CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE:
Race and Resistance
Penn State University, Nittany Lion Inn
Friday, October 28, 2016

8:00 -11:00 am On-Site Registration  Rotunda

8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast  Assembly Room Area

8:30-10:00 Welcome and Opening Keynote  Assembly Room
Welcome:
Shirley Moody-Turner, Penn State University
Susan Welch, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Penn State University
Mark Morrisson, Head, Department of English, Penn State University
Cynthia Young, Head, Department of African American Studies and Interim Director, Africana Research Center, Penn State University

Keynote: Mary Helen Washington, University of Maryland

10:00-11:05 Poetry Reading/Plenary:  Assembly Room
What I Say: New Directions in Black Poetics
Moderator: Lauri Ramey, California State University, Los Angeles (Co-Organizer)
Evie Shockley, Rutgers University
John Keene, Rutgers University
Pia Deas, Lincoln University
Mendi Lewis Obadike, Pratt Institute
Co-Organizer: Aldon Nielsen, Penn State University

11:05-11:15 Refreshment Break  Assembly Room Area

11:15 - 12:45 BREAK OUT SESSION I
A. Mt. Nittany Room
Remapping Literary Genealogy, Genre and Resistance
Moderator: Justin Mellette, Penn State University
1. Dominick Rolle, Emory University
   “Cartographies of Black Female Resistance in Edward P. Jones’ The Known World”
2. Eden Osucha, Bates College
   “Diaspora on the Lower Frequencies’ The Ellisonian Echo of Teju Cole’s Open City”
3. Mercedes Lucero, University of Kansas
   “‘It Belongs to Us’: Magical Realism as a Mode of Resistance in Gloria Naylor’s Mama Day”
4. Jennifer D. Williams, Morgan State University
   “Mapping Black Women’s Geographies of Resistance in Segregation Literature”

B. Alumni Lounge
The Archives and Aesthetics of Black Arts / Black Power
Moderator: Shaun Myers, Northwestern University
1. Keith Miller, Arizona State University
   “Rethinking Malcolm X: How the Archive Refute the Whitewashed National Memory and Resurrect the Great Racial”
2. Andrew Sargent, West Chester University
   “Black Police as Black Power?: Constructing the African American Police Officer in the Civil Rights/Black Power Era”
3. Christopher Brown, Wake Forest University
   “In Formation: The Aesthetics of Police Encounters”

C. Assembly Room

New Perspectives on Aesthetics and Resistance in African American Literature
Moderator: Evie Shockley, Rutgers University (Co-Chair)
Carter Mathes, Rutgers University (Co-Chair)
Keith D. Leonard, American University
GerShun Avilez, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Emily Lordi, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
*Sponsored by the Center for American Literary Studies, Penn State University

D. Penn State Room

Fight the Powers that Be: Exploring Artistic and Activist Sites of Resistance
Moderator: Earl Brooks, Penn State University
1. Briana Whiteside, University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa
   “Battling Social Death: Pedagogy as Resistance in a Maximum Security Prison”
2. Khirsten L. Echols, University of Louisville
   “Fighting for Revisionist Histories through Provocative Forms of Expression: Exploring Toni Morrison, Kara Walker, and Nina Simone as Literary Provocateurs”
3. Ashley Burge, University of Alabama
   “Reclaiming the “Formation” of the African American Narrative: Intersections of Race, Gender, and Identity in Kindred, Beloved, and ‘Formation’”
4. Brandon Erby, Penn State University (Chair)
   “Black Literacies Matter: Challenging Mainstream Media Representations of Black Transgender Women via Writing”

E. Ballroom C

Resistance, Gender, and Sexuality
Moderator: Jacquetta T. Hunter, Millersville University
1. Jessica Edwards, University of Delaware
   “Writing as Resistance: African American Women and Critical Race Theory”
2. Marlon Moore, US Naval Academy
   “We Don’t Tell Stories on Dead Folks’: Spirituality as Resistance in The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks”
3. Denisha Harris, California State University, San Bernardino
   “Hip Hop as a Site that Unapologetically Embraces Black Power: Establishing Blackness as a Normative Conception of Black Bodies”
4. Courtnee Fenner, Howard University
   “Haiku-in’ the Blues: Sonia Sanchez’s blues haiku & the blue-black and purple sexual aesthetic”
12:45-1:45  **Lunch (Buffet Style)**  
Faculty State Room

1:45 - 3:15  **BREAKOUT SESSION II**

A.  **Mt. Nittany Room**

*Publishing Workshop: “Working with Editors of Scholarly Journals”*

Joycelyn Moody, University of Texas, San Antonio

B.  **Alumni Lounge**

*Race and Resistance in 21st Century African American Literature*

Moderator: Jennifer D. Williams, Morgan State University

1. Irenae Aigbedion, Penn State University
   “Ludic and Ludicrous: Racial Performance in Percival Everett’s *Erasure*”

2. Rolland Murray, Brown University
   “Not Being and Blackness: Percival Everett and the Uncanny Forms of Racial Incorporation”

3. Cameron Leader-Picone, Kansas State University
   “The View Taken in Struggle: Post(ness) and Progress in 21st Century African American Literature”

4. Aliyyah I. Abdur-Rahman, Brandeis University
   “The Novel Pass”

C.  **Assembly Room**

*Black Poetics*

**Moderator:** Courtney Thorsson, University of Oregon (Chair)

1. Matt Sandler, Columbia University
   "Lyric at the Crossroads: Black Romanticism from the Antebellum Period to the Present"

2. Pia Deas, Lincoln University
   “‘Not an Elegy’: The Poetics of Witness in the Contemporary African American Tradition”

3. Evie Shockley, Rutgers University
   "'Please feel free to perform the text': Mendi + Keith Obadike's Big House / Disclosure"

D.  **Penn State Room**

*Race, Gender and the Politics of Sound and Music*

Moderator: Krista Quesenberry, Penn State University

1. Landy Watley, Howard University
   “Writing and Rhymes: Music, Literature and Black Nationalism”

2. Bethany Jacobs, Georgia Institute of Technology
   “Playing with Authenticity in the Afrofuturist Albums of Janelle Monáe”

3. Mildred Mickle, Penn State University
   “Sound as Resistance: Repetition as Narrative Strategy in Rihanna’s ‘Work’ and ‘Desperado’”

4. Justin Mellette, Penn State University
   “Keep on Knocking: Revising the Rock Against Racism Campaign”

E.  **Ballroom C**

*Resonances of Resistance and Revolt in the Long Nineteenth Century and Beyond*
Moderator: Iyun Osagie, Penn State University
1. Mary Maillard, Independent Scholar/Documentary Editor
   “The Personal as Resistance: Newfound Letters from Louisa Jacobs and Annie Purvis to Eugenie Webb 1879-1911”
2. Colin Hogan, Penn State University
   “…toiling, overworked, disheartened, longing…’: Harriet Wilson’s Verbs”
3. Sidonia Serafini, University of Georgia
   “It happened that his beat was downtown”: Spatial Resistance and the New Orleans Afro-Creole Divide in Alice Dunbar-Nelson’s ‘The Pearl in the Oyster”
4. Tim Bruno, University of Maryland, College Park
   “Insurrection Interrupted: Revolt, Contingency, and African American Literature”

3:15 - 3:30   Refreshment Break   Assembly Room Area

3:30 - 5:00   BREAKOUT SESSION III
A. Mt. Nittany Room
   **Toni Morrison: Violence, Rhetoric and Re-membering**
   Moderator: Jacquetta T. Hunter, Millersville University
   1. Sarah Rudewalker, Spellman College
      “The Rhetorics of Black Power in the Works of Toni Morrison”
   2. Terrence Tucker, University of Memphis
   3. Billie Tadros, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
      “Re-membering, Re-mothering: Female Suicide as a Catalyst for Recovering Female Bodies and Female Relationships in Toni Morrison’s Jazz”

B. Alumni Lounge
   **Performance and Enactments of Resistance**
   Moderator: Brandon Erby, Penn State University
   1. Marquita Smith, William Paterson University
      “Ava Duvernay’s *Middle of Nowhere* and the Circuitous Life of Separation and Confinement”
   2. Derek Handley, United State Naval Academy
      “Citizenship as Resistance to Urban Renewal/Negro Removal”
   3. Jesse Goldberg, Cornell University
      “Black Lives Matter and the Ambivalence of Performing Resistance”
   4. Mudiwa Pettus, Penn State University
      “The Consequences of an Unbridled Vision: Rhetorical Efficacy and the Black Radical Imagination”

C. Assembly Room
   **Roundtable - Empiricisms: Black Arts of Interpretation**
   Moderator: Adrienne Brown, University of Chicago (Chair)
D. Penn State Room

Resisting Periodization in African American Literature
Moderator: Nazera Sadiq Wright, University of Kentucky (Chair)
1. Claire E. Lenviel, University of Kentucky
2. Chinwe Morah, University of Kentucky
“Anna Julia Cooper: Modern Woman and Modern Thinker”
3. Catherine Gooch, University of Kentucky
“Men on the Mississippi: Black Bodies and the River in Richard Wright’s “Down by the Riverside” and Jacob Lawrence’s The Migration Series”
4. Brittany Sulzener, University of Kentucky
“Kyle Baker’s Nat Turner and Nate Parker’s The Birth of a Nation: Writing the “Real History of Nat Turner”
Respondent: Claire E. Lenviel, University of Kentucky

E. Ballroom C

Stamp of Truth and Sincerity: Nat Turner's Rebellion and American Literature
Moderator/Respondent: Greg Pierrot, University of Connecticut, Stamford (Chair)
1. Keith Byerman, Indiana State
"Marxist Constructions of Nat Turner's Rebellion"
2. Sterling L. Bland, Jr., Rutgers University
"The Confessions of Nat Turner and Its Legacies: Uprising and Its Responses in Multiple Voices."
3. Joshuah Hutchison, St Louis University
"'Who the Real Nat Turner Is': The Uses of History in Sharon Ewell Foster's Nat Turner Novels."
*Sponsored by the African American Literature and Culture Society

5:30-7:00 Book Sale/Signing and Cocktails Alumni Lobby

7:00 – 9:00 Dinner Banquet Ballroom C
Aldon Nielsen, Penn State University, MC

7:30 - 9:00 Reading/Performance: Mendi and Keith Obadike Ballroom C
Introduction by Evie Shockley, Rutgers University

Saturday, October 29, 2016
8:30-10:00 a.m. On-Site Registration Rotunda

8:30-9:00 Continental Breakfast Assembly Room Area
9:00-10:00  **Keynote: Carmen Kynard**
Introduction by Keith Gilyard, Penn State University
Assembly Room

10:00 - 10:50  **Reading**
Will “The Poet” Langford
Mahogany Browne
Introduction by Gabriel Green, Penn State University
Assembly Room

10:50-11:00  **Refreshment Break**
Assembly Room Area

11:00 - 12:30  **BREAKOUT SESSION IV**
A.  **Mt. Nittany Room**
**Contemporary Black Poetry**
Moderator: Laura Vrana, Penn State University (Chair)
1. Emily Rutter, Ball State University
“The ‘Trayvon Martin Poem’ and a Tradition of Elegiac Resistance”
2. Annette Debo, Western Carolina University
“Resistance and History: The Persona Poem in Contemporary African American Poetry”
3. Carol Tyx, Mt Mercy University
“Visible Man: Unghosting as Resistance in the Poetry of Frank X Walker”
4. Ryan Sharp, University of Texas, Austin
“Respeaking the Spoken: Contemporary Black American Persona Poetry and the Archives”

B.  **Alumni Lounge**
**Roundtable - Black and Blue: African Americans and Disability**
Moderator: Stacie McCormick, Texas Christian University
Stacie McCormick, Texas Christian University
Izetta Autumn Mobley, University of Maryland
Anna Mollow, Independent Scholar
Amadi I. Ozier, Rutgers University--New Brunswick
Théri A Pickens, Bates College
Hershini Bhana Young, SUNY at Buffalo
*Handicapped accessible; 2-3 tabletop microphones on table.

C.  **Assembly Room**
**Roundtable - Discourses of Resistance and the Interracial in African Diasporic Fiction**
Moderator: Éva Tettenborn, Penn State Worthington Scranton (Chair)
1. Nancy Kang, University of Baltimore
“God/Mother’s Complex: Interracial Desire in Langston Hughes’ ‘The Blues I’m Playing’”
2. Wendy Rountree, North Carolina Central University
“Sites of Resistance: Place, Time, and Identity in Colson Whitehead’s *Sag Harbor*”
3. Éva Tettenborn, Penn State Worthington Scranton
“African American and Asian American Resistance to Oppression in Paul Beatty’s *Tuff*”
4. Cherise A. Pollard, West Chester University
“Race and Sex in Earthbound Science Fiction: The Politics of Interracial Alliances in Octavia Butler’s *Kindred* and *Fledgling*”
5. Claudia I. H. Drieling, North Carolina A&T State University
“The Power of a Name: Olaudah, Black Germans, and Onomastic Resistance in Michael Goetting’s *Contrapunctus*”

D. Penn State Room

“*That’s How I See It!?!: Eradicating the Divides between Digital, Intellectual and Street-Cornered Spaces*”

Moderator: Sarah Rudewalker, Spelman College
1. Todd Craig, Medgar Evers College (CUNY) (Chair)
   “‘Academy, Meet Queensbridge’: When Hip-Hop Is the Lens, Frame and Picture in Writing Pedagogy”
2. Victoria A. Chevalier, Medgar Evers College (CUNY)
   “Whose (Little) Citizen Are You?”
3. Darlene Anita Scott, Virginia Union University
   “When the Revolution Is Not Televised: Engaging Youth Populations in the Black Lives Moment”

E. Ballroom C

Zora Neale Hurston - Enactments of Resistance

Moderator: Sidonia Serafini, University of Georgia
1. Eve Dunbar, Vassar College
   “Never Futile: Re-imagining Resistance and University Work with Zombies and Zora Neale Hurston”
2. Dorothy Stringer, Temple University
   “White Upper-Class Femininity and Black Girls’ Political Imagination in Zora Neale Hurston”
3. Elizabeth Catchmark, Penn State University
   “Black Women as Folk Texts in *Cane* and *Mule Bone*”

12:30-1:30 Lunch (Buffet Style) Faculty Staff Club

1:30 - 3:00 BREAKOUT SESSIONS V

A. Mt. Nittany Room

Workshop: Wellness and Self-Care for Academics
Kathryn T. Gines, Penn State University

B. Alumni Lounge

Resisting the Protocols of Rhetorical and Visual Representation

Moderator: Nancy Kang, University of Baltimore
1. D’Angelo Bridges, California State University, San Bernardino
   “Reconceptualizing the Rhetorical Tradition” *My Bondage as Lived Rhetorical Theory*
2. Marta Werbanowska, Howard University
   “Beyond ‘Plantation Sentimentalities’: Nature as a Force of Resistance in the Poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar”
3. Patrick Allen, Penn State University
   “‘Less than what they think gets buried’: Despectacularizing Lynching, Reanimating Victims”
4. Alex Torres, Stanford University
   "Seeing Race: Photography in Jean Toomer's 'Cane' "
C. Assembly Room

**Black Radical Experimentation**
Moderator: Susan Cooke Weeber, Penn State University (Chair)
1. Shelly Eversley, Baruch College, CUNY
   “Black Art: America, 1965”
2. Tonya Foster, California College of the Arts
   “Scatting and the Scatological on the Afrodisic Commons”
3. Kathy Lou Schultz, University of Memphis
   “Experimental Compared to What?” Contemporary Black Women Poets remaking Forms”
GerShun Avilez, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Respondent

D. Penn State Room

**Facilitated Discussion: Scaling Black Feminisms - A Critical Discussion about the Digital Labor of Representation**
Discussion Leaders
Nadia Delane, Artist
Alexandria Lockett, Spelman College (Chair)

E. Ballroom C

**The Sovereignty of Quiet in Contemporary African American Literature and Performance**
Moderator: Kevin Quashie, Smith College
1. Monifa Love Asante, Bowie State University
   “Mining the Body for Quiet: Incest in Invisible Man and The Bluest Eye”
2. Sequoia Maner, University of Texas at Austin
   “Alice Walker and Beyoncé on Inner Quietude and Outward Resistance”
3. Pete Moore, Duke University
   “Separate from Separateness: Silence, Quiet and the Condition of Black Vernacularity in Amiri Baraka’s The Dead Lecturer”
4. Laura Vrana, Penn State University (Chair)
   “Ambiguity and Interiority as “Resistance” in Thylias Moss’s Slave Moth: A Slave Narrative in Verse”
Kevin Quashie, Smith College Respondent

3:00-3:15 **Refreshment Break**
Assembly Room Area

3:00 - 5:00 Drop In Interviews (Advance sign up at Registration Desk) Gilpin Room

3:15 - 4:45 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS VI**
A. Mt. Nittany Room
[Reserved for Cooper-Du Bois Mentoring Program participants]

B. Alumni Lounge

**The Black Arts (Movement) of Resistance**
Moderator: Aldon Nielsen, Penn State University
1. Patricia G. Lespinasse, Binghamton University
   “‘An Extension of the Music’: From Sonia Sanchez’s ‘Middle Passage’ to the Jazz Aesthetic”
2. Keith Mitchell, University of Massachusetts Lowell
   “Staging Grounds: Amiri Baraka and Alice Childress; Talkin’ ‘Bout a Revolution”
3. Jean-Philippe Marcoux, Universite
   “Prophets of the Planet: The Society of Umbra and the Politics of Artistry as Resistance”
4. J. Ryan Marks, Penn State University
   “Race, Ranting and Postwar Politics in the Drama of Amiri Baraka and Frank Chin”

C. Assembly Room

Soul Survivals: Black Cultural Production in the 1970s
Moderator: Courtney Thorsson, University of Oregon (Chair)
1. Michael Hill, University of Iowa
   "Subtexts of Survival: Durable Community in Toni Cade Bambara’s ‘Mississippi Ham Rider’"
2. Ed Pavlić, University of Georgia
   "‘Theme de Yoyo’: The Art Ensemble of Chicago as Soundtrack to Guerrilla House-Wifery in Les Staces à Sophie (1970)"
3. Emily Lordi, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
   "Sula as a Soul Text"

D. Penn State Room

Roundtable - “We Speak! Orality, Social Justice, and the Literary Landscape in Pearl Cleage’s ‘West End’ Novels”
Moderator: Eve Dunbar, Vassar College
Shanna Smith, Jackson State University (Chair)
Shavonne Shorter, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Maria Velezquez, Bucknell University

E. Ballroom C

Workshop: Rooted in the Margins: The Survivance Writings of Black Women
Co-facilitators:
Briona Jones, Michigan State University
Tamara Butler, Michigan State University (Chair)

5:15-5:45 Wine and Cheese Reception and Reading Faculty Staff Club
5:45-6:45 Reading: John Keene Faculty Staff Club
   Introduction by Susan Weeber, Penn State University
7:00-8:00 Champagne Toast and Dessert Happy Hour Faculty Staff Club
   Sponsored by Joyceilyn Moody, Editor, A History of African American Autobiography
   And General Editor, Cambridge African American Literature in Transition Series

CONFERENCE ENDS