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Department of History, Political Science,  
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2019

### The 7th Annual Africa Conference March 21-22, 2019

Tennessee State University

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**THE 7TH ANNUAL**

# Africa Conference



**TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY**



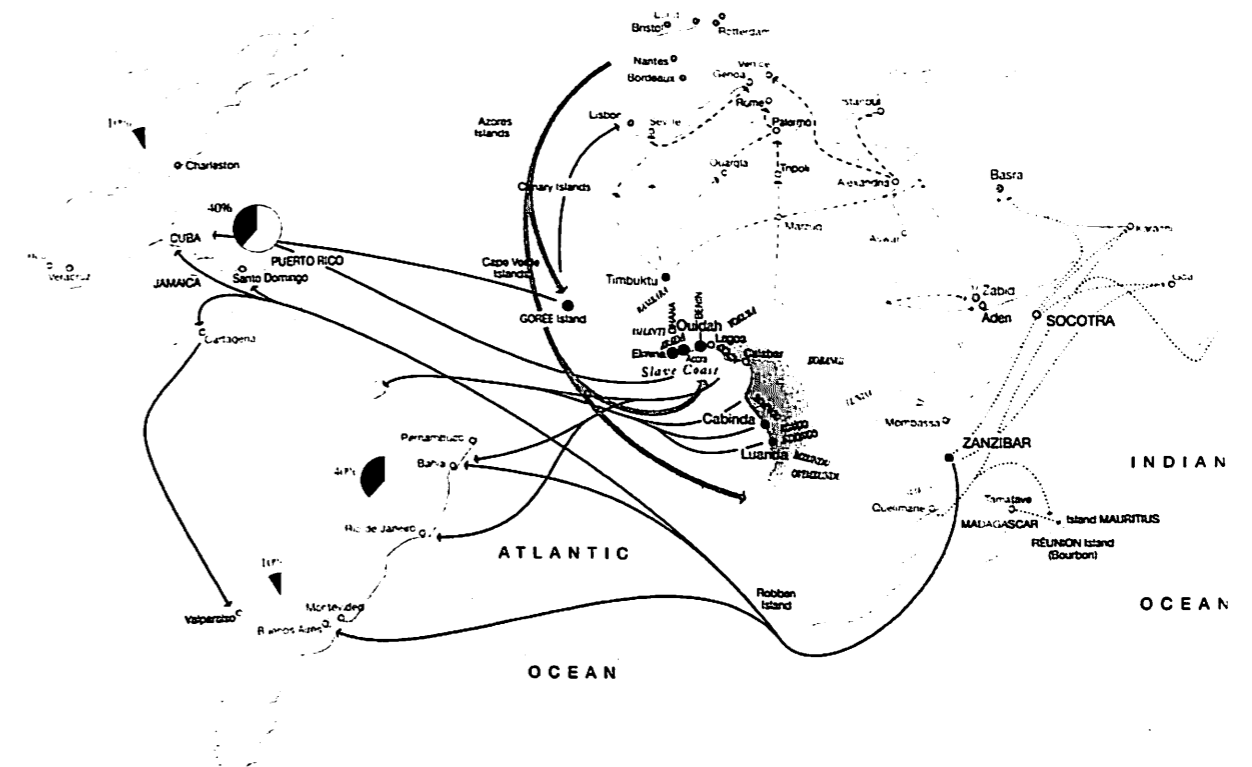
## **SLAVERY IN THE AFRICAN WORLD: INTERROGATING THE PAST AND CONFRONTING THE PRESENT**

**March 21-22, 2019**

**Department of History, Political Science,  
Geography, & Africana Studies**

**Tennessee State University  
Avon Williams Campus  
Nashville, Tennessee**

# SLAVERY IN THE AFRICAN WORLD: INTERROGATING THE PAST AND CONFRONTING THE PRESENT



Convened by:

Adebayo Oyeade, PhD.  
Professor of History & Department Chair

Gashawbeza Bekele, PhD.  
Associate Professor of Geography

Department of History, Political Science, Geography, & Africana Studies  
Tennessee State University, Nashville Tennessee

## THEMES OF PAST CONFERENCES

April 13, 2012:

**U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa in the 21st Century**

September 13, 2013:

**The New African Diaspora in the United States:  
Immigration, Transnational Identities, and Integration**

April 10, 2015:

**Human Rights and Civil Rights in Africa and the African Diaspora**

April 1, 2016:

**Africa in the 21st Century: The Promise  
of Development and Democratization**

April 7, 2017:

**Transformations in Africana Studies:  
Epistemology, Theory Building, and Methodology**

April 6, 2018:

**Demographic, Economic, & Security challenges in Africa**

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### **8th Annual Africa Conference Announcement April 2020**

Theme:

**Towards the African Renaissance:  
Opportunities, Challenges, and Prospects**

The call-for-papers will be issued by August 31, 2019. Please, check the conference website at [<http://www.tnstate.edu/usafricaconference>]. You may also request a copy by emailing [aoyebade@tnstate.edu](mailto:aoyebade@tnstate.edu) or [gbekele@tnstate.edu](mailto:gbekele@tnstate.edu)



### **Conference Advisory Committee**

Dr. Adebayo Oyebade, Professor of History  
Dr. Gashawbeza Bekele, Associate Professor of Geography  
Dr. Erik Schmeller, Professor of History  
Ms. Pamela Bobo, Instructor of History  
Dr. Rebecca Dixon, Professor of English and Women's Studies  
Dr. Learotha Williams, Associate Professor of History  
Dr. Kyle Murray, Instructor of Political Science  
Dr. Sekhmet Maat, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies

### **Sponsors**

College of Liberal Arts, Tennessee State University  
Department of History, Geography, Political Science, & Africana Studies, Tennessee State University

### **Donors**

Dr. Michael Bertrand, Professor of History, TSU  
Dr. Keisha Brown, Assistant Professor of History, TSU  
Dr. Sheri Browne, Professor of History, TSU  
Dr. Joel Dark, Professor of History and Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts, TSU  
Dr. K.T. Ewing, Assistant Professor of History, TSU  
Dr. Erik Schmeller, Professor of History, Interim Dean, Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement

### **Appreciation**

Dr. Alisa Mosley, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, TSU  
Dr. Gloria Johnson, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, TSU  
Dr. Joel Dark, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts, TSU  
Ms. Carmen Wilson, Senior Office Assistant, Office of the Dean, College of Liberal Arts, TSU  
Ms. Kristie L. Green, Senior Office Assistant, Office of the Dean, College of Liberal Arts, TSU  
Ms. Jasmine Jester, Graduate Student, TSU

## WELCOME REMARKS FROM THE CONVENERS

March 22, 2019

Dear Conference Participant,

We are delighted to welcome you to Tennessee State University for the 7th Annual Africa Conference. Since its inception seven years ago, the conference has grown tremendously, with participants attending from Africa, Europe, Canada, Asia, and the United States. We are glad that the conference continues to serve as a platform from which scholars and other participants can interrogate knowledge about Africa and the African Diaspora.

The theme of this year's conference is "**Slavery in the African World: Interrogating the Past and Confronting the Present.**" This theme allows pertinent questions to be posed on relevant issues such on the history of enslavement in all its varied dimensions, ramifications, and legacies; and its contemporary manifestations within the framework of the Afro-Diasporic experience. From the wide range of scheduled presentations and the plenary and keynote addresses, we believe that this conference will, once again, be an intellectually engaging and fulfilling experience for everyone.

We wish you all of you an enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,

**Adebayo Oyebade**

Adebayo Oyebade, PhD.  
Professor of History  
Co-convener



**Gashaw W. Bekele**

Gashawbeza Bekele, PhD.  
Associate Professor of Geography  
Co-convener

## WELCOME REMARKS FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

March 22, 2019

On behalf of the College of Liberal Arts at TSU, it is my honor to welcome you to our seventh Africa Conference.

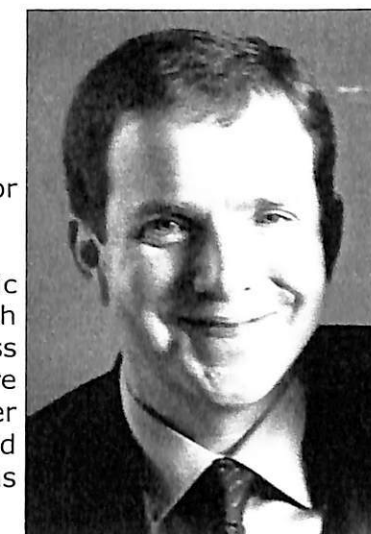
The College of Liberal Arts regularly hosts two academic conferences: a local African American history conference each February and our Africa Conference each spring. Both express TSU's mission and identity as an HBCU, and both are highlights of every year, breaking the routine of the semester with a scholarly event that transcends disciplines and departments, creates new knowledge, and builds connections with our community.

The most distinctive feature, among many, of the Africa Conference is that it is global. This was true from the beginning and strikes me as more remarkable this year than ever before. With participants from Africa, Australia, Europe, and North America, the conference now welcomes scholars from over half of the world's continents. Reflecting today on the observation that the conference had put TSU on a global map, I found myself equally impressed with the ways that it brings the global map to TSU. Both of these achievements are attributable to the creativity, dedication, and hospitality of the conference's principal organizers, Dr. Oyebade and Dr. Bekele, to whom I extend the College's profound thanks.

However far you have traveled, I hope that you have a very rewarding experience of Nashville, that you make meaningful and lasting connections with colleagues, and of course that you return to our campus and the conference for many years to come.

**Joel Dark**

Joel Dark, PhD.  
Professor of History and Associate Dean  
College of Liberal Arts



## WELCOME REMARKS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

March 22, 2019

The Annual Africa Conference is held under the auspices of the Department of History, Political Science, Geography, and Africana Studies. As chair of the department, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the conference. The department is proud to host this conference again this year. It is an event that has now become a major intellectual enterprise, not only in the state of Tennessee, but in the entire mid-south region of the United States.

I also welcome you to Nashville, one of the fastest-growing Southern cities, famous for its country music, creative art, and the best of soul cuisine. In addition to these, the city boasts of a rich historical past and a growing cultural diversity. Nashville played a major role in one of the most significant events in the history of the modern civil rights revolution—the Freedom Ride of 1961. I encourage you to enjoy all that the city has to offer.

Meanwhile, through formal presentations, panel discussions, and informal conversations and sharing of ideas along the hallways, over lunch, and in other spaces, I am confident that this conference will greatly enrich your understanding of the institution of slavery in its historic and contemporary forms. Apart from the intellectual engagement, I hope that the conference will also afford participants the opportunity to engage in trans-Atlantic networking, collaborations, and camaraderie.

Once again, I welcome you to this year's conference.

Sincerely,

**Adebayo Oyebade**

Adebayo Oyebade, PhD.  
Professor of History & Chair



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Plenary Keynote Speaker  
Dr. K.T. Ewing**

**Title of Address:**

"Children of the Diaspora: Analyzing the Past to Confront the Present"

Dr. Ewing is an Assistant Professor of History at Tennessee State University. Her research interests include African American history, 20th Century United States history, race, class, gender, sexuality, black feminist theory, and popular culture.

Dr. Ewing obtained her PhD from the University of Memphis in History with specialization in African American history and women and gender studies. She is currently working on the biography of Alberta Hunter, a Twentieth Century blues and cabaret singer from Memphis, Tennessee. Her article, "Tennessee State University," is forthcoming in *People's Guide to Nashville* (Berkeley University of California Press).



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**Banquet Keynote Speaker  
Dr. Jane Landers**

**Title of Address:**

"The Wolofs who Led the First Slave Revolt in the Americas: Espanola, 1521"

Dr. Jane Landers is Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor, Department of History, Vanderbilt University. She is also the Director of the Slave Societies Digital Archive, as well as a member of UNESCO International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route Project, "Resistance, Liberty and Heritage"

Dr. Landers holds a University of Florida, Ph.D. in Latin American Colonial History, obtained in 1988. She has previously served as Associate Dean, College of Arts & Science, and Director, Center for Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University. She has received many honors and awards including the Florida Historical Society Caroline P. Rosseter Award for Outstanding Woman in Florida History, in 2018. The most recent of her books is *Slavery and Abolition in the Atlantic World: New Sources & New Findings* (England: Taylor & Francis Group, 2017).



**Thursday, March 21, 2019**  
**Reception for conference participants**

**6.00-7.00 pm**

Venue: Faculty & Staff Dining Room, Floyd-Payne Student Center, Tennessee State University Main Campus

**7:15-9:30 pm**

Visit to Gaylord Opryland, Nashville

**SHUTTLE SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**Thursday:**

Shuttle leaves hotel at 5:15 pm

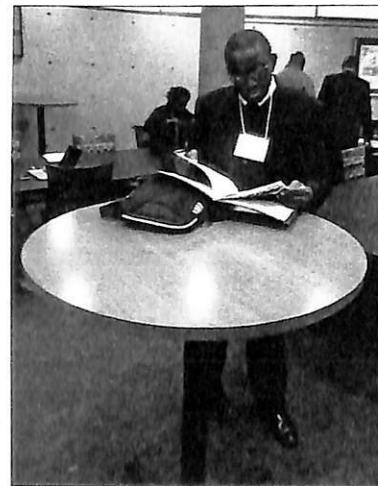
Shuttle leaves Main Campus for Gaylord Opryland at 7:15 pm

Shuttle leaves Gaylord Opryland for the hotel at 9:30 pm

**Friday:**

Shuttle leaves hotel at 7:00 am

Shuttle leaves Avon Williams (downtown) campus for the hotel at 9:30 pm



**Friday, March 22, 2019**

Venue: Avon Williams (downtown) Campus  
 Tennessee State University

**7:45-8:30: Arrival and Registration**

Capital Dinning Room

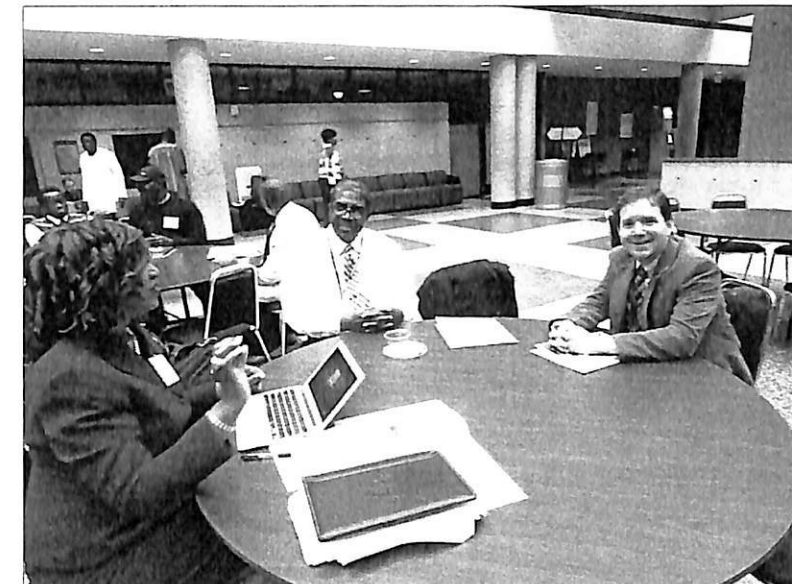
**8:00-8:30: Continental Breakfast**

Capital Dinning Room

**8:30-8:40: Opening Remarks**

Capital Dinning Room

Dr. Adebayo Oyebade, Professor of History, Tennessee State University  
 (Conference co-convener)



**8:45-10:35— CONCURRENT SESSION A**  
**Panel #1: Socioeconomic and Cultural Spaces of Migration and Enslavement**

**Training Room 1**

Chair: John Miglietta, Tennessee State University

Panelists:

**Perception of Illegal Migration and Sex Trafficking in Europe among Younger Women of Oredo Iga, Edo State, Nigeria: Social Work and Ethical considerations**

Nneka Okafor, Anthony Obinna Iwuagwu, and Gobo Blessing Ngowari, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

**The Hegemonic Role of Accounting in Indigenous Cultures**

Robert Tennant, Texas A&M University

**Impact of Triangular Trade and Africa's Economy**

Nnachi Douglas Nwaonuma & Anthony Oko Isu, Ebonyi State University, Nigeria

**The Agricultural Protectionism of the EU: A 'neocolonial' Structure?**

Alice Katherine Schmidt, University of Muenster, Germany

**Language as an Instrument of Slavery in African Society: A Case of Inequality in Taboo Punishment against Ehugbo Women**

Nkechinyere Henrietta Aja, Ebonyi State University

**8:45-10:35—CONCURRENT SESSION A**  
**Panel #2: Contemporary Forms of Enslavement**

**Training Room 2**

Chair: Andrew Patrick, Tennessee State University

Panelists:

**The Fall of Fetters: Modern Day Slavery**

Owonubi Oluwatobi Tolani, Birmingham City University, UK.

**Pervasive Forms of Child Exploitation in Ebonyi State, Nigeria**

Nkechi B. Emma-Echiegu, Ebonyi State University, Nigeria

**Sexual Slavery and HIV/AIDS: Case from the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo**

Lukula Kandolo Pacom, Université de Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

**Africa's Development Key to Preventing Modern Day African Enslavement**

Diana Chioma Onyejiaka, DC Consult International, North America

**Rape as a Weapon of War and Sexual Violence with Particular Reference to the Democratic Republic of Congo**

Teal Jester, Tennessee State University

**10:35-10:50**  
**Tea/Coffee Break**  
Capital Dinning Hall

**10:45-12:35—CONCURRENT SESSION B**  
**Panel #3: Slavery, History, and Literary Traditions**

Venue: **Training Room 1**

Chair: Sheri Browne, Tennessee State University

Panelists:

**Antebellum American Slave Conspiracies: Slave Power and the Great Western Land Pirate**

Erik Schmeller, Tennessee State University

**The Child Follows the Condition of the Mother in Law and Practice**

Rebecca S. Dixon, Tennessee State University

**Teaching Slave Narratives with Intersectionality**

Michelle J. Pinkard, Tennessee State University

**Reclaiming the Slave Mother in Colson Whitehead's novel *The Underground Railroad***

Jennifer L. Hayes, Tennessee State University

**Private Profits, Public Horrors, and Resistance: Enslavement and the Struggle for Freedom in Antebellum Nashville**

Learotha Williams, Tennessee State University





**10:45-12:35—CONCURRENT SESSION B**

**Panel #4: Race and Legal dynamics in Enslavement  
Training Room 2**

Chair: Wosene Yefru, Tennessee State University

Panelists:

**Public Policy and Manifestations of Enslavement in Nigeria**

Walter Idada, Ambrose Alli University, Nigeria

**The Constitution, Slavery and the changed American Union**

Brian E. Russell, Tennessee State University

**Pathway to Liberation: The Evolution of Laws in a Disguised Slave Culture**

Jonathan Garrett Green, Independent scholar, Pensacola, Florida

**Is God White? Divine Racism as a Theological Construction and the Blues Response**

Steve Clarke, Charles Sturt University, Australia

**Slavery, Colonialism and Africa's Population Dynamics**

Austin Aghemelo & Bonaventure Chizea, Ambrose Alli University; Emmanuel Ebadan, College of Education, Warri, Nigeria

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**12:35-1:35  
Lunch Break:  
Capital Dining Hall**

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**1:40-2:20  
Plenary Session Lecture**

"Children of the Diaspora: Analyzing the Past to Confront the Present"

**Speaker: Dr. K.T. Ewing**  
Tennessee State University

**Introduction of Speaker:**  
Dr. Gashawbeza Bekele, Tennessee State University

Training Room 2

**2:25-4:15—CONCURRENT SESSION C**

**Panel #5: Theory, Pedagogy, and Contextual Frameworks  
Training Room 1**

Chair: Michael Bertrand, Tennessee State University

Panelists:

**Recrudescence of Slavery in Africa: Focusing Media's Surveillance Antenna on Domestic Servant Phenomenon in Southeast Nigeria**

Clementina O. Okafor & Theophilus Oko, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Nigeria

**For a Common Structure of Eradication of Slavery in Africa**

Otshumba Muzeka Françoise, Commission Electorale Nationale Independante, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

**Abina and the Important Men: Bringing an African Woman's Voice into the Classroom**

Elizabeth Dachowski, Tennessee State University

**Worth More Dead than Alive: Body Snatching of Black People and Illegal Harvesting of their Organs**

Jasmine Jester, Tennessee State University

**Haile Gerima's Sankofa, Africana Studies and the (Re)framing of Liberation**

Sekhmet Ra Em Kht Maat, Tennessee State University



**2:25-4:15—CONCURRENT SESSION C**  
**Panel #6: Human Trafficking as Slavery**

**Training Room 2**

Chair: Kyle Murray, Tennessee State University

Panelists:

**Human Trafficking and Interface of Slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in Nigeria**  
Philip E. Agbebaku, Ambrose Alli University, Nigeria, & Osimen Uwakhonye, Achievers University, Nigeria

**Human Trafficking and Nigeria's Economy**  
Eloka Okonkwo, University of Southern Mississippi

**Women Trafficking as a Contemporary form of Slavery in Africa: Evidences from Nigeria**  
Larry E. Udu, Ebonyi State University, Nigeria

**Media Role in Curbing Contemporary Slavery in Africa: Analysis of Child Trafficking Trends in Nigeria**  
Ifeyinwa Nsude, Ebonyi State University, Nigeria, & Chidinma H. Onwubere, National Open University of Nigeria

**Slavery in the African Past: Yet a Contemporary Dilemma as an Old Wine in a New bottle- 'Human or Child Trafficking'**  
Amarachi N. Ukoma, Ebonyi State University, Nigeria; Duruji Simeon, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Nigeria; & Rosline Onyinyechi Uka Egwu, Ebonyi State Collage of Education, Nigeria

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**4:15-4:25**  
**Tea/Coffee Break**  
Venue: Capital Dinning Hall



**4:30-6:20—CONCURRENT SESSION D**  
**Panel #7: Slavery and Globalization Dimensions**

**Training Room 1**

Chair: Pamela Bobo, Tennessee State University

Panelists:

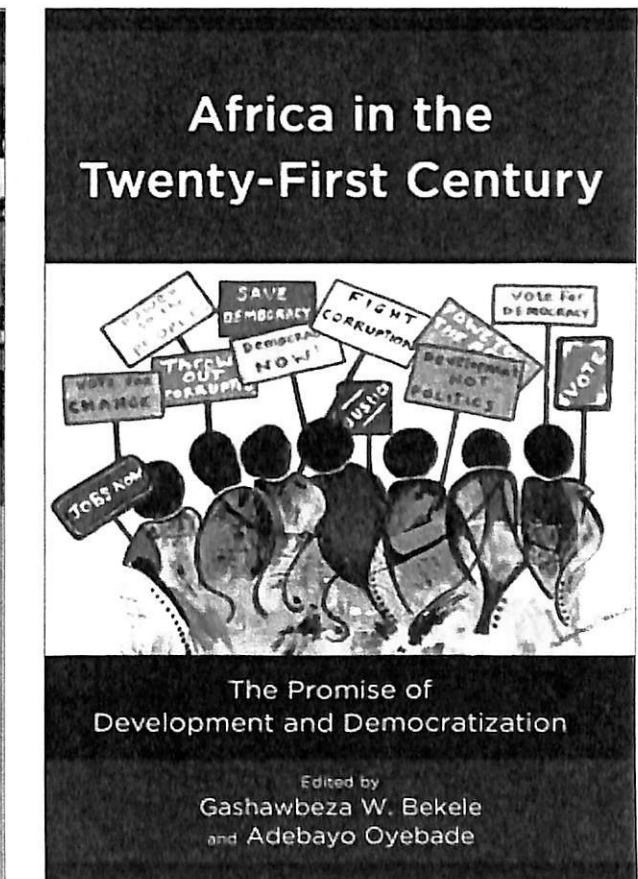
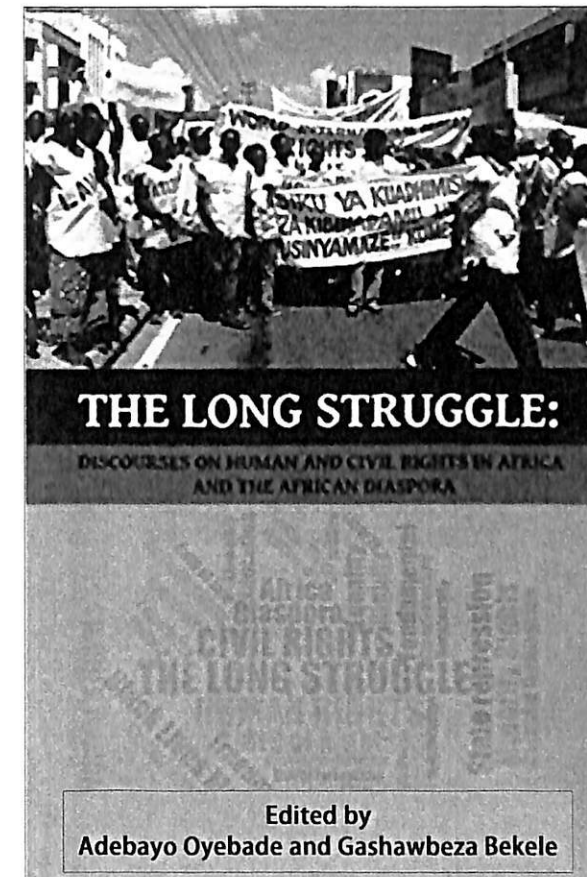
**Globalism and African Slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**  
Kyle Patrick Murray, Tennessee State University

**Economics of European Exploration and Conquests of Africa**  
Olayiwola Abegunrin, Howard University/University of Maryland

**Destruction at Home and in Diaspora? Joseph E. Inikori on the Effects of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade on Africa**  
Tokunbo Ayoola, Elizade University, Nigeria

**Ideological and Linguistic Slavery: Consequences and Potential Impact on African Development**  
Cecil Blake, University of Pittsburgh & Ngozi U. Emeka-Nwobia, Ebonyi State University, Nigeria

**The Impact of Slavery and Colonialism on Leadership and Governance in Africa**  
Sabella Ogbobode Abidde, Alabama State University



**4:30-6:20—CONCURRENT SESSION D**

**Panel #8: Historicizing Slavery across Time and Space**

**Training Room 2**

Chair: Brian Russell, Tennessee State University

Panelists:

**Africa-Centered Critical Thinking: Response to the Psychological Legacy of Enslavement of African People**

Wosene Yefru & Cydya Jackson Williams, Tennessee State University

**Entertaining the Colonizers: Human Zoos, Slavery, and Labor on European Stages in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries**

Andrea Ringer, Tennessee State University

**The System of Slavery in Traditional Societies: Its Nature and Dynamics among the Igbo People of Southeastern Nigeria**

Grace Umezurike, Ebonyi State University, Nigeria

**"We Point to Liberia as our Promised Land": The Liberia Colonization Project through the Eyes of Colonists, John B. Russwurm and Martin Henry Freeman**

Kathryn R. Dungy, Saint Michael's College, Colchester, VT.

**Conceptualizing 40 Acres and a Mule in the 21st Century**

Cydya Jackson Williams, Tennessee State University

**4:30-6:20—CONCURRENT SESSION D**

**Panel #9: Health, Economic, and cultural contexts**

**Room 353**

Chair: John Miglietta, Tennessee State University

Panelists:

**Slavery Positivism in the Evolution of Selected Genres of African Music**

Sheyi Kehinde, University of Lagos, Nigeria

**Cultural Hegemony: Enslavement to Democracy in Nigeria**

Francis Chigozie Ofoegbu, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Nigeria

**The Atlantic Slave Trade and the Making of Jamaican Folk History, 1914-1987**

Bernard Steiner Ifekwe, University of Uyo, Nigeria

**Rooted in the Womb: Africana Women and Gynecological Acts of Resistance**

Shelby Pumphrey, Michigan State University

**Living Conditions and Limitations in Africa: A Health Slavery Social Critical Reality**

Marthe Sikayako Kikwayabo, National Health Ministry, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

**6:30-8:40**  
**Banquet and Keynote Address**  
Capital Dinning Room

**Dinner & Entertainment**  
Femi The Entertainer

**Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Dr. Adebayo Oyebade, Co-Convener, TSU  
Dr. Joel Dark, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts, TSU  
Dr. Gloria Johnson, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, TSU

**Awards Presentation**

Dr. Andrea Ringer, Assistant Professor of History, TSU  
Dr. Gashawbeza Bekele, Co-Convener, TSU  
Dr. Adebayo Oyebade, Co-Convener, TSU

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Adebayo Oyebade, Co-Convener, TSU

**Keynote Address**

"The Wolofs who Led the First Slave Revolt in the Americas: Espanola, 1521"

**Speaker**

Dr. Jane Landers  
Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor  
Department of History  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville

**8:40**

**Closing Remarks & Adjournment**

Dr. Adebayo Oyebade, Co-Convener, TSU

## PREVIOUS CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



### 2012 Banquet Keynote Speaker

Dr. Toyin Falola  
The Jacob and Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair in the Humanities  
& University Distinguished Teaching Professor, University of  
Texas at Austin.



### 2012 Plenary Keynote Speaker

Ambassador Neneh MacDouall-Gaye  
Former Gambian Ambassador to the United States.



### 2013 Banquet Keynote Speaker

Dr. Akanmu Adebayo  
Professor of History & Director, Center for Conflict  
Management at Kennesaw State University.

### 2013 Plenary Keynote Speaker

Dr. Peter Nwosu  
Former Professor of Communications and former Associate Vice  
President for Academic Affairs, Tennessee State University.



### 2015 Banquet Keynote Speaker

Dr. Bessie House-Soremekun  
Professor and Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Jackson  
State University.

### 2015: Plenary Keynote Speaker

Mrs. Elizabeth Harbour McClain  
Retired Professor of History, Tennessee State University.



### 2016: Banquet Keynote Speaker

Dr. Mayowa Ogedengbe  
Adjunct Professor of Africology, Temple University

### 2016: Plenary Keynote Speaker

Dr. Olayiwola Abegunrin  
Professor of Political Science, Howard University.





**2017: Banquet Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Bobby L. Lovett  
Retired professor of history and former Dean, College of  
Liberal Arts, Tennessee State University.

**2017 Plenary Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Victor Oguejiofor Okafor  
Professor and Head Department of Africology & African  
American Studies, East Michigan University.



**2018: Banquet Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Abiodun Alao  
Professor of African Studies at King's College, University  
of London, and Director of the African Leadership Center,  
University of London.

**2018: Plenary Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Kidane-Mariam  
Retired Professor of Geography,  
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.



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