



## Southeast Regional Seminar in African Studies

Fall 2013 SERSAS Conference

### “Africa and the Atlantic World”

East Carolina University  
Greenville, North Carolina 27858 USA

Friday and Saturday, 27 - 28 September 2013

**SERSAS Coordinators:**  
**Aran MacKinnon, Georgia College**  
**Anta Sane, Howard University**  
**Kenneth Wilburn, East Carolina University**

SERSAS: <http://www.ecu.edu/african/sersas/>  
African Art Exhibition, Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Center: Friday, 7 - 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Conference Accommodations: Call 1-877-271-2616; ask for SERSAS rate; see SERSAS Website  
Campus Map with Parking Locations: <http://www.ecu.edu/campusmaps/>  
(tick parking; park in purple areas near Jenkins & Fletcher)  
Conferees may park in A1 and B1 lots without permit after 5 p.m. on Friday  
General ECU Campus Map: [http://www.ecu.edu/campusmaps/documents/main\\_campus.pdf](http://www.ecu.edu/campusmaps/documents/main_campus.pdf)  
Greenville and Vicinity Map: [http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/upload/greenville\\_area\\_bw.pdf](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/upload/greenville_area_bw.pdf)  
Regional Map: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/upload/NC%20MAP.pdf>

**On-Site Registration and SERSAS Membership: \$30**

## SERSAS Program Theme: "Africa and the Atlantic World"

The publication of Fernand Braudel's *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World* (1949), the creation of the African Studies Association in 1957, and the formation of the World History Association in 1982 all provided inspiration for John Thornton's *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800* (1992). Prior to and in the years following the independence of Ghana in 1957, Africanists worldwide had scorned Eurocentric views on African history, notoriously asserted by Hugh Trevor-Roper in his BBC broadcast of 1963, and had begun to research and publish the history of Africa from the diversity of African perspectives. This inter-disciplinary effort culminated in UNESCO's eight-volumed *General History of Africa* (1981-1993). That body of knowledge has expanded ever since, seen in part in the logs of H-Net's Africana family of listservs. Recently, some Africanists have taken their collective knowledge of the Mother Continent and presented it in a world perspective. *Africa in World History* (2004) by Erik Gilbert and Jonathan Reynolds helped initiate this tradition in college survey texts. Concurrently, Africanist scholarship has intersected with that of scholars of Atlantic World European, Native American, and African American studies to provide the foundation for new Atlantic World programs.

Held on campuses bi-annually throughout the southeast since 1973, the Southeastern Regional Seminar in African Studies (SERSAS) will be hosted this fall by East Carolina University. Those of you who attended the last SERSAS conference at ECU in the fall of 2001 may remember the festive musical performance of the SERSAS Structural Adjustment Blues Band led by guitarists Jonathan Reynolds and Kevin Greene. This year's music program, which will coincide with Friday evening's SERSAS welcome reception, will be a performance of Afro-Andean music by Zamba Yawar conducted by Mario Rey.

Four exhibitions of ECU's African art collection will be on display throughout the university to celebrate both our SERSAS conference and progress to date to establish an African art museum on ECU's campus.

Dorothy Redford, who led the restoration of nearby Somerset Place from the perspective of its slaves, will be the guest speaker for SERSAS conferees. Ms. Redford's presentation is entitled "Seeing History Whole: Becoming an *African American*."

SERSAS seeks to give faculty, independent scholars, and graduate students the opportunity to share scholarship within the friendly atmosphere for which SERSAS is renowned. The coordinators of SERSAS cordially invite you to present your work within the wide parameters of the conference theme, "Africa and the Atlantic World." Proposals may fall within but are not limited to the following topics:

- Commercial linkages between Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans
- Slavery in Africa and the Americas
- African and Native American societies in the Atlantic world
- Palmares and Maroon communities
- African agency in the trans-Atlantic slave trade
- African religion, Christianity, and Islam in the Atlantic World
- African art in the Atlantic World
- African music in the Atlantic World
- Resistance and collaboration in slavery
- The Diaspora in the Caribbean
- Marcus Garvey and W.E.B. Du Bois
- Abolition movements
- Slave ships
- Role of technology in shaping the Atlantic world
- Legacies of the Atlantic slave trade in the Atlantic world

SERSASians especially invite graduate students to present papers and compete for the 2013 SERSAS Award for the best graduate student paper, which carries a stipend of \$100.

Registration for the conference is \$30, payable on site, which will also serve as your annual SERSAS membership dues. Updates can be accessed by visiting the web site for SERSAS:

<http://www.ecu.edu/african/sersas/homepage.htm>

The Fall 2013 SERSAS Conference will be held concurrently with ECU's 1st International Interdisciplinary Conference on Religion, whose theme is "Religion, Immigration, Health, & Human Rights: Challenges and the Way Forward," coordinated by Mary Nyangweso. Both groups of conferees will attend Friday evening's Afro-Andean music performance by Zamba Yawar and the reception that will follow. The URL for that conference's announcement is:

<http://www.ecu.edu/religionprogram/docs/conference-2013.pdf>

Please join us for what promises to be another exciting and friendly SERSAS Conference at East Carolina University.

## **Reception and Program**

**Friday, 27 September, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

**6:30 p.m., A.J. Fletcher Music Center, Recital Hall (#9 on campus map):**

Welcome and Introduction: Scott Carter, Interim Director of the School of Music, East Carolina University, [Carterr@ecu.edu](mailto:Carterr@ecu.edu)

**Afro-Andean Music**

Zamba Yawar, Mario Rey, Ensemble Director, East Carolina University, [Reym@ecu.edu](mailto:Reym@ecu.edu)

**7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Reception, Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Center, Foyer (#14 on campus map):**

After Zamba Yawar's performance, conferees will gather at 10th Street entrance of A.J. Fletcher Music Center to board conference-provided transportation to the reception at Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Center

**Saturday, 28 September, 8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.**

**All SERSAS events are held in Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Center (#14 on campus map)**

**8 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.:** Foyer of Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Auditorium

Registration, coffee, and breakfast snacks

**8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.:**

Welcome to Conferees of SERSAS and 1st International Interdisciplinary Conference on Religion: Austin Bunch, Senior Associate Provost, East Carolina University, [Buncha@ecu.edu](mailto:Buncha@ecu.edu)

### **Group A, Session 1: 8:45 - 10:15, Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Auditorium**

#### ***Exploring African Maritime Heritage and the Archaeological Record: Slaves, Shipwrecks and Seaports***

Chair: William Still, Program in Maritime Studies, East Carolina University and the University of Hawaii, [still@hawaii.edu](mailto:still@hawaii.edu)

**The Bay of Storms and Tavern of the Seas: Risk Management and the Maritime Cultural Landscape of the Dutch East India Company Harbor at Cape Town, South Africa**

Jeremy R. Borrelli, Program in Maritime Studies, Department of History, East Carolina University, [Borrellij12@students.ecu.edu](mailto:Borrellij12@students.ecu.edu)

**From African Canoe to Carolina Crew**

Lynn Harris, Program in Maritime Studies, Department of History, East Carolina University, [Harrisly@ecu.edu](mailto:Harrisly@ecu.edu)

**Deserted Icons: The Role of Beached Shipwrecks in Namibia's Cultural History**

Jennifer Elizabeth Jones, Coastal Resource Management, East Carolina University, [Jonesje08@students.ecu.edu](mailto:Jonesje08@students.ecu.edu)

**The Shipwrecks of Cahuita National Park**

David M. VanZandt, Director/Chief Archaeologist Cleveland Underwater Explorers (CLUE), [Vanzandtd@zintech.com](mailto:Vanzandtd@zintech.com)

Discussant: Aran S. MacKinnon, Department of History and Geography, Georgia College, [Aran.MacKinnon@gcsu.edu](mailto:Aran.MacKinnon@gcsu.edu)

## **Group A, Session 2: 8:45 - 10:15, Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Studio Room 1327**

### ***Nomenclatural Poetization and Globalization***

Chair: Anta Sane, Howard University, [Antasane@yahoo.com](mailto:Antasane@yahoo.com)

The Wealth of Names

Adaku T. Ankumah, Department of English, Tuskegee University, [Ankumahat@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:Ankumahat@mytu.tuskegee.edu)

Power Relationship and Influences in the Novels of Francis B. Nyamnjoh

Benjamin Hart Fishkin, Department of English, Tuskegee University, [Fishkinb@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:Fishkinb@mytu.tuskegee.edu)

Global Reader and Names in Literary Works by Vakunta, Ndi and Doh

Bill F. Ndi, Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tuskegee University, [Wndi@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:Wndi@mytu.tuskegee.edu)

Discussant: Marame Gueye, Department of English, East Carolina University, [Gueyem@ecu.edu](mailto:Gueyem@ecu.edu)

## **Group B, Session 3: 10:30 - 12:00; Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Auditorium**

### ***Culture, Place and Identities in South Africa***

Chair: Don Parkerson, Atlantic World Program and Department of History, East Carolina University, [Parkersond@ecu.edu](mailto:Parkersond@ecu.edu)

"That South African Team Tour Represents a Racist Policy": The 1981 Springbok Tour to the United States

Derek Charles Catsam, Department of History, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, [DerekCatsam@hotmail.com](mailto:DerekCatsam@hotmail.com)

Two Oceans: The Cape Colony in the British Atlantic

Poppy Fry, Department of History, University of Puget Sound, [Pfry@pugetsound.edu](mailto:Pfry@pugetsound.edu)

"Now we are old, what will we get? Niks!" Generational Tensions and the Failure of Retirement for Africans in Segregation Era South Africa

Aran S. MacKinnon, Department of History and Geography, Georgia College, [Aran.MacKinnon@gcsu.edu](mailto:Aran.MacKinnon@gcsu.edu)

African Respectables, the South African Native Labour Contingent, and a Trans-Atlantic (British) World

Charles Reed, Department of History and Political Science, Elizabeth City State University, [Cvreed@mail.ecsu.edu](mailto:Cvreed@mail.ecsu.edu)

Discussant: Jack Parson, Department of Political Science, College of Charleston, [ParsonJ@cofc.edu](mailto:ParsonJ@cofc.edu)

## **Group B, Session 4: 10:30 - 12:00, Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Studio Room 1327**

### ***The Slave Trade in Africa and the New World***

Chair: David Dennard, Department of History and Director of the African and African American Studies Program, East Carolina University, [Dennardd@ecu.edu](mailto:Dennardd@ecu.edu)

The Mystic Triangle: The Hidden History of the Illegal Interaction, Movement, and Exchange of People of African (and Native American) Descent in the Nineteenth Century US South, Mexico, and the Caribbean

Maria Esther Hammock, Department of History, East Carolina University, [Hammackm09@students.ecu.edu](mailto:Hammackm09@students.ecu.edu)

On the Role of Africans in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: Fantasies, Myths and Realities

Daniel Mengara, French and Francophone Studies Program, Montclair State University, [Mengarad@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:Mengarad@mail.montclair.edu)

How Africans, Ethiopians, Indians, and Eskimos, Too, Became Colored Americans: A Brief History

Larry Tise, Department of History and Atlantic World Program, East Carolina University, [Tisel@ecu.edu](mailto:Tisel@ecu.edu)

Discussant: Mark Andrew Huddle, Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy, Georgia College and State University, [Mark.Huddle@gcsu.edu](mailto:Mark.Huddle@gcsu.edu)

**Lunch and SERSAS Business Meeting: 12:00 - 1:00, Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Auditorium**

**Keynote Speaker: 1:00 - 2:15, Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Auditorium**

Introduction: David Dennard, Department of History and Director, African and African American Studies Program, East Carolina University, [Dennardd@ecu.edu](mailto:Dennardd@ecu.edu)

Seeing History Whole: Becoming an African American  
Dorothy Redford, Somerset Place, Creswell, NC, [Redhat@coastalnet.com](mailto:Redhat@coastalnet.com)

**Group C, Session 5: 2:15 - 3:45, Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Auditorium**

***Behind the Veil: The Lure of Africa and Islam***

Chair: Mona Russell, Department of History and Atlantic World Program, East Carolina University, [Russellm@ecu.edu](mailto:Russellm@ecu.edu)

Africana Womanism: A Nigerian Woman's Perspective on Female Power in the Black Atlantic  
Yoknyam Dabale-Shabazz, Independent Scholar, Winston-Salem, NC, [Yldabale@gmail.com](mailto:Yldabale@gmail.com)

Noble Drew Ali, Moorish Science, and an Imagined Africa: "Proto-Islam" and Black America, 1913-1929

Mark Andrew Huddle, Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy, Georgia College and State University, [Mark.Huddle@gcsu.edu](mailto:Mark.Huddle@gcsu.edu)

"You Left Your Mind in Africa": Malcolm X, Returning and Remembering in Ghana  
Kwame Zulu Shabazz, Department of Social Sciences, Winston-Salem State University, [Shabazzkz@wssu.edu](mailto:Shabazzkz@wssu.edu)

"He will say that I'm a young girl": The Agency of the Malahfa (Mauritanian veil)  
Katherine Wiley, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia, [KatWiley@umail.iu.edu](mailto:KatWiley@umail.iu.edu)

Discussant: Kennetta Perry, Department of History and Director, Atlantic World Program, East Carolina University, [Perryk@ecu.edu](mailto:Perryk@ecu.edu)

**Group C, Session 6: 2:15 - 3:45, Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Studio Room 1327**

***Our Mother Speaks and Sings: The African Power of Words***

Chair: Kimberly Outlaw, Rehabilitation Studies, East Carolina University, [OutlawK03@students.ecu.edu](mailto:OutlawK03@students.ecu.edu)

An African Voice versus U.S. Law: Fighting Deportation to Ethiopia after a Confrontation with a Police Officer in Virginia

Tim Carmichael, Department of History, College of Charleston, [CarmichaelT@cofc.edu](mailto:CarmichaelT@cofc.edu)

Media Technology in a Transatlantic "Counterpublic": The Case of Pulaar Language Activism  
John Hames, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, [JohnjHames@ufl.edu](mailto:JohnjHames@ufl.edu)

Musical Transculturation and the African Presence in Peruvian Diasporic Dialogues  
Mario Rey, Ethnomusicology, School of Music, East Carolina University, [Reym@ecu.edu](mailto:Reym@ecu.edu)

Soul Songs: Origins and Agency in African-American Spirituals  
Jeneva Wright, Program in Maritime Studies, Department of History, East Carolina University, [Wrightje12@students.ecu.edu](mailto:Wrightje12@students.ecu.edu)

Discussant: David Dennard, Department of History and Director, African and African American Studies Program, East Carolina University, [Dennardd@ecu.edu](mailto:Dennardd@ecu.edu)

## African Art Exhibitions

### **African Art Room of Gray Gallery and Burroughs Wellcome Gallery, Jenkins Fine Arts Center Exhibition Hours: Friday, 27 Sept., 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 28 Sept., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Facilitated by Sharon Pruitt and Gilbert Leebrick in the 1990s, Dr. James Lankton and two anonymous benefactors generously donated approximately 800 pieces of African art to establish a teaching collection for East Carolina University's academic and public communities. Several rotating exhibitions presently occur on campus in the Honors College, Joyner Library, Ledonia Wright Culture Center, and the African Art Room on the far end of Gray Gallery. Images of the collection, including many representing the work of the Kuba ethnic group studied by Jan Vansina, are online in Museum Without Walls: <http://media.lib.ecu.edu/africanart/aahome.htm>. More recently, faculty and administrators have made much progress toward establishing a standalone African art museum. Tom Braswell created the exhibitions in the African Art Room and the Burroughs Wellcome Gallery to celebrate the Fall 2013 SERSAS Conference. Please note that as you make your way through Gray Gallery toward the African Art Room exhibition, be sure to enjoy **as\*sem\*blage**, a show featuring work by seven artists in a variety of media who use found objects as an integral part of their work. Welcome to the African art collection of East Carolina University.

### Fall 2013 SERSAS Panelists and Papers

- Ankumah, Adaku T. (Department of English, Tuskegee University, [Ankumahat@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:Ankumahat@mytu.tuskegee.edu)). "The Wealth of Names."
- Aworawo, David. (Department of History and Strategic Studies, University of Lagos, Akoka, [D\\_Aworawo@yahoo.com](mailto:D_Aworawo@yahoo.com)). "A Historiographical Periphery: Benin and Angola in the Early Development of the Atlantic World, 1485-1700."
- Borrelli, Jeremy R. (Program in Maritime Studies, Department of History, East Carolina University, [Borrellij12@students.ecu.edu](mailto:Borrellij12@students.ecu.edu)). "The Bay of Storms and Tavern of the Seas: Risk Management and the Maritime Cultural Landscape of the Dutch East India Company Harbor at Cape Town, South Africa."
- Carmichael, Tim. (Department of History, College of Charleston, [CarmichaelT@cofc.edu](mailto:CarmichaelT@cofc.edu)). "An African Voice versus U.S. Law: Fighting Deportation to Ethiopia after a Confrontation with a Police Officer in Virginia."
- Catsam, Derek Charles. (Department of History, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, [DerekCatsam@hotmail.com](mailto:DerekCatsam@hotmail.com)). "'That South African Team Tour Represents a Racist Policy': The 1981 Springbok Tour to the United States."
- Dabale-Shabazz, Yoknyam. (Independent Scholar, Winston-Salem, NC, [Ydabale@gmail.com](mailto:Ydabale@gmail.com)). "Africana Womanism: A Nigerian Woman's Perspective on Female Power in the Black Atlantic."
- Fishkin, Benjamin Hart. (Department of English, Tuskegee University, [Fishkinb@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:Fishkinb@mytu.tuskegee.edu)). "Power Relationship and Influences in the Novels of Francis B. Nyamnjoh."
- Fry, Poppy. (Department of History, University of Puget Sound, [Pfry@pugetsound.edu](mailto:Pfry@pugetsound.edu)). "Two Oceans: The Cape Colony in the British Atlantic."
- Hames, John. (Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, [JohnHames@ufl.edu](mailto:JohnHames@ufl.edu)). "Media Technology in a Transatlantic 'Counterpublic': The Case of Pulaar Language Activism."
- Hammock, Maria Esther. (Department of History, East Carolina University, [Hammackm09@students.ecu.edu](mailto:Hammackm09@students.ecu.edu)). "The Mystic Triangle: The Hidden History of the Illegal Interaction, Movement, and Exchange of People of African (and Native American) Descent in the Nineteenth Century US South, Mexico, and the Caribbean."
- Harris, Lynn (Program in Maritime Studies, Department of History, East Carolina University, [Harrisly@ecu.edu](mailto:Harrisly@ecu.edu)). "From African Canoe to Carolina Crew."
- Huddle, Mark Andrew. (Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy, Georgia College and State University, [Mark.Huddle@gcsu.edu](mailto:Mark.Huddle@gcsu.edu)). "Noble Drew Ali, Moorish Science, and an Imagined Africa: 'Proto-Islam' and Black America, 1913-1929."
- Jones, Jennifer Elizabeth. (Coastal Resource Management, East Carolina University, [Jonesje08@students.ecu.edu](mailto:Jonesje08@students.ecu.edu)). "Deserted Icons: The Role of Beached Shipwrecks in Namibia's Cultural History."
- MacKinnon, Aran S. (Department of History and Geography, Georgia College, [Aran.MacKinnon@gcsu.edu](mailto:Aran.MacKinnon@gcsu.edu)). "'Now we are old, what will we get? Niks!' Generational Tensions and the Failure of Retirement for Africans in Segregation Era South Africa."
- Mengara, Daniel. (French and Francophone Studies Program, Montclair State University, [Mengarad@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:Mengarad@mail.montclair.edu)). "On the Role of Africans in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: Fantasies, Myths and Realities."
- Ndi, Bill F. (Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tuskegee University, [Wndi@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:Wndi@mytu.tuskegee.edu)). "Global Reader and Names in Literary Works by Vakunta, Ndi and Doh."
- Reed, Charles. (Department of History and Political Science, Elizabeth City State University, [Cvreed@mail.ecsu.edu](mailto:Cvreed@mail.ecsu.edu)). "African Respectables." African Respectables, the South African Native Labour Contingent, and a Trans-Atlantic (British) World."
- Rey, Mario. (Ethnomusicology, School of Music, East Carolina University, [Reym@ecu.edu](mailto:Reym@ecu.edu)). "Musical Transculturation and the African Presence in Peruvian Diasporic Dialogues."
- Shabazz, Kwame Zulu. (Department of Social Sciences, Winston-Salem State University, [Shabazzkz@wssu.edu](mailto:Shabazzkz@wssu.edu)). "'You Left Your Mind in Africa': Malcolm X, Returning and Remembering in Ghana."
- Tise, Larry (History, East Carolina University, [Tisel@ecu.edu](mailto:Tisel@ecu.edu)). "How Africans, Ethiopians, Indians, and Eskimos, Too, Became Colored Americans: A Brief History."
- VanZandt, David M. (Director/Chief Archaeologist Cleveland Underwater Explorers [CLUE], [Vanzandtd@zin-tech.com](mailto:Vanzandtd@zin-tech.com)). "The Shipwrecks of Cahuita National Park."
- Wiley, Katherine. (Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia, [KatWiley@umail.iu.edu](mailto:KatWiley@umail.iu.edu)). "He will say that I'm a young girl": The Agency of the *Malahfa* (Mauritanian veil)."
- Wright, Jeneva (Program in Maritime Studies, Department of History, East Carolina University, [Wrightje12@students.ecu.edu](mailto:Wrightje12@students.ecu.edu)). "Soul Songs: Origins and Agency in African-American Spirituals."

SERSAS thanks ECU for its gracious hospitality. SERSAS is especially grateful to many ECU sponsors who provided generous financial and staff support: African and African American Studies Program, Atlantic World Program, Department of History, Ledonia Wright Culture Center, School of Art and Design, School of Music and Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. SERSAS sincerely thanks Katrina Person and Ingrid Meyer for their valuable help, Tom Braswell and Michael Drought for creating the African art exhibitions for our conference, Mario Rey and Zamba Yarwar for their music performance, Bryan Tuten and ECU Student Stores for donating registration materials, and Tyler Beasley for his technical assistance. SERSAS also thanks Gregory Watson and Maria Esther Hammock from Phi Alpha Theta and Amy Holguin and Frank Dembowski from Invisible Children for their student support. Finally, we SERSASians thank Mary Nyangweso, who helped coordinate interaction between SERSAS and the 1st Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on Religion, Immigration, Health and Human Rights.