The Southeastern Regional Seminar in African Studies

Fall 2018 Conference

Georgia College and State University

12 - 13 October 2018

Friday, 12 October 2018

5:00 - 7:00 Welcome Reception and Registration
(hors d'oeuvres & refreshments provided)

Opening Remarks:
Prof. Eric G. Tenbus, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Georgia College

(Our grateful thanks to Dean Tenbus and the College of Arts and Sciences for sponsoring the reception)

Underwood House
102 S. Columbia Street, Milledgeville, GA 31061

(Parking is available after 5:00 p.m. in Adams Lot # 3 – entrance to this lot is either from W. Green Street or via the Visitor Parking in between the Humber White House and Mayfair.)

Please see the following link for a detailed map: https://libweb.gcsu.edu/campusbird/
Saturday, 13 October 2018

8:00 - 12:00 Registration, Coffee and Tea: Arts and Sciences Room 251

All panel sessions will be in the Arts and Sciences Building (center of main campus; please see detailed map link above), rooms A&S 270 and A&S 272

8:30 - 10:15. Session I: Arts & Sciences 270

Democracy and Debt in African Politics
Chair: George Kieh, University of West Georgia

George Kieh, University of West Georgia, ‘American Foreign Policy and “Democracy Promotion” in the Age of Trump.’

Chinekwu Obidoa, Mercer University, ‘Africa and Globalization. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.’

Kwaku Nti, Georgia Southern University, ‘The Past is Still Present in the Present: Africa’s situation and the Case of Ghana in a Development Circus vis-à-vis International Geopolitics.’


Discussant: Jack Parson, College of Charleston

10:15 - 12:00. Session II: Arts & Sciences 270

Local and Global Contestations Over Land and Politics
Chair: Daren Ray, Auburn University

Rose A Nyaondo, University of Massachusetts, Boston, ‘The NGO Impact on Women’s Leadership Roles in County Level Government in Kenya.’

Andrew Bonanno, University of Georgia, ‘Examining Land Tenure Change and Economic Opportunities in Sierra Leone, West Africa: Opportunity for Whom, and from Whose Perspective?’

Daren Ray, Auburn University, ‘A Seat at the Table: The Polarization of the Swahili Coast in the Sixteenth Century CE.’

Discussant: George Kieh, University of West Georgia

12:00 - 1:45. Lunch and Keynote address: “The Max” - Maxwell Student Union Cafeteria and University Banquet Room A
(Entrance off S. Clark Street. Meal tickets will be issued at registration. Present your ticket to the cashier at the entrance, collect your food and then proceed to the back of the cafeteria to the University Banquet Room A.)
Welcome and Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Aran MacKinnon, Georgia College

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Shelly Wilburn, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

“Transformation in Post-Apartheid Education: Toward Access and Inclusivity at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.”

SERSAS Business Meeting

1:45 - 3:15. Session III: Arts & Sciences 270

Health, Image and Identity: Gender roles in Africa and the Diaspora
Chair: Cathy Skidmore Hess, Georgia Southern University

Valeka J Holt, Georgia College, ‘Did you take your CLOMID?: A theatrical lens into the world of infertility; from the point of view of Africans and Africans living in the diaspora.’

Cathy Skidmore-Hess, Georgia Southern University, ‘Making gender and identity: A comparative examination of the lives of Njinga of Matamba and Kimpa Vita.’


Discussant: Shelly Wilburn, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

3:30 - 5:00. Session IV: Arts & Sciences 270

African and African Diasporic Re-appropriation of Literary Discourses
Chair: Bill Ndi, Tuskegee University

Bill F. Ndi, Tuskegee University, ‘Changing Perspectives on Global Interdependence: Select Examples of Africa-America Living (In) Dependence.’

Benjamin Hart Fishkin, Tuskegee University, ‘Initial Hopes and Expectations: The African Cultural and Historical Re-Appropriation of Childhood from the Novels of Charles Dickens.’

Richard Evans, Tuskegee University, ‘From Eurocentric or Afrocentric to Multicultural Classics: What has Athens to do with Zomba?’

Adaku T. Ankumah, Tuskegee University, “Endowed with the gift of ancient storytellers.” Chimamanda Adichie and the Art of Narration in Americanah.

Kerry J. Evans, Tuskegee University, ‘Lost and Found at Sea: Recovery of Ritual (Re)memory in Walcott’s Omeros or “To do what the past always does: suffer, and stare:” – Derek Walcott, Omeros.

Discussant: Ken Wilburn, East Carolina University