Rethinking Haiti: Grassroots, Community Participation and Popular Culture

A people's culture is the cornerstone on which grassroots and community participation is built. Culture includes ideologies, values, socio-economic infrastructures and modes of behavior. Rethinking Haiti entails a reexamination of the relationships between various segments of society, and understanding the ways in which communal participation in these segments serve as models for socio-political action.

Pre-Conference Activities

Thursday, October 13, 1994

3:00 p.m. -- 5:00 p.m. Membership Meeting
Wheatley Hall 4th Floor, Rm. 138
UMass Boston

6:00 -- 9:00

Symposium: "The U.S. Media's Coverage of Haiti"
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library
Stephen E. Smith Center
Boston, MA

Presenters:
Edwige Balutansky-- Haitian Journalist, former Reuters Correspondent.

Don Bohning-- Latin America Editor, Miami Herald.

Pamela Constable-- The Boston Globe.

Kathie Klarich-- Haiti Correspondent, Christian Science Monitor.

Robert Lawless, Professor of Anthropology, Wichita State University

Moderator:
Jean-Pierre Brax, Haitian Writer/Journalist, Los Angeles, CA.

Reception immediately following the symposium

Co-Sponsors: Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities
The John F. Kennedy Library
Friday, October 14, 1994
Healey Library, Faculty Club
UMass Boston

8:30 a.m.     Registration

9:00--9:30    Introductions: Leslie G. Desmangles, HSA President
               UMass Boston

9:30--10:45   Keynote Address
               Speaker: Evans Paul (K-Plim), Mayor of Port-au-Prince and Leader in
               Haiti’s Democratic Movement.

11:00--12:30  Rethinking Haitian Literature I

               Panel Chair/                  Joseph Ferdinand, Saint Michael’s College, Colchester, VT.
               Discussant:                  Florance Bellande-Robinson, La Siera University, CA:
                                          “From ‘Littérature engageée’ To A Constructive Feminist
                                          Activism.”
               Panelists:                   Carrol F. Coates, SUNY Binghamton: “Oral Tradition in
                                          Frank Fouche’s Theatre”
                                          Marie-José N’Zengou-Tayo, UWI Mona: “The Haitian Boat
                                          People and the Literary Imagination: Colimon, Dambreville
                                          and Ollivier”

12:30--1:45   Luncheon—           (On your Own)

2:00--4:00    Presentation/Forum, HSA Task Force on Governance

               Topic:                       “Myths and Realities: Problems and Constraints to Governance in
                                          Haiti”
               Chair:                      Jocelyn McCalla, National Coalition for Haitian Refugees
               Members:                    Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
                                          Carole Charles, Baruch College
                                          Robert Fatton, Univ. of Virginia
                                          Michel Laguerre, UC Berkeley
                                          Winston Langley, UMass Boston
                                          Robert Maguire, Interamerican Foundation

4:15--5:30    Sounds and Sights of Haiti’s Popular Culture

               Moderator/                  Gerdies Fleurant, Wellesley College, MA
               Discussant:                 
               Panelists:                  Jan DeCosmo, Florida A&M University: “Slide Presentation
                                          of Haitian Art”
                                          Gage Averill, Wesleyan University: “Haitian Carnival as
                                          Grassroots Participation”
                                          LeGrace Benson, “The New Space of Cities, the New Urban
                                          Republic, and the Emergence and Diasporarization of Haitian
                                          Art”

5:30--8:00    Reception immediately following the panel
Saturday, October 15, 1994
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archives and Museum
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA (617) 727-9150

8:00 Registration

8:30--9:00 a.m. Introductions: Leslie Desmangles, HSA President

9:00--10:15 Strategies for Rural Development in Haiti

Moderator/
Discussant: Alix Cantave, HSA/UMass Boston

Panelists:
Paul R. Latortue, University of Puerto Rico: "An Experimental Model for Financing Peasant Agriculture in Haiti"
Yanique Joseph, Haitian Initiative on Environment and Development: "Overcoming Economic and Regional Obstacles to the Restoration of Democracy in Haiti"
T. Anderson White, University of Minnesota: "Peasant, Projects and Land Use: The Impacts of Indigenous and Expert Technology in Rural Haiti"

10:30--11:45 Rethinking Haitian Literature II

Panel Chair/
Discussant: Kathleen M. Balutansky, Saint Michael's College, Colchester, VT.

Panelists:
Yanick Luhens, Ecole Normale Superior, PAP, Haiti: "Considération Autour de Quelques Idées Reçues"
Marie-Agnès Sourieu, "The Theme of Anacaona in Météllus"
Regine A Latortue, Brooklyn College, NY: "Haitian Women Underground: Revising the National Order in Literature"

12:00--1:15 Luncheon

1:30--2:45 The Impact of Foreign Policy on Haitian Politics

Moderator/
Discussant: Pearl Robinson, Tufts University, Medford, MA

Panelists:
Eddy M. Souffrant, "U.S.-Haiti Relations in the Post Cold War Era"
Holger Henke, Medgar Evers College, CUNY: "The Trials of Sisyphus: The Haitian People and the Clinton Administration’s Negotiations with Haiti’s Military Junta"
Ernesto Sagás, Lehman College, CUNY: "An Apparent Contradiction?: Popular Perceptions of Haiti and the Foreign Policy of the Dominican Republic"

3:00--4:45 Haitian Political Culture Revisited

Moderator/
Discussant: TBA

Panelists: Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, University of Wisconsin
5:00--7:30

Haitian Studies Award and Presentation

HSA Award Recipient: \textit{Vvve A.} Clark, University of California at Berkeley, CA; Co-Founder of HSA.

Reception immediately following the award ceremony

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\underline{CONFERENCE REGISTRATION}

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Name: \hspace{12cm} Date: \hspace{1cm}
Institution: \hspace{12cm} Phone: \hspace{1cm}
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\underline{CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES:}

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\hspace{2cm} General registration \$20.00
\hspace{2cm} Students and Senior citizens \$15.00

\hspace{2cm} Amount Enclosed

\hspace{1cm}

Return to:
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100 Morrissey BLVD, Boston, MA 02125-3393
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Hotel information: Susse Chalet Hotel (617) 287-9100, South Bay Hotel (617) 288-3030

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