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

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

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

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 Wiegmink (conference organizers)

*Welcome Remarks:* Rainer Emig (Vice Dean, Faculty 05 Philosophy and Philology, JGU Mainz)
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*

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)
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 Wiegmink (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
+49-176-78770113 (Pia Wiegmink) or
+49-151-15296727 (Johanna Seibert)

The organizers would like to thank the following organizations and institutes for their support:

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