



**INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES**

**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR ARTS AND SCIENCES  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
STUDIES  
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**ACADEMIC YEAR  
2005-2006**

**[http: www.columbia.edu/cu/iraas/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/iraas/)  
**212.854.7080****

**Updated  
September 2005**

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## OVERVIEW

African-American Studies entails a critical scholarly examination of the collective experiences of people of African descent in the Americas, the Caribbean and Africa. In the United States during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, black studies is embodied in the black intellectual tradition, the massive body of writings and interpretations of African Americans by and about themselves and their social, cultural, economic and political conditions. Through these centuries, the black intellectual tradition has evolved certain characteristics as a body of thought. It has been “descriptive”, attempting to present a thick description or richly detailed narrative of the substance and realities of black life; it has been “corrective”, seeking to overturn racist stereotypes and misinformation about the black experience; and it has been “prescriptive”, an attempt to link theoretical work with practical endeavors to transform reality in the interests of black people. Since the establishment of the first formal department in African-American Studies at San Francisco State University in the mid-1960s, hundreds of colleges and universities have initiated black studies programs. As of 2000, twenty-five research universities have M.A. degrees in African-American Studies, and five offer Ph.D. degrees in the field.

Columbia University is located near the cultural and political heart of black America, the community of Harlem. At the end of the nineteenth century, blacks living in densely populated urban neighborhoods such as San Juan Hill and the Tenderloin began to relocate to Harlem. Black ownership of residential housing was greatly accelerated with the establishment of the Afro-American Realty Company by Philip A. Payton, Jr. in 1904. By the First World War, tens of thousands of African Americans from the South had begun to arrive in the city, as Harlem quickly became known as the urban black Mecca. In the golden age of the twenties, Harlem became the center of black literary and cultural life, home to outstanding artists, poets and novelists. Harlem was a central site for the rise of black nationalism, first in the twenties with the popular emergence of Marcus Garvey and his Universal Negro Improvement Association, and a generation later with the charismatic leadership of Malcolm X. Harlem has continued to serve as the location for the development of a series of influential African-American political figures, including Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Percy Sutton, Congressman Charles Rangel, and David Dinkins, New York City’s first African-American mayor.

For over a century, Columbia University has played a central role in the scholarly interpretation of the black experience. Columbia anthropologist Franz Boas was largely responsible for establishing critical studies that drew distinctions between race and culture. In the 1920s, Boas, Carter G. Woodson, and Elsie Clews Parsons worked together to train students in African-American Studies. Together, they transformed the social sciences and humanities. Zora Neale Hurston, Melville Herskovits, and Otto Klineberg are perhaps the best-known participants of the program, but others like Eugene L. King were integral to the university community and the Harlem Renaissance. In the 1960s, influential black scholars, such as anthropologist Elliot Skinner and political scientist Charles V. Hamilton, came to Columbia and helped to train a new generation of scholars interested in Africa, the Caribbean and black America.

The Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University was established in July, 1993 by Dr. Manning Marable with the unique mission of achieving academic excellence and social responsibility in black studies. The Institute is an academic resource center that has built a new intellectual tradition upon the rich legacy of Harlem’s history. Since its inception, the Institute has significantly expanded the array of contemporary scholarship and interpretations of the diasporic black experience. Through its events and special projects, the Institute has emerged as one of the nation’s premier intellectual centers of advanced scholarship devoted to the study of the black experience.

## Institute Events

### “Conversations” Lecture Series

Initiated in 1993, the Institute sponsors a monthly lecture series entitled “Conversations.” The Institute sponsors these “Conversations” with the goal of bringing together members of the Harlem & New York community and the Columbia University community for critical exchange with leading scholars who explore a wide range of issues that have shaped and continue to define the black experience. Through this lecture series we address the historical and contemporary social, political and economic conditions and experiences of blacks in the U.S. as well as the larger African Diaspora.

#### Past Conversations lecturers have included:

**2005** Martha Biondi, Northwestern University; Orlando Lima, Ceo-Limachips Press & Consulting, NY; Dr. Paulette Young, Columbia University; Anne C. Bailey Spelman College; Mignon Moore, Columbia University; Dr. Dana Ain-Davis Columbia University; Dr. Jonathan Kidd, Columbia University ; Sonia Winton, Visiting Research Scholar-IRAAS

**2004** David Goldberg , Independent Scholar; Errol Lewis-New York Daily News; Jonathan Kahn, Columbia University; Mia Bay- Rutgers University;; Salim Washington, Brooklyn College and Columbia University; Coco Fusco, Columbia University; Donna Daniels, Columbia University; Asale Angel-Ajani', New York University

**2003** David Dent, New York University; Arlene Davila, New York University; Frank Andre Guridy, Visiting Scholar in Residence - Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; Kyra Gaunt, New York University; Adam Green; Donald Robotham, The Graduate Center/City University of New York; T.K. Hunter, Visiting Scholar - Columbia University; and the IRAAS Graduate Student MA Thesis Presentations: Candice Carto, Douglas Ficek, Tikia Hamilton, LeShane Lindsey, Christine Pinnock, Russell Rickford

**2002** Regina Austin, Columbia University-University of Pennsylvania; LaShonda Barnett, Columbia University/William& Mary College; Kristal Brent-Zook, Columbia University; Veronique Helenon, Columbia University; Jeff Kerr-Ritchie, Schomburg Center Scholar-in-Residence/Columbia University; Lisa Maya-Knauer, Hartwick College; Nicholas McBride, University of Massachusetts; Cheryl Mwaria, Hofstra University/Columbia University; Pedro Perez-Sarduy, Poet/Novelist/Journalist; Tricia Rose, New York University; Geoff Ward, Vera Institute of Justice/Columbia University; Christopher Winks, New York University/Columbia University

**2001** Valerie Boyd, Zora Neale Hurston Biographer; Richard Brooks, Northwestern School of Law; Michelle Fine, City University of New York Graduate Center; Louis Massiah, Scribe Video Center & W.E.B. Du Bois biographer; Pedro Noguerra, Harvard University; Jacqueline Stewart, University of Chicago; Alford Young, University of Michigan; Tukufi Zuberi, University of Pennsylvania

**2000** Johanna Fernandez, Columbia University; Kai Fikentscher, Columbia University; Thomas Glave, State University of New York-Binghamton; Lynette Jackson, Barnard College; Terry Williams, New School University

**1999** Marla Frederick, Duke University; Zachary Morgan, Brown University; Samuel Roberts, Princeton University; Paulette Young, Columbia University

### Zora Neale Hurston Lecture

In honor and recognition of the many contributions of African-American women to our history, the Institute sponsors an annual Zora Neale Hurston Lecture. Zora Neale Hurston, born in 1891, is one of the greatest writers and anthropologists of the 20th century. She was a unique scientist and artist who could write about the most ordinary things and make them infinitely vibrant. Of writing, she noted: *Anyway, the force from somewhere in Space which commands you to write in the first place, gives you no choice. You take up the pen when you are told, and write what is commanded. There is no agony like bearing an untold story inside you.*

Some of Hurston's works include: Jonah's Gourd Vine (1934), Mules and Men (1935), Tell My Horse (1937), Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937), Moses, Man of the Mountain (1939), Dust Tracks on a Road (1942), Seraph on the Suwanee (1948), Sanctified Church (1948), and Mule Bone (a play written with Langston Hughes—1996). Zora Neale Hurston died in 1960 but her works remain in the consciousness of world literature.

Past Speakers have included

- 2005** Professor Mindy Fullilove, Clinical Psychiatry, Columbia University and Columbia Presbyterian Hospital
- 2004** Professor Tricia Rose, American Studies, University of California-Santa Cruz
- 2003** Professor Cathy Cohen, Director of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, University of Chicago
- 2002** Professor Mira Nair, Filmmaker, Columbia University School of the Arts
- 2001** Professor Valerie Smith, Director of African-American Studies, Princeton University

### Public Dialogues

#### ***A Public Dialogue with Actor, Delroy Lindo & Film Critic Armond White, December 10, 2004***

Tony Award-nominated **Delroy Lindo** discusses his experiences in the film industry and his African Diaspora Film Festival premiere of his new film "Wondrous Oblivion" with Armond White & the audience. Lindo an NAACP Image Award-nominee for his portrayal of numbers boss West Indian Archie in Spike Lee's *Malcolm X* (1992) captured the attention of moviegoer. His cinematic works include an NAACP Image Award-nominated performance in "Soul of the Game," (1996), "Ransom" (1996), "The Cider House Rules" (1999), as well as "Gone in Sixty Seconds" (2000) "Romeo Must Die" (2000), "Heist" (2001), (2005)"Lackawanna Blues" and his upcoming film projects include "Exonerated" and "Domino." **Armond White** is a film critic for *the New York Press*. He is author of The Resistance: Ten Years of Pop Culture That Shook the World (Overlook Press) and Rebel for the Hell of It: The Art-Life of Tupac Shakur (Thunder's Mouth Press). He has been Chairman of the New York Film Critics Circle, was arts editor of *The City Sun* and has won the Deems Taylor-ASCAP Award for music criticism. White curates a yearly music video program at the Film Society of Lincoln Center. He has taught at Long Island University, Columbia and Fordham universities. His articles have been published world wide in *The New York Times*, *The Nation* and *Sight and Sound*.

### **Public Dialogues (cont-)**

#### ***“New Challenges and Directions for Black America: Public Dialogue with Hugh Price” November 19, 2002***

Dr. Manning Marable talks with Hugh Price, former Executive Director of the National Urban League. Price has dedicated his career to social advocacy. He was vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation, where he was responsible for managing domestic initiatives in education for at-risk youth.

He has also served on the editorial board of *The New York Times* and at WNET/Thirteen as senior vice president. The National Urban League is a leading social service and civil rights organization dedicated to helping African Americans achieve social and economic equality.

#### ***“Manning Marable & Russell Simmons: A Public Dialogue,” January 28, 2002***

Dr. Manning Marable interviewed Mr. Russell Simmons, founder of several successful business organizations including Def Jam Records, Phat Farm clothing, Rush advertising agency, and Rush Philanthropic. Mr. Russell Simmons has had a profound impact on American culture and business. He is a master visionary who has long shaped the cutting edge of hip hop – America’s most compelling cultural explosion of the latter 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In this public dialogue, Manning Marable and Russell Simmons engaged in a candid conversation about Russell Simmons’s autobiography, *Life and Def: Sex, Drugs, Money & God*; the state of hip hop culture, and our nation’s current sociopolitical climate.

### **Academic Conferences**

Each year, the Institute sponsors and co-sponsors conferences that bring together members of the community, leading scholars, practitioners and policymakers for a critical exchange of ideas that explore a wide range of issues that have shaped and continue to define the black experience.

The Institute has sponsored conferences such as:

#### ***“Criminally Unjust: Young People & the Crisis of Mass Incarceration” April 23rd, 2005***

This conference brought together young people, students, teachers, parents, activists, scholars, and artists to address the effects of America’s crisis of mass incarceration on young people. The wide range of scholars, activists and practitioners lent their voices and scholarship to a rich dialogue with young people about the state of the growing crisis criminal injustice in NYC and around the country.

To educate, provide awareness, develop meaningful strategies, and ultimately bring together the participants & attendees to initiate systemic change in the U.S. criminal justice system. The conference addressed mass youth incarceration through a variety of forums, panel discussions, workshops and performances. The following topics were addressed: The Crisis of Juvenile Injustice; The Public Education System and the Crisis of Mass Incarceration; Youth Organizing Against Criminal Injustice; The Criminalization of Youth in Popular Culture; Teaching Young People About Mass Incarceration; New Directions in the Struggle for True Juvenile Justice. Some participating panelists were Ras Baraka; Yvonne Bynoe; Rosa Clemente; Bakari Kitwan; Manning Marable; NYC Councilman Bill Perkins; Kate Rhee; Dr. Geoff Ward

### Academic Conferences (cont-)

#### ***“The Black Presence in the Ivy League: Where Do We Go From Here?” October 22-23, 2004***

In light of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education and the recent challenges to Affirmative Action, the Institute for Research in African American Studies is hosted *Black Faculty in the Ivy League: Where Do We Go From Here?*, an interdisciplinary conference. African-Americans began to enter Ivy League Institutions in larger numbers following the social unrest of the 1960’s and the assassination of Martin Luther King. This conference was not be a self-congratulatory occasion; instead it provided us the opportunity to provide reflective, critical and forward thinking analysis. Some of the panels included: *The Black Presence in the Ivy League: A Historical Perspective; Perspectives of Architectural Education and Architecture within Historic Black Colleges Universities and Ivy League Institutions; Recruitment, Retention and the Pipeline; Diversity in Higher Education: A Roundtable; Guaranteeing Student Success.*

Plenary session: *Where Do We Go From Here? Moving Blackwards into the Future* included panelists **Mary Frances Berry** – University of Pennsylvania; **Kimberle Crenshaw** – Columbia University; **Lewis Gordon** – Temple University and **Manning Marable** – Columbia University. Moderator: **Robin D.G. Kelley** –Columbia University

#### ***“Africana Studies Against Criminal Injustice: Research-Education-Action” April 11-12, 2003***

The conference brings together scholars, activists, practitioners, government, and community representatives together to discuss the issues of crime and justice in the Black experience, focusing on how crime, criminal justice policy, and racialized injustices impact African-American and Black Diaspora individuals, families, and communities. More than an academic exercise, this conference is part of an effort to address the crisis of mass criminalization and incarceration confronting African-American and other Black Diaspora communities.

There is urgent need to develop new insight and strategies to address forms of social and political exclusion generated, reproduced and/or intensified by racialized criminal justice policies and procedures. It is also important that we understand these processes in relation to the historical and global development of the “color line” of social control. Africana Studies is poised to make valuable contributions to a growing body of work on the collateral consequences racialized mass incarceration, informing new strategies of critical research, education, and collective action.

#### ***“Rethinking Black Studies: Beyond the Boundaries, Making New Connections” October 2-3, 2003***

The Institute for Research in African-American Studies will celebrate its Tenth anniversary with a two-day conference. The event was co-convened by Dr. Farah Jasmine Griffin and Dr. Manning Marable. Participants in the conference included former and current faculty and doctoral students who were or continue to be affiliated with the Institute. The conference discussed the future of black studies at Columbia University. Conference panel topics included: “The Future in the Past: Studying the Black Experience at Columbia,” “From Campus to Community: IRAAS Conferences, 1993-2003,” “The State of African-American Studies, Beyond Boundaries: Comparative,” “Cross Cultural and Transnational Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Class and Sexuality,” “IRAAS Publications and Research Projects, New Directions in African-American Studies,” “The Future of African-American Studies at Columbia University.” Invited panelists included: Lee Baker, Michael Blakely, Marcellus Blount, Michael Eric Dyson, Eric Foner, Joy James, Winston James, Alvin Pouissant and Curtis Stokes.

### **Academic Conferences (cont-)**

#### ***“Forty Acres & a Mule: The Case for Black Reparation, A Research Conference” November 7-8, 2002.***

Co-sponsored with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture panelists included: Adjoa Aiyetoro, N’COBRA; Abdul Karim Bangura, American University; Billie Ann Davis, Race & Reconciliation Project; William Darity, Jr., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Deadria Farmer-Paellmann, Attorney; Dania Frank, Ph. D. Harvard University; Farah J. Griffin, Columbia University; Allen Guelzo, Eastern University; M. Njeri Jackson, Virginia Commonwealth University; Kirk Lyons, New York Theological Seminary; Manning Marable, Columbia University; Irma McClaurin, Fisk University; Theresa Mohamed, Onodaga Community College; Calvin C. Moore, Bowdoin College; Frederick Newsome, M.D., Harlem Hospital Center; Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.; Rodney Roberts, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Tukufu Zuberi, University of Pennsylvania.

#### ***“Many Thousand Gone: African Diaspora Poets Read for Peace” December 12, 2002***

Participating poets included: Malaika Adero, Elizabeth Alexander, Ruth-Miriam Garnett, Gary Johnston, Sylvie Kande, Dawad Philip, Peggy Ann Tartt, and Mervyn Taylor.

#### ***“Race & Globalization” October 31 – November 1, 2001***

There are numerous meanings of globalization and each focuses our understanding of identity and social life by highlighting different dimensions of global interchange. With the flow of images, symbols, goods, and people crossing state and other borders, conventional ways of marking subjectivity and belonging are being rewritten. This conference critically explored how the reconfiguration of territories is leading to new conceptualizations of personal and collective identities. Panelists included: *Amrita Basu*, Amherst College; *Faye Harrison*, University of Tennessee; *Manning Marable*, Columbia University; *Don Robotham*, CUNY Graduate Center; *Leith Mullings*, CUNY Graduate Center; *Sudhir Venkatesh*, Columbia University; *Sandhya Shukla*, Columbia University; *Percy Hintzen*, University of California at Berkeley; *Howard Winant*, Temple University; *Rob Smith*, Barnard College; *Sundiata Cha-Jua*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; *Carolle Charles*, Baruch College; *Gina Perez*, Hunter College; *Nicholas De Genova*, Columbia University; *Arvind Rajagopal*, New York University; *Avelardo Valdez*, University of Texas at San Antonio; *Lewis Gordon*, Brown University; and *Angela Gilliam*, The Evergreen State College.

#### ***“For Love of Abbey: A Symposium” December 6 – 7, 2001***

The career of Ms. Abbey Lincoln, one of our most important living artists, has yielded a tremendous body of work documenting not only her individual growth and development but also the changing nature of contemporary music, politics and cultural representation. As evidenced in her artistic expressions, Ms. Lincoln recognizes the enormous complexity of the history and culture she bears and has refused the limits of easy categorization, forms, and disciplines. This symposium reflected a semester long series of events devoted to exploring and celebrating Ms. Lincoln’s cultural contributions. Panelists for the symposium included: *Manning Marable*, Columbia University; *Robert O’Meally*, Columbia University; *Ingrid Monson*, Harvard University; *Eric Porter*, University of California at Santa Cruz; *Steven Gregory*, Columbia University; *LaShonda K. Barnett*, College of William & Mary; *Salim Washington*, Brooklyn College; *Krin Gabbard*, SUNY Stony Brook; *Fred Moten*, New York University; *Farah Griffin*, Columbia University; and *Chuck Stewart*, photographer.



## Co-Sponsored Conferences & Events

*Conference:*

**“Romare Bearden Symposium- Bearden & the Other Arts & Disciplines”**

**Saturday, October 15- 16 2004** This academic symposium is a centerpiece of the Romare Bearden Homecoming Celebration, which honors Bearden’s legacy of artistic and intellectual achievements with engaging visual art, music, dance and education programs for all ages. October 15<sup>th</sup> panel discussion with Dr. Billy Taylor, Brent Hayes Edwards, Farah Jasmine Griffin, C. Daniel Dawson, Richard Powell, and Lisa Gail-Collins Keynote by Dr. Toni Morrison.

*In co-sponsorship with Center for Jazz Studies at Columbia University –*

*Public Lecture:*

**Professor Piero Gleijeses, presented “The Cuban Revolution, U.S. Foreign Policy and African Liberation: The Untold Story”, November 3, 2004**

Piero Gleijeses is professor of American Foreign Policy at the School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University. Author of “Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington & Africa, 1959-1976” and “Shattered Hope: The Guatemalan Revolution & the United States, 1944-1954.” He is the recipient of the 2003 Robert H. Ferrell Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations & the 2003 Medal of Friendship from the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba.

*In co-sponsorship with the Institute of African Studies and the Institute for Latin American Studies both at Columbia University*

*Educational Forum & Panel Discussion:*

**“Malcolm X Life after Death: The Legacy Endures – An Educational Forum & Radio Broadcast on WBAI-FM February 21, 2005**

Marking the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X/El Hajj Malik El Shabazz in upper Manhattan's Audubon Ballroom; the enduring legacy and significance of Malcolm X, even 40 years after his death, continues to inspire and educate millions of people worldwide. American Studies at Columbia University are proud to sponsor an educational forum, "Malcolm X: Life After Death -- The Legacy Endures" marking the occasion, and also announcing their involvement in helping to establish a permanent memorial to Malcolm X at the Audubon Ballroom, located at Broadway and W. 165 St. in Washington Heights. The program will be chaired by historian Manning Marable, founding director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies. Marable is currently writing a comprehensive biography of Malcolm X.

The panel of presenters includes Farah Jasmine Griffin, current director of the Institute for Research in African American Studies; Robin D.G. Kelly, professor of anthropology at Columbia; noted poet Sonia Sanchez, Distinguished Visiting Professor in African-American Studies at Columbia; spoken word artist Bryonn Bain; and Imam Talib Abdur Rashid, director of the Islamic Brotherhood of Harlem.

*In co-sponsorship with The Center for Contemporary Black History, Black Students Organization at Columbia University and the Association of Black & Latino Graduate Students at Columbia University*

## **Co-Sponsored Conferences & Events (cont-)**

*Conference:*

### **“International Civil Society, World Governance & the State” March 30-April 1 2005**

Our conference promises to build bridges and to foster integrative analyses, by bringing advocates or critics of civil society or world governance together with scholars engaged in research on these topics. It will draw speakers from all perspectives, establish connections between scholarship and world developments, across the disciplines and the North-South divide. We are inviting academics as well as people from outside the university, including literary and cultural workers, those engaged with policy, and activists more directly involved in the field. Questions of gender will be involved at all levels.

Keynote Panel featuring Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Dr. Toni Morrison in dialogue, with Professors Mary Robinson, Amartya Sen, Joseph Stiglitz, and Dr. Shashi Tharoor as discussants.

*In Co-sponsorship with Center for Comparative Literature & Society, Institute for Research on Women & Gender Studies, The Center for Ethnicity and Race, The Institute for Social & Economic Research and Policy and the Ford Foundation*

*Short Film, Lecture and performance:*

### **"Soul on Soul: The Legacy of Mary Lou Williams" April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005**

Mary Lou Williams was the most important jazz musician to emerge in the first three decades of jazz. William's multidimensional talents as an instrumentalist, arranger and composer made her a star. Her longevity as a topflight jazz artist was extended because of her penchant for adapting to and influencing stylistic changes in the music. Miss Williams made New York City her home at a creative height for jazz (1941-1948). She recorded *The Zodiac Suite* in 1945 and had her own weekly radio show called "The Mary Lou Williams Piano Workshop". She was also a guest artist at Carnegie Hall, which marked the first meeting of Jazz and the Symphony. By 1955 after a tour in Europe for two years Ms. Williams returned to the states and soon converted to Catholicism. It is through this time that Mary Lou Williams retired and devoted much of her time to religious activities and charitable efforts. Yet, her devotion to music did not change. In 1962 she broke new ground for her composition and recording of "Hymn in Honor of Saint Martin de Porres". She was the first Jazz composer to write for sacred purposes.

Lecture by Dr. Tammy Kernodle-Miami University, Ohio; performance with acclaimed Jazz pianist, Bertha Hope and film short – "Soul on Soul-The Story on Mary Lou Williams" courtesy of Paradox Films; City Lore- Soul on Soul Project in celebration of the renowned jazz pianist, composer, arranger, educator and humanitarian.

*In co-sponsorship with the Center for Jazz Studies at Columbia University*

## Academic Centers

The Institute directly contributed to the development of or is affiliated with some of Columbia's academic centers:

**The Center for Contemporary Black History** directed by Manning Marable, Founding Director of IRAAS, which engages students in conducting research related to contemporary African-American studies and trains the students on the multimedia dissemination of the research.

The Center for Contemporary Black History (CCBH) promotes the critical study of black history, culture, and politics within urban America since 1900, with an emphasis on understanding the central role of black intellectuals and public leaders in the making of modern society. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the Center utilizes the educational and research tools of both traditional disciplines and new media technology to organize and enrich the study of contemporary black American history. CCBH currently houses three initiatives: (1) the Malcolm X Project, which is currently developing a Multimedia Study Environment version of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*; (2) the Africana Criminal Justice Project, examining crime and justice in black intellectual and social history, and addressing the impact of mass incarceration on black civic capacity and participation; and (3) *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society*, published quarterly with Taylor and Francis Publishers.

**The Center for Urban Research and Policy**, directed by Sudhir Venkatesh. The mission of the Center for Urban Research and Policy is to: create a more informal national dialogue about the challenges and successes of our nation's urban policies and programs; advance research and curriculum on pressing urban issues; prepare and train students to play a greater role in improving cities; promote the participation of urban residents, particularly women and minorities, in policy determination at the local, state, and national levels; provide public officials and community leaders with new tools for management and policy analysis.

**The Center for Jazz Studies**, directed by Robert O'Meally, which regularly brings prominent performing artists and scholars of jazz to Columbia's campus. The mission of Columbia University's Center for Jazz Studies is to include jazz as a part of Columbia University's core curriculum for the twenty-first century. In keeping with the great mission of Columbia University as a whole, the Center for Jazz Studies is committed to offering students a "broad range of innovative multidisciplinary programs, and through the earnest exploration of difficult questions," to provide "students from the United States and around the world with the depth of understanding and intellectual flexibility they need to respond to the challenges in the years to come."\* Our mission, simply put, is to assert that to be an educated person in the new millennium means understanding jazz music as part of a complete arts and sciences curriculum, as indispensable equipment for living in our time

**The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race**, interim director Robin D. G. Kelley. The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race provides a venue for collaborative and comparative projects on the subjects of ethnicity and race. It reaches: (1) across disciplinary boundaries and promotes interdisciplinary research and teaching; (2) across social formations and works at the junctures and articulations of race, gender, sexuality, and class; and (3) across national borders and compares racial and social formations transnationally and globally. The Center refuses a singular focus on ethnicity or race, and sees racializations as simultaneous, complicitous, and sometimes contrary constructions of gender, sexuality, class, and nation.

In truth, the Center's intellectual mission is to expose the fraudulent natures of the ideas and practices of race and to ascertain the articulations of race with gender, sexuality, class, and nation. Columbia's ethnic studies programs -- African-American, Asian American, and Latina/o studies -- constitute the Center and collaborate to sponsor jointly listed courses and sponsored activities.

## **IRAAS Sponsored Special Projects**

### **Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society**

The Institute for Research in African–American Studies has always produced scholarly publications focusing on the various theoretical debates, politics, culture and recent history of black America, Africa and the black diaspora. In January 1999, the Institute launched Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society to replace Race and Reason which was the Institute’s first journal, published annually for four years beginning in the fall semester of 1994.

Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society, is a quarterly interdisciplinary journal dedicated to the mapping of the intellectual contours of the modern black experience. In the spirit of W.E.B. Du Bois, Souls (whose title was inspired by Du Bois’s classic 1903 analysis of black American culture and politics, The Souls of Black Folk) presents creative and challenging interpretations of the major themes and issues currently being discussed by scholars of black America. Souls brings together intellectuals from both traditional academe and the black community to engage in a critical dialogue about contemporary problems and challenges facing black America today. It has quickly become one of the leading scholarly publications of African-American Studies. The editorial board and contributing editors of Souls feature a number of the most prominent public intellectuals, scholars and writers in the United States, including Cornel West, Michelle Wallace, Robin D.G. Kelley, Michael Eric Dyson, Amiri Baraka, Joy James, Patricia Williams, Angela Y. Davis, and Johnnetta Cole.

Recent themes explored in Souls are: “Black Feminism,” “Theorizing Black Studies,” “Race and Revolution in Cuba,” “Race-ing Justice: Black America vs. the Prison Industrial Complex”; and “The New South Africa.” Graduate students receive complimentary copies of each issue; and have the opportunity to work directly with the editors of Souls, both as interns and volunteers, reviewing manuscripts, editing, and writing.

### **Malcolm X Project (MXP)**

When Malcolm X was assassinated at the Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan, at the age of thirty-nine on February 21, 1965, he had been a prominent public figure for less than a decade. He had formerly been the national spokesperson of the Nation of Islam, a conservative Muslim sect that had little impact on mainstream American life. His new protest group based in Harlem, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, existed barely a year and had only several hundred members and supporters at the time of his death. For these reasons, many prominent black leaders felt that Malcolm X’s influence would quickly and quietly disappear. Only days after the assassination, Bayard Rustin, the architect of the 1963 March on Washington, D.C., wrote: "Now that he is dead, we must resist the temptation to idealize Malcolm X, to elevate charisma to greatness. Malcolm X is not a hero of the movement; he is a tragic victim of the ghetto... White America, not the Negro people, will determine Malcolm’s role in history." Political journalist Henry Lee Moon, editor of the NAACP’s publication *The Crisis*, declared in April 1965, that "Malcolm was an anachronism... vivid and articulate but, nevertheless, divorced from the mainstream of Negro American thought."

A generation after his assassination, Malcolm X’s image and historical reputation have been profoundly transformed. Most historians of the black experience now rank Malcolm X among the half dozen most influential personalities in African-American history, an elite group that includes Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. But unlike these other historical personalities, Malcolm X alone has become a genuine cultural icon to millions of young African Americans since the early 1990s. By the late 1990s, almost three million copies of The Autobiography of Malcolm X had been sold worldwide. In 1999, *Time* magazine selected The Autobiography as one of the top ten nonfiction works of the twentieth century, placing it with classics such as The Diary of Anne Frank.

## **IRAAS Sponsored Special Projects (Cont-)**

### **Malcolm X Project (MXP) cont-**

The Institute, under the direction of Dr. Manning Marable and with the guidance of members of the Shabazz family, launched the Malcolm X Project which comprehensively explores the dynamics of the political legacy and relevancy of Malcolm X to contemporary struggles, and principally includes the development of a multimedia version of The Autobiography of Malcolm X, providing interactive electronic visual presentations of Malcolm X's writings, historical documents and speeches, media & film clippings of Malcolm X, and interviews with historians of the period; a Malcolm X – Dr. Betty Shabazz Oral History Project, which would record interviews with their surviving siblings and close relatives, prominent civil rights, labor, business and community leaders from Harlem and throughout black America; and the Malcolm X Papers Project that would compile and organize the full range of Malcolm X's correspondence, speeches, interviews, unpublished writings, and related materials, which would be published in several edited volumes, and a comprehensive biography of the subject.

The Institute's Malcolm X Project provides graduate students with the extraordinary opportunity to work directly with archival documents and rare manuscripts that are significant in African-American history. Students involved in the project can learn how to interpret, edit and write annotations about historical materials; acquire experience conducting interviews as part of the oral history research; and how to use digital media to disseminate research.

### **Africana Criminal Justice Project (ACJP)**

Africana Studies has fostered innovative approaches to research and education on African-American and black diaspora experiences, especially in the analysis of community processes, social problems, and social change. Africana Studies is also distinguished by its forthright commitment to the pursuit of social justice. Though not often recognized for these contributions, a long line of scholars, public intellectuals, and leaders working in this tradition have contributed to our body of knowledge on crime, punishment, and resistance to racialized criminal injustice. This work forms a foundation for Africana Studies in criminology and criminal justice, and resource base for research, education, and organizing initiatives. With support from the *Criminal Justice Initiative of the Open Society Institute*, the Africana Criminal Justice Project was established to further develop and stimulate engagement with this intellectual tradition, identify its implications for an "Africana Theory of Justice," and support initiatives seeking to address a response to the contemporary crisis of racialized criminal injustice, especially through the promotion of black civic capacity and leadership in communities impacted by mass criminalization and incarceration.

These objectives inform the research, education, and organizing initiatives which comprise the Africana Criminal Justice Project. Few institutional contexts evidence a greater need for innovative research, education, and collective action than the U.S. criminal justice system. Our national response to poverty, unemployment, drug abuse, crime and other social problems has grown increasingly hostile and exclusionary, amounting to an oppressive and exclusionary campaign of mass criminalization and incarceration. The adverse consequences of this response are exacerbated by corresponding patterns including divestment in public education to fund the prison industrial complex, disregard for the rehabilitation and re-entry of young and adult prisoners, and the disfranchisement of citizens who are incarcerated, or who have completed criminal sentences. While criminal sanctions and policies are directed at individuals, they have an aggregate social consequence, an impact highly concentrated in the segregated, poor, and otherwise marginalized black and Hispanic communities from which prisoners disproportionately come, and to which they eventually return. The Africana Criminal Justice Project seeks to address these and other issues through a series of inter-related research, education, and organizing initiatives

**Institute for Research in African-American Studies (IRAAS)**  
**Core and Affiliate Faculty Listing**

Columbia University's faculty who publish and teach in the disciplines related to African-American, African and Caribbean studies are truly extraordinary. They provide our M.A. students with a unique intellectual resource to engage the study of the black experience. **Professor Mignon R. Moore, Director of Undergraduate Studies, serves as the principal adviser to all majors & concentrators.**

**Marcellus Blount**, English and Comparative Literature;

**George C. Bond**, Anthropology -Teachers College, Columbia University

**Ann Douglas**, English and Comparative Literature

**Maguette Camara**, Dance

**Barbara Fields**, History

**Eric Foner**, History

**Coco Fusco**, School of Visual Arts

**\*\*Steven Gregory**, Anthropology and African-American Studies, **-Director of Graduate Studies**

**\*\*Farah J. Griffin**, English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies-**IRAAS Director**

**Carl Hart**, Psychology-Morningside campus/ Clinical Psychiatry-Health Science campus

**\*\*Robin D.G. Kelley**, Anthropology and African-American Studies

**Ousmane Kane**, International and Public Affairs

**Rashid Khalidi**, History Dept.-Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies and Literature

**George E. Lewis**, Music Dept.-Edwin H. Case Professor of Music

**Mahmood Mamdani**, Anthropology, Political Science, and Director, Institute for African Studies

**Gregory Mann**, History

**\*\*Manning Marable**, International & Public Affairs, Political Science and History-Director, Center for Contemporary Black History; **IRAAS Founding Director**

**\*\*Mignon R. Moore**, Sociology and African-American Studies, **Director of Undergraduate Studies**

**Robert O'Meally**, English and Comparative Literature, and Director, Center for Jazz Studies

**\*\*Samuel Roberts**, History, and Research Fellow in African-American Studies **(on academic leave Fall 2005-Spring 2006)**

**\*\*David Scott**, Anthropology and Research Fellow in African-American Studies

**\*Sudhir Venkatesh**, Sociology and African-American Studies

**\*\*African-American Studies core faculty who have a direct administrative or research appointment with IRAAS.**

**IRAAS Core Faculty Biographies**

**Steven Gregory – Director of Graduate Studies;** Associate Professor of Anthropology and African-American Studies; and Chair of the African-American Studies M.A. Program. Ph.D., New School for Social Research. Professor Gregory's research interests include race and gender studies, urban ethnography, political economy and globalization. His work has appeared in the American Ethnologist, Cultural Anthropology, Public Culture and Social Text. He is the author of Black Corona (1998), Santeria: A Study in Cultural Resistance (1999) and the co-editor of Race (1994).

**Office:** 757 Schermerhorn Extension; **Phone:** 212-854-4552; **Email:** [sg820@columbia.edu](mailto:sg820@columbia.edu).

**Farah Jasmine Griffin – Director, IRAAS;** Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies. Ph.D., Yale University. Professor Griffin's most recent books include: Beloved Sisters and Loving Friends: Letters from Rebecca Primus of Royal Oak, MD and Addie Brown of Hartford, CT. 1854-1868, edited volume (1999), Stranger in the Village: Two Centuries of African American Travel Writing, edited with Cheryl Fish (1998) and Who Set You Flowin'? (1995). Professor Griffin recently authored If You Can't Be Free Be A Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday.

**Office:** 758 Schermerhorn Extension; **Phone:** 212.854.6411; **Email:** [fg8@columbia.edu](mailto:fg8@columbia.edu).

**Robin D.G. Kelley -** Professor of Anthropology and African-American Studies; Ph.D. University of California-Los Angeles. Professor Kelley's recent publications include: A Disjointed Search for the Will to Live (2003); Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination (2002); White Architects of Black Education: Ideology and Power in America, 1865-1954 (2001); Ellen Gallagher: Preserve (2001); Discourse on Colonialism (2000); Yo Mama's Disfunktional (1998); Though Justice Sleeps: African Americans, 1880-1900, Vol. 6 (1997); Into the Fire: African Americans since 1970, Vol. 10 (1996); Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class (1996); Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression (1990)

**Office:** 867 Schermerhorn Extension; **Phone:** 212.854.6761; **Email** [rdk21@columbia.edu](mailto:rdk21@columbia.edu)

**Manning Marable Director, CCBH; Founding Director, IRAAS** Professor of International & Public Affairs, Political Science and History; Ph.D., University of Maryland, College Park. Professor Marable is a prominent lecturer and interpreter of the politics and history of race in America. His most recent publications include The Great Wells of Democracy: The Meaning of Race in American Life (New York: Basic, 2003), Freedom (2002); Black Leadership (1998), Black Liberation in Conservative America (1997), Dispatches from the Ebony Tower edited volume (2000) and Let Nobody Turn Us Around, edited with Leith Mullings (2000).

**Office:** 1313 International Affairs Building; **Phone:** 212.854.7002; **Email:** [mm247@columbia.edu](mailto:mm247@columbia.edu).

**Mignon R. Moore – Director of Graduate Studies,** Assistant Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies; Ph.D., University of Chicago. Research interests in the sociology of the family, gender, race and sexuality, urban poverty. Her work has appeared in such places as the American Journal of Sociology, the Journal of Marriage and the Family, and Racial and Ethnic Studies. Professor Moore is completing a book titled Invisible Families of New York: Gay Identities, Relationships and Motherhood among Black Women. **Office:** 320M Fayerweather Hall; **Phone:** 212.854.4358; **Email:** [mm1664@columbia.edu](mailto:mm1664@columbia.edu).

**IRAAS Core Faculty Biographies (cont-)**

**Samuel K. Roberts** –, Assistant Professor of History and African-American Studies; Ph.D., Princeton University. His publications include *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, forthcoming Summer 2005. “‘Where Our Melanotic Citizens Predominate’: Locating African Americans and Finding the ‘Lung Block’ in Tuberculosis Research in Baltimore, Maryland, 1880-1920,” in Paola Boi, ed., *CrossRoutes, the Meanings of "Race" for the 21st Century*, Münster (Germany) and Piscataway, NJ 2003; “Introduction” to Carter G. Woodson, *A Century of Negro Migration*, 2002, Dover Publications; “‘Where Our Melanotic Citizens Predominate’: Locating African Americans and Finding the ‘Lung Block’ in Tuberculosis Research in Baltimore, Maryland, 1880-1920,” (forthcoming, in publication of selected papers from the annual meeting of the Collegium for African-American Research, Cagliari, Sardinia (Italy), 21-25 March 2001); “Whither Goes the March?: Response to Adetokunbo Adelkan on the Million Man March, and Christian Appropriation and Transformation,” *Koinonia: The Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Forum* 12:1 (Spring 2000) **(on academic leave Fall 2005-Spring 2006)**

**Office: 322 Fayerweather Hall; Phone: 212.854.6637; E-mail: [skr2001@columbia.edu](mailto:skr2001@columbia.edu).**

**David Scott** - Associate Professor of Anthropology and Research Fellow of African-American Studies. Ph.D., New School for Social Research. Professor Scott’s interests include the problem of the postcolonial politics, diaspora, and cultural history. The Caribbean and South Asia are his historical and geographical areas of preoccupation. He is the author of *Formations of Ritual* (Minnesota 1994), and *Refashioning Futures* (Princeton 1999), and he is the editor of the journal of Caribbean criticism, *Small Axe*.

**Office: 452 Schermerhorn Extension; Phone: 22.854.4552; Email: [das133@columbia.edu](mailto:das133@columbia.edu).**

**Sudhir Venkatesh** - Assistant Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies, Director of Research, and Coordinator for the **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program**. Ph.D., University of Chicago. Professor Venkatesh’s research and ethnographic work is based in American cities and focuses on issues related to race, poverty, youth and underground economies in Chicago and Harlem. His publications have appeared in the *American Journal of Sociology*, *SIGNS*, and the *American Prospect*. He authored, *American Project: The Rise and Fall of a Modern Ghetto* (2000) Dr. Venkatesh is also the Director of The Center for Urban Research and Policy.

**Office: 420 Fayerweather Hall; Phone: 212.852.4281; Email: [sv185@columbia.edu](mailto:sv185@columbia.edu).**



**INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES  
(IRAAS) ADMINISTRATION**

**Director, IRAAS**

**Professor Farah J. Griffin**

Office: 758C Schermerhorn Extension; Phone: 212.854. 6411; Email: [fjg8@columbia.edu](mailto:fjg8@columbia.edu)

*\*Office appointments must be scheduled in advance by contacting Ms. Sharon Harris\**

**Assistant Director, IRAAS**

**Mr. Shawn D. Mendoza**

Office: 758B Schermerhorn Extension; Phone: 212. 854.8789; Email: [sm322@columbia.edu](mailto:sm322@columbia.edu)

**Administrative Assistant, IRAAS**

**Ms. Sharon N. Harris**

758A Schermerhorn Extension; Phone: 212.854.7080; Email: [sh2004@columbia.edu](mailto:sh2004@columbia.edu)

**Director, Center for Contemporary Black History (CCBH); Founding Director, IRAAS**

**Professor Manning Marable**

Office: 1313 International Affairs Building; Phone: 212. 854.7002; Email: [mm247@columbia.edu](mailto:mm247@columbia.edu).

*\*Office appointments must be scheduled in advance by contacting Ms. Glenda Walker\**

**Administrative Assistant, CCBH**

**Ms. Glenda Y. Walker**

760 Schermerhorn Extension; Phone: 212.854.1489; Email: [gyw210@columbia.edu](mailto:gyw210@columbia.edu)

**Director, Graduate Program in African-American Studies**

**Professor Steven Gregory**

Office: 757 Schermerhorn Extension; Phone: 212. 854.4552; Email: [sg820@columbia.edu](mailto:sg820@columbia.edu)

**Director, Undergraduate Program in African-American Studies**

**Professor Mignon R. Moore**

Office: 320M Fayerweather Hall; Phone: 212.854.4358; Email: [mm1664@columbia.edu](mailto:mm1664@columbia.edu)

**Director of Research; Coordinator, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program**

**Professor Sudhir Venkatesh**

Office: 420 Fayerweather Hall; Phone: 212.854.4281; Email: [sv185@columbia.edu](mailto:sv185@columbia.edu)

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ADMINISTRATION**

**Dean**

Henry C. Pinkham  
109 Low Library  
(212) 854-2861; [Email: pinkham@math.columbia.edu](mailto:pinkham@math.columbia.edu)

**Assistant Dean for MA Programs**

Darice Birge  
102 Low Library  
(212) 854-5972; [deb3@columbia.edu](mailto:deb3@columbia.edu)

**Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs**

Beatrice Terrien-Somerville  
109 Low Library  
212. 854.5052; Email: [bt3@columbia.edu](mailto:bt3@columbia.edu)

**Assistant Dean of Student Affairs**

John Axcelson  
107 Low Library & 301 Philosophy Hall  
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**Assistant Dean for Admissions**

Robert Furno  
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**Director, Minority Affairs & Special Programs**

Sharon Gamble  
109 Low Library  
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**Director, Financial Aid**

Kerry Gluckmann  
107 Low Library  
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**Assistant Director, Financial Aid**

Sandra Peters  
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**Counselor, Financial Aid (Loans and Work-Study)**

Shawn Ramirez  
107 Low Library  
(212)854-3808; [sra468@columbia.edu](mailto:sra468@columbia.edu)

### **The Masters of Arts Program Overview**

Our Master of Arts Program is designed to provide students with a thorough grounding in the literature and research of African-American Studies, and enable them to produce critical analysis and research about the complex and historically specific experiences of Africans in the Americas. However, students will also be expected to demonstrate how those experiences have contributed to, and been shaped by, political, cultural and economic forces both nationally and globally.

For social service and health professionals who deliver services to African-American populations, the degree of Master of Arts in African-American Studies will enhance their understanding of the complex social, cultural and historical experiences of these communities, which will lead to more effective delivery of service.

For teachers or education administrators at the secondary or community college level, the degree of Master of Arts in African-American Studies will enhance their understanding of race relations between all actors in the school environment. It will also enable them to develop curricula and courses that address specific ethnic/racial groups who have been integral to the American experience and have contributed significantly to American culture.

For professionals engaged in producing cultural representations (encompassing everything from museum curators to advertising executives), the degree of Master of Arts in African-American Studies will enhance their understanding of the shared and unique social indices, historical experiences and the patterns and processes of culture of the people of African descent.

For students who plan to go on to complete a doctorate, the M.A. program can provide them with a solid foundation from which they can effectively pursue a Ph.D. program; and provide them with an area of expertise in African-American Studies that will serve as a basis for teaching and further research once they complete the doctorate.

Our graduate program builds on the unique synergy created between the Institute's programs and the Harlem community. The graduate students matriculating into the M.A. program are expected to participate in the ongoing lecture series and contribute to the proceedings of the conferences sponsored by the Institute. This promotes a critical exchange between our graduate students and our undergraduate majors, as well as the intellectuals, community leaders and social service providers who regularly attend the activities of the Institute. The faculty encourages and facilitates building relationships between our students and members of the Harlem community, so that students can develop community-based research projects.

### **Robeson Fellowship in African-American Studies 2005-2006**

The Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University is pleased to announce the Robeson Fellowships in African-American Studies, to our Master's Degree Program applicants for the academic year 2005-2006.

All applicants who submit their complete admissions application **prior to March 1** for fall admissions or **prior to October 1** for spring admissions to the M.A. Program in African-American Studies will be automatically considered for that year's Robeson Fellowship competition.

Robeson Fellows will be selected from the new matriculating class, based on their prior record of outstanding academic performance in their undergraduate school, their graduate records examination (GRE) scores, letters of recommendation, and the quality of their writing samples.

Each named Robeson Fellow shall be awarded a 50 percent reduction in all their tuition costs during their entire MA program, plus an additional stipend of one thousand dollars for books, research travel, and participation in academic conferences every year. All Robeson Fellows will also receive the opportunity for summer employment at the Institute while they are enrolled in the M.A. Program.

The Robeson Fellowship is named for a prominent African-American scholar who attended Columbia University, Paul Robeson (1898-1976). Born in Princeton, New Jersey, Paul Robeson studied and played football at Rutgers College (now University), where he was an All-American athlete and valedictorian. In 1923 he earned a degree from Columbia Law School, and was admitted to the Bar of New York. Yet Robeson gained most of his international stature as a popular actor and singer, and later as a human rights activist and author. Robeson's life-long commitment to the struggles on behalf of all oppressed people, his support for African independence, and his tireless advocacy of progressive causes, continue to inspire millions throughout the world.

Interested candidates for the Robeson-Hurston Fellowship must submit completed applications for admission to the African-American Studies M.A. Program ***prior to March 1, 2005***. The Robeson-Hurston Fellows will be notified within the following few weeks.

For further information concerning the Robeson-Hurston Fellowship for the M.A. Program in African-American Studies at Columbia University, please contact:

Mr. Shawn Mendoza, Assistant Director  
Institute for Research in African-American Studies-Columbia University  
1200 Amsterdam Avenue, Mail Code 5512  
New York, NY 10027

Telephone: 212.854.8789  
Facsimile: 212.854.7060  
Email: [sm322@columbia.edu](mailto:sm322@columbia.edu)

### M.A. REQUIREMENTS

To successfully complete the Master of Arts Degree in African-American Studies at Columbia University, students must (1) take a minimum of 30 points of graduate course credit, which includes an M.A. thesis; (2) pay for two full residence units; and (3) maintain at minimum a B (3.00) grade point average. The specific course work requirements for the M.A. Degree are as follows:

First, all students must take two courses that provide both a theoretical overview to the basic concepts in the study of race, and a detailed survey of some of the major texts examining the black experience. For academic year 2005-2006 students are **required** to take **two (2)** of these three courses:

- (1) African-American Studies G4520x. Race and the Articulation of Difference. 4 pts.  
Professor Steven Gregory.
- (2) African-American Studies G4510y. Critical Approaches to African-American Studies. 4 pts.  
Professor Manning Marable
- (3) African-American Studies G4990x. African-American Research Writing. 4pts Professor  
Sudhir Venkatesh

Second, as an interdisciplinary field of scholarship, African-American Studies includes research in the social sciences and humanities, examining topics and issues drawn from Africa, the Caribbean and the United States. M.A. students must therefore establish their expertise in the field by fulfilling the governed electives requirement. All students, regardless of their areas of concentration, must take at least one graduate level course in each of the following disciplines or areas: (1) history; (2) humanities (e.g., English and Comparative Literature, Art History); and (3) social and behavior sciences (e.g., Anthropology, Economics, Political Science and Sociology). At least one of these courses must focus primarily on Africa, the Caribbean or the African diaspora outside of the United States.

Third, all students must complete an “area of concentration,” a minimum of three additional courses beyond the governed electives requirement. The area of concentration may focus on: (1) a single discipline (such as History, Anthropology, or Sociology); (2) an interdisciplinary sub-field (such as Women and Gender Studies); (3) area studies (such as Africa or the Caribbean region); or (4) a set of related courses that lead to a professional or research career (such as archival and rare manuscript management, or oral history).

Fourth, all students must complete an M.A. thesis, African-American Studies G6999, under the supervision of the student’s concentration thesis adviser and the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Steven Gregory.

## M.A. REQUIREMENTS (cont-)

### *The Masters Thesis Requirement in African American Studies*

The Masters Thesis is a requirement for the M.A. degree in African American Studies. The thesis is a writing project of significant length (roughly 30 to 40 pages), requiring advance planning and substantial research. We suggest that you begin thinking about a thesis topic early in the program, at least two semesters before you intend to submit your thesis to petition to graduate. To advise you during the process of researching and writing your thesis, **you must select a thesis advisor** from among the core faculty members of our program.

Generally, your thesis advisor is someone who is familiar with your work (i.e., you have taken a course or an independent study with that faculty member), and whose research interests match the topic that you intend to work on (e.g., 20<sup>th</sup> century African American history, Black writers, or Urban politics).

In some cases, faculty members who are affiliated with the African American Studies can also serve as thesis advisors. You can discuss this option with the Director of Graduate Studies. You **must** register your thesis advisor with Dr. Gregory preferably the semester before the intended semester of graduation.

Toward the completion of the thesis, you must enroll in Thesis Research (G6999), an independent research tutorial that is supervised by your faculty advisor. In this course, your advisor will work closely with you to develop your topic, a research methodology, as well as develop a writing strategy and schedule.

We recommend that you take “Thesis Research AFAS G6999 Section 001” the semester before you intend to graduate. The thesis **is due on April 15** if you intend to graduate in May. The thesis **is due on August 15** if you intend to graduate in October.

For example, if you plan to graduate in May, we recommend that you enroll in the thesis tutorial during the *preceding* fall semester.

\*Your completed thesis will be reviewed and graded by your thesis advisor and by a “second reader,” a faculty member in our program who will also evaluate your thesis and recommend a grade. The selection of the second reader will be made by your thesis advisor.

Your thesis must conform to accepted standards for scholarly writing, with respect to citations, references and bibliography. If you have questions regarding these standards and, more generally, the required format for M.A. theses, contact the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Steven Gregory [sg820@columbia.edu](mailto:sg820@columbia.edu) or 212-854-7034.

Finally, when you satisfy the requirements for the degree, you **must** submit a completed Application for Degree Conferment to the Office of the University Registrar. Participation in the graduation ceremony and degree conferment cannot occur until all of the requirements for the degree have been satisfied.

## FULFILLING THE M.A. REQUIREMENTS

*\*Please remember: the Director of Graduate Studies must approve all courses that students select to satisfy degree requirements.*

**SAMPLE:** Typical curriculum for a part-time M.A. student completing all degree requirements in four (4) semesters

### FALL SEMESTER, *First Year (one half residence unit)*

- 1) African-American Studies G4500X: “Race and the Articulation of Difference.” or African-American Studies G4990X “African-American Research Writing”
- 2) Governed Elective Requirement\*
- 3) Governed Elective Requirement \*

### SPRING SEMESTER, *First Year (one half residence unit)*

- 1) African-American Studies G4510y: “Critical Approaches to African-American Studies
- 2) Governed Elective Requirement \*

### FALL SEMESTER, *Second Year (one half residence unit)*

- 1) Area of Concentration Course.
- 2) Area of Concentration Course.
- 3) African-American Studies G6999: “Thesis Research.”

### SPRING SEMESTER, *Second Year (one half residence unit)*

- 1) Area of Concentration Course.
- 2) Independent study or any optional course.

**SAMPLE:** Typical curriculum for a full-time M.A. student completing all degree requirements in two semesters might look like this:

### FALL SEMESTER, **(one residence unit)**

- 1) African- American Studies G4500X: “Race and the Articulation of Difference.” and/or African-American Studies G4990X. “African-American Research Writing.”
- 2) Governed Elective Requirement\*
- 3) Governed Elective Requirement\*
- 4) Area of Concentration Course
- 5) African-American Studies G6999: “Thesis Research.”

### SPRING SEMESTER, **(one residence unit)**

- 1) African-American Studies G4510y: “Critical Approaches to African-American Studies.”
- 2) Governed Elective Requirement –
- 3) Area of Concentration Course.
- 4) Area of Concentration Course.
- 5) Independent Study or any optional course.

**Governed Electives:** (1) History; (2) humanities (e.g., English and Comparative Literature, Art History); and (3) social and behavior sciences (e.g., Anthropology, Economics, Political Science and Sociology)

### **IRAAS Thesis Travel and Research Award**

The Institute provides Travel and Research Awards for African-American Studies M.A. students to attend academic conferences in & outside of New York City and to do field or archival research related to the MA thesis. All applications for funds are reviewed and approved by the M.A. Program Director, in consultation with other faculty members as is judged necessary.

The maximum amount of funds any individual student may apply for, for all purposes which include registration, travel, meals and hotel for participation in academic conferences, field and archival research, etc. during an academic year (September 1<sup>st</sup> – May 30<sup>th</sup>) and summer term (June 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>) is **\$750**. The amount awarded up to **\$750** is at the department's discretion. The department reserves the right to fund all, partial or none of a Travel and Research Request.

M.A. students completing their requirements in May, may not apply for funding that commence after they have submitted their thesis or after the last day of classes in the month of which they will graduate whichever comes first. M.A. students completing their requirements during the summer session may not apply for funding that commence after they have submitted their thesis or after the last day of classes for the summer session whichever comes first. M.A. students completing their requirements in October or February may not apply for funding that commence after they have submitted their thesis.

To apply for funds the student must submit a letter of request containing details about their travel and research plans; the relevance of their request to their thesis and an expenses breakdown which includes the total amount requested not to exceed **\$750**. For conferences please include flyers, email notifications, etc. giving the conference details. Applications for funds must be submitted no later than **four weeks** prior to the actual date of travel. All requests should be submitted to the M.A. Program Director and Assistant Director. Immediately after being awarded, see the Assistant Director, Shawn Mendoza [sm322@columbia.edu or 212.854-8789], to discuss fund proceeds, travel arrangements and other requirements regarding the awards process.

**Awards are not guaranteed and must meet the requirements above.**



### ADMISSIONS, FEES AND FINANCIAL AID

The admission standards and selection procedures are identical to those followed by the Graduate School for all of its M.A. Programs (except the Liberal Studies Program). Applicants must provide a writing sample, two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with their academic work and history, and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.

The deadline for the submission of completed applications for each **fall** semester's M.A. class is **March 1<sup>st</sup>**, although students with outstanding academic records may be considered and admitted after that date. The deadline for the submission of completed applications for each **spring** semester's M.A. class is **October 1<sup>st</sup>**, although students with outstanding academic records may be considered and admitted after that date. Applications can be picked up at the Graduate School, which is located at 107 Low Memorial Library. Application forms are also available electronically at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gsas/download.html>. They can also be requested by calling **212.854.4737**.

Most of our graduate students complete all of their requirements for the M.A. degree in African-American Studies in either three or four semesters (30 points and two full residence units). It is also possible to complete the M.A. degree in only two semesters, just nine months, by taking 15 points each semester. Some students who are employed full-time or part-time may find it more convenient to take a reduced course load, gradually completing their requirements over a period of two to three years. Students carrying a reduced course load of three courses may pay only one half residence unit. Fall 2005-Spring 2006 : Full Residence Unit \$15,724; Half Residence Unit \$8,518; Quarter Residence Unit \$4,922 per the Columbia Guide to Fees & Payments 2005-2006 which is available on line <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/sfs/> or contact the financial aid counselor mentioned below.

Like many Master's only degree programs at American universities, the M.A. in African-American Studies is self-funded by students who have been selected for admission into the program. They cover the costs of the tuition and related fees, usually through a combination of loans, work-study and personal savings. The Graduate School's financial aid counselor, **Ms. Shawn Ramirez**, can be contacted at **212.854.3808** or [sr468@columbia.edu](mailto:sr468@columbia.edu) and can assist you in educational financial planning.

For M.A. students interested in archival research, oral history, editing and digital knowledge technology, full-time employment as research assistants may be available during the summer months. For further information about summer research appointments, please contact Assistant Director Shawn Mendoza regarding position availabilities.

## REGISTRATION

### *Classes in Columbia University's School of Arts & Sciences:*

For information on how to register for class please visit <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/index.html>; call (212) 854-4330. The University Registrar has expanded the services and information available via the World Wide Web. This electronic format makes it easier to provide you with up-to-date information. Their web service will connect you to class schedule information updated daily including: Directory of Classes, Final Exams, your Courses and Grades (*need CUNIX ID & password*), Holds (*need CUNIX ID & password*), Check Account and Personal Information (*need CUNIX ID & password*), Academic Calendars, School Bulletins and Departmental Offerings. The Registrar's office is located at 205 Kent Hall.

### *Classes in Columbia University's other schools or affiliated institutions*

#### ▪ JOURNALISM SCHOOL:

- 1) GSAS students cannot take any Journalism course that is part of the core sequence. This includes, but may not be limited to any courses designated RWI or RWII, including Tools of the Modern Journalist, Critical Issues in Journalism, or any specialized Writing/Reporting Seminar under the J6010x listing.
- 2) For electives in Journalism, students should begin with the Registration form available at/outside of Columbia's Registrar's Office. Fill out form with course list information.
- 3) Take form to Journalism's Dean of Students in Journalism Hall Room 701B for signature approval.
- 4) Take form to Columbia's Registrar's Office (Kent 205) for registration.

#### ▪ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK & TEACHER'S COLLEGE:

- 1) Students should pick-up Registration form at Columbia's Registrar's Office (Room 205 Kent Hall) or on-line at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/docs/forms/add-drop.html>
- 2) Fill out form and get instructor's signature.
- 3) Return the form to the Registrar's Office and add the class.

#### ▪ LAW SCHOOL:

- 1) GSAS students may register for upperclass courses and/or seminars at the Law School by filling out a **cross-registration application form**. Students may pick up the cross-registration forms starting the last week of August from the Law School Office of Registration Services in Room 500 Warren Hall (115<sup>th</sup> & Amsterdam Avenue). Underclass courses are closed to GSAS students.
- 2) Students should take the form to the instructor of the class to get permission to register.
- 3) Bring the form back to the Law School Registration Services Office for their approval
- 4) Then the form must be given to the GSAS Registrar's Office (Room 205 Kent Hall) for registration.

### REGISTRATION (cont-)

▪ **SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (SIPA):**

- 1) There are three types of SIPA courses: *Limited Enrollment courses (which are closed to GSAS students)*; *Instructor Permission courses*, and *Open Enrollment courses*.
- 2) SIPA will post a course registration list on its web-site several weeks before the start of the semester. Courses will be listed in one of the three classifications at **[www.sipa.columbia.edu/registration](http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/registration)**
- 3) For *Instructor Permission courses*, GSAS students must fill out the on-line application available on SIPA's registration web-site by the posted deadline. Or, they can pick-up a hard copy form from SIPA's Student Services office, International Affairs Building 408.
- 4) For *Open Enrollment courses*, GSAS students can register via online or telephone. **However, if a class is full SIPA students have priority & GSAS students will not be allowed to register.**

**JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (JTS):**

- 1) Students would start with the Registration/Add-Drop form available at the Columbia Registrar's office or print the form from on-line at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/docs/forms/add-drop.html>
- 2) Take form to JTS course instructor for his/her approval.
- 3) Take form to the Institute for Research in African-American Studies for approval.
- 4) Take form to Columbia's Registrar's Office (205 Kent Hall) for registration.

▪ **UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (UTS):**

Columbia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has an agreement with Union Theological Seminary (UTS). This agreement will allow African American Studies students to take classes at UTS without paying extra tuition. Here is the sequence of steps for GSAS students who want to take classes at UTS:

- 1) Students would start with the Registration/Add-Drop form available at the Columbia Registrar's office or print the form from on-line at [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/enro\\_add\\_drop\\_form.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/enro_add_drop_form.html)
- 2) Students would fill out the form with the relevant course information (i.e. the name of the course, points, course number as it appears in the UTS catalogue). To find UTS courses online go to <http://www.uts.columbia.edu/aa/aa.html#coursebook> Then they would get the signature of the UTS course instructor.
- 3) The signature of Mr. David McDonagh, Director of Admissions & Registrar at UTS is required. Mr. McDonagh can be contacted at 212.280.1342 or [dmcdonagh@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:dmcdonagh@uts.columbia.edu). **Students must see Mr. McDonagh for his signature; they cannot simply drop off the form.** This is to guarantee that UTS has space in the class and will permit the student in.
- 4) The student must then take the add/drop form back to the Columbia Registrar (205 Kent Hall), and someone in the registrar's office creates a course number, call number, and listing in our system, and registers the student for the course & credit.

**COLUMBIA CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT**

Columbia University has a consortium arrangement with New York University, the New School for Social Research, the City University of New York Graduate School and Fordham University. Under this arrangement, doctoral students can take courses at these institutions. **However, this arrangement does not apply to Masters of Arts. students.**

## INFORMATION BEYOND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

### Advisors:

All graduate students are advised directly by Professor Steven Gregory, Director of the Graduate Program. They should also, **before the end of their first semester**, select a second advisor, usually a member of the African-American Studies faculty who serves as the primary sponsor of their M.A. thesis. Students should periodically consult with the Chair and their faculty sponsors throughout year.

### Communications:

All graduate students are responsible for providing their permanent and local mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email address to the Institute's administrative assistant, Ms. Sharon Harris {212.854.7080 or sh2004@columbia.edu}.

For students whose permanent address is not in the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey & Connecticut); they are advised to update their local mailing address & contact telephone numbers in their Student Services account once they have acquired local housing . This will eliminate important documents or letters the student may need urgently from not reaching them in a timely fashion during the semester.

Email accounts through ColumbiaNet will be set up at the beginning of the semester for all M.A. students by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. It is University policy to conduct all administrative email communication regarding University business through your Columbia email account. Checking your University email account is a priority & necessity. You may have your Columbia email forwarded to a personal email account for the ease of checking in one location. Please look on the Columbia computing pages for further information on this & other services. [http://www.columbia.edu/acis/accounts/Student\\_Accounts.html#cu\\_grad](http://www.columbia.edu/acis/accounts/Student_Accounts.html#cu_grad) or <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/accounts/create/>

### Mail and Announcements:

M.A. students should regularly check their mailboxes in room 758 Schermerhorn Extension for any correspondence, including announcements of Institute sponsored events.

### Study Space:

The Institute's seminar room in 758 Schermerhorn Extension, can be used to sit to read, study and/or hold informal conversations and meetings but must be reserved with Ms. Sharon Harris. Classes and meetings have first priority for the seminar room.

### International Students:

The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) assists international students with their questions about admission and placement, immigration matters and social and cultural activities, adjustment to a new academic and cultural environment, personal and family services and needs. They offer orientation programs in late August and September, and present a full calendar of events during the year. Over the summer the ISSO will mail international students information, forms, and visas. If you have any questions, you can contact the office at 212.854.3587 or [isso@columbia.edu](mailto:isso@columbia.edu). Please refer to the ISSO web site is: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/isso>.

## **INFORMATION BEYOND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES (cont-)**

### **Housing:**

Graduate student housing is handles by the Office of Institutional Real Estate-University Apartment Housing (UAH). If you would like to be considered for University housing, you must apply on-line at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ire>. The user name & pass code are assigned to you at admission and should be contained in your letter of admission.

Your application must first be approved by GSAS before the housing office is permitted to offer you housing. **All inquiries regarding the approval process only** should be directed to Mr. J. Craig Knobles (212) 854-2889 or [jck2@columbia.edu](mailto:jck2@columbia.edu) or Asst. Dean John Axcelson at (212) 854-3923 or [jwa2@columbia.edu](mailto:jwa2@columbia.edu)

All other inquiries regarding housing assignments, policies, and procedures should be addressed to UAH directly. To ascertain your application and assignment status, call the 24-hour automated system at 1-877-288-4196 (domestic) or 1-212-854-1616 (international).

The housing office is located at 400 W. 119th St. Between Amsterdam & Morningside Dr. and the phone number is 212.854.9300. For additional information regarding housing options please contact Marge Jordan, Coordinator of UAH at 212.854.9313 or [MJ9@columbia.edu](mailto:MJ9@columbia.edu).

### **ID Cards:**

You can pick up a student ID card from the ID office in 204 Kent Hall. To contact the office call 212.854.4323 or email [IDOffice@columbia.edu](mailto:IDOffice@columbia.edu). Every semester, you'll need to go to this office to obtain a new validation sticker. It will also allow you to check out books at any of the University libraries and use the gym. It will also give you free admission to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and other cool things (they'll give you a brochure when you get your ID).

### **Libraries:**

Students use their Columbia University ID's for access to the libraries. Butler library is the large liberal arts library right in the quad opposite Low Library (which is not actually a library). You may also need to visit the Social Work library, the Lehman Social Sciences library, the Business School library, the Health Sciences library, the Biology library, the Mathematics library, the Physics library, the Engineering library or the Teacher's College library. These libraries can be easily found on any Columbia University map. Your Columbia ID will get you in, but you will need a different kind of photocopy card to make your copies.

### **Career Services:**

Columbia University's Center for Career Services is available to all graduate students who need assistance with career development. Please contact the Center for Career Services in East Campus for more information 212.854.5609 or check their website at <http://careers.jrn.columbia.edu/>