



UNIVERSITY  
HOWARD



**Joint Colloquium of  
The African Association for Rhetoric  
and  
The Division of Humanities  
Common Text Project**

**Held at**

**Founders' Library, Browsing Room**

**April 3-4, 2015**

**Theme**

*Rhetoric, Transformational  
Leadership and W. E. B. Du Bois*

**Local Organizing Committee**

Dr. Segun Ige (Classics)

Dr. David Green (English)

Dr. Kola Abimbola (Philosophy)

Dr. Carrie Cowherd (Classics)

Dr. James Davis (World Languages)

Dr. Arti Mehta (Classics)

Dr. Alexander Tulin (Classics)

Dr. Dana A. Williams (English)

Ms. Phyllis Lewis (Admin Assistant)

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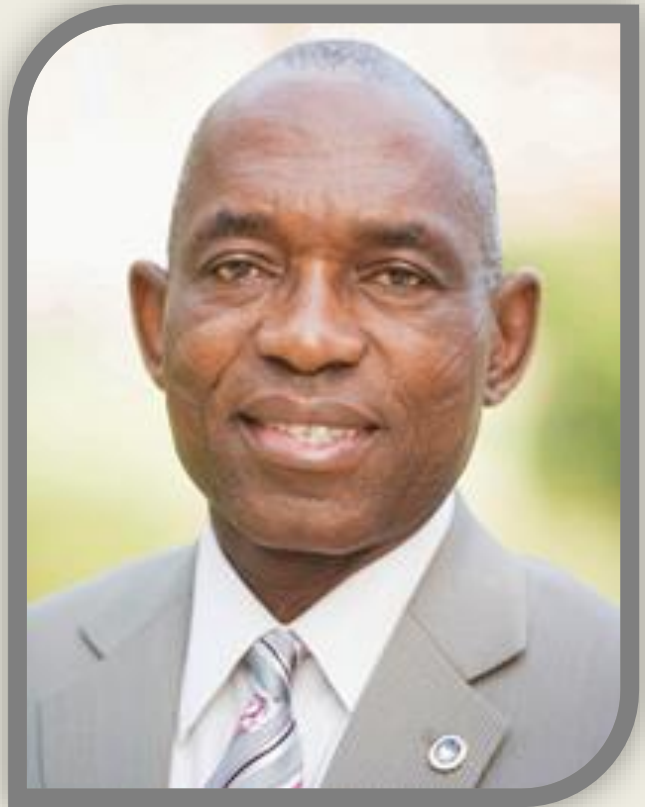
Time	Day 1
9:30- 10:00	<b>Registration</b>
10:00-10:15	<b>Welcome - Conveners</b>
10:15-11:00	Opening Keynote Address Segun Gbadegesin
11:00-12:00	<b>“Transitions, Political Discourse, and Rhetoric in West Africa”</b> <b>Panel Presentation</b> Yuna Ahmed, Michigan Tech University Nancy Henaku, Michigan Tech University <b>Chair: Kola Abimbola</b>
12:10-2:10	<b>Lunch</b> <b>“W. E. B. Du Bois: A Biography in Four Voices</b> <b>(A Film by Louis Massiah)”</b> Discussion Leader: Greg Carr
2:10-3:10	<b>“Transformational Leadership and Black Women Literacies Unbound’</b> <b>Featured Speaker: Rhea Lathan, Florida State University</b>
3:20-4:20	<b>“Strategies, Politics and Publics”</b> <b>Student Panel Presentation</b> Alexander Lawson, Howard University Alayna Smith-Mcfee, Howard University Marcha Chaudry, Howard University Esau White, Howard University
4:30-5:20	<b>“Du Bois and Leadership: A Multidisciplinary Perspective”</b> <b>Faculty Roundtable</b> Greg Carr, Howard University Joshua Myers, Howard University Ian Smart, Howard University Amy Yeboah, Howard University
5:30-6:30	<b>Featured Speaker: Gerald Horne, University of Houston</b> Spring 2015 John and Eula Cleveland Chair Lecturer Department of Afro-American Studies

Time	Day 2
10:00-11:00	<p align="center"><b>“Faith, Music, and Empowerment in the Rhetoric of Du Bois”</b>  <b>Panel Presentation</b>            Kaitlyn Patia, Penn State University            Earl Brooks, Penn State University            Caroline Stark, Howard University  <b>Chair: Christopher Shinn</b></p>
11:10-12:25	<p align="center"><b>“Du Bois, Rhetoric, and Education”</b>  <b>Keynote Address:</b>            Keith Gilyard, Penn State University</p>
12:30-1:15	<p align="center"><i>Lunch</i></p>
1:30-2:25	<p align="center"><b>“Looters, Leaders, and the Discourse of Social Change in Africa”</b>  <b>Panel Presentation</b>            Taiwo Ilesanmi, Leadership Development Institute            Adeyemi Adegaju, University of Freiburg  <b>Chair: James Davis</b></p>
2:40-3:40	<p align="center"><b>“Transformation in this Moment: Ferguson, Die-ins, and the Black Protest Tradition Continued”</b>  <b>Activists and Artists Roundtable</b>            Jessica Solomon, Arts in Praxis            Ryan Cheatham-Jackson, Howard University            Mazi Mutafa, Words, Beats, Life Inc.            Chioma Oruh, Howard University            Allyson Carpenter, Howard University</p>
4:00-5:00	<p align="center"><b>Featured Speaker</b>            Adam Banks, University of Kentucky</p> <p align="center"><b>Closing Remarks</b></p>



W. E. B. Du Bois 1868-1963

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Segun Gbadegesin received the B.Sc. degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Ife in 1974 and the Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He has taught at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife Nigeria, where he also served as Head of Department and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts between 1986 and 1989. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Wisconsin from 1989 to 1990, and Colgate University, from 1990 to 1992. Dr. Gbadegesin joined the Department of Philosophy at Howard University in 1992 as Professor and Chairman until 2001. In that role, he organized a number of national conferences in 1993 (on Bioethics and Culture), in 1994 (on Ethics, Higher Education and Social Responsibility) in 1995 (on Higher Education and Leadership), in 1998 (on Philosophy and Race), in 1999 (on Race and Gender) and in 2000 (On Relativism), in 2003 (on Cross-cultural dialogue in philosophy). He was Visiting Scholar in the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health in academic year 2001-2002. From July 2010 he served as Associate Dean for the Division of Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences, Howard University until his appointment as Interim Dean of the College from July 2012 to December 2014.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Raymond Keith Gilyard is a prominent writer professor of English who teaches and researches in the fields of rhetoric, composition, literacy studies, sociolinguistics, and African American literature. Interested in the complex interplay among race, ethnicity, language, writing, and politics, Gilyard's work investigates the differences between authentic student voice and the dominant discourse of the academy. As a literary scholar, his interests have been in the interplay between African American literature and rhetorical criticism and in bio-critical work. Among his publications are three volumes of poetry and six scholarly monographs—*True to the Language Game: African American Discourse, Cultural Politics, and Pedagogy*; *John Oliver Killens: A Life of Black Literary Activism*; *Composition and Cornel West: Notes toward a Deep Democracy*; *Liberation Memories: The Rhetoric and Poetics of John Oliver Killens*; *Let's Flip the Script: An African American Discourse on Language, Literature, and Learning*; and *Voices of the Self: A Study of Language Competence*.

Gilyard received his Bachelor of Science degree from City University, his Masters of Fine Arts from Columbia University, and his doctorate at New York University. He has taught at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY, Medgar Evers College (where in 1986 he helped to launch the National Black Writers Conference series), and Syracuse University. Since 1999, he has been a professor of English at Penn State University.

Throughout his career, Gilyard has been actively involved in the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), including serving on the editorial board and the executive committee and will serve as NCTE president in 2011-2012 during its centennial. He has also worked significantly with the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), the world's largest professional organization for researching and teaching composition, for which he served as Chair in 2000.



## FEATURED SPEAKER



Dr. Rhea Estelle Lathan is Assistant Professor of English at Florida State University. She holds a Ph.D in English and an MA in Afro-American Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a BA in Africology and English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Lathan's research includes the literate and rhetorical history of women of African descent, the development of literacy, and the delivery systems for the teaching of writing; community based critical intellectualism, identity politics and social historical activism as well as critical race theory in rhetoric and composition. Dr. Lathan teaches courses ranging from social historical perspectives on rhetoric and composition to more specialized African American Literacies, rhetoric, composition research methodologies and theories, the rhetoric of African American social movements, including African American feminisms and literacy history. She has published scholarly articles on literacy and activism and is an emerging voice in the field of black women and community activism. She is a member of the National Council of Negro Women, the National Council for the teachers of English, the Conference on College Composition and Communication (and its Black Caucus), the Coalition of Women Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition, and the Modern Languages Association. She has been the recipient of various grants and awards, including the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Grant in Women's Studies, the Michigan State University Public Humanities Collaborative Public Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship, and, most recently, the Florida State University Transforming through Teaching Award.



## FEATURED SPEAKER

Dr. Gerald Horne holds the John J. and Rebecca Moores Chair of History and African American Studies at the University of Houston. His research has addressed issues of racism in a variety of relations involving labor, politics, civil rights, international relations and war. He has also written extensively about the film industry. Dr. Horne received his Ph.D. in history from Columbia University and his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley and his B.A. from Princeton University.

Dr. Horne is the author of more than thirty books and one hundred scholarly articles and reviews. His current research focuses on a variety of topics such as the impact of the Haitian Revolution on the U.S.; a biography of Paul Robeson; an analysis of Pro-Tokyo Negroes before 1945; the internationalism of the Black Press; and African-Americans and Aviation before Sputnik. His recent publications include: *Race to Revolution: The U.S. and Cuba During Slavery and Jim Crow*, 2014, *The Counter-Revolution of 1776: Slave Resistance and the Origins of the United States of America*, 2014, *Black Revolutionary: William Patterson and the Globalization of the African-American Freedom Struggle*, 2014.



## FEATURED SPEAKER



Dr. Adam J. Banks received his BA in English from Cleveland State University and his MA and PhD both in English from Penn State University. Dr. Banks is currently Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies (WRD) at the University of Kentucky, where he teaches courses in African American Rhetoric, digital rhetorics, community literacy, and rhetoric and composition theory. Previously, he has been Associate Professor of Writing and Rhetoric in Syracuse University's Writing Program. He is the author of the award-winning *Race, Rhetoric, and Technology: Searching for Higher Ground*, a book challenging teachers and scholars in writing and technology fields to explore the depths of Black traditions more thoroughly and calling African Americans to make technology a central area for struggle. His second book, *Digital Griots: African American Rhetoric in a Multimedia Age*, was released by Southern Illinois University Press's Studies in Writing and Rhetoric series.

Dr. Banks spent Fall 2011 as a Visiting Scholar in Comparative Media Studies at MIT, where he is beginning work on a new book reexamining the "Talking Book" literacy trope for our current digital age. During the Spring 2010 semester, he served as Langston Hughes Visiting Professor of English at the University of Kansas, where he taught courses on African-American rhetoric, new media, and technologies. Dr. Banks sees community work as deeply connected to his growth as a teacher and intellectual and has developed and delivered several projects in Cleveland, Syracuse, and Lexington linking African American rhetorical traditions to current realities and futuristic visions for activism and community building.

# Acknowledgments

The organizers of the 2015 joint colloquium of the African Association for Rhetoric (AAR) and the Division of Humanities-Common Text Project would like to express their profound gratitude to all the funders and sponsors, who have contributed significantly to making this event a success. The Humanities Division includes the Departments of Classics (Dr. Carrie Cowherd, Chair), English (Dr. Dana A. Williams, Chair), Philosophy (Dr. Patrick Goodin, Chair), and World Languages and Cultures (Dr. Vernessa White-Jackson, Chair). Each year, the Division holds its annual symposium and often invites the common text author to the campus as the keynote speaker. This year, with Du Bois's *The Education of Black People: Ten Critiques—1906-1960* as the common text, a carry-over from the Fall 2014 Freshman Common Text, we accepted the challenge of not being able to invite the author by extending a call to which you all responded. The Spring Common Text program of events opened with Dr. Jeremiah Wright's "To Whom are HBCUs Accountable: Michael Angelo or Michael Brown" (available for viewing at [www.coas.howard.edu](http://www.coas.howard.edu)), and we are pleased to conclude our programming with this symposium. Special thanks goes to the Office of the Dean for the support and funding provided for this project. We also thank Centre for African Studies, the Department of English, and the Department of Afro-American Studies (the John and Eula Cleveland Chair Endowed Fund) for their generous sponsorship. The Department of Classics and COAS Freshman Seminar are also highly commended for their contributions toward the project. We are particularly grateful to the staff of the Founders' Library (Mr. Errol Watkis and Ms. Celia Daniel especially) for providing the venue and other visual apparatuses used for presentation at this colloquium, and we would have been lot without the budget support team in the College (Ms. Tanya A. Hardy in the Department of English, Ms. Jacqueline McCalop and Ms. Rosemary Pearson in the Office of the Dean) for their assistance. We should also mention the numerous faculty and students who have voluntarily supported the event. The Howard community has imbibed Du Bois's legacy as best we could to accommodate of the vision for this project. The ultimate expression of your support is captured in the Zulu maxim demonstrating the communal spirit with which you have received this year's colloquium: *Umntu, Ngumuntu, Ngabantu*.