



**A TURN TOWARD AFRICA  
Discursive Architectures**

**Conference**

**October 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**The City College of  
the City University of New York**

Department of Classical and Modern  
Languages and Literatures  
Department of Black Studies  
The Division of Humanities and the Arts

160 Convent Ave  
The Rifkind Center, NAC Bldg. 6/316  
New York, NY 10031

**CONFERENCE  
A TURN TOWARD AFRICA:  
Discursive Architectures  
City College CUNY**



**JOIN US**

**October 24-25, 2024  
(Thursday-Friday)**

**The Simon H. Rifkind  
Center  
City College-CUNY**

**Organizers:**

**Dr. Regina Castro McGowan**  
Assistant Professor of Spanish and  
Portuguese  
Dept. of Classical and Modern  
Languages and Literatures  
Dept. of Black Studies  
The City College of the  
City University of New York

**Dr. Jason Collins**  
Assistant Professor of Italian  
Dept. of World Languages and Cultures  
University of Tennessee - Knoxville

**Dr. Moussa Seck**  
Assistant Professor of French and  
Francophone Studies  
Dept. of World Languages and Cultures  
University of Tennessee - Knoxville

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
CCNY Rifkind Center NAC 6/316

- 9:00 Registration and breakfast
- 9:45 **Opening remarks:**  
Dr. Jason Collins, University of Tennessee
- Session 1 – Epistemological Voices in Africa and Beyond  
(and the Connective Tissue of Oral Tradition)*
- 10:00 Marimer Berberena  
“Towards a Liberating Afroepistemology and Practice: From the Nile Valley to West Africa, from West Africa to Borikén”
- 10:30 Catherine Adoyo  
“Epistemic Authority & Oral Tradition: Indigenous African Storytellers in the Global Agora”
- 11:00 Simona Wright  
“Recentring Stories, Legitimizing Voices: Africa as Spatial and Ethical Imaginary”

*Session 2 – Liberation and Tradition Through the Fruition of Architecture*

- 11:30 Matthew C. Reilly  
“Aspirational Architecture and the Built Landscape of Liberia”
- 12:00 Matheus B. do Rosário and Sam E. Valentine  
“Architecture Carried on the Winds: Tracing Bakongo and Kimbundu Architectural Knowledge Brought to Brazil by the Enslaved”
- 12:30-1:30 – Lunch Break

*Session 3 – Decentering Narratives: Decolonial Methods in Discourse*

- 1:30 Itamar Cossi  
“Angolan Orature as a Decolonial Source”

- 2:00 Tamar Barbakadze  
“Decolonial Rewriting of the Literary Canon by African Authors”
- 2:30 Noran Mohamed  
“Interweaving Health and Identity: Exploring Africanness in Véronique Tadjo’s *En compagnie des hommes*”

*Session 4 – The Travelogue and the Narrative of Voyage*

- 3:00 Alicia Doyen-Rodriguez  
“Title: Re-turn to Africa in Condé’s *Hérémakhonon* and Warner-Vieyra’s *Juletane*”
- 3:30 Moussa Seck  
“The Subject and the Stranger in Francophone African Travel Narrative: The Case of Bernard B. Dadie’s *Un nègre à Paris*”

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
CCNY Rifkind Center NAC 6/316

- 9:00 Breakfast
- Session 1 – Liberating the Cosmopole Through Narrative Ownership*
- 10:00 Messias Basques  
“Igniting Change: Africanity and the Combative Ontology of Archie Mafeje”
- 10:30 Paulo Rodrigues Ferreira  
“The persistence of Trauma and the Deceased Father in Paulo Faria’s *Estranha Guerra de Uso Comum*”
- 11:00 Francesco Genovesi

“The Origin of European Colonialism is an African Story: New Languages and Perspectives to Recount the Portuguese Arrival”

*Session 2 – European Reflections of Africa*

- 11:30 Regina Castro McGowan  
“The Lusotropical Thought in Nita Lupi’s *Dikembe poemas tropicais*”
- 12:00 Jason Collins  
“The Poet Director and the African Students of Sapienza: Interlocution and Ethos in Pier Paolo Pasolini’s *Appunti per un’Orestide africana*”
- 12:30 Melvin Mofus  
“Legacies of Colonialism in Africa’s Higher Education Systems”

1:00-2:00 – Lunch Break

*Session 3 – What Remains of Africa in Representations Abroad*

- 2:00 Jamie Lee Andreson  
“Gendered Subjectivities in African Diaspora Religions: Embodied, Performative and Oral Archives of Ritual”
- 2:30 Ryan Calabretta-Sajder  
“From Afro-Fabulation to Afrofuturism: Antonio Dikele Distefano’s *Autumn Beat*”
- 3:00 Luisanna Sardu  
“The dialogical Process of Teaching Race in Early Modern Italy: The Case of Alessandro De Medici’s Representation in the Short Film, *Il Moro*”
- 3:30 **Keynote speaker:** Dr. Boukary Sawadogo, Associate Professor of Cinema Studies and Black Studies