

From Abolition to Black Lives Matter: Past and Present Forms of Transnational Black Resistance

A Conference at
Johannes Gutenberg University
Mainz, Germany
October 26-28, 2017

Keynotes by
Dorothy Randall Tsuruta,
Charmaine Nelson,
and Vincent Carretta

Organized by
Frank Obenland, Nele Sawallisch,
Johanna Seibert, and Pia Wiegink

Obama Institute for
Transnational American Studies



Conference Program

Thursday, October 26, 2017

12.00-14.00 **Registration**

14.00 **Conference Opening**

Opening Remarks: Frank Obenland, Nele Sawallisch, Johanna Seibert, and Pia Wiegink (conference organizers)

Welcome Remarks: Rainer Emig (Vice Dean, Faculty 05 Philosophy and Philology)
Alfred Hornung (Speaker, Obama Institute, JGU Mainz)
Anton Escher (Speaker, Center for Intercultural Studies, JGU Mainz)

14.30 **Keynote** Dorothy Randall Tsuruta (San Francisco State University, USA)
18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st Century Forms of Black Activism: From Swamp to #Hashtag
(Introduction: Axel Schäfer, JGU Mainz)

15.30-16.00 **Coffee Break**

16.00-18.00 **Panel 1: Histories of Resistance**

Chair and Response: Damien Schlarb (JGU Mainz)

Ousmane Power-Greene (Clarke U, USA): *King Cotton's Ghost: Slavery, Memory and the Global Imagination*

Hannah Murray (U of Nottingham, UK): *"It is Time to Tell the Black People's Side of the Story": African American Resistance Against British Racism from the Nineteenth Century to #BlackLivesMatter*

Sandrine Ferré-Rode (U de Versailles, France): *To Capture the Voice of a Fugitive: Reflections on the French Translation of Henry Bibb's Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Henry Bibb, An American Slave (1849)*

18.00 **Reception**

Friday, October 27, 2017

9.30 **Keynote** Charmaine Nelson (Harvard U, USA)
"he...had meditated an attempt to get on board a ship...bound to Newfoundland": The Limits of the Term Refugee for Enslaved Africans in Canadian Fugitive Slave Advertisements

(Introduction: Johanna Seibert, JGU Mainz)

10.30-10.45 **Coffee Break**

10.45-12.45 **Panel 2: Theorizing Black Resistance**

Chair and Response: Rebecca Brückmann (U of Cologne)

Marlon Lieber (U of Kiel): *Theorizing the Return of the Riot*

Bryan Banker (LMU Munich): *In Search of Black Transnational Radicals: Black Hegelian Intellectual Artists*

Edward Robinson, Jr. (California State U Fullerton, USA): *Expanding the Power of the Black Lives Matters Movement beyond American Borders*

12.45-14.15 **Lunch Break** (self-organized)

- 14.15-16.15 **Panel 3: Black Resistance and Visual Art**
 Chair and Response: Melanie Hanslik (JGU Mainz)
 Luvena Kopp (U of Tübingen): *Through the Lens of Spike Lee: The Case of Eric Garner and the Rise of the Penal State*
 Hannah Jeffery (U of Nottingham, UK): *Walls of Protest, Walls of Pride: America's Mural Protest from Black Power to #BlackLivesMatter*
 Veronica Jackson (California College of the Arts, USA): *Restructuring Respectability, Gender, and Power: Aida Overton Walker Performs Modernity*
- 16.15-16.30 **Coffee Break**
- 16.30-18.00 **Panel 4: Theatrical Resistance**
 Chair and Response: Pia Wiegink (JGU Mainz)
 Frank Obenland (JGU Mainz): *Performance, Resistance, and Revolution: African American Plays on the Haitian Revolution*
 Yasser Shams Khan (U of Oxford, UK): *Radical Sympathy: Sentimental Drama and Racial Representation*
 Obenewaa Oduro-Opuni (Arizona State U, USA): *"Noch ein Wort von den Negern überhaupt" – Abolitionist Sentiments in German Territories*
- 19.30 **Conference Dinner** Proviant-Magazin, Schillerstr. 11A, 55116 Mainz (self-pay)

Saturday, October 28, 2017

- 9.30 **Keynote** Vincent Carretta (University of Maryland, USA)
Strangers in Strange Lands: Letter Writers in the Early Black Atlantic
 (Introduction: Nele Sawallisch, JGU Mainz)
- 10.30-10.45 **Coffee Break**
- 10.45-13.15 **Panel 5: Gender and Resistance**
 Chair and Response: Sonja Georgi (JGU Mainz)
 Elena Kiesling (U of Mannheim): *The Queerness of Black Resistance*
 Rahab Njeri (Trier U): *Black Women's Activism in Canada*
 Kerstin Kloster (JGU Mainz): *Continuity of Oral Transmission as Female Resistance in Haitian Francophone Literature*
 Lea Hülsen (U of Gießen): *(Re)Inventing What It Means to Be Human/Black: A Comparative Reading of Beryl Gilroy, Claudia Jones and Sylvia Wynter*
- 13.15-14.15 **Lunch Break** (Catering)
- 14.15-15.30 **Panel 6: Resistance in Africa and the African Diaspora**, and final words
 Chair and Response: Frank Obenland (JGU Mainz)
 Ama Oforiwaa Aduonum (U of Illinois, USA): *Black Lives Matter: When Fante Asafo Sings Against Brutality and Erasure*
 Heike Raphael-Hernandez (U of Würzburg) and Cheryl Finley (Cornell U, USA): *Visualizing Protest: African Diasporic Art and Contemporary Mediterranean Crossings*
- 15.30-17.00 **Coffee Break**
End of Conference

Conference Venue

Fakultätssaal (01-185, Philosophicum)
Jakob-Welder-Weg 18
55128 Mainz



In case of urgent questions/notifications, please call
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The organizers would like to thank the following organizations and institutes for their support:

