

THE Griot

A griot is a storyteller, historian, genealogist, teacher, musician, warrior, singer, diplomat, and more...but above all, a griot remembers.



FALL 2023

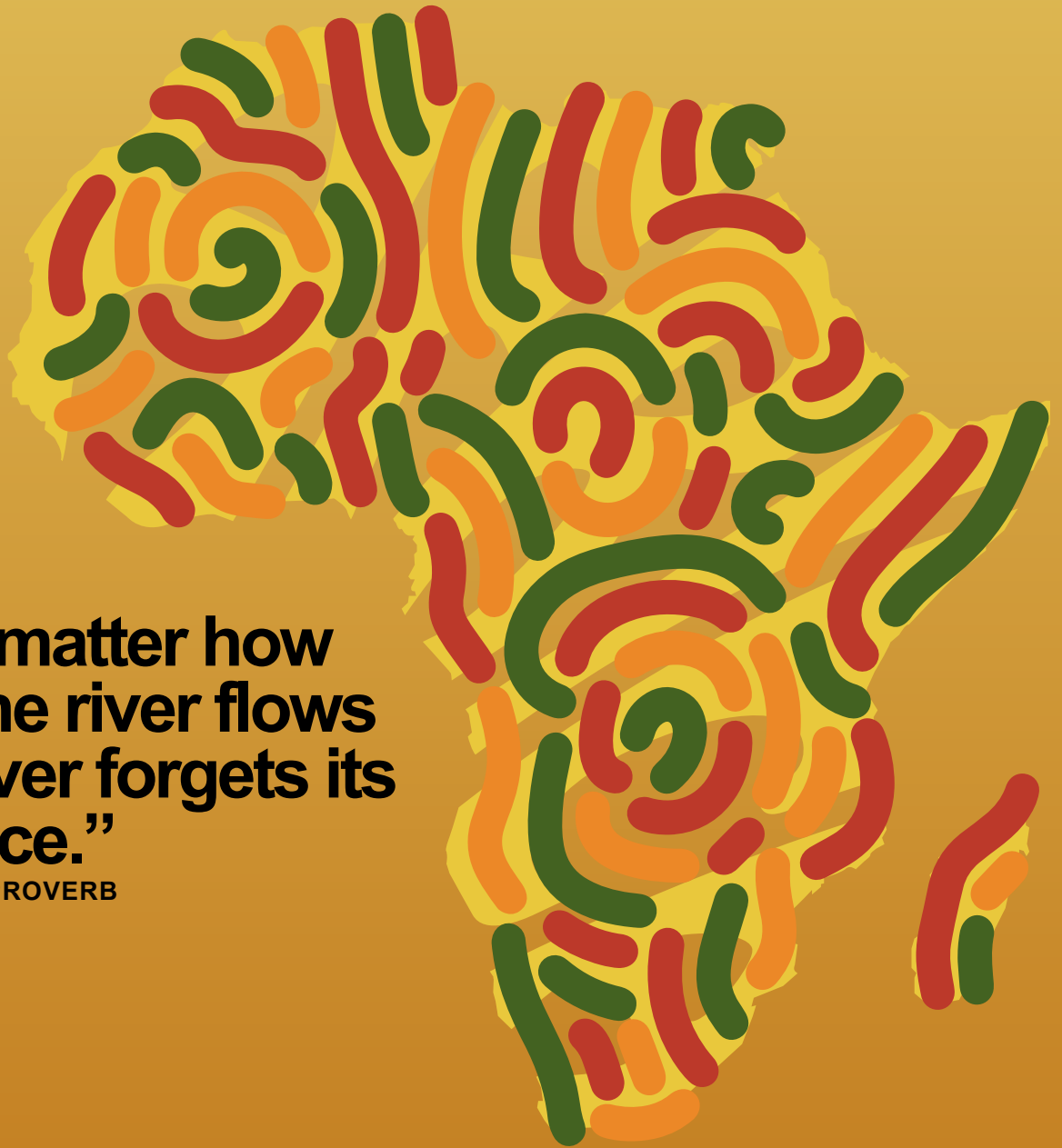
WRITERS & EDITORS

PUBLISHED BY
AFRICANA STUDIES
DEPARTMENT



**“No matter how
far the river flows
it never forgets its
source.”**

YORUBA PROVERB



Chair's Welcome Letter

Welcome!



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Africana Studies Department. This 2023-2024 academic year marks a year of firsts, changes, and transitions.

Personally, this marks my first year as Chair of the Department of Africana Studies. I am honored to step into the shoes of so many great chairs who have led our department through a global pandemic, zoom classes, graduations, retirements, and new hires. We have seen our department grow and evolve and yet always maintain its optimism and hope for the future of Black Studies and Black people write large.

This semester we welcomed into our ranks Dr. Sabine Franklin who is serving as our Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow for the department. Dr. Franklin hails from the great state of New York. She earned her Ph.D in Economics from the University of Westminster in London, UK in 2020. Her research examines the local governance of 2014 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and Liberia. She is interested in local politics in West Africa, especially on issues of health and development. We are thrilled that this fall she is teaching, **“Critical Perspectives of Humanitarianism in Black Countries.”** In the spring she will be teaching **“The Politics of Race and Racism in Europe.”** Be sure to introduce yourself to her and take her courses!

Our beloved colleague, Dr. Chipso Dendere is away on sabbatical during the 2023-2024 AY. She is spending the year in South Africa and her homeland of Zimbabwe. We wish her a healthy blend of rest, productivity, and success. We are grateful that during the spring semester Dr. Godfreyb Ssekajja will be teaching her course, **“Introduction to African Politics.”** Be sure to introduce yourself to him as well and take his course!

This year marks the final year of Dr. Selwyn Cudjoe's remarkable tenure at Wellesley College. After 38 years of invaluable service Dr. Cudjoe will teach his last class at the college, his classic seminar, "**Reading C.L.R James.**" Do not miss the opportunity to learn from a giant in the field. Stay tuned for his spring symposium and celebration.

Last summer Dr. Maparyan conducted research in Liberia. She has been working in Liberia for years and will be sharing with our community all of her insights at an upcoming colloquium lecture. We can't wait to learn more. Stay tuned!

Dr. Fitzpatrick continues to add to our curriculum in new and exciting ways, this year she added two new courses "**AFR/EDUC 205: Black Pedagogies in the Americas**" and "**AFR 220: Black Studies at Wellesley and Beyond.**" Please be sure to register and tell a friend. We hope to make these courses a featured part of our requirements for majors and minors.

When you come by the department, please give a warm welcome and hello to Debbie Kudish, our new administrative assistant! We are so pleased to have her as part of the Africana Studies family. She's always happy to assist students with any questions or needs.

I am excited to announce that I will be publishing a new book, "**We Refuse: A Forceful History of Black Resistance**" with Basic Books out June 2024. The release of the cover garnered over 430,000 views on Twitter! I was also featured in two Netflix documentaries: **Stamped From the Beginning** and **African Queens: Njinga**. As mentioned, it's a year of firsts, changes, and transitions, but all good things. We are excited about where Africana Studies is going and growing with new students declaring our major and minor. Nothing makes us happier than extending our community to others.

Dr. Kellie Carter Jackson
Chair, Africana Studies



Goals for the Major/Minor in the Department

- To understand the concepts, theories, knowledge, research methodologies, and skills in Africana Studies from a multidisciplinary perspective, through a series of required, core, elective, and experiential courses and mandatory colloquium
- To develop the ability to understand and communicate specialized and general knowledge in the field of Africana Studies that includes Africa and the African Diaspora in the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, and Asia
- To obtain a representational and wide-ranging multidisciplinary education and an ability to apply knowledge to critical thinking that is creative, persuasive, and linked to problem solving
- To develop skills and abilities necessary to conduct high-quality library and field research; to apply methodological tools and use modern technology to discover information and to interpret data
- To synthesize and develop knowledge of Africana world issues through the “Africana Colloquium: The Common Intellectual Experience”
- To achieve an understanding of the discourses of the African Diaspora through a variety of disciplines
- To develop skills that are essential for a range of careers and leadership roles in an increasingly global and diverse world

Spring & Fall 2023 Events

WHEN LIONS
Tell **THEIR STORIES**

March 2, 2023
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Tishman Commons

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lecture 2023

When Lions Tell Their Stories will speak to the illuminating, redemptive, expansive, and revolutionary power of oral histories and the importance of gathering, righting, and preserving our stories.

Julieanna L. Richardson
Founder and President
THE HISTORYMAKERS
The history of African American culture and history.

WELLESLEY
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Co-sponsored by:
The Black Book Project, Board of Trustees
Office of Academic Affairs, Wellesley College
Office of the President, Wellesley College
Office of the Vice President, Wellesley College
Office of the Dean, Wellesley College
Office of the Provost, Wellesley College
Office of the Registrar, Wellesley College
Office of the Student, Wellesley College
Office of the University, Wellesley College
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Office of the University, Wellesley College

Accessibility and
Disability Resources
accessibility@wellesley.edu

AFRICANA STUDIES
OPEN HOUSE
Karibu!
FA '23

Inviting all Africana Studies majors, minors, and interested students to join our faculty and staff, and learn more about who we are and the Department!

FOUNDERS
HALL 24-31
FRIDAY, SEPT 15TH
12:00 NOON - 1:00 P.M.
Music and food will be served for your Soul...

rsvp

SCAN ME



LECTURE SERIES IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR SELWYN R. CUDJOE'S RETIREMENT

The Africana Studies Department presents

FEAR OF BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS

A LECTURE BY PROFESSOR LEWIS R. GORDON


TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023 | 4:30 P.M.
HARAMBEE HOUSE

Dr. Lewis R. Gordon is the Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor and Global Affairs and Department Head of Philosophy at the University of Connecticut. Gordon is considered among the leading scholars in his field and works in the areas of Africana philosophy, existentialism, phenomenology, social and political theory, postcolonial thought, theories of race and racism, philosophies of liberation, aesthetics, philosophy of education, philosophy of religion. He has written particularly extensively on Africana and black existentialism, postcolonial phenomenology, race and racism, and on the works and thought of W.E.B. Du Bois and Frantz Fanon. His most recent book is titled: *Fear of Black Consciousness*

Co-sponsors: The Peace and Justice Studies Program, English Dept., American Studies Dept., and Wicked

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LECTURE SERIES IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR SELWYN R. CUDJOE'S RETIREMENT

The Africana Studies Department presents

GEORGE PADMORE AND BLACK DIASPORIC INTELLECTUAL THOUGHT

A LECTURE BY PROFESSOR CAROLINE ELKINS


TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 | 4:30 P.M.
HARAMBEE HOUSE

Prof. Elkins is Professor of History and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Her first book, *Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and selected as a "Book of the Year" by *The Economist*. Her subsequent book, *Legacy of Violence* was selected by *The New York Times* as one of the notable 100 Books of 2022.

Co-sponsors: English Dept., American Studies Dept., Wicked

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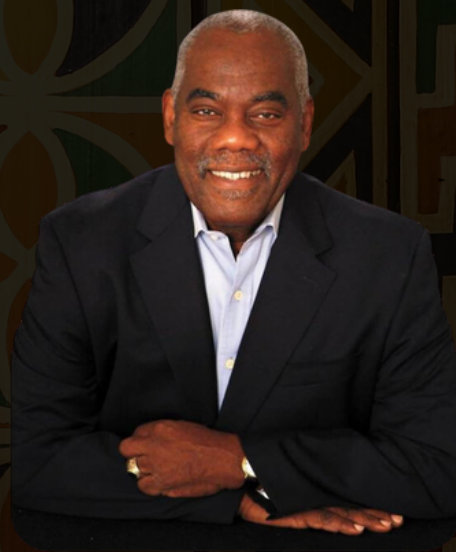
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Dr. Selwyn Cudjoe

Colloquium and Upcoming Lecture Series

On June 30, 2024, Professor Selwyn R. Cudjoe, will retire from Wellesley College after 38 years of service. The Provost Office, in conjunction of the Dean's Office, has set up a series of lectures during the 2023-24 academic year to honor his various contributions to the college. In order to do so, they have invited scholars with whom he has worked closely over the years and others whose academic interests coincide with his to participate in this series.



Professor Caroline Elkins, a professor of history and African American studies at Harvard University and the founding director of Harvard's Center for African Studies, delivered the first lecture on September 24, 2023 at Harambee House. Professor Elkins spoke on George Padmore and Black Diasporic Intellectual Thought, much of which she extracted from her prize-winning book, *Legacy of Violence: A History of the British Empire* that was selected by The New York Times as one of the notable 100 Books of 2022.

The second lecture was delivered by Professor Lewis R. Gordon, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor and the Head of the Philosophy Department at the University of Connecticut-Storrs on November 14, 2023 at Harambee House. Professor Gordon is also a Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, and the Honorary President of the Global Center for Advanced Studies. He is an acclaimed scholar in his field. Professor Gordon, an authority on Frantz Fanon, a Francophone Afro-Caribbean psychiatrist and political philosopher from Martinique, West Indies, delivered his lecture on "The Fear of Black Consciousness," a title that he took from his recent book of the same name.

The third lecture will be delivered by Professor Margaret A. Burnham, a professor of law and the founding director of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project at Northeastern University. Professor Burnham was a staffer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a civil rights lawyer, a defense attorney, and, in 1977, became the first female African American judge in the state of Massachusetts. In 1921, President Biden nominated her and the US Senate confirmed her position to serve on the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board. Professor Burnham is the also the author of *By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executions* (1922). She will speak on the many harrowing unsolved crimes that took place against Black people in the Jim Crow era between 1920 and 1960 and her quest for find justice for them and their families. Her lecture will take place on February 21, 2024 at Harambee House.

These lectures culminate with an all-day symposium: "Professor Cudjoe and his Academic Achievements" at Collins Cinema on April 20, 2024. Sir Hilary Beckles, the Vic-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies and chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Reparations Committee, will deliver the feature address. Several scholars, such as Professor Carol Boyce Davies (Cornell University), William Cain (Wellesley College), Henry Louis Gates, Jr., (Harvard University) Biodun Jeyifo (formerly of Harvard University), Dr. Kwadwo Osei-Nyame (formerly of the University of London), and Nana Wilson-Tagore (formerly of the University of Missouri at Kansas), will speak at this event.

Several of Professor Cudjoe's former students will also offer their thoughts about their relationship with him at Wellesley College and at Harvard University. They include Prof. Crystal Fleming (Stony Brook University), Melaine Graves (Bank of America), Dr. Cathryn Stout (Memphis-Shelby County Schools, Tennessee), and Prof. J. Lorand Matory (Duke University.)

Erica Williams will also bring her greetings. She is the daughter of Dr. Eric Williams, author of *Capitalism and Slavery*, and former prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

Then President Paula Johnson will also welcome our guests and offer her greetings to Professor Cudjoe's achievements at the symposium.

Dr. Sabine Franklin

Introduction and New Courses

SABINE FRANKLIN, PHD FRSPH

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Africana Studies

Born and bred New Yorker, I am an interdisciplinary scholar that examines how low-income nations govern disease outbreaks. I am excited to join Wellesley in the Africana studies department. I am new to Massachusetts and also new to teaching.



I completed my PhD in Economics at the University of Westminster in London, UK in 2020. My dissertation examines the local governance of the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and Liberia. I am interested in local politics in West Africa, especially on issues of health and development. I was a recipient of the 2022-2023 AAUW postdoctoral research leave fellowship and was hosted at the Macmillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University. I am currently a Fellow at the Governance and Local Development Institute at Göteborgs Universitet and a Visiting Researcher at the Westminster Development Policy Network at the University of Westminster. My latest article on the 2014-2016 Ebola epidemic was recently published in the world-renowned Journal of Institutional Economics. I am currently finishing my research project on COVID-19 pandemic emergency strategies in Sierra Leone.

My summer was pretty busy transitioning out of Yale and my leadership responsibilities with the Yale Black Postdoctoral Association and Yale Postdoctoral Association and coming on-board to Wellesley. I spent most of the summer designing curriculum and preparing learning materials for the four classes I plan to teach during my time here. I also was doing a lot of on-boarding and training with Wellesley's administration, and conducting my research.

Last year, I visited Sierra Leone for fieldwork again and conducted fifty interviews with healthcare workers, government employees, and community stakeholders who had a role in governing the pandemic and implementing emergency management policies. This year is also the 10-year anniversary of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, as the first case was traced back to a toddler in southeastern Guinea who came into contact with a bat. So, I have also been working this summer to coordinate and execute this event, where we invited speakers from West Africa to discuss the outbreak and public health moving forward. This webinar happened on 9 November with over 100 persons in attendance and I had the pleasure to moderate the panel.

This has been a great first semester at Wellesley and I look forward to the Spring semester, where I will be teaching AFR 221: The Politics of Race and Racism in Europe, which is crosslisted as POL2270. Tuesdays and Fridays at 8:30am.

The poster is for a Yale event titled "Ebola Ten Years On – Reflections and Looking Forward". It features the Yale logo and text indicating support from the George Herbert Walker Jr. Lecture Fund, the Council on African Studies, and the Betty MacMillan Center. The event is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2023, from 12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. EST. Three panelists are listed: Dr. Bernice Dahn (Former Minister of Health, Liberia), Dr. Sylla Thiam (Former Regional Director, Amref, West Africa), and David Mandu Farley Kelli-Coomber IV (Paramount Chief, Mandu Chieftom, Sierra Leone). A QR code is provided for registration at bit.ly/3S2nvu1, and social media handles for @YaleGH and #EVD10YEARS are mentioned.

Yale Yale Institute for Global Health
Supported by the George Herbert Walker Jr. Lecture Fund
and the Council on African Studies at the Whitney and
Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies
at Yale

**Ebola Ten Years On – Reflections
and Looking Forward**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023
12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. EST

PANELISTS
DR. BERNICE DAHN, Former Minister of Health, Liberia
DR. SYLLA THIAM, Former Regional Director, Amref, West Africa
DAVID MANDU FARLEY KELLI-COOMBER IV, Paramount Chief,
Mandu Chieftom, Sierra Leone

Register at bit.ly/3S2nvu1 or scan the QR code
Follow us on X (formerly Twitter): @YaleGH
Use #EVD10YEARS during the event

Dr. Layli Maparyan

Professor of Africana Studies and Executive Director of the Wellesley Centers for Women
Layli Maparyan's Trip to Liberia

Venturing into the Environmental Arena in Liberia to Advance Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

An exciting aspect of 2023 for me has been working on the Higher Education for Conservation Activity (HECA), a five-year project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Liberia, West Africa.

The HECA team is led by the University of Georgia (UGA) in collaboration with two HBCUs, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (AAMU) and Tuskegee University (TU), as well as the nonprofit University Consortium for Liberia (UCL), the Ugandan measurement and evaluation firm, Resilient Africa Network (RAN), and the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College, which I represent. Naturally, my Africana Studies affiliation also plays a big role!

Liberia is home to approximately 40% of the remaining portion of one of Africa's most important rainforests – the Upper Guinean Rainforest – and the preservation of this rainforest requires well-trained professionals and the cultivation of national concern for conservation. Liberia has historically been a timber-producing nation, with a focus on commercial forestry, and its current forestry education reflects this focus. The need now is to further develop conservation forestry, which focuses on maintaining forest ecosystems rather than cutting down trees, in addition to community forestry, which focuses on the human dimension of forests, and carbon forestry, which relates to the emerging carbon credit industry.



Dr. Maparyan and her research collaborators at the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) in Tubmanburg, Liberia, in January 2023.
Photo courtesy of Layli Maparyan.



A Liberian landscape from the East Nimba Nature Reserve near Yekepah, Liberia. Photo credit: Layli Maparyan.

To support the project, the HECA team has established the Center of Excellence for Forestry, Biodiversity, and Conservation Leadership and Green Enterprise Development (known as the “FBC Center”), a Liberian NGO co-located at the University of Liberia. The FBC Center will steward the fulfillment of HECA’s key goals, which are:

- To develop a model national forestry, biodiversity, and conservation (FBC) curriculum for Liberian higher education institutions (HEIs) and technical vocational education and training institutions (TVETs), beginning with the University of Liberia (UL) and the Liberian Forestry Training Institute (FTI);
- To develop a model national soft-skills co-curriculum for FBC students and faculty, which can also be used for professional and community development applications;
- To increase and enhance FBC experiential learning opportunities so that Liberian FBC students can get more and better field experience and job preparation;



Two women students at the Forestry Training Institute (FTI), March 2023. Photo credit: Layli Maparyan.

- To advance gender equality and social inclusion in the FBC sector in Liberia, with emphasis on greater access to FBC education and FBC careers for women, youth, people with disabilities, and people from rural forest-dependent communities;
- To establish a hub for Green Enterprise Development and Innovation (GEDI) at the FBC Center, so that FBC innovators from HEIs, TVETs, or the wider community can be supported in the development of good ideas and products that advance national FBC goals in Liberia as well as Liberia’s participation in the growing green economy.

My role focuses on advancing gender equality and social inclusion for HECA. So far, I have conducted two landscape studies – one on forest dwellers and another on women in forestry – and I am in the process of developing two more related to Liberian youth and people with disabilities in Liberia. Data from these studies informs the development of programming that will increase the participation of women, forest dwellers, youth, and people with disabilities in the Liberian FBC sector, creating onramps to higher education, FBC jobs, and GEDI activity.

Since 2009, I have been involved in higher education and gender-related projects in Liberia. It is an honor and a privilege to playing a role in this large-scale project that benefits both Liberian students and planet earth. Stay tuned for more reports as the project evolves!

Dr. Liseli Fitzpatrick

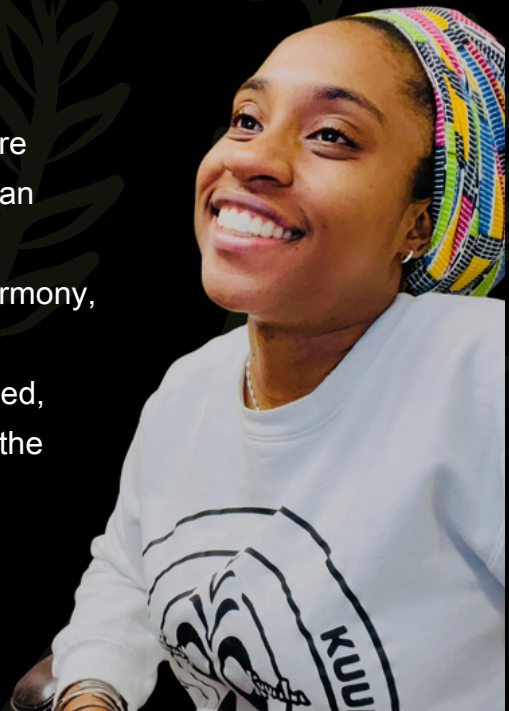
“TEACHES WHAT SHE LIVES
AND LIVES WHAT SHE TEACHES”

New Courses...

This academic year **2023-2024**, I am delighted to introduce two new courses: “**AFR/EDUC 205.01 Black Pedagogies in the Americas**,” which I am currently teaching (fall semester), and “**AFR 220: Black Studies at Wellesley and Beyond**,” which will be taught in the upcoming spring semester.

Black pedagogy is not simply what we teach but, more fundamentally, it is how we teach what we teach. Black pedagogies, i.e., the manifestations of Black pedagogy, are grounded in the universal principles and practices of African cosmology — rooted in love, eco-consciousness, the embodiment of spirit and interplay of energy, freedom, harmony, ingenuity, intellectualism, equity, and creative expression.

AFR/EDUC 205 explores the ingenious ways free, enslaved, disenfranchised, and emancipated Black Africans across the Americas, through time, have tapped into their embodied wisdoms and eco-centered cosmologies to create, affirm, and preserve self and community, especially, in situations of hostility and depravity.



As such, it is imperative for us to have a profound understanding of and appreciation for the foundations, pillars, and relevance of Black Studies, and the central contributions that Black people have made in the evolution of humanity, civilization, and all of creation, and still do. Black Studies, the intellectual and institutional arm of the Black Power Movement, was born out of struggle, student activism, community, persistence, and the resilient spirit of Black consciousness, thought, and pedagogy in the face of violent racial discriminations and systemic miseducation. The life and longevity of Africana Studies at Wellesley and beyond is anchored in a strong past, which we must steadfastly preserve in the co-creation of an enlightened, compassionate, and just world.

Through the deliberations of **The Educational Research & Development (E&RD) Committee**, I was awarded the **General Course Grant** by the College for my “Black Pedagogies in the Americas” course, which is cross listed with the Education Department.

Other fascinating news...

During the past academic year, I was one of seven national recipients of **The HistoryMakers 2022-2023 Faculty Innovations in Pedagogy & Teaching Fellowship**, and also served as faculty mentor to **HistoryMakers Student Ambassador and Africana Studies Major, Izzy Torkornoo ‘23**. This year, I am a **HistoryMakers master mentor** for the current cohort of faculty fellows. **The HistoryMakers** is the nation’s largest repository of first-person video oral testimonies relating to the Black experience — founded by **Julieanna L. Richardson** in 2009. In 2021, with outpouring support from students, staff, and faculty, I introduced and integrated **The HistoryMakers Digital Archive** into the classroom and campus community at Wellesley as a robust pedagogical tool for “righting” our-stories in the unrelenting quest towards the actualization of inclusive, empowering, and emancipatory education.

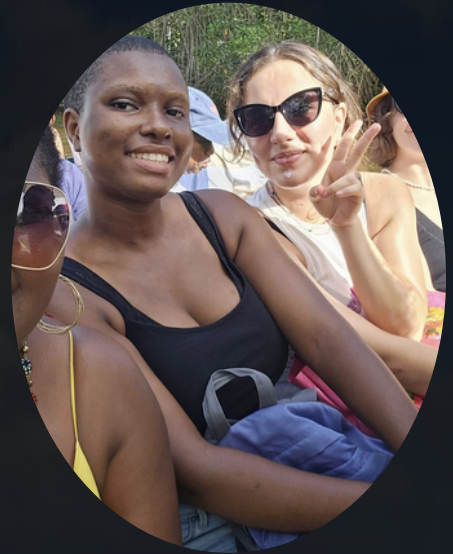
In February, Professor Kellie Carter Jackson, Chair of Africana Studies, and I were invited to speak at **TEDxWellesley: Coalesce**. My talk titled: **“Speaking Truth to em(Power)!”** addressed my position within the institution and underscored the power of embodied power, i.e., sacred power, people power. Professor Carter Jackson’s incisive address: **“Why Black Abolitionists Matter”** made clear the pivotal role that Black people played in their own liberation. Sharing a platform with my sister-colleague is indelibly etched in my heart.

Later in the year, I presented a statement at the **United Nations Permanent Forum for People of African Descent (UN/PFPAD)** on reparations. I asserted that “...we cannot talk about reparations and healing of any kind without addressing and redressing the worldwide desecration and dishonor of African sacred cosmologies — our eco-centered, eco-conscious, and cosmic way of life — our right to live — to be and breathe.”

Finally, and importantly, I am happy to share that my **2019 Children’s Picture Book manuscript**, an emotional work of heart, will be published by an imprint of **Penguin Random House Young Readers** with a range of other exciting news in store. Stay tuned for more...

Interview with Nadia La Mar

I'm Nadia La Mar '23. I use she/her pronouns. My major is Women's and Gender Studies with a concentration in Public Health and a minor in Africana Studies. My hobbies are reading, listening to music, and hanging out with friends. I love exploring new places and cities, hence why I'm here.



I'm in the country of Trinidad and Tobago, specifically on the island of Trinidad, because Tobago is another island, and I'm at the University of West Indies, St. Augustine.

Q: Why did you decide to study abroad in Trinidad?

I wanted to go to a primarily Black area and be surrounded by people like me. I wanted to learn about different Black cultures, activists, and freedom struggles within the Black diaspora. I think just being black and wanting to learn more about places internationally.



A: What are some of the highlights of studying in Trinidad?

Definitely getting more of a global perspective, especially in the Caribbean, more specifically, in Trinidad and Tobago. Oftentimes in classes, they speak about the Caribbean perspective and not just Trinidad and Tobago as its own country. Expanding my perspective has been insightful and I've been appreciative of it.

Another highlight is just making new friends. It was a little bit difficult for me in the beginning, but also, a lot of things were difficult, like, dealing with the heat, cooking for myself, and getting used to the class structure. But I have started to make friends and talk to them about their experiences in the Caribbean.

Q: What would you say to students who are interested in studying in Trinidad?

Be patient and the experience will be worth it. Even though it may be difficult at times, like getting acclimatized to the campus or country, keep an open mind and be open to learning. I've learned a lot in my classes, but I've also learned a lot through my friends here.



A: In what ways did your study abroad experience influence you as a student and person?

It's made me more comfortable with traveling. I learned more about different injustices that have been happening globally, and getting this Caribbean perspective and coming more into myself as a feminist and activist. It has shown me to be patient and actually trust the process.



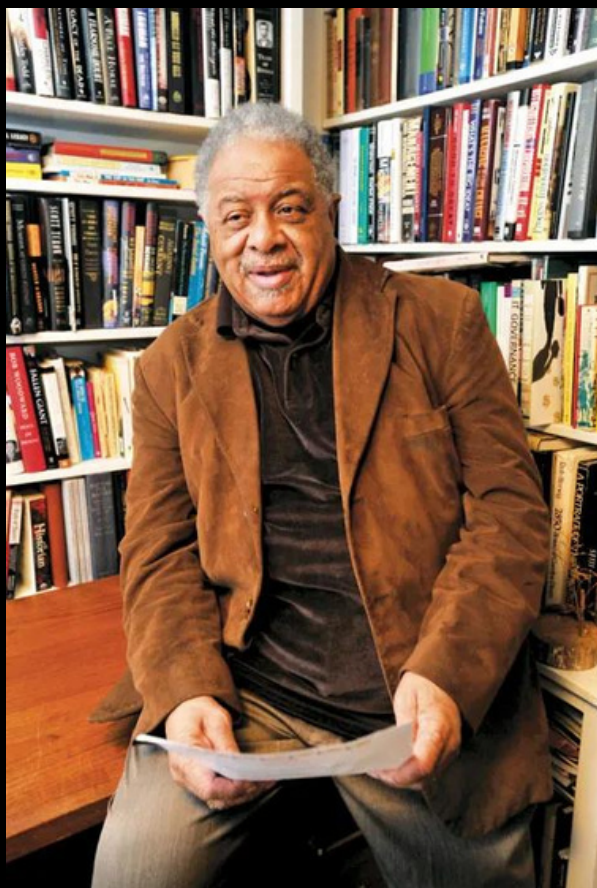
Study Abroad Trip in Trinidad

Dr. Carter Jackson's Site Visit October 2023



In Memory of Richard S. McGhee, Jr.

1931 - 2023



Activist, Community Leader, Founder of the
“World of Wellesley”, Affirmative Action
Compliance Career



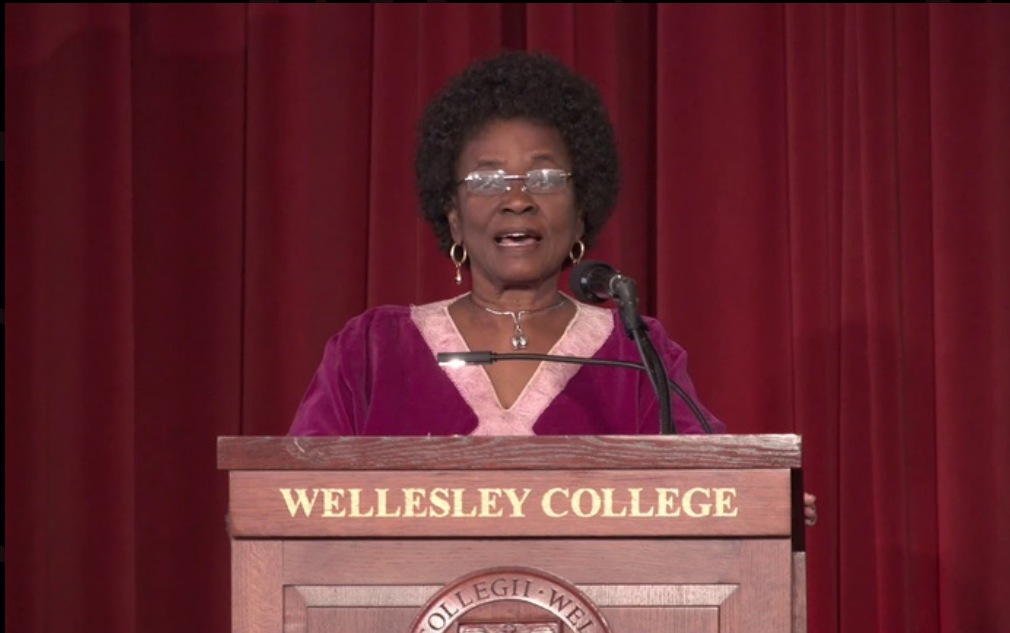
Richard McGhee speaking with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Book Donation from Richard McGhee

Son-in-law, Joel Rubin, donated McGhee's book collection to the Africana Studies Department. McGhee passed away during the summer of 2023, he was 92 years old. We are honored to have his book collection. McGhee lived in Wellesley for several decades and both his stepdaughters were alumnae of the College.



Filomina Clarice Steady



Professor Steady's research interests include the intersection of gender, race, and socially-constructed categories and continuing effects of the legacy of colonialism through corporate globalization and international financial institutions.

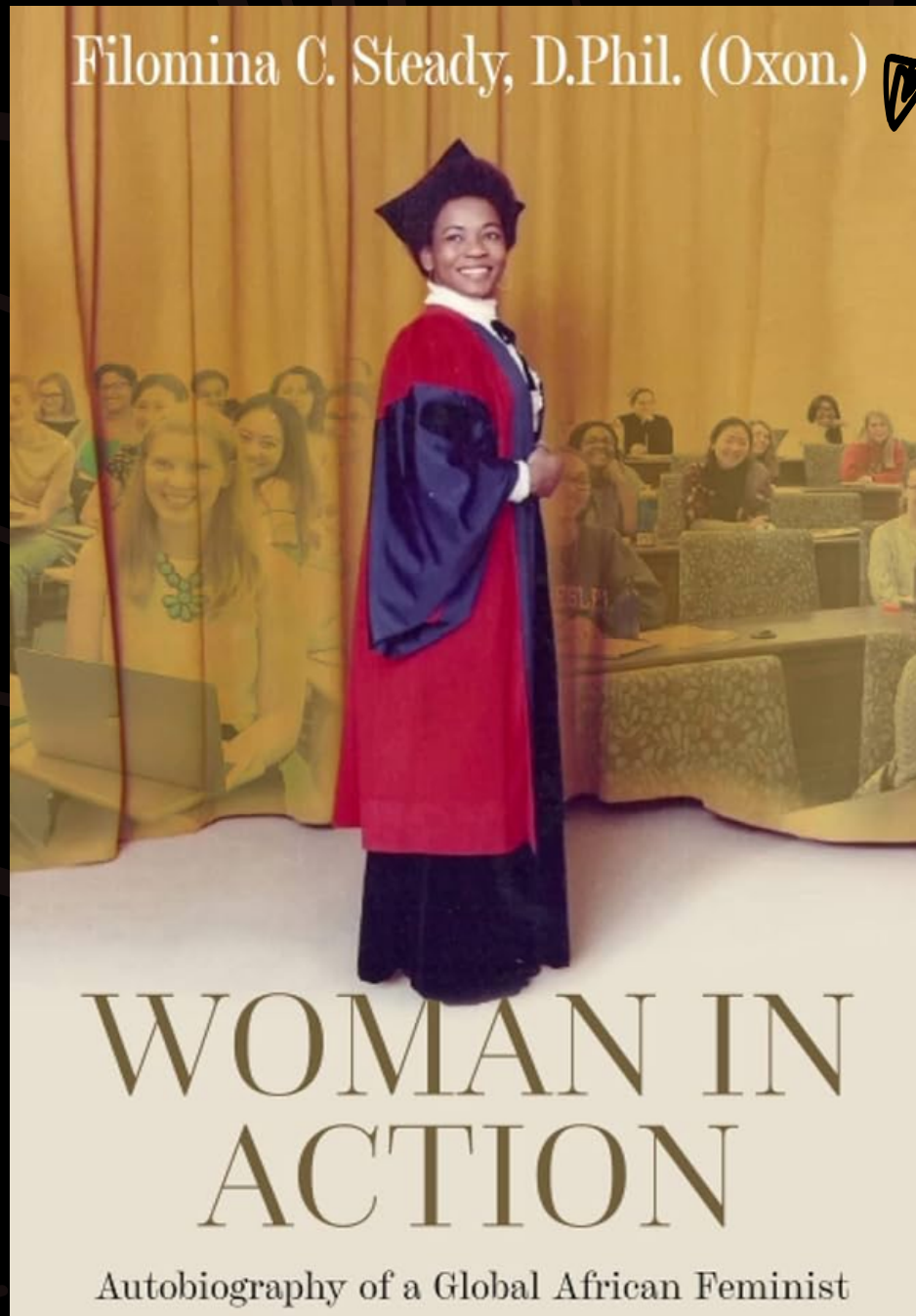
She delights in networking with women groups and friends. She enjoys the theatre and world music, and loves to dance. Dr. Steady has traveled to 50 countries, as a former United Nations director and for conferences and vacations. Her favorite countries are Sierra Leone, the country of her birth; England, where she received her doctorate from Oxford University; and the United States, where she has spent most of her working life.

Publications:

The Black Woman Cross-Culturally
Women and Collective Action in Africa
Women and the Amistad Connection

Women and Leadership in West Africa: Mothering the Nation
and Humanizing the State

Filomina Steady's Memoir: “Woman in Action”



Feature on Student Assistant: Andrea Palmar

My name is Andrea Palmar and my hometown is Maracaibo, Venezuela. I am a senior with a major in Africana Studies and History minor, I am also the Student Assistant for the Africana Studies Department! It is a pleasure for me to work for such an amazing department and on the Griot.



During my freshman year of college, I took my first Africana Studies class with Professor Cudjoe. That class completely redefined me as a student and my academic interests. I believe that it is essential for everyone's formation as a student and citizen of the world to experience an Africana Studies class. When I am not raving about the Africana Studies Department or attending the awesome events that the department organizes, these are some of the things I like to do:

- Walk around lake Waban and take pictures of the dazzling ducks.
- Play video games.
- Read! Read! Read!
- Watch tv shows and write essays about them.
- Go to Florida and visit my dog and the rest of my family.



Alumna Spotlight

Izzy Torkoonoo



Izzy Torkoonoo

Class of 2023

Major: Africana Studies

Minor: Education

Hometown: New York City, NY

Quote in Family Language of Ewe (Ghana): “Akpe na mi kata” meaning: Thank you all!

In the Africana Studies department at Wellesley, I was given an invaluable learning experience: how to find my way back to myself through African Diasporic wisdom and disciplines. I am forever grateful to the professors in this department who bring themselves to and through their work and allow us to bring ourselves, too.

What Shall I Tell My Children Who Are Black (Reflections of an African- American Mother)

BY MARGARET BURROUGHS

1963

What shall I tell my children who are black
Of what it means to be a captive in this dark skin
What shall I tell my dear one, fruit of my womb,
Of how beautiful they are when everywhere they turn
They are faced with abhorrence of everything that is
black.

Villains are black with black hearts.
A black cow gives no milk. A black hen lays no eggs.
Bad news comes bordered in black, black is evil
And evil is black and devils' food is black...

What shall I tell my dear ones raised in a white world
A place where white has been made to represent
All that is good and pure and fine and decent.
Where clouds are white, and dolls, and heaven
Surely is a white, white place with angels
Robed in white, and cotton candy and ice cream
and milk and ruffled Sunday dresses
And dream houses and long sleek cadillacs
And angel's food is white...all, all...white.

What can I say therefore, when my child
Comes home in tears because a playmate
Has called him black, big lipped, flatnosed
and nappy headed? What will he think
When I dry his tears and whisper, "Yes, that's true.
But no less beautiful and dear."
How shall I lift up his head, get him to square
His shoulders, look his adversaries in the eye,
Confident of the knowledge of his worth,
Serene under his sable skin and proud of his own
beauty?

What can I do to give him strength
That he may come through life's adversities
As a whole human being unwarped and human in a world
Of biased laws and inhuman practices, that he might
Survive. And survive he must! For who knows?
Perhaps this black child here bears the genius
To discover the cure for...Cancer
Or to chart the course for exploration of the universe.
So, he must survive for the good of all humanity.
He must and will survive.
I have drunk deeply of life from the foundation
Of my black culture, sat at the knee and learned
From Mother Africa, discovered the truth of my heritage,
The truth, so often obscured and omitted.
And I find I have much to say to my black children.

I will lift up their heads in proud blackness
With the story of their fathers and their fathers
Fathers. And I shall take them into a way back time
of Kings and Queens who ruled the Nile,
And measured the stars and discovered the
Laws of mathematics. Upon whose backs have been built
The wealth of continents. I will tell him
This and more. And his heritage shall be his weapon
And his armor; will make him strong enough to win
Any battle he may face. And since this story is
Often obscured, I must sacrifice to find it
For my children, even as I sacrificed to feed,
Clothe and shelter them. So this I will do for them
If I love them. None will do it for me.
I must find the truth of heritage for myself
And pass it on to them. In years to come I believe
Because I have armed them with the truth, my children
And my children's children will venerate me.
For it is the truth that will make us free!

Books

Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler
Legacy of Violence by Caroline Elkins
Brit-ish by Afua Hirsch
Rest is Resistance by Tricia Hersey
The Grimkes by Kerri Greenidge
Master, Slave, Husband, Wife by Ilyon Woo
Understanding West Africa's Ebola Epidemic: Towards a
Political Economy.
Our History Has Always Been Contraband: In Defense of
Black Studies by Colin Kaepernick
The Bahá'í Faith and African American Studies:
Perspectives on Racial Justice by Lonnie Bramson and
Layli Maparyan

Podcasts

You Get a Podcast!
This Day in Esoteric Political History
NPR's It's Been a Minute
In to It
Weight for it



Films, Documentaries, Talks

1001
Rustin
Little Mermaid
Spiderman (Miles Morales)
Nope
The Color Purple
Stamped from the Beginning featuring Dr. Kellie Carter
Jackson (Documentary)

Archives

The HistoryMakers Digital Archive

