

Walter Rodney Seminars - Fall 2012

The Walter Rodney Seminar lecture series was inaugurated in the fall of 1977, at the initiative of two doctoral candidates in Boston University's political science department. It was named after Walter Rodney, the Guyanese scholar and political activist murdered in his native country in 1980, whose best-remembered book, "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa" (1972), has long been considered a classic in African studies. Over the past 35 years, the Walter Rodney Seminar has brought more than five hundred guest speakers to BU's African Studies Center. The lecture series is interdisciplinary, and has included presentations by established and incipient scholars in all Africa-related disciplines, including history, anthropology, political science, economics, sociology, public health, literature, visual arts, musicology, religion, Islamic studies, international relations, and public diplomacy

The seminars are held every Monday from noon to 1:30 pm in the William O. Brown Seminar Room, Rm 505, of the African Studies Center, 232 Bay State Road. Feel free to bring a lunch.

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| Sept. 17: | Katherine A. Luongo (Northeastern) & Matthew P. Carotenuto (St. Lawrence)
"Revising the Nation: Obama and the New Historiography of Kenya" |
| Sept. 24: | Pamela Allara (Brandeis)
"Training the Artist-Citizen: 21 Years at Artist Proof Studio, Johannesburg" |
| Oct. 1: | Micaela Díaz-Sánchez (Mount Holyoke)
" <i>Habla, Habla, Negra</i> : Articulations of Gender and Sexuality in Afro-Puerto Rican Bomba" |
| Oct. 8: | Holiday – No seminar |
| Oct. 15: | Jean Borgatti (Fitchburg Art Museum)
"Ways of Seeing: The Okpella Viewpoint" |
| Oct. 22: | Martha Saavedra (University of California, Berkeley)
" <i>Fin de siècle?</i> Commanding the Court in Senegalese Women's Basketball" |
| Oct. 29: | Susanne D. Mueller (Boston University)
"Kenya and the International Criminal Court" |
| Nov. 5: | Iba Mar Faye (Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale, Senegal)
"The Peasant Movement's Struggle to Influence Land Tenure Policy in Senegal" |
| Nov. 12: | William F. S. Miles (Northeastern)
"Bar Mitzvah in Abuja"
(Based on his book, <i>Jews in Nigeria: An Afro-Judaic Odyssey</i>) |
| Nov. 19: | Chakanetsa Mavhunga (MIT)
"African Innovation and the Fate of Incoming Technologies: Historicizing the Mobility and Indigenization of Guns in Zimbabwe" |
| Nov. 26: | Hugh Roberts (Tufts University)
"After the Liberation: Algeria 1962-2012: reflections on the experience of independence" |
| Dec 3: | Manga Kuoh (Cameroonian author)
"Socialism and Political Leadership in Africa in the Twentieth Century" |
| Dec. 10: | Michael Woldemariam (Boston University) & Dan Connell (Simmons College)
"Views of the Eritrea / Ethiopia Conflict" |

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| January 28 | Laura Ann Twagira (History, Boston University)
"Metal Pots and Buckets: The Power of Modest Household Technologies at a Colonial Irrigation Project in the French Soudan (Mali), c. 1940-1960" |
| February 4 | Cheryl Sterling (Literature, NYU)
"Traveling the Road of the Orishas: From Yoruba Identity to the Nagô Ideal in Brazil" |
| February 11 | Rodolfo Fattovich (Archeology, U. of Naples 'L'Orientale')
"Colonial, Postcolonial, or Simply Archaeology in Africa: The Case of Northern Ethiopia and Eritrea in the First Millennium BC" |
| February 18 | Holiday – No seminar |
| February 25 | Amanda Gilvin (Mt. Holyoke)
"Hot and Haute: African Fashion, FIMA, and Globalization" |
| March 4 | Casey Golomski (Brandeis University)
"The Macabre Market: The Rise of Life Insurance in Swaziland" |
| March 11 | Spring Recess |
| March 18 | Joshua D. Walker (U. Chicago /Harvard)
"Regulation, Reproduction, and Commodification: A Brief History of Diamond Mining in Kasai, Democratic Republic of Congo" |
| March 25 | Nlmi Wariboko (Andover-Newton Theological School)
"Spell of Invisibility and the Logic of Sovereignty in Nigerian Pentecostalism and the Nigerian State" |
| April 1 | Joanna Davidson (Anthropology, BU)
"School is the path now: Gendered Dimensions of Environmental Change in Rural West Africa" |
| April 8 | Taryn Vian (BU-SPH)
"Discontent of Per diems: Qualitative research on allowance payments in Malawi and Uganda" |
| April 15 | Holiday – No seminar |
| April 22 | Ruha Benjamin (Sociology, Boston University)
"Sankofa Science: Social Histories, Medical Futures, and Public Participation on the Stem Cell Frontier" |
| April 29 | Kehinde Ajayi (Economics, Boston University)
"School Choice in Ghana" |