste Watkins-Hayes, Chair, Department of African American Studies,
Dwight McBride, Dean, The Graduate School, Northwestern University,
Sarah Mangelsdorf, Dean, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences,
Northwestern University

2:15 - 2:30 p.m.
The Black Studies Movement: A Historical Overview
Martha Biondi, Northwestern University

2:30 - 2:45 p.m.
Doctoral Black Studies at a Glance: Data on the 11 PhD Programs
Mary Pattillo, Northwestern University

3:00 - 4:15 p.m.
Opening Plenary (Panel 1): Why African American Studies?
Reflections on the State of the Discipline
Moderator: Michelle Wright, Northwestern University

Black Studies Then, African American Studies Now: The State of the Discipline
Nathaniel Norment, Temple University

Education for Life: The Du Bois Doctorate of AFAM and its First Forty Years of Unity and Struggle
Amilcar Shabazz, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Social Engagement in African and African American Studies
Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Harvard University

Marlon Bailey, Indiana University
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**African American Studies and the University: Sparking New Dialogue**

**Moderator:** Celeste Watkins-Hayes, Northwestern University

Dwight McBride, Northwestern University
Karla Holloway, Duke University

5:30
RECEPTION immediately following

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 13**

8:00 a.m.  Grand Ballroom, 2nd floor, Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor

**Panel 2: “The Tide has Turned”: New Directions in African American Studies**

**Moderator:** John Márquez, Northwestern University

(Re)conceptualizing Intellectual Histories of Africana Studies
Josh Myers, Temple University

“A Critical Conclusion: Just Above My Head and the Memory of James Baldwin”
Ernest Gibson, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Black/Queer/Diaspora at the Current Conjuncture. Or, ‘All the things you could be now, if…’
Jafari Allen, Yale University

**Is Downward Mobility a Mandate of the Revolution? Questions of Region, Institution, Organization and Audience that Future Black Studies Scholars Must Answer**
Stephanie Evans, Clark Atlanta University

**Discussant:** Corey D. B. Walker, Brown University
FRIDAY

10:45 - 12:00 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor
PANEL 3: Confronting the System: The Politics of State Oppression

Moderator: Mary Pattillo, Northwestern University

Tera Agyepong, Northwestern University

From American Dream to Predatory Lending: Public/Private Programs to Promote Home Ownership Among Low-Income African Americans in the 1970s
Keeanga Taylor, Northwestern University

Forbidden Testimonies of Racial Profiling: Police Stop and Frisk on Trial in Local Criminal Court
Dwayne Nash, Northwestern University

From Reseraching the Past to Reimagining the Future: Confronting the Crisis of Mass Incarceration
Heather Thompson, Temple University

Discussant: Traci Burch, Northwestern University

12:15 - 1:30 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor
First Lady Michelle Obama and the Dialectics of Black Women’s Studies
Lunch with Board of Trustees Professor Darlene Clark Hine, Northwestern University

1:45 - 3:00 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor
PANEL 4: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Africana and Diaspora Studies

Moderator: E. Patrick Johnson, Northwestern University

Reflections on History as a Foundational Discipline for African American Studies
Pero Dagbovie, Michigan State University
Africa in African American and African Diaspora Studies  
R. Kiki Edozie, Michigan State University

Teaching for Freedom: The Feminist Teacher in Africana Studies  
Keisha Khan-Perry, Brown University

Discussant: Jonathan Fenderson, Washington University in St. Louis

3:15 - 4:15 p.m.  
Speed Networking  
(For the faculty and the students in the 11 doctoral programs. Please circulate so students have an opportunity to describe their research to several faculty members.)

Indigo Lounge

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Grand Ballroom

Annual Leon Forrest Lecture  
Jonathan Holloway

The Trauma of Legitimacy:  
Black Scholars and Memory in the Age of Black Studies

followed by reception in North Shore Room

Poet Elizabeth Alexander was originally scheduled to deliver the Leon Forrest Lecture. However, she recently suffered a tragic loss in her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with her at this very sad time. We are honored that her close colleague, Jonathan Holloway, will deliver his lecture in her place.

Private event for presenters  
Shuttles depart lobby at 7:15 p.m. and 7:25 p.m.
8:00 a.m.  Heritage Ballroom, 2nd floor, Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.
Heritage Ballroom, 2nd Floor

PANEL 5: “Claiming Ownership of that Freed Self”: Exploring New Paradigms in African American Studies

Moderator: Sylvester Johnson, Northwestern University

Reflections on Africological Scholarship and Future Directions
Joyce Kirk, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Filling the Gaps/Speaking the Silences: Black American Women and Childbirth
Ruth Hays, Northwestern University

Seen but not heard? Taking Childrens’ Voices Seriously in Black Studies Scholarship
Erin Winkler, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Discussant: Valerie Grim, Indiana University

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.
PANEL 6: Familiarizing the Strange and Mystifying the Familiar: Borders, Spaces and Liminality

Moderator: Sherwin Bryant, Northwestern University

The Haunted Houses of New Orleans: Queer Marriage and White Dread in 19th Century Domestic Spaces
Frederick Staidum, Northwestern University

Medicine, Disease, and the Bio-Cultural Body in the Transatlantic Slave Trade: New Directions in Slavery Studies
Carolyn Roberts, Harvard University

“A Most Offensive Outrage”: Black families, Child Rape, and the Law in South Carolina 1885-1905
Cynthia Greenlee-Donnell, Duke University

Discussant: Sandra Richards, Northwestern University
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Heritage Ballroom, 2nd floor

“The Crisis in Black History: Where do Public and Academic History Meet?”
Lunch with Khalil Muhammad, the Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library

1:40 - 3:00 p.m.
Heritage Ballroom, 2nd floor
PANEL 7: Race, Gender and Power in the Post Civil Rights Era

Moderator: Martha Biondi, Northwestern University

Sister Outsider/Sister Insider: Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan and Black Women’s Politics in the Post-Civil Rights Era
Zinga Fraser, Northwestern University

“I’m Not Selling Out, I’m Selling In”: Black Republicans and the Campaign for Black Capitalism
La TaSha Levy, Northwestern University

Bad Ass: Beauty and Black Male Super-heroes
Darieck Scott, University of California, Berkeley

Rivers Before Rice: Black Women and Patriarchal Power
Ula Taylor, University of California, Berkeley

Discussant: Aldon Morris, Northwestern University
SUNDAY

3:15 - 4:45 p.m.
Concurrent Workshops

Workshop A:
Hinman Auditorium, 9th Floor
**Best Practices and Lessons Learned: A Conversation with Department Chairs and Doctoral Program Directors**

**Moderator:** Alexander Weheliye, Northwestern University
Darlene Clark Hine, Northwestern University
Joyce Kirk, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Nathaniel Norment, Temple University
Amilcar Shabazz, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Workshop B:
Rogers Room, 9th Floor
**Navigating the AFAM Doctoral Program: Advice from AFAM PhD Graduates**

**Moderator:** Kinohi Nishikawa, Northwestern University
Marlon Bailey, Indiana University
Stephanie Evans, Clark Atlanta University
Jonathan Fenderson, Washington University in St. Louis
Erin Winkler, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Dr. Jonathan Holloway is a Professor of African American Studies, History, and American Studies at Yale University. He is the author of *Confronting the Veil: Abram Harris Jr., E. Franklin Frazier, and Ralph Bunche, 1919-1941* (2002), the editor of Ralph Bunche’s *A Brief and Tentative Analysis of Negro Leadership* (2005), and the co-editor of *Black Scholars on the Line: Race, Social Science, and American Thought in the 20th Century* (2007). He is presently working on his next monograph, *Jim Crow Wisdom: Memory and Identity in Black America Since 1941*.

Dr. Darlene Clark Hine is the Board of Trustees Professor of African American Studies and Professor of History at Northwestern University. She is the author and editor of numerous books, the most recent being *The African-American Odyssey* (2011), co-authored with William C. Hine and Stanley Harrold. She has been president of two major historical organizations: The Organization of American Historians (2001) and The Southern Historical Association (2002). In 2006 she was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad is the Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library. He is the author of *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America* (2010), an exploration of how notions of black criminality were crucial to the creation of modern urban centers.
Dr. Jafari Allen is an Associate Professor of African American Studies at Yale University. He is the author of _¡Venceremos?: The Erotics of Black Self-making in Cuba_ (2011), a critical ethnography of the everyday experiences and reflections of Black Cubans. He is also the recipient of fellowships from the National Science Foundation, Social Science Research Council Sexuality Research Program, and Rockefeller Foundation.

Dr. Marlon Bailey is an Assistant Professor of Gender Studies and American Studies at Indiana University. His research interests include Black queer studies, ethnography, and cultural politics. He is currently working on a manuscript titled _Butch/Queens Up in Pumps: Gender, Performance, and Ballroom Culture in Detroit_.

Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham is the Victor S. Thomas Professor and Chair of the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. One of her most cited and reprinted articles is “African American Women’s History and the Metalanguage of Race,” winner of the 1993 best article prize of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians.

Dr. Pero Dagbovie is Graduate Director, and Associate Chair of the Department of History as well as a core faculty member of the African American and African Studies Program at Michigan State University. As the Principal Investigator for the Carter G. Woodson Home, NHS, he recently completed the Historic Resource Study entitled “Willing to Sacrifice”: _Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History, and the Carter G. Woodson Home, NHS_ (2010). Among his many publications is his book _African American History Reconsidered_ (2010).

Dr. Rita Kiki Edozie is an Associate Professor of International Relations and Director of African American and African Studies at Michigan State University. She is the co-editor of _Reframing Contemporary Africa: Politics, Economics and Culture in a Global Era_ (2010) with Peyi Soyinika-Airwele, and has contributed scholarly articles and book chapters to several edited volumes and journals.

Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans is the Chair of the Department of History and Associate Professor of History and African American/Africana Women’s Studies at Clark Atlanta University. She is the author of _Black Women in the Ivory Tower, 1850-1954: An Intellectual History_ (2007) and other publications. She was named as one of twelve ‘Emerging Scholars of 2010’ by Diverse Issues in Higher Education.
Dr. Jonathan Fenderson is a Postdoctoral Fellow in African and African-American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. His research interests include African-American History, Black Social Movements, and Black Radical and Intellectual Histories. His current manuscript project offers a rethinking of the Black Arts Movement and the cultural side of the Black Power Period in American History.

Ernest L. Gibson III is a doctoral candidate in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is currently the Thurgood Marshall Fellow at Dartmouth College in African and African American Studies. His dissertation pivots on depictions of the fraternal in James Baldwin’s novels and nuanced iterations of black manhood and intimacy.

Cynthia Greenlee-Donnell is a doctoral candidate at Duke University. Her research uncovers stories of black abortion doctors and support for reproductive freedom despite today’s popular notion that black Americans are and have traditionally been consistently anti-abortion.

Dr. Valerie Grim is the Professor and Chair of African American & African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University. Her research focuses on African American history, agricultural history, black rural communities, and the black family. Dr. Grim recently edited a special issue of Journal of Black Women, Gender, and Families (University of Illinois Press): Spring 2009, Volume 3, Number 1.

Dr. Karla Holloway is the James B. Duke Professor of English & Professor of Law at Duke University. She is the author of eight books, including *BookMarks: Reading in Black and White, A Memoir* (2006), completed during a residency in Bellagio, Italy as a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow. *BookMarks* was nominated for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for non-fiction.

Dr. Keisha-Khan Y. Perry is an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies and Acting Director of Graduate Studies at Brown University. Her most recent work is an ethnographic study of black women’s activism in Brazilian cities, including the re-interpretations of racial and gender identities in urban spaces. She has written numerous articles, including the recent “State Violence and the Ethnographic Encounter: Feminist Research and Racial Embodiment” (2012).
Dr. Joyce F. Kirk is an Associate Professor in and Chair of the Department of Africology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her research interests include Sangomas, STDS and HIV/AIDS Prevention in South Africa; and African Americans in South Africa in the 20th/21st centuries. Her recent publications include her book Making a Voice: African Resistance to Segregation in South Africa (2000).

Josh Myers is a doctoral candidate in African American Studies at Temple University. His research deals with understanding the implications of and theorizing the development of an interdisciplinary approach to Africana Studies that influences and interrogates traditional disciplines as opposed to drawing from their norms and epistemologies.

Dr. Nathaniel Norment, Jr., is the Chair of the Department of African American Studies at Temple University. His research interests include Applied Linguistics, Rhetoric and Composition, and African American Literature and Culture. His recent publications include An Introduction to African American Studies: The Discipline and Its Dimensions (2010) and Some Discourse Features of Haitian Creole Students’ Written English (2010).

Carolyn Roberts is a doctoral candidate in the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. She holds a B.A with Honors from Dartmouth College and an M.A. from Andover Newton Theological School. Her current research explores the politics of race, melancholia, and nautical medicine during the Middle Passage in the eighteenth-century British slave trade.

Dr. Darieck Scott is an Associate Professor of African American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of Extravagant Abjection: Blackness, Power, and Sexuality in the African American Literary Imagination (2010), which examines representations and theorizations of the relation between blackness, abjection, and queer masculinity. He has published essays in Callaloo, GLQ, The Americas Review, and the collection Gay Travels.

Dr. Amilcar Shabazz is the Chair of the W. E. B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is a specialist in African American and African world historical and cultural studies. His publications include the book Advancing Democracy: African Americans and the Struggle for Access and Equity in Higher Education in Texas (2004), the winner of The T. R. Fehrenbach Book Award.
Dr. Ula Y. Taylor is an Associate Professor of African American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the co-author of Panther: The Illustrated History of the Black Panther Movement and the Story Behind the Film (1995). Her past work also includes The Veiled Garvey: The Life and Times of Amy Jacques Garvey (2002).

Dr. Heather Ann Thompson is an Associate Professor of African American Studies and History at Temple University. She is currently writing the first comprehensive history of the Attica Prison Rebellion of 1971 and its legacy for Pantheon Books. While completing this history of the Attica Uprising, Thompson has received several research fellowships and awards including the Soros Justice Fellowship from the Open Society Institute.

Corey D. B. Walker is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University. He is the author of A Noble Fight: African American Freemasonry and the Struggle for Democracy in America (2008). His research revolves around a series of critical investigations into the historical, philosophical, and theological problems of modern thought and political practice.

Dr. Erin N. Winkler is an Assistant Professor in Africology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her research interests include racial identity development in African American families/communities; and the impact of gender, skin tone, and other demographic factors on racial identity development. She is the author of the upcoming book Learning Race, Learning Place: Shaping Identity and Ideas in Childhood.

Dr. Martha Biondi is the Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor of African American Studies and History. She is the author of To Stand and Fight: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Postwar New York City (2003) and The Black Revolution on Campus (2012).

Dr. Traci Burch is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and a Research professor at the American Bar Foundation. Her book manuscript, “Punishment and Participation: How Criminal Convictions Threaten American Democracy,” examines the effects of the criminal justice system on political behavior in low income communities.
Dr. Sherwin Bryant is an Assistant Professor of African American Studies and History. His first book project, *Rivers of Gold, Sweet Valleys, and Sordid Cities: Slavery and the Struggle for Autonomy and Rights in the Kingdom of Quito, 1690-1810*, offers the first comprehensive analysis of slavery and slave life in the north Andes.


Dr. Sylvester Johnson is an Associate Professor of African American Studies and Religion. He is the author of *The Myth of Ham in Nineteenth-Century American Christianity: Race, Heathens, and the People of God* (2004). He is currently writing a history that examines the relationship between black religions and colonialism as a historic and on-going American phenomenon both within and beyond US borders.

Dr. John Márquez is an Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Latino/a Studies. His research interests include contemporary racial politics, critical race theory, Black-Latino relations, neo-liberalism/globalization, immigration, and anti-racist movements. He has had a number of articles published by *The Grio* (NBC Universal), the most recent being “Teen Beating Highlights History of Police Brutality in Houston” (2011).

Dr. Dwight A. McBride is the Dean of The Graduate School & Associate Provost and the Daniel Hale Williams Professor of African American Studies & English. He has authored and co-authored a number of books, the most recent being *Why I Hate Abercrombie & Fitch: Essays on Race and Sexuality* (*Sexual Cultures Series*) (2005). His awards include the NYU Press Author of the Month (2002), the Lambda Literary Award for Best Fiction Anthology (2003), and the 2011 Alexander Lecturer at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Aldon Morris is the Leon Forrest Professor of Sociology and African American Studies. He is the author of the award-winning book, *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement*, and is currently completing a book examining the sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois and his preeminent role as a founder of American sociology. In 2009, Morris won the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award for a lifetime of research, scholarship, and teaching from the American Sociological Association.
Dr. Kinohi Nishikawa is a Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor. His book manuscript, “Reading the Street,” looks at the reception of black pulp fiction among activists, critics, and everyday readers from the 1960s to the present. He is also the recipient of a number of awards, the most recent being the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Faculty Affiliateship (2011-12).

Dr. Mary Pattillo is the Harold Washington Professor of Sociology, Professor of African American Studies, and the Institute for Policy Research Faculty Affiliate. She is the author of Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City (2007). In 2008, she was awarded the Robert E. Park Award for Best Book in Community and Urban Sociology from the American Sociological Association.

Dr. Sandra Richards is a Professor of African American Studies, Theater, and Performance Studies. She is the author of Ancient Songs Set Ablaze: The Theatre of Femi Osofisan (1996). She was awarded the Rockefeller Fellowship in Black Performing Arts, Stanford Humanities Center (2001-2002).

Dr. Celeste Watkins-Hayes is the Chair of the Department of African American Studies and an Associate Professor of African American Studies & Sociology. She is the author of The New Welfare Bureaucrats: Entanglements of Race, Class, and Policy Reform (2009). Her current research explores the economic and social experiences of a racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse group of Chicago-area women living with HIV.

Dr. Alex Weheliye is an Associate Professor of African American Studies and English. He is the author of Phonographies: Grooves in Sonic Afro-Mordernity (2005), which was awarded The Modern Language Association’s William Sanders Scarborough Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Study of Black American Literature or Culture. At Northwestern University, he teaches black literature and culture, critical theory, social technologies, and popular culture.

Dr. Michelle M. Wright is an Associate Professor of African American Studies. She is the author and editor of a number of publications, the most recent being an edited volume for FORECAAST (Forum for European Contributions in African American Studies) entitled Blackness and Sexualities (2007). Her research and pedagogy focus on the literature and philosophy of the African Diaspora, especially in the Anglophone, Francophone and Germanophone worlds.
DISSERTATION TITLES for PRESENTING DOCTORAL STUDENTS in the DEPARTMENT of AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES at NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Tera Agyepong - Boundaries of Innocence: Race, Sex and the Criminalization of Black Children in Chicago’s Juvenile Justice System, 1893-1950

Zinga Fraser - Catalysts for Change: A Comparative Study of Barbara Jordan and Shirley Chisholm

Ruth Hays - “So I Could Be Easeful”: Black Women’s Authoritative Knowledge on Childbirth

La TaSha Levy - Strange Bedfellows: The Rise of the New (Black) Right in Post-Civil Rights America

Dwayne Nash - Forbidden Testimonies of Racial Profiling: Police Stop and Frisk on Trial in Local Criminal Court

Frederick Staidum - Locating New Orleans: Race, Sexuality, and Geographies of Difference in the American Imaginary, 1803-1903

Keeanga Taylor - Race for Profit: The Political Economy of Black Homeownership in the 1970s
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