



**"The Post-Obama Ethos: The Transnational U.S. in the Aftermath of Hope"**  
**International Interdisciplinary Symposium**  
**Symposium Sponsors: Obama Institute & Georgia State University**  
**Host Institution: Georgia State University**  
**March 22 – 23, 2018**



## PROGRAM

Thursday, March 22, 2018 – Troy Moore Library

### **9:00 Coffee and Continental Breakfast**

### **9:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Prof. Elizabeth J. West, GSU Department of English  
Prof. Lynée Gaillet, GSU English Department Chair  
Dean Sara Rosen, GSU College of Arts and Sciences  
Prof. Alfred Hornung, Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies

### **10:00 – 11:15 Keynote Address - Rukia Lumumba, J.D.**

Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Prof. Akinyele Umoja, GSU AAS Chair

Rukia Lumumba, J.D. is a community organizer, legal professional, and daughter of the late Mayor Chokwe Lumumba and Nubia Lumumba. She is Campaign Manager of the successful Committee to Elect Chokwe Antar Lumumba for Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi and founder of the People's Advocacy Institute.

### **11:30 - 12:30 Panel 1: Academic Logistics in the Post Obama Era**

Chair: Dr. Nina Morgan

Antonio Tillis, M. D., Anderson Professor in Hispanic Studies & Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, University of Houston

"Immigration, Internationalism and Academic Administration Post-Obama"

Oliver Scheiding, Dept. Chair, American Studies, Johannes Gutenberg University

"A Perspective from Europe"

Qiana Johnson, Collection & Organizational Data Analysis Librarian, Northwestern University

"The Federal Policy Landscape for Libraries"

### **12:30 – 1:30 Lunch**

### **1:45 - 3:00 Panel 2: The Vision Beyond U.S. Borders**

Chair: Dr. Maha Marouan

Elias Bongmba, Harry & Hazel Chavanne Chair in Christian Theology, Dept. of Religion, Rice University

"What Can Africa Learn from the Obama Legacy?"

Alfred Hornung, Chair, Dept. of Linguistics, Johannes Gutenberg U, English & American Studies

"China's Pursuit of Obama's Legacy"

Rafael Ocasio, Professor of Spanish, Agnes Scott College

"Work Sketches of a 19th Century Bristolian-Cuban Sugar Cane Plantation and President Obama's Black Speech during his Historical Visit to Cuba"

Rudyard Alcocer, Associate Professor, The University of Tennessee

"Pre-Obama, Obama, and Post Obama: Snapshots from Latin America"

**3:15 – 4:30 Panel 3: Imaginative Strategies and Spaces**

Chair: Professor Reiner Smolinski

Sabine Kim, Professor, Johannes Gutenberg University

“Property, Propriety, & Protest: Parks as Spaces of Contested Memory”

Ian Afflerbach, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of North Georgia

“The Audacity of Satire: Obama, Beatty, and the ‘Racial Sellout’”

McKinley Melton Associate Professor, Department of English, Gettysburg College

“‘Ours is a Long Love Song’: Black Writers and Chicago in the Post-Obama Era”

Matthew Sansbury, Dept. of English, Georgia State University

“@POTUS Beyond the Digital Bully Pulpit: A Legacy of Hope in the Post-Obama Era”

Friday, March 23, 2018 – Ceremonial Courtroom

**8:15 – 8:45 Coffee & Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 – 10:15 Panel 4: Post-44 Musings: Means Meet Ends**

Chair: Professor Verner Mitchell

Tara Green, Linda Carlisle Excellence Professor African American & African Diasporic Studies, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

“Obama and the Politics of Respectability”

Dan Franklin, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Georgia State University

“Politics in the Post-Obama Era”

Tim Lanzendorfer, Johannes Gutenberg University

“Reading in the Age of Trump”: Historicizing Contemporary Literary Studies in Dark(er) Times”

Ashley McNeil, Department of English, Georgia State University

“‘This Element of Serendipity’: How Obama Taught the Persistence of Hope”

**10:30 – noon Panel 5: Through the Prism of Law and Social Justice**

Chair: Professor Tanya Washington

Natsu Saito, Georgia State University

“Executive Power: Lessons from the Transition”

Paul Lombardo, Georgia State University

“Racialized Immigration Restriction”

Erin Fuse-Brown, Georgia State University

“The Brief History and Legacy of Obamacare”

Tanya Washington, Georgia State University

“The Elevation of Public Education”

**noon – 1:30 Lunch**

**1:30 – 2:45 Panel 6: Roundtable: Black Transnationalism—Imagined and Experienced**

Chair, Dr. Kameelah Martin

Beauty Bragg, Chair, Department of English, Georgia College and State University

Dr. Lesley Feracho, Dept. of Romance Languages & Institute of African American Studies, University of Georgia

Grad Student Respondents

**3:00 – 3:45 Panel 7: Conversation and Q&A**

Obama Institute: Purpose, Initiatives, Goals

GSU-JSU Binational Degree and Exchange

**4:00 – 5:00 Keynote Address – Anthony Grooms**

**5:00 – 5:30 Refreshments**

Introduction of Keynote Speaker, Professor Glenn Eskew

Anthony Grooms is author of *Bombingham: A Novel* and *Trouble No More: Stories*, both winners of the Lillian Smith Book Award for fiction. His novel, *The Vain Conversation*, was released February 2018.

## About the Panelists

**Ian Afflerbach** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at the University of North Georgia. His research and teaching interests include American literature since 1865, Anglophone modernism and modernist studies, African-American literature, science fiction, and periodical studies. His work has appeared or is forthcoming from *ELH*, *Modernism/modernity*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, and *Literature Compass*. His current book project, *Liberal Modernism*, examines how modernist fiction engaged American liberal culture from its rise to political authority in 1930s through its retrenchment into consensus in the 1960s.

**Rudyard Alcocer** is the Forrest & Patsy Shumway Chair of Excellence in Romance Languages and Associate Professor of Latin American literature and culture in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he is the founding director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Faculty Seminar. He is the author of *Time Travel in the Latin American & Caribbean Imagination: Re-reading History* (Palgrave Macmillan 2011), *Narrative Mutations: Discourses of Heredity and Caribbean Literature* (Routledge 2005), and *Celluloid Chains: Slavery in the Americas through Cinema* (co-edited; forthcoming from University of Tennessee Press).

**Elias Bongmba** is the Harry and Hazel Chavanne Chair in Christian Theology in the Department of Religion at Rice University. Professor Bongmba is author of three monographs, editor of three books and has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed essays and book chapters.

**Beauty Bragg** is Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of English at Georgia College & State University. Dr. Bragg earned her Ph.D. in English at the University of Texas. She teaches courses on America's diverse cultural heritage, introduction to Black Studies, black women artists, Alice Walker, and the Harlem Renaissance.

**Lesley Feracho** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Romance Languages and the Institute of African-American Studies at the University of Georgia. Dr. Feracho specializes in contemporary Latin American narrative, women's narrative of the Caribbean, as well as Afro-Latin American narrative and poetry.

**Daniel Franklin** is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Georgia State University. His areas of specialization are American Chief Executives, budgeting, and politics and film. He is currently Statewide Director of the Georgia Legislative Internship Program and a former Distinguished Honors Professor. He is the author of five books, numerous articles and reviews. One of his latest books is on the politics of presidential transitions from the perspective of leaving administrations. *Pitiful Giants: Presidents in their Final Terms* was published in October 2014 by Palgrave Macmillan Press. The second edition of his book *Politics and Film* was recently released in the summer of 2016.

**Erin C. Fuse Brown, J.D., M.P.H.**, is an Associate Professor of Law at the Georgia State University College of Law and a faculty member of GSU's Center for Law, Health & Society. She specializes in health law and policy, and her research focuses on the regulation of health care markets. She has published articles in leading legal and medical journals about hospital prices, medical billing and collection, health care competition and consolidation, and consumer financial protection in health care. She is one of five new casebook authors for the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of *HEALTH LAW*, published by West. Her work has been published in *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Washington University Law Review*, *Indiana Law Journal*, *Hastings Law Journal*, *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science, & Technology*, the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *AMA Journal of Ethics*, and *American Journal of Managed Care*. In 2017, Professor Fuse Brown was awarded the Patricia T. Morgan Award for Outstanding Scholarship among the faculty at Georgia State University College of Law. Professor Fuse Brown received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, an M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a B.A. from Dartmouth College.

**Tara T. Green** is the Linda Arnold Carlisle Professor for Women's and Gender Studies and Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. Her book *A Fatherless Child: Autobiographical Perspectives of African American Men* (winner of the 2011 Out-

standing Scholarship in Africana Studies Award from the National Council for Black Studies), focuses on the impact of fatherlessness from the perspectives of Barack Obama and other Black men. She is also the editor of two books, *From the Plantation to the Prison: African American Confinement Literature* and *Presenting Oprah Winfrey, Her Films, and African American Literature*. Her forthcoming book, *Reimagining the Middle Passage: Black Resistance in Literature, Television, and Song* provides an interdisciplinary perspective on African descendants' resistance to social death during the Middle Passage and in spaces symbolic of the Middle Passage.

**Atteeyah Hollie** (Criminal Justice) returned to the Southern Center for Human Rights in 2010 as an Initiative for Public Interest Law at Yale Fellow. Prior to law school, Atteeyah worked for almost five years as an investigator in the center's Impact Litigation Unit. She now works to improve the quality of legal representation provided to poor Georgians accused of crimes. She received her B.A. in History from Dartmouth College in 2002. Atteeyah graduated from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) in 2010 and is a member of the Georgia bar.

**Alfred Hornung** is Professor of American Studies and English and Chair of American Studies in the Department of English & Linguistics Research at Johannes Gutenberg University. He has special interests in Transnational American Studies and all areas of Life Writing. Professor Hornung participated in the DFG Research Training Group on "Life Sciences, Life Writing: Experiences at the Boundaries of Human Life between Biomedical Explanation and Lived Experience" (GRK 2015/1) and cooperated in the foundation of the Obama-Institute for Transnational American Studies at Mainz as a forum of exchange with the universities of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, the Atlantic Academy and international partner universities, serving as the spokesperson (2017-18). His publications include authored monographs, edited collections, peer reviewed articles and book chapters.

**Qiana Johnson**, MLIS, is the Collection and Organizational Data Analysis Librarian at the Northwestern University Libraries and is the subject specialist for Global Health and Public Policy. She is also a member of the American Library Association's Policy Corps, a group of advocates for libraries and librarians. Qiana graduated from the University of Chicago with a bachelor's in English Language and Literature and with a master's in Library and Information Science from Dominican University. She has worked at the Northwestern University Libraries since 2004 first as a Reference and Instruction Librarian before moving into her current position in 2014. Her recent research interests include collection assessment methods at large research libraries and strategic planning for collections. She is active with the American Library Association and its Reference and User Services Association division.

**Sabine Kim** serves as faculty in the Obama Institute of Transnational American Studies, Mainz Germany. Dr. Kim researches and teaches Canadian studies, Indigenous literature and activism, transnational American studies, and critical animal studies. Her first book, *Acoustic Entanglements: Sound and Aesthetic Practice*, is forthcoming from Universitätsverlag Winter in late 2016. The book connects cultural and media histories of sound and hearing to explore how material objects are entangled with social desires; technologies entangled with bodies; and race, gender, and affect with ideologies of nation, citizenship, property and belonging.

**Tim Lanzendorfer** is an assistant professor in the American Studies Department at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz. Since November 2012, he has been a wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter (lecturer/assistant professor) in American Studies again; his current research project (Habilitation) is a study of history and the speculative in the contemporary American novel. His second monograph, unrelated to this, is forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi in 2018: a study of zombie fictions entitled *Books of the Dead: Reading the Zombie in Contemporary Literature*. From August 2016 to January 2017, he was a visiting assistant professor at the Department of English at the University of California, Davis.

**Paul A. Lombardo**, Regents' Professor and Bobby Lee Cook Professor of Law, is a lawyer/historian who served from 2011-2016 as a senior advisor to the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, where he participated in studies such as *"Ethically Impossible": STD Research in Guatemala from 1946-1948* (2011), *Moral Science: Protecting Participants in Human Subjects Research* (2012) and *Privacy and Progress in Whole Genome Sequencing* (2012). Lombardo has published extensively on topics in health law, medico-legal history, and bioethics and is best known for his work on the legal history of the American

eugenics movement. His books include: *A Century of Eugenics in America: From the Indiana Experiment to the Human Genome Era* (2011), *Three Generations, No Imbeciles: Eugenics, the Supreme Court and Buck v. Bell* (2008). Lombardo serves on the Council of the American Association for the History of Medicine. He was a contributor and consultant for the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum exhibit, *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race*. Lombardo has been a historical consultant for several films, including *Race: the Power of an Illusion Part I*, *The Difference Between Us* (PBS, April 2003), and *The Golden Door* (Martin Scorsese/ Miramax, 2006) a feature film that explored the impact of eugenic screening on early 20th century immigrants at Ellis Island.

**Maha Marouan** is Associate Professor of African American Studies and Women Studies at the Pennsylvania State University. Her most recent publications include *Witches, Goddesses and Angry Spirits: The Politics of Spiritual Liberation in African Diaspora Women's Fiction* (Ohio State University Press, 2013), a co-edited volume on Race and Displacement, *Nation, Migration and Identity in the Twenty-First Century* (University of Alabama Press, 2013), and a documentary entitled "Voices of Muslim Women in the US South."

**Kameelah L. Martin** is Director of African American Studies and Professor of African American Studies and English at the College of Charleston. She is trained in the African American literary and vernacular traditions with emphasis on twenty and twenty-first century prose. Her interdisciplinary reach also involves broader interests, such as comparative literature(s) of the African Diaspora. Her work has explored such topics as the conjure woman as an archetype; the performance of African spirituality in visual media; eco-critical perspectives on water as a trope in Africana cultural memory; the preservation of Gullah Geechee heritage and folk beliefs; as well as African American genealogy. In addition to her articles, book chapters, and editorship publications, she is author of 2 monographs: *Conjuring Moments in African American Literature*, and the 2017 CLA Book Award winning study, *Envisioning Black Feminist Voodoo Aesthetics*.

**Ashley Cheyemi McNeil** is a bi-national PhD candidate in literary studies at Georgia State University and in American Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University in Germany. Her research explores Asian American subjectivities through interracial literature. She is a Student Innovation Fellow at the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Atlanta.

**McKinley E. Melton** earned his PhD from the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Prior to joining the Gettysburg College faculty, Dr. Melton was a visiting assistant professor of literature at Hampshire College from 2007-2012. He is also the recipient of a 2015 Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and was a 2015-16 Postdoctoral Fellow at the Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Emory University. Dr. Melton's research--including his current book project, *Along Their Own Way: Manhood, Spirituality, and Survival in Black Diasporan Literature*--focuses primarily on spiritual and religious traditions throughout the modern black diaspora and their influence on diasporan literary, artistic, and cultural expressions. Dr. Melton's scholarship also includes published essays on works and writings of James Baldwin, Richard Wright, James Weldon Johnson, Zora Neale Hurston, Danez Smith, and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Verner Mitchell** is Professor of English at University of Memphis. His latest books, co-authored with Dr. Cynthia Davis, are *Literary Sisters: A Biography of Dorothy West and Helene Johnson* (Rutgers University Press 2012) and *Zora Neale Hurston: An Annotated Bibliography of Works and Criticism* (Rowman and Littlefield 2013).

**Nina Morgan** is Associate Professor of English at Kennesaw University. Dr. Morgan is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Transnational American Studies* (Stanford University) and has served on the journal as an editor for ten years. Dr. Morgan was recently honored as an Obama Fellow (2017), a REAF Fellow (2016) and a Vielberth Fellow (2016). She is a founding and honorary member of the Moroccan American Studies Association. Nina Morgan is a member of the American Studies Association International Committee. Her current projects include co-editing the *Routledge Companion to Transnational American Studies* (2018) with Alfred Hornung (JGU, Mainz) and Takayuki Tatsumi (Keio U); a year-long series of lectures and events related to KSU's Year of Morocco (2019-20); a documentary to be filmed in China and the US (2019-20); and a co-edited issue of *Synthesis* (U of Athens, Greece) in honor of William Spanos (2019-20). Dr. Morgan's work has been published in England, Japan, Morocco, India, Germany and the U.S.

**Rafael Ocasio** is Charles A. Dana Professor of Spanish at Agnes Scott College, Decatur-Atlanta, Georgia. He is the author of *Cuba's Political and Sexual Outlaw*, *Latin American Culture and Literature*, *The Making of a Gay Activist* (UP of Florida, 2007) and *Afro-Cuban Costumbrismo: From Plantations to the Slums*. He has completed a book manuscript under revision: *Franz Boas in Porto Rico: Retention and Reinvention of Puerto Rican Folklore* and is currently working on a book manuscript, "A Trans-Atlantic Bristol-Cuba Slavery Connection: George Howe's Diary," a project that explores the under-documented slave trade between Cuba and Rhode Island through the analysis of a plantation diary written in the 1830s.

**Natsu Taylor Saito**, J.D. Yale (1987), is a human rights attorney and a Distinguished University Professor at Georgia State University's College of Law, where she has taught international law and human rights, indigenous rights, immigration law, and the legal history of race in the United States since 1994. She is the author of more than thirty law review articles and two books, *Meeting Enemy: American Exceptionalism and International Law* (2010) and *From Chinese Exclusion to Guantánamo Bay: Plenary Power and the Prerogative State* (2006).

**Matthew Sansbury** is a PhD Candidate and Advanced Teaching Fellow in Rhetoric and Composition (English) at Georgia State University. He has published work in *Computers and Composition Online*, *Kairos*, and *The Rhetoric of Participation* (Computers and Composition Digital Press). A recipient of the 2017 *Kairos* Service Award, he also serves as Production and Design Manager for the South Atlantic Modern Language Association—overseeing layout and design for the organization's conference program, public relations, and website. He is a Research Fellow for the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives, and Program Designer for the College English Association.

**Oliver Scheiding** is Professor of American Literature and Early American Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University in Germany. He also is one of the co-directors of the Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies at the University of Mainz ([obama-institute.com](http://obama-institute.com)). His research focuses on print culture and the print market, periodical studies, material and religious studies. His most recent publications are *Peculiar Mixture: German-Language Cultures and Identities in Eighteenth-Century North America* (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2013), *Worlding America: A Transnational Anthology of Short Narratives before 1800* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2015) and the volume *The Press and the Pulpit: Religious Periodicals and Publishing in Transnational Contexts* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholar's Publications, 2017). He currently serves as the editor-in-chief of *Amerikastudien / American Studies*, the quarterly of the German Association of American Studies; he is a member of the International Committee of the American Studies Association and is a board member of the European Early American Studies Association.

**Reiner Smolinski** is Professor of English in the Department of English at Georgia State University. He is particularly interested in noncanonical documents in early American religious literature, history, and culture. Since 1984 he has been working on the Mather Family Papers, Puritan historiography, and hermeneutics. Professor Smolinski's *The Threefold Paradise of Cotton Mather* examines Mather's eschatological ideology in light of his hermeneutical response to the 17th-century philological and historical-contextual challenges of the Bible as text by Grotius, Hobbes, Spinoza, Whiston, and Newton. The book includes a critical edition of Mather's unpublished manuscript "Triparadisus" (1720-27).

**Antonio D. Tillis** is the M. D. Anderson Professor in Hispanic Studies and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences at the University of Houston. He is the author of *Manuel Zapata Olivella and the 'Darkening' of Latin American Literature* (Missouri Press, 2005), *Caribbean African Upon Awakening* (Mango Publishing, 2010), and *Manuel Zapata Olivella e o escurecimento da literatura latinoamericana* (State University of Rio de Janeiro Press, 2012). His edited volumes include: *The Trayvon Martin in US: An American tragedy* (co-editor Emmanuel Harris, Peter Lang, 2016), *Critical Perspectives on Afro-Latin American Literature* (Routledge, 2012) and *(Re) Considering Blackness in Brazilian (Con) Texts: A Cultural Studies Approach* (Peter Lang, 2011). A former Fulbright Scholar to Brazil, Dr. Tillis is a former President of the College Language Association and is the immediate past editor of the *Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association (PALARA)*.

**Tanya Washington** is a professor in the College of Law at Georgia State University. After practicing for several years as toxic tort defense litigator at Piper & Marbury, Professor Washington completed the Albert M. Sacks Fellowship, the A. Leon Higginbotham Fellowship and earned her LL.M. from Harvard Law School.

She has been teaching Civil Procedure I and II, Family Law, Education Law and Race and Law at Georgia State for the past twelve years. Her research and scholarship focuses on issues related to educational equity, domestic relations, race and children's constitutional rights.

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