



N E W S L E T T E R

**COLLEGIANS AND FRIENDS:**

**CAAR 2005 “THE BLACK WORLD”:** The Tours Conference was a great success. See inside for a full report. Congratulations and thanks to Claude Julien and his team.

**CAAR 2007 “BLACKNESS AND MODERNITIES”:** We will be holding our next Conference in Madrid in April 2007. Isabel Soto is the Conference Secretary. See inside for the prototype “Call for Papers.”

**MEMBERSHIP ISSUES:** Inside you will find the minutes of the Collegium’s Biennial Membership Meeting held at the University of Tours on April 23, 2005.

**JUNE ELECTIONS:** The CAAR Executive Committee has three new members and three reelected members. Congratulations go to Sabine Broeck, Jurgen Heinrichs, Violet Johnson, Claude Julien, Isabel Soto, and Hanna Wallinger. See inside for an election report.

**THE COLLEGIUM’S THANKS.** Retiring from the Executive Committee are Paola Boi, Maria Diedrich and Fritz Gysin. They are heartily to be thanked for their many years of service. Paola is treasured for hosting a most successful CAAR Conference, the great Cagliari Event of 2003. Its attendance of 300 set a target towards which we aim again. Maria is the first member of CAAR, our first

president and our inspiring spirit. Her adoption now of simple membership is Washingtonian. Fritz, too, is a founding member of the Collegium, there from the start. As light on his feet as Fred Astaire, he remains one of our very best editors, and his witty contributions to debate continue to be relished. We look forward to seeing Paolo, Maria and Fritz at our meetings, in our workshops, on our stages.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:** We have had a satisfactory response to the Treasurer's call for members to pay their annual dues. If you have paid your dues for this year, your next dues are due on January 1, 2006 unless you have paid in advance. See inside for the Treasurer’s report.

**WEBSITE:** Check our website at [www.caar-web.org](http://www.caar-web.org) for regular updates. The Newsletter will be available there as well. The **Listserv** has close to three hundred names on it, and it could become a significant feature of our information exchange if we all used it more. Contact Jurgen Heinrichs ([heinriju@shu.edu](mailto:heinriju@shu.edu)) for details.

**With all good wishes,  
Christopher Mulvey,  
President**

<p><b>CAAR Executive Committee:</b></p> <p>Sabine Broeck (<a href="mailto:broeck@uni-bremen.de">broeck@uni-bremen.de</a>);</p> <p>Mar Gallego, Treasurer (<a href="mailto:stemar@teleline.es">stemar@teleline.es</a>);</p> <p>Jurgen Heinrichs (<a href="mailto:heinriju@shu.edu">heinriju@shu.edu</a>);</p> <p>Violet Johnson (<a href="mailto:vjohnson@agnesscott.edu">vjohnson@agnesscott.edu</a>);</p> <p>Claude Julien (<a href="mailto:claudedul@numericable.fr">claudedul@numericable.fr</a>);</p> <p>Christopher Mulvey, President (<a href="mailto:christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk">christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk</a>);</p> <p>Isabel Soto (<a href="mailto:isoto@flog.uned.es">isoto@flog.uned.es</a>);</p> <p>Hanna Wallinger, Secretary (<a href="mailto:hanna.wallinger@sbg.ac.at">hanna.wallinger@sbg.ac.at</a>);</p> <p>Michelle Wright (<a href="mailto:mimawright@yahoo.com">mimawright@yahoo.com</a>).</p>
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<p><b>Impressum:</b></p> <p>CAAR Newsletter 18 July 2005</p> <p>This issue was edited by: Christopher Mulvey, Winchester University e-mail:<a href="mailto:christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk">christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk</a> and Hanna Wallinger, Univ. of Salzburg, e-mail: <a href="mailto:hanna.wallinger@sbg.ac.at">hanna.wallinger@sbg.ac.at</a></p>
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**Here is a draft of the 2007 Call for Papers.  
Please make suggestions for its final form.**  
Seventh International CAAR Conference  
**BLACKNESS AND MODERNITIES**  
**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, MADRID**  
**THE COLLEGIUM FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH**  
**April 18 to 21, 2007**  
**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**CAAR 2007** calls for papers and workshops which address Blackness and Modernities. The African American Experience of the Modern World can be dated to 1500, to 1776, to 1865, to 1920, to 1965, to 2000? The experience is multiple, the people many, and the modern manifold. We speak of modernities because we do not want to define and dictate meaning; we want the conference to do the defining and any dictating to come from the power of the speakers. We want to consider ways in which peoples originated in Africa and living in the Americas have created as well as come to terms with modernism. We will be meeting in Spain, and, as always, we will want to pay attention to location and geography. Spain led the European encounter with the Americas and pioneered the modern engagements with extermination and enslavement. Spain has also been the host and the subject of many African American thinkers, writers and artists.

The focus of CAAR on the Atlantic interchange leads us to emphasize the links between disciplines like African American Studies, Caribbean Studies, and African Studies. Interconnections must 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 everywhere.

To start thinking and to provide points of convergence, we offer the following themes for papers and workshops:

**MODERNITIES OF THE SPIRIT**  
**THE MODERN--PROGRESSIVE, FASCIST, TOTALITARIAN, LIBERATING?**  
**MODERNISM AND AFRICAN AMERICAN ART, LITERATURE, MUSIC**  
**MODERN BLACK ECONOMIES AND GLOBALIZATION**  
**THE MODERN BLACK BODY**  
**NEW WORLDS, MODERN WORLDS**

As in the previous CAAR conferences, the program committee welcomes papers that approach African American Research from an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective. Workshops should have no more than eight slots. Since CAAR encourages international cooperation, we would ask that workshop organizers either recruit some of the participants from countries other than their own or leave at least half of the slots open. Proposals should be as short and to the point as possible (no more than one page). All proposals should include title of paper/workshop, a brief abstract, and should include your name, postal address and email address. Send proposals by email (with the text of the proposal included in the email, NOT as an attachment).

The deadline for workshop proposals is 1 June 2006 and for paper proposals is 1 September 2006. Please send them to the President of CAAR, Christopher Mulvey, <christopher.mulvey@winchester.ac.uk>.

## IN MEMORIAM

### LORENZO THOMAS 1944-2005

Lorenzo was a poet. He was a scholar and a teacher, an editor and a journalist, and in all these disciplines he excelled, but above all he was a poet. He grew up writing poetry, learnt his trade discussing his poems with congenial colleagues on the Lower Eastside, and practiced it as a soldier in Vietnam, as a professor in Texas, and as a contributor to uncountable literary and critical workshops at many universities and conferences in America and Europe. His scholarly performance, his publications, and his correspondence were always full of insight, wisdom, and delight. But first and foremost, he was a poet. It showed in his conduct: rather quiet, but outspoken when necessary; witty and ironical, but never cynical or sarcastic; highly critical of measures and attitudes he considered false, but at the same time tolerant, even considerate, if he recognized naiveté as the source of wrongdoing. The man had manners; he had style. And he was extremely generous, more often than not promulgating the work of others to the neglect of his own.

Lorenzo Thomas, we read, was born in Panama, on August 31, 1944, the son of a pharmacist and a community organizer. His Spanish speaking family immigrated to New York City in 1948, where the youth fought hard to become “extra fluent” in English, an endeavor that caused his interest in creative writing. While studying at Queens College, he became a member of the famous UMBRA Workshop, a highly active group of young African American writers, which later had a dominant influence on the Black Arts Movement. He did graduate work at the Pratt Institute, then joined the U.S. Navy and later became a military adviser in Vietnam. In 1973 he moved to Houston as a writer-in-residence at Texas Southern University and started conducting writing workshops at the newly founded Black Arts Center. He joined the University of Houston-Downtown in 1984, and at his death on July 4, 2005, he was a professor in the English Department. Among his many fruitful activities were his involvement in the Texas Writers in the Schools Program, his work on the board of the Cultural Arts Council of Houston, his strong engagement on behalf of the understanding and appreciation of poetry in newspapers and literary magazines, and, of course, his lecture circuits and contributions to literary conferences at home and abroad. He received many prizes and awards. Colleagues and students will fondly remember his impressive readings at several European universities; CAAR members will not forget his respected presence at most of our conferences.

Lorenzo was a poet. The title of his last book of essays, *Extraordinary Measures: Afrocentric Modernism and Twentieth-Century American Poetry*, contains words that may be used to characterize his own poems. The multiple meaning of “extraordinary measures,” together with his very open definitions of “Afrocentric” and “Modernism,” suggest an approach to language that combines simplicity and density, direct thrust and allusiveness, persuasion and surprise. *The Bathers* (1978, 1981), *Chances Are Few* (1979, 2003), or *Dancing on Main Street* (2004) testify to his enormous versatility and command of form and content. On the surface, some of his poems seem easily accessible, almost deceptively so. But then, one suddenly feels that one has missed something, or one is taken aback by an unusual, if not jarring, phrase, and one has to retrace one’s steps and start over again. Like at the beginning of “Trees”:

The gleaners roll in  
With heaped shopping carts

We have constructed ruins  
To be reborn out of

Here in our cities, a question  
Is there life after birth

Critics have praised Lorenzo's poetry for its "imaginative depiction of popular American culture" (Tom Dent), understating, perhaps, his extraordinary ability to transform these elements and make them part of his own poetic idiom. Jazz, the blues, spirituals are used as material in his sometimes humorous, often sad or even furious poems (cf. "A Mingus Memory"), but they also echo the tradition of American poetry, from Dickinson to Stevens, Eliot, Césaire, and beyond ("An Afternoon with Dr. Blumenbach" is a case in point). Moreover, if there were still a need to prove that Modernism goes along with social critique, Lorenzo's poetry would answer that need. The ending of "Psalm" (his 1993 poem on the Waco disaster) combines fury, despair, and sadness:

A little charity is what we need  
And there's a fund  
For pro-life murderers  
And funds for milk  
Where childhoods blaze and infancies implode  
Upon a bed of cinders  
Reflected in the dark, round  
Always and forever open eyes  
Of those made homeless, hopeless  
By bombs and guns made in the USA  
Properly taxed  
Or smuggled by collusion of the law  
And slushful patriots

O Lord, I don't know what to do  
I don't like watching what comes into view  
I will narrow my eyelids  
Till there is nothing in the world but You

"I am getting a little bit of writing done," Lorenzo informed us, when he wrote that he was ill and could not make it to the Tours Conference. We told him we would look forward to seeing him in Madrid at the latest. Now he has left us.

But he has left us his writing, his poems.

Lorenzo was a poet. Read him!

Fritz Gysin  
July 13, 2005

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*a hand painted desert*  
*for Lorenzo Thomas, 1944-2005*

*by Melba Joyce Boyd*

Lorenzo,  
you are  
my touchstone,  
where I brace  
my breath  
when weakened  
by imperialist terror  
of fraternities conferring  
behind towers of clay,  
mining cold hysterics  
and unforgivable  
mysteries.

you inspire my  
dissident vocabulary  
with intellectual joy  
found in poems  
we delivered  
in Paris, Liverpool,  
Italy and Spain,  
worlds translated  
into German  
in Osnabruck  
for audiences  
in Muenster,  
poetry too often  
ignored by councils  
of critics in  
our own country  
where your charm  
tolerated my  
rebellious hostility  
at the sight of  
stiff paradigms  
choking poems  
or critical assassins

bludgeoning literary  
icons with impunity  
in New Orleans,  
New York, Baltimore,  
Detroit and in books  
buried in encryptions  
with no jazz.

it was your  
gracious strength  
and sense of humor  
in spite of the spite  
conspiring to  
hush knowledge  
that empowered  
your relentless pen  
that disquieted  
their discourteous  
discourse even  
when the audience  
was thin with  
recognition.

it was a great time  
for poets and  
and i give these  
clips to recollect  
the poetics  
of memory as  
i hold dear  
this image of  
you writing  
inside a hand  
painted desert  
reconsidering a  
black thunder cloud  
and the promise  
of rain.

*July 4, 2005*

## CAAR 2005 ELECTION REPORT.

Sixty members voted. Most voted for six names, but some voted for less. The votes were as follows: BROECK 47; HEINRICHS 46; JOHNSON 39; JULIEN 45; LUDWIG 16; ROCCHI 31; SOTO 39; SURANYI 24; WALLINGER 45.

The elected members of the CAAR Executive Committee are Sabine Broeck, Jurgen Heinrichs, Violet Johnson, Claude Julien, Isabel Soto, and Hanna Wallinger. Their term of office started on July 1, 2005 and runs to June 30, 2008.

On behalf of the Collegium, I congratulate the newly-elected members. Also on behalf of the Collegium, I thank sincerely all those who allowed themselves to be nominated. It is a great help to CAAR to have a good candidate slate, and anyone not elected today should look to the next round of elections.

Christopher Mulvey

President, CAAR

For the record, the candidate statements of the newly-elected members are repeated below.

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SABINE BROECK: "I am honored to have been re-nominated for second term on the CAAR Executive Committee and would gladly serve on the board if elected. I have been an enthusiastic CAAR member ever since its foundation because it has provided a focus for my scholarly work as an African-Americanist (with emphases in research on the crossroads of race and gender, as well as on Euro-American modernity and slavery) as well as for my emphatic interest in strengthening the position of European African-Americanist Studies within the European academy and improving our visibility internationally. In the future, I propose, CAAR should devise projects and strategies that enable research, and scholarly exchange around issues that address the particular configurations of contact/conflict (cultural, political, and social) between African-American movements, artists and artefacts with various European constituencies so as to make our particular location as European scholars productive; my second period in office would be devoted to furthering this interest. I am also very interested in intensifying the transatlantic connection in African-American Studies, including cooperation with African scholars, as much as the inner-European, particularly East-West communication." (Sabine Broeck, Professor of American Studies, University of Bremen. FB 10, Dept. of English and American Studies, Pf. 33 40 04, D 28334 Bremen, Germany. broeck@uni-bremen.de.) Nominator: Jean-Paul Rocchi; Seconds: Hanna Wallinger and Berndt Ostendorf.

JUERGEN HEINRICHS: "I am honored to have been nominated for service on the CAAR board. I am a cultural historian, trained in art history and German studies in Hamburg and at Yale. My doctoral work explores the impact of African American music and dance on German visual culture during the Weimar era. Other research and teaching interests include modern and contemporary art in Europe and the United States, African American art and material culture, intersections of 'race' with gender and queer studies, crossovers between visual arts and the sciences, as well as theories of cultural translation. As a CAAR board member, I would like to build on my own experience of being 'in between cultures' to help address CAAR challenges of becoming an ever more international, interdisciplinary association of scholars. I also propose continuation of work to strengthen the CAAR electronic initiatives, including the advancement of its website and similar projects." (Jurgen Heinrichs, Department of Art and Music, Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, NJ 07079, heinriju@shu.edu). Nominator: Fritz Gysin; Seconds: Hanna Wallinger and Maria Diedrich.

VIOLET JOHNSON: "I gladly accept the nomination of my colleagues and will be happy to serve on the Executive Board of CAAR if elected. Now a naturalized American, I was born in Lagos, Nigeria and raised in Nigeria and Sierra Leone. As a historian trained on both sides of the Atlantic--Sierra Leone, Canada, and the United States--I would bring a distinctive perspective to the CAAR Executive Board. I have participated in all of the CAAR conferences since Munster. *Black and Foreign: A History of the West Indian Experience in Boston* speaks to my scholarly interest in race, nationality, and identity; so too does my present research on 'Conflicting Rites of Return,' based in part on my own experiences in the 'homeland.' My work at Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, demonstrates my grounding in African American Studies, as well as African and African Diaspora Studies. The 'Global Awareness' trips that I have led to Africa have given me the opportunity to further emphasize the connections between Africa and the Diaspora in innovative pedagogical and scholarly ways. Ultimately, though I am a historian by training, I relish the interdisciplinary collaboration that I have found in CAAR and hope to further this expansive ideal." (Violet Johnson, Agnes Scott College, USA, vjohnson@agnesscott.ed.) Nominator: Patrick Miller; Seconds: Johanna Garvey and Ineke Bocking.

CLAUDE JULIEN: "My term of office on the CAAR committee has come to an end and I am glad I have been re-nominated to stand election for a second term. If elected, I will put my time and energy to this task as I value the friendship and trust of colleagues. As the recent organizer of the Tours conference, I believe I worked wholeheartedly to make this event a success, keeping in mind the aims of the Collegium as an international research association. A member of the Tours research team, I have committed myself to editing two volumes of essays bringing together papers on African American fiction. As a member of the Tours staff, I am undertaking the digitalizing, and putting online, of a series of taped interviews of civil rights leaders made over 25 years starting from 1971. (These tapes have been donated to the 'Fonds Michel Fabre' housed in the Library.) Another project arises from the Tours conference: editing the volume(s) that the excellent CAAR scholarship makes necessary." (Claude Julien, Professeur, University of Tours, France [claude.julien37@wanadoo.fr](mailto:claude.julien37@wanadoo.fr).) May 30, 2005. Nominator: Michelle Wright; Seconds: Wallinger and Gruesser.

ISABEL SOTO: "If elected to the CAAR Executive Committee I see my role as an important extension of my professional one: an academic committed to the teaching of literature in English in general, and African American writing in particular. After a ten-year absence from academia engaged in matters non-academic, I returned out of a need to pick up books again, study, and research. Toni Morrison, Harriet Jacobs and Alice Walker guided me back. Should my nomination - for which I feel honoured - be ratified, I will endeavour to foster links, academic and otherwise, between one of the most southerly academic communities in Europe and the African American world. Though gradually acquiring a higher profile, the Spanish perspective on the African diaspora has not always been adequately explored or represented. I also believe that the continued promotion and defence of the European perspective in the field of African American and diasporic studies is critical: here, after all, is where it started. This is what I undertake to work towards. CAAR 2007 in Madrid is just one step in that direction. The thought of taking that step in the company of so many distinguished colleagues makes it a daunting yet exhilarating prospect." (Isabel Soto, Universidad Nacional de Educacin a Distancia, Madrid, Spain, [isoto@flog.uned.es](mailto:isoto@flog.uned.es).) Nominator: Hanna Wallinger; Seconds: Ashraf Rushdy and John Gruesser.

HANNA WALLINGER: "I am honored to be re-nominated to serve on the Executive Committee of CAAR and will be happy to serve again. As CAAR Secretary for the past years I have tried to commit myself to the goals of our collegium as much as

possible. I have kept the records, seen to the publication of the Newsletter, and helped in the preparation of the conferences to my best ability. I will do so in the future as well and will certainly be rewarded again with the friendship of colleagues around the world and the stimulating scholarship at CAAR conferences. Time does not always permit me to do as much as I would like. Apart from having to take care of a house full of children, I teach at Salzburg University, am about to publish my Habilitation on Pauline E. Hopkins, served as President of the Austrian Association for American Studies (academic year 2003/04), and started to become involved as one of three editors for 'American Studies in Austria,' a series published by LIT Verlag." (Hanna Wallinger, University of Salzburg, Austria, [hanna.wallinger@sbg.ac.at](mailto:hanna.wallinger@sbg.ac.at).) Nominator: Mar Gallego; Seconds: Fritz Gysin and Michelle Wright.

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**CAAR Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Unconfirmed Minutes**  
**April 20, 2005**  
**Tours, France**

**PRESENT:** Christopher Mulvey (President), Hanna Wallinger (Secretary), Mar Gallego (Treasurer), Sabine Broeck, Fritz Gysin, Claude Julien, Paola Boi, Michelle Wright

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Maria Diedrich sent her apologies; she could not attend because she had a teaching engagement

**2. MINUTES:**

The minutes of the CAAR Executive Committee Meeting of April 3, 2004 (Prague, Cz), as published in NEWSLETTER 16, were approved as a true record.

**4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Christopher Mulvey thanked Wallinger and Gallego for their support and work invested on behalf of CAAR. Mulvey reported that the membership list was growing and that the conference participants consisted both of faithful members and newcomers. On the subject of executive expenses he said that our position should be to give as much as possible, up to a maximum of EUR 300,- per year, against expenses, but to allow individual committee members to apply for more if needed. The committee approved of this position. Mulvey then discussed the details of the general membership meeting in Tours on Saturday morning. Mulvey also drew attention to the website and listserv.

**5. SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Hanna Wallinger thanked Mulvey for his good and efficient work, which had made the work of secretary a pleasure in the past year. She pointed out the publication of Newsletters 16 and 17 (the latter having been published by the President) and asked the committee members to read the minutes carefully. She also reported that, in her responsibility as coordinator for Eastern and Central European countries, she was not very successful in finding new members.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

A record of the CAAR Accounts would be Newsletter 18. Mar Gallego summed up her report by saying that the Collegium was doing quite well for membership fees, but said that credit card fees (especially American Express) and expenses for cheques were very high. Mulvey said that it was not our intent to accumulate a big account. Gysin pointed out that the saving of the Collegium should also be sufficient to run a conference in a case of emergency

and that we should have at least a buffer of EUR 15.000,-. The members of the Collegium then discussed the possibility of establishing an annual prize, the possibility of investing any surplus money; and send out another call for the CAAR travel fund (which amounts to EUR 75,- only). The Committee thanked Gallego for her good work.

**7. CONFERENCE REPORTS:**

**TOURS 2005 CONFERENCE:** All committee members thanked Claude Julien and Christiane Julien for their excellent work. Julien then reported about the preparations of the conferences, showed his thanks to Mulvey for organizing the workshops, said that 170 people had registered. Julien told the committee that he had been able to collect money from The French Ministry of Education, the Embassy of the United States of America, The City of Tours, the Conseil Regional de Region Centre, The University of Tours.

He also said that credit card payments usually came with heavy fees, discussed the problem of paid-up participants who could not come to the conference. He also said that he had been able to collect funds for the soft-currency colleagues and even a grant to each committee member. Julien reported about the refugees camping on the university ground. He reported about the problems with prospective keynote speaker Gloria Naylor, who could not make the transatlantic voyage. The keynote speeches by Maria Diedrich and Clayborne Carson would be recorded on the internet.

**MADRID 2007 CONFERENCE:** Mulvey reported that Isabel Soto of the National University of Madrid was willing and ready to organize this conference. The date would be two weeks after Easter, perhaps 19-21 April, 2007. The theme would be announced soon.

Suggestions for the 2009 Conference were discussed but no resolution was reached.

**8. FUNDING:** Sabine Broeck reported that she had put some work into thinking about possible funding and the problems involved with it: the organization itself would not draw any funding, but individual research projects might get funded through the European Community 7th framework. She suggested that some time during the conference would be set aside for a more in-depth discussion of what was possible. Broeck suggested that a working weekend should be organized in Bremen, Germany, for September.

## 9. AARL:

Christopher Mulvey reported that the first title in the *African American Research Library* was completed, and that an Electronic Scholarly Edition of *Clotel; or the President's Daughter* (London, 1853) by William Wells Brown would soon be on line and on sale. This million-word website included the full-text of the numbers of *The Weekly Anglo-African* from December 15, 1860 to March 16, 1861. In addition to the version of *Clotel* which Brown published in this journal under the title of *Miralda*, there was an invaluable treasure trove of African American abolitionist material republished for the first time. An Electronic Scholarly Edition of Phyllis Wheatley's *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* (London, 1773) was under way. An Electronic Scholarly Edition of Charles Chesnut's *The House Behind the Cedars* (Boston, 190) was under discussion. Editors and title suggestions were invited. Mulvey said that titles for *African American Research Library* could be developed as dissertation projects.

## 10. FORECAAST:

Volume 14 in the series had been published under the title of *Crossing Boundaries: African American Inter City and European Migrant Youth* (2004). The editors were Cook, Diedrich, and Lindo.

Gysin reported that the Winchester volume, edited by himself and Cindy Hamilton, would be published soon under the title *Complexions of Race*.

It was noted that excellent dissertations would be accepted by FORECAAST, and that some volumes were mentioned in a recent edition of *The American Scholar*.

A volume coming out of the Tours conference would be edited by Claude Julien.

## 11. ELECTIONS:

All committee members with the exception of Mulvey, Gallego and Wright would have to be re-elected. Nominations would be invited at the CAAR General Meeting and an election would be held in June.

## 12. NEXT MEETING:

The next committee meeting would be in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 6 April 2006.

Hanna Wallinger  
CAAR Secretary

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## Fifth CAAR Biennial Membership Meeting Unconfirmed Minutes April 23, 2005 University of Tours, France

The President opened the meeting and said words of welcome to the CAAR members.

### 1. MINUTES:

The minutes of the Fourth CAAR Biennial Membership Meeting held in Winchester on April 13, 2003 were accepted as a true record.

### 2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Christopher Mulvey thanked the executive committee for their cooperation and reported that meetings had been held in Prague in April 2004 (Executive Committee Meeting) and in Salzburg in November 2004 (Tours Conference Committee). He thanked the retiring members of the committee for their excellent committee work over the past years. Mulvey reported that Executive Committee members were entitled to claim EUR 300.00 per year against expenses incurred in carrying out CAAR work. However, in order not to discourage people who might wish to become members of the Executive Committee but who would need more help with expenses, application for further support could be made to the President and treasurer. Mulvey announced that six positions on the Executive Committee would come up for election, and that with the agreement of the present Executive Committee, he would conduct an election in June. Candidates would require one nominator and two seconders; nominations were to be sent to the President.

The membership took up the issue of whether or not candidates needed to be resident in Europe. It was determined that the CAAR Constitution did not require that.

Mulvey said that the CAAR had 120 paid-up members at the moment, but that more would be desirable.

Mulvey made it clear that an important function of the Collegium was to hold a biennial conference, but that it still considered itself to be a research group sponsoring and instigating research activities. He mentioned AARL (see report elsewhere in the Newsletter), the FORECAAST volumes, and the forthcoming conference in Münster about African American and German interactions. CAAR would continue to sponsor conferences and initiate workshops at other conferences.

Mulvey thanked Juergen Heinrichs for the establishment of the CAAR website and the listserv.

At this point Heinrichs apologized for the spam problem and announced that there would be no further spam mail coming in through the listserv.

### **3. SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

The CAAR Secretary, Hanna Wallinger, reported that committee minutes would be published in the Newsletter, and the publication of the Newsletter that would continue to be published and distributed electronically. She asked members to report interesting activities, announcements and memorable items for the Newsletter. Publication dates of the next Newsletters were July 2005, November 2005.

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The CAAR Treasurer, Mar Gallego, reported that CAAR was now on the safe side of the budget line, holding a balance at the moment of EUR 20,000.00 before expenses for the Tours conference were subtracted. She announced to the general membership the problems involved with credit card and cheque payments and called upon individual members to see her at the registration desk. She expressed some concern about members attending the conference but unwilling to pay their CAAR dues. In the discussion Maria Diedrich inquired about the CAAR travel fund and asked for donations. Donors could be listed by name in the Newsletter. The Treasurer would publish the CAAR accounts in the next Newsletter.

### **5. CONFERENCE REPORTS:**

Claude Julien said that Tours drew 176 registrations for the conference, only 10 to 15 registered people did not show up. For several members from Africa, attendance was problematic due to financial problems. He also spoke about the Conference Banquet on the Saturday night and the sightseeing tour on Sunday.

Isabel Soto gave a statement about the CAAR conference in Madrid in 2007 and told the audience that it would commemorate Langston Hughes's stay in Madrid. A Call for Papers would be issued shortly.

Mulvey announced that CAAR would co-sponsor a conference in Münster. Elena Apenka from St. Petersburg said she had the idea of organizing a conference in her home town with the theme: African Americans in Russia and the former Soviet Union. She thanked the CAAR committee for their support and clarified the difficult financial situation for her and her colleagues when they wanted to attend this conference.

Claudine Reynaud from Etudes Afro-Américaines, a research group in Tours, announced that the group had received money from the Fonds Fabre and would try to sponsor a Fulbright senior scholar in Tours.

A representative of the Association for the Study of African American Life announced the conference about the Niagara Movement in Buffalo, N.Y., Oct 5-9, 2005 and invited participation.

### **6. OTHER MATTERS:**

Funding: Sabine Broeck reported her problems of finding money for CAAR and spoke about the European Union's 7th framework. She would be willing to be coordinator.

Maria Diedrich reported on the FORECAAST volumes. Claude Julien would edit a volume coming out of the Tours conference. Workshop chairs should recommend one or two papers from their workshops. Diedrich said that FORECAAST could also publish dissertations that were of high quality, and she asked people to review FORECAAST volumes in scholarly journals to which they contributed.

### **7. NEXT MEETING:**

The next membership meeting would be in Madrid in April 2007.

Hanna Wallinger  
CAAR Secretary

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## REPORT ON THE TOURS CONFERENCE

CAAR's Sixth Biennial Conference was held at the University of Tours from April 21 to 23, 2005. The title was "The Black World--INNERSpace:INNERCity::INTERAction:INTERNation." The themes were: the spiritual, inner world of self and soul occupying spaces along and across the boundary lines of philosophy, religion, science, and art; the inner city life of Harlem, Watts, Atlanta, Chicago, Paris, Brixton, and Berlin; the interactions of black and white, of African and American making the contemporary scene in art, culture and politics; and the international dimension expressed by the idea that the work of certain African Americans is "universal, covering the entire race and the entire race problem."

The conference was sponsored by the Collegium for African American Research and the University of Tours and it was supported by the French Ministry of Education (DRIC), the Embassy of the United States of America, the City of Tours, the Conseil Régional de la Région Centre, the Conseil Général d'Indre et Loire, the University of Tours, the Conseil Scientifique of the University of Tours, the UFR Lettres et Langues, the Groupe de Recherche Anglo-Américaines de Tours (EA 2113), the Axe Afro-Américain Equipe (JE 2450).

173 members attended and took part in the twenty-seven workshops that are listed below and in which 143 papers were given. Good as these papers were, perhaps the most brilliant moments of the conference were the two keynote addresses. The first, by Maria Diedrich, "The Black Atlantic's Arian Shore," provided a trenchant reassessment of W. E. B. DuBois's relationships with Nazi Germany and the second, by Clayborne Carson, "A Vision of the World Set Free: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Global Mission," provided a moving re-evaluation of Martin Luther King's perception of the forces that opposed him.

Special events at the conference included a morning addressing "African-American Issues." V. P. Franklin spoke on the development and significance of the *Journal of African-American History*. CAAR members were invited to send papers to the journal. Bobbie W. Austin spoke on race relations and immigration as these both operate in the Washington DC and as these are reflected in student relations at the University of the District of Columbia. Dr. Austin invited CAAR members to join in the work of showing to a national and international public the value of African American Culture. Coleman Jordan followed this with a presentation, "Innecity/Innerharlem: Speaking Of Street Signs And Soapboxes," that explored the legal rights and legal impediments involved in making public statements in the streets of New York. A special evening event was the wonderfully witty and moving performance-presentation, written and staged by Hermine Pinson, "Ya'll: Auto/Bio/Fictional Narrative/Performance Piece/Play/Song."

Every evening of the conference and, indeed, every evening of the week, an African American Film Festival showed features and documentaries that included *Jackie Brown* (1997), *Couleurs d'Amérique* (2004), *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask* (1995), *Conakry Kas* (2004), *The Healing Passage/Voices from the Water* (2004). Arlette Frund was responsible for this excellent program.

Much of the best work of conferences is social, and Tours provided two exceptionally fine occasions with a Conference Reception on the first night and a Conference Banquet on the last night. Both functions were held at the Tours Town Hall in the nineteenth-century splendor of the Salle des Mariages. Gracious speeches were exchanged at the Reception and the most superb, intellectually abstracted and sensually provocative courses at the Banquet. The day following the conference, Sunday, April 24, completed the whole with the CAAR Excursion to Chenonceaux, Amboise and the Vouvray Winery.

All of these many events, happenings and entertainments cannot be carried through with such impact and effect without someone's making things work, and that person in Tours, was the perfectionist Claude Julien. Aided unstintingly by Christiane Julien, Claude operated efficiently, quietly and persistently to ensure that everything went as planned. CAAR owes Claude, Christiane and the Tours team the deepest thanks.

### **For the record the 2005 workshops and their leaders were as follows:**

Workshop 1: "MAKING THE INNERCITY: BLACK CULTURAL LANDSCAPES." Chairs: Elsa Barkley Brown, University of Maryland, USA and Kelly Quinn, University of Maryland, USA.

Workshop 2: "INNERCITY/YOUTH CULTURE." Chairs: Heike Raphael-Hernandez, University of Maryland in Europe, Germany and Alison Goeller, University of Maryland in Europe, Germany.

- Workshop 3: “COLLABORATIVE POSSIBILITIES: MICHAEL GOMEZ’S *EXCHANGING OUR COUNTRY MARKS* AND THE PROJECT TO RECOVER THE AFRICAN PAST IN THE AMERICAS.” Chair: Leslie Harris, Emory University, USA.
- Workshop 4: “RACIAL FORMATION IN 21ST CENTURY CONTEXTS: DIASPORIC IDENTITIES AND THE MULTICULTURAL IDEAL.” Chair: Patrick Miller, Northeastern Illinois University, USA.
- Workshop 5: “REVISIONING DIASPORA: CONTEMPORARY NARRATIVES OF THE BLACK WORLD.” Chairs: Johanna X. K. Garvey, Fairfield University, USA and Newtona (Tina) Johnson, Middle Tennessee State University, USA.
- Workshop 6: “THE AFRICAN AMERICAN SCENE: AN INTER-ETHNIC PERSPECTIVE.” Chair: Ada Savin, University of Versailles, France and Heiner Buss, Bamberg University, Germany.
- Workshop 7: “CROSSOVERS: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND GERMANY, 1914-1950.” Chair: Jurgen Heinrichs, Seton Hall University, USA.
- Workshop 8: “AFRICAN AMERICANS, RUSSIA, AND THE COLD WAR.” Chair: Maria Diedrich, Munster University, Germany.
- Workshop 9: “TRAVELING LIBERATION: AFRICAN AMERICAN INFLUENCES ON EUROPE AND AFRICA.” Chair: Sabine Broeck, Bremen University, Germany.
- Workshop 10: “BLACK BODIES TRAVELING.” Chair: Shelly Eversley, Baruch College--CUNY, USA.
- Workshop 11: “RACE, GENDER AND COMMUNITY.” Chair: Lillian S. Williams, SUNY at Buffalo, USA.
- Workshop 12: “QUEER LIKE BLACK: SEXUALITY AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN SUBJECT.” Chair: Michelle M. Wright, Macalester College, USA.
- Workshop 14: “OUT / IN / INTO; OR SHIFTING THE CRITICAL GAZE: WHITENESS IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MIND’S EYE.” Chair: Jean-Paul Rocchi, Paris University 7, France.
- Workshop 15: “BETWEEN NATIONS: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN EUROPE AND AFRICA BEFORE 1900.” Chair: Isabel Soto, National University, Spain.
- Workshop 16: “BEYOND SLAVERY: INTERACTIONS IN THE BLACK WOMAN’S ERA--PART 1.” Chair: Paola Boi, University of Cagliari, Italy.
- Workshop 17: “PAULINE E. HOPKINS: INTERACTIONS IN THE BLACK WOMAN’S ERA--PART 2.” Chair: Hanna Wallinger, University of Salzburg, Austria.
- Workshop 18: “1920s AND 1930s.” Chair: Mar Gallego, University of Huelva, Spain.
- Workshop 19: “AFRICAN AMERICAN DETECTION: WIDEMAN AND OTHERS IN THE CITY.” Chair: Keith Byerman, Indiana State University, USA.
- Workshop 20: “WRITING THE INNER SPACE: RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY AND BELIEF IN AFRICAN AMERICAN WRITING.” Chairs: Walter W. Hoelbling, Graz University, Austria, and Shirley Anne Stave, Northwestern State University, USA.
- Workshop 21: “TONI MORRISON: *LOVE* AND THE TRILOGY.” Chair: Justine Tally, University of La Laguna, Spain.
- Workshop 22: “AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND THE SIXTIES.” Chair: Cécile Coquet, University of Tours, France.
- Workshop 23: “RACE POLITICS IN THE 1990s.” Chair: Berndt Ostendorf, University of Munich, Germany.
- Workshop 24: “POST-COLONIAL POLITICS.” Chair: Fritz Gysin, University of Bern, Switzerland.
- Workshop 25: “INNER SPACE--INNERSCAPE: THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SACRED SPACES OF THE RELIGION(S) OF BLACKNESS.” Chair: Françoise Clary, University of Rouen, France.
- Workshop 26: “INTERpreting Race, INTERrogating Religion, and INTERjecting Rebellion: The Curse of Blackness and Other Religious Myths.” Chair: Anthony Pinn, Rice University, USA.
- Workshop 27: “Reflecting the Gaze: Eyes on the Diasporic Experience.” Chair: Arlette Frund, Tours University, France.

Yuan-wen Chi, regretting that he could not attend, called CAAR “the best world-wide forum for scholars to exchange ideas and communications.” One reason for that is the work done in the workshops and thanks goes to all those people who set them up and chaired them.

## CAAR TREASURER'S' REPORT

All sums are in euros. The decimal place is indicated, Anglo-American style, by a dot.

Item	Date	Debit	Credit	Balance
Starting Balance*	July 01, 2003		12106.48	12106.48
Winchester Conference	July 01, 2003		2360.75	2360.75
CAAR Brochure	Oct 01, 2003	-570.00		13897.23
Exec Com Travel	Dec 31, 2003	-455.76		13441.47
Dues 2003	Dec 31, 2003		118.22	13559.69
Exec Com Travel	Dec 31, 2004	-1653.55		11906.14
Dues 2004	Dec 31, 2004		4641.03	16547.17
Exec Com Travel	Apr 01, 2005	-300.00		16247.17
Bank Charges	Apr 01, 2005	-72.92		16174.25
Dues 2005	Apr 18, 2005		4494.03	20668.28

\*This sum was received from the previous CAAR Treasurer, Justine Tally, Treasurer to June 30, 2003.

Mar Gallego  
CAAR Treasurer  
April 20, 2005

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### *Small Island* by Andrea Levy

Those of you who attended the Winchester Conference will remember the readings that Andrea Levy gave us, especially from her work in progress *Small Island*. You will not be surprised but you will be delighted to learn that on January 26, 2005 Andrea Levy won the main prize of £25,000 at the Whitbread Book of the Year Awards for *Small Island*.

Trevor McDonald, chairperson of the judging panel, said: "It did not come down to the wire. Andrea Levy was a clear winner. It is a brilliantly observed novel of a period of English history that many people seem not to know much about."

Levy's *Small Island* has already earned her the Orange Prize for Women's Fiction.

It is a truly excellent novel.

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## FORECAAST

### (Forum for European Contributions to African American Studies)

The FORECAAST Editorial Board has agreed two volumes from the Tours Conference. Claude Julien is editing a selection of papers from the nineteenth-century workshops and Michelle Wright is editing a selection of papers based on the theme of the Black Body. These volumes will mainly consist of materials initially presented at Tours but not exclusively so. The editors are free to commission articles or to receive proposals.

Other volumes that take a starting point in the Tours workshops are welcomed. Twelve to fifteen articles is the usual number for a FORECAAST title. If you wish to edit a conference volume, please contact the General Editor, Maria Diedrich <diedri@uni-muenster.de>.

### CURRENT FORECAAST TITLES

Maria Diedrich, Carl Pedersen and Justine Tally, eds. *Mapping African America: History, Narrative Formation, and the Production of Knowledge*. FORECAAST 1 (1999).

Stefanie Sievers. *Liberating Narratives: The Authorization of Black Female Voices in African American Women Writers' Novels of Slavery*. FORECAAST 2 (1999).

Justine Tally. *Paradise Reconsidered: Toni Morrison's (Hi)stories and Truths*. FORECAAST 3 (1999).

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and Alison D. Goeller, eds. *EmBODYing Liberation: The Black Body in American Dance*. FORECAAST 4 (2001).

Patrick Miller, Therese Frey Steffen and Elisabeth Schäfer-Wünsche, eds. *The Civil Rights Movement reconsidered: Critical Perspectives in the United States*. FORECAAST 5 (2001).

Fritz Gysin and Christopher Mulvey, eds. *Black Liberation in the Americas*. FORECAAST 6 (2001).

Justine Tally. *The Story of Jazz*. FORECAAST 7 (2001).

Mar Gallego. *Passing Novels of the Harlem Renaissance: Identity Politics and Textual Strategies*. FORECAAST 8 (2003).

Paola Boi and Sabine Broeck, eds. *CrossRoutes--The Meaning of "Race" for the 21st Century*. FORECAAST 9 (2003).

Sylvia Mayer, ed. *Restoring the Connection to the Natural World: Essays on the African American Environmental Imagination*. FORECAAST 10 (2003).

Kimberley Phillips, Hermine Pinson; Lorenzo Thomas and Hanna Wallinger, eds. *Critical Voicings of Black Liberation: Resistance and Representations in the Americas*. FORECAAST 11 (2003).

Ana Maria Manzanás and Jesús Benito. *Intercultural Mediations: Hybridity and Mimesis in American Literature*. FORECAAST 12 (2003).

Joanne M. Braxton and Maria I. Diedrich, eds. *Monuments of the Black Atlantic: Slavery and Memory*. FORECAAST 13 (2004)..

Maria I. Diedrich, Theron Cook and Flip Lindo, eds. *Crossing Boundaries: African American Inner City and European Migrant Youth*. FORECAAST 14 (2004).

#### FORECAAST TITLE IN PROGRESS

*Complexions of Race*, edited by Fritz Gysin and Cynthia Hamilton

This volume is based on papers given at the Winchester Conference in 2003. It is dedicated to the memory of Lorenzo Thomas. It contains one of Lorenzo's last articles and begins with his poem: "An Afternoon with Dr. Blumenbach."

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#### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### **THE NIAGARA MOVEMENT: BLACK PROTEST REBORN, 1905-2005**

90th Annual ASALH Conference, 2005

Buffalo, New York USA

October 5-9, 2005

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (ASALH), is now accepting proposals for presentations at our annual meeting in 2005, hosted by the Buffalo, New York, branches. We will feature the latest scholarship on African American history, culture, politics, and society and welcome analyses of the scholarly trends of the last century. The theme for 2005 is "The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn 1905-2005" (marking the 100th anniversary of this event).

We especially encourage submission of papers that focus on international collaborations and struggles regardless of the time period. However, papers on other topics of relevance to African American history and the history of other African Diasporas are also welcome.

**PLEASE SHARE THIS CALL FOR PAPERS WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!**

Lillian S. Williams, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260, USA <lsw4@buffalo.edu>

Visit [www.africanamericanstudies.buffalo.edu/announce/asalh/call.htm](http://www.africanamericanstudies.buffalo.edu/announce/asalh/call.htm)

CALL FOR PAPERS  
**INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ON BLACK EUROPEAN STUDIES**  
Johann-Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany  
10-13 November 2005

This interdisciplinary conference is the first scholarly investigation of the African Diaspora as an aspect of intra-European history. Organized in connection with a multi year, international research project on Black Europeans co-sponsored the Universities of Mainz and Massachusetts and funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, the conference will endeavor to further scholarly exchange on the centuries-old history of Black Europeans, to encourage interdisciplinary contacts among scholars hitherto working in isolation, and to advance the development of new theoretical and methodological tools to understand the African Diaspora within Europe. Since the nineteen-eighties newly-emergent Black movements in Great Britain, Germany and the Netherlands have inspired scholarly investigations into the unknown history of Black Europeans particularly within the humanities. However, such research has taken place in scholarly and discursive isolation. Scarcely any European country is aware of the existence of indigenous Black minorities, and academic exchange has been possible only in connection with U.S. Diaspora Studies. Yet seen from the perspective of U.S. Diaspora studies, the European experience is often represented as a deviation from the central question of the transatlantic slave trade central to the U.S. experience. However, from a Black European vantage point, the Black diasporic experience reveals both differences, a consequence of differing national histories, and also important commonalities, drawing into question the conceptualization of the Black European experience as "deviation" and also defining colonialism as central to intra-European history.

The conference will have three important functions. It will enable direct exchange among scholars working in the area of Black European history; it will encourage the formation of on-going scholarly networks focused on particular research questions; and it will also help to make Black Europeans and their history visible beyond the bounds of academic discourse.

Since this conference is explicitly intended for scholars who work on the relatively new topic "Black Europe," the organizers of the conference especially call upon young scholars to present their work for discussion within this forum. In the course of the conference participants will decide upon research emphases that will inform subsequent collaboration. Conference participants will be asked to submit position papers outlining their research areas and emphases. Those position papers will be collected in a reader that will be distributed before the conference in order to facilitate intensive discussion of the topics addressed.

Workshop topics include: 1. Representing Black European history 2. Networking strategies: international (political) organizations 3. Racism and the academy 4. Black European Studies curricula 5. Empirical research: subjects and objects

Position papers may address Europe as a whole or specific European countries. All disciplines are welcome at this interdisciplinary conference. Please submit a one to two page abstract on your specific research project that also explains its relationship to your larger research interests. You should also submit potential questions for the workshop of your choice. Please send a short CV as well. The deadline for proposals is 15 May 2005. Please send your proposal to [piesche@best.uni-mainz.de](mailto:piesche@best.uni-mainz.de).

You will receive a written confirmation of your participation after 30 May 2005. A three to five page position paper for the reader will be due on 4 September 2005 at the latest. The complete reader will be mailed to you after 30 September. BEST will pay travel costs as well as room and board.

CALL FOR PAPERS  
**CROSSOVERS: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND GERMANY**  
Westphalian Wilhelms-University Muenster, Germany  
March 22-26, 2006

The conference “Crossovers: African Americans and Germany,” to be held at the WWUM in Muenster, Germany, from March 22-26, 2006, represents the launching of a long-term and transnational research initiative. Both, the conference and the larger research project are trans-cultural and interdisciplinary in approach and strive for a comprehensive study, documentation and narrative of the encounters between African Americans and Germans from 1780 to the present.

In close cooperation with scholars who have contributed to this field, the conference/project seeks to unite and to synthesize research from various disciplines and from different historical perspectives. Subjects to be explored include (but are not limited to) the representations of encounters between African Americans and Germans in literature, visual arts, film, media, etc. We invite contributions discussing the processes of individual, communal and national identity negotiation that accompanied these interactions, and we encourage studies that will focus on the new quality these negotiations acquired when, after World War II, the children born out of relationships between African American GIs and German women challenged traditional concepts of Germanness. Attention will also be given to projects that examine the experiences of scientists such as the African American biologist E.E. Just in Nazi Germany, the Berlin sojourns of sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois, or the adaptations of German academic émigrés to their new lives at HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). The conference / project seeks to develop research strategies and paradigms that provide for a more comprehensive understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of these complex, inter- and trans-cultural negotiations, dialogues, and passages within the Black Atlantic context. In the past, studies about interactions between African Americans and Germans often tended to limit themselves in operating from a one-sided perspective, i.e., the encounter is seen as a transformative, often liberational process for the African American protagonists, whereas the impact of these interactions on the German context long remained unexplored. The conference seeks to focus the dialogic quality and mutually transformative impact of such encounters across historical periods and across social, economic strata of African American and German contexts.

The conference/project invites, among others: Scholars from various disciplines such as American Studies, German Studies, History, African American Studies, Cultural Studies, Art History, Music History, Film Studies, Medicine, Psychology, etc.; Representatives from ISD (Initiative Schwarze Deutsche), ADEFRA (Afro-Deutsche Frauen), Black Unity Committee, etc.; African American scholars, artists, intellectuals, journalists, politicians, GIs, a.o. who lived or are living in Germany or traveled there.; African American and German writers whose texts have explored the encounters between African Americans and Germans. The program committee welcomes papers that approach the conference focus from an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective. Workshops should have no more than eight slots. Since we encourage international cooperation, we would ask that workshop organizers either recruit some of the participants from countries other than their own or leave at least half of the slots open. Proposals should be as short and to the point as possible (no more than one page). All proposals should include title of paper/workshop, a brief abstract, and should include your name, institution/affiliation, address, telephone number, and email address. Please send your proposals by EMAIL (with the text of the proposal included in the email, NOT as an attachment).

If you wish to run a workshop or wish to present a paper, please submit your proposal by September 1, 2005. Please send all proposals to: M. Brands-Schwabe, Westphalian Wilhelms-University, Germany: schwabem@uni-muenster.de.

Prof. Dr. Maria I. Diedrich (Munster University); Prof. Dr. Larry Greene (Seton Hall University); Prof. Dr. Juergen Heinrichs (Seton Hall University)

CALL FOR PAPERS  
**PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR CONFERENCE**  
Stanford University  
March 9-11, 2006.

Stanford University's Program in American Studies announces "Paul Laurence Dunbar: A Centennial Conference" at Stanford University March 9-11, 2006. This conference will celebrate the centennial of Dunbar's death by exploring new critical perspectives on the full range of his career as a poet, novelist, lyricist, dramatist, and journalist. The conference organizers will edit a selection of the papers for a special issue of *African American Review*. We welcome papers exploring Dunbar as an individual challenged by complex psychological, esthetic, social, and political pressures. We seek lectures that place him in the context of historical phenomena such as slavery and the Civil War, Reconstruction, lynching, race riots, and landmark Jim Crow legislation such as *Plessy v. Ferguson*. We want to consider Dunbar as a regional, national, and international writer, and as a stylistic innovator of the highest order. We also invite papers on his relationship to his literary predecessors, contemporaries, and successors--writers such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, James Whitcomb Riley, William Dean Howells, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, Mark Twain, W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, Charles Chesnut, James Weldon Johnson, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Langston Hughes, and more recent poets. We also hope to explore Dunbar's engagement with the musical theater, popular song, minstrelsy, spoken-word poetry, and reading-speaking tours; with visual culture, such as the Hampton Camera Club; and with notable cultural events, such as the World's Columbian Exposition.

Sponsored by the American Studies Program at Stanford University, this conference is organized by the director of the program, Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Gavin Jones (Stanford), Meta DuEwa Jones (George Washington), Arnold Rampersad (Stanford), and Richard Yarborough (UCLA). Co-sponsors include the Office of the President of Stanford University; Office of the Dean of Humanities & Sciences; Department of English; Department of History; Stanford Continuing Studies; Program in African and African American Studies; Stanford Humanities Center; and the Central Region Humanities Center. If you are interested in presenting a paper, or in attending the conference, please let us know at once at the email address below.

Note that August 1 is the deadline for receiving paper proposals. To propose a paper, please send an abstract of about 600 words in length by August 1, 2005, along with a one-page c.v. and contact information to: [DunbarConference@stanford.edu](mailto:DunbarConference@stanford.edu).

The conference will be free to all registrants. In addition, we expect to provide travel and lodging support for all presenters.

CALL FOR PAPERS  
**DENMARK AND THE BLACK ATLANTIC**  
Thursday 4 May to Saturday 6 May 2006  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

In 1993, Paul Gilroy theorized the Black Atlantic as a “rhizomorphic, fractal structure of transcultural exchange” that is “continually crisscrossed by the movements of black people—not only as commodities [e.g., during the transatlantic slave trade] but engaged in various struggles towards emancipation, autonomy, and citizenship.” Tracing the transatlantic movements and cultural productions of a wide range of diasporic black activists and artists, Gilroy’s monograph *The Black Atlantic* has had a profound impact on subsequent scholarship across a wide range of disciplines including postcolonial studies, American studies, African American studies, Caribbean studies, history, geography, and English studies.

The theme and focus of this conference departs from a question that Gilroy poses: “What of Nella Larsen’s relationship to Denmark, where George Padmore was held in jail during the early 1930s and which was also the home base of his banned paper the *Negro Worker*, circulated across the world by its supporters in the Colonial Seamen’s Association?” Over three days, “Denmark and the Black Atlantic” will explore these and other questions regarding the role of Denmark and its former Caribbean colonies, the Danish West Indies (now the Virgin Islands), in the Black Atlantic world. The conference also offers the opportunity to assess and advance recent developments in both international scholarship and Danish public culture which have focused attention on different facets of Denmark’s role in Black Atlantic history. In 1997, George Hutchinson overturned the scholarly consensus that Nella Larsen, the biracial, U.S.-born daughter of a Danish mother and Danish West Indian father, never visited Denmark (despite Larsen’s own claims to the contrary) by disclosing archival evidence of Larsen’s transatlantic travels between New York and Copenhagen. In early 2005, the Danish public television channel DR2 aired a documentary series, *Slavernes Slægt*, which traced the mixed-racial heritage of contemporary Danes, in the process sparking renewed media and public interest in Denmark’s colonial and slave-trading history. In April 2005, a delegation from the Virgin Islands visited Denmark to discuss the legacy of this history; discussions regarding reparations, memorials, and other projects are ongoing.

This call for papers invites proposals for both individual presentations and collective panels that relate to the overall conference theme.

The main language of the conference will be English, but proposals for papers/panels in Danish are welcome. Individual papers should be a maximum of 20 minutes in length; 90 minutes will be assigned to each panel, with three speakers each and half an hour for discussion. However, we also welcome proposals for other, less conventional presentations, and will do our best to fit them into the conference schedule. If there is sufficient interest, we will consider extending the conference to Sunday 7 May.

Please send individual paper and collective panel proposals to the conference organising committee at [bone@hum.ku.dk](mailto:bone@hum.ku.dk) by 1 December 2005. Enquiries can be directed to the same address. Conference costs are currently being finalised but we anticipate that the basic registration fee will be approximately 600 Danish kroner, with optional extras of 150 Danish kroner for the opening concert in Copenhagen Jazzhouse and 60 Danish kroner for the Nella Larsen walking tour. The “Denmark and the Black Atlantic” organising committee is: Dr. Martyn Bone, Anne Dvinge, Dr. Justin Edwards, and Dr. Carl Pedersen.

**5th MESEA Conference  
The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies:  
Europe and the Americas**

**May 18-20, 2006  
University of Navarra  
Pamplona, Spain**

**Call for Papers**

**ETHNIC LIFE WRITING AND HISTORIES**

We invite paper abstracts and complete panel proposals on all aspects of ethnic life writing and histories in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa. We encourage interdisciplinary perspectives that highlight the intersections between life writing, history, sociology, and culture. Topics may include, but are not limited to: theoretical intersections between auto/biography and history; expanding the concepts of auto/biography and histories; theory as auto/biography; auto/ethnography as auto/biography; autobiographies and biographies; the cultural work of life writing texts; *testimonio*; genres of life writing in ethnic contexts; travel and travel writing: writing selves, writing histories; life writing as historical inscription; family memoirs; narrative perspectives in history and auto/biography; questions of ethics in life writing; autobiography, history and law; concepts of nationhood and history through life writing; voices in history, historical voices; alternative histories; auto/biographies by/about historians; creating cultural and/or collective memory through life writing; visualizing auto/biographies and histories; the media and virtuality: film as auto/biography and history; the Internet and blogs as forms of life writing; theater studies and autoperformance; hearing and speaking: aural and oral auto/biography and histories; the sociologies and economics of auto/biography and histories; different worlds, different auto/biographies, different histories - globalization and its (dis)contents.

Three hard copies of 300-word abstracts or full panel proposals (that include a description of the panel and specific abstracts) as well as an electronic copy must be submitted to MESEA's Program Director, Yiorgos Kalogeras, Department of English, Aristotle University, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece (kalogera@enl.auth.gr) by November 15, 2005.

At this conference, MESEA is inaugurating its Young Scholars Research Awards. For more information: <http://www.mesea.org>

## ***African American National Biography***

The editors are seeking contributors to write biographical entries for the *African American National Biography*, a joint project of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University and Oxford University Press. The largest African American Studies project ever undertaken, covering a broader range of African American lives than ever before, the *African American National Biography* will present history through a mosaic of the lives of 10,000 individuals, some known throughout the world and others all but forgotten, illuminating the abiding influence of African Americans on the life of this nation through the immediacy of individual experience. Our goal is to include not only great and famous African Americans, but a selection of lives that will be representative of the scope of African American experience.

We are commissioning articles on African Americans in all fields, from all periods of North American history, and from all stations of life—activists, writers and journalists, slaves, sharecroppers, domestic workers, laborers, musicians, politicians, government workers, judges, lawyers, ministers, preachers, and other religious workers, educators, athletes, sports figures, actors, directors, filmmakers, doctors, nurses, artists, photographers, business people, entrepreneurs, military personnel, scientists, philanthropists, dancers, frontiersmen, cowboys, inventors, aviators, astronauts, explorers, legendary figures, and more. While there will be a limited number of entries for living people in AANB, our current priority is to find writers for dead subjects in order to fill in the historical record.

AANB entries are typically 750 to 1,500 words in length. Each article will be signed by the author and will include a brief bibliography. Authors will receive an honorarium, typically \$75-\$150, based on the contracted length of each entry.

Lists of unassigned names and an application to write can be accessed on the AANB Web site, at [www.fas.harvard.edu/~aanb](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aanb). We also welcome suggestions for subjects whose names do not presently appear on our lists.

The first publication of the project, *African American Lives* (Oxford University Press, 2004), a collection of 600 biographies of notable African Americans, was published in April 2004 and, in the words of the Publishers Weekly reviewer, “will undoubtedly become a standard in the field.” Author and critic Julius Lester has called it “a definitive book.”

John K. Bollard Executive Editor *African American National Biography* W.E.B. Du Bois Institute  
Harvard University 69 Dunster Street Cambridge, MA 02138 <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aanb/>  
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**COLLEGIUM FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH**

**HOW TO PAY YOUR CAAR DUES FOR 2005**

1. If you prefer to make a bank transfer, please send me a xeroxed copy of the transfer so I can keep close tabs on who lodges directly into the bank. In case you prefer to pay by credit card, please complete the form below and return it to me:  
Mar Gallego, Universidad de Huelva, Dpto. Filología Inglesa, Av. Fuerzas Armadas, s/n  
E-21007 Huelva, Spain

Our Bank data for transfers and international checks is as follows:

**COLLEGIUM FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH,**  
**BBVA (Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria)**  
**Av. del Aljarafe, s/n**  
**41930 Bormujos (Sevilla, Spain)**  
**Bank: 0182**  
**Branch:6018**  
**D.C.: 35**  
**Account nr: 0201504009**  
**Swift Code: BBVAESMMXXX**  
**IBAN: ES12 0182 6018 3502 0150 4009**

2. Bank transfers cost CAAR up to 20% of your dues, so if you can, please pay by credit card, by filling out the following form and returning it to me:

**COLLEGIUM FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH**

<b>Membership for 2005</b>	<b>(EUR 60)</b>	_____
<b>Biennial Membership for 2005 and 2006</b>	<b>(EUR 100)</b>	_____
<b>Students / Unwaged members for 2005</b>	<b>(EUR 12)</b>	_____
<b>Members with nonconvertible currencies</b>	<b>(EUR 12)</b>	_____
<b>Donation to travel fund nonfunded Colleagues</b>		_____
<b>Donation to CAAR</b>		_____
<b>TOTAL PAYMENT</b>		_____

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Country:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Univ. affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

<b>VISA</b>	<b>Master Card</b>	<b>American Express</b>
<b>Card Number:</b> _____		<b>Exp. Date:</b> _____
<b>Signature:</b> _____		<b>Date:</b> _____