

CAAR

The Collegium for African American Research

The Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) is an international association of over three hundred scholars from over thirty different countries. CAAR was founded in 1992 at the University of the Sorbonne Nouvelle to stimulate research in African American Studies in Europe by the creation of an international and interdisciplinary network. From the beginning, CAAR has collaborated with the W E B Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research of Harvard University. In Rome in October 1992, the Collegium formally constituted itself with a president, a secretary and a treasurer. The first president of CAAR was Professor Maria I. Diedrich of the University of Münster. She was the person most instrumental in launching the Collegium. The president, secretary and treasurer offices in 2004 are Professor Christopher Mulvey of University College Winchester, Professor Hanna Wallinger of Salzburg University and Professor Mar Gallego of Huelva University.

CAAR recognizes that the African American experience itself, from at least the eighteenth century forward, has been an international one with extensive interchange across the Atlantic. The personal and psychological significance of this interchange requires that the distinctions between disciplines like African American Studies, Caribbean Studies, and African Studies be overcome and the interconnections be recognized. African Americans are the best-studied ethnic minority in the world, and the theoretical and empirical understanding gained from this research is relevant to ethnic and racial issues elsewhere.

CAAR aims both to advance the field of African American Studies and to establish a model for interdisciplinary inquiry. To this end the association mounts workshops, sponsors conferences, authors and edits publications, and provides research opportunities. From The Black Columbiad (1994), an outcome of the workshop formed by founding members at the Seville 1992 EAAS Conference, to Black Liberation in the Americas (2001), an outcome of the CAAR 1999 Conference in Münster, CAAR has produced numerous publications. Many of these have appeared in CAAR's FORECAAST series published with LIT Verlag of Münster. A further major scholarly project sponsored by CAAR is The African American Research Library under the General Editorship of Maria I. Diedrich, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Christopher Mulvey. This series is dedicated to the production of electronic scholarly editions of major African American titles. CAAR keeps its membership informed by the distribution of a twice yearly newsletter.