



African American Studies & Research Center

Presents:

24th Annual Symposium on African American Culture & Philosophy

Held in conjunction with

PALARA:

Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association



November 5—8, 2008

Purdue University

Stewart Center

West Lafayette, Indiana 47907





*(Re)Visioning the Black Caribbean:
Spaces, Places, & Voices
November 5—8, 2008*

**GREETINGS FROM:
ASSISTANT PROVOST
DOROTHY REED**

**MEET AND GREET
RECEPTION**

**Wednesday, November 5, 2008
MEMORIAL UNION
Lafayette Room
5:30—7:30 pm**

**REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM
5:00—7:00 PM**





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Purdue University - West Lafayette, Indiana

African American Studies and Research Center is pleased to welcome you to the twenty-fourth annual Symposium on African American Culture and Philosophy. The series was designed to examine the cultural and philosophical dynamics of the African Diaspora in a global society. Each symposium allows for an extended analysis of a timely topic. We are excited about this year's theme of "(Re)Visioning the Black Caribbean: Space, Place, and Voices." We solicited plenary speakers to address three broad themes related to the Black Caribbean, as well as Afro-Latin/American Research:

Dr. Carole Boyce Davies, Cornell University—Anglophone

Dr. William Luis, Vanderbilt University—Hispanophone

Dr. Françoise Lionnet, University of California – Los Angeles—Francophone

We are particularly pleased to have Dr. Myriam Chancy, Louisiana State University Professor of English as our keynote speaker. Her remarks on Thursday evening will be an excellent compliment to a weekend of stimulating discussion. This will be a wonderful opportunity for scholars to engage in dialogue and to share research. The annual symposia are part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the discipline by providing a forum for scholarly interchange. We hope you find the symposium stimulating and that you will attend next year's symposium, "New Directions in Feminism and Womanism in Africa and the African Diaspora," which will be held on November 5—7, 2009.



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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

**5:00—7:00 p.m. SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION
MEMORIAL UNION, Lafayette Room**

**5:30—7:30 p.m. Meet and Greet Reception
MEMORIAL UNION, Lafayette Room**



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

PLENARY I

Introduction: Dr. Alfred Lopez, Purdue University

**Dr. Carole Boyce Davies, Professor, Africana Studies,
English and Comparative Literature. Cornell University
“Sister Outside: Tracing the Caribbean Radical Intellectual Tradition”
STEW 218AB
9:00—10:15 a.m.**



**10:15—10:30 a.m. BREAK
STEWART CENTER, Room 202**

**10:30—11:45 a.m. PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 218AB**

**Panel 1: (Re) Visioning the Literary World of Dionne Brand
Chair: Aparajita Sagar, Purdue University**

Antonio Tillis, Purdue University

“Woman, Black, Caribbean Canadian, Lesbian: Finding and Performing the Selves
in the Poetry of Dionne Brand”

Leila A. Harris, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

“Temporary, Volatile: The Diasporic Subject in Dionne Brand’s Short Fiction”

Sandra Regina Goulart Almeida, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brasil

“Cosmopolitan Fictions: Dionne Brand’s Global Villages”



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12:00—1:15 p.m. LUNCH: On your own

**1:30—2:45 p.m. PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 218AB**

Panel 2: Linguistic Understandings of Anglophone Caribbean Texts
Chair: Ms. Shivohn Garcia, Purdue University

Shaun F. D. Hughes, Purdue University

“Colonial Banditry through Postcolonial Eyes: *The Harder They Come* and *Apata*”

Scott Curtis, University of Utah

“No Quiet Is Permitted Me”: Communicative Alienation in Equiano’s *Interesting Narrative*”

Christian Campbell, University of Toronto

“Submarine Poetry”

**1:30—2:45 p.m. PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 218CD**

Panel 3: Dual Identities in Haiti, Cuba and the United States: Racial, Cultural, Legal and Spiritual Identities that Cross and Re-Cross Borders
Chair: Mr. Tom Broden, Purdue University

Maryse Nazon, Chicago State University

“The Social, Psychological and Spiritual Protective Forces of Haitian Voodoo”

David Akbar Gilliam, DePaul University

“*The Maids of Havana* by Pedro Pérez Sarduy: Explicit and Implicit Parallels Between Peoples of African Descent in Cuba and the United States”

Bonita Berryman-Gilliam, University of Phoenix

“Free-Born: Early African American Residents of Washington County, Pennsylvania, from the Colonial Period to the Civil War”



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2:45—3:00 p.m.

BREAK

STEWART CENTER, Room 202

3:00—4:15 p.m.

PANEL MEETING

STEWART CENTER, Room 218AB

Panel 4: Afro-Cuba: Issues of Cultural Visibility and Resistance

Chair: Dr. Paul Dixon, Purdue University

Akassi Animan Clément, Howard University

“The Laws of *Cuatro Piso* or Laws of the Inaudible Black Choices in Caribbean Identities”

Emmanuel Harris II, University of North Carolina, Wilmington

“Cuba's Inés María Martiatu and the Sounds of Blackness in *Sobre las olas*”

Thomas F. Anderson, University of Notre Dame

“Long live the Conga!: Afro-Cuban Culture and Social Hypocrisy in the Poetry of Felix B. Caignet”



4:15—4:30 p.m.

BREAK

STEWART CENTER, Room 202



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4:30—6:00 p.m.

**PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 218AB**

Panel 5: Interrogating Space and Place: Haiti, Hispaniola and Caribbeanness
Chair: Dr. Joseph Dorsey, Purdue University

H. Adlai Murdoch, University of Illinois
“Diasporic Writing and the Expansion of Caribbeanness”

Marveta Ryan, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
“Our Grandfathers, the Indians”: Haiti Envisioned through the Indigenous Past”

Monica G. Ayuso, California State University, Bakersfield
“How lucky for you that your tongue can taste the ‘r’ in ‘parsley’: Trauma Theory and the Literature of Hispaniola”

Sheridan Wigginton, University of Missouri, St. Louis
Blackness as a Barrier to Citizenship and Education in the Dominican Republic:
Situating the Example of Dilcia Yean and Violeta Bosico Ten Years Later

4:30—6:00 p.m.

**PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 218CD**

Panel 6: (Re) Examining Caribbean Female Voices, Roles and Identities
Chair: Dr. Cornelius Bynum, Purdue University

Tammy L. Brown, Lehman College
“*Omowale: Daughter Returned Home*: Performing Afro-centricity and Mutual Cultural Respect, 1940-1980”

Chezia Thompson Cager, Maryland Institute College
“Mothering the Patriarchy: Resistance and Acculturation in the Plays of Jamaican Playwright-Cicely Waite-Smith”

Alita Balbi, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brasil
“Visions of Family and Tradition In Dionne Brand’s Writing”

Jerome Teelucksingh, University of the West Indies, Trinidad
“A Female Leader in Slavery: Dionne Brand’s Literary Representation of Caribbean Slavery



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Welcome: Dr. Venetria K. Patton, Director African American Studies

Greetings: Dr. Jo Ann Miller, Associate Dean Interdisciplinary Studies

Introduction of Speaker

Dr. Antonio D. Tillis, Director, Latin American and Latino Studies

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Dr. Myriam Chancy, Professor of English,
Louisiana State University**

Stewart Center ♦ Room 218AB ♦ 7:00 p.m.



Dr. MYRIAM CHANCY

“I Might Have Been Queen”: Racial Identity Formation, Caribbean Epistememes, and the New Nations”

Myriam J. A. Chancy, Ph. D. is a Haitian writer born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and educated in Québec City, Winnipeg and Halifax. Her first novel, *Spirit of Haiti* (London: Mango Publications, 2003), was a finalist in the Best First Book Category, Canada/Caribbean region, of the Commonwealth Prize 2004. She is also the author of two books of literary criticism, *Framing Silence: Revolutionary Novels by Haitian Women* (Rutgers UP, 1997) and *Searching for Safe Spaces: Afro-Caribbean Women Writers in Exile* (Temple UP, 1997). In 1998, *Searching for Safe Spaces* was selected as Outstanding Academic Book by *Choice*, the journal of the American Library Association. She is also the author of a second novel, *The Scorpion's Claw* (Peepal Tree Press, 2005). Her work as the Editor-in-Chief of the Ford funded academic/arts journal, *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism* (2002-2004) was recognized with the Phoenix Award for Editorial Achievement (2004). She has just completed a third novel entitled, *The Loneliness of Angels*, a memoir, *Fractured*, and is at work on a book length academic work entitled, *Floating Islands: Cosmopolitanism, Transnationalism and Racial Identity Formation*. She is currently Professor of English at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

PLENARY II

Introduction: Dr. Dawn F. Stinchcomb, Purdue University

Dr. William Luis, Chancellor's Professor of Spanish, Vanderbilt University
**"Spanish Caribbean Literature: Past, Present, and Future Trends
and the Unfolding of a Meta-Narrative Voice"**

**Room 314 STEW
9:00—10:15 a.m.**



10:15—10:30 a.m.

BREAK

STEWART CENTER, Room 318

10:30—12:00 p.m.

PANEL MEETING

STEWART CENTER, Room 314

Panel 7: Locating and Voicing Self in Spanish Caribbean Literature
Chair: Dr. Marcia Stephenson, Purdue University

Dawn F. Stinchcomb, Purdue University

"Transience, Sexual Ambiguity, and the Black Aphrodite in Contemporary Caribbean Literature"

Aida Heredia, Connecticut College

"Afro-Dominican Women: Official Absence and Potential Presence"

Marisel Moreno, University of Notre Dame

"Caribbean Borderlands as Racialized Spaces in Mayra Santos Febres's *Boat People*"

Sonja S. Watson, University of Texas, Arlington

"Carlos E. Russell and the Discourse of Post-nationalism in 21st Century Panama"



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12:15—1:15 p.m.

**LUNCH:
PURDUE MEMORIAL UNION :
West Faculty Lounge**

1:30—2:45 p.m.

**PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 314**

Panel 8: (Re) Membering Slavery in French Caribbean Con(texts)
Chair: Dr. Nadège Veldwachter, Purdue University

Karol K. Weaver, Susquehanna University
“Surgery and Slavery in the French Caribbean”

Josh Brewer, Purdue University
“Robert Wedderburn's African-Satanic Hermeneutic as Creole Abolitionism”

Georgene Bess Montgomery, Clark Atlanta University
“The Spirit and the Word: A Theory of Spirituality in Edouard Glissant’s *The Ripening*”

1:30—2:45 p.m.

**PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 313**

Panel 9: Interrogating Identities in US Afro-Latino Texts
Chair: Mr. Floyd Merrell, Purdue University

Esther Teixeira, Purdue University
“Deformed Bodies, Deformed Identities: Cultural Transnational and Subversion in Junot Diaz’ Short Stories ‘Isreal’ and ‘No Face’”

Delzi Laranjeira, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brasil
“Spirits in New York: Religion and Identity in *When the Spirits Dance Mambo*”

Francis Tobienne, Jr, Purdue University
“Identité as Metonymic Significance: Piri Thomas’ Memory as Imperfect Vesselage”



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**2:45—3:00 p.m. BREAK
STEWART CENTER, Room 318**

**3:00—4:15 p.m. PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 314**

Panel 10: Lyrics in Motion: Globalizing Caribbean Music and Carnivals
Chair: Dr. Titilayo Okoror, Purdue University

Tomiko Ballantyne, Princeton University
“Caribbean Carnivals in the Diaspora, 1958-1985: Toronto’s Caribana Festival”

Ekeama Goddard, Purdue University
“The Role of Caribbean Soca on the U.S.”



**3:00—4:15 p.m. PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 313**

Panel 11: Merchandizing Haiti: Globalization, Foreign and
Domestic Policy and Politics
Chair: Ms. Paula Leverage, Purdue University

Karen Salt, Purdue University
“Internationalizing Brand Haiti”

Marc Scarcelli, University of California, Davis
“The Trouble with ‘Boat People’: Haitians, State Failure, & US Policy”

Martina Jauch, Purdue University
“Anna Seghers' Seductive But Impotent Haitian Politics”



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4:15—4:30 p.m.

**BREAK
STEWART CENTER, Room 318**

4:30—6:00 p.m.

**PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 314**

Panel 12: Querying Identity and National Belonging
Chair: Dr. Niambi Carter, Purdue University

Hazel Pierre, University of Houston
“‘Ethnicity’, Caribbean Nation Spaces and Cultural Identity”

Cadence Wynter, Ph.D., Columbia College Chicago
“Diasporic Identities: From West Indian to Black British”

Allison N. Sinanan, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
“Finding One’s Self and Identity”

4:30—6:00 p.m.

**PANEL MEETING
STEWART CENTER, Room 313**

Panel 13: Blackness and Belonging in Contemporary Dominican
and Puerto Rican Narratives
Chair: Dr. Ivette Wilson, Purdue University

Laila Amine, Indiana University
“The Hazards of Lineage: Race-ing the Caribbean Diaspora in Loida Maritza Pérez’s
Geographies of Home”

Virginia Arreola, Indiana University
“Performative Utterances: The Creation of a New Trans Identity in *The Brief Wondrous
Life of Oscar Wao*”

Ed Chamberlain, Indiana University
“Filmmaking as Activism: Blackness, Puerto Rico and Sexuality in Negrón-Mutaner’s
Brincando el Charco”

Virginia Nun Halloran, Indiana University
“Isabel La Negra: Desire and Power in Mayra Santos Febres’ *Nuestra Señora de la
Noche*”



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INFORMAL RECEPTION



**MEMORIAL UNION,
WEST FACULTY LOUNGE**



**6:00 —7:30 p.m.
Music and Social Hour**





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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

PLENARY III

Introduction: Dr. Nadège Veldwachter, Purdue University

**Dr. Françoise Lionnet, Professor, French and Francophone Studies & Comparative
Literature, University of California , Los Angeles**

“ ‘An Esthetics of the Earth?’: Glissant, Ecocriticism, and Translation”

STEW 310

9:00—10:15 a.m.



10:15—10:30 a.m.

BREAK

STEWART CENTER, Room 310

10:30—11:45 a.m.

PANEL MEETING

STEWART CENTER, Room 310

Panel 14: (Re) Visioning Home: Diaspora, Community, and Identity in the French Caribbean

Chair: Dr. Antonio Tillis, Purdue University

Mamadou Badiane, University of Missouri, Columbia

“Identity Conflicts in Martinique: From Négritude to Créolité”

Flore Zéphir, University of Missouri, Columbia

“Revising the Notion of Home in the Works of Selected Women Writers of the Haitian Diaspora”

Valerie Kaussen, University of Missouri, Columbia

“The Returnee’s Home in Danticat’s *The Dew Breaker*”

10:30—12:00 p.m.

PANEL MEETING

STEWART CENTER, Room 313

Panel 15: Locating Woman’s Space and Place in Caribbean Literature

Chair: Dr. Venetria Patton, Purdue University

Wilson C. Chen, Benedictine University

“Caribbean Daughters of the Diaspora: From Paule Marshall’s *Poets in the Kitchen* to Edwidge Danticat’s *Kirk? Krat!*”

Tosha Sampson-Choma, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

“...everyone should know where they come from”: Voiceless and Occupying Space Without a Concept of Place in Andrea Levy’s, *Fruit of the Lemon*”

12:00—12:15 p.m.

CLOSING

STEWART CENTER, Room 310



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THE PROGRAM

The African American Studies and Research Center was established in the 1970s at Purdue University as the first interdisciplinary program in the College of Liberal Arts dedicated to the study of the history, culture, and literature of African Americans and the African Diaspora. The program offers an undergraduate major and minor in African American Studies. Courses are taught by African American Studies faculty from several departments throughout Liberal Arts at Purdue. Students may seek a major or a minor in African American Studies, or may take courses as electives. Additionally, students have the option of a double major in African American Studies and another academic area such as Communications, English, History, Psychology, and Sociology.

The major in African American Studies focuses on the experience of African Americans and their connections to the African Diaspora. Coursework addresses such topics as cultural practices, with reference to literature, history, and film as well as inequality as it relates to issues of nationality, race, class, and gender. The major provides students with a solid theoretical background and the research skills to pursue either graduate professional study or employment in business or public service. In addition, our faculty led study-abroad programs offer students the opportunity for global engagement that will benefit them upon graduation.

THE RESEARCH CENTER

The research component of the African American Studies and Research Center sponsors numerous lecture series, symposia, and programs including the Harriet A. Jacobs lecture series, the W.E.B. Du Bois lecture series, a Talkin' & Testifyin' works in progress series, Conversations on the Diaspora, and our annual Symposium on African American Culture and Philosophy. The research component is structured to enhance courses and extend understanding of the African Diaspora.

DIRECTOR

Dr. Venetria K. Patton

FACULTY

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Dr. Joseph C. Dorsey
Dr. Titilayo A. Okoror
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25TH AASRC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES & RESEARCH CENTER'S

25TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM WILL BE HELD

November 5—7, 2009

New Directions in Feminism and Womanism in Africa and the African Diaspora.

MORE INFORMATION

PALARA WANTS YOU

The Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association (PALARA), a multi-lingual journal devoted to African Diaspora studies, is published annually by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures of Purdue University-West Lafayette. **PALARA** is multi-disciplinary and publishes research and creativity relevant to Diaspora studies in the Americas. Manuscripts should conform to the latest style manual of the individual discipline and may not exceed twenty pages in length. The original, a copy, and an electronic version in a Microsoft Word format must be submitted, accompanied by a self-addressed envelope, along with return postage. It is our policy to have all manuscripts anonymously refereed; therefore, please omit any identification of authorship from the typescript. Neither the editors nor the sponsoring universities can be responsible for damage to or loss of such manuscripts. Opinions expressed in the journals are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors, staff or financial supporters.

All correspondence regarding subscriptions as well as manuscripts for submission should be addressed to: Dr. Antonio D. Tillis, Managing Editor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Stanley Coulter Hall, 640 Oval Drive, West Lafayette, Indiana, 47907. Subscription rates are: \$15.00 per year for individuals \$25.00 per year for institutions.

Checks made payable to: **PALARA**.

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