



MEMORY AND PERFORMANCE IN AFRICAN-ATLANTIC FUTURES

University of Leeds

31 Aug - 2 Sept 2018

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

<https://www.africanatlantic.net> - afroatlanticfutures@gmail.com

WELCOME!

We are excited to welcome you to this timely and important conversation between researchers, curators, artists and activists working in the African diaspora. We will be considering the ways in which contemporary performance practices in the African diaspora at large are generating and reflecting new ideas about social, political and artistic futures for Black communities. We look forward to welcoming you to the start of what promises to be a vibrant transnational dialogue.

All events, except for Conference Dinner, take place at Leeds University Business School (Maurice Keyworth Building).



FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST

8.30 - 9.30am Registration

9.30 - 10.00am **Introduction: Jason Allen-Paisant and Max Silverman**

10.00 - 11.30am **Panel 1: Ritual/ Oral Performance and Memory** (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.32)

Emily Zobel Marshall (Leeds Beckett University) *I Stole the Torturer's Tongue: Caribbean Carnival Speaks Back to the Canon*

Diane Roberts (Concordia University) *The Arrivals Legacy Project: Navigating loss. Reviving stories of recovery and return*

Mayfly Mutyambizi (Independent researcher/ artist) *Mutakura: Catharsis through the intersection of the palette, critical reflection and memory?*

Panel 2: Underground: Two Inquiries into Black Social Life (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.33)

Joshua Bennett (Dartmouth College) *We Who Can Die Tomorrow: Black Optimism & the Poetics of Precarious Life*

Jarvis Givens (Harvard University) *Fugitive Learning: A Performative History of African American Pedagogy During Jim Crow*

11.30 - 12.00pm Refreshment break

12:00 - 1.00pm **Keynote 1: Lubaina Himid** (University of Central Lancashire), **Le Rodeur and the lost love stories: Acting as if it was already true**

Chair: Griselda Pollock / Room: G. 02 Lecture Theatre

1.00 - 2.00pm Lunch

2:00 - 3.30pm **Panel 3: Tempo and Temporalities. Musical legacies, archives and futures** (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.32)

Amber Hendricks (American University in Dubai) *Rainbows, Moonbeams, and Orange Snow--Stevie Wonder's Space/ Time Continuum*

Carmen Andall Woodroffe (University of Leeds) *Rhythm, Relationships and Rebellion: The role of ritual music on the lives of the enslaved African diaspora in Saint Domingue and Cuba from the 17th to 18th century*

Njelle Hamilton (University of Virginia) *"Remembrance from the Future": Technologizing Time and Memory in Marcia Douglas's The Marvellous Equations of the Dread*

Panel 4: Memory-making in Public Space, Archives and Museums (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.33)

Mischa Twitchin (Goldsmiths) *"In the name of your image..." (Senghor)*

Camille Turner (Artist & PhD researcher, York University) *The Afronautic Research Lab: Artist as Activist*

Shona Thompson (Lancaster University) *Acting Out, Working Through: The Politics of Empathy in Historical Reenactment*

3.30 - 4:00pm Refreshment Break

4:00 - 5.00pm **Keynote 2: Prof. Tavia Nyong'o** (Yale University), **Decrypting Blackness**

Chair: Jason Allen-Paisant / Room: G. 02 Lecture Theatre

5:30pm **Wine reception: Reading by novelist, poet and essayist Kei Miller followed by a conversation with Professor John McLeod.**
LUBS Foyer

SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER

8.30 - 9.30am Registration

9.30 - 11.00am **Panel 1: African feminisms and its diasporas** (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.32)

Amber Lascelles (University of Leeds)
Afropolitan futures in Chimamanda Adichie's Americanah

Florence Kabba (LaGuardia Community College, New York) *Negotiating Home, Reconstructing Memory: Black British Diasporic Readings of Sefi Atta's A Bit of Difference*

Marciana Nafula Were (Stellenbosch University)
Polar Subjects, Perilous Stories: Intricacies of Narrating Authentic Warriorhood in Madikizela-Mandela and Ramphela's Testimonials

Panel 2: New shapes of memory? (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.33)

Eri Kobayashi (Seikei University) *A Multidirectional Reading of the Works of Caryl Phillips and Shusaku Endo*

Madeleine Scherer (University of Warwick) *"When would I enter that light beyond metaphor?": The Classics and Competitive Memory Cultures in the Caribbean*

Naomi Oppenheim (University College London) *'Know Your History': history features in the popular Caribbean press in 1960s and 1970s Britain*

11.00 - 11.30am Refreshment break

11.30 - 1.00pm **Film screening: *We Carry it Within Us*** (Director: Helle Stenum)
Room: G. 02 Lecture Theatre

1.00 - 2.00pm Lunch

2:00 - 3.00pm **Keynote 1: Dr. Louise Bernard** (The Obama Foundation), ***On Freedom: Thrival Geographies and Black Compositional Thought***
Chair: John McLeod / Room: G. 02 Lecture Theatre

3:00 - 4.30pm **Panel 3: (Re)mediating memory through dance** (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.32)

Mariel Rodney (SUNY-Purchase College) *"Know Whut to Do Wid' a Cake": Cakewalk Performance & The Politics of Refusal in Hurston's Color Struck*

Ananya Jahanara Kabir (King's College London) *Retour-Aller: Myth, Movement, and Memory in the circum-Creole Atlantic*

Nicolas Salazar Sutil (University of Leeds) *Dancing Crisis Away: A Study of Ballet de Réfugiés de Maro (Chad).*

Panel 4: Challenging epistemologies: new 'problem-spaces' of memory (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.33)

Raphael Hoermann (University of Central Lancashire) *"Silencing the Past? The Haitian Turn in Transatlantic Studies and its Politics of Appropriation*

David Murphy (University of Stirling) *Performing the African Renaissance at the First World Festival of Negro Arts, Dakar 1966*

Andrew Stafford (University of Leeds) *Negritude on Trial? The Case of Auguste Macouba's 1968 Play Eia! Man-maille là!*

4.30 - 5:00pm Refreshment Break

5:00 - 6.00pm **Keynote 2: Prof. Adam Sitze** (Amherst College), ***A Question of Both, And: Derrick Bell's Afrolantica Legacies at 20***
Chair: Andy Stafford / Room: G. 02 Lecture Theatre

6:30pm onwards **Conference Dinner**

SUNDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

9.00 - 10.00am Registration

10:00 - 11.30pm **Panel 1: Queer performance and embodied memory** (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.32)

Rommi Smith (University of Leeds) *The Map Where We Meet and Other Queer-Quare Stories: writers as cartographers on the crossroads of change*

Christina Knight (Haverford College) *Remember Me: Pleasure, Parody and Loss in Isaac Julien's The Attendant*

Panel 2: Blackness, justice and temporalities of violence (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.33)

Honor Ford-Smith (York University) *Against violence: Mobilizing memory in the "Letters from the Dead" performance cycle*

Vanessa-Eileen Thompson (Goethe Universität) *Conundrums of Recognition and Horizons of Decolonial Justice*

11.30 - 12:00pm Refreshment Break

12:00 - 1.00pm **Final Keynote: Dr. Chokri Ben Chika** (Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Ghent, Belgium), **The 'human zoo' as (re)searchtool: artistic strategies in the Truth Commission**
Chair: Jason Allen-Paisant / Room: G. 02 Lecture Theatre

1.00 - 2.00pm Lunch

2:00 - 3.30pm **Panel 3: Memory, performance and the everyday** (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.32)

Michelle May-Curry (University of Michigan) *"My Pliant Dido:" Revisiting the Cultural Memory of Dido Elizabeth Belle in the Critical Mixed-Race Moment*

Jonas Prinzleve (Goldsmiths) *Decolonising Post-Genocidal Heritage Management in German Cities*

Panel 4: Counter-discourse and memory (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.33)

Eleanor Byrne (Manchester Metropolitan University) *Wake Work: Thinking about John Akomfrah's Vertigo Sea*

Kat Addis (New York University) *Epic space and distance in John Hawkins' enslaving narratives (1562-69) and Derek Walcott's Omeros (1990)*

Daniel Meyerend (University of Michigan) *The Right Shade of Humor: Mixed-Race Black Male Comedians and the Obama Phenomenon*

3.30 - 4:00pm Refreshment Break

4:00 - 5.30pm **Panel 5: Time, sound, vision, performance** (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.32)

Mark Harris (Goldsmiths) *Rebellious Type: lived temporalities of historical memory and the visual acoustics of Kamau Brathwaite's typographic derangements*

Dorottya K. Mozes (University of Debrecen) *Aquifers of Memory, Afrosonic Styling and Silence in Teju Cole's Open City*

Matt Martin (Birkbeck, University of London) *'The way in which we learn to sing': Stuart Hall's 'West Indians in Britain' 50 years later*

Panel 6: Black Women's Redress and Remembering in the African Diaspora (LUBS Exec. Seminar Room 1.33)

Grace L. Sanders Johnson (University of Pennsylvania) *Requiem for Extrea: Black Death and Archival Redress in Occupied Haiti*

Moya Bailey (Northeastern University) *A Radical Reckoning: Black women's racial revenge in Black Mirror's 'Black Museum'*

Takkara Brunson (California State University) *Afro-Diasporic Women, Transgenerational Memory, and Digital Media*

5.30 - 6:00pm Closing Remarks



THANK YOU!

Leeds Humanities Research Institute (LHRI)

Leeds University Centre for African Studies (LUCAS)

Leeds Institute for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies (ICPS)

School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, University of Leeds

The Leverhulme Trust

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