



CALL FOR PAPERS

Shifting The Map Of Innovation And Reason: Focus On The Africana World

Africana Studies 2nd Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium

October 8th, 2010

James Madison University, 800 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22807, USA

Africa and its Diaspora as a space has been a center of research on political and economic crisis since 1960s, but seldom do we pay attention to it as a locale for educational, political, social, scientific, creative and other innovations. As a result, such innovations by and about Africana peoples of the world and particularly on the African continent have suffered colonial opulence and Westocentricism. Innovation in and on the Africana space can be discerned or contested in its culture: music, dance, stories, festivals (harvest, rites), etc; political advancement: social justice, democratization and constitutionalism; aesthetics: fabric and designs, hair and ornaments etc; social existence: community relations, relations between seniors and juniors, familial relations and responsibilities etc; religion; the ability to exist within multiple religious spaces at the same time and reinvention of or birth of new belief systems; economic sustenance and survival: partnerships, agricultural, commercial and subsistence; and global placement, especially in the realms of technology and health.

We are seeking papers, panels*, artistic renderings, posters and other presentations on the theme *Shifting the Map of Innovation and Reason: Focus on the Africana World*. We are especially interested in work by scholars from all disciplines, organizers and activists whose focus shifts the novelty, advances, and originality of Africana creativity, theories of social agency (gender and others), political organization, economic growth, educational progress and decolonization, among others.

Prospective speakers are invited to submit a 200-word proposal along with a cover note indicating the title, author's name, affiliation, telephone number and e-mail address to the organizers at muhonjbx@jmu.edu by 15th May 2010.

➤ *We welcome panel proposals for up to four presenters. A proposal should be provided for each presentation on the panel.*

Prof. Maurice Amutabi, Ph.D
Department of History,
Central Washington University,
400 University Way,
Ellensburg WA 98926