

Africa in the Classroom: *Pedagogy, Community, Decolonization*

University of Pittsburgh Center for African Studies
2023 Spring Conference | May 5-6, 2023

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Pitt Education



Friday, May 5

(Today's events are held in the **William Pitt Union**)

9:30am onward: Conference Registration
tea and coffee served

10:30am

Welcoming Remarks

Assembly Room

Dr. Wendy Orr, Executive-in-Residence for the African Business Initiative

Introduction from Catherine Koverola, Center for African Studies Director

11:00am-12:30pm

Panel 1A: Literature as Liberation, Both Inside and Beyond the Classroom

Ballroom / Chair: Dela Kuma

Eric Beeko (University of Pittsburgh)

“The Study of Africa Today: Africanizing Knowledge About Africa”

Nura Abubakar (Ohio University)

“Literature of Protest & Revolt Against Patriarchy in Mace Mutum”

William J. Schoy IV (University of Pittsburgh)

“Swahili for All: Bridging Divides and Integrating Learners within U.S. Classrooms and Beyond”

Panel 1B: Approaches to Music and Arts Pedagogy

Kurtzman Room / Chair: Astou Fall Gueye

Carol Muller (University of Pennsylvania)

“Writing the Music of Contemporary Africa”

Alaba Ilesanmi (Florida State University)

“Indigenized Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching African Popular Music in American Classrooms”

Melanie Zeck (Library of Congress American Folklife Center)

“Information Literacy and Archival Materials from East Africa: Piloting a Multifaceted Pedagogical Program at the Library of Congress’s American Folklife Center”

12:30-2:00pm: Lunch Break
(food not included)

2:00-3:30pm

Office Hours

Dr. Wendy Orr, Executive-in-Residence for the African Business Initiative

Drop-In for informal conversation with our distinguished visitor

Panel 2A: Linguistics and the Language of Change

Ballroom / Chair: Abdesalam Souidi

Muriel Go-Maró (Pennsylvania State University)

“PYD in Africa: A 4-H Ghana Case Study”

Lauren Taylor (Pennsylvania State University)

“Assignment Tutorial: Podcasting for Accessibility”

Leonora Anyango (University of Pittsburgh)

“Righting Writing and Community Engagement: Bringing Africa to the English Composition Classroom”

Panel 2B: Symposia

Kurtzman Room

Discussion with African Teachers and Learners:

Lifting Up, Celebrating, and Translating African Cultures and Languages for U.S. Learners

Maureen Porter, chair

Bancy Gichovi, Nete Khoanyane, Meshesha Make, participants

Storytelling Demonstration (to begin at ca. 2:45pm):

“What’s the Moral from the Lion’s AND from Deer’s Perspectives: Middle Schoolers Examine Social Complexities through a Liberian Way of Knowing”

Linda Deafenbaugh & Gbahtuo Comgbaye (Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School)

3:30-4:30pm

Light Reception

Assembly Room

In Honor of Wendy Orr, Executive-in-Residence for the African Business Initiative

4:30-6:00pm

Keynote Lecture

Assembly Room

Cherie N. Rivers (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

Saturday, May 6

(Today’s events are held in the **Posvar Hall Ground Floor / Global Hub**)

8:30am onward: Conference Registration
tea and coffee served

9:00am-12:00pm

Africa in the Classroom Workshop, Room 5601

This parallel-yet-related workshop for elementary through high school teachers is being held throughout the morning on the Fifth Floor (Room 5601). Conference attendees are welcome to drop by.

9:45-10:45am

N.B. Panel 3A has been cancelled.

Panel 3B: Coverage, History, and Perspectives from Beyond the Canon

Room 1502 / Chair: Adeyemi Badewa

Ethan Birney (Spartanburg Methodist College)

“Everyone Should Learn About Africa: A Medievalist Teaching Africa in Modern World History”

Fatuma Guyo (University of Tennessee-Knoxville)

“Perspectives on Decolonial Pedagogies in Teaching African History”

10:15-10:30am: Short Break

11:00am-12:00pm

Panel 4A: African Studies and the Practice of Pedagogy

Room 1501 / Chair: Lyndsey Copeland

Macrina Lelei (University of Pittsburgh)

“Africa in Transition: Social and Cultural Issues”

Louis A. Picard (University of Pittsburgh)

“Debates and Issues: Teaching African Studies”

Panel 4B: Applied Case Studies from the Continent and Beyond

Room 1502 / Chair: Josh Brew

Joanne Ezibe (University of Pittsburgh)

“An Ecocritical Analysis of Sugarcane Monoculture in Martinique”

Sylvanus Wosu (University of Pittsburgh)

“Community-Based Design Thinking for Social Change in Marginalized Communities”

12:00-12:15pm: Short Break

12:15-1:45pm

Panel 5A: Power and Empowerment: Listening to Younger Voices

Room 1501 / Chair: Anna-Maria Karnes

Nosakhere Griffin-EL (The Young Dreamers Bookstore)

“The Power of African Children Book Biographies in the Dreaming Process”

Jerone Morris (Faison Elementary School)

“PlayLab as Ritual to Build Community”

Detria Dixon (Pittsburgh School District)

“Afrocentric Engagement Strategies from a School Social Worker Perspective”

Panel 5B: Practices of Participation

Room 1502 / Chair: Thuy Bui

Karin Warner (University of Pittsburgh)

“Diplomacy Lab -- Africa”

Abi Fapohunda (University of Pittsburgh)

“Developing an eLearning tool to Improve Cervical and Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis in Nigeria”

Kella Merlain-Moffatt (Teachers College, Columbia University)

“Nyŋmŋ aha ni ehishi: An Analysis of the Role of Linguistic (In)justice in Influencing how Ga people Navigate their Relationships to Land and Community”

1:45pm

Closing Remarks