

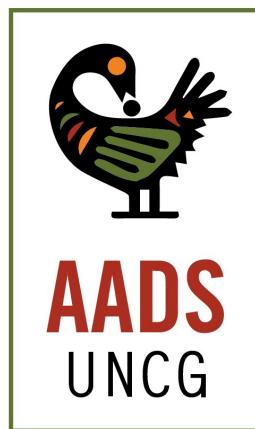
# The African American and African Diaspora Studies Program

presents

## CACE 2018

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Conference on African-American & African  
Diasporic Culture and Experience



Shared Place and Fate:  
Coming Together to Transform Tomorrow

# The African American and African Diaspora Studies Program (AADS)

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# Table of Contents:

1. AADS Faculty, AADS Affiliates, CACE Committee .....	2
2. CACE Program Schedule.....	3-17
a) Registration & Conference Information .....	3
b) Session 1A- 2A.....	4-6
c) Session 2A– 2D.....	7-9
d) CACE Luncheon Schedule.....	10
e) Session 3A-3C.....	10-12
f) Session 3C-4C.....	12-14
g) Session 4C .....	15
h) Networking, Poster Presentation & Art Exhibitions...16	
i) Hero Complexities Reception and Performance .....	17

## CACE 2018 Schedule and Welcome:

February 20, 2018: **3:30pm - 8:30pm**

February 21, 2018: **10:00am - 8:30pm**

Registration tables for CACE will be open during the following dates and times:

February 20, 2018: 3:00pm - 5:00pm, Ferguson Auditorium

February 21, 2018: 9:00am - 2:00pm, EUC Cone Ballroom

## WELCOME TO CACE 2018

The African American and African Diaspora Studies Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) welcomes you to the 2018 Conference on African American & African Diasporic Cultures & Experience (CACE).

In celebration of UNCG's 125th anniversary, the theme for this year's conference is Shared Place and Fate: Coming Together to Transform Tomorrow. This conference theme will focus on negotiating and challenging divisive discourse and coming together to solve issues impacting people of African descent and other communities. We look forward to meeting you.

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 3:30pm**

## **More Than A Garden: Urban Community Gardens as Spaces of Reclamation**

Location: Ferguson Auditorium

Diamond Holloman, a doctoral student in the Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be hosting a discussion on urban community gardens and social justice.



*This event is co-sponsored by the African American and African Diaspora Studies Department, the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program, Women's and Gender Studies Program, the Department of Geography, the Department of Interior Architecture, the Department of Anthropology, the Elizabeth Rosenthal Professorship, and the Ashby Dialogues*

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 6:00pm**

## **Literary Café**

Location: EUC Alexander

Come listen to spoken word performances about negotiating and challenging divisive discourse and coming together to solve issues impacting people of African descent and other communities. Facilitated by Mr. Demetrius Noble.

**10:00 am – 10:50 am**

**Session 1A:**

**EUC: Alexander**

**Session Title: Transforming Education**

Moderator: Mr. Michael Cauthen

**Title: Seeking A Brave Classroom: A Handbook of Practices for Teaching to Confront Racism**

**Presenter:** Alex Patti, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Building on Beverly Tatum's (1999) call to engage in dialogue in our schools that seek to root out and eliminate racism and prejudice, ethical and compassionate teaching about race and racism can be quite challenging in a “post-racial” and fearful world. Hoping to inspire and stimulate teachers to respectfully and compassionately work toward dismantling systems of racism through curriculum and classroom instruction, this handbook serves as a reference guide for secondary and post-secondary teachers within and without the communication discipline. Using personal experience and critical reviews of literature, this handbook (1) outlines some first steps of discussing race, (2) suggests three practices to facilitating classroom discussion, (3) reviews race-based communication activism pedagogy & service learning literature, and (4) offers pedagogical approaches & resource books. By focusing on current practices accompanied with generative questions, this handbook invites teachers to examine resources and best practices tailored to their own needs/wants.

**Title: Interpreting African American Social Identity: An Analysis of North Carolina Rosenwald Schools Alumni Communicative Experience**

**Presenter:** Genevieve Barnes, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

This research seeks to understand African American social identity developed in part through their K-12 education at Concord School, Allen Grove School, and Bladen County Training School in North Carolina. The study examined the philosophy of education by Booker T. Washington as this was a major influence on the Rosenwald education provided for African American children. There were three oral history group interviews that were conducted and the transcripts were analyzed using Marilyn Lichtman's (2013) 3 C's of meaning making that includes codes, categories, and concepts through six steps of analysis. A thematic analysis of the interviews revealed three themes: discipline, curriculum influence, and internal motivation. Due to the lack of research on Rosenwald Schools, this research will be a major contributor to the communication field due to its efforts in understanding African American social identity and how the Rosenwald Alumni communicated successful citizenship. Moreover, this study has explicated our understanding of the importance of African American identity and the cultural intersection of Jim Crow, slavery, and Booker T. Washington's philosophy of education to manifest successful African Americans during the mid-20th century.

## **Session 1B**

**EUC: Claxton**

**Session Title: Transforming Knowledge through Social Justice and Empowerment**

Moderator: Mr. Armando Collins

**Title: #MeToo and the Possibilities of Fourth Wave Intersectionality**

**Presenter:** Kelly M. O'Donnell, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Intersectionality has been a problem for feminists for decades. The recent litany of high profile sexual harassment charges has highlighted the fact that women of color experience racism, sexism, and race based sexism in the workplace. The body of literature on this topic is thin, and this essay will add to the growing number of studies that are addressing this issue. Fourth wave feminism combines the individualism of the third wave with the possibilities of online communication in forming alliances between women from all over the country. The hashtag campaign, #MeToo, has the potential to shed light on the differences and similarities between the way women of color and white women experience the degradation of sexual harassment and assault. This essay will explore how women can use this opportunity to build solidarity and create one movement to end sexual harassment.

**Title: My Afro Doesn't Speak for Me: Perceptions of Dress/Style and Black Women's Radical Activism**

**Presenter:** Itane Coleman, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Black political movements and radical activity have often become synonymous to the iconic afro and particular expressions of style and dress. Representations in the news media, such as film and performance situate black political leadership in discourse surrounding the idea of a “black aesthetic.” Specifically, black women in political spaces are illustrated with a particular look that is assumed to articulate the breadth of their political agenda. This paper will examine issues that arise when associating dress and style with politics. Beyoncé’s 2016 Super Bowl performance will be used as a stepping stone to introduce this problem within larger systems of oppression such as race, gender, and politics. *The Angela Y. Davis Reader* and Tanisha Ford’s *Liberated Threads* will be used in conjunction with other sources to expand upon the problematic assumption of a radical identity based on one’s choices of dress and style.

## **Session 1C**

**EUC: Kirkland**

**Session Title: Will the Circle be Unbroken: Transformative Sisterhood on the Journey to the Ph.D.**

Moderator: Dr. Brian McGowan

**Presenters:** J'nai Adams, Coretta Walker, Erica Estep Farrar, Keyana Shyrier, and Dr. Brian McGowan, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and North Carolina A&T State University

African American women account for 0.5% of doctoral degrees granted in the United States. The purpose of this panel is to recognize and explore the experiences of four African American women enrolled full time in a doctoral program while concurrently working full time at multiple postsecondary institutions

across the state of North Carolina. Sadie T. Mossell Alexander was the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in 1921 and the panelists aim to complete their degrees in 2021, 100 years later. The panel will be centered on their socialization experiences, transformative sisterhood, work-life balance, and negotiating racial and gender identities. The panel will be lead and moderated by Dr. Brian McGowan, Assistant Professor of Higher Education at UNCG.

## **Session 1D**

### **EUC: Maple**

#### **Session Title: Health, Communication, and Access**

Moderator: Dr. Elizabeth Perrill

#### **Title: Health and the Black Community**

**Presenter:** Dreshawn McFadden, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Health problems surrounding the black community is still a major issue in American society today. Social class disadvantages among African Americans is a strong indicator of sickness and plays a key role in explaining the differences in health among white and black Americans. Not only are Africans Americans more likely to earn less money than whites, but, African Americans also face unemployment at twice the rate of white Americans. There is a greater number of African Americans who are poor in comparison to white Americans. Poverty is a stream that leads to crime, social isolation, and insufficient living conditions which all affect health issues. Among other things, high levels of stress due to poverty can cause high blood pressure, or, HBP, among African Americans. Access to better healthcare, free or low-cost therapeutic facilities, and healthier food options in near proximity of poor black communities can help reduce the amount of health issues.

#### **Title: How to Talk about Racism with your Oblivious White Family**

**Presenters:** Caroline Lass and Alexis Brown , University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Many young white people feel uncomfortable talking to their families about race issues in America, and our presentation will offer strategies to facilitate learning and growth as a result of productive conversation with individuals who may be unaware of what's going on in our country today. Alexis will be offering her perspective so that our presentation can compare what experiences I've had talking with my white family, and what experiences she's had as a black woman talking with her family. This presentation is necessary because it will emphasize the importance of young white people educating their families. Our goal is for the moderate, middle-class white population to build empathy for the individuals affected by racism. We plan to present this topic as a slideshow. It will include multiple personal stories of progressive white youth talking about racism with their families, and stories from young black individuals talking with their families. We plan for some stories to illustrate productive and unproductive examples of conversations. We will also include some conversation starters, key talking points, and how to use non-confrontational language.

**11:00 am – 11:50 am**

## **Session 2A**

**EUC: Alexander**

**Session Title: Health and Wellness**

Moderator: Dr. Julie Smith

**Title: Black Mental Health: Living Through Racism**

**Presenter:** Miesha Moore, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

The purpose is to research the physiological and psychological evidence of the effects racism has on our mental health and provoke awareness within the African-American community on the importance of taking care of one's mental stability. African-Americans have a long history of experiencing enslavement, mistreatment, and prejudice, and through extensive research it can be inferred that overtime your mental health will reap the negative effects from such instances. Overtime, as individuals witness deaths and encounter discrimination, the racial trauma can result in the development of stress and/or depression and other general health problems. In addition, due to lingering stigmas and the unawareness health care some professionals have concerning an African-American's cultural background, often times an individual will not seek help, prolonging the deterioration. However, it is through the acknowledgment and willingness to seek help and engage in effective coping methods, that we are able to see an improvement in the African-American community, along with the eradication of stigmas that further prevent us from fostering 'good' mental health in the midst of adversity.

**Title: Lone Survivor: Linking Institutionalized Racial Adversity, Lived Experiences and Mental Health Conditions among African Americans**

**Presenter:** Mary E. John, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

In lieu of professional treatment for mental illness, African Americans have continuously practiced self-concealment and alternative forms of treatment, such as religious mediation, non-mental health professionals and family or friend support (Barksdale & Molock 2008, Masuda et al., 2012). Using general strain and labeling theory to conceptualize the presence, impact and coping strategies of mental illness among African Americans, I hypothesize that the rationale for foregoing treatment and/or engaging in informal coping practices prevail largely due to culturally relevant factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, a lack of financial means to pay for medical treatment, mistrust of medical providers, and racialized stigma of mental health, which have significant implications for mental health treatment.

**Session 2B:**

**EUC: Claxton**

**Session Title: Representation and Media Images**

Moderator: Mr. Robert Randolph Jr.

**Title: Beyond the Insecurities: An analysis of Black media as represented in HBO's television series Insecure**

**Presenter:** Aiyana Elizabeth Torres, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

This paper analyzes the progression of African Americans in media by using many concepts addressed by Squires in African Americans and the Media, while using the concepts of liminality, which is the tense standing between Black people and the dominant white culture, dissemination, which is how things were spread, and reoccurring stereotypes placed on Black women in Black film/television. To do this, I will be relating the previously stated concept to the hit HBO television series Insecure: a television series that shows the life of modern-day black women that do not exactly follow the typical structure shown for black women in film.

**Title: Doing Vulnerability: On the Performative Ethics of Intimacy in Moonlight**

**Presenters:** Robert Randolph Jr. and Cameron Brooks, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and North Carolina A&T State University

The matter of vulnerability and black men has long been discussed and debated within black feminist and black queer studies, notably by bell hooks, Joseph Beam, and Brian Phillip Harper. While these scholars emphasize that vulnerability is fraught with anxiety and risk, they do not always nuance vulnerability beyond negative associations. We seek to push the boundaries of emotionality, intimacy, and how men affirm vulnerability in the film Moonlight (2016) directed by Barry Jenkins. We will discuss how Chiron (Little/Black) and Kevin resist, accept and utilize multiple registers of vulnerability that do not comport with notions of abjection. Rather, these characters cohere around moments of rupture to achieve an erotic life. These questions frame our inquiry: 1) How does a young black boy, who has been traumatized, relearn/establish an ethics of vulnerability through interactions with other (queer) black men? and 2) How does an ethics of vulnerability lead to a more robust and fulfilling life?

**Title: Blackish?: An Examination of the Lack of Black Writers in Television**

**Presenter:** Jolanda Kendall, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

The UCLA racial social justice group Color of Change did a study on 243 shows broadcasted in the 2016-2017 season to analyze the correlation between black representation in the writer's room and the portrayal of black people as well as their narratives. The results of this study found that only 4.8% of 3817 writers were black,  $\frac{2}{3}$ .

of the shows examined had no black writers at all. These numbers don't correlate to the number of Black writers that are ready and willing to work in the industry, as Black students account for 22.4% of the LA Film School. These statistics lead me to a much larger point, the importance of an accurate portrayal of Black people on the screen. Often times in shows with no Black writers, or without a Black showrunner, the "Black American Experience" is often portrayed as a monolith, some might even say a cookie cutter experience. The classic black stereotypes in film and on television such as the Mammy, Black Brute, and Tragic Mulatto have reimaged themselves into the Domestic, Black B\*\*\*\*\*, Black Best friend and the Thug. These characters often lack depth and are either used solely as comedic relief or a victim awaiting a savior. However in shows with a Black presence behind the scenes such as Blackish, Insecure, Luke Cage, and Atlanta the viewer is able to see that there is so much more to the Black American Experience.

## **Session 2C**

### **EUC: Kirkland**

#### **Session Title: Friend or Foe: Interrogating the Relevancy of God and the Christian Church Concerning Black Liberation Struggle**

Moderator: Mr. Demetrius Noble

**Presenters:** Demetrius Noble, Lorenzo "Logie" Meachum, and Wesley Morris

One could easily argue that no other institution has a more dubious history and engagement with black liberation struggle than the black Christian church. The ambivalence of the church to weigh in on the material conditions of working class black folks has been a key site of inquiry for activists and organizers, parishioners and pastors as well as artists and scholars. This panel will explore the diverging points of reference between disparate Christian theologies and varying paradigms of black liberation struggle to assess whether or not God and the black church are comrades in our collective fight for freedom or an adversary we must oppose and crush.

## **Session 2D:**

### **EUC: Maple**

#### **Session Title: #Vegas Clause "What happens in therapy, stays in therapy": Exploring the messages African Americans receive about mental health via black online media outlets**

Moderator: Dr. SallyAnn Ferguson

**Presenters:** Dr. Ticola C. Ross, Diamond James, and Andrea Age, University of North Carolina Charlotte

Historically, African Americans have had trust issues and barriers to accessing mental health services (Muntaner & Parsons, 1996; Terell & Terell, 1984), yet African Americans present with high rates of mental disorders such as Major Depression, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (NAMI, 2017). With the expansion of technology the internet has become a place where people receive news,

exposure to diverse perspectives, and share and discuss various issues including mental health. This content analysis reviewed black online media outlets such as Madame Noire, Black Voices Huffington Post, The Grio, and others to assess what messages African Americans are exposed to regarding mental health. The implications of messages expressed by black online media outlets and its link to perceptions of mental health services will be discussed.

**12:00 pm – 12:50 pm**

## **CACE Luncheon for Registered Participants and Guests**

EUC Cone Ballroom

***UNCG Neo Black Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration: 50 Years of Pride and Power***

*Welcome Remarks:* Dr. Cerise L. Glenn and Dr. Julie Smith

*University Libraries Presentation*

Introduction: Gerald Holmes

Presentation: Erin Lawrimore

*Panelists:* Andre Jordan, Leslie Griffin, Tiaira Moragne, Christopher Roberts, Aiyana Torres

Michael Clinton, Bianca House, Miesha Moore

**1:00 pm – 1:50 pm**

### **Session 3A**

**EUC: Alexander**

**Session Title: Building Vibrant Communities**

Moderator: Dr. Sarah Cervenak

**Title: The Black Dollar: How ethnic communities thrive and support themselves**

**Presenter:** Tahjma VanBuren, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Ethnic enclaves are geographic areas that host a high number of those that identify with a particular ethnic group. These communities have historically functioned as a means of transition for immigrant groups to assimilate to American culture. However, as the years progress, ethnic enclaves have begun to configure ways obtain economic growth and facilitate their culture across generations. In this article, we will seek to understand the benefits that the various established ethnic enclave communities have been able to reap (Continued on page 11).

We will evaluate how these kind of communities have been greatly beneficial to Black Americans throughout history, why ethnic enclaves are not prominent in Black communities today, and how implementing these ethnically specific communities could benefit the wellness of Black Americans of the future. The results of this research point to the necessity of Black Americans having the opportunity to excel in communities that serve them and black culture as a whole.

**Title: The Whitewashing of National Parks**

**Presenter:** T'Shari White, State University of New York College of Environmental Science in Forestry

Numerous publications argue that national parks are not ethnically diverse amongst visitors and non-visitors. Explanations associated with the lack of participation from people of color, particularly Black people, include: lack of access, resources, and interest, as well as racial bias. This paper illustrates and focuses on how the history of racial bias laid out the foundations of national parks and have created whitewashed wilderness landscapes of exclusion and fear; therefore, playing an essential role in the lack of participation from Black people. Black people should have the opportunity to rekindle their relationship with nature in which they have been systematically excluded from through the creation of protected wilderness areas without having the fear of experiencing negative racial encounters. This paper argues that the National Park Service should aid in building marginalized community capacity and reassure Black people that they are as entitled to wilderness areas as White people are.

**Title: Design as a Tool of Cultural Preservation**

**Presenter:** Shadrick Addy, North Carolina State University

Graphic Designers are helping to preserve and tell African American History. In doing so, designers are taking on the role of “citizen designers,” designers that use their creative skills, and leverage design tools and principles to improve the livelihood of society. In collaboration with the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN, students at North Carolina State University are exploring new ways to use technology in the preservation of historical narrative. Graphic Design Students in a Second Year Graphic Design Studio at NC State College of Design worked under the guidance of Dr. Derek Ham and Professor Scott Townsend to design proposals for an exhibition space that would host the museum’s first Virtual Reality experience. The VR experience transports visitors to the Civil Rights Movement and highlights moments of the 1968 Memphis Sanitation workers strike, and the events leading to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Session 3B:**

**EUC: Claxton**

**Session Title: Perception of Black Images and Identities**

Moderator: Dr. April Ruffin-Adams

**Title: "Pretty Girls DO like Trap Music"**

**Presenters:** Quiana Howard, Keyonna Little, and Alexis Brown ,University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Artistic expression and the Black experience. Two elements that are almost synonymous with one another. Whether experienced on an individual or collective level, African Americans have pioneered their way through many forms of art such as: music, painting, acting, singing, dancing, and many more. For many, artistic expression has played a major role in the survival of the Africans who first arrived in this country and the many generations that followed. African American music has revolutionized the way view, interpret, and expressed art. It in itself has evolved into many genres and subgenres, such as: hip-hop, then rap, then trap rap music. Music, like trap music, has the authority to tell stories of so many African Americans---and those of the diaspora, their realities. Currently, in younger and older generations, there has been feedback or commentary that questions the authenticity of trap music, and if it is “really” music. This conflict is the purpose of this panel. What makes trap music not “real music”? What are the defining elements that make trap music, in fact, a valid form of artistry? Who has the authority to determine these answers?

**Title: Black Revolution: Reclaiming a name, Continuing a Legacy**

**Presenter:** Khalia Carter, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

This presentation will be an interactive workshop styled presentation that focuses on the effects of the condemnation of black revolution. Using the film, The Birth of a Nation and the 2016 remake I will explore the portrayal of black revolution in media and film. I will also use the film to assert the importance of social action and the accurate representation of movements such as Black Lives Matter and Black Feminism.

**Title: Black Masculinity in Black Cinema**

**Presenter:** Dominick Hand, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

This research explores Hollywood cinema’s portrayal of black masculinity using content analysis of selected movies produced in the 20th (1900-2000) to 21st centuries (2001-Present). The portrayal of Black male masculinity in mainstream cinema seems to reveal long standing adverse racial stigmas and stereotypes most likely reflective of mainstream cultural frameworks. Preliminary evidence suggests that representations of blackness range from non-threatening, to threatening to include elevated criminality and social predation. This research attempts to identify commonly appearing stereotypes that can be argued to represent mainstream society’s collective conscience with respect to black masculinity as relatively adverse archetypes .

**Session 3C:****EUC: Kirkland****Session Title: Freedom and Solidarity**

Moderator: Dr. Omar H. Ali

**Title: Fanon and Sartre: the making of a Black Existentialism****Presenter:** Omar Obregon-Cuevas, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Although Frantz Fanon is considered to be one of the progenitors of Post-colonial studies, he is often not mentioned when discussing giants within the philosophical tradition. My thesis for this paper is that Frantz Fanon advances the existentialism of Jean Paul Sartre by applying Sartre's conception of freedom to the Black Man rather than the middle class white man. It is important to show how Fanon advances the philosophical tradition because his framework developed in Black Skin White Masks should not stay only within the silo of Post-colonial thought, but he should be considered as part of the pantheon of great thinkers in the philosophical tradition.

**Title: We Won't Be Silenced: Black Men and the Freedom of Speech****Presenter:** Andre Jordan, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Quite often in America, there is great value and emphasis placed on the privileges granted by the Bill of Rights. These freedoms are deeply woven into the fabric of society and greatly inform the behaviors and practices of citizens. Of these rights, perhaps the one that people want most protected is the freedom of speech. This ability to express oneself is, in some ways, the essence of what it means to be an American, what it means to be free. The black man's access to this freedom, however, is limited and he is chastised and judged for exercising this right frequently. For decades, men from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in the 60s all the way to Colin Kaepernick in present day have been attacked by people all over the country for expressing themselves in whatever way they see fit.

This research will strive to comprehend and articulate the black man's relationship with the Freedom of Speech throughout history and how this has had an impact on the way in which black men as a whole are viewed. The focus of this examination will be how news outlets portray images of prominent, vocal black men as well as the reception of these individuals by social media users.

**Title: Police Brutality and the National Anthem: A Sociological Historical Perspective of Why all African Americans Should Kneel****Presenter:** Jerry Brand, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

The police keep us safe or at least that is what many Americans like to think. However, questionable behavior of our institutional protectors of late concerning police brutality contentions disrupts the understanding of the role of police and policing in Black America. This debate has created movements and protests. Most notable, the kneeling of the national anthem. Given this reason, police have come under scrutiny and rightly so. Hence the question: why are African Americans exposed to disproportional violence by police? I will examine the posed question of why African Americans are exposed to disproportional police violence from a historical comparative research method. I will use the concept of Orlando Patterson's "social death", natal alienation, and the continuum of the Afro-pessimism Theory linking the ongoing effects of slavery to current policing of Blacks.

[ 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm ]

#### Session 4A

EUC: Alexander

**Session Title: Community Play!/All Stars Project CPASP**

Moderator: Ms. Dominique Edwards

**Presenters:** Aliyah Ruffin, Laniyah James, Aaliyah Coleman, Imani Floyd , and Nailah Amen, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and North Carolina A&T State University

The goal of this presentation is to demonstrate how community organizing can not only be developmental for youth in the community but for those facilitating as well. Our presentation will focus on an innovative program Community Play!/All Stars Project (CPASP). Instead of focusing on the history of CPASP, we will focus on the philosophy and methodology of the program. Philosophers such as Vygotsky and Holzman who have shed light on the importance of social interaction and play for developmental learning will be our primary focus. Our presentation will also include an interactive component which will exemplify how we use various improv activities to engage development. Our presentation will conclude with an illustration of the bidirectional nature of development that occurs between both producers and community members.

#### Session 4B

EUC: Claxton

**Session Title: You have earned your advanced degree; now what? Traditional and non-traditional career paths for African American Ph.D. and J.D. recipients!**

Moderator: Dr. Joseph M. Green, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**Presenters:** Rosetta Davidson, Assistant City Attorney and Thomas E. Powers, Senior Assistant City Attorney

This session will focus on various opportunities available to young scholars upon the completion of an advanced Degree (Ph.D. and J.D.). The discourse will center on traditional and non-traditional career tracks for recent advanced degree recipients. The purpose of the session is to expose students and mentors to little known careers outside of the academy, alternative career paths and non-academic careers in the academy. Scholars will have the opportunity to discuss the major factors to consider when selecting initial positions in the academy. This session will examine & discuss career path trends of Ph.D./J.D. recipients over the past two decades. Special emphasis will be placed on sound decision making for career advancement. The audience will have an opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of the **pros** and **cons** of the job selection process. The session will close with a conversation relative to the importance of utilizing the collegial networks and connections across disciplines. The aim of the session is to foster an understanding of the limitless potential of the terminal Degree!

## Session 4C

EUC: Kirkland

**Session Title: Language, Concepts, and Conversations as Opportunity for Transformation**

Moderator: Dr. Ayesha S. Boyce

**Title: Why do you want to say it? The Reclamation of Derogatory Names and Statements**

**Presenters:** Charles Brewer and Vincent Johnson, University of North Carolina Greensboro

Culturally and socially, language is power laden, impactful in its ability to structure differences within our society. Indeed, the symbols that we use in daily communication are a sort of matrix, structuring reality and ensuring that “nothing escapes cultural value” (Silverman, 1983, p. 165). It is this tension created by language that this presentation addresses and seeks to explore, specifically with regard to racial identity. Beverly Tatum (1997), a developmental psychologist who specializes in racial difference, argues that racism still manifests today through covert institutional practices. Language, as witnessed through our personal growth and experience, is undoubtedly one of those practices. During this presentation, we discuss how the reclamation of language occurs, outlining both the resistance towards reclamation and the progress it allows, through a personal and academic lens. As presenters, we will speak on our experiences with reclamation as it relates to racial identity development, allowing for a productive discussion on the topic to emerge between ourselves and audience members.

**Title: Black Hope: Afromation about Affective Economies in the 45th US Presidency**

**Presenter:** Zachary Easterling, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

This polemic engages Sara Ahmed, Cornel West and Calvin Warren in order to propose instilling hope as itself a valuable organizing tactic toward prison-industrial abolition during the 45th US presidency. This is because within affective economies hope functions as the money form, and is thus the affect of use in terms of producing change in the world. That is to say, hope is the affect of amelioration. It is its own use value, and without an essential object. Where love or hate can be said to be political, oriented to a perspective in relation to the world, hope is the apolitical means of any affect to orchestrate the body toward the politics of its object. Hope then like money in our lived political moment, is the wealth from which the political defines itself. Clearly, it's what makes things happen and transforms the ideological to the political. The importance of instilling hope then comes from the fact that like money, hope is spent to maintain positions like abolition and authoritarianism.

**Title: Nubuntu**

**Presenter:** Joseph A Savoy, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

What is Nübuntu? In its most complex form Nübuntu is a new idea and concept designed to challenge the way most of us have been conditioned to think, it is an idea that will revolutionize the way we interact with one another creating a more progressive, effective, and harmonious society for all. Living in the United States a person quickly realizes that they are categorized by various factors such as race, socio-economic class, religion, sexual identification and orientation, able-ness, all of which are factors that do more to divide than to unite. The basis of the Nübuntu philosophy is to eliminate all of those divisive factors that carry negative stigmas and prejudices by looking for what I call the lowest common denominator of humanity.

[ 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm ]

## Coffee and Conversations: Mix and Mingle with Presenters and Attendees

EUC: Neo Black Society Room

We invite conference attendees, presenters, and community guests to mix and mingle at our coffee and conversations session. Mix and Mingle with other conference attendees, presenters, AADS students, faculty, and staff, or just sit and relax until the keynote performance. This room will remain open until the Hero Complexities performance .

### Art Display

#### Title: Unsung Heroes

**Artist:** Ruby Harrell, University of Greensboro North Carolina at Greensboro

This portrait is an artistic homage to African Americans, both male and female, that received little recognition during Black History Month. The unsung heroes, William Still, Susie T. King, Benjamin Singleton, Martin R. Delany, Leopold Senghor, Claudette Colvin, Dr. Maulana Karenga, and Selma Burke used their circumstances of enslavement and/or segregation as a stepping stone versus a blockade. The most significant contribution made by these unsung heroes consisted of reinforcing the concept of Black Nationalism and Afrocentrism. The courage and determination to undertake such a noble cause of justice in an unjust America, without thought of ridicule or death is the most noteworthy contribution to African American society.

## Baggage Claims and Sanford Biggers Exhibitions Open for Conference Attendees

Weatherspoon Art Museum, 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Explore the themes of global mobility, migration, and the part baggage plays in our personal and family histories in the exhibition *baggage claims* and the multimedia artist *Sanford Biggers* exhibition of artworks that intentionally complicate our understandings of history, culture, and identity. Featured exhibitions are organized by Dr. Emily Stamey, Curator of Exhibitions and is presented in collaboration with the UNC Greensboro School of Art as part of the Falk Visiting Artist program along with support from the University Concert & Lecture Series. The exhibitions and related public programs are supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

[ 6:00 pm — 8:00 pm ]

## CACE Keynote Performance: Hero Complexities

Location: EUC Auditorium

### Reception: 6:00pm - 6:45pm

Opening Remarks:

Hero Complexities Strategic Seed Grant Team Members - Duane Cyrus and Dr. Cerise L. Glenn

Paying Homage to our Ancestors - Dawn Tafari Hicks

Special Guest Performance from *Suah African Drummers*

### Keynote Performance: 7:00pm

Featuring Remarks from Provost Dana Dunn, Vice Chancellor Terri Shelton, and CAS Dean John Z. Kiss

Hero Complexities is a multidisciplinary performance created by Duane Cyrus and inspired by the heroic acts of Charles W. David Jr., a Caribbean-American United States Coast Guardsman who lost his life helping to save nearly 100 drowning servicemen in the icy waters off Greenland during World War II. This performance investigates the possible confluence of questions surrounding themes of rescue, self-sacrifice, and heroism when black male bodies are positioned in contemporary spaces.

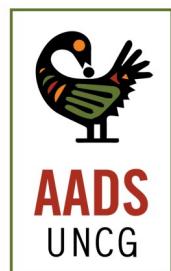


*Hero Complexities delivers performances, workshops, and community engaged discussion and is supported in part by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), including the Provost's Strategic Seed Grant for Vibrant Communities in partnership with the UNCG African American and African Diaspora Studies and University Libraries, the CAS Diversity Mini Grant, the UNCG College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the UNCG School of Dance.*

# The African American & African Diaspora Studies Program

## A Special Thank You to the Following:

- ☞ Provost Dana Dunn, Vice Chancellor Terri Shelton, and CAS Dean John Z. Kiss
- ☞ AADS Work-Study Student, Aiyana Elizabeth Torres
- ☞ The College of Arts and Science
  - ☞ Theatre of Movement
- ☞ UNCG College of Visual and Performing Arts
  - ☞ The UNCG School of Dance
  - ☞ Weatherspoon Art Museum
  - ☞ UNCG Neo Black Society
  - ☞ University Libraries



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