RE-EXAMINING AND RE-FOCUSING THE TEACHING OF AFRICAN SOCIETY & CULTURE – A Virtual Workshop

Jointly Sponsored by the University of Florida Center for African Studies, Boston University African Studies Center, Harvard University Center for African Studies, Reinhardt University & The international Studies Consortium of Georgia (ISCOG)* - Celebrating 28 years of Service

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021 – 8:30 A.M – 4:00 P.M.

PROGRAM PRESENTERS

Dr. Cheikh Thiam
Academic Dean
School for International Training
Brattlesboro, Vermont.

Dr. Mandis Haarhoff
Assistant Professor.
Department of English
University of Cape Town

Dr. Diana Wylie.
Professor, History &
African Studies Center
Boston University.

Dr. Ayodeji Ogunnaike
Assistant Professor
Bowdoin College
Brunswick, Maine

Reinhardt University

UF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES
ISCOG
AGENDA

8:30 a.m.  Welcome and Greetings  
Dr. Angela Peters, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, Albany State University, Albany, Georgia.

8:40  Program Overview  
Mr. Rajgopal Sahsti, Consortium Director, Reinhardt University, Walesa, Georgia.

8:45  Dr. Agnes Leslie, Outreach Director, Center for African Studies, University of Florida,  Introduction of African Studies Outreach Programs, Objectives

8:50  Technology Setup Break

9:00  TEACHING AND LEARNING BEYOND THE WESTERN CANON: AFRICAN STUDIES AS A MEANS TO TRANSCEND COLONIALITY  
Dr. Cheikh Thiam, Academic Dean, School for International Training, Brattlesboro, Vermont.

9:45  Question and Answer Session – Participants

10:15  Break

10:30  ON THE EDGE: BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND MODERN PERFORMANCE IN AFRICA  
Dr. Mandisa Haarhoff, Lecturer, Department of English Literary Studies, University of Cape Town.

11:15  Question and Answer Session – Participants

11:45  Resources at the University of Florida, Boston University and Harvard University

12:00  Noon  Lunch Break

1:00 p.m.  MOVING BEYOND IMAGES OF VICTIMHOOD: AFRICA IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES.  
Dr. Diana Wylie, Professor, Department of History and African Studies Center, Boston University (BU).

1:45  Question and Answer Session – Participants

2:15  Break

2:30  TRADITIONAL AFRICAN RELIGION: THEORY AND PRACTICE IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE  
Dr. Ayodeji Ogunnaike, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.

3:15  Question and Answer Session – Participants

3:45  Feedback and Closing Remarks

4:00  Adjournment

*Consortium Universities and Colleges: Reinhardt University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Albany State University, Andrew College, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Dalton State College, Edward Waters College (FL), Fort Valley State University, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College, Middle Georgia State University, South Georgia State College, Tennessee State University, University of North Georgia.
Bios of Conference Presenters

Dr. Cheikh Thiam, Academic Dean, at the School for International Training is a founding member of The Dakar Institute of African Studies and has served as an associate editor of Research in African Literatures, the premiere journal in African literature, and editor of African Studies Review, the journal of the African Studies Association. A leading voice in negritude studies, Cheikh is the author of Return to the Kingdom of Childhood: Re-envisioning the Legacy and Philosophical Relevance of Negritude. He was also the editor of Negritude Reloaded, a special issue of Journal on African Philosophy. He has recently completed a second manuscript, Epistemologies from the Global South: Negritude, Modernity, and the Idea of Africa and is currently writing a mytho-biography of Leopold Sedar Senghor from the perspective of the elders of Joal and Djiloor. His articles have appeared in literature and philosophy journals such as Ethiopiques, West Africa Review, La Revue Africaine, La Revue du Graat, French Review, Research in African Literature, Dalhousie French Review, and Journal on African Philosophy. Dr. Thiam is a graduate of the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal, has a master’s in French from the University of Provence in France and a master’s and a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Binghamton University in New York.

Dr. Mandisa Haarhoff received her Ph.D. in English at the University of Florida in 2018 on a Fulbright scholarship, and is currently a lecturer at the University of Cape Town. She completed her MA in Drama at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal with funding from the National Research Foundation, is a recipient of the National Research Fund’s Black Academic Advancement Programme for her first book project, White indigeneity and Black Absenting in the South African Farm Novel. The monograph examines the ways in which farm novels and Plaasroman participate in constructions of white indigeneity and enact black absenting throughout the late-colonial and apartheid period. Haarhoff’s research interests are concentrated around postcolonial theory, black studies and critical race theory. Her teaching centers on African and diasporic literatures.

Dr. Ayodeji Ogunnaike received his B. A., M. A. and Ph. D., from Harvard University and teaches interdisciplinary courses on Africa and the African Diaspora that center around the important role religion plays in these communities. His research focusses on Yoruba oriṣa worship in Nigeria, but also addresses Islam in Africa, Christianity in Africa, and diaspora religions—Brazilian Candomblé in particular. Having studied Ifa divination with a high priest and diviner in Nigeria, he has a keen interest in indigenous African intellectual traditions and ways of knowing. His current book project, How Worship Becomes Religion, analyzes how the worship of traditional Yoruba deities originally differed greatly from Western notions of “religion” but eventually became the most widespread and celebrated indigenous African religion through contact with modernity and mission Christianity. He is also working on a children’s book of Yoruba mythology. He has also been developing and curating an online library of Ifa orature.

Dr. Diana Wylie, B. A. Goucher College, M. Litt., University of Edinburgh, Ph. D., Yale University, a Senior Fulbright Research Scholar to Morocco, has published four books on southern and North African history: A Little God, The Twilight of Patriarchy in a Southern African Chiefdom (1990); Starving on a Full Stomach: Hunger and the Triumph of Cultural Racism in Modern South Africa (2001; winner of Herskovits Prize 2002); Art + Revolution, The Life and Death of Thami Mnyele, South African Artist (2008); Enchantment: Pictures from the Tangier American Legation Museum (2010; French translation 2015), as well as articles mainly on South and North African history. Winner in 2002 of the Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching, she recently held the National Endowment for the Humanities Distinguished Teaching Professorship for the Core Curriculum and then served (2016-17) as director of the Core Curriculum.