

“In the Black Radical Tradition...”
A Research Symposium and Commemoration of Black Studies at 50 Years
University of California, Santa Barbara
UCSB MultiCultural Center
April 18-20, 2018

“But always, its focus was on the structures of the mind. Its epistemology granted supremacy to metaphysics not the material.”

Cedric Robinson, *Black Marxism*, 1983.

The Black Radical Tradition emerges as a philosophy, a consciousness and a practice of resistance and survival necessitated by the inexplicable and outrageous onslaught of oppressive practices and phobic behavior with which European traditions of colonialism and imperialism assaulted African people as far back as the Roman Empire. This radical consciousness and practice of resistance took its strength and historical endurance from the ability of the African people in the grip of the most violent forms of enslavement, colonialism and imperialism to recreate and conserve the consciousness of the communities and societies from which they had been taken, a consciousness which insisted on the humanity and voice of all human beings. It was this enduring consciousness that gave rise and enduring life to the traditions, beliefs, myths and messianic visions that gave generation upon generation of African people who found themselves in the grip of the most destructive and horrific ideologies and practices of the West the persistence and ideological vitality to continue to imagine, attempt and put into practice the impossible. This ideological vitality took many forms finding expression in slave rebellions and marronage as well as in the practices of lived experience, embodied in, as Cedric Robinson writes, “the shouts, the spirituals, the sermons, and the very textual body of Black Christianity.”

From April 18th through the 20th, the Center for Black Studies Research at UC Santa Barbara and the Consortium for Black Studies in California host a Spring Symposium on the Black Radical Tradition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the creation of Black Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara and the continuing legacies and epistemologies of the Black Radical Tradition. Activities include presentations, panels and other activities featuring leading and emerging scholars in the field of Black Studies.

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

2:00 - 4:00 Frederick Douglass : The Story of the Slave and the Black Radical Tradition, MCC Lounge

Professor Celeste-Marie Bernier, University of Edinburgh, Centre of African Studies, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Moderator and respondent, Professor George Lipsitz

Thursday, April 19, 2018

10:00 - 12:00 Frederick Douglass :: Family Papers, MCC Lounge

Professor Celeste-Marie Bernier,

Moderator and respondent, Professor Esther Lezra

12:00 - 1:15 Welcome & Introduction, MCC Theater

Professor Stephanie Batiste, Co-PI, Consortium for Black Studies in California

Professor Diane Fujino, Director, Center for Black Studies Research
Professor Vilna Bashi Treitler, Chair, Department of Black Studies
Dean Charles Hale, Division of the Social Sciences

“In the Black Radical Tradition....” an Invocation

Professors Esther Lezra and Christopher McAuley, UC Santa Barbara

*“For them defeat or victory was an internal affair...
...it was an African tradition that grounded collective resistance by Blacks to slavery and
colonial imperialism.”*

Cedric Robinson, *Black Marxism*.

1:15 - 2:15 **Lunch (MCC Lounge) & Ocean Walk**

2:15 - 3:45 **CBSC Fellows Panel: 20th Century Activisms, MCC Theater**

Chair: Professor Ingrid Banks, UC Santa Barbara

• *The Role of Mobility and Popular Culture in U.S. and South African Anti-Racist
Spatial Struggles, 1948-1994*

Martin Boston, UC San Diego

• *Afro-descendent Women’s Political Actions Early- Twentieth Century Brazil*

Katherine Cosby, UC Irvine

• *Bringing the Vanguard Home: The Role of Children, Home, and Family in the Black
Panther Party*

Kiran Garcha, UC Santa Cruz

• *Collecting, Cataloguing, Curating: The Eldridge and Kathleen Cleaver Family
Library*

Professor Leigh Raiford, UC
Berkeley

4:00 - 5:50 **Reading the Black Radical Tradition, MCC Theater**

Moderator: Professor Diane Fujino, UC Santa Barbara

• *On Cedric Robinson’s scholarship and beyond*

Elizabeth Robinson, KCSB

• *The Spirit vs. The Souls: Max Weber, WEB Du Bois, and the Politics of Scholarship*

Professor Chris McAuley, UC Santa Barbara

• *The Futures of Black Radicalism*

Professor Gaye Teresa Johnson,

Co-Editor, UC Los Angeles

• *Clyde Woods’ Development Drowned and Reborn*

Professor Jordan Camp, Co-Editor,

Barnard College-Columbia University

*“The Black radical tradition cast doubt on the extent to which capitalism penetrated and
re-formed social life and on its ability to create entirely new categories of human
experience stripped bare of the historical consciousness embedded in culture. It gave*

them cause to question the authority of a radical intelligentsia drawn by its own analyses from marginal and ambitious social strata to construct an adequate manifestation of proletarian power. And it drew them more and more toward the actual discourse of revolutionary masses, the impulse to make history in their own terms. And finally, the Black radical tradition forced them to reevaluate the nature and historical roles of ideology and consciousness. After all it had been as an emergent African people and not as slaves that Black men and women had opposed enslavement.”

Cedric Robinson, *Black Marxism*.

5:50 - 6:50 **Buffet Dinner with music by Guitarist Xander Sack, MCC Lounge**

7:00 - 9:00 **Documentary Film: *Women in Comedy: Whoopi Goldberg Presents Moms Mabley*, Pollock Theater, Carsey-Wolf Center**

Conversation with Professor Bambi Haggins, UC Irvine & Professor Patrice Petro, UC Santa Barbara

Friday, April 20, 2018

9:30 - 11:00 **CBSC Fellows Panel: Cultural Manifestations, MCC Theater**

Chair: Professor Imani Kai Johnson, UC Riverside

- *Spectacularly Mobile: A Transnational History of New Media in Ghana*
Jennifer Blaylock, UC Berkeley
- *Shoutin' the People: Soul –Storying, Expressive Culture and the Black public Sphere*
Wade Dean, UC Los Angeles
- *Domestic Architecture and Spatial Performance in Great Migration Chicago*
Amani Morrison, UC Santa Cruz
- *We will Remain Métis: Miscegenation, Multiracialidentity, and Citizenship in Twentieth Century Francophone Africa*
Professor Rachel Jean Baptiste,
UC Davis

11:10 - 12:45 **CBSC Fellows Panel: The Long 19th Century, MCC Theater**

Chair: Professor Terence Keel, UC Santa Barbara

- *From Hawai'i to Hampton: The Imbrication of Anti-Blackness and Settler Colonialism in American Higher Education*
Vineeta Singh, UC San Diego
- *Whither the “Badges and Incidents of Slavery?”: Reading the 13th Amendment Against its Critics*
Professor Sora Han, UC Irvine
- *Broken Black Bodies: African American Women and Intimate Violence in the 19th Century South*
Professor Jessica Millward,
UC Irvine

· *Museum Exhibits in Denmark: Images and Discourses of Colonialism and Imperialism in a Peripheral Colonial Nation*

Professor Stephen Small,
UC Berkeley

12:45 – 2:00 Lunch, MCC Lounge

Lunchtime mentoring conversations: *The Next Step: Black Progression in the Academy*. If the stars align symposium participants and guests are invited to discuss transitions in the academy and the UC system. Three brief conversation “tables” will convene: “Going to Assistant,” Professor Mireille Miller-Young; “Going to Associate” with Dean Charlie Hale; “Going to Full” with Black Studies Department Chair, Professor Vilna Bashi Treitler.

2:00 - 4:00 50 Years of Black Studies :: The Black Radical Tradition, MCC Theater

Moderator: Professor Stephanie Batiste, UC Santa Barbara

Speakers:

Professor George Lipsitz, UC Santa Barbara

Professor Jeffrey Stewart, UC Santa Barbara

Professor Aisha Finch, UC Los Angeles

Professor Jessica Millward, UC Irvine

Professor Felice Blake, UC Santa Barbara

4:10 - 5:00 Closing Circle, Moderated by Professor Diane Fujino and Jasmine Kelekay, MCC Theater

5:00 - 6:00 Farewell Reception and Symposium Close, MCC Lounge

“It is not the province of one people to be the solution or the problem. But a civilization maddened by its own perverse assumptions and contradictions is loose in the world. A Black radical tradition formed in opposition to that civilization and conscious of itself is one part of the solution. Whether the other oppositions generated from within Western society and without will mature remains problematical.

But for now we must be as one.”

Cedric Robinson, *Black Marxism*.