


THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES
presents



2011 CARTER CONFERENCE

**AFRICAN
INDEPENDENCE:**
CULTURES OF MEMORY
CELEBRATIONS &
CONTESTATIONS

FEB 25-26

REITZ UNION | ROOM 282

University of Florida
Gainesville, FL



Gwendolen M. Carter

This year marks the 27th year that the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida has organized annual lectures or a conference in honor of the late distinguished Africanist scholar, Gwendolen M. Carter. Gwendolen Carter devoted her career to scholarship and advocacy concerning the politics of inequality and injustice, especially in southern Africa. She also worked hard to foster the development of African Studies as an academic enterprise. She was perhaps best known for her pioneering study *The Politics of Inequality: South Africa Since 1948* and the co-edited four-volume *History of African Politics in South Africa: From Protest to Challenge* (1972-1977).

In the spirit of her career, the annual Carter lectures offers the university community and the greater public the perspectives of Africanist scholars on issues of pressing importance to the peoples and societies of Africa. Since 2004, the Center has (with the generous support of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences) appointed a Carter Faculty Fellow to serve as convener of the conference. Dr. Alioune Sow, assistant professor of French and African Studies and Brigitte Weltman-Aron, associate professor of French are the 2011 Carter Conference Fellows. Please check the back cover of this program for a complete list of the Carter conference themes since its inception.

2011 CARTER CONFERENCE CONVENERS



Alioune Sow

is Assistant professor of French and African studies at the University of Florida. His research includes the childhood experience in African literatures, autobiography and memory, the democratic transition and the cultural transformations

in Mali focusing especially on literature, cinema and theatre. He has contributed to several journals such as *Social Dynamics*, *Biography*, *Africa Today*, *Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines*, and *Matatu*. His book *Vestiges et Vertiges* is forthcoming and published by Artois Presses Université. He earned his doctorate at the Université Paris 4-La Sorbonne.



Brigitte Weltman-Aron

is Associate Professor of French in the Department of Languages, Literature and Cultures at the University of Florida. She is currently

writing a book about Hélène Cixous and Assia Djebar, and her articles on these writers and postcolonial Algeria have appeared in journals such as *Parallax*, *Yale French Studies*, and *Patterns of Prejudice*, as well as in book chapters (Routledge, University of Nebraska Press). She has also written several articles on the French eighteenth century and is the author of *On Other Grounds: Landscape Gardening and Nationalism in Eighteenth-Century England and France* (SUNY Press, 2001). She earned her Ph.D at the University of Southern California in 1991.

PLENARY SPEAKER



Sacred Places **JEAN-MARIE TÉNO**

Jean-Marie Teno, Africa's preeminent documentary filmmaker, has been producing and directing films on the colonial and post-colonial history of Africa for over twenty years. Films by Jean-Marie Teno have been honored at festivals worldwide: Berlin, Toronto, Yamagata, Cinema du Reel, Visions du Reel, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Leipzig, San Francisco, and London. In the U.S., many of his films including Africa,

Je te Plumerai; *A Trip to the Country*; *Clando*; *Chief!*; *Alex's Wedding*; and *The Colonial Misunderstanding*, have been broadcast and featured at festivals across the country. Teno has been a guest of the Flaherty Seminar, an artist in residence at the Pacific Film Archive of the University of California, Berkeley, and has lectured at numerous universities. Recently, he was a visiting artist at Amherst College as a 2007-08 Copeland Fellow. He is the author of *Lieux Saints* (2009); *Le Malentendu Colonial* (2004), *Le Mariage d'Alex* (2002), *Vacances Au Pays* (2000), *Chef* (1999), *Clando* (1996), *La Tête dans Les Nuages* (1994), *Afrique Je te Plumerai* (1992), *Le Dernier Voyage*, (1990), *Bikutsi Water Blues* (1988), *La Gifle et La Caresse* (1987), *Taximan*, (1985), and *Hommage* (1985).

● HARN MUSEUM AUDITORIUM FEBRUARY 25 | 6PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



My Suns of Independences **ALAIN MABANCKOU**

Alain Mabanckou is one of Africa's most prolific and talented contemporary writers. Author of several volumes of poetry and several novels, he received the "Prix Littéraire de l'Afrique Noire" in 1999 for his first novel, *Bleu-Blanc-Rouge* (1998), the "Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie" for *Verre Cassé* (2005) and the "Prix Renaudot" for *Mémoires de Porc-épic* (2006). He is the author of *L'Enterrement de ma Mère* (2000), *Et Dieu seul sait comment je dors* (2001), *Les Petits-fils Nègres de Vercingétorix*, (2002), *African Psycho* (2003), *Lettre à Jimmy* (2007), *Black Bazar* (2009), *Demain j'aurai vingt ans* (2010). His volumes of poetry include *Au Jour le Jour* (1993), *La Légende de l'Errance* (1995), *L'Usure des Lendemain* (1995), *Les Arbres aussi Versent des Larmes* (1997), *Quand le Coq Annoncera l'Aube d'un Autre*

Jour (1999) *Tant que les Arbres s'Enracineront dans la Terre* (2007). Alain Mabanckou is Professor of French and Francophone Literatures at the University of California- Los Angeles.

● REITZ UNION ROOM 282 FEBRUARY 26 | 3:30PM

FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY | REITZ UNION ROOM 282

8:30 - 8:45a

COFFEE & TEA

8:45 - 9:00a

OPENING REMARKS

9:00 - 10:30a

COMMEMORATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS: Occulted History in Literature and Cinema

Chair: Brigitte Weltman-Aron

Réda Bensmaïa (Brown University)

"Film as Commemoration: On Bourlem Guerdjou's *Vivre au Paradis* and Michael Haneke's *Caché*"

Mildred Mortimer (University of Colorado, Boulder)

"Bringing Occulted History to Light: Assia Djebar, *La Femme sans Sépulture* / *Woman without a Tomb*; Leïla Sebbar, *La Seine était Rouge*/*The Seine was Red*"

10:30 - 10:45a

BREAK

10:45 - 12:15p

POLITICS OF CELEBRATION

Chair: Sean Hanretta

James Straker (Colorado School of Mines)

"Shows That Must Go On, Can't Go On: Commemorating Nationhood on the Borders of Exhaustion in Millennial Guinea"

Ken Walibora Waliaula (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

"Conflicting National Narratives: The Politics and Poetics of Remembering and Forgetting"

12:15 - 2:00p

LUNCH

2:00 - 3:30p

MEMORIAL DISCOURSES: Power, Language and Identity

Chair: Fiona McLaughlin

Antoinette Tidjani-Alou (Abdou Moumouni University, Niger)

"Niger, Memory and the Nation: Literary Discourses on Power and Identity, from Founding Ancestors to Global Presence"

Cécile Canut (Université Paris-Descartes, EHESS)

"Language, Power and Postcolonization"

3:30 - 3:45p

COFFEE BREAK

3:35-5:00p

INDEPENDENCE, URBANIZATION AND ARTS

Chair: Victoria Rovine

Joanna Grabski (Denison University) "Dakar's Cosmopolitans and Senegal's

Cultural Workers: Artists in the Independence Era Past and Urban Market Present"

Nnamdi Elleh (University of Cincinnati).

"Capital and Capital cities in Africa: A Market Place Reading of Nigeria's Proposed New Federal Capital City"

6:00pm

PLENARY SESSION

Jean-Marie Téo "Memory and Filmmaking"

Harn Museum Auditorium

Chair: Scott Nygren

SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY | REITZ UNION ROOM 282

8:45 - 9:00a

COFFEE & TEA

9:00 - 10:30a

COLLECTIVE MEMORIES

Chair: Brenda Chalfin

Nicolas Argenti (Brunel University, London)

"Rites Performed for Children from the Perspective of Collective Memory"

Florence Bernault (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

"Something's Rotten in the Post-Empire: Savorgnan de Brazza, France and the Congo 50 Years After Independence"

10:30 - 10:45a

BREAK

10:45 - 12:15p

MEMORIES OF INDEPENDENCE

Chair: Luise White

Didier Gondola (Indiana University)

"Mémoires sans Lieux: Remembering the Two Congos' Independence"

Gregory Mann (Columbia University)

"What Independence Wasn't"

12:30 - 3:00p

LUNCH

3:00 - 5:30p

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Alain Mabanckou, (University of California Los Angeles)

"Mes Soleils des Indépendances"/"My Suns of Independences"

Chair: Alioune Sow

Gwendolen M. Carter Conference Themes 1984-2011

- 1984-85 SADCC's Bid for Independence from South Africa: Will it Succeed?
- 1986 The African Food Crisis: Prospects for a Solution
- 1987 The Exploding Crisis in Southern Africa
- 1988 Human Rights in Africa
- 1989 Structural Adjustment and Transformation: Impacts on African Women Farmers
- 1990 Health Issues in Africa
- 1991 Involuntary Migration and Resettlement in Africa
- 1992 Sustainability in Africa: Integrating Concepts
- 1993 Africa's Disappearing Past: The Erasure of Cultural Patrimony
- 1994 Transition in South Africa
- 1995 African Entrepreneurship
- 1997 Communication and Democratization in Africa
- 1998 Africa on Film and Video
- 1999 Aquatic Conservation and Management in Africa
- 2000 Renegotiating Nation & Political Community in Africa at the Dawn of the New Millennium
- 2001 Governance and Higher Education In Africa
- 2002 Zimbabwe in Transition: Resolving Land and Constitutional Crisis
- 2003 Dynamics of Islam in Contemporary Africa
- 2004 Movement (R)evolution: Contemporary African Dance
- 2005 States of Violence: The Conduct of War in Africa
- 2006 Law, Politics, and Society in South Africa: The Politics of Inequality Then and Now
- 2007 African Visual Cultures: Crossing Disciplines, Crossing Regions
- 2008 Migrations In and Out of Africa: Old Patterns and New Perspectives
- 2009 African Creative Expressions: Mother Tongue & Other Tongues
- 2010 Bridging Conservation & Development in Latin America & Africa
- 2011 African Independence: Cultures of Memory, Celebrations, & Contestations

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