Family, Home and Community in Africa and the Diaspora

The USF Institute on Black Life and the Center for Africa and the Diaspora
30th Anniversary Symposium
February 9, 2017
9:00 AM—4:30 PM

Keynote Speakers:
Sabiyha Prince, Ph.D.
Anacostia Community Museum (Washington, D.C.)
Babajide Ololajulo, Ph.D.
University of Ibadan, (Ibadan, Nigeria)
and the inspirational
Kuumba Dancers and Griot, Uwezo Sudan
Thursday, February 9, 2017

9:00 — 9:15 AM  
**OPENING REMARKS** 
Cheryl Rodriguez, Ph.D., Director, IBL  
Eric Eisenberg, Dean, USF College of Arts & Sciences  
Steven Tauber, Ph.D., Director, SIGS

9:30 — 9:45 AM  
**COMMUNITY IN AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA**  
UweZo Sudan, Griot (grē-ō′, grē′ō, grē′ōt)

10:00 – 11:00 AM  
**HISTORY, INTERSECTIONALITY AND GENTRIFICATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Sabiyha Prince, Ph.D.  
Anacostia Community Museum (Washington, D.C.)

11:15 – 12:00 PM  
**DIASPORAN COMMUNITIES**  
**MODERATOR:** Roxanne Watson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, USF School of Mass Communications  
Laura Kihlstrom, Ph.D. candidate, USF Applied Anthropology  
Leaving the Past Behind. A Cross-Cultural Case Study on Food Insecurity, Nutritional Status and Stress among Ethiopians and Finns in Florida, U.S.  
Lisa Armstrong, MLA, USF Africana Studies  
Family Life in Carver City-Lincoln Gardens

Registration  
Sam Gibbons Alumni Center  
Traditions Hall  
8:45—9:00 AM

Frontier Forum  
We will continue the celebration of “Family, Home and Community in Africa and the Diaspora” by welcoming Yaa Gyasi, author of the highly acclaimed novel *Homegoing*.  
Ms. Gyasi will speak as part of the College of Arts and Sciences Frontier Forum and the 30th anniversary of the Institute on Black Life.  
Marshall Center  
Oval Theater  
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Exotic, mesmerizing rhythms and joyous movement, born of the hands and feet of the Kuumba Dancers and Drummers, give life to traditional African culture. Kuumba performs dances from various regions in Africa and carries the entire constellation of that particular music, ceremony, art and history.
HISTORY, INTERSECTIONALITY AND GENTRIFICATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

For decades Washington, D.C. has affectionately been known as Chocolate City but the Black population of our Nation’s Capital has now slipped to below 50%; down from a high of 71% in 1970. This constitutes the historical and demographic backdrop to a presentation that explores gentrification and its impact on African American communities in DC from an intersectional perspective. D.C. is a city dramatically affected by gentrification: displacement is rampant, housing costs have soared, income and wealth gaps are expansive, and homelessness has increased by 14% since 2015. This presentation looks at how gender and class are implicated in differentiating the experiences of residents and their vulnerability to these shifts. It relies on ethnographic data, secondary historical sources and statistical analyses of women, the poor and contemporary urban conditions and also makes connections between the present and the past by acknowledging the legacies of urban renewal, class hierarchies and white privilege.
12:00 – 1:00 PM  **Lunch on your own**

12:00 – 2:00 PM  
**Book signing- USF Bookstore Co-sponsor**  
*Lobby Gibbons Alumni Center*

**Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez**  
**Dr. Sabiyha Prince**  
**Dr. Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman**  
**Dr. Kevin Yelvington**

1:00 – 1:30 PM  
**Uwezo Sudan, Griot**

**Griot:** Noun. A member of a class of traveling poets, musicians, and storytellers who maintain a tradition of oral history in parts of West Africa.

**Kuumba Dancers** Myron & Natalie Jackson
Leveraging Community-based Heritage Research for Endogenous Garifuna Development in Seine Bight, Belize

E. Christian Wells, Ph.D., USF Anthropology
Eric S. Koenig, Ph.D. student, USF Anthropology
Sarita Lambey Garcia, University of Belize

This paper explores the challenges and opportunities involved in recent efforts to develop a heritage museum in the historically marginalized Garifuna community of Seine Bight, Belize. We draw on ongoing community-based research and outreach activities that center on issues raised by residents concerning sociocultural, economic, and cultural impacts of regional rapid tourism development. Recognizing the potential of university-engaged research to help meet the cultural, economic, and educational aspirations of the community, we are working with a local nonprofit and other community groups to build heritage research capacity, construct a museum to showcase the collaborative research, and design and install exhibits.

E. Christian Wells, Ph.D., is a Professor of Anthropology, Director of the Center for Brownfields Research, and Director of the U.S. Peace Corps Coverdell Fellows Program in Applied Anthropology at the University of South Florida, where he has served previously as the Founding Director of the Office of Sustainability and as Deputy Director of the Patel School of Global Sustainability. He currently serves as Advisor to the Board of Directors of the Florida Brownfields Association and as a member of the Editorial Board for the journal American Anthropologist. Dr. Wells is an applied environmental anthropologist with research expertise in environmental justice and sustainable and equitable development. He is the recipient of USF’s Jerome Krivanek Distinguished Teacher Award and the SOL Award for contributions to the Hispanic/Latino community as well as the Tampa Bay Sierra Club’s Black Bear Award for his work on sustainability and the environment.

Eric Koenig, M.A., is a Ph.D. student in Applied Anthropology at the University of South Florida. His research interests and professional aspirations focus on sustainable development, heritage conservation, public policy, and human and indigenous rights issues, particularly for marginalized groups of people in the Americas. Over three summer seasons of research between 2013 and 2015, Eric conducted multi-methods ethnographic research on the Placencia Peninsula, Belize, investigating local, national, and tourist conceptions of coastal heritage and their implications for community-based tourism and sustainable development initiatives. Currently, he is working on a heritage conservation and tourism development project in partnership with community-based organizations in the predominately Garifuna Afro-indigenous village of Seine Bight on the peninsula, which will serve as the foundation for his dissertation research at USF.

Sarita Lambey Garcia, MBA, is a Garifuna activist who holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Accountancy and a MBA in International Business. She served as a Financial Manager for over 11 years for the Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest public school system in the United States. After returning to Belize, she entered the field of education as a Lecturer for the University of Belize and Galen University. For her contributions to education, she earned the Tertiary Institutions Faculty of the Year Award. Sarita is the founder of the Gayusa Tanigu Beata Belmopan Garifuna Choir, a group focused on preserving the original compilations of her grandmother. She also is the founder of the Seine Bight Reservoir to Museum Foundation, a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the Garifuna culture for future generations and other interested parties. The Foundation has gained international attention and is poised to become a unique effort to preserve the culture and history of Seine Bight village. In her personal life, Sarita is a wife of over 47 years, a mother of two, and grandmother of three.
Olubukola Olayiwola, Graduate student, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida


The “nation-building project” of Nigeria has suffered a serious threat since the country got independence in 1960. One of the factors responsible for this has been attributed to plurality of ethnic identity and how it has penetrated our national life, which includes the informal sector activities. In light of this, this paper, based on ethnographic research conducted in Ibadan, Nigeria among traders selling building materials investigates how practices of supporting families and members of same ethnic identity foster a strategy of preserving and maintaining dominance over a trade. Therefore, such strategy ensures livelihood is sustained despite its implications for national integration.

Colette Witcher, Graduate student, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida

“Archaeology, Heritage, and Memory: Settlement Patterns of the Gullah-Geechee on Sapelo Island, Georgia from 1860 to 1950”

The Geechee are descendants of enslaved Africans who worked the coastal plantations of Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. On Sapelo Island, Georgia, there were at least 15 historic Geechee communities, with 539 individuals at the height of occupation, but today only the community of Hog Hummock remains, with 40 individuals in residence. The present research seeks to understand how enslaved peoples and their free descendants adapted their settlement in the face of changing social, political, and economic systems of the historic era that impacted and marginalized Sapelo Island Geechee people. Archaeological survey methods, combined with community interviews, shed light on these systems that contributed to the loss of land, homes, and communities.

Kevin A. Yelvington is a professor of anthropology at the University of South Florida. His research interests include the anthropology of the African diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Antoinette Jackson is an associate professor in anthropology at USF. Her research topics include sociocultural and historical anthropology; race, class, gender, ethnicity; heritage resource management; and African American and African Diaspora culture.
Kaniqua Robinson, Graduate student, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida

“Racial Dynamics and Religion in Collective Memory Politics: The Process of Public Memorialization of the Dozier School for Boys”

The Dozier School for Boys, a closed reform school in Marianna, Florida, is in the process of memorialization. The excavation of 55 graves at Boot Hill Cemetery led to a series of symbolic, political, and commemorative processes, creating a contested space of memory as plans for a public memorial and reburial of unidentified remains were undertaken. My research examines religion as a moralizing institution and a reconciliatory practice in the politics of memory and memorialization in the case of Dozier. Due to local and national history, racial dynamics are vital to the Dozier context. Through preliminary analysis of interviews, observations at various events (such as Dozier Task Force meetings, a White House Boys reunion, religious functions, and other events), and archival data, I explore how collective memory is negotiated across multiple levels and sources.

Deneia Fairweather, Graduate student, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida

“Disruptive Innovation: A Study of Strategies to Prevent the Educational Exclusion of Black Male Youth and their Families.”

Why are we loyal to traditional educational systems that aren’t working? In 2014 a complaint was filed against Hillsborough County Public School District (HCPSD) to the Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights for the educational exclusion of black male youth in the areas of testing, discipline, and classroom management. This report about the negative impact of educational policies and practices on black males in HCPSD is troubling. At the same time, these issues are so ubiquitous and familiar that at some point many either become desensitized to the phenomenon, cynical about solutions and/or view it as a normal reality, with no real hope for change. In the spirit of progress, this paper, based on ethnographic research conducted in a Tampa, Florida public charter school, will examine the innovate policies and practices that help to prevent the production of educational exclusion of black male youth and their families.

**Towards a new regime of security: Nigerian religious communities as interventionist agencies**

Babajide Ololajulo, Ph.D., University of Ibadan, (Ibadan, Nigeria)

Churches in Nigeria, through the activities of early missionaries, have in the past collaborated with the State to provide important infrastructure in the areas of healthcare and education. However, there are, little or no evidences to show that such responsibilities ever extended to the economic wellbeing of individual members. In this paper, I examine how religious institutions in Nigeria, particularly the charismatic Pentecostal churches, are engaging with the rhetoric of national economic recession. I explain their numerous empowerment programs such as investment seminars, vocational training programs, and microcredit schemes as evidences of alternative regime of social security in non-western countries.
February 7
Mighty Times: The Children’s March
Moderators: Zala Highsmith-Taylor, Ph.D., (retired)
Fitzgerald Taylor, (retired) NY State Division for Youth & Family Services

February 14
America Divided: Democracy for Sale
Moderator: Natasha Goodley, Ph.D., NAACP

February 21
HIDDEN COLORS 3
The Rules of Racism
Moderator: Cheryl Rodríguez, Ph.D.

February 28—Marshall Center, 7 p.m.
13th
Moderator: Senator Daryl Rouson

Freedom and Justice: Perspectives on Civil Rights
Second Annual Lunch and Learn Film Series
Teaching Tolerance

February 7, 14 and 21
USF Tampa Library Noon—2:00 p.m.
4th Floor- Grace Allen Room - Noon
Brown Bag, drinks & cookies provided

February 28
USF Marshall Center
Oval Theater 7—11 p.m.

Courageous Conversations: Teaching Tolerance (a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center), America Divided, Netflix and Hidden Colors are freedom and justice films/series that examine current events and policies in our nation that directly impact our community. Join us as facilitators guide small group discussions on strategies to improve local and global communities. Free. Open to the Public.

Event coordinator Denise R. Barnes, drbarnes@usf.edu

For special accommodations, contact Elizabeth L. Dunham, IBL (813) 974-9387 or eldunham@usf.edu