

Annual Report 2007



Photo: Marc Halvri

The W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research

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About the Institute

The W. E. B. Du Bois Institute is the nation's oldest research center dedicated to the study of the history, culture, and social institutions of Africans and African Americans. Named after the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University, William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1868-1963), the Institute was established in May 1975 to create fellowships that would "facilitate the writing of doctoral dissertations in areas related to Afro-American Studies."

Today, the Institute awards fifteen fellowships annually to scholars at various stages in their careers in the fields of African and African American Studies, broadly defined to cover the expanse of the African Diaspora. The Du Bois Institute's research projects and visiting fellows form the vital nucleus around which revolve a stimulating array of lecture series, art exhibitions, readings, conferences, and archival and publication projects.

With Gratitude to the Institute's Supporters

Realizing our dream of a permanent home in Harvard Square for the Du Bois Institute would not have been possible without the encouragement and support of former presidents Derek Bok, Neil L. Rudenstine, and Lawrence H. Summers; Provost Steven E. Hyman; former Deans of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Henry Rosovsky, Jeremy Knowles, and William C. Kirby; Associate Dean for Faculty Development Laura Gordon Fisher; and Dean for Social Sciences David Cutler.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.,
Director, The W. E. B. Du Bois Institute
for African and African American Research

page 1: Visitors to the Institute are greeted by a portrait of Du Bois by photographer and scholar Carl Van Vechten.

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Letter from the Director

Since its founding in 1975, the mission of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research has been built upon a foundation created by the Harvard-trained historians W. E. B. Du Bois (Ph.D. 1895), Carter G. Woodson (Ph.D. 1912), and Nathan I. Huggins (Ph.D. 1962). The Du Bois Institute embodies their commitment to excellence, and it has become the nation's top research center dedicated to the study of the history, culture, and social institutions of Africans and African Americans. Because of the steadfast support of so many friends and colleagues, the Institute has moved into a new 10,000 square foot space in the heart of Harvard Square.

The Institute consists of three floors housing African and African American art and artifacts, the John Hope Franklin Collection of Africana and African Americana, the Hutchins Family Library, the Hutchins Family Seminar Room, the Celia and Henry McGee, III, Black Film Poster Collection, as well as the Neil L. and Angelica Zander Rudenstine Gallery, which regularly houses special exhibitions by leading artists such as Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Paul Stopforth, Isaac Julien, and Carrie Mae Weems.

It has long been my desire to see a vibrant center of scholarship and research on Harvard's campus and our new space marks the first time all of our research projects, fellows and staff can capitalize on the unique intellectual possibilities for collaboration that one physical space provides. The Institute's new home is one of Harvard's greatest achievements –

it is a remarkably beautiful visual testimony to the work to which so many scholars and supporters have dedicated their lives.

The Institute's staff, fellows, faculty and project directors continue to expand the discipline of African and African American research with the completion of such projects as the comprehensive eight-volume *African American National Biography* to be published by Oxford University Press in 2008; the ongoing digitization by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of the Image of the Black in Western Art Photo Archive, which boasts 30,000 photographs of persons of African descent; and the airing of the sequel to the PBS series "African American Lives."

The breadth and depth of our work at the Institute simply could not be achieved without the support of the Harvard administration, faculty, students, and our National Advisory Board, and for that I am deeply grateful.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Director, The W. E. B. Du Bois Institute
for African and African American Research
Alphonse Fletcher University Professor



Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Photo: Marc Halevi, 2007

SPECIAL EVENT

50th Anniversary of the 1st International Congress of Black Writers and Artists, 1956–2006



Photo: Christophe Henry

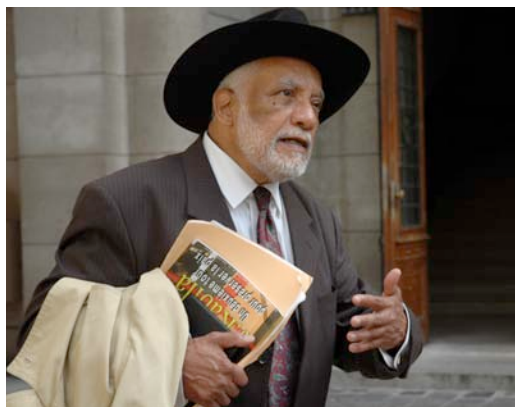


Photo: Christophe Henry

Paris, France

September 19–22, 2006

Co-sponsored by UNESCO and

Présence Africaine

The Du Bois Institute commemorated the 50th anniversary of the first 1956 Congress of Negro Writers and Artists with an historic celebration at the Sorbonne and UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Following the tradition set by the first Congress, an eminent group of intellectuals, writers, and artists reassembled to discuss the international influence and future of black cultural and artistic production. Surviving delegates from the first gathering were awarded the W. E. B. Du Bois Medal for their commitment to intellectual inquiry and activism.

To learn more about this event, please visit our commemorative Website:
<http://dubois-paris2006.fas.harvard.edu>

2006 Congress Speakers

René Depestre, Writer

Yandé Christiane Diop, Secretary General of the African Community of Culture, Director of Présence Africaine

Marcelino dos Santos, Writer

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Director, The W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research

Édouard Glissant, Writer

Jean-Robert Pitte, President, University of Paris Sorbonne IV

Maurice Quénet, Rector of the Academy, Chancellor of the Universities of Paris

Nouréini Tidjani-Serpos, Under-Secretary General of UNESCO

Wole Soyinka, Writer, Nobel Prize for Literature, President of the African Community of Culture, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO



Photo: Christophe Henry

top: 2006 Congress delegates gather outside of the University of Paris Sorbonne IV.



Photo: Christophe Henry

middle: At the close of the Congress, Nouréini Tidjani-Serpos, Under-Secretary General of UNESCO, congratulates Yandé Christiane Diop, Director of Présence Africaine and widow of Alioune Diop (Senegalese writer and principal organizer of original 1956 Congress).



Photo: Christophe Henry

bottom: Maurice Quénét, Rector of the Academy, Chancellor of the Universities of Paris (left) listens to Jean-Robert Pitte, President, University of Paris Sorbonne IV, as he addresses the Paris delegates.

opposite, left: Wole Soyinka, Nobel Laureate in Literature (1986), delivers his address in the Sorbonne's Amphithéâtre Descartes where the first Congress was also held in 1956.

opposite, right: René Depestre, Haitian writer and 1956 delegate, arrives.

SPECIAL EVENT

Hurricane Katrina : The Aftermath

Edgartown, Massachusetts

August 23, 2006

Co-sponsored by HBO and the Charles

**Hamilton Houston Institute for Race
and Justice**

An enthusiastic crowd lines
up patiently before the start
of the evening.



Photo: Mark Alan Lovewell

Our annual Martha's Vineyard event, sponsored by National Advisory Board members Richard L. Plepler and Glenn H. Hutchins, examined poverty and race through the lens of America's reaction to New Orleans's alarming devastation. It was standing-room only as special guest Spike Lee welcomed the audience and presented Act IV of his HBO documentary, *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*.

Co-sponsored with HBO and the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, the panel was moderated by Charles Ogletree, Jr. (Jesse Climenko Professor of Law, Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Harvard Law School).

Panelists included:

Mia Bagneris, Ph.D. candidate
Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Professor Lawrence D. Bobo, Stanford
University
Professor Michael Eric Dyson, Georgetown
University
Professor Lani Guinier, Harvard Law School
Professor Manning Marable, Columbia
University

Our most ambitious annual Vineyard event to date, *Hurricane Katrina: The Aftermath* helped to raise \$15,000 for the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity.

View the entire Webcast at:
http://dubois.fas.harvard.edu/news_events/index.html



Photo: Mark Alan Lovewell

top: Spike Lee welcomes the audience prior to the screening of his HBO documentary, *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*.



Photo: Mark Alan Lovewell

middle: Professor Michael Eric Dyson looks on as Professor Lani Guinier holds up a visual reminder of the inequality and injustice faced by Katrina victims.

bottom, from left to right: Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Angela De Leon, Erin Kasimow, and Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham listen to the discussion



Photo: Mark Alan Lovewell

Fellows Program

The Fellows Program is the oldest of the Institute's activities and its fifteen annual visiting scholars reflect the interdisciplinary breadth of African and African American Studies. The Institute has appointed Fellows since its founding in 1975 and supports research at both the pre-doctoral and post-doctoral levels.

Du Bois Fellows are truly international, including scholars from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. The Institute's Mandela Fellows Program is sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in collaboration with the University of Cape Town. The Scholars at

Risk Program of the Harvard University Committee on Human Rights Studies also annually appoints a persecuted scholar as a fellow at the Institute. With more than 300 alumni, many former fellows are now major figures in the field, including: Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham (Harvard University), Brent Edwards (Columbia University), George Frederickson (Stanford University), Gloria Wade Gayles (Spelman College), Nell Irvin Painter (Princeton University), Arnold Rampersad (Stanford University), Claude Steele (Stanford University), and Cornel West (Princeton University).

2006-07 Du Bois Institute Fellows

front row, left to right: Lisa Gregory, Susan Reverby, Patricia Hills, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Patricia Sullivan, Barbara Rodriguez, Chisato Hotta

middle row: Catherine Manegold, Felix Ulombe Kaputu, Chukwuma Azuonye, Jeffrey Ferguson, Hudita Nura Mustafa

back row: David Bindman, Guillaume Aubert



Photo: Mark Halvni

The Du Bois Colloquium

The weekly Du Bois Colloquium offers a forum for Harvard faculty and Institute Fellows to present their work in progress. Previous speakers include: Wole Soyinka, Ira Berlin, Orlando Patterson, Claude Steele, Jamaica Kincaid, Hazel V. Carby, and Zadie Smith. Colloquia take place every Wednesday during the academic year, noon–1:30 p.m., in the Thompson Room, at the Barker Center for the Humanities.

2006–07 Colloquium Speakers

Guillaume Aubert*

Assistant Professor, Williams College
Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellow,
Du Bois Institute
Constructing Race and Nation

Chukwuma Azuonye*

Professor of Africana Studies, University of
Massachusetts, Boston
*A Pilot Study and Critical Edition of the Unpublished
Papers of Christopher Okigbo, 1957–1967*

David Bindman*

Durning-Lawrence Professor of the History of Art,
University College London
Editing the Image of the Black in Western Art,
vols. 3.1 & 3.2

Lawrence D. Bobo

Martin Luther King, Jr. Centennial Professor
Director, Center for Comparative Studies in
Race and Ethnicity and Program in
African and African American Studies,
Stanford University
*Of Punitiveness and Prejudice: Racial Attitudes
and the Popular Demand for Harsh Crime Policies*

Jeffrey Ferguson*

Associate Professor of Black Studies and American
Studies, Amherst College
Race and the Rhetoric of Resistance

Cheryl Finley

Assistant Professor of Art History, Cornell University
*'It's Part of My DNA': The Embedded Life of the
Slave Ship Icon*

Roland G. Fryer, Jr.

Assistant Professor of Economics, Harvard University
*The Causes and Consequences of Attending
Historically Black Colleges and Universities*

Lani Guinier

Bennett Boskey Professor of Law, Harvard University
Linked Fate: The Jurisprudence of Social Movements

Patricia Hills*

Professor of Art History, Boston University
Painting Harlem Modern: The Art of Jacob Lawrence

Chisato Hotta*

Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellow,
Independent Scholar
*Racism and Minority Experience: Koreans in Osaka
and African Americans in Chicago, 1920–1945*

Biodun Jeyifo

Professor of African and African American Studies,
Harvard University
*On the 'Spectre of Comparison' Within One
Language: The Case of Global Anglophone Literary,
Media and Cultural Studies*

Du Bois Colloquium

Felix Ulombe Kaputu*

Visiting Assistant Professor of Literature,
Purchase College
HIV-AIDS, Religions, Traditions and Gender
Issues in Sub-Saharan Africa

Gretchen Long*

Assistant Professor of History, Williams College
Doctoring Freedom: The Politics of African
American Medical Care, 1840–1910

Catherine Manegold*

Independent Scholar
Ten Hills Farm

Hudita Nura Mustafa*

McMillan-Stewart Fellow
Practicing Beauty: Gender, Urbanism and
Cultural Creativity in Senegal

Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.

Jesse Climenko Professor of Law
Director, Charles Hamilton Houston
Institute for Race and Justice
Harvard University
Reconsideration of Dred Scott v. Sanford:
Was Justice Taney Right?

Jacob Olupona

Professor of African and African American
Studies and of African Religious Traditions
Harvard University
When the King Renounces His Divine Status:
Religious Transformation in the City of 201
Gods, Ile-Ile, Nigeria

Susan M. Reverby*

Marion Butler McClean Professor, Wellesley College
Testifying on Tuskegee: Telling and Retelling
Stories of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study

Jean-Paul Rocchi*

Professor of Literature,
University Paris VII – Denis Diderot
The Intimacy of Madness and the Madness
of Intimacy in Contemporary African American
and Diasporic Queer Literature

Barbara Rodriguez*

Independent Scholar
Testing the Limits of the Slave Narrative:
Toni Morrison, Benny Andrews, and Margaret
Garner's Story

Patricia Sullivan*

Associate Professor of History and African American
Studies, University of South Carolina
Struggle Toward Freedom: A History of the NAACP

*Du Bois Fellow, 2006–07

Neil L. and Angelica Zander Rudenstine Gallery – Exhibitions

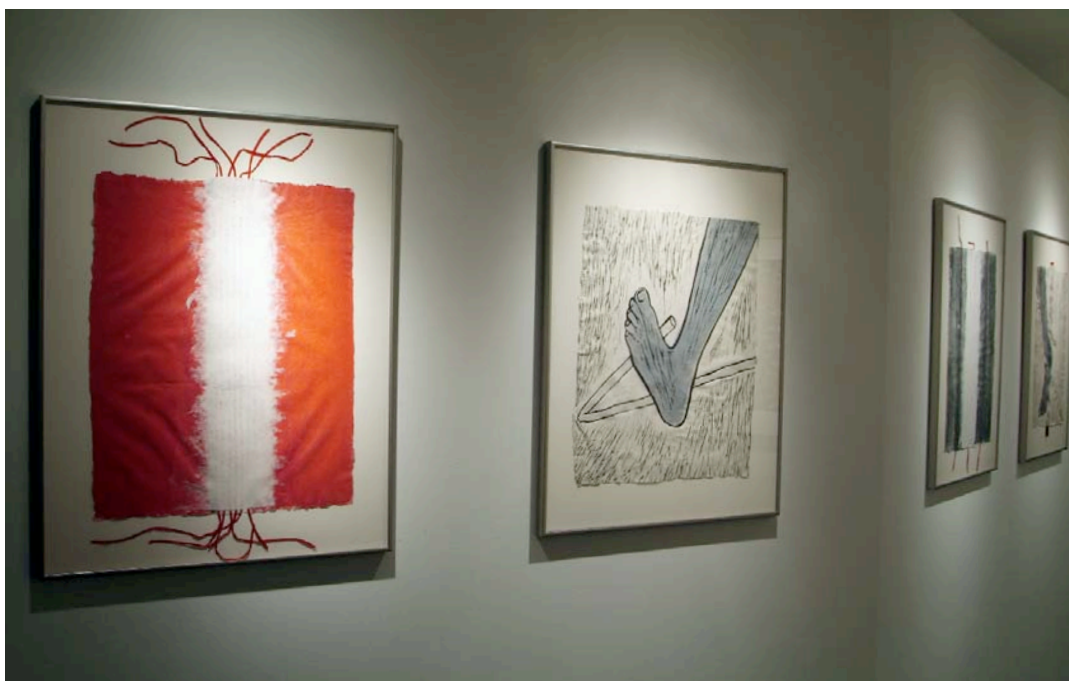


Interior of the Rudenstine Gallery

Photo: Marc Halevi

As the only exhibition space at Harvard devoted to works by and about people of African descent, the Du Bois Institute's Rudenstine Gallery is a welcome addition to the campus. Named in honor of former Harvard President Neil L. Rudenstine and art historian Angelica Zander Rudenstine, in recognition of their contributions to African and African American Studies and to the arts, the gallery hosts rotating exhibitions and accompanying artist talks. Its curatorial mission is to support both historical and contemporary practices in the visual arts.

Neil L. and Angelica Zander Rudenstine Gallery – Exhibitions



Installation view

Photo courtesy of the artist

Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons
Bojeo: Traces in a Fragmented History

Bojeo, signifying “navigating through a territory” in Spanish, was an exhibition of mixed media, featuring photographs, early-printmaking photogravure, and video. Campos-Pons says of her work “the art of the African Diaspora is an act of searching our own histories, our self-identity, in the New World.”

right: Paul Stopforth
Being Here and Not There: Fragments and Reliquaries from Robben Island

The mixed-media installation, *Being Here and Not There: Fragments and Reliquaries from Robben Island*, by South African artist Paul Stopforth presented mundane objects as sacred. Created while he was a visiting scholar at Robben Island, Stopforth had this to say about the exhibition: “Like fragments of the true cross, they are at once insignificant and holy, discards as well as witnesses to the ongoing, shifting nature of our lives and our histories.”



Primer 2005, Mixed media on wood panel, 24 x 25.5 inches

Photo courtesy of the artist



Isaac Julien and Sunil Gupta

Looking for Langston: Images
by Isaac Julien and Sunil Gupta

The photographs that comprised the exhibition, *Looking for Langston: Images* by Isaac Julien and Sunil Gupta, were taken by filmmaker Isaac Julien and cinematographer Sunil Gupta, during the filming of Julien's groundbreaking film of the same name. *Looking for Langston* is a metaphoric reflection on African American poet Langston Hughes and is a non-linear narrative that includes footage of 1920's Harlem and unflinchingly explores his life as a gay man.



Looking for Langston: Images by Isaac Julien and Sunil Gupta 1989, Silver gelatin print, 20 x 24 inches

Photo: Isaac Julien and Sunil Gupta

A Synergistic Hub of Intellectual Fellowship



Photo: Marc Halevi

Professor Gates receives a first edition of Du Bois' seminal work, *The Souls of Black Folk*, from former Harvard President, Neil L. Rudenstine during the Institute's dedication.

right: Director and Curator of the Image of the Black in Western Art Research Project and Photo Archive, Karen C. C. Dalton congratulates artist Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons as her work is unveiled at the Rudenstine Gallery's inaugural exhibit.



Photo: Marc Halevi



Photo: Kris Sribbe, Harvard News Office, 2005

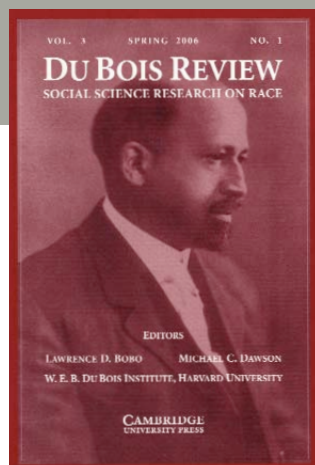


Photo: Marc Halevi

Du Bois Fellow Benjamin Adisa Ogunfolakan stands next to a photo of filmmaker Melvin Van Peebles by artist Isaac Julien which is part of the fine art holdings of the Institute.

left: Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, teaches a graduate seminar on the African American literary tradition in the Hutchins Family Seminar Room.

Publications



Du Bois Review:
Social Science Research on Race
 Editors: Lawrence D. Bobo and Michael C. Dawson
 Senior Associate Editor: Tommie Shelby
 Director of Publications: Laurie Calhoun
 Publications Coordinator: Carmella Schaecher

Now in its fourth year, the Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race (DBR) is a multidisciplinary journal that presents and analyzes the best academic research on race from the social sciences. The first DBR special issue, "Katrina: Unmasking Race, Poverty and Politics in the 21st Century," was widely acclaimed. The most recent issue of DBR, volume 3, no. 2, includes articles on reparations, interracial marriage, multiracial studies, the importance of the work of W. E. B. Du Bois for the development of twentieth-century social science, and a lively discourse section on the unique situation of black women, in both society and the academy. Volume 4, no. 1 and no. 2, currently in preparation, are devoted entirely to immigration: "Engaging Immigration: Social, Economic and Policy Perspectives."



Transition: An International Review
 Editors: F. Abiola Irele and Tommie Shelby
 Publishers: Kwame Anthony Appiah, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Wole Soyinka
 Director of Publications: Laurie Calhoun
 Publications Coordinator: Carmella Schaecher

Transition: An International Review is an award-winning quarterly magazine of politics, culture, and literature, emphasizing writing from and about Africa and the diaspora. Transition was founded in Uganda in 1961 by Rajat Neogy, and Wole Soyinka was its second editor-in-chief, followed by Henry D. Finder, and Michael Vasquez. The most recent issue, Transition 97, opens with Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka's address in Paris at the 50th Anniversary Conference marking the 1st International Congress of Black Writers and Artists on the Darfur crisis. Transition 98 will include a special section celebrating Ghana's fiftieth anniversary of independence and fiction by Tiphonie Yanique and Patricia Jabbeh Wesley.

Annual Lecture Series

W. E. B. Du Bois Lectures

The W. E. B. Du Bois Lectures were established in 1981 with funding from the Ford Foundation. These lectures recognize persons of outstanding achievement who have contributed to the understanding of African American life, history, and culture. Previous speakers have included: Homi Bhabha, Stuart Hall, Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Glenn C. Loury, Manning Marable, John McWhorter, Sidney Mintz, and Brent Staples. This series is sponsored by the Harvard University Press.

Paul Gilroy

The Moral Economy of Blackness in the 21st Century
October 3–5, 2006

George Fredrickson

*Big Enough to be Inconsistent:
Slavery and Race in the Thought and Politics
of Abraham Lincoln*
November 14–16, 2006

Robert Farris Thompson

*The Grand Atlantic Kongo Tradition:
Art Histories of Ecstasy and Law*
February 20–22, 2007

Nathan I. Huggins Lectures

The Nathan I. Huggins Lectures were established by friends and colleagues of Nathan I. Huggins, the distinguished historian and first occupant of the W. E. B. Du Bois Professorship at Harvard University. Professor Huggins served as Chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies and as Director of the Du Bois Institute from 1980 until his untimely death in 1989. The purpose of this series is to bring distinguished scholars to Harvard to deliver a series of lectures focusing on topics related to African American history. The series is sponsored by the Harvard University Press. Previous speakers have included: David Brion Davis, Lani Guinier, Thomas Holt, Robin D. G. Kelley, Gary Nash, Leon F. Litwack, Waldo E. Martin, and Gerald Torres.

Darlene Clark Hine

*Rehearsal for Freedom:
Women Performing Race, Class, and Gender
in South Carolina, 1870–1954*
March 5–7, 2007

Annual Lecture Series

McMillan-Stewart Lectures

The McMillan-Stewart Lectures were established in 1996 to honor Ms. Genevieve McMillan of Cambridge and her colleague, Ms. Reba Stewart, who died a tragic death while working as a painter in Africa. Ms. McMillan, who has endowed this lecture series as part of the Fellows Program, hopes that the lectures will advance knowledge of the field of African Studies. This series is sponsored by Basic/Civitas Books (Perseus Books Group). Previous speakers have included: Chinua Achebe, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, F. Abiola Irele, Ali Mazrui, Emmanuel Obiechina, Wole Soyinka, and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o.

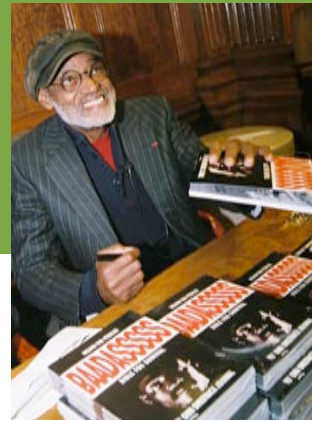
Maryse Condé

*Rediscovering the Self in Francophone Literature:
The Erasure of Memory and the Rebellious
Presence of Africa*
December 5–7, 2006



Maryse Condé

Photo: Marc Halevi



Melvin Van Peebles

Photo: Marc Halevi

Alain LeRoy Locke Lectures

The Alain LeRoy Locke Lectures are named after the godfather of the Harlem Renaissance and the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Harvard in 1918, Alain LeRoy Locke (1885–1954). These lectures are intended to honor the memory and contributions of this noted Harvard scholar, who became the first and, until 1963, the only African American to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. This series is sponsored by Basic/Civitas Books (Perseus Books Group). The series was established to bring a distinguished person to deliver lectures on a topic related to the field of African American culture and history. Previous speakers have included: Dwight Andrews, Manthia Diawara, Gerald Early, Elvis Mitchell, Darryl Pinckney, and Melvin Van Peebles.

Paule Marshall

People and Places in the Life of a Writer
April 18–20, 2006

Walter Mosley

Street Philosophy by Socrates Fortlow
October 24–26, 2007

Paul Oliver

Proto-Blues: Secular Music Recorded in the Field
February 6–8, 2007

Archives, Manuscripts, and Collections

Image of the Black in Western Art Research Project and Photo Archive

Director and Curator: Karen C. C. Dalton
Curatorial Associate: Sheldon Cheek

Spanning nearly 5,000 years and documenting virtually all forms of media, the Image of the Black in Western Art Research Project and Photo Archive is a comprehensive repository devoted to the systematic investigation of how people of African descent have been perceived and represented in art.

Started in 1960 by Jean and Dominique de Ménil in reaction to the existence of segregation in the United States, the archive contains photographs of approximately 30,000 works of art, each one of which is extensively documented and categorized by the archive's staff. For the first thirty years of its existence, the project focused on the production of a prize-winning series of scholarly volumes.

Now the project is focused on expanding access to its archives through its partnership with ARTstor, which is generously underwritten by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Through this grant, the project has digitized almost a quarter of its holdings for education, teaching, and scholarly inquiry. To learn more, please visit www.artstor.org.

Chinua Achebe Papers

Manuscripts of Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe's main publications from *Arrow of God* (1964) to *Anthills of the Savannah* (1987) and of a few later occasional writings down to 1993; with some publishers' correspondence. For more information, please contact Houghton Library at 617.495.2449.

Shirley Graham Du Bois Papers

Papers of influential artist and activist Graham Du Bois (1896–1977), the second wife of W. E. B. Du Bois. It includes Graham Du Bois's personal correspondence, private papers, professional work, and photographs. For more information, please contact Schlesinger Library at 617.495.8647.

June Jordan Papers

Papers of June Jordan (1936–2002) author of *Kissing God Goodbye*, poet, prolific writer, outspoken activist, professor, and champion of equal rights. The bulk of the papers span 1954–2002 and contain biographical material, personal and professional correspondence, notes, drafts of published readings, recordings (mostly audio) of poetry writings, and photographs. For more information, please contact Schlesinger Library at 617.495.8647.

Celia and Henry W. McGee, III, Black Film Poster Collection

This historically rich poster collection, generously underwritten by Celia (A. B. 1973) and Henry W. McGee, III, (A. B. 1974, M. B. A. 1979) highlights the African American experience as it has been cinematically captured by such silent films as *The Crimson Skull* and *Black Gold*, blaxploitation cult favorites *Sweet Sweetback's Baadaasssss Song*, *Shaft*, and *Friday Foster*, as well as popular musicals like *The Wiz* and *Sparkle*. Located at the Du Bois Institute, 617.495.8508.

Albert Murray Papers

The papers of Albert Murray, noted cultural critic and co-founder of Jazz at Lincoln Center,

Archives, Manuscripts, and Collections

comprise this collection. Papers include his writings, notes, and his correspondence with Ralph Ellison. Part of this collection was published in 2000 as *Trading Twelves: The Selected Letters of Ralph Ellison and Albert Murray*. For more information, please contact Houghton Library at 617.495.2449.

Suzan-Lori Parks Papers

The papers of Suzan-Lori Parks (2001 recipient of a MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Award and the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play *Topdog/Underdog*), include manuscripts of her writings and some correspondence. For more information, please contact Houghton Library, 617.495.2449.

Wole Soyinka Papers

Papers of Wole Soyinka, 1986 Nobel Prize Winner for Literature. This collection includes manuscripts, correspondence, records of his human rights activities, as well as “Prison Diary” typescripts (notes penned between the lines of printed books while he was incarcerated) and Union of Writers of the African Peoples materials. For more information, please contact Harvard Theatre Collection, Houghton Library at 617.495.2449.

John Edgar Wideman Papers

This collection of author John Edgar Wideman’s papers includes manuscripts of his novels, short stories and articles, extensive research files for his memoir, and correspondence. For more information, please contact Houghton Library at 617.495.2449.

Research Projects and Outreach

African AIDS Initiative International

Director: Elleni G. West

The African AIDS Initiative International (AAII) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting HIV/AIDS awareness in Africa by scaling up nation-wide HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and improving the lives of persons infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. To this end, the AAII uses education, outreach, testing, counseling, and support services to control the spread of the disease and foster behavioral change. It also seeks to promote the integration of the growing number of AIDS orphans into their communities, and to reduce the stigma attached to the disease. To find out more about the initiative, please email ethio@fas.harvard.edu.

African American Lives, Genealogy and Genetics Curriculum Project

Director: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

This curriculum project is based on the popular four-part PBS series, *African American Lives*. Hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., it explores American history through the personal stories of highly accomplished African Americans using genealogy and DNA analysis. The documentary features Whoopi Goldberg, Bishop T. D. Jakes, Dr. Mae Jemison, Quincy Jones, Dr. Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, Chris Tucker, and Oprah Winfrey. This project will equip teachers and students with the tools to discover their own family trees and genetic ancestry. The teaching materials will incorporate the resources, technology, and strategies used in both series, including genealogy, oral history research, family stories, and DNA analysis.



African American National Biography Project

Editors: Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham

Senior Executive Editors: Steven Niven and

Kate Tuttle

Editorial Staff: Donald Yacovone, Tom Wolejko,
and Julie Wolf

The African American National Biography (AANB) is a joint project of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University and Oxford University Press. Edited by Professors Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, this landmark undertaking resulted in an eight-volume print edition containing over 4,000 individual biographies, indices, and supplementary matter, and an expanded online edition is in the planning stages and will include an additional 2,000 biographies. AANB, to be published in February 2008, will include many entries by noted scholars, among them: Sojourner Truth by Nell Irvin Painter; W. E. B. Du Bois by Thomas Holt; Rosa Parks by Darlene Clark Hine; Miles Davis by John Szwed; Muhammad Ali by Gerald Early; and Senator Barack Obama by Randall Kennedy.

African Art Database

Director: Suzanne Preston Blier

A collection of more than 20,000 slides of African art has been assembled on a campus-wide network under the direction of Professor Suzanne Preston Blier of the Department of the History of Art and Architecture and of the Department of African and African American Studies. Used to provide both research and teaching support for faculty and students, the

database collection is also designed to investigate the relationship of artistic production to larger cultural changes through the use of interactive maps. Currently, the African Art Database project is integrating the cartographic features of the related Baobab Web Site into an exciting new multimedia African Map project.

American Inequality Lab

Director: Roland G. Fryer, Jr.

The American Inequality Lab is devoted to understanding the causes and consequences of inequality in American society. The primary objective of the project is to use every tool available (empirical, experimental, and theoretical) to answer targeted questions about inequality. The broader objective of the lab is to employ scientific methods – rather than anecdotal or ideological reasoning – to improve public decision making and policy around issues related to inequality in the U.S. To learn more about the Lab's projects and findings, please visit <http://americaninequalitylab.com>.

Bamun Art Worlds:

Integration and Innovation in Grassland Cameroon from 1700 to the Present

Director: Suzanne Preston Blier

This project looks at the arts of the Bamun and its neighbors in the grasslands of Cameroon (West Africa) from the vantage of invention, appropriation, and retranslation of local and foreign artistic and cultural elements from 1700 to the present. The construction and reconstruction of artistic identity – individual as well as social – is examined historically as well as cross-culturally.

Research Projects and Outreach

The critical intersection of colonialism, royal prerogative, individual life-histories, social mores, and an explosion of artistic creativity is examined against a specific artistic "Weltanschauung" and an ongoing interest in reshaping cultural identity through visual form. The rich and diverse textual archives and artistic forms housed in the Museum of Founmban (the former palace of Bamun King Njoya, himself a key figure in this project) offer a unique opportunity to examine anew the extraordinary art history of this area. The participants in this project represent key African scholars working on this and related art materials from fields as diverse as anthropology, archaeology, cultural history, and art and architectural history.

Black Patriots Project

Co-Directors: Jane Ailes and Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Funded by the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the Du Bois Institute, the Black Patriots project was established to identify African Americans who fought in the Revolutionary War. The project's beginnings are rooted in the revelation of Professor Gates's own ancestors who fought for liberty during this bloody chapter in America's history. Using old-fashioned genealogical sleuthing, the project's goal is to transform the historical understanding of the African American contribution to the American struggle for independence. As a result of the research conducted by Jane Ailes of Research Consultants, the project has been able to identify 5,000 African Americans by surveying the 80,000 pension applications of

Revolutionary War veterans and comparing these names to Federal Census records from 1790 to 1850. To date, the testimony in the pension files has proved to be fascinating reading and includes stories of battles, troop movements, whom a man served under, his transfers amongst regiments and commanders, when he married and whom he married, place of birth, place of enlistment, and where he lived after the war. With this information, the Du Bois Institute and the SAR will encourage descendants of these individuals to apply for membership in the SAR or the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Black Periodical and Literature Project

Director: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

The Black Periodical Literature Project (BPLP) is devoted to the study of black imaginative literature published in America between 1827 and 1940. This archive has been collected on microfiche, and an index to these items on CD-ROM has been available in most university libraries for a decade. Most recently, the archive was transferred to PDF files. The balance of the database is being collated and organized for publication online and in print form for researchers, scholars, genealogists, and students.

Central Africa Diaspora to the Americas Project

Co-Directors: Linda M. Heywood and John K. Thornton (Boston University)

The two main avenues of inquiry for this project include research on, "The Kingdom of Kongo in the Wider World, 1400–1800" and



“Angola and its Role in the African Diaspora, 1500–1990.” The first avenue explores the ways in which Kongo’s engagement with the West influenced the development of African American culture in all the Americas. The second large area of focus examines Portuguese colonialism, its relationship to the African Diaspora, and current implications for the Mbundu and Umbundu speaking parts of modern-day Angola. This aspect of the project also includes Angola’s most famous queen, Queen Njinga of Matamba, and her legacy in Africa and in the Atlantic World.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute

Co-Directors: Patricia Sullivan (University of South Carolina) and Waldo E. Martin (University of California, Berkeley)

Twenty-five college teachers from all parts of the United States participated in the 2006 NEH Summer Institute on “African American Civil Rights Struggles in the Twentieth Century.” Building on a series of institutes sponsored by the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute since 1997, the program included leading scholars and writers in the fields of African American history, literature, religion and music, along with presentations by civil rights activists. The intensive four week long program of reading and discussion introduces teachers to new and recent scholarship, and provides a forum for identifying oral histories, memoirs, films, music and archival sources that document the broad historical sweep of the Civil Rights Movement and its cultural legacy. In evaluating the program, one teacher wrote that it

“completely recast my understanding not only of African American history but American history in general.”

New Genetics and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Database Working Group

Co-Directors: Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Evelyn M. Hammonds

Under the direction of Professors Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Evelyn M. Hammonds, the New Genetics and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Working Group was convened for the first time in January 2006 and included the nation’s top scientists, social scientists, and historians who discussed the latest research in genetics and how to effectively use historical and social contexts to understand the origins of the Africans who survived the Middle Passage in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade to the United States. The first meeting included sessions on The New Historiography of the Slave Trade, The New Genetics, and Contemporary African Americans: Who Are We? The group’s next meeting will take place in 2008.

The Timbuktu Library Project

Director: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

In 1998, the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute launched the Timbuktu Library Project whose purpose is the preservation and restoration of the lost Library of Timbuktu. Consisting of approximately 50,000 volumes covering topics such as geometry, law, astronomy, and chemistry, and dating to the late sixteenth century and before, these important documents are being catalogued, and have recently gained new interest within the academy. Under

Research Projects and Outreach

the auspices of the Timbuktu Library Project, those manuscripts are being catalogued. As that work progresses, the Institute is seeking funding to photograph and digitize the contents of the collection, and, in the case of especially important works, to have them translated. The Timbuktu Library Project has been funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database

Director: David Eltis (Emory University)

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, originally published as a CD-ROM in 1999, will be available in a new and greatly expanded format in May 2008 on an open access web site located at www.slavevoyages.org. It includes detailed information on 35,000 transatlantic slave trading voyages that occurred between 1526 and 1867.

W. E. B. Du Bois Society

Founders: Jacqueline O. Cooke Rivers and Reverend Eugene C. Rivers

Directors: Jacqueline O. Cooke Rivers and Dell M. Hamilton

The W. E. B. Du Bois Society is an academic and cultural enrichment program, designed to engage secondary school students of African descent who attend academically competitive public, parochial, and independent institutions. Hosted by the Du Bois Institute and the Ella J. Baker House in Dorchester, the Du Bois Society provides young people with an opportunity to develop study skills and teamwork as they reflect on readings selected by prominent Harvard professors. This year's inaugural lecturer was Harvard economist

Roland G. Fryer, Jr., Associate Director of the Du Bois Institute. Professor Fryer and the students discussed his latest research, recently featured in the best-seller, *Freakonomics*, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner.

Welfare, Children, and Families: A Three-City Study

Director: William Julius Wilson

Welfare, Children, and Families: A Three City Study is a longitudinal, mixed-methods investigation that looks at the impact of welfare reform on low-income families and their children. In addition to William Julius Wilson, other co-principal investigators include senior academics at Johns Hopkins University, Northwestern University, the University of Texas at Austin, and Pennsylvania State University. For the sample survey, the project selected about 2,400 low-income families with children in Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio, about 40 percent of whom were receiving cash welfare (TANF) when they were first interviewed in 1999. The children in the study ranged from infant to age four and ages 10–14. A follow-up interview was conducted in 2000/1 and a third wave of data gathering was recently completed in the spring of 2007. The data from the first two surveys are currently in the public domain. To learn more about this research study, please email the project's research associate, James Quane at james_quane@fas.harvard.edu.



Working Group on Environmental Justice

Directors: James C. Hoyte and
Timothy C. Weiskel

The purpose of the Working Group on Environmental Justice is to promote research and teaching on issues relating to environmental justice, both within this country and abroad. The group brings together a diverse faculty within Harvard as well as interested individuals from beyond the university.

Over the past several years, the Working Group has held periodic meetings and convened public workshops. To facilitate exchange of material in this important domain, the group has created an online repository (<http://ecojustice.net>) that contains bibliography and documentary material, and points to important audio-visual materials available in this country and throughout the world.

This group's work has proven to be a valuable resource for stimulating research and teaching at Harvard on issues of environmental justice. The project is also working toward establishment of a fellowship in environmental justice.

W. E. B. Du Bois Medalists



Photo: Marc Halevi

The Institute awards the Du Bois Medal annually to honor individuals whose work has made a significant contribution to African and African American culture, art, and the life of the mind. Recent Du Bois medalists include National Advisory Board chair Glenn H. Hutchins, cultural critic Albert Murray, the Little Rock Nine, and Nobel Laureates Wole Soyinka, Toni Morrison, Nadine Gordimer, and Derek Walcott.

Prior to receiving the Du Bois Medal, Toni Morrison and Derek Walcott warmly greet each other in the living room of Harvard's Institute of Politics.

Du Bois Institute Special Events

September 22, 2005

When Affirmative Action Was White

Ira Katznelson, Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History, Columbia University

October 5, 2005

Truth vs. Style: The Challenge of Valaida Snow

Candace Allen, Author of *Valaida*

December 7, 2005

Beasts of No Nation

Uzodinma Iweala, Author of *Beasts of No Nation*

February 28, 2006

The View from Africa Tour

Co-sponsored by *Transition Magazine*, *Granta*, and the *Virginia Quarterly Review*

Brent H. Edwards, Rutgers University

Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts, Contributing Editor, *Transition Magazine*

Binyavanga Wainana, Visiting Writer in Residence, Union College

March 13, 2006

Inform Your Mind, Fuel Your Spirit: Mental Health Awareness in the Black Community

Co-sponsored with Stay Strong Foundation and Eli Lilly and Company

Dr. Alvin F. Toussaint, Harvard Medical School

Rhonda Ross, Writer, Actress, Vocalist

Dr. Althea Stewart, President, American Psychiatric Foundation

Terrie Williams, Author, Founder, Terrie Williams Agency and the Stay Strong Foundation

October 10, 2006

Senghor: The Ancestor,

A Symposium Celebrating the Life and Work of Léopold Sédar Senghor

Co-sponsored with the Department of African and African American Studies and the Committee on African Studies

Sheikh Titian Gadio, Foreign Minister of Senegal
Olabiye Yai, UNESCO

F. Abiola Irele, Professor of Romance Languages and Literature and of African and African American Studies

December 9, 2006

Screening of PBS film

Wonders of the African World

Samuel Gebru, Founder, Gebru Foundation

March 13, 2007

The Protocols of Humanity in the Sudan

Co-sponsored with the University Committee on Human Rights Studies

Wole Soyinka, Poet, Playwright, Nobel Prize in Literature (1986)

Staff of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research



Photo: Marc Halevi

bottom row, left to right:
**Mai Huynh, Dell M. Hamilton,
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Joanne
Kendall, and Nancy Brigham Cyr**
top row, left to right:
**Carmella Schaecher, Sheldon
Cheek, Laurie Calhoun,
Vera I. Grant, Donald Yacovone,
and Tom Wolejko**

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Come and Visit Us



Hip Hop Veritas

Photo courtesy of Professor Marcyliena Morgan and the Hip Hop Archive

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The Du Bois Institute houses cultural artifacts and books reflecting the rich interdisciplinary nature of the field of African and African American Studies. We host lectures, art exhibitions, conferences, and other special events. The Institute is also home to the non-circulating Hutchins Family Library and the Image of the Black in Western Art Research Project and Photo Archive and a permanent collection of contemporary art work. Our Web

site also includes a calendar of upcoming events and webcasts of many Institute lectures: www.dubois.fas.harvard.edu.

Directions

Walking from the center of Harvard Square, follow JFK Street towards the Charles River. Then take a right onto Mount Auburn Street. The Institute is just past Peet's Coffee and Tea on the left. Enter the Institute at 104 Mount Auburn Street and proceed to 3R from the elevator in the lobby. For driving directions and parking, please contact us at 617.495.8508.

opposite: Front entrance of
104 Mt. Auburn Street,
Cambridge, MA

back cover: A bust of W. E. B.
Du Bois commissioned
by former President Neil L.
Rudenstine greets visitors at
the Du Bois Institute.