In and Out of Africa

27TH ANNUAL BOSTON UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE IN AFRICAN STUDIES

MARCH 29TH - MARCH 30TH

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
AFRICAN LANDSCAPES OF NEW SLAVERY
G. UGO NWOKEJI
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT UC BERKELEY
AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER
RM 505, BAY STATE RD, BOSTON
1:30-2:45PM

PAPER SESSIONS
FRIDAY
PARDEE SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES
FLR 1, 121 BAY STATE RD, BOSTON MA
12:30-4:45PM

SATURDAY
AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER
RM 505, BAY STATE RD, BOSTON
8:00-12:30PM, 3:00-5:00PM
IN AND OUT OF AFRICA
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CONFERENCE IN AFRICAN STUDIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH: PARDEE SCHOOL, 121 BAY STATE RD.

REGISTRATION
11:30am

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY
Margaret Rowley, Chair
12:30-2:30pm

Charles Prempeh, University of Cambridge

“African American Evangelical Missions and Activism in the Congo: The Activism of Reverend William Henry Sheppard”
Bamba Ndiaye, University of Louisville

“The Oromo Concept of Ayyaana and Changing Relationships with Place and People in the Nineteenth-Century Horn of Africa”
Ethan Key, Boston University

“Text in, Relic Out: Writing at the Late Antique Shrine of Saint Colluthus”
Scott Possiel, Boston University

2:30-2:45pm

BREAK

ARTS AND AESTHETICS
Michael Birenbaum Quintero, Chair
2:45-4:45pm

“In, Out, and In-Between Congo and Europe: Freddy Tsimba and ‘Centres fermés, rêves ouverts”
Elaine Sullivan, University of California, Los Angeles

“For All Those with One Foot on the Other Side: Knowledge Production, Postcolonial Ecology, and Collective Futurity in Contemporary African Fiction”
Kelsey McFaul, University of California, Santa Cruz

“Out of Africa: Waist Beads and Body Adornments”
Tracy Lucky Mensah, Georgetown University

“I am a Rapper, not a Female Rapper: Women who Make Hiplife”
Nii Kotei Nikol, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

5:00-6:30: African Studies Center, 232 Bay State Rd., 5th floor

DINNER

7:00-9:00: George Sherman Union, 775 Commonwealth Ave.

"LIYANA" SCREENING & DISCUSSION
KNOWLEDGE ACROSS BORDERS

Mahesh Karra, Chair
8:30-10:30am

“Safe Motherhood Initiative: Whither Africa’s Indigenous Birthing Knowledge?”
Esther Ajayi-Lowo, Texas Woman's University

“The Matatu Across Borders: Transportation Planning for and from African Cities”
Tamara Kerzhner, University of California, Berkeley

“Relocating The Neurosciences: The Ibadan Neurosurgery Clinic and The Evolution of Antiracist-Decolonized Neuro-Oncology and Egalitarian Styles of Thinking on Intracranial Neoplasms in Africa and The United States, 1900s-Recent Times”
Frank Blibo, Harvard University

Jia Hui Lee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

IN AND OUT OF CHINA

Laura Wiggins, Chair
10:45am-12:15pm

“Opera as Community-Building, Opera as Propaganda: Mandela Trilogy in Hong Kong”
Allison R. Smith, Boston University

“Compound: Living under Construction - A Spatial Approach to the Phenomenon of Chinese Transient Labor in Africa”
Solène Gautron, Yale University

"Rethinking China-Africa Relations: The Changing Dynamics of Global Power and the Transformation of Africa's Development Landscape”
Obaseam Okoi, University of Manitoba

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

1:30 - 2:45pm

“African Landscapes of New Slavery”
G. Ugo Nwokeji, Associate Professor of African American Studies at University of California, Berkeley

MIGRATION, DIASPORA, AND REFUGEES

Ayse Parla, Chair
3:00-5:00pm

Nyaradzai Changamire, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

“Ethnic Conflict and Tensions of the Shona and Ndebele: Changing Hierarchies in a Diasporic Community”
Mariah Nti Asare, SOAS, University of London

“Informal Scrap Metal Gathering by West African Migrants in the European Post-Fordist City”
Pere Nogues-Martin, City University of New York

“Translocal Towns: How Transnational Migration is Reshaping Rural Life in Senegal”
Ben Burgen, University of Florida
Professor G. Ugo Nwokeji’s research deals with the cultural history and political economy of Africa since 1500, with particular focus on international commerce in the Nigerian Niger Delta and its hinterland. This research is placed in the contexts of the Atlantic world and globalization, the latter of which encapsulates and synergizes the range of his teaching and research interests in slavery, migration, slave emancipation, as well as colonial and postcolonial political economy, including concerns with oil and gas. His book, *The Slave Trade and Culture in the Bight of Biafra: An African Society in the Atlantic World* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), won The 2011 Melville J. Herskovits Book Prize awarded by the African Studies Association. Having published studies on petroleum and the Atlantic slave trade, he has turned attention to a new project (“The Slave Trade, Oil, and Globalization in the Niger Delta”). The new project brings the slave trade and the hydrocarbon economy together in the context of globalization in a region that has had deep and continuing involvement with the “world exchange system” since the very inception of this system and which has shaped and is shaped by globalizing forces. This study is expected to illuminate the role which involvement in the world exchange system has played in influencing the character of polities, identities, class, and intergroup relations over time and in the differential responses of different “indigenous” peoples to their incorporation into postcolonies in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Professor Nwokeji was educated at the University of Port Harcourt, Obafemi Awolowo University (formerly University of Ife), Memorial University of Newfoundland, and the University of Toronto. He was an assistant professor of history at the University of Connecticut for four years prior to coming to Berkeley in 2003. Since 1999, he has also held either visiting professorship or fellowship in the following institutions–Emory University, Yale University, Harvard University, and Zentrum Moderner Orient (Center for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin, Germany).

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE GRADUATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND SUPPORTING ADMINISTRATION

Brian Barone, Ethnomusicology
Claire Corkish, School of Public Health
Ethan Key, History
Gana Ndiaye, Anthropology
Margaret Rowley, Ethnomusicology
Laura Wiggins, Pardee School of Global Studies

Anya Bounar, Anthropology
Leah Eyob, Pardee School of Global Studies
Corina Morton, Pardee School of Global Studies
Khadija Noor, Pardee School of Global Studies
Allison Smith, Ethnomusicology

Dr. Fallou Ngom, Director of the African Studies Center
Dr. Eric Schmidt, Assistant Director of the African Studies Center
Natasha Patel, African Studies Center Program Administrator
Hafzat Akanni, Program Designer