

The 23rd Annual Symposium on
African American Culture & Philosophy:
*Harlem Renaissance:
Aesthetics, Values, and Identity*
Sponsored by the Alain L. Locke Society and
African American Studies & Research Center



November 1–3, 2007
Stewart Center
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907



Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Stewart Center • Room 214A&B • 7:00 pm

Welcome and Greetings

Dr. Venetria K. Patton

Introduction of Speaker

Dr. Leonard Harris

“Locke and the Harlem Renaissance”



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Arnold Rampersad

Professor of English and the Sara Hart Kimball

Professor in the Humanities, Stanford University

Dr. Arnold Rampersad has recently published *Ralph Ellison*, a biography of the novelist (Knopf, 2007). In addition, he has authored *Jackie Robinson: A Biography* (Knopf, 1997), a two-part biography of Harlem Renaissance poet-playwright Langston Hughes — *The Life of Langston Hughes* (Oxford University Press, 1986 and 1988) and *The Art and Imagination of W.E.B. DuBois* (Harvard University Press, 1976). He also co-authored the Arthur Ashe biography *Days of Grace: A Memoir* (Ballantine Books, 1994). Dr. Arnold Rampersad is a previous recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and currently is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity



November 1–3, 2007

Purdue University - West Lafayette, Indiana

African American Studies and Research Center is pleased to welcome you to the twenty-third 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 the Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity. We solicited papers and panel presentations to address three broad themes related to the Harlem Renaissance:

Art, Literature and Music:

- Anthologizing the Harlem Renaissance
- The Photographer's View of the Harlem Renaissance
- Capturing the Cultural Voice in Literature
- The Power of the Playwright's Pen

Institutions, Identity, and Politics:

- Writing & Revising Boundaries of Identity
- Looking for Race—Vision and Visibility
- Class and Community During the Harlem Renaissance

Focusing on Alain L. Locke:

- Pluralism and World Order
- Critical Theory and Hermeneutics
- Art, Literature, and Aesthetics
- Pluralism and Value Theory

We are particularly pleased to have Dr. Arnold Rampersad, Stanford University Professor of English and the Sara Hart Kimball Professor in the Humanities, 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 on "(Re)Visioning the Black Caribbean: Space, Place, and Voices."

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



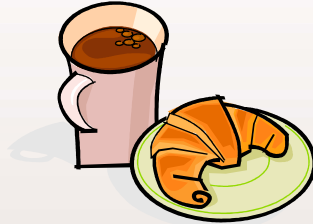
Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:00 AM STEWART CTR.—RM. 214C

Friday November 2, 2007

9:00-10:30 AM



CONCURRENT PANELS

ISSUES OF GENDER AND PROSE DURING THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

STEWART CTR.— RM. 218C&D

Dr. Venetria K. Patton, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

**"They Said I Do it, Ain't Nobody Caught Me": Silence and Lesbian Poetics
in 1920s Women's Blues and Mae V. Cowdery's Poetry"**

Mr. Shane Hunter, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

⌘

"Anthologizing the Harlem Renaissance: Women Poets and Canonization"

Dr. Maureen Honey, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

⌘

"The Function of the Harlem Renaissance Anthology: Then and Now"

Dr. Rychetta Watkins, William Jewel College

PLURALISM AND WORLD ORDER—STEWART CTR.— RM. 214A&B

Dr. Greg Moses, Panel Chair

⌘

**"New Moral Imperatives for World Order:
Locke on Pluralism and Relativism"**

Dr. Jacoby Carter, John Jay College

⌘

**"Ethnocentrism and the Challenges of Being Human
in a Multiethnic and Global World: Alain Locke Critique"**

Dr. Chielozona Eze, Northwestern University



BREAK

10:30-10:45 AM STEWART CTR.-RM. 214C

Friday November 2, 2007

10:45-12:15 PM

CONCURRENT PANELS

Capturing the Cultural Voice in Literature - STEWART CTR.- RM. 218C&D

Dr. Bill Mullen, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

"When Hannon Meets Harlem: Interregionalism in *Jule*"

Dr. Sandy Alexandre, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

⌘

"Claude McKay's Red Flower: Sexuality and Radical Politics in *Harlem Shadows*"

Dr. David Anderson, University of Louisville

⌘

"This Emptiness: The Silent Death and Rebirth of the Broken Body in *Cane*"

Ms. Denia Fraser, University of Massachusetts –Amherst

THE ART OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE- STEWART CTR.- RM. 214D

Dr. Cornelius Bynum, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

**"Du Bois, Double-Consciousness, and the Race/Class Dynamic Outlined
by A. Philip Randolph in the 1920s"**

Dr. Cornelius Bynum, Purdue University

⌘

"Politics of Patronage: The Harlem Adult Education Committee and Visual Art"

Dr. Kimn Carlton-Smith, Ferris State University

⌘

**"Age or Egotism: Examining W.E. B. DuBois's
Conflicting Views on Black Art, 1921-1926"**

Ms. Markeysha Davis, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

CRITICAL THEORY AND HERMENEUTICS - STEWART CTR.- RM. 214A&B

Dr. Kristie Dotson, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

**"Keepin' it on Locke: Alain Locke's Racial Eliminativism and its
Subjective Contribution to the Idealist Strand of Critical Race Theory "**

Mr. Tommy Curry, Southern Illinois University

⌘

**"From Value Relativism to the Fusion of Horizons: Alain Locke's
Hermeneutics of Democracy Viewed Through Gadamerian Lenses"**

Dr. Arnold L. Farr, St. Joseph's University



Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity

Friday November 2, 2007

12:30-2:30 PM

LUNCHEON PLENARY SESSION
Purdue Memorial Union
West Faculty Lounge

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

DR. LEONARD HARRIS

LUNCH

PLENARY SESSION

DR. SUSAN CURTIS, DR. ANNE KNUPFER,
DR. BILL MULLEN, DR. VENETRIA K. PATTON AND
DR. LEONARD HARRIS



BREAK 2:30-2:45PM
Stewart Center—Rm. 214C



BREAK

Friday November 2, 2007

2:30-2:45 PM STEWART CTR.-RM. 214C

2:45-4:15 PM

CONCURRENT PANELS

The Photographer's View of the Harlem Renaissance

STEWART CTR.- RM. 218C&D

To Be Announced, Panel Chair

⌘

"Using an Orientalist Lens? The Harlem Renaissance
Photography of James Van Der Zee"

Dr. Crystal S. Anderson, University of Kansas

⌘

"To Be Announced"

Ms. Victoria Geduld, Columbia University

⌘

"ETHICS AND AESTHETICS IN THE HARLEM DOCUMENTS:
PHOTOGRAPHS OF AARON SISKIND (1932-1940)"

Dr. Daniel Morris, Purdue University

Writing & Revising Boundaries of Identity I: Creating Questioning Spaces

STEWART CTR.- RM. 214D

Sharon Jessee, Panel Chair

⌘

"Migration and Gender in *God Sends Sunday*"

Ms. Toni Fellela, University of Connecticut

⌘

"Arna Bontemps's Constructions of Black Boyhood:
Slumber, Bubber, Shine Boy, and Augie"

Ms. Corey Mahoney, University of Connecticut

"What is North Africa to Me?: Claude McKay's Moroccan Sojourn"

Ms. Jennifer Wood, Yale University

ART, LITERATURE, AND AESTHETICS- STEWART CTR.- RM. 214A&B

Ms. Erin Kealey, Purdue University, Panel Chair

⌘

"Place of Art in the Pedagogy of Social and Racial Sympathy "

Dr. Rebecca Carr, George Washington University

⌘

"Teaching African American Literature and Culture—Who?"

Dr. Mark Heilbing, University of Hawaii

⌘

"What Difference Does Difference Make?"

The Intellectual Relationship of Alain Locke and Horace Kallen?"

Mr. David Weinfeld, New York University



Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity

BREAK

Friday November 2, 2007

4:15-4:30 PM STEWART CTR.-RM. 214C

4:30-6:00 PM

CONCURRENT PANELS

Writing & Revising Boundaries of Identity II:
Re-Considering Passive Identities in Women's Writing

STEWART CTR.- RM. 218C&D

To Be Announced, Panel Chair

x

"Whiteness as Inhibitor in *Plum Bun*"

Ms. Catherine Costanzo, University of Connecticut

x

"Light Crept Into His Eyes, But It Mattered Little to Her One Way or the Other:
Exploring the Father-Daughter Relationship in *The Typewriter*"

Ms. Heidi Freeman, Purdue University

x

"Dark Madonnas of the Grave Speak: The Portrayal of Death in
Women's Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance"

Ms. Erin Haddad-Null, University of Connecticut

MINDFUL OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE - STEWART CTR.- RM. 214D

Mr. Kevin Brooks, Purdue University, Panel Chair

x

"HARLEM: MECCA OF THE NEW NEGRO BOXER?:
AFRICAN AMERICAN IMAGE IN THE PRIZE RING DURING THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE"

Mr. Andrew Smith, Purdue University

x

"Paul Robeson: Music and Marxism"

Dr. Harry Targ, Purdue University

x

"WHERE TRAUMA IS : PIERRE JANET AND THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE"

Dr. Michael Cotsell, University of Delaware

PLURALISM AND VALUE THEORY- STEWART CTR.- RM. 214A&B

Dr. Greg Moses, Purdue University, Panel Chair

x

"Value Theory"

Mr. Laurence Hall, Kent State University

x

"The New Psychology of Alain Locke and Friedrich Nietzsche"

Mr. David Midtvedt

x

"Alain Locke's Pluralist Sensibility and the Post-Soul Aesthetic"

Dr. Gino Pellegrini, Pasadena City College



Friday November 2, 2007

6:00-8:00 PM

Dazz Edwards Jazz Band

Purdue Memorial Union

Room 118

6:00–8:00

Hors d'oeuvres

&

Host Bar





Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Saturday November 3, 2007

8:00 AM STEWART CTR.—RM. 214C

9:00-10:30 AM

CONCURRENT PANELS

LOOKING FOR RACE: VISION AND VISIBILITY DURING THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE -

STEWART CTR.— RM. 307

Ms. Mindy Tan , Purdue University, Panel Chair

κ

“Poised: Character Building Through Visual Codes of the Harlem Renaissance”

Dr. Amy M. Mooney, Columbia College-Chicago

κ

**“Visualizing the Difference: The Harlem Renaissance and
the Black Arts Movement”**

Dr. Margo Natalie Crawford, Indiana University-Bloomington

κ

**“Sargent Johnson’s Afro-Asian Sculptures and the Harlem Renaissance:
Transnational Modernism and the Reconfiguration of Race”**

Dr. John P. Bowles, Indiana University-Bloomington

κ

“The Practice of Ghetto in American Film”

Dr. Romi Crawford, The Art Institute of Chicago & the Studio Museum in Harlem

CLASS AND COMMUNITY DURING THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

STEWART CTR.— RM. 311

Dr. Anne M. Knupfer, Purdue University, Panel Chair

κ

**“Finding Fault: Lines and Sites of Cultural Production:
Music in the New Negro Movement/Harlem Renaissance Era”**

Dr. Perry A. Hall, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

κ

**“One With the People : Parallels Between Harlem Renaissance Debates
About the Relationship Between the Bourgeoisie and the Folk”**

Dr. Martin Japtok, Palomar College

κ

“The Role of Community Institutions During the Harlem Renaissance”

Mr. David Kemp, Purdue University



BREAK

10:30-10:45 AM STEWART CTR.-RM.

Saturday November 3, 2007

10:45-12:15 PM

SYMPOSIUM WRAP-UP

Dr. Leonard Harris

Stewart Center

Room 322

10: 45 am – 12:15 pm



Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity

PHILOSOPHY and LITERATURE

Currently animating discussions in such areas as social and critical theory, feminism, hermeneutics, narrative, semiotics, psychoanalysis, aesthetics, African-American studies, and cultural studies, the Philosophy and Literature Ph.D. program encourages the interplay between philosophy and literature. In consultation with faculty, each student designs a plan of study to accommodate specific goals and interests. The program seeks to foster critical and independent thought while providing cohesive professional training.

Students admitted to the Philosophy and Literature Ph.D. Program will be able to pursue a graduate minor in areas of specialization offered by three other programs - Department of Foreign Language, African American Studies, and Women's Studies. The graduate minor requirements generally comprise four graduate courses and one comprehensive exam or the equivalent; some individual programs may have additional requirements. Applicants to the Philosophy and Literature Ph.D. Program should indicate their interest in a graduate minor by including in the application a separate letter of purpose addressed to the program from which the minor is sought. Students interested in one of the graduate minor areas may also apply for funding from the collaborating department or interdisciplinary program. Deadlines and requirements for applying for funding by graduate minor programs are set by the respective department/programs. Obtain more information on graduate minors directly from the respective department/programs.

Requirements

A master's degree in either English or Philosophy is a prerequisite. Applicants should have taken the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE).

Leonard Harris, Ph.D., Director



Harlem Renaissance: Aesthetics, Values, and Identity

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

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24TH AASRC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

THE 24TH AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES & RESEARCH CENTER'S
ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM WILL BE HELD
November 6—8, 2008
“(Re)Visioning the Black Caribbean: Space, Place, and Voices.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT



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ALAIN L. LOCKE SOCIETY
www.alainlocke.com

The Society promotes research and scholarly discussion of the philosophy and life of Alain L. Locke. Its web page provides information on conferences and books on Locke.

Leonard Harris, Director, Philosophy and Literature Ph.D. Program, Purdue University

Arnold Farr, Chair, Department of Philosophy, St. Joseph's University

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