

18th Annual

Philosophy Born Of Struggle

Conference



Economic Crisis, Education and the
Role of Philosophy for the African
American Public.

October 28 & 29, 2011

Michigan State University

MSU Student Union

East Lansing, Michigan

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Malik Simba

Professor & Coordinator of Africana Studies at California State University-Fresno

WELCOME to the 18th Annual **Philosophy Born
Of Struggle** Conference at Michigan State
University

Dr. John H. McClendon III, Professor in the Department
of Philosophy at Michigan State University

On behalf of the planning committee for the 18th Annual Philosophy Born Of Struggle conference at Michigan State University, we welcome you to participate in a most stimulating academic and exciting intellectual experience. Today when scores of African Americans and many others are faced with unemployment, underemployment, homelessness, and hunger; progressive philosophy has the particular tasks of providing critical insight and theoretical illumination for practical struggles. This 18th annual conference with its emphasis on economic crisis, education and the role of philosophy for the African American public seeks to tie the university to the needs of the African American community. In the words of Kwame Nkrumah, "Practice without thought is blind thought without practice is empty."

Sincerely,

Dr. John H. McClendon III





Friday, October 28, 2011

MSU Student Union

Gold Room A & B

8:30am-5:00pm-Registration

8:30-9:00am-Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:30am-Welcome Remarks

Dr. Matt McKeon, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University

Dr. Richard Peterson, Past Chair, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University

Dr. Leonard Harris, Purdue University and Philosophy Born Of Struggle

Dr. J. Everet Green, SUNY-Rockland Community College and Philosophy Born Of Struggle

Dr. John H. McClendon III, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University

9:30-10:30am-Africa & African American Studies

Dr. Leonard Harris: Moderator

Mr. Ike Val Iyioke, "From Nuremburg to Kano, Eurocentricism to Afrocentricism"

Ms. Amy Pommerening, "Radicalizing Us: Angela Davis and the Poetics of Prison Abolition"

Mr. Robert Munro, "African American Studies as Paradigm for the Future American Academy"

10:30-11:15am-Race & Race/Class

Dr. Stephen C. Ferguson: Moderator

Mr. Andrew Woodson, Conceptualizing the Race/Class Relationship

Ms. Esme Murdock, "Fragmentation and the Other: Recreating the 'Raced' Subject's Relation to the World"

11:15am-12:15pm-Conversations across Generations of Struggle with Dr. William R. Jones

Dr. John H. McClendon III: Introduction of Panel

Dr. William R. Jones

Ms. Brittany O'Neal


Ms. Kimberly Harris


12:15-1:15pm-Lunch on your own

1:20-2:15pm-Keynote Address

Dr. John H. McClendon III, Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. Malik Simba, "Black Marxism and American Constitutionalism: Class, Race, and the American Dilemma"





2:15-3:00pm—"Dubois UnCut: Anti-Coloniality, Race Conscious and his Aversion to the American Empire"

Dr. C. W. Dawson: Moderator

Dr. Tommy Curry

Dr. Dwayne Tunstall

3:00-3:15pm-Break

3:15-4:15pm-Environmental Justice, Black Workers' Rights, Corporations & Theories of Development

Dr. Malik Simba: Moderator

Dr. Paul Gomber, "Workers Without Rights: The Recreation of Vulnerability in the Aftermath of Civil Rights"

Dr. Michael Humphreys, "The Struggle to Know Our Place: Doing justice to Humans and Non-Human Others"

Prof. James Roper, "The Business Model of Development and the Matter of Neo-Slavery?"

4:15-5:00pm-Religion, Education & the Question of Liberation

Dr. John Mendez: Moderator

Ms. Zay Green, "Christianity, Education, and the Matter of Black Culture"

Dr. C. W. Dawson, "Philosophy, the Black Church, and, Social Justice"

Saturday, October 29, 2011

MSU Student Union

Gold Room A & B

9:00-10:00am-Philosophy and the Black Experience

Ms. Lila Wakeman: Moderator

Ms. Kimberly Harris, "In Further Defense of Black Philosophy"

Mr. Tremante Williams

Mr. Victor Draine

10:00-11:00am-Philosophy and the Black Experience

Mr. Lorenzo Buchanan: Moderator

Mr. Joshua Hemmingway

Ms. Lila Wakeman

Mr. Terry Vaughan III





11:00am-12:00pm-The Attack on Education and Community Mass Movements

Dr. John Mendez: Moderator

Dr. Gail Presby, “Banning Ethnic Studies: Implications for Africana Studies”

Ms. Sara Mokuria, “The University and the Community: Case Studies in Political Education and Social Engagement”

Dr. J. Everet Green, “Occupying Space: Freeing Ourselves From Academic Slavery”

12:00-12:10pm-Dr. William R. Jones Philosophy Born Of Struggle Award

12:00-1:10pm-Lunch on your own

1:15-2:00pm-Economic Violence, Internal Oppression & Alienation

Dr. Leonard Harris: Moderator

Dr. Richard Peterson, “Economic Violence and Racism”

Dr. Matthew Hutchison, “The Alienation of Blacks under Capitalism: A Marxist Critique”

Dr. John Mendez, “Liberating The Oppressed Within”

2:00-3:00pm-Educational Justice, African American Culture, Values, & the Arts

Dr. J. Everet Green: Moderator

Mr. O’Donavan Johnson, “School Choice and Social Justice: A Match Made in Heaven or Strange Bedfellows?”

Mr. Kerry Brown, “The Death of Black Genius: The 21st Century without African American Artistic Input.”

Dr. Stephen Ferguson, “The Retreat from Class Analysis in Black Popular Music: A Critical Review of Jared Ball’s, *I MiX What I Like: A MiXtape Manifesto*”

3:00-3:15pm-Break

3:15-4:15pm-Special Session on MSU Student Movement

Mr. Andrew Woodson: Moderator

Ms. Dejanae Douglas: Commentator

Mr. Brandon Anderson--W.E.B. DuBois Society

Ms. Winnie Imbuchi--African Student Union

4:15-5:00pm-Wrap Up Session: What Is To Be Done?

Dr. Leonard Harris

Dr. J. Everet Green

Dr. John H. McClendon III



Michigan State University The nation's pioneer land-grant university, MSU began as a bold experiment that democratized higher education and helped bring science and innovation into everyday life. The revolutionary concept became a model for the nation.

Today, MSU is one of the top research universities in the world—on one of the biggest, greenest campuses in the nation.

Home to nationally ranked and recognized academic, residential college, and service-learning programs, we're a diverse community of dedicated students and scholars, athletes and artists, scientists and leaders. In ways both practical and profound, we work to create a stronger, more sustainable, and more hopeful future for all.



Department of Philosophy at Michigan State University offers a distinctive balance of work in the traditional areas of philosophy with research and teaching in the more directly practical areas of bioethics and social and political thought.

Faculty are producing important scholarship in traditional philosophical sub-disciplines. At the same time, we have established areas of concentration focusing on more immediate and practical concerns.

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Malik Simba,

California State University-Fresno

Malik Simba received his B.A. in History and Philosophy from University of Southern Colorado- Pueblo, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Constitutional history from the University of Minnesota. His doctoral work also included course work in the History of African Peoples Program. He has held professorships in the departments of history at State University of New York at Binghamton and Clarion University in Pennsylvania. Presently, he is a senior professor and past chair of the History Department (2000-2003) and current Coordinator of the Africana Studies Program at California State University-Fresno. Dr. Simba was awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1979, 1987, and 1990. He serves on the Boards of the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at California State University-Fresno and Blackpast.org, the "google" of the African American experience.



Dr. Simba's publications include entries in the Encyclopedia of African History, Historical Encyclopedia of World Slavery, W. E. B. Du Bois Encyclopedia, Malcolm X Encyclopedia, African American Encyclopedia, Encyclopedia of Slave Resistance and Rebellion, and the Historical Dictionary of Civil Rights. Additionally, Dr. Simba has published the definitive analysis of race and law using critical legal theory in his "Gong Lum v. Rice: The Convergence of Law, Race, and Ethnicity" in American Mosaic. His essay, "J. A. Rogers: The Forgotten Contributions of a Pioneer Self-Trained Black Historian" appeared in Afro-Americans in New York Life and History. His essay, "The Obama Campaign 2008: A Historical Overview," appeared in the Western Journal of Black Studies. His co-authored essay, "Historiography Against History: The Propaganda of History and the Struggle over the Hearts and Minds of Black Folk," was recently published in the journal, Socialism and Democracy. Dr. Simba's other published works include book reviews in the Chicago Tribune, Focus on Law Studies, Journal of Southwest Georgia History and Western Legal History.

Special Thanks & Recognition

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“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning.... This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but there must be a struggle.”

Frederick Douglass