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[Conference Program, January 13-15, 1994]

Ac 533

January 13–15, 1994

A National Conference



**Black Women  
in the Academy:  
Defending Our Name,  
1894–1994**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Wellesley College

Radcliffe College

**This conference sponsored by**

**The Ford Foundation  
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
The Ms. Foundation for Women  
The W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
Dr. Saj-nicole A. Joni / The Microsoft Corporation  
MIT Program in Women's Studies  
The W.E.B. DuBois Institute at Harvard University**

**with the cooperation and assistance of  
MIT's History Faculty and  
The Program in Science, Technology and Society**

*Drummers are always like that  
Take it in Put it out Use it  
Before she lose it*

*Drummers are always like that  
Flashy Dazzling Cool  
Cool not too cool to  
Get hot  
Get down  
Sounds  
Her axe  
Sounds her creation  
Sounds her life  
Plangent and sweet sweet  
Vibrations sounding resounding  
Strikes the sweet spot sweating  
I-ing us over her symbols trembling*

*Audre Audre  
Leaves her body  
Her body  
This body this body  
Lay down bloodbed  
Stretch out restbed  
Arch up lovebed  
Cool sheets for your sickbed  
Witness witness  
Witness your deathbed this body  
This body  
Honey brass bell tongue  
Kettle of flame  
This body this body  
Won't come by here again  
Leaves her books her words  
Her sisters her children her lovers  
Her poetry emotion*

*Audre Audre  
Gives us bottom  
Keeps time  
Audre Audre  
Got to  
Give the  
Drummer  
Some*

— Kate Rushin  
© Fall 1993

Praisesong for the Poet  
Audre Lorde

Gamba Adisa, Warrior —  
She Who Makes Her Meaning Known

February 18, 1934–November 17, 1992

This conference is dedicated to

the memory of Phyllis Wallace  
Professor *Emerita*,  
The Sloan School, MIT

Sylvia Boone  
Professor of Art History,  
Yale University

Audre Lorde  
Poet and Professor of English,  
Hunter College

and other women of color  
who have labored in the academy  
and helped to prepare the way  
for the present generation.

Statement

of

Purpose

*At the very time  
when race interest seems  
at such a low ebb,  
when our race leaders  
seem tongue-tied and  
stupidly inactive  
in the presence of  
unchecked lawlessness and  
violent resistance  
to negro advancement,  
it is especially fortunate  
and reassuring  
to see and feel  
the rallying spirit  
of our women.*

— Fannie Barrier Williams  
1894

1894 was a momentous year for African-American women, and it was a year that provides strong parallels for the position in which black women, in the academy and elsewhere, find themselves today. African-American women were under attack in many public forums for their supposed immorality, but in 1894, they began to organize to refute a debased image of themselves and their families, and to redefine the prevailing view of "true womanhood" in a way that included the lived experience of black women.

Paula Giddings typified blacks in America in the 1890s as "standing on the brink of [a] racial precipice," subject to increasing public violence, governmental neglect, and lacking political resources. In 1893, blacks, both male and female, were denied full representation at the Columbian World Exposition, held in Chicago. Frederick Douglass organized a Negro Day, held at the very end of the Exposition to showcase black achievements, and a handful of leading black women was allowed to address an assembly at the Ladies' Pavilion, but conflict over the appropriate response to this exclusion split black leaders, male and female, along generational lines. Fannie Barrier Williams was one of the black women to address the Ladies' Pavilion meeting. She addressed the true cause for the exclusion of blacks from the event when she said plainly that, "The morality of our home life has been commented on so disparagingly and meanly that we are placed in the unfortunate position of being defenders of our name." Williams went on to describe the sexual harassment that she found to be the true cause of black women's sexual degradation, attacking "not only the myth of black promiscuity, but the notion that women themselves were wholly responsible for their own victimization." Black women's response to the Exposition provided the impetus for the establishment of the unified club movement. 1893 was also the year in which Ida B. Wells' Anti-lynching Campaign became an international movement and began to have its first substantive effects on the level of violence directed at blacks in the South. By 1895, the development of a national movement of African-American women had progressed as a National Federation of Afro-American Women was created, uniting thirty-six black women's clubs in twelve states.

Similarly, 1994 provides strong parallels in that, again, blacks find themselves the subjects of increasing public attack on many fronts, at the same time that we face what may be the most severe internal crisis in our communities that we have seen since Reconstruction. Black women have come in for a large share of this criticism in the form of both open and coded discourse generated by the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas hearings in 1991, and political discourse produced by electoral campaigns over the course of 1992, largely centered on the issue of welfare reform and "family values." These events have generated the most intense public consideration of the character and morality of black women that this country has witnessed since the 1890s. African-American women in the academy placed themselves squarely in the center of these debates in 1992 with the formation of the organization African-American Women In Defense of Ourselves.

The organizers of this conference hope that it will be a public forum of the sort that was denied to black women in Chicago in 1893. The conference focuses specifically on black women in the professoriate at all ranks, in all disciplines from graduate school to the college presidency.

In 1992, 38,814 individuals earned doctorates at American universities. Of these, 14,366 were women. Of this number, 570 were black women. Altogether, black men and women make up only about 2.5% of the nation's tenured faculty. The issue of advancement through the ranks of the academy is, therefore, critical. The conference is intended to provide a rare opportunity for black female faculty members to meet and talk to each other across ranks and disciplines; most African-American women scholars find themselves the sole female of color in their departments and institutions. We hope that the question of the pipeline will be fully examined, from interesting larger numbers of black undergraduates in the life of the mind to increasing the number of black women in positions in the higher administration as provosts and presidents of universities.

The conference is also a space for discussions on the current scholarship of black women, ranging from issues of pedagogy in undergraduate education in the field of black women's studies to the relationship between black women's studies and other disciplines. As scholarship on black women by black women increased and matured, challenges to this work emerged from a variety of arenas. African-American women scholars thus find themselves in difficult situations in the classroom and among their colleagues when they raise issues of race, class and gender. As our Advisory Board member Dr. Nellie McKay, professor of American and Afro-American literature at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, recently noted, "To be Black and female in the academy has its own particular frustration because it was never intended for us to be here. We are in spaces that have been appropriated for us. But I consider every course I teach a course in Black feminism. Whether I am teaching William Faulkner or Henry James, by speaking out on my position as a Black woman, the course becomes a Black feminism course." The conference is an opportunity for black women scholars to critically examine our contributions to the academy. As Dr. Darlene Clark Hine commented on the conference, "The one hundred year time bracket is most fitting as it allows us to examine the long haul of change (and continuity) across decades and generations with special regard to Black women's intellectual worlds."

Another important function of the conference is the creation of a database on black women scholars based at the Women's Studies Program at MIT. The creation of such a database is critical to advance the agenda laid out at this conference. We envision this database as providing continuing access to current research by African-American women in the academy to those women and any other interested parties. The questionnaire that will form the foundation of the database is a part of your registration packet. If you are a woman of African descent, please take the time to fill out the questionnaire and return it to the registration desk or the conference office.

Finally, the proceedings of the conference will be published by the University of Massachusetts Press in a volume edited by Professor Robin Kilson. Panelists interested in being included in that volume should contact her directly at 617 576-9588 before April 1, 1994.

On behalf of the Steering Committee,  
we welcome you to Cambridge, to MIT,  
and to this historic event.

Professor Robin Kilson  
Professor Evelyn M. Hammonds

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Black Women in the Academy Conference  
c/o Program in Women's Studies  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Room 14E-316  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139  
617 253-8844

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

**7:00 Registration**  
Kresge Auditorium,  
Lobby

**8:00**

**9:00**

**Introductory Remarks**  
Kresge Auditorium  
Florence Ladd  
**10:00** Robin Kilson  
Evelynn Hammonds  
Charles Vest

**10:30 Keynote**  
Lani Guinier  
University of Pennsylvania  
Law School

**12:30 Lunch**  
Woman to Woman  
Networking Session

**1:00**

**Panel Session I**  
Presentations 1-9  
Roundtable 10

**3:00**

**4:00 Panel Session II**  
Presentations 11-16, 18  
Workshops 17  
Roundtables 19, 20

**5:00**

**6:00**

**Reception at 6:30**  
Walker Memorial

**7:00**

**8:00**

**Panel Session III**  
Workshops 21-23  
Presentations 24-26

**Panel Session IV**  
Presentations 27-30, 32-34  
Workshop 31  
Roundtables 35-37

**Lunch**  
Woman to Woman  
Networking Session

**Panel Session V**  
Workshops 38, 41, 42, 44  
Presentations 39, 40, 43,  
45, 46  
Roundtables 47-49

**Keynote**  
Kresge Auditorium  
Johnnetta Cole  
Spelman College

**Performance at 8:30**  
Kresge Auditorium  
Vinie Burrows  
in *Sister, Sister*

**Panel Session VI**  
Presentations 50-51, 54  
Workshops 52, 53

**Panel Session VII**  
Presentations 55, 58-60  
Workshop 56, 57  
Roundtables 61, 62

**Lunch**  
Woman to Woman  
Networking Session

**Keynote**  
Kresge Auditorium  
Angela Davis  
University of California,  
Santa Cruz

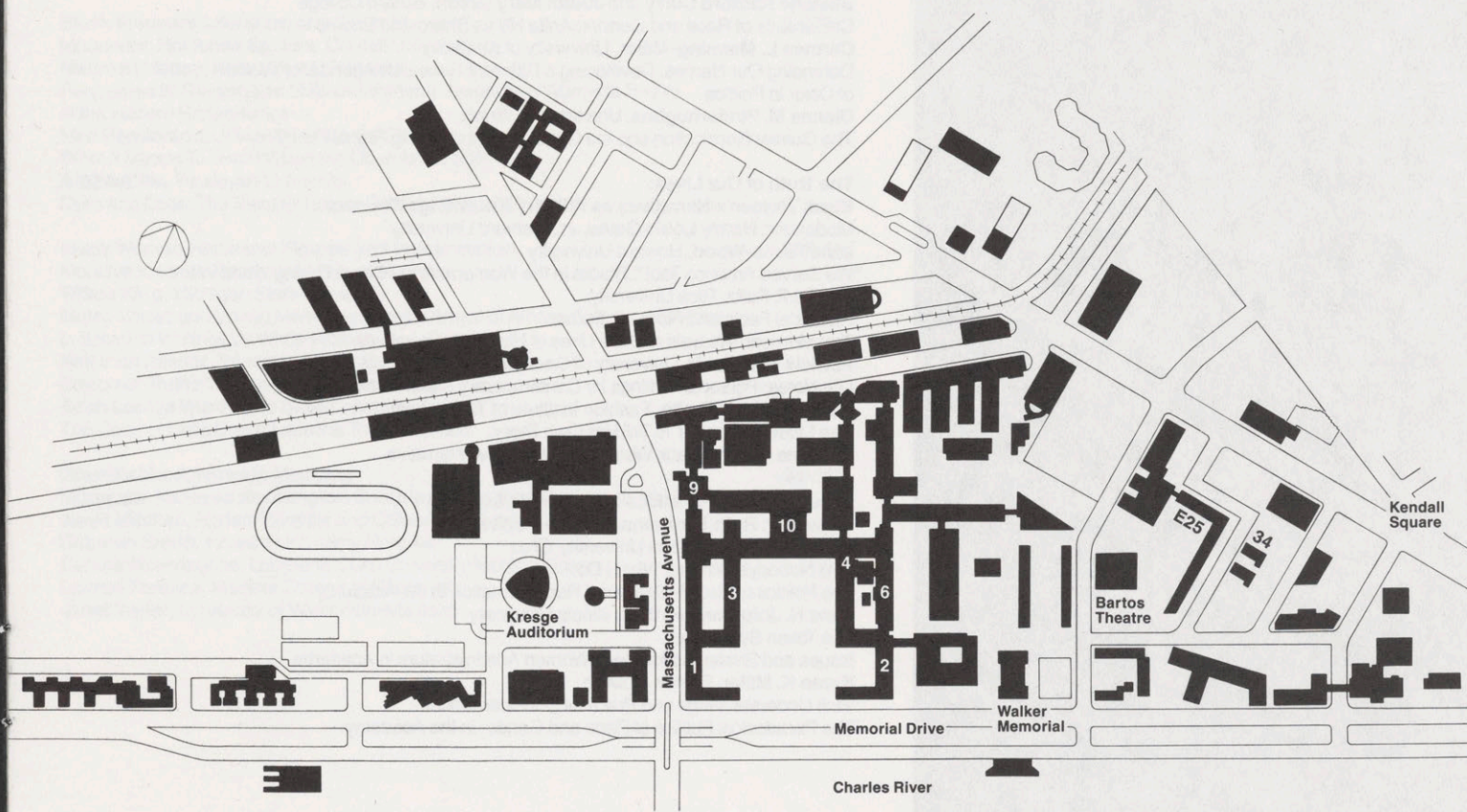
## The MIT Campus

The location of each numbered building appears on the map.

### Woman to Woman: Women of African Descent Networking Session

The following rooms are available during lunch breaks to women of African descent to meet privately to discuss matters of mutual concern:

4-159  
4-163  
2-105  
4-145  
4-153





Panel Session I  
1:30-3:30

1

**Rappin', Writing, (Re)producing: Locating Women in Black Nationalism** 3-270  
Moderator: **Kim Hall**, Georgetown University  
**Paulette Richards**, Georgetown University  
Girlchild in the Fatherland: Black Macho, Black Nationalism and Black Women Writers  
**Connie M. Razza**, Georgetown University  
"Ya Mama... Don't Take No Mess": the Race-as-Family Trope in Rap  
**JoNina Abron**, Western Michigan University  
"Keep the Thing Going": Women in the Black Power Movement

2

**Survival Strategies, Communities and Careers: The Personal as Political** 2-105  
Moderator: **Cheryl Townsend Gilkes**, Colby College  
**Edna E. Ewell**, Eastern Michigan University  
Using Grass Roots Liaisons: "Working the Crowd" and Other "Art of War Based"  
Strategies for Overcoming Structural Barriers Facing Black Women in the Academy  
**Jewel Graham**, Antioch College, *Emerita*  
Surviving by Connecting: Thirty Years on the Margins  
**Diedre Tyler**, Salt Lake Community College  
Kick Me Again: A Personal Ethnography of a Black Woman Scholar  
from Mississippi to Utah

3

**Black Female Sacrificial Political Lambs: Anita Hill and Lani Guinier** 10-250  
Moderator: *to be announced*  
**Blanche Radford Curry** and **Judith Mary Green**, Eckerd College  
Crossroads of Race and Gender: Anita Hill as Shero and Enemy  
**Carmen L. Manning-Miller**, University of Kentucky  
Defending Our Names: Developing a Different Research Agenda for Women  
of Color in Politics  
**Dianne M. Pinderhughes**, University of Illinois  
The Guinier Nomination and the Development of Voting Rights Policy

4

**The Truth of Our Lives:** 9-150  
**Black Women's Narratives as Primary Knowledge Sources**  
Moderator: **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, Harvard University  
**Janet Sims-Wood**, Howard University  
"We Served America Too!": Blacks in the Women's Army Corps During World War II  
**Lucille P. Fultz**, Rice University  
Historical Facts and Fictional Truths:  
Toni Morrison's Novels and the Uses of Historical Narratives  
**Patricia Bell-Scott**, University of Georgia  
Life Notes: Personal Writings by Contemporary Black Women  
**Michelle Black-Smith**, Fashion Institute of Technology  
She Must Be Trusted To Tell Her Own Story:  
Costume History, Black Women and the Slave Narrative

5

**Race and Gender Politics in Academic Culture I** 4-163  
Moderator: **Ruth Simmons**, Princeton University  
**Cheryl Johnson**, Miami University, Ohio  
Ain't Nobody's Bizness What I Do:  
The Politics of Racial/Gendered Representation in the Academy  
**Irene H. Johnson**, Northern Illinois University  
"The Token Syndrome":  
Issues and Strategies for Black Women Administrators in Academe  
**Karen K. Miller**, Boston College  
Tacit Understandings and Practical Considerations:  
The Paradoxical Politics of Race and Gender in the Academy

Thursday

70 **Willful Reinvention: African American Women and the Multiple Self** 1-390

Moderator: **Rebecca Carroll**, Harvard University  
**Carolyn A. Mitchell**, Indiana University, Bloomington  
Voice to Voice: The Black Woman as Fiction  
**Audrey McCluskey**, Indiana University, Bloomington  
*to be announced*  
**Jane Rhodes**, Indiana University  
Contested Images: African American Women in the Mass Media

5 **Obtaining the Ph.D.: Classroom Politics/Surviving the Dissertation** **Bartos**

Moderator: **Carolyn Wyatt**, Lesley College  
**Kimberley J. Dillon**, University of California, San Diego  
What's Your Perspective as a Woman of Color?:  
"Politically Correct" Multiculturalism and Essentialism in the White Classroom  
**Adenike M. Davidson**, University of Maryland, College Park  
The Silencing of the Solo Black Voice with Multiculturalism in the Classroom  
**Chanta Haywood**, University of California, San Diego  
Teaching the Mainstream from Its Margin:  
The Politics of a Black Female Teaching Assistant in the White Classroom  
and Administration  
**Lauren E. Wilson**, University of California, San Diego  
Embodying Reality: Black Women in the Academic Arena

250 **Black Women's Literature and Sexuality** 3-370

Moderator: **Hortense Spillers**, Cornell University  
**Maureen Honey**, University of Nebraska  
Responses to Stereotypes of Black Women's Sexuality in Women's Poetry  
of the Harlem Renaissance  
**Mae Henderson**, University of Illinois, Chicago  
What It Means To Teach When the Other Is the Self  
**Ann duCille**, Wesleyan University  
Dyes and Dolls: The Sexual/Textual Politics of Black (?) Barbie

50 **Black Women Historical Figures and Interpretation** E25-111

Moderator: **Linda Reed**, University of Houston  
**Wilma King**, Michigan State University  
Muted Voices and Untold Memories: The Portrayal of African American Women  
in Selected Writings by White Women  
**Nell Irvin Painter**, Princeton University  
Sojourner Truth's Ways of Knowing and Ours  
**Adah Louise Ward**, Ohio State University  
The Case of Celia Davis: Lessons To Be Learned

63 **Roundtable: Academic Medicine** 34-101

Moderator: **Vanessa Northington Gamble**, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
**Janet Mitchell**, Harlem Hospital and Columbia University  
**Deborah Smith**, Howard University Hospital  
**Denise Shervington**, Louisiana State University Medical School  
**Lauree Thomas**, Medical College of Wisconsin  
**Janet Taylor**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

6

7

8

Thursday

9

10

Panel Session II 11  
4:00-6:00

Thursday

**Hiring Black Women for Law Faculties**

Moderator: **Kathleen Cleaver**, Emory University

**Anita L. Allen**, Georgetown University

Templates, Symbols and Nurturers:

A Critique of the "Role Model" Argument for Faculty Diversity

**Martha Chamallas**, University of Iowa

The Thinking about Domination: From Tokenism to Containment

**Okianer Christian Dark**, University of Richmond

The Importance of the Spaces Between the Words

Bartos  
Theatre

12

**Speaking for Ourselves: African-American Women and Oral History**

3-270

Moderator: **Judith Rollins**, Wellesley College

**Gwendolyn Etter-Lewis**, Western Michigan University

African-American Women in Academe: "The Exception of Exceptions"

**Michèle Foster**, University of California, Davis

Self Portraits of Black Women Teachers:

Narratives of Individual and Collective Struggle Against Racism

**Linda Nelson**, Stockton State College

Begging the Questions and Switching Codes:

Insider and Outsider Discourse of African-American Women

**Marcyliena Morgan**, University of California, Los Angeles

Something's in the Water: Women's Talk, Women's Lives

13

**Black Women in Academia: Empirical Investigations**

10-250

Moderator: **Yolanda Moses**, City College of New York

**Adrienne R. Andrews**, University of Pittsburgh

Makin' It by Degrees: Black Women in Academe

**Beverly Lindsay**, Hampton University

Beyond Rhetoric and Ingenious Barriers:

Searching for African American Women Deans in Research Universities

**M. Colleen Jones**, Suffolk University

The Leadership Development of African-American Women College Presidents

**Cheryl Evans Green**, University of Central Florida

and **Ruby Nell Johnson**, Tulane University

Beating the Odds: Lessons Learned from African-American Female Deans

and Directors of Social Work Education

14

**Black Feminist Literary Criticism I**

9-150

Moderator: **Beverly Guy-Sheftall**, Spelman College

**Kate Rushin**, Brown University

Something Within: Spirituality and the Natural World in the Novels

of Three African American Women

**Kimberly Wallace Sanders**, Spelman College

Character Evolution and Feminist Criticism: Responses to the Black Mammy

**Randi Gray Kristensen**, Louisiana State University

More Than Signifyin': Teaching Black Women's Art in the Academy

15

**Discourse and Language in Black Women's Cultural Communities**

4-149

Moderator: **Charlotte Morgan-Cato**, Lehman College

**Helen L. Patman**, Harvard University

Bringing Womanability to the Study of Black English:

A Discourse Analysis of Kitchentalk

**Denise Troutman-Robinson**, Michigan State University

"We Be Strong Women": An Assertion and Defense of the Language Patterns  
of African-American Women

**Barbara Hill Hudson**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Varieties of Language Use in Black Female Speech Communities

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Fran

<p><b>Black Women and Political Practice: Coalition Building</b>  Moderator: <b>Marcia Sawyer</b>, University of Washington  <b>Joy Ann James</b>, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  Gender, Race and Radicalism: A Comparative Analysis of Native and African-American Women Activists  <b>Shamara Shantu Riley</b>, University of Illinois  Environmentalism Is a Sistah's Issue Too:  Black Women's Activism in the Environmental Justice Movement  <b>Eva Marie George</b>, Capitol University  Homophobia in Black Communities and Its Relation to Popular Black Liberation Ideology  <b>Patricia Washington</b>, State University of New York, Binghamton  African American Women: Rape and Identity Within the Context of Community</p>	6-120	16
<p><b>Workshop: Psychological Understanding of the Black Woman's Experience: The Role of Self-Definition and Cultural Sensitivity in Therapy and Training</b>  <b>Beverly Greene</b>, St. John's University  <b>Ruth L. Hall</b>, Trenton State College  <b>Pamela T. Reid</b>, City College of New York</p>	1-390	17
<p><b>The Practice of Feminist Theory</b>  Moderator: <b>Saidiya Hartman</b>, University of California, Berkeley  What Do You Mean We? The Language of Black Women's Experience  <b>Harryette Mullen</b>, Cornell University  Deconstructing the Rhetoric of Difference  <b>Donna Daniels</b>, Stanford University  Theory, Practice and Women's Experience in the African Diaspora  <b>Helán Page</b>, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  Afrocentric Gender Trouble and Transgendered Oppression in Black Academe:  A Word to Guardians Who Wish To Determine Whose Voice Is Legitimate</p>	4-163	18
<p><b>Roundtable: Black Feminist Films</b>  <b>Elizabeth Hadley Freyberg</b>, Northeastern University  <b>Diane Turner</b>, Brown University  <b>Clark White</b>, Northeastern University  <b>Robin Chandler</b>, Northeastern University  <b>Clare Andrade-Watkins</b>, Emerson College</p>	3-370	19
<p><b>Roundtable: Gaining Political Power: Black Women and Mainstream Politics: Women of African Descent in Defense of Ourselves and The Ain't I A Woman Network</b>  <b>Barbara Ransby</b>, DePaul University  <b>Elsa Barkley Brown</b>, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  <b>H. Ahada Stanford</b>, Ain't I A Woman Network, Philadelphia  <b>Sunni Green-Tolbert</b>, Ain't I A Woman Network, Philadelphia  <b>Rhonda Bailey-Green</b>, Ain't I A Woman Network, Philadelphia  <b>Frances Jones</b>, Ain't I A Woman Network, Philadelphia</p>	34-101	20

Thursday

Panel Session III  
8:30-10:00

21

**Workshop: Going to Graduate School: How, What, When, Why, Where, Who** 9-150  
Intended for undergraduates thinking about an academic career  
**Robin Kilson**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

22

**Workshop: Black Women and the Power of Information: 21st Century Choices and Options** 4-163  
How to make the best use of electronic information networks.  
**Lana Jackman** and **Patricia Payne**, University of Massachusetts, Boston

23

**Workshop: In Each Others' Stories: Do We Call It Mentoring?** 3-270  
Mentor and mentee critique their own experience  
**Juliet Emanuel**, Borough of Manhattan Community College  
**D. Crystal Byndloss**, Harvard University

24

**Black Women, White Women: Redefining Women's Studies** 6-120  
Moderator: **E. Fran White**, Hampshire College  
**Paula Kibbelaar**, University of Utrecht  
Black Women's Studies and Black Feminist Studies:  
Towards a Transformative Approach  
**Lorraine Mayfield-Brown**, Montclair State College  
African American Women Students in Women's Studies Courses

25

**Black Women and Health/Risks** 3-270  
Moderator: **Terry James**, Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, New York City  
**Evelyn L. Barbee**, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Our Minds, Our Health: The Health Status of Black Women in the Academy  
**Loretta J. Ross**, Center for Democratic Renewal, Atlanta, Georgia  
The History of African American Women and Abortion

26

**Muslim Women in the Academy** 4-149  
Moderator: **Ula Taylor**, University of California, Berkeley  
**Aminah Beverly McCloud**, DePaul University  
African American Muslim Women in the Academy: We Are Sisters Too  
**Amina Wadud-Muhsin**, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Imbuing It with Spirit: Teaching Afrocentric Islamic Activism  
in the White Christian South

Friday

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Afr  
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Ella

**Black Feminist Theorizing**

3-370

Moderator: *to be announced*

**Mary L. Washington**, The Johns Hopkins University  
A Feminist Way of Speaking: Mining for a Voice in the Production of  
Ethnographic Text

**Sarah Willie**, Colby College

Not-Woman, Not-Black: Using Queer Theory To Understand Race

**Women at Tuskegee Institute in the Era of Booker T. Washington**

6-120

Moderator: **Susan Reverby**, Wellesley College

**Adele Logan Alexander**, Independent Scholar

Susannah and the Elders or Potiphar's Wife?:

Sexual Scandal at Tuskegee Institute

**Ruth Ann Stewart**, Library of Congress

Portia Washington and the New England College-Tuskegee Institute Connection

**Carolyn Dorsey**, University of Missouri, Columbia

Olivia Davidson Washington: Tuskegee Institute's First "Lady Principal"  
and Booker T.'s Second Wife

**Rhetorical Discourse as a Liberating Process**

4-163

Moderator: **Katie G. Cannon**, Temple University

Appropriation in the Development of Womanist Critical Scholarship

**Gillian Nehassaiu de Gannes**, Temple University

(In)essential Suffering: the Reconfiguration of Home in the Academy

**Ingrid Banks**, University of California, Berkeley

The Suppression of Gender(?):

Sexism as a Problematic Aspect of African American Social Thought

**Karyn R. Lacy**, Harvard University

Claiming African American Women's Consciousness

**Foremothers: Rethinking Our Intellectual Debts**

4-149

Moderator: **Robin Kilson**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Elsa Barkley Brown**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

The Origins of African American History

**Francille Rusan Wilson**, University of Maryland, College Park

Were There Black Female Social Scientists Before 1920?

The Choices and Challenges of Elizabeth Ross Haynes

**Jacqueline Goggin**, Harvard University

Politics, Patriotism, and Professionalism:

African American Women and the Preservation of Black History

**Workshop: Redefining the Color Line:**

1-390

**Facilitating Radical Inclusionary Scholarship in the Academy**

**Jacque Bolden**, University of Iowa

African American Sociologist

**Debbie Hicks**, University of Iowa

Eastern Creek Indian

**Papusa Molina**, University of Iowa

Mexicana/Chicana

**Geeta Patel**, University of Iowa

South Asian Feminist Literary Critic

**Historical Feminist Biography**

3-270

Moderator: **Bernice McNair Barnett**, University of Illinois

**Ula Taylor**, University of California, Berkeley

Amy Jacques Garvey

**Chana Kai Lee**, University of Indiana, Bloomington

Fannie Lou Hamer

**Marya McQuirter**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Claudia Jones

**Barbara Ransby**, DePaul University

Ella Baker

27

Panel Session IV

10:30-12:30

28

29

Friday

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31

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Friday

- 33 **Black Women in Hollywood: The 60s and Beyond** 10-250  
Moderator: **Gayle Pemberton**, Princeton University  
**Jennifer DeVere Brody**, University of California, Riverside  
Cleopatra Jones and Coffy: Colored Camp Heroines  
**Ruth E. Burks**, University of California, Los Angeles  
An Endangered Female Species:  
The African American Woman in Contemporary Hollywood Cinema  
**Ayida Mthembu**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
White Narratives/Black Women:  
Hegemonic Counterpunching in the Black Power Era
- 34 **Post-Colonial Studies and the African Diaspora** 9-150  
Moderator: **Tiffany Patterson**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
**Jenny Sharpe**, University of California, Los Angeles  
Interrupting a Politics of Blame  
**Indira Karamcheti**, Wesleyan University  
Postcolonial Studies as Minority Discourse  
**Carole Boyce-Davies**, SUNY, Binghamton  
Postcoloniality and the Re-Maleing of Resistant Black Feminist Discourse  
**Omofolabo Ajayi**, University of Kansas, Lawrence  
Getting to Know You, Sister of My Skin
- 35 **Roundtable: Black Women and the Politics of Exclusion and Inclusion in South African English Speaking White Universities: The Battle for Identity in the "New" South Africa** Bartos Theatre  
Moderator: *to be announced*  
**E. Lolwana**, University of Witwatersrand  
**H. Mkhize**, University of Witwatersrand  
**N. Ngqakayi**, University of Witwatersrand  
**S. Sebakwane**, University of Witwatersrand
- 36 **Roundtable: The Black Feminist Seminar and Theorizing Black Feminisms** 34-101  
**Stanlie James**, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
**Abena P.A. Busia**, Rutgers University, New Brunswick  
**Cheryl Clarke**, Rutgers University, New Brunswick  
**Beverly Guy-Sheftall**, Spelman College  
**Frieda High H. Tesfasgiorgis**, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
**Nellie Y. McKay**, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
**Evelyn Barbee**, Boston College
- 37 **Roundtable: Black Women Academics and Activists in International Relations** 2-105  
Moderator: **Joy Ann James**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
**Dessima Williams**, Brandeis University  
**Margaret Burnham**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**Lisa Brock**, Art Institute of Chicago  
**Hauanani-Kay Trask**, University of Hawai'i

**Workshop: A Feminist/Womanist Model for Mentoring**

9-150

**Mollie Whalen**, East Stroudsburg University*to be announced***Patricia Graham**, East Stroudsburg University

Mentoring: Building Power Among African American Women in the Academy

**Carrie Spell**, East Stroudsburg University*to be announced***Making the Invisible Visible:**

6-120

**Positionality, Resistance and the Caribbean Other**Moderator: **Dessima Williams**, Brandeis University**Daria C. Kirby**, University of Pittsburgh

And So We Begin: A Reflective Critique of the Caribbean American Woman as a Warrior in the Anti-Racist Struggle

**Jacqueline S. Mattis**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

The Places From Which We Speak:

Intellectual Ventriloquism and the Caribbean American Woman Scholar

**Jennifer Iré**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Black But Not African American in the Academy:

The Invisibility of Caribbean Women

**Black Feminist Literary Criticism II**

E25-111

Moderator: **Thadious Davis**, Brown University**Farah Jasmine Griffin**, University of PennsylvaniaBlack Women Writing Black Men: Ann Petry's *The Narrows***Deborah McDowell**, University of Virginia

Los Angeles: An Anniversary Post-Mortem

**Elizabeth Alexander**, University of Chicago

African American Poetry in the Age of AIDS

**Workshop: When and Where Do We Enter:**

3-270

**Black Women Interrogating Whiteness**

Discussion session on developing black feminist reading and teaching strategies within typically Eurocentric fields

**Kim Hall**, Georgetown University**Daphne Brooks**, University of California, Los Angeles**Jennifer DeVere Brody**, University of California, Riverside**Workshop: Challenging Invisibility and Defending Our Name: Women Scholars and Teachers at Historically Black Colleges**

Bartos Theatre

Moderator: **Jacqueline Rouse**, Clark Atlanta University**Jean Billingslea-Brown**, Spelman College**Mona T. Phillips**, Spelman College**Gloria Wade-Gayles**, Spelman College**Image, Talk, Diction, and Syntax: Language in the Doctoral Experience**

4-149

Moderator: *to be announced***Kathy M. Beard**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Image Formation: African American Women PhD Students as Organizational Newcomers

**Jocelyn A. Finley**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Talk and Silence in Business School Doctoral Seminars:

African American Females and the Double Bind

**Michele Simms-Burton**, George Washington University

Diction and Syntax: Racism and Projects of Exclusion, Real or Imaginary

**Workshop: Journeys of Black Women in Corporations: Strangers in an Unknown Land**

1-390

Moderator: **Martin Davidson**, Dartmouth College**Ella L.J. Edmondson Bell**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**Stella M. Nkomo**, University of North Carolina, Charlotte**Brenda Allen**, Smith College

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Panel Session V

2:00-4:00

39

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Friday

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44



Friday

- 45 **Black Women and the Welfare State: Intersections of Social Policy** 3-370  
Moderator: **Shirley Geiger**, University of South Carolina  
**Marsha Darling**, Georgetown University  
Emerging Legal and Social Policy Issues in the Lives of African American Women:  
Medical Technology, Moral Authority, Law and the Commercialization of  
Alternative Reproductive Technologies in the 21st Century  
**Barbara Omolade**, City College of New York  
Sociology, Public Policy and the Construction of Black Single Motherhood  
**Jeannine Bell**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Buying a Cadillac on Welfare: Elite Image Construction and the Racialization  
of US Social Policy
- 46 **Inventions of Africa: The Female and the Critical** 4-163  
Moderator: **Leslye Obiora**, Indiana University, Indianapolis  
The Little Foxes that Spoil the Vine:  
Re-visiting the Feminist Critique of Genital Mutilation in Africa  
**Obioma Nnaemeka**, Indiana University, Indianapolis  
Alice Walker: Possessing the Secret of Imperialist Discourse  
**Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome**, Manhattanville College  
What Women? Whose Development?:  
A Critical Discourse on Reformist Feminist Evangelism on African Women  
**Oyeronke Oyewumi**, University of California, Santa Barbara  
African Bodies and Western Critics: Are There Limits to (Mis)interpretation?
- 47 **Roundtable: The Political (Re)Awakening of Black Women:** 34-101  
**What's Feminism Got To Do with It?**  
**Kimberlé Crenshaw**, University of California, Los Angeles  
**Angela Davis**, University of California, Santa Cruz  
**Gina Dent**, Columbia University  
**Wahneema Lubiano**, Princeton University
- 48 **Roundtable: Science and Engineering** 10-250  
Moderator: **Dr. Jewel Plummer Cobb**, President Emerita, California State University,  
Fullerton and Trustee Professor, California State University, Los Angeles  
**Carolyn Meyers**, Georgia Institute of Technology  
**Carol Espy-Wilson**, Boston University  
**Joanne Berger-Sweeney**, Wellesley College  
**Jean Stanley**, Wellesley College  
**Paula Hammond**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 49 **Roundtable: Poetry Is Not a Luxury** 2-105  
Reading/Discussion Session in honor of Audre Lorde  
**Kate Rushin**, Brown University

**Pedagogical Concerns: Race, Gender and Authority in the Classroom**

4-163

50

Panel Session VI  
8:30-10:00

Moderator: **Millicent E. Brown**, Florida State University

**Karen M. Smith** and **Noliwe Rooks**, University of Iowa

Reclaiming the Mistress' Tools:

Dismantling the Power, Politics, and Privilege of Feminist Pedagogy

**Martha Wharton**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

When You Are the Color in the Classroom:

Black Women Graduate Students Teaching "Diversity" Courses

**Valerie Carey**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Personifying the Text: Black Female Teaching Assistants Claiming Voice  
and Authority in the Classroom

**Black Lesbians in Academe**

9-150

51

Moderator: **Jacqui Alexander**, Hamilton College

**Angela Bowen**, Clark University

Three Reasons for Enabling a Visible Black Lesbian Presence in Academia

**Marva Nelson**, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

(In)visibility: Re-Affirming the Black Lesbian Presence in the Academy

**C. Lindi Emoungu**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Failed Credibility: Homophobia, Sexual Harassment,  
and the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas Confirmation Hearings

**Workshop: Finding Research Funding for Black Women's Research**

1-390

52

Moderator: **Linda Eisenmann**, Assistant Director, Bunting Institute of  
Radcliffe College

**Maben Herring**, Director, University Faculty Fellowship Program,  
National Endowment for the Humanities

**Avis Davis**, Assistant Director of Program Development and Multicultural Initiatives,  
American Association of University Women

**Janet Greenberg**, Program Director, American Council of Learned Societies

**Workshop: Exploring the Realities of Black Student Life  
on Predominantly White Campuses**

Bartos  
Theatre

53

Moderator: **Ayida Mthembu**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Piplier Smith Mumford**, Pine Manor College

*Student participants to be announced*

**Changing Institutional Culture**

3-370

54

Moderator: **Ella E.J. Bell**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Vèvè Clark**, University of California, Berkeley

Who's Zoomin' Who?: Reworking the Ethos of Mentoring

**Kate Conway-Turner**, University of Delaware

Maneuvering the Academic Culture: Strategies and Insights into the Tenure Process

Saturday

Panel Session VII  
10:30-12:30

55

**African American Women in the Academy:  
Tearing Down Walls and Building a New Community**  
Moderator: **Deborah King**, Dartmouth University  
**Elio DeArrudah**, Chicago Public Library  
What Is Alternative Education?/Educating for Critical Consciousness  
**Nancy E. Jackson**, Prologue Alternative High School  
Where We Stand: Drop-outs and African American Women Scholars/  
Finding Common Ground  
**Cynthia Hamilton**, University of Rhode Island  
*to be announced*

Bartos  
Theatre

56

**Workshop: Black Women and Media:  
Solutions Toward a Social Change Agenda**  
Moderator: **Paula Robinson**, Media Specialist  
**Sarah Ann Shaw**, Reporter, WBZ TV4  
**Beth Deare**, Independent Producer, film and television  
**Donna Latson Gittens**, Vice President for Community Affairs, WCVB-TV5

9-150

57

**Workshop: Building Fields of Study and Transformative Structures:  
To Black Women, Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies**  
Moderator: **Florence Bonner**, Howard University  
**Johnnella E. Butler**, University of Washington  
At the Vortex of the Isms: Black Women, Gender, and Black Studies  
**Beverly Guy-Sheftall**, Spelman College  
Black Studies/Women's Studies Revisited: Envisioning the Future  
**Betty Schmitz**, University of Washington  
Black Women/White Women: Building Structures for Collaboration

3-270

Saturday

58

**Black Women's History: New Concepts, New Women**  
Moderator: **Darlene Clark Hine**, Michigan State University  
**Lillian Ashcraft-Eason**, Bowling Green State University  
A Conceptual Model for Studying African Women in British Colonial North America  
**Tera Hunter**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
Contesting the New South: The Politics of Culture and Wage Household Labor  
in Atlanta, 1861-1920  
**Kevin Gaines**, Princeton University  
De-Naturalizing Race and Patriarchy: The Case of Black Women and  
Black Middle-Class "Uplift" Ideology, 1890 to Present

6-120

59

**Race and Gender Politics in Academic Culture II**  
Moderator: **Florence Ladd**, Radcliffe College  
**Philomena Essed**, University of Amsterdam  
Race and Gender Responsible Leadership: Black Women Scholars  
**Thandeka**, Williams College  
Defining Our Name  
**Paula Aymer**, Tufts University  
Who Are These Black Women in the Academy?:  
Ethnic Diversity Among Black, Female, University Educators

4-163

60

**On the Margins of the Margins: Black Women in Non-Traditional Fields**  
Moderator: **Paula Hammond**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**Rickie Sanders**, Temple University  
Looking from the Outside in: Experiencing Race and Gender in Geography  
**Shelley P. Haley**, Hamilton College  
African American Women and Classics, or,  
What's a Black Feminist Like Me Doing in a Field Like This?!

1-390

61

**Roundtable: Cultural Criticism, Cultural Theory**  
**Tricia Rose**, New York University  
**Michael Eric Dyson**, Brown University  
**Hazel Carby**, Yale University  
**Philip Brian Harper**, Harvard University

34-101

tos  
atre

The conference organizers would like to take this opportunity to thank the following organizations and individuals, without whose support and kind assistance this conference would not have been possible:

The Ford Foundation

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

50 The Ms. Foundation for Women

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Dr. Saj-nicole Joni/The Microsoft Corporation

70 Wellesley College

Radcliffe College

The Program in Women's Studies, MIT

The W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Research,  
Harvard University

20 Mr. John S. Wilson

Ms. Ann-Marie Michel

Dr. Evelyn Fox Keller

Dr. Joan Wallach Scott

Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

63 Dr. Charles Vest

Ms. Betsy Chimento

Ms. Alison Miller

Ms. Norma P. Kilson

Ms. Gretchen Edwards-Anthony

90 Ms. Dianne Brooks

Ms. Leslie Torrance

Ms. Sandy Martin

Ms. Judith Stein

Rebecca Widom

101 Conference Services Office

The History Faculty, MIT

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# Black Women in the Academy Conference

## Program Addendum

### General

- Nametags should be worn for entry to all events.
- The book display is in McCormick Hall, 10am-6pm daily. Nametags are especially required for entry into McCormick, since it is a women's dormitory.
- Videos from Women Make Movies will be shown in McCormick Living Room, 12:30-2pm, Thursday and Friday.
- Woman to Woman: Women of African Descent Networking Sessions will be held during lunch breaks each day in rooms: 4-145, 4-153, 4-159, 4-163, and 2-105. A special Student to Student networking session will be held during Friday's lunch break in room: 4-149.

### Thursday

Panel 3: Black Female Sacrificial Lambs: Anita Hill and Lani Guinier  
Moderator: Elsa Barkley Brown, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Panel 5: Race and Gender Politics in Academic Culture I  
Moderator has been changed to: Joann Mitchell, Princeton University

Panel 16: Black Women and Political Practice: Coalition Building  
Moderator has been changed to: Tiffany Patterson, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Panelist Joy James has withdrawn.

### Friday

Panel 23: Workshop: In Each Others' Stories: Do We Call It Mentoring?  
Panel has been moved to room 3-370.

Panel 25: Black Women and Health / Risks  
Loretta J. Ross's paper will be presented by Marlene Fried, Hampshire College  
Panelist Evelyn L. Barbee has withdrawn.

Panel 26: Muslim Women in the Academy  
Moderator has been changed to: Ella L. J. Edmondson Bell, MIT

Panel 27: Black Feminist Theorizing  
Moderator: Evelyn Hammonds, MIT

Panel 28: Women at Tuskegee Institute in the Era of Booker T. Washington  
Panelist Ruth Ann Stewart has withdrawn.

Panel 34: Post-Colonial Studies and the African Diaspora  
Indira Karamcheti's paper will be presented by Ann DuCille, Wesleyan University

Panel 35: Roundtable: Black Women and the Politics of Exclusion and Inclusion in South African English Speaking White Universities  
Moderator: Stella Nkomo, University of North Carolina

Panel 37: Roundtable: Black Women Academics and Activists in International Relations  
Moderator has been changed to: Dessima Williams, Brandeis University

### Friday continued

New: Friday 12:30-2pm: **Student to Student Networking** session will be held in Room 4-149.  
Hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Panel 42: Workshop: Challenging Invisibility and Defending Our Name  
Add panelist: Gail E. Thomas, Texas A & M University and Visiting Professor, Harvard  
University School of Education

Panel 43: Image, Talk, Diction, and Syntax: Language in the Doctoral Experience  
Moderator: Linda C. Powell, Harvard University Graduate School of Education

### Saturday

New: Saturday, 7:30-8:30am: **Caring for Each Other, Caring for Ourselves**  
a non-denominational service for spiritual renewal, will be held in the Chapel, directly in front of  
Kresge auditorium. Carol A. Johnson, Harvard Divinity School, and others

Panel 54: Changing Institutional Culture  
Panel cancelled.

Panel 57: Workshop: Building Fields of Study and Transformative Structures: To Black Women, Ethnic  
Studies and Women's Studies  
Panelist Johnella E. Butler has withdrawn.  
Add panelist: Florence Bonner, Howard University.

Panel 59: Race and Gender Politics in Academic Culture II  
Added panelist: Kate Conway-Turner, University of Delaware  
Maneuvering the Academic Culture: Strategies and Insights into the Tenure Process