The Southeastern Regional Seminar in African Studies (SERSAS) and the South East Africanist Network (SEAN) invite faculty and advanced students to present works-in-progress or polished papers at the Spring 2019 SERSAS/SEAN conference hosted by the College of Charleston’s African Studies Program in South Carolina.


This Fall, we would like to try a new approach and divide the conference into two main sections. The first will be a more traditional array of panels from diverse disciplines that explore the conference theme.

The second invites individual scholars or those working collaboratively on a major project (i.e. book, edited volume, special edition journal) to have a more focused, extended workshop with the intention of moving the project closer to publication. This will require scholars to submit drafts of their work to a select group of discussants in advance of the conference. Scholars may also identify and request discussants for this workshop. This project does not necessarily have to be associated with the conference theme.

Past conference papers have come from a variety of academic disciplines including anthropology, economics, geography, history, literary studies, maritime studies, music, theater, education, African and foreign languages (in translation) and political science. The Fall 2019 SERSAS/SEAN Conference seeks to give faculty, independent scholars, and graduate students the opportunity to share scholarship within the friendly atmosphere for which SERSAS is renowned. The coordinators of SERSAS cordially invite you to present your work within the wide parameters of the conference theme.

SERSAS and SEAN pride themselves on providing an open and collegial forum for the exchange of ideas. This includes providing opportunities for advanced graduate students to present their work and win the SERSAS Prize for the best graduate student paper. We therefore encourage graduate students and their faculty mentors to consider putting forward proposals.

Please send proposals of no more than 300 words that outline the main themes and issues of your paper to:

Christopher Day <dayc@cofc.edu>

The tentative deadline for abstracts is September 9, 2019. Accepted participants will be informed beginning September 13, 2019.

Local arrangements contact information: Sarah Wuigk, Administrative Coordinator, International Studies, wuigks@cofc.edu

A block of rooms has been reserved La Quinta Hotel for October 18 and 19th at $169 per night. To make a reservation, you may call 1-800-753-3757 and use the reference itinerary # 5136B132859052. The local address and phone number are 11 Ashley Pointe Dr., Charleston, South Carolina 29407 (1-843-556-5200).

The African Studies Program of the College of Charleston will host a reception on the evening of Friday the 18th at 3029 Middle Street, Sullivan’s Island at 6 p.m.

SERSAS Web Site: http://www.ecu.edu/african/sersas/

SEAN Web Site: http://africa.ufl.edu/