

Linkages

THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN,
AFRICAN AMERICAN, AND DIASPORA STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

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*UNC Department of African,
African American, and
Diaspora Studies*

170 E. Franklin St.

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Phone: (919) 966-5496

<https://aaad.unc.edu>



IN MEMORIAM OF PROFESSOR PERRY HALL **EDITOR OF *LINKAGES* NEWSLETTER**

Students, faculty, and staff in the department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies (AAAD) mourn the loss of Professor Perry Hall, who passed away on April 19, 2020. Hall served on the UNC-Chapel Hill faculty for 28 years and as editor of *Linkages*, the departmental newsletter, for many years. Prior to coming to UNC, Hall was on the faculty of Wayne State University for 13 years. He was a scholar of the field of African American Studies, African-American cultural production, and hip hop.

Hall began his career in African American studies as part of the Black student movement of the 1960s and 1970s, which led to the establishment of Black Studies programs across the country.

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His courses were popular with students and he taught the first course on hip hop at UNC, which drew students from across the College of Arts & Sciences for many years. Hall was an approachable professor who made a deep and lasting connection with his students.

He was also a central figure in the field of African American studies and the National Council of Black Studies (NCBS). Those who knew him will remember him for his warmth, humility, care, and concern for students and colleagues, and a deep commitment to AAAD and the broader field of African American studies.

In this publication, we honor his legacy and present his final works as editor of *Linkages*.

The full tribute to Professor Hall can be accessed [here](#)

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR Professor Eunice Sahle

On behalf of the faculty and staff in the Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies (AAAD), I am delighted to share this combined volume of *Linkages*! The volume's publication honors the tireless labor of our late colleague Dr. Perry Hall, who over the years continued to document key developments in AAAD before his sudden death in April 2020. Thanks to Dr. Hall's deep commitment to the department and his meticulous work in creating an archive of our annual events and other developments in the department, AAAD has been able to publish this volume and I am very pleased to share it with you.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE — PROFESSOR EUNICE SAHLE

This volume includes activities highlighting the department's commitment to promoting and mentoring undergraduate research projects. Our annual Undergraduate Research Conference, which we launched in 2014 and which has continued to thrive, and our *Global Africana Review* (<https://cdr.lib.unc.edu/collections/4b29b610g?locale=en>), which is a journal devoted to publishing outstanding articles by undergraduate students mentored by AAAD faculty, are examples of such activities. The volume also includes extensive interviews that Dr. Hall conducted with several departmental faculty members. Among other things, the interviews offer illuminating insights about each interviewee's research foci and teaching interests. These interviews honor Dr. Hall's long-time interest in documenting the work of Africana Studies scholars. The volume also provides profiles of two new faculty members in AAAD: Dr. Maya Berry and Dr. Petal Samuel.

As in the previous volumes of *Linkages*, the current one highlights some of the public events that the department has hosted in the last several years. These include the following annual Global Africana Conferences: *Crisis and Opportunities for Democracy in the Current Conjuncture* (2019); *Global Black Music and Politics, 1965-1975* (2018); *Black Feminist Futures: Re-envisioning Gender and Sexuality in Global Black Communities* (2017); *Christianity, Politics, and Social Activism in Africa and the African Diaspora* (2016); and *Education, Freedom, and Democracy* (2015). These annual conferences and our other public forums provide an important avenue for scholars from UNC-CH and other institutions to engage with ideas and to share their work with a broader audience. Our other public forums, some of which are featured in this volume, such as our monthly faculty Colloquium Series and public lectures, for example, Kenya's Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court Dr. Willy Mutunga on April 6, 2015, serve a similar purpose.

The ability of the department to hold the events highlighted in this volume comes from the support we receive through private gifts. Overall, private gifts contribute greatly to our teaching, research, and service missions. As such, please consider making a gift to the department. To do so, kindly contact the Arts and Sciences Foundation, at 523 E. Franklin St. Chapel Hill, NC 27514. You can also reach the Arts and Sciences Foundation by calling 919.962.0108 or by sending an email to college@unc.edu.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the late Dr. Perry Hall's enormous contribution to this volume. Without his foundational work, the volume would not have been possible. Further, thanks to Dr. Shakirah Hudani, the current *Linkages'* Editor, for her outstanding work on this project. Many thanks to Mina Yakubu for her important insights and work on this volume. Additionally, many thanks to Marie Fholer and Ayana Brown for their excellent logistical support. We look forward to sharing the next volume of *Linkages* with you before too long!

Event Highlights



Former Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, Dr. Willy Mutunga, after a keynote lecture that he delivered on April 6, 2015 (above); Chimamanda Adichie with Department Chair, Professor Eunice Sahle, and faculty members at the 2017 Global Africana Conference (below).



7th Annual Global Africana Conference Opening Remarks by Professor Claude Clegg

Our theme for this year (2019) , which we believe is timely, is “*Crises and Opportunities for Democracy.*” We are very fortunate to have four excellent panels of scholars who will present their work and views on the development, health, and well-being of democracy, democratic institutions, and matters of citizenship in Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. We live in interesting times—during a period when democracy, as both an experiment and a process, still thrives in many quarters of the world, with its ever - changing, complex and sometimes contradictory variables and outcomes.

In addition to living in interesting times, we also live in a time of peril. Whether refugee migrations spawned by wars and poverty, burgeoning environmental crises, or escalating inequalities of all sorts, the 21st century has posed some critical challenges to both democratic governance and the democratic ethos itself. In many societies, the political center can no longer hold, and the void is being filled by forces from both the right and the left. All is not lost. Recent events in several countries point toward a renewal of democratic praxis and popular participation in our time.

Elections in Turkey earlier this week resulted in the opposition party gaining control of the country’s largest cities of Istanbul and Ankara, a rebuke of the creeping authoritarianism of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Also, this week, longtime Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika resigned from office in the face of popular protests. In January 2019, Félix Tshisekedi was elected president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, succeeding Joseph Kabila who had outstayed his official term in office. In the United States, mid-term elections in November 2018 resulted in a change in party control of the Congress that promises greater oversight of the Trump presidency and its excesses. The panelists today will grapple with these and other issues vital to the trajectories of various societies around the world. While we all live through this period in real time and cannot know the future even in the immediate term, we are fortunate to have good people and strong minds thinking about these issues and the way forward.

6th Annual Global Africana Conference

By Professor David Pier

The 6th Annual Global Africana Conference, organized by Professor David Pier and Professor Perry Hall, focused on the theme of “*Global Black Music and Politics, 1965-1975*,” with special attention to the 50th anniversary of a pivotal year, 1968. On April 6, 2018, ten scholars, including three from UNC Chapel Hill, gave papers on diverse music-historical topics, including freedom song in the Civil Rights movement; hip hop; punk; experimental electronic composition; Congolese, Zimbabwean and Bahamian popular music; and jazz. In a period of pitched political activism on campus, focused on the still standing Silent Sam statue and related to the broader Black Lives Matter movement, this year's conference offered a long-range, international perspective on black resistance politics and the arts. UNC's Black Student Movement provided a musical interlude at midday, and was recognized by Professor Emeritus Townsend Lovington. In the evening, the Greg Glassman/Dave Schnitter Quintet from New York performed original jazz compositions and discussed the significance of 1965-1975 to contemporary jazz artists. Chancellor Carol Folt was in attendance and gave special recognition to the AAAD department for its educational and research excellence. Support for the conference was provided by UNC College of Arts and Sciences, Arts Everywhere, the UNC African Studies Center, and the UNC Institute for Arts and Humanities.

*Performances at the 6th Annual Global Africana Conference (2018):
UNC's Black Student Movement (bottom left); The Greg Glassman/ Dave Schnitter Quintet (bottom right).*



5th Annual Global Africana Conference By Professor Lydia Boyd



On April 6, 2017, the Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies hosted the 5th Annual Global Africana Conference, which featured the theme “*Black Feminist Futures: Re-envisioning Gender and Sexuality in Global Black Communities.*” The conference panels highlighted the work of emerging scholars in black feminist studies who presented research drawn from the fields of geography, literature, history, and art history. The three panels were organized around the themes of “Visual Art and the Politics of “Representation,” “Queering Space and Physicality,” and “Literatures of the Black Diaspora.” The conference closed with a special presentation featuring the work of the internationally celebrated Nigerian author, Chimamanda Adichie, held in UNC’s historic Memorial Hall. The highlight of the evening was a public Q&A with the award-winning writer moderated by the department’s own Dr. Kia Caldwell.



Chimamanda Adichie with Professor Kia Caldwell (top) and with SAD Professor Jonathan Hartlyn and Provost James Dean (above). Chimamanda Adichie is shown with students who enacted her work as part of a class with Professor Joseph Megel (below).



4th Annual Global Africana Conference

“Christianity, Politics, and Social Activism in Africa and the African Diaspora”

By Professor Lydia Boyd

On March 4th and 5th 2016, the Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies hosted our fourth annual Global Africana Conference. This year’s theme was *“Christianity, Politics, and Social Activism in Africa and the African Diaspora.”* Twelve original papers were presented during the course of the conference, including those by leading scholars in the fields of religious studies, history, African American studies, and other fields. Participants included Professor Marla Fredericks of Harvard University, Professor Simon Coleman of the University of Toronto, and our very own Professor Reg Hildebrand.

Religion has long been a means to mobilize and inform individuals, call them to action, and provide them with the means to imagine themselves as political subjects. This year’s conference theme aimed to highlight how, in our current era, religious communities play vital roles in providing their members with ways of seeing the world as more connected, more obligated to, and more invested in places far from home. While religion has always been a primary means by which humans make sense of their world, what is so distinctive about our current era is how this period of rapid globalization has both highlighted and condensed the spaces between cultural and political difference.

Guiding questions that were threaded through several papers included: How and why does religion motivate individuals to think about their obligations to communities both near and far? In what ways do religious beliefs underlie the secular approaches to charity and economic development that drive U.S. investment in Africa and other parts of the global south? And, how does religion create a sense of community that spans diverse parts of the African diaspora, contributing to the ways people experience and express notions of citizenship, even in the face of migration and displacement? Religion is important to the ways we understand our connections to those far away, but also to the ways we make sense of injustice in our own backyards. It is what informed the language of forgiveness that so painfully and eloquently shaped the response of victims of the horrendous shootings at the Emmanuel AME church in Charleston last year (2015).

4th Annual Global Africana Conference (*continued*)

These religiously informed experiences of connection, obligation, and community contribute in ways obvious and not-so obvious to how we see and understand politics and political action today. This year's conference brought together a group of interdisciplinary scholars to better understand religion a critical arena within which political action is being reshaped across the African diaspora, helping us to better grasp the motivations of individuals and communities, and the limits and possibilities that modes of political belonging and social engagement may take.



External Presenters with AAAD and other UNC faculty in 2016 (above).

3rd Annual Global Africana Conference

By Professor Perry Hall

Building on its continuing efforts to organize forums on issues and themes critical to African Diaspora communities, the AAAD Department hosted The Third Global Africana Annual Conference on April 10, 2015, to address the themes of *“Education, Freedom, and Democracy.”* The First Global Africana Conference in 2013 examined the work, influence, and legacy of scholar-activist W. E. B. Du Bois while the 2014 conference was devoted to the topic of *“Water, Health and the Environment,”* as part of the University’s focus on water as a major theme of scholarly inquiry and public policy. This year’s theme reflects the intention of the 2015 conference to explore the multiple ways that education and literacy have served as vehicles to achieve liberation in Africa and the African diaspora, and to explore the issues, obstacles, and opportunities encountered in the process. Addressing these issues locally and internationally, in the U.S. , Canada, and Africa, conference presenters and participants explored successes, barriers, similarities, ties, and differences experienced as African-descendant peoples pursue education and progress in a variety of settings.

The conference program opened with welcoming remarks from AAAD Chair, Eunice Sahle, and was followed by a full day of presentations and discussions that included three plenary lectures and five academic panels. The evening session started with a dramatic performance entitled “Pathways and Pipelines,” featuring students from Professor Joseph Megel’s class. The conference then culminated and ended with the keynote speaker by Dr. Shaun Harper, from the University of Pennsylvania. In the opening plenary, George J. Sefa Dei, from the University of Toronto, delivered remarks entitled, “Race, Equity and Schooling: Anti-Racist and Decolonial Engagements in Ontario.” The three academic panels that followed focused on the themes “Gender and Education Policy,” “Education and Struggles for Freedom and Democracy,” and “Debating Segregation and Education,” respectively. The lunch time plenary lecture featured Christopher Chatmon, who summarized an ongoing project in the Oakland (California) Unified School District. The two afternoon panels focused respectively on the themes “Education and the Politics of Language,” and “Education for Liberation.” At the evening session, following the student performance, the concluding keynote lecture focused on Dr . Harper ’s current research exploring, equity trends and racial climates on college campuses, in relation to Black and Latino male student success in high school and higher education, and college student engagement. One important and noticeable characteristic of the conference was the vibrant quality of the discussion generated in the question-and-answer sessions that followed each presentation. Virtually every discussion session ran until it was necessary cut it off in order to start the following session. Cumulatively, these sessions alongside the presentations themselves allowed an extensive vetting of numerous issues – including equity, decolonialism, leadership, culture, gender , policy, segregation, affirmative action, language policy – that connected with the overall themes and concerns of the conference.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Launch of the *Global Africana Review*

By Professor Perry Hall and Professor Eunice Sahle

On March 25, 2017, AAAD launched the inaugural volume of its annual undergraduate research journal: *Global Africana Review (GAR)*. Professor Jonathan Hartlyn, Senior Associate Dean for Social Sciences & Global Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences offered remarks to mark the launch of the *GAR*. Like other volumes, the inaugural issue foregrounded outstanding research by undergraduate students. Since its emergence, the department has published five volumes of the *GAR*. For each the volumes, a faculty member has served as the Executive Editor. Further, as their conduct research for their *GAR*'s articles, students work with faculty mentors.

For more details on the *GAR* visit its website at:

<https://cdr.lib.unc.edu/collections/4b29b610g?locale=en>



Front cover of the GAR (top left); Executive Editor of Vol 1. of the GAR, Dr. David Pier, addresses the audience at the 4th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference (top right).

2019-2020 Colloquium Series: "Slavery and Its Afterlives"

By Professor Petal Samuel

Our 2019-2020 colloquium series was entitled: "*Slavery and Its Afterlives: A Colloquium on the 400-Year Anniversary of Arrival.*" In August 1619, the Portuguese ship carrying the first 20 African enslaved men and women landed at Port Comfort on the shores of what was then the British colony of Virginia. Several scholars, journalists, and artists have organized to commemorate the anniversary of this landmark moment in the history of the Americas—most prominently projects like the *New York Times Magazine* 1619 Project and podcast, spearheaded by investigative journalist Nikole Hannah Jones. This work highlights the ongoing legacies of slavery in our present day, from mass incarceration to police killings to redlining to racial health disparities. Through this colloquium, we joined the chorus of voices who called attention to the importance of this moment in history for understanding our present. It was essential, however, that we think of 1619 as only one temporal and geographical referent amongst many earlier ones for thinking about the ravages of slavery and colonialism, rather than as a sole point of commencement. As a department whose scholarship covers a wide range of African and African diasporic peoples, we stressed with equal urgency earlier arrivals elsewhere in the Americas, such as the forced movement of the first enslaved men and women in the early 1500s to Brazil and the Caribbean, geographies to which the overwhelming majority of enslaved Africans were displaced. Additionally, we acknowledged the ways that processes of diaspora, as scholars like Jemima Pierre and Tsitsi Jaji have shown, have continually shaped continental Africa as well as the Americas. By including in our roster of speakers specialists who speak to these afterlives as they play out in the U.S., Liberia, Brazil, the Caribbean, and elsewhere, we stressed the importance of sustaining a deliberately transnational politics of black solidarity.



Study Abroad in Malawi

This story was adapted from the UNC College website:

<https://college.unc.edu/2018/08/india-and-malawi/>

Story Credit: Kim Weaver Spurr '88

Thirteen students experienced the new six-week UNC Summer in Malawi program, led by Eunice Sahle, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of African, African American and Diaspora Studies (AAAD). The program was split between Lilongwe and Zomba, with students taking courses in “Human Rights in Africa: Theories and Practices” and a regional seminar, “Transitions to Democratic Governance in Malawi and Other Parts of Southern Africa.” While in Lilongwe, they were based at the Center for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR), one of Malawi’s leading NGOs. In Zomba, they were hosted by the University of Malawi’s Chancellor College. Students had internships and visited sites including Parliament and UNC Project-Malawi, a research, care and training program established by Carolina and the Malawi Ministry of Health in 1999.

Sahle has been doing research in Malawi for over 20 years. She said creating the new study abroad program was a collaborative process, and she had lots of help from UNC and Malawi partners. She received support from Bruce Cairns, director of the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center, Bob Miles, former associate dean of study abroad, and colleagues at the University of Malawi’s Chancellor College early on in the planning process. A key goal was to make the program affordable, and a number of campus entities contributed to that effort so that each student received financial help.

“We have a very strong UNC footprint in terms of the health sciences in Malawi, but there was a gap in the social sciences and humanities,” she said, “we wanted to complement what we are already doing in the country.” According to Sahle, this long relationship was very helpful during the students’ time in Lilongwe and Zomba. “The opportunities that we had, such as internships for students and outstanding guest lectures in both seminars, would not have happened without that history,” she said. “Throughout our stay, we received tremendous support from UNC-Malawi Project’s Country Director Innocent Mofolo and numerous Malawian intellectuals, policymakers and civil society leaders,” Sahle concluded.



Mr. Innocent Mofolo (Country Director, UNC Project-Malawi), with Professor Eunice Sahle and students in 2018 (left); Students at UNC Project-Malawi (right); (photos courtesy of Eunice Sahle and UNC Project-Malawi)

ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCES

5th and 6th Annual AAAD Undergraduate Research Conferences By Professor Michael Lambert

In 2018 and 2019, we convened the 5th and 6th annual AAAD Undergraduate Research Conferences. These conferences are a celebration of the accomplishments of our students and of the faculty members who have served as their mentors. Many of the students who present at this conference are in their final year at Carolina and this conference provides them with a public forum in which to share the knowledge and research skills they have mastered as members of our department.

Selected papers presented at this conference are published in the *Global Africana Review*, the Department's undergraduate research journal. We also invite accomplished graduates of our Department to open these conferences by presenting the Dunbar-Stone Lecture, the conference keynote. As was also true of the papers presented at the four preceding AAAD Undergraduate Research Conferences, the quality of the papers presented at the 5th and 6th annual AAAD Undergraduate Research Conference was high.

The 5th annual conference convened on March 24, 2018. Valerie Foushee, a graduate of our department and North Carolina State Senator, presented the Dunbar-Stone Lecture. The first panel, "Health, History, and Representation," moderated by Professor Perry Hall, included papers by Jose Villard, "The Black Hospital Movement" Destinie Pittman, "Healthcare Denied and Revived: 1896- 1970"; Julia Shankin, "Conveying Racist Ideologies in German Colonial Goods"; and Marissa Jamison Dorsey, "The Nazis' Use of Africa as a Background for Propaganda." The second panel, "Civil Rights, Black Power, and Politics," moderated by Professor Kenneth Janken, included papers by Maxine Richmond, Floyd B. McKissick, "Leadership, and the Evolution of Black Politics"; Bailey Nelson "More than Your Average Lawyer: Beyond the Call of Duty"; and Amukelani Muyanga, "Entrepreneurship and Economic Freedom in South Africa: Interrogating the Neoliberal Basis of the Structure-Agency Tension." The third panel, "Performing Research, " moderated by Professor Maya Berry, included papers by Maria Gomez Flores, "Inclusivity in Latin Dance: Can I Dance with You?"; Briana Humes, "Reflecting Inequality and Inequity through Performance"; and Chloe A. Brown, "Ballad of the Black Girl. The final panel, "In and Out of Africa," moderated by Professor David Pier, included papers by Emily Venturi, "Migration Management and Development Policy Issue-Linkage in EU-Senegal Relations"; Anna McQuillin, "Situating Children within Human Rights Discourse: Intercountry Adoption in Africa"; and Angum Check, "The Power of Solidarity: Anti-Apartheid Activism on U.S. Campuses and UNC-Chapel Hill."

5th and 6th Annual AAAD Undergraduate Research Conferences (continued)

By Professor Michael Lambert

The 6th annual conference convened on March 24, 2019. Adam Linker, graduate of our department and program officer at the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust presented the Dunbar-Stone Lecture. The first panel, “Power and Resistance in Tunisia & Brazil, ” moderated by Professor Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja, included papers by Elondra Harr, “The Militarization of Police in Favelas: The Effects of an Underlying Authoritarian Regime in Brazil”; Kellen Robinson, “ ‘Go back to your kitchens, you whores’: Women, Women’s Rights, and the Tunisian Revolution”; and Anna DeGrauw, “Place Wanted Alive: Spatial Justice amongst Dispossession and Displacement in Kibera, Kenya.”

The second panel, “Oppression and Resistance in the Antebellum South,” moderated by Professor Perry Hall, included papers by Briana Richards, “The Loss of Innocence of Enslaved Children in the United States”; Sierra Vines, “Out of the Belly Shall Flow Rivers of Truth Food: An Analytical Lens into Slavery in North Carolina in the second half of the 19th Century”; and Brianna Brunson, “Turning Down the Pot: Slave Spirituals as Resistance in the Antebellum South.” The final panel, “Expressive Culture: Ring Shouts and Cinema,” moderated by Professor Charlene Regester, included papers by Cedric Whitted, “King’s Dead”; and André Tyson, “I feel like shouting: The African American ring shout tradition in the South.

Photographs from the 5th Annual AAAD Undergraduate Research Conference

Full story on the [UNC College website](#)



Dr. Maya Berry moderating for panel 3/ Chloe Brown, Briana Humes, Maria Gomez, Dr. Berry (from left to right)

Dr. Perry Hall moderating for panel 1/ Marissa Jamison Dorsey, Julia Shankin, Destinie Pittman, Jose Villard , Dr. Hall (from left to right)



Keynote speaker Sen. Valerie Foushee (above)

4th Annual AAAD Undergraduate Research Conference

By Professor Michael Lambert

The 4th annual conference opened on March 24, 2017, with former UNC faculty member Catherine Newbury's presentation of the Dunbar-Stone Lecture. The Lecture was titled "Infra-Politics in Rwanda: Rural Activism Before and After the Genocide."

The following day was filled with five student research panels, chaired by AAAD faculty members, on a range of topics related to the global Africana experience. This conference offered students the opportunity to share their findings on issues ranging from human and children's rights in African countries to race in North America.

The first panel, chaired by Professor Eunice Sahle, focused on rights practices around Africa. The second panel was chaired by Professor Ronald Williams, and focused on questions of justice, representation and rights in the US. The third panel was again chaired by Professor Sahle and looked at questions of transitional justice, state and rights in Africa and the question of combatting terrorism. The fourth panel was chaired by Professor David Pier and featured presentations on diasporic immigrants in the US and race and representation in domestic politics. The final panel was a roundtable on race in North America comprising Maddie Marshall, Monique Medina, and Mia Smith. The roundtable was moderated by Professor Kenneth Janken.

Amid the conference, attendees also enjoyed a discussion with 2008 UNC AAAD graduate and FoodTrace CEO and founder, Riana Lynn, during lunch. At the conclusion of the event, AAAD major Amukelani Muyanga provided closing remarks.

SAD for Social Sciences and Global Programs, Professor Jonathan Hartlyn, introducing Professor Catherine Newbury (Dunbar-Stone Lecture, March 2017) (below).



3rd Annual AAAD Undergraduate Research Conference

By Professor Michael Lambert

On Friday, April 15, 2016, we opened the 3rd annual AAAD Undergraduate Research Conference. Former UNC post-doctoral fellow and current Duke University Professor Adriane Lentz-Smith presented the Dunbar-Stone Lecture titled "'The Laws Have Hurt Me': State Violence and the Rebirth of White Supremacy."

On Saturday, April 16, the presentation of papers began with a panel chaired by Professor Charlene Regester. This panel featured some of Professor Regester's students who researched film and representation. Zoe Shaver opened the panel with her paper: "The New Negro & the Gaze: Examining Trends in Black Entertainment in the Late 1920s and Early 1930s through the Lens of the Indianapolis Recorder."

Mariam Diallo followed with her paper, "An Analysis of the Representations of Black African Bodies in the White Imagination: A Look at Representations of Africans in European Colonial Cinema and How These Representations Have Influenced American-Made Cinema about Black Africans." Then Tatyana Green presented a paper titled "Blood Stained Leaves and Haunted Trees: The Reconstruction of the Memory of Lynching in American Society." George Gildhaus concluded the panel with a paper titled "Eliciting New Visions for the Future of Confederate Memorials in the Triangle."

The second panel was chaired by Professor Perry Hall and featured papers on natural resources and the environment. Alexander Peeples opened the panel with his paper "Farming Famine: How Failures of Food Policy Have Starved Northern Ghana." He was followed by Rebekah Cockram who presented a paper titled "Wangari Maathai and Kenya's Green Belt Movement: The Role of NGOs as Agents of Human Rights."

The panel concluded with a paper presented by Amukelani Muyanga titled "Natural Resource Management in Africa: The Necessity of Industrializing the Agricultural Sector for Development (Case Study of the Rwandan Coffee Industry)."

The final panel was chaired by Professor Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja and focused primarily on issues related to politics. Molly Jernigan opened the panel with her paper "Arabization's Role in Weakening the Algerian State." She was followed by Emily Sheffield who presented a paper titled "Political Discourse around Sexual Violence during the Rwandan Genocide and its Impact in Contemporary Rwanda."

Andrew Royce Bauer presented the third paper on this panel titled "The Case for Reparations: The Uncompensated Genocide of Black Germans during the Third Reich." Abigail Parlier closed the panel with the final paper of the conference titled "Female Abuse in a Selection of D.W. Griffith Films."

Photographs from the 3rd Annual Undergraduate Research Conference



Faculty and students gather with SAD Professor Jonathan Hartlyn (above); Students listen to proceedings of the conference (below).



2nd Annual AAAD Undergraduate Research Conference

By Geneva Collins

“If you want to travel, pack your bags, but if you want to volunteer, pack your books.”

That statement summed up Binta Ka’s presentation on the potential harms of voluntourism in Africa at the second annual undergraduate research conference in the department of African, African American and Diaspora Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. Voluntourism — trips that combine a vacation with a volunteer effort, such as building a hospital or digging a well — have become very popular, but participants are often clueless of the political, social, and other long-term implications of their actions, said Ka ’18. By increasing dependency on wealthy countries or undermining local business efforts, these well-intended activities can do more harm than good, she said. Ka joined fellow students (and one recent alumnus) in presenting work at the March conference.

True to the name of the department, the topics covered Africa (U.N. peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of Congo), the African American experience (how tracking in schools stratifies students by race) and the diaspora (an Afro-Brazilian favela in Rio de Janeiro).

Wake Forest law professor Kami Chavis Simmons, a 1996 Carolina alumna of public policy and AAAD, delivered the Dunbar-Stone lecture. In the light of recent events in Ferguson, Mo., and Staten Island, N.Y., in which two black men died during altercations with police, her topic, “The Realities of Racial Profiling and the Problem with Police Accountability,” could not have been more timely.



Professor Kami Chavis Simmons delivers the keynote lecture at the 2nd Undergraduate Research Conference (left); A student panel addresses questions at the AAAD undergraduate research conference (right)

Dr. Maya Berry — Assistant Professor



Dr. Maya Berry is a social anthropologist specializing in performance studies and African diaspora studies. Her work uses a black feminist approach to understand racialized and gendered experience, social formations, performance practices, and political imaginaries. Using performance as an analytical lens, Berry focuses on both the movements of body politics and the corporeal bodies that constitute those political movements. This allows for consideration of how political economy, racial formation, and embodiment all play a role in political praxis. From 2016 to 2017 Berry was a Postdoctoral Associate at the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. Dr. Berry's scholarship has been supported by numerous institutional grants and fellowships. For her teaching she was awarded the UNC Office of the Provost Engaged Scholarship Award in Engaged Teaching in 2020, and the 2021 UNC Johnston Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Petal Samuel — Assistant Professor



Dr. Petal Samuel specializes in twentieth-century Afro-Caribbean literature and Caribbean anticolonial thought, politics, and aesthetics. Samuel's current project examines how the management of the soundscape—through noise abatement laws and public discourses condemning noise—has served as a crucial avenue of racial and colonial governance in both the pre- and post-colonial Caribbean and throughout the Caribbean diaspora. The manuscript highlights the work of Afro-Caribbean women writers who embrace forms of “noisemaking” against the grain of these laws and public discourses, reclaiming them as subversive grammars that are integral to decolonization. From 2016-18, Samuel held a position as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies at the University of Virginia. Her work is published in *Anthurium*, *The Black Scholar*, and *small axe salon*.

Faculty Dialogue: Professor Lydia Boyd

Q: What courses do you teach at UNC-CH?

LB: Since I arrived at UNC in 2010, in addition to teaching the department's introductory course in African Studies (AAAD 101), I have developed and taught a number of courses that have aligned with my research interests in health and development. In recent semesters I have regularly taught AAAD 200: Gender and Sexuality in Africa; AAAD 300: Cultures of Health and Healing in Africa; and AAAD 387: AIDS in Africa and the Diaspora. In the past I have also taught a class on African religion (AAAD 210: African Belief Systems) as well as special topics classes focused on urbanization and the environment.



My courses tend to focus on historical and sociological issues surrounding health, sexuality, and gender in African societies, and two of my classes meet the requirements of two relatively new interdisciplinary minors on campus: the medical anthropology minor (housed in the Anthropology department) and the medicine, literature, and culture minor (in the English department).

Q: Your book, *Preaching Prevention: Born-again Christianity and the Moral Politics of AIDS in Uganda* was published in 2015 by Ohio University Press. What are its central questions and what led you to focus on Uganda as a site of your research in the first place?

LB: I first traveled to Uganda to study in 1998, as an undergraduate student, and I became interested in the way that international development objectives are implemented in Ugandan communities, and the impact such projects have on local cultures and social institutions. My book focuses on one particularly important international health program, the U.S. PEPFAR program, which was introduced in 2004 under the George W. Bush administration...I spent nearly two years living in Uganda studying the ways this infusion of funding impacted local prevention programs, and the ways Ugandan born-again Christians were mobilized to address AIDS prevention and promote “abstinence-only” projects. My book examines the abstinence message within the broader context of neoliberal approaches to aid that have emphasized personal accountability and self-sufficiency as key attributes of good governance.

Faculty Dialogue: Professor Lydia Boyd (continued)

LB: That is, Africans and other aid recipients worldwide are encouraged to become more “accountable” subjects of aid, and problems like the AIDS epidemic are increasingly framed as problems of individual behavior (“abstain to avoid AIDS!”), rather than issues of economics, politics, and inequality. My book, in examining what abstinence and monogamous Christian marriage meant to youthful Ugandan AIDS activists, explores some of the shortfalls of this approach to humanitarian aid. In Uganda, the dictate that individuals exhibit more “self-control” in decisions regarding relationships, withdrawing from social and intimate relationships deemed “risky” outlined a model for ethical and healthy behavior that was at odds with local perspectives that emphasized wellbeing as a collective, social, and spiritual endeavor. Furthermore, economic and social factors often limited young adults’ ability to abstain from sex — poverty, for instance, is known to narrow the choices available to individuals, making abstinence difficult to maintain without broader economic and political changes.

Q: You have emerged a leading scholar in debates concerned with homosexuality in Uganda? Can you tell us about your research in this area?

LB: The research conducted for my book led me to a broader concern with the ways sexuality and gender have become increasingly central to human rights struggles in Africa. My 2013 article in *Anthropological Quarterly* examined the underlying religious and social tensions that animate homophobic sentiment in Uganda, a topic that rose to international prominence in the wake of Uganda’s deeply controversial 2009 “Anti-Homosexuality Bill.” In recent years, homosexuality has emerged as a controversial social topic for Ugandans, with various political and religious leaders emerging as vocal proponents of efforts to limit the “sexual rights” and social visibility of queer Ugandans. My approach emphasizes the importance of cross-cultural analysis and ethnographic data in the examination of a political controversy, and frames the local rejection of homosexual equality, and sexual rights more generally, as part of a broader response to neoliberal economic and social conditions in Uganda. That is, my research focuses on why and why now homosexuality has become controversial in Uganda, and some of the reasons human rights arguments have fallen short of addressing this backlash.

In related work, I am currently developing a collaborative and interdisciplinary project focusing on the legislation of sexuality, gender, and the body in sub-Saharan Africa. An edited volume, *Legislating Gender and Sexuality in Africa: Rights, Society, and the State in Interdisciplinary Perspective*, is the outcome of a recent symposium I organized at UNC with my colleague in Women’s and Gender Studies, Emily Burrill. This book will bring together the research of a diverse set of international scholars who have tracked the way rights-based claims permeate formal legislative and political projects, as well as social justice movements in African contexts. It will contribute ethnographically and historically situated analyses of what arguments about rights and equality mean for different kinds of communities and actors—research that will have implications for fields as varied as health, development, and international law.

Faculty Dialogue: Professor Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja



Q: What are the key milestones of your intellectual formation?

GN: The first and most important milestone in my intellectual development was my political awakening as a teenager in the Belgian Congo. In September 1958, I enrolled in a boarding secondary school run by American Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries. My knowledge of world affairs increased through the access the school provided us to radio broadcasts by the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) and Voice of America (VOA), as well as to major newspapers published in the Congo, including those of the nationalist political parties.

Moreover, we were so greatly inspired by Patrice Lumumba, the leading figure of the Congo independence struggle that we could not tolerate the disparaging and condescending manner in which our teachers spoke about our struggle for freedom. Following a student rebellion, I was expelled from the school in April 1960, two months before Congo's independence. As a consequence, I have to this day remained passionate in my support for people fighting for freedom all over the world. When I enrolled at Davidson College in September 1963 as a second black student invited to integrate this institution, my dream was to become a medical doctor. Given my political background, I could not ignore the civil rights marches taking place in Charlotte, NC against racial segregation. I joined the demonstrators and found a new interest in philosophy. My introduction to the writings of Frantz Fanon, Jean-Paul Sartre and Maurice Merleau-Ponty marked the second milestone in my intellectual development. The third and last milestone was my introduction to political economy through the writings of Karl Marx, Antonio Gramsci and Amilcar Cabral. As a doctoral student in political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I spent a lot of time studying these authors and reflecting on their relevance to understanding postcolonial Africa.

Faculty Dialogue: Professor Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja (*continued*)

Q: What are your teaching interests?

GN: Except for 11 years spent working in Africa and three in Norway, I have since January 1970 been teaching African studies and politics to American students. As a former president of the African Studies Association (ASA) of the United States, I subscribe to the Association's mission of correcting the misconceptions about Africa and presenting a more accurate picture of the continent's past and present, including both the good and the bad. In addition to teaching the introductory course on Africa, which I really love, I have taught courses on public policy and development, Africa in the global system, democratic governance, selected regional issues such as genocide in Rwanda and political fragility in the DRC, plus capstone courses on research methods and major African thinkers, like Frantz Fanon and Amilcar Cabral. I look forward to introducing a course on terrorism in Africa in 2017-2018.

Q: What are your current research interests?

GN: During the last two years, I have published two books: a pocket-size biography of Patrice Lumumba (2014) for undergraduates, and a 446-page book in French on the political history of the Congo (2015). I have just completed a prospectus for a nine-chapter book on the political economy of democratic governance in Africa, to be published in the Palgrave Macmillan series on the political economy of Africa under the editorship of Eunice Sahle. This proposed book is based on the information and insights that I have accumulated during 46 years of my professional career as an Africanist political scientist through teaching, research, public service in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 1992-93 and 1996, and seven years of international service with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The latter included postings to Abuja, Nigeria (2000-2002); Oslo, Norway (2002-2005); and New York (2005-2007).

The proposed book looks at the popular struggles for democracy in Africa since 1988, which ushered in a new wave of democratization during the 1990s throughout the continent, and following the Arab Spring of 2011 in North Africa. Like the independence movement of the 1950s and early 1960s, these struggles are aimed at the establishment of and consolidation of democratic governance. The book presents a critical assessment of strengths and weaknesses of this "second independence" movement in dealing with the challenges of democratic governance in Africa. Eight major challenges are examined, namely, (1) ending authoritarianism and consolidating democracy; (2) alternating rulers orderly and peacefully; (3) state building for effective governance; (4) nation building, citizenship, and the management of diversity; (5) conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction; (6) harnessing and managing natural resources for development; (7) decentralization and participatory governance; and (8) building a democratic developmental state.

Faculty Dialogue: Professor Kia Caldwell



Q: Your book, *Negras in Brazil: Re-envisioning Black Women, Citizenship, and the Politics of Identity*, is considered a foundational text in debates pertaining to Afro-Brazilian women. Can you tell us what led you to studying the intersections of race, gender, and citizenship in Brazil and Afro-Latin issues in general?

KC: I was a Spanish major as an undergraduate at Princeton University. During that time, there was far less discussion of Afro-Latin communities in college classes or academic research than there is now.

In fact, I had little knowledge of or exposure to Afro-Latin American populations as an undergraduate. During my sophomore year in college, I heard a presentation by an Afro-Brazilian activist and scholar from Rio de Janeiro named Joselina da Silva. Her comments about the discrimination faced by Afro-Brazilian women piqued my interest. Prior to that point, I did not realize that Brazil had a large African descendant population. That initial curiosity about Brazil and specifically about Afro-Brazilian women's experiences, led to me pursuing an M.A. in Latin American Studies and subsequently a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. As a graduate student, I began to do research on Afro-Brazilian women's identities and activism, which resulted in the publication of my first book *Negras in Brazil*. Joselina de Silva and I have since collaborated, which enabled me to complete the circle that led to my professional focus on Brazil. I was also able to bring her to UNC as a guest speaker. This was extremely gratifying.

Q: What are your teaching interests?

KC: I teach courses on African-descendant communities in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States. My course, "Blacks in Latin America," provides students with an overview of historical and contemporary issues facing Afro-Latin American communities, from slavery to land rights in Colombia and affirmative action in Brazil. I also teach a course called, "Race, Culture, and Politics in Brazil" that focuses on racial dynamics and the history of black activism in Brazil, from slavery to the present. My course, "Human Rights and Democracy in the African Diaspora" offers a unique opportunity for students to learn about the development of human rights norms and think critically about their relevance to African-descendant communities in the U.S. and other areas of the Americas.

Faculty Dialogue: Professor Kia Caldwell (continued)

KC: In addition to these courses, I also teach “Black Women in America” and “Introduction to African American and Diaspora Studies.”

Q: Health – in North Carolina and Brazil – is another major area of your research. What are your current research projects focusing on health issues?

KC: I have been interested in health, particularly black women’s health, for many years. In recent years, I have conducted research on black women’s health activism, HIV/AIDS, and maternal mortality in Brazil. My forthcoming book based on this research, *Health Equity in Brazil: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Policy*, will be published by the University of Illinois Press in 2017. This book traces the history of feminist health activism and health activism focused on the black population from the 1970s to the present. It also provides an intersectional perspective on health in Brazil and examines successes, as well as failures, with respect to health in the country. In many ways, Brazil has been both a regional and global leader in health, due to its successes in HIV treatment and universal healthcare. However, like much of Latin America, Brazil has not created policies that promote reproductive rights among women. Racial disparities in health have also gained increasing attention in recent years, largely due to activism by black women. While these issues have been important for many years, the recent ouster of Brazil’s first female president, Dilma Rousseff, has created a great deal of uncertainty about the future of existing health policies. In addition to my research on health policy in Brazil, I have also been involved with HIV-prevention research focused on black young adults and black women in North Carolina. I am the principal investigator for “The Sister Circle Study,” which examines HIV risk and HIV-prevention for middle socioeconomic status black women in the Raleigh-Durham area. This project was funded by a Developmental Award from the UNC-Chapel Hill Center for AIDS Research and the Cyber Mentor Program of the American Psychological Association.

Q: You served as the Director of Faculty Diversity Initiatives for the College of Arts and Sciences in 2015-2016. Can you tell us about your work in this role?

KC: I served as the Director of Faculty Diversity Initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences beginning in July 2015. In this role, I coordinated the Diversity Liaison Program, which my predecessor Professor Pat Parker began in 2012. We currently (as of July 2016) have 34 diversity liaisons throughout the College. They work within their respective departments or curricula to further diversity and inclusion among the faculty, as well as within the undergraduate and graduate student populations. In January 2016, Dean Kevin Guskiewicz formed a Dean’s Faculty Advisory Committee on Diversity, which I co-facilitated with him and on which I also served. During the spring and summer of 2016, the College sponsored a series of faculty workshops on diversity and inclusion called “Understanding Differences.” These workshops are part of the College’s commitment to providing ongoing professional development for faculty that will enhance their work on diversity and inclusion, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Faculty Dialogue: Professor Claude Clegg



Q: Welcome back to UNC-CH! Can you tell us about your intellectual formation?

CC: Thank you. It is very good to be back at UNC-Chapel Hill. My intellectual journey actually started here back in the 1980s when I was an undergraduate student. I majored in political science and Afro-American Studies (as AAAD was known at the time), which laid the foundation for my lifelong interest in African American history, social-justice causes, how citizens encounter and interact with the state, and how the African-American experience — indeed, the American experience—has been shaped and informed by larger global patterns over the past 500 or so years.

My doctorate in history was earned at the University of Michigan, and I worked at a couple of different universities prior to returning to Carolina last year. Still, my formative years as a student of history and as a professional historian were substantially shaped by the training, mentors, and opportunities that I had the privilege of experiencing during my undergraduate years here at UNC.

In terms of my specialization, I am a historian of African diaspora history, with a particular focus on the African American experience and the history of the modern Atlantic world. I have always been interested in social movements and political identities—that is, what roles people are prepared to assume and actions they are prepared to take to change the world around them. Consequently, much of my teaching and scholarship have engaged the topics of nationalism, migration, diasporic identities, and community mobilization.

I have written books in a number of genres, including biography, social history, local history, and so forth. The connecting theme between them, if there is one, revolves around the question of how people, especially oppressed people in difficult situations, express their agency and life aspirations as human beings in a fashion that seeks to improve their lives and those of others in similar circumstances.

Faculty Dialogue: Professor Claude Clegg (*continued*)

Q: What are your teaching interests?

CC: My teaching portfolio is largely a reflection of my research agenda, which, in turn, is influenced by my teaching interests. I have taught a range of courses in African American history over the past two decades or so, including courses on slavery, black southerners, the African diaspora, the abolitionist movement, and twentieth-century African American history. I have also taught courses on historical methods, the American Civil War, and U.S. history since 1865. Since joining the AAAD faculty here at Carolina, I have taught courses in black nationalism and intellectual history, and I look forward to teaching courses on African diaspora history and theory.

One thing that I have really enjoyed regarding my time as an instructor here at Carolina is the quality of the students enrolled in my courses. They tend to be serious scholars who make every effort to measure up to my expectations as an instructor, and they are excited about the subject matter. Their intellectual curiosity has been a breath of fresh air in so many ways, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to “pay it forward,” having at one time been a student here myself who benefited from a number of excellent classes taught by renowned instructors.

Q: You have published three very well received books: *Troubled Ground: A Tale of Murder, Lynching, and Reckoning in the New South*; *The Price of Liberty: African Americans and the Making of Liberia*; and *An Original Man: The Life and Times of Elijah Muhammad*. Can you tell us briefly what led to working on the themes of each of them?

CC: My first book, *An Original Man*, was actually a greatly expanded and refined version of my Ph.D. dissertation. However, my initial interest in the subject matter was sparked by my reading of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* during one of the summers when I was an undergraduate student here at Carolina. I was deeply impressed by Malcolm’s insights concerning American race relations, along with his personal journey marked by assumptions of new identities and shifting philosophical leanings. To more fully understand Malcolm X meant getting to know his most impactful mentor, Elijah Muhammad, whom I learned had not been the subject of a serious biography. Thus, this project became the focus of my graduate thesis work and my first book.

The Price of Liberty is, in some ways, a precursor to the Muhammad biography and twentieth-century social movements, such as the Nation of Islam. The book principally focuses on the thousands of African Americans who migrated from the U.S. to the colony-turned-nation of Liberia on the West African coast during the nineteenth-century. Again, the allure of this topic had to do with both the question of human agency—that is, to what ends were people prepared to go to get out of a bad situation—and the kinds of identities that were spawned by such dramatic choices—in this case, a fascinating diaspora consciousness that connected migrants to real and imagined lives on two different continents.

Faculty Dialogue: Professor Claude Clegg (*continued*)

CC: Liberia, as an African country, has a very unique history insofar as it is so inextricably linked with the American past, or at least the 15,000 or so black Americans who migrated there during the 1800s to find freedoms and opportunities that they could not secure in the U.S., the land of their nativity. There is still a lot to be written and to know about the transatlantic connections and wanderings that punctuate the history of blacks in this country and throughout the Americas. This book was meant to be a small piece of that larger mosaic.

My most recent book, *Troubled Ground*, was a very different kind of book for me, given that it examines a horrific sequence of events that took place in my hometown of Salisbury, North Carolina, over a century ago. The book focuses on a culture of lynching that was enmeshed in the town's history, but it also looks at the broader patterns of inequitable economic access, unequal criminal justice, and political disfranchisement and demagoguery that birthed and maintained white supremacy during the Jim Crow era.

Q: What is your current book project focused on?

CC: My current book project is a study of the Obama presidency as imagined, interpreted, and experienced by African Americans. This work will examine both the durability and malleability of Barack Obama's meaning among his most staunch constituency of supporters, tracing the political and cultural trajectories of the 2008 and 2012 campaigns as well as the evolution of the notion of "Black America" during his tenure in office. Planned chapters will focus on topics such as Obama's employment of black political (and often southern- inflected) vernacular and symbolism, the peopling of his administration, the implications of his policy agenda for various strata of African Americans, and the Obama family's conscious modeling of a twenty-first-century black familial aesthetic. Of course, the challenge of writing such a book, at least for me as a historian, is that we do not yet know what the historical legacies or takeaways will be for the Obama presidency. Thus, researching and conceptualizing the book is a bit like groping in the dark and hoping that you are collecting the sources and thinking about the topic in a way that will stand the test of time, even if you are telling a contemporary story that is too recent to benefit much from historical hindsight.

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