

Amos Wilson Conference Description

Amos Wilson was a scholar/activist who heeded the call of Bolekaja, which means to come on down and fight. Wilson was born and spent his formative years in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Eventually, he earned degrees from Morehouse College and Fordham University. Amos Wilson worked as a social caseworker, supervising probation officer, psychological counselor, and as a training administrator in the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice. As an academic, Wilson taught at the City University of New York from 1981 to 1986 and at the College of New Rochelle from 1987 to 1995. Amos Wilson wrote several books including: *The Developmental Psychology of the Black Child*, *Awakening the Natural Genius of Black Children*, *Understanding Black Adolescent Make Violence: Its Remediation and Prevention*, *The Falsification of Afrikan Consciousness: Eurocentric History, Psychiatry and the Politics of White Supremacy*, *Black-on-Black Violence: The Psychodynamic of Black Self-Annihilation in Service of White Domination* and *Blueprint for Black Power: A Moral, Political and Economic Imperative for the Twenty-First Century*. His travels took him throughout the United States, to Canada and the Caribbean. Dr. Wilson's activities transcended academia into the field of business, owning and operating various enterprises in the greater New York area.

This conference honors Amos Wilson and pours intellectual libations to the tradition that he bequeathed to Africans throughout the diaspora. He centered his focus on psychological, historical and social analysis that sought to not only interpret and understand Africana realities under Western oppression, but to ultimately change them. The evolution of his work and the ideas and agendas expressed in them represent the type of Africana Social Theory that tells us where we need to go and explains what to expect once we achieve our goal. In following the flow of the theoretical and pragmatic currents of Wilson's radical intellectual tradition, this conference seeks to explore how African-centered psychologists can continue to expand and extend the legacy of the Wilsonian tradition of socially and politically focused intellectual discourse that engages and encourages culturally based direct political action. The conference is dedicated to the legacy of Amos Wilson and his influence and impact on the contemporary Africana world. Thus, in the spirit of Amos Wilson, it attempts to challenge African-centered psychologists to continue the task of offering models of psychological functioning that demonstrate how the acquiring of cultural consciousness translates into practical solutions that impact the social, economic and political conditions confronting people of African descent.