

Announcements:

October 2008 – August 2009

October 9-10, 2008

“Brand Aid”, a workshop will be held at the "Africa on the Move" conference October 9-10, 2008 at the University of Copenhagen via the Institute of Anthropology, Centre for Health and Community (http://www.nai.uu.se/events/conferences/nad_2008/).

“Brand Aid” is about using branded products, commerce, and corporate social responsibility to aid Africa. At the same time, “Brand Aid” refers to the branded ways that international development interventions and aid initiatives are being implemented in Africa, as aid is run increasingly according to the rules of business. As shopping is combined with helping, relations of international aid to Africa are being reconfigured. Cause-related marketing of various products intended to “help Africa” is an increasingly popular way to raise money for international development—buy a RED T-shirt and save women with AIDS. This corporatizes aid relations and legitimizes these limited interventions as a way of marrying ethical consumption with solving African problems. The pivotal role of the consumer distinguishes “Brand Aid” from previous modalities of development assistance. Simultaneously, patients, citizens, clients and beneficiaries become ‘customers’ of international aid. Presentations are invited that deal with any of the aspects of the interlinked meanings of “brand aid:” in which brands are used to generate money for international development assistance and in which international aid interventions are branded through the corporatization of aid. Workshop will feature presentations from Lisa Ann Richey, Stefano Ponte, Danai Mupotsa, and Cissy Kityo. For more information, contact: +45 46742005 direct +45 46742627 or email richey@ruc.dk Lisa Ann Richey, Ph.D.

October 17-18, 2008

“Vision, Praxis, and Legacy: Cheikh Anta Diop, Molefi Kete Asante and the Afrocentric Project”. October 17-18, 2008, The Historic Holiday Inn (Philadelphia, PA). Sponsored by NKH, A Scientific Institute.

Cheikh Anta Diop stated that his work was not only directed toward scientifically re-establishing the place of Ancient Egypt in the orbit of African history and culture, but also toward recovering its rich and varied legacy and using it to advance the horizons of knowledge and history in the interest of African people, humanity and the world. Moreover, he argued for a “return to Egypt in all domains”, i.e., the critical engagement with it as a fundamental source of paradigms of excellence, achievement and possibilities in the various disciplines of human knowledge. Indeed, he contends that such a return for critical retrieval and creative reconstruction “is a necessary condition to reconcile African civilizations with human history; to build a modern body of human sciences, and to renew African culture”.

Taking up this multifaceted challenge, Molefi Asante advanced the theory and methodology of Afrocentricity as the fundamental way to address the projects posed by Diop and the critical issues of our times. To practically engage and expand Diop’s initiative and the Afrocentric project, Asante and several colleagues founded the Cheikh Anta Diop Conference in 1988. This year’s meeting marks the 20th anniversary of the Conference and its annual gathering together Afrocentric scholars from around the world to advance the field of Africana Studies, strengthen and expand our scholarly community, and address the critical issues confronting African people, humanity and the world.

The conference theme allows for papers and panels on varied aspects of African life, culture, history, thought and practice within an Afrocentric framework. Submissions are encouraged that address intellectual and social problematics, and historical and current issues. Preference will be given to session proposals and papers that address the Conference theme of addressing the work of Diop and Asante, although submissions of panel proposals and papers which address other topics will be considered also.

Suggested topics:

- A Thorough Examination of Cheikh Anta Diop's Work and His Contribution to Africana Studies Scholarship
- A Thorough Examination of Molefi Kete Asante's Work and His Contribution to Africana Studies Scholarship
- Codifying Afrocentric exemplars (Asante, Karenga, Hurston, Hudson-Weems, Diop, Keto, Obenga, et al.)

- Paradigms of African hero dynamics
- Discoveries and observations of Mdw Ntr
- Revisiting Diop's Theory of Matriarchy: A Womanist Re-reading
- Diop and the Clarification of Human History
- o Diop and the Concept of Return to Egypt
- o Diop and the Concept of an Uncompromising Anthropology/Archaeology
- o Diop and the Dialog with Egyptology
- Asante and Afrocentric Methodology in the Academy
- Revisiting manifestos of change
- Maat and the Kemetic Concepts of Governance and Justice
- Kawaida and the Development of the Maatian Intellectual and Ethical Initiative
- Kawaida, Afrocentricity and the Diopian Project
- Afrocentric Philosophical and Literary Initiatives: Creative and Interpretive
- Ancient Nile Valley Culture's Discourse on Women
- o Women of Power in Ancient Egypt: Queens, Queen Mothers and Divine Wives
- o Womanist Foundations in Ancient Egypt
- Asante, Identity and Concepts of Location and Dislocation
- Afrocentric Concepts of Cultural and Social Liberation
- o Afrocentric Engagement of Critical Social Issues: Theory and Practice
- o Personhood and Community in Afrocentric Theory
- The Afrocentric University
- Theory, Pedagogy, and Tactics for Afrocentric teachers

Outstanding books, articles, and other initiatives in Afrocentric research are recognized each year at the Saturday Awards Luncheon. This 2008 conference will feature a special issue of Africological Perspectives reflecting on accomplishments of the Afrocentric intellectual movement. This conference will also feature a special Thursday evening program (October 16, 2008) for Temple University's and other graduate students in the discipline.

Paper Abstract: 100 words or less, with your name, affiliation, academic title, email address, paper title, thesis and methodology. Please indicate if you need an LCD projector. Please bring your own laptop. Abstracts are due August 17, 2008. Send via email attachment in Word format to:

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November 11-13 2008

Teaching and Propagating African History and Culture to the Diaspora and Teaching Diaspora History and Culture to Africa, November 11-13 2008, state university of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Africa has a very rich, vibrant and resilient culture. However, there is very little that is known by Africans at home and those overseas about themselves and the resultant linkages. The Atlantic slave trade marked the beginning of the dispersal of people of African descent to the new world. This has continued to have a debilitating effect on Africa and the African Diaspora's development. African history has for years been distorted in the same manner that her peoples had been dehumanized. The spread of African culture has brought about economic and cultural development of people outside Africa, unfortunately at Africa 's expense.

The attendant severance of every possible means of contacts impaired the depth of knowledge and exchange on the two divides – Africans on the continent and Africans in the Diaspora. The palpable lack of knowledge of the inherent potentialities for socio-economic ends has impeded the rise of Africa and Africans in the world's socio-economic and political spaces. While the Diaspora does not have the full grasp of the diverse potentials in Africa embedded in the richness of its history, culture and religion; Africans on the continent also appear not to be giving due consideration to the many derivable benefits from exploring the potentials of its external contents.

It is the realization of the foregoing and the need to transcend these challenges that has made the organization of a colloquium to examine these issues very imperative. Thus, Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) in conjunction with Pan African Strategic and Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG), Institute for Afro-Brazilian Studies (IPEAFRO), Brazil and the State University of Rio de Janeiro is organising a colloquium to facilitate closer cultural links between continental and Diaspora Africa.

The Keynote Speaker for the colloquium is Prof Abdias Do Nascimento:

Sub Themes:

- Teaching African and Diaspora History: Theoretical and Methodological Issues
- Historicizing Africa and the Diaspora
- Indigenous Knowledge System: Politics, Economics, Health and Legal systems
- Global African Identity
- Sports, Visual and Performing Arts
- Liberation Ideologies in Africa and in the Diaspora
- Slavery: Past and Present
- African Spirituality and Values
- Religion and Morality
- Popular Culture: Music, Dance and Folklores
- Contemporary Development, Co-operation and Linkages
- Gender and Race Relation
- Media: Language and Communication
- Social Capital and Development
- Globalization, African History and Culture

Workshop Themes:

- The Politics of Teaching and Propagating African and Diaspora History and Culture
- African Values, Ethics and Development
- Curriculum Development and Implementation
- Spirituality, Religion and Africa - Diaspora Relations
- Challenges and Prospects of Africa – Diaspora Relationships

December 7-11, 2008

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) is pleased to announce its 12th General Assembly, scheduled to be held in Yaoundé, Cameroon from the 7th to the 11th of December in 2008. The umbrella theme of the assembly is “Governing the African Public Sphere”.

For detailed information, consult: CODESRIA, (Secretariat of the 12th General Assembly), Avenue Cheikh Anta Diop X Canal IV, P.O. Box 3304, CP 18524, Dakar, Senegal. Tel.: +221 33 825 9822/23. Fax: +221 33 824 1289. E-mail: General.Assembly@codesria.sn. Website: www.codesria.org

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) general assembly is the largest triennial gathering of scholars drawn from the social sciences and humanities to attract the participation of social researchers from the Diaspora. Thus, all bona fide members review the functioning of the institution in the period since the preceding Assembly and therefore decide the intellectual and institutional development agenda that would be pursued for the following three years.

Within the overall ambit of the scientific theme of the General Assembly, papers and panel proposals are invited on the following sub-themes and any other issues which may not be touched upon in this announcement:

1. Theories of the Public Realm/Theorising the Public Sphere
2. The Public Sphere in Democratic and Development Theories
3. The Making and Remaking of the Public Sphere in Africa: History, Geography and Demographics
4. Institutions of the African Public Sphere
5. Law, Politics and Ethics in the African Public Realm
6. The Media in the Public Sphere
7. Governing the Public Realm for State and Nation-Building;
8. The Public Sphere as a Site for Negotiating Citizenship
9. Behind the Public Sphere: Who Really Governs Africa?
10. ICTs and the Emergence of Virtual Publics in the African World
11. The Economics of the Public Realm in Africa
12. Between “Modernity” and “Tradition” in the African Public Sphere
13. Power, Status and Authority in the African Public Sphere
14. Resistance and Transformation in the African Public Sphere
15. Struggles and Successes for Engendering the African Public Sphere
16. Struggles for the Democratization of the African Public Realm

17. The Public Realm and Public Policy in Africa
18. Public-Private Interfaces in the Public Sphere
19. Inter-Generational Issues in the African Public Realm
20. The Popular Arts and Culture in the texture of the Public Sphere in Africa
21. Orature, Literature, Performance and the Public Sphere
22. The Languages and Linguistics of the Public Sphere
23. Religion and Religiosity in the African Public Realm
24. The Sacred, the Sacrilegious and the Public Sphere
25. The Making of African Counter-Publics
26. The African Public Realm in Comparative Perspective

April 3-4, 2009

Inspired by the 2008 presidential race, the theme of the 19th annual Conference on African American Culture and Experience (CACE) focuses on the impact policies and/or political figures have had on African Americans and their communities. The annual Conference on African American Culture and Experience (CACE) examines critical and timely African American-related issues and perspectives to engage students, faculty, staff, and members of the community in the exploration and discussion of these topics and ideas.

Call for Papers:

Race, Gender, and Politics: Past, Present, and Future

April 3-4, 2009

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Hosted by UNCG's African American Studies Program

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

Politics and health

Economics and politics

Future of black politics

Political autobiographies

Rhetoric and politics

Political images and their impact

Politics and the media

Politics and education

Religion and politics

Leadership and black communities

Black Republicans

Historic Black political leaders
Politics and film
Politics and music
Politics and race
Politics and gender

Send a paper abstract (200-300 words), brief biography (3-5 lines), and contact information in Word 1997-2003 to afs@uncg.edu. Panel proposals are strongly encouraged. Deadline for submission: November 10, 2008.
Registration fee is \$35.00.

CACE was initiated in 1990 by the UNCG Department of Religious Studies. The conference seeks to promote a better understanding of the various facets of African American culture and experience. To that end, each conference has sought to examine critical and timely African American related issues and perspectives, and to engage both community members and scholars in the discussion of those issues.

April 30-2, May 2009

The Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution (www.csus.edu/org/capcr) and the Pan African Studies Program at California State University, Sacramento will host the 18th Annual African/Diaspora Conference, themed “Religion, Race & Ethnic Relations in Africa/Diaspora: Creating Peace & Justice Dialogues” at California State University, Sacramento, California, April 30 – May 2, 2009.

The conference will examine the state of religion, race, and ethnicity in Africa and her Diaspora, with a focus on advancing positive models or lessons for peace and justice dialogues—within and amongst groups/institutions, and agencies. Together, we will analyze the prospects for bridging related gaps among Africans in Africa and the Diaspora, and identify best practices and models of dialogues for strengthening the capacity for sustainable culture of peace and justice.

We strongly encourage submission of paper proposals that are based on case studies and best practices on domestic and international themes or issues on (mis)beliefs, (mis)conceptualization and responses to religion, race, and ethnicity; and their impact on social relations, national development and reconciliation; what are the roles of politics, democracy, and law herein? Are there successful programs or best practices for creating dialogues, or non violence/post war responses, along the lines of religion, race/ethnicity?

Please include the following in your proposal: name, current position and institutional affiliation, paper title, abstract (75 words maximum), your mailing address, email, phone and fax number.

You will be notified of acceptance by email, plus any publication guidelines. Selected papers will be considered for publication and inclusion in the conference proceedings. We prefer presentations in English; but can accommodate French speakers. Participants are responsible for the conference registration fee of U.S. \$50, plus their travel costs (there is a fee waiver available for students). Please email/fax/mail your proposal to: Ernest Uwazie, Director, Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution at California State University, Sacramento (6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6085, USA) Telephone: (916) 278 -6282; Fax (916) 278 -3429; email: uwaziee@csus.edu. The deadline for submission of proposals is November 29, 2008.



August 2-5, 2009

The fifth biennial conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) will be held August 2-5, 2009, in Accra, Ghana. The conference is co-sponsored by Rutgers University and the W.E.B. Du Bois Center in Accra, with the support of the Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations in Ghana. Thus, the deadline for the call for papers is December 15, 2008.

In commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the first Pan African Congress (1919) and in celebration of Ghana's central role in nurturing Pan-African struggles for freedom and justice since 1957, the theme of the conference is "Africa, Diaspora, and Pan-African Agendas."

The conference will be research driven; featuring panels organized that effectively stimulate discourse across geographic, disciplinary, cultural, and theoretical boundaries. Emphasis will also be given to the practice and performance of culture, identity, and politics. Participants are encouraged to propose roundtable discussions and participatory workshops that look at Diaspora centered encounters in all activities from educational policies to cooking practices. All geographic areas will be represented, including Africa, the Americas, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia (papers and panel proposals that incorporate women, gender, and sexuality as categories of analysis are encouraged).

Please send a two-page abstract (for either a single presentation or a panel/roundtable/workshop) and a one-page CV (or a set of one-page CV's). Roundtable and workshop presentations should be designed to be no more than ten minutes in length, with the balance of the time given to collective in-depth discussion of the issues, or participatory activity. The deadline for receiving the abstracts is December 15, 2008. Abstracts can be sent prior to submitting the registration fee, and should be directed electronically via e-mail attachment to: Ghana-09@rutgers.edu. Other queries can be addressed to: Abena Busia, Director, Professor of Literature, Rutgers University, c/o W.E.B. Du Bois Center, P.O. Box CT 975, Cantonments, Accra, Ghana; email: aswad@webdubois-gh.org. The ASWAD web site is available at www.aswadiaspora.org.

Conference delegates are also encouraged to attend the *Reverential Night* festivities at Cape Coast Castle on Friday *July 31, 2009* marking the final night of PANAFEST, a cultural event dedicated to enhancement of the ideals of Pan Africanism and the development of the African continent.