



**African American Studies &
Research Center**

Presents:

**22nd Annual Symposium on
African American
Culture & Philosophy**

**“Blacker Than Thou:
Authenticity and
Identity in the
Diaspora”**

December 7–9, 2006

Stewart Center

Purdue University

West Lafayette, Indiana 47907





BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS
STEWART CENTER 218 A&B**

Thursday December 7, 2006

7:00 pm

Welcome and Greetings

Dr. Venetria K. Patton

Introduction of Speaker

Dr. Joseph C. Dorsey

**"Perception and Reality:
Diasporic Identities through Time and Space"**

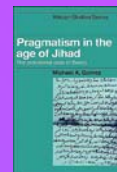


Guest Speaker

Dr. Michael Gomez

Dr. Michael Gomez is Chair and Professor of History at New York University and Director of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). Dr. Gomez received his Ph.D. in African History from the University of Chicago and has held faculty positions at Washington University, Spelman College, and the University of Georgia. His research interests include West Africa, the African Diaspora, Antebellum American South, Islam, and slavery. His most recent book is an edited volume, *Diasporic Africa: A Reader* (NYU P, 2006). He is also the author of *Black Crescent: African Muslims in the Americas* (Cambridge UP, 2005), *Reversing Sail: A History of the African Diaspora* (Cambridge UP, 2005), *Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South* (UNC P, 1998), and *Pragmatism in the Age of Jihad: The Precolonial State of Bundu* (Cambridge UP, 1992). Dr. Gomez also has several articles in such journals as *Journal of Black Studies*, *Radical History Review*, *Journal of Southern History*, and *Journal of African History* among others.

A dessert reception will follow.





BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA

December 7-9, 2006

Purdue University - West Lafayette, Indiana

African American Studies and Research Center is pleased to welcome you to the twenty-second 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 authenticity and identity in the Diaspora. We solicited papers and panel presentations to address three broad themes related to black identity:

Configuring Blackness in specific geographic regions:

- Race in the "presence of absence" – invisibility, silenced voices
- Hyphenated blackness, as well as the adjective factor of nationality
- Cross currents and tensions of being black and other

Identity formation, including:

- Implications of identity formation in children
- Cultural impact of "identifying black"
- Structural plurality of identity formation and conflict

Credentializing and centering blackness; interrogating blackness:

- What is or isn't black – situational contextualization
- Authentic representation of blackness in popular culture
- Untangling the complexities of blackness

We are particularly pleased to have Dr. Michael Gomez, Chair and Professor of History at New York University and Director of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), as our keynote speaker. His remarks on Thursday evening will be an excellent start 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 for a discussion of the Harlem Renaissance.

For additional information about the Center visit our website at:
<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/idis/african-american>



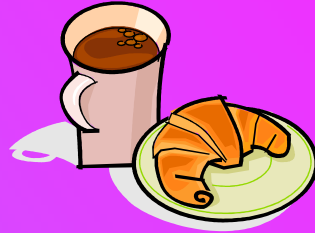
**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA**

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

7:30 AM STEWART CTR.—RM. 214AB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:00-9:15 AM



CONCURRENT PANELS

BLACKS IN EUROPE – STEWART CTR.— RM. 214C

Dr. Bill Mullen, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“All Good Negroes Go to France”

Mr. Brandon Wallace, Purdue University

⌘

“The Performance of Blackness
in the Russian National Imagination”

Ms. Karen Salt, Purdue University

⌘

A Black Childhood in Nazi Germany

Dr. Gordon Mork, History-Purdue University

THE BLACK FAMILY – STEWART CTR. – RM. 214D

Dr. Sandra Barnes, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Strategies for Combating Environmental Injustice:
The Response of African American Communities”

Ms. Melissa Stacer, Purdue University

⌘

"Making Ends Meet: Economic Survival Strategies
for Low Income Families."

Ms. Nakia Collins, Purdue University

⌘

“Black Male Fathering Roles”

Ms. Sherry Brown, Purdue University



**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA**

BREAK

9:15-9:30 AM STEWART CTR.-RM. 214AB

Friday December 8

9:30-10:45 AM

CONCURRENT PANELS

PORTRAITS OF LITERARY BLACK IDENTITY - STEWART CTR.—RM. 214AB

Dr. Venetria Patton, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Crossing Over: Appropriation and Acculturation in
Gloria Naylor’s *Mama Day*”

Ms. Philathia Bolton, Purdue University

⌘

“Tricksterism and the Black Female Literary Identity”

Dr. Johnnie Stover, Florida Atlantic University

⌘

“Location of Black Identity in Toni Morrison’s *Tar Baby*”

Mr. Kwangsoon Kim, Purdue University

STRENGTH IN POWERLESS TIMES - STEWART CTR.—RM. 214C

Mr. Jamal Ratchford, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting”

Ms. Sophie Ho, Purdue University

⌘

“John Brown and Black Power”

Ms. Kellie Jackson, Columbia University

⌘

“Performing Jim Crow Blackness: Race, Space, and the Violence
of the Quotidian in Mississippi, 1920-1950”

Dr. Stephen Berrey, University of Texas at Austin

BLACKS IN NORTH AMERICA—STEWART CTR.-RM. 214D

Ms. Maricela Alvarado, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Both Black and Mexican: The Racial and Ethnic Self-Identity
in Three Generations of the Thornton Family”

Ms. Alva Moore Stevenson, California University

⌘

“Immigration and the Contradictions of Black Identity Politics”

Dr. Amanda Walker Johnson, University of Texas at Austin

⌘

“Using Black Canadian History to Shape
a Positive Black Canadian Identity”

Ms. Erica Phillips, University of Toronto



**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA**

BREAK

10:45-11:00 AM STEWART CTR.-RM. 214AB

Friday December 8

11:00-12:15 PM

CONCURRENT PANELS

LINKING THE BIG SCREEN TO THE “BLOCK” - STEWART CTR.—RM. 214AB

Dr. Susan Curtis, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Performing Class”

Dr. Michele Simms-Burton, Prince George’s Community College

⌘

“Remembering Little Dottie: Dorothy Dandridge and
the Dance of the Black Female Child Entertainer”

Dr. Kwakiutl Lynn Dreher, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

⌘

“Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in Family Relations at the Movies:
A Filmic Representation of Aristocracy and Taboo”

Dr. Joseph Dorsey, Purdue University

BLACK INTELLIGENCE: FENCES AND FIELDS—STEWART CTR.-RM. 214C

Dr. David Rollock, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Expanding Parameters to Clog the School-to Prison Pipeline”

Mr. Omari Dyson, Purdue University

⌘

“A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste:
’ Framing Black Higher Education for Mass Consumption”

Ms. Melissa Wooten, University of Michigan

⌘

“Blackthink and the Paradox of Academic Paralysis”

Dr. Kimberly Jade Norwood, Washington University Law

BLACK MASCULINITY: STEREOTYPES AND STATUS - STEWART CTR. -RM. 214D

Mr. Ernest Gibson, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Every Negro is a Potential Black Man’: Conflations of Blackness and (Heteropatriarchal)
Masculinity in Black Power Rhetoric”

Ms. Amanda Smith, University of California-Davis

⌘

“Re/Citing: Stereotypes and Oppositions”

Mr. Craig Peariso, State University of New York—Stony Brook

⌘

“Fanon, De-alienation, and the African American Man”

Dr. Linden Lewis, Bucknell University



**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA**

**Friday December 8
12:30-2:30 PM**

**LUNCHEON PLENARY SESSION
Purdue Memorial Union
West Faculty Lounge**

**INTRODUCTION OF THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
DR. VENETRIA K. PATTON**

GREETINGS

JOHN J. CONTRENI, DEAN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

LUNCH

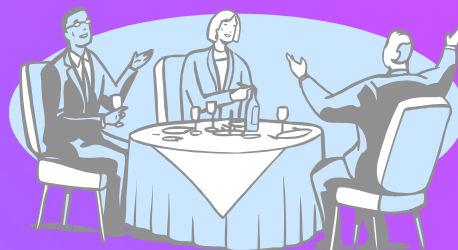
PLENARY SESSION

**“Black Studies in White Space: Dilemmas of Representing
Blackness in the Western Academy”**

DR. MARK CHRISTIAN, MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Respondent

**DR. VALERIE GRIM
Indiana University-Bloomington**



**BREAK 2:30-2:45 PM
Stewart Ctr.—Rm. 214AB**



**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA**

**Friday December 8
2:45-4:00 PM**

CONCURRENT PANELS

LIBERATION AND ORGANIZATION - STEWART CTR.-RM.214AB

Dr. Joseph Dorsey, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Muslim Slave Flight In Late Medieval Spain”

Mr. Michael Ryan, Purdue University

⌘

“Walter Rodney And Contemporary Marronage”

Dr. William Santiago-Valles, Western Michigan University

⌘

“The Impact of the Black Power Movement on Hip-Hip Culture”

Mr. Kevin Brooks, Purdue University

THE PRICE TAG ON BLACK CULTURE - STEWART CTR.-RM. 214C

Ms. Mindy Tan, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Globalization and Popular Culture Constructions of Blackness”

Mr. Donald Culverson, University Park

⌘

“*Bamboozled*: The Silencing of the Black Women’s Voice for Laughter’s Sake”

Dr. Andrés Stefañ Johnson

⌘

“Voodoo Dolls and the Appetite for Hunger:

Themes of Racial Commodification in *The Hole: Consumer Culture*”

**Dr. John Jennings & Dr. Damian Duffy,
University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana**

THE SLAVERY KALEIDOSCOPE - STEWART CTR.-RM. 214D

Dr. Titilayo Okoror, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“‘They Say They Are Free’: Identity and Slave Resistance
In Antebellum South Carolina”

Ms. Niera Marshall, Mount Holyoke College

⌘

“Enslaved Female Healers on the Plantations
of Eighteenth-Century Saint Domingue”

Dr. Karol Weaver, Susquehanna University

⌘

“The Mãe Preta (Black Mother) of Brazil”

Dr. Melissa Eden Gormley, University of California-Davis



**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA**

BREAK

4:00-4:15 PM STEWART CTR.—RM. 214AB

Friday December 8

4:15-6:00 PM

CONCURRENT PANELS

BLACK AUTHORS AND PROSE- STEWART CTR.-RM. 214AB

Dr. Charles Ross, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Another Kind of ‘Black Writer’:
The Case of Brazil’s Machado de Assis”

Dr. Paul Dixon, Purdue University

⌘

“*Malungaje*: Toward a Poetics of Diaspora”

Dr. Jerome Branche, University of Pittsburgh

⌘

“Philosophy, Person(ality) & the Irony of Identity:
A Theory Exploring Du Boisian Subjectivity in the
Literature of Claude McKay”

Mr. Ernest Gibson, Purdue University

BLACK IDENTITY INSIDE AND OUT - STEWART CTR.-RM. 214C

Dr. Mia Smith-Bynum, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Domains and Dimensions of Black Identity: Measuring Affect,
Behavior, and Cognition”

Dr. David Rollock, Purdue University

Ms. Charity B. Rolfes, Purdue University

Ms. Demetrice L. Moore, Purdue University

⌘

African American Males and Psychological Functioning:
Is Racial Identity a Link?

Ms. Candace Best, Purdue University

⌘

“Mapping the Contours of Black Intellectualism”

Ms. April Smith, Indiana University



**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA**

**Friday December 8
4:15-6:00 PM**

RHYTHM OF OUR CUTLURE– STEWART CTR.-RM. 214D

Mr. Kevin Brooks, Purdue University, Panel Chair



“I’m a African (Remix):’ Meanings and Boundaries
of Blackness Among African Youth in the US”

Dr. Paul Khalil Saucier, Northeastern University



“Comparative Study of Afro-Brazilian Dances
in Los Angeles & Salvador, Brazil”

Mr. Derrick Washington, University of California-Los Angeles



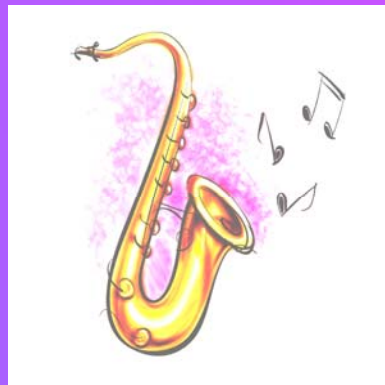
“Trajectories: Rap Music, Orality, and the
Black Radical Imagination”

Mr. Byron Craig, Indiana University



“Jelly Roll Morton and W.C. Handy Play the Habanera:
Authenticity, Music, and Race in Early New Orleans Jazz”

Ms. Nora Brennan Morrison, Harvard University





**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA**

**Friday December 8
6:30-8:30 PM**

**Jazz Duo
Purdue Memorial Union
West Faculty Lounge
6:30–8:30
Hors d'oeuvres
&
Cash Bar**





**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA**

Continental Breakfast

8:00-9:00 AM– Stewart Ctr.-Rm. 322

Saturday December 9

9:00-10:15 AM

CONCURRENT PANELS

THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH AMERICA – STEWART CTR.-RM 307

Dr. Paul Dixon, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Rethinking Race and the ‘Negro’
through Leopold Sedar Senghor’s Philosophy”

Mr. Cheikh Thiam, Binghamton College

⌘

“What Happened to the Africans in Argentina?”

Mr. Ronald Geier, Purdue University

⌘

“Blackness and Mestizaje in Ecuador: A Theoretical Perspective”

Dr. Nicola Foote, Florida Gulf Coast University

ART OF THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE WORLD – STEWART CTR.-RM. 311

Ms. Dorothy Washington, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“The New Color Line: Black Authenticity in a Transnational
Context in African American Art”

Dr. Crystal Anderson, University of Kansas

⌘

“Africa Speaks: The ‘Place’ of Africa in African American Museums”

Mr. Derrick Brooms, Loyola University

⌘

“Forming Guyanese National Identity: The Africanity
of Cuffy and the Multiethnic 1763 Monument”

Ms. Jennifer Heusel, Indiana University

RACIAL CONFLICT IN CONTEXT – STEWART CTR.-RM. 322

Dr. Cornelius Bynum, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

“Genocide in Greenwood: The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921”

Ms. Erica Morin, Purdue University

⌘

“Subjection and Melancholy in Patrick Chamoiseau’s Novel *Texaco*”

Ms. Kimberly Brown, Purdue University

⌘

“Representations of Race: Jean-Paul Sartre and the Scottsborough Case”

Mr. Keithley Woolward, New York University



**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
IDENTITY IN THE DIASPORA**

BREAK

10:15-10:30AM –Stewart Ctr. –Rm. 322

Saturday December 9

10:30-12:15 PM

CONCURRENT PANELS

**“Posing as Politics’? The Use(s) of Culture in the Work of
Adolph Reed and Kenneth Warren”– STEWART CTR.—RM. 322**

Dr. Michael Ralph, Cornell University, Panel Chair

⌘

**“Can I Still Have the Blues?’: Authenticity as Black Studies’
Unfinished Business”**

Dr. Erica R. Edwards, Williams College

⌘

“Thief’s Theme’: Deceptive Democracy’s Diasporic (Dis)placement(s)”

Dr. Michael Ralph, Cornell University

⌘

“The Romance Novel and the End(s) of Black Collective Identity”

Dr. Chris Freeburg, University of Illinois-Urbana

⌘

**“From Eazy-E to 50 Cent:
‘Gangsta Rap’ and Its Shifting Indexical Value”**

Mr. Laurence Ralph, University of Chicago

**REFRAMING THE DISCOURSE ON ETHNICITY —
STEWART CTR-RM. 307**

Dr. Michele Reid, University of George, Panel Chair

⌘

“Recreating ‘Races’, Imagining Nations in the Empire of America”

Dr. Fannie Rushing, Benedictine University

⌘

**“African Ethnicity to Afro-Caribbean Identity:
British Virgin Island, 1773-1834”**

Ms. Katherine Smith, Howard University

⌘

**“Talking About Identity:
Cape Verdean Debates on blackness and Authenticity”**

**Dr. Gina Gibau Sanchez,
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis**



**BLACKER THAN THOU: AUTHENTICITY AND
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**Saturday December 9
10:30-12:15 PM**

CONCURRENT PANELS

RACE AND GENDER: IDENTITY DIVIDED —STEWART CTR.-RM. 311

Dr. Dawn Stinchcomb, Purdue University, Panel Chair



**“Don’t call me Negra, Boricua! Don’t call me Boricua, Negra!:
Will the *real* Black Puerto Ricans Please Stand Up”**

Mr. William Guzman, Florida A&M

Dr. Charles E. Osiris, Morehouse College



“Hazards of ‘School Daze’:

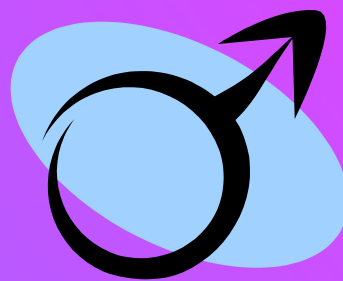
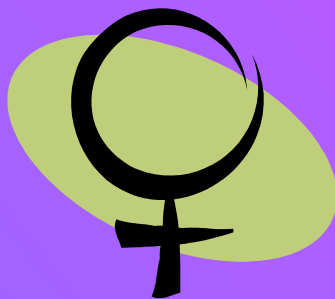
Color and Gender Politics a Stubborn Legacy”

Dr. Tekla Ali Johnson, North Carolina A&T State University



**“Check yo’ Self Fool: The Theoretical Resurrection of
Intersectionality Theory in Light of Kwan’s Cosynthesis Theory:
Breaking the Back of Post-Intersectional Thought and Liking it”**

Mr. Tommy Curry, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale





AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH CENTER

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

Dr. Sandra L. Barnes
Dr. Joseph C. Dorsey
Dr. Titilayo A. Okoror
Dr. Antonio D. Tillis

STAFF

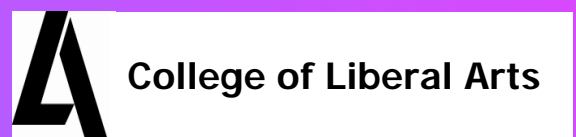
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23RD AASRC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

THE 23RD AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES & RESEARCH CENTER'S
ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM WILL BE HELD
NOVEMBER 1—3, 2007
THEME: THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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African American
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