



“OTHER” CULTURES WITHIN: BEYOND THE NAMING OF THINGS
A Symposium at the John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress
The Whittall Pavilion, Thomas Jefferson Building
Wednesday, April 4, 2012

SPEAKERS’ BRIEF BIOS

Joan Anim-Addo, born in Grenada, is currently the Director of the Centre for Caribbean Studies and Professor of Caribbean Literature and Culture in the English and Comparative Literature Department, Goldsmiths, University of London. She chairs the Caribbean Women Writers Alliance (CWWA) and is founder-editor of *Mango Season*, the journal on Caribbean Women's writing. Her published writing includes poetry, fiction, drama, and history as well as critical writing. *Haunted by History* was her first collection of poetry, followed by *Janie, Cricketing Lady (Poetry)* (2006). Her scholarly publications include *Touching the Body: Dynamics of Language, History and Publication* (2006); *Centre of Remembrance: Memory and Caribbean Women's Literature* (ed.), with an introduction & chapter “Long-memoried Meanings: Underpinnings of African-Caribbean Women's Writing” (2002); “Sister Goose's Sisters: African-Caribbean Women's Nineteenth-Century Testimony”, *Women, a Cultural Review* (Spring 2004); “Towards a Post-Western Humanism Made to the Measure of Those Recently Recognized as Human” in *Edward Said and Jacques Derrida: Reconstellating Humanism and the Global Hybrid*, eds. A. Karavanta and N. Morgan (2008); and her chapter “Pan-Africanist Women, Modernity, Silence: Amy Ashwood Garvey, and Other Invisible Activists” in *Modernist Women, Race, Nation: Networking Women, 1890-1950, Circum-Atlantic Connections*, ed. Giovanna Covi (2006). She co-edited *Interculturality and Gender* (2009) with Giovanna Covi and A. Karavanta. *Imoinda: Or She Who Will Lose Her Name – A Play for Twelve Voices in Three Acts* appears in *Voci femminili caraibiche e interculturalità*, edited by Giovanna Covi. Her opera libretto, *Imoinda*, is available in a bilingual edition, English and Italian.

R. Victoria Arana, the symposium’s organizer, is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Howard University, where she teaches British literature—including twenty-first-century texts, contemporary “black” British writing, and postcolonial theory. Her most recent publications include *Black British Writing*, *‘Black’ British Aesthetics Today*, *World Poetry from 1900 to the Present*, *W. H. Auden’s Poetry: Mythos, Theory and Practice*, and the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* [Vol. 347]: *Twenty-First-Century ‘Black’ British Writers*, which she edited and to which she contributed at length. Her chapter “Fresh ‘Cultural Critiques’: The Ethnographic Fabulations of Adichie and Oyeyemi” in *Emerging African Voices* (ed. Walter Collins III) represents a new direction in her current research. Most recently, “Intimations of William Blake in *On Beauty* (2005): Zadie Smith’s Trans-Atlantic Homage to and Critique of Boston Intellectuals” appears in *Journal of Philosophy: A Cross-Disciplinary Inquiry* (Spring 2012). She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (UK). Email rvarana@archeform.com.

Dereje Desta is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of *Zethiopia*, a bi-lingual newspaper serving the Ethiopian community in the Washington metropolitan area and online. Dereje is a veteran journalist who left Ethiopia in search of greater press freedom in 2001.

James B. Gardner is Executive for Legislative Archives, Presidential Libraries, and Museum Services at the National Archives. He previously served as Senior Scholar and as Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. Prior to his appointment at NMAH, Dr. Gardner served as Deputy Executive Director of the American Historical Association and as Director of Education and Special Programs for the American Association for State and Local History. His professional activities have included service as president of the National Council on Public History, chair of the Nominating Board of the Organization of American Historians, and on the editorial boards of *The Public Historian* and the AAM Press. His publications include *Public History: Essays from the Field*, *Ordinary People and Everyday Life: Perspectives on the New Social History*, and essays in *The Routledge Companion to Museum Ethics: Redefining Ethics for the Twenty-First Century Museum* and *Grassroots Memorials: The Politics of Memorializing Traumatic Death*. He is co-editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Public History* (in development).

Paul Gardullo is Museum Curator at the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), which will open on the National Mall in 2015 as the 19th Smithsonian Museum. He is currently working with staff on conceptualizing, collecting for, and curating the inaugural exhibitions for the NMAAHC including one that uses the lens of place to immerse visitors in the broad diversity of the African American experience exploring themes of region, community, and locality over time. Paul earned his Ph.D. from The George Washington University and was a post-doctoral fellow at Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition. He is writing a book on the subject of slavery in American cultural memory to be published by Oxford University Press.

Viv Golding is Programme Director of Ph.D. Research Studies and Lecturer at the School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, which she joined in 2002. Previously Dr. Golding had more than 20 years experience organizing formal education provision at the Horniman Museum and further education arts activities in London. She has published widely in the field of creative learning from anthropology collections, notably her 2009 monograph *Learning at the Museum Frontier: Identity Race and Power*, and is currently working on an edited volume for Berg, *Collaborative Museums*. Dr. Golding has also gained awards to present her research themes around the world, including Mombusho and Daiwa scholarships to investigate "Museum Literacy" in Japan (2010) and the AHRC "Mapping Faith and Place in Leicester" (2010). Further details at <http://www.le.ac.uk/ms/contactus/vivgolding.html> and <http://www.le.ac.uk/museumstudies>.

Jake Homiak (Ph.D., Brandeis University) is a cultural anthropologist who has worked extensively with members of the Rastafari Movement and is currently the Director of the Anthropology Collection & Archives Program at the Smithsonian's Museum Support Center in Suitland, Maryland. He has general oversight for the Department of Anthropology's nearly two and a half million cultural artifacts and archaeological specimens as well as the manuscript, photographic, and film holdings of its National Anthropological Archives and the Human Studies Film Archives. Dr. Homiak coordinates access and outreach to a broad range of scholars and Native visitors who use these resources for academic research, publication, exhibition, and heritage research.

Asimina “Mina” Karavanta, a member of “Traveling Concepts” of the ATHENA European Network and a coordinator of its subgroup “Interculturality,” is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of English Studies at the University of Athens, Greece. Some of her recent essays have appeared in *Journal of Caribbean Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary Theory*, *Women in French Studies*, *mosaic*, *The Journal of Contemporary Thought*, and *European Journal of English Studies*, and various collections of essays. She has co-edited *Edward Said and Jacques Derrida: Reconstellating Humanism and the Global Hybrid* (with Nina Morgan) and *Gender and Interculturality* (with Joan Anim-Addo and Giovanna Covi). She is currently working on her monograph *The Postnational Novel: Literary Configurations of Community in the Anglophone Novel of the Twentieth-first Century*.

Alan M. Kraut, University Professor and Professor of History at American University (Washington, D.C.), is a specialist in U.S. immigration and ethnic history, the history of medicine in the United States, and nineteenth-century U.S. social history. His books include *The Huddled Masses: The Immigrant in American Society, 1880-1921*, *American Refugee Policy and European Jewry, 1933-1945*, and *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the “Immigrant Menace”*. His *Goldberger’s War: The Life and Work of a Public Health Crusader* earned the Henry Adams Prize (Society for History in the Federal Government), the Arthur J. Viseltear Prize (American Public Health Association), and the Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize (History of Science Society). In 2009 he co-directed an NEH Summer Institute at the Library of Congress, “American Immigration Revisited,” sponsored by the National History Center. He chairs the History Advisory Committee of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. Formerly president of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, he is today a non-resident fellow of the Migration Policy Institute, a fellow of the Society of American Historians, and president-elect of the Organization of American Historians.

Andrew Laurence is the son of an Ethiopian father and white American mother and grew up in a NYC foster home. After studying political science and economics at Columbia University, he worked for the European Economic Commission in the New York office. In addition to his current 27 years as a media coordinator at the George Washington University, he has provided research and information on Ethiopian American issues through presentations, publications and consultation for the Ethiopian American Cultural Center. He has a textile business with his family in Ethiopia and does charity work for a number of Ethiopian NGOs.

Maria Helena Lima is a Professor of English and Comparative Literature at SUNY-Geneseo. Her research and teaching focus on the Caribbean, the African diaspora, and Black British writing. Her publications include “The Politics of Teaching Black and British” in *Black British Writing* (Palgrave 2004) and entries on Andrea Levy, Dorothea Smartt, and Meera Syal in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* (Vol. 347, 2009). With Miriam Alves, she translated and co-edited a bilingual anthology of fiction by Afro-Brazilian women, *Women Righting/Mulheres Escrivendo* (Mango 2005). Forthcoming in a special issue of *Entertext* is her essay “A Written Song: Andrea Levy’s Neo-slave Narrative.”

Antonia MacDonald was born and grew up in St. Lucia. She now lives in Grenada, where she is a professor in the department of Liberal Studies, Senior Associate Dean in the School of Arts and Sciences, and Assistant Dean in the Graduate Studies Program St. George’s University, Grenada. She writes on contemporary Caribbean women writers and, more recently, on Derek Walcott and St. Lucian literary studies. She has published articles in *Journal of West Indian Literature (JWIL)*, *Callaloo* and *MaComere* and is the author of *Making Homes in the West/Indies*.

Duncan MacInnes is a Senior Public Diplomacy Officer at the U.S. Department of State. He has served as a Principal Assistant Secretary, Director of Foreign Press, and Senior Advisor in the Near East Bureau. Overseas, he was in charge of public diplomacy and educational exchange programs at the embassies in Qatar, Yemen, Jerusalem, Sri Lanka and Australia. His areas of expertise are conflict resolution, media, and cross cultural communications.

Lisa Marchi holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies from the University of Trento, Italy. As the recipient of the Canadian Studies Doctoral Student Research Award for 2009-2010, she conducted research at the Institute for Islamic Studies at McGill University in Montreal. In 2009, she undertook three months of research at the Department of Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies at UCLA. Her research interests include contemporary Arab multilingual literature, migration history and literature, Arab diaspora studies, interculturality and gender studies. She has published various articles on Arab-American literature and has co-authored an essay in the collection *Interculturality and Gender* (Joan Anim-Addo, Giovanna Covi & Mina Karavanta, eds.; London: Mango Press: 2009). She is currently a Visiting Researcher at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Jean Pfaelzer is Professor of American Studies, Asian Studies, English and Women's Studies at the University of Delaware. She held the 2011 Senior Fulbright in American Culture at the University of Utrecht. She has taught and delivered lectures at Xi'an International Studies University; at the Universities of Granada, Malaga, Barcelona, and Seville; the Universities of Utrecht, Leiden, Nimejin (Netherlands); the University at Thessaloniki, Greece; the University of Norwich, UK, and the University of Coimbra, Portugal. She has chaired the American Studies Association's International Women's Task Force as well as on its International and Women's Committees; has served as Executive Director of the National Labor Law Center and as Senior Legislative Analyst for Hon. Frank McCloskey, U.S. House of Representatives, on issues of immigration, labor, and women. She is on the Scholars Council of the National Women's History Museum. Her publications include *Driven Out: The Forgotten War against Chinese Americans*; *The Utopian Novel in America*; and *Parlor Radical: The Origins of American Social Realism*. Currently, she is writing on slavery in California.

Peter A. Roberts retired last year as Professor of Creole Linguistics at the University of the West Indies in Barbados. He has held visiting professorships at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) and the University of Puerto Rico (Rio Piedras) and was Senior Fulbright Fellow at the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University. A former President of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, Prof. Roberts is the author of *West Indians and Their Language* (1988), *CXC English* (1994), *From Oral to Literate Culture—Colonial Experience in the English West Indies* (2000), *Roots of Caribbean Identity* (2008), and co-author of *Writing in English* (1997).

Suzanne Scafe is Senior Lecturer in English Studies at London South Bank University. Her publications include *Teaching Black Literature*; *The Heart of the Race: Black Women's Lives in Britain* (with B. Bryan and S. Dadzie); and *I am Black/White/Yellow: The Black Body in Europe* (with Joan Anim-Addo, 2007). Her scholarship on Caribbean and black British writers includes articles and chapters on Merle Collins, Zee Edgell, Grace Nichols, Roy Williams, and Caryl Phillips (forthcoming). One of her main research interests is black British and Caribbean-diaspora women's autobiographical writing; she has published in the journals *Women: A Cultural Review* (2009) and *Changing English* (2010) and is currently co-editing a special double issue of *Life Writing* that focuses on postcolonial women's autobiography.

Tyechia L. Thompson is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English at Howard University. Her master's thesis project explored hip-hop aesthetics in black British and African American literature. She published a piece on literary fiction in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature* and co-coordinated the course *Hip Hop and the Black Experience* at Howard University. She is currently writing a dissertation exploring twenty-first century African American international travel novels. So far, her research has taken her to England, France, Belgium, and Turkey. Her scholarly interests are African-American literary production in Europe, popular culture studies, and digital humanities.

W. Andrea Wenzel is a producer, editor, and media development consultant currently working with WAMU to launch a new global affairs program, *Latitudes* (latitudesradio.org). Over the past 14 years, Andrea has worked on media projects in places such as Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Iraq, Thailand, and Chicago.

W. Richard West, Jr., was Founding Director and is Director Emeritus of the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution. Currently, he is serving as Interim Director of the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. He studied history at University of Redlands (California) and Harvard and earned his law degree from Stanford University, where he served as editor of the *Stanford Law Review*. He is a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in Oklahoma and a Peace Chief of the Southern Cheyenne. His professional life has been devoted to serving the American Indian community on cultural, artistic, educational, legal, and governmental matters. He is the author of *Native America in the 21st Century: Out of the Mist and Beyond Myth* (2006).