

AFRICAN STUDIES

In This Issue:

James S. Coleman

Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni

CML Past Lecturers

Faculty News: Kamari Clarke

Sanctuary Short Film

Upcoming Events

01

02

04

06

07

08



ABOUT THE JAMES S. COLEMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE



The Coleman Memorial Lecture is given in honor and memory of Professor James S. Coleman, the founder of the UCLA African Studies Center and a pioneer in the field of African Studies.

Coleman was born in Provo, Utah, to a Mormon family, son of Jacob Coleman and Allie Smoot Coleman. He graduated from Brigham Young High School in 1936. He enrolled in Brigham Young University, but interrupted his college education to join the U.S. Army in 1941, and achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel before resigning in 1946 after the end of World War II. Coleman received his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in 1947 and his master's (1948). He received a doctorate in (1953) from Harvard University. He was a teaching fellow at Harvard from 1949 to 1950, and again in 1953. In 1953, he became an instructor at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and soon was appointed as an assistant professor. In 1963 he was president of the African Studies Association.

Coleman was the first director of the UCLA African Studies Center from its founding in 1959 until 1965. From 1965 to 1978, Coleman spent over twelve years as a university administrator in Africa. First in 1965 he was Head of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Makerere University College at the University of East Africa in Uganda. In 1967 he moved to Kenya to assume the position as Director for the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi. Finally he went to the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. From 1967 to 1978, while in Africa, Coleman was an associate director of the Rockefeller Foundation and served as its representative for East Africa and Zaire.

Coleman returned to UCLA in 1978 as a full professor in political science and as chair of the UCLA Council on International and Comparative Studies (CICS). As head of CICS he was instrumental in leading the Southern California Consortium for International Studies from 1978 until his death in 1985. In 1984 he became the first director of UCLA's International Studies and Overseas Programs (ISOP) (now known as UCLA's International Institute). Coleman died in Los Angeles on 20 April 1985.

2021 COLEMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE IS
PRESENTED BY:



**SABELO J.
NDLOVU-GATSHENI**

CHAIR IN EPISTEMOLOGIES OF THE
GLOBAL SOUTH

UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, GERMANY

**JUNE 1, 2021 |
10 AM PDT
ZOOM
PRESENTATION
[REGISTER HERE](#)**

"THE DECOLONIAL INTELLECTUAL MOVEMENT AND ITS TURNS IN AFRICAN STUDIES"

On the 25th of October 2013, after over 60 years since the dawn of political independence in Africa, African scholars met in Ghana to launch the African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) whose mission is to advance Africa's own specific contributions to the advancement of knowledge about the peoples and cultures of Africa and the Diaspora. What does this tell us about African Studies in Africa? This lecture uses this new development as an entry point to the broader decolonial intellectual movement and its turns in African Studies. In the midst of numerous turns in humanities and social sciences, this lecture is focused on the colonial, nationalist, Marxist, and postcolonial turns as part of the decolonial intellectual movement in African Studies. The long decolonial turn has various other turns within it, and this lecture examines four of those which have directly impacted and shaped African Studies, beginning with the colonial turn which enabled the cognitive empire that continues to compromise the liberatory potential of African Studies. The core task at hand is to introduce the concept of the cognitive empire while unmasking invisible epicolonial dynamics in African Studies ranging from colonial imbrications and global imperial designs, the straitjacket of 'Area Studies,' to the current global economy of knowledge with its resilient uneven intellectual division of labour. The turns also enable engagement with complex internal ambiguities, ambivalences, and contradictions in the writing and rewriting of Africa. At the end, the lecture offers a decolonial framework informed by resurgent and insurgent decolonization of the twenty-first century and predicated on rethinking thinking itself in African Studies. The epistemic site of all these reflections is continental Africa, without necessarily ignoring the ever-present travelling ideas from the African Diaspora into the continent and from the continent into the Diaspora.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

[HTTPS://WWW.INTERNATIONAL.UCLA.EDU/ASC/EVENTS](https://www.international.ucla.edu/asc/events)

2021 COLEMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE IS
PRESENTED BY:

**SABELO J.
NDLOVU-GATSHENI**

CHAIR IN EPISTEMOLOGIES OF THE
GLOBAL SOUTH

UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH, GERMANY



Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni is a historian and decolonial/postcolonial theorist. His field of work comprises the decolonial/postcolonial theory, empire & colonialism, politics of knowledge and decolonization of higher education, Black radical tradition/Black Marxism, African history, African development and African political economy, Nguni history (Ndebele), and has fieldwork and archival experience in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Professor Ndlovu-Gatsheni has published over a hundred publications and some of his key publications include *Empire, Global Coloniality and African Subjectivity* (Berghahn Books, June 2013); *Coloniality of Power in Postcolonial Africa: Myths of Decolonization* (CODESRIA Book Series, 2013); *Mugabeism? History, Politics and Power in Zimbabwe* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015); *Decolonizing the University, Knowledge Systems and Disciplines* (Carolina Academic Press, 2016) co-edited with Siphamandla Zondi; *The Decolonial Mandela: Peace, Justice and Politics of Life* (Berghahn Books, 2016); *Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo of Zimbabwe: Politics, Power and Memory* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017); and *Epistemic Freedom in Africa: Deprovincialization and Decolonization* (Routledge, 2018). His latest publications include *Decolonization, Development and Knowledge in Africa: Turning Over a New Leaf* (Routledge, 2020); *The History and Political Transition of Zimbabwe: From Robert Mugabe to Mnangagwa* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020); and *Marxism and Decolonization in the 21st Century: Living Theories and True Ideas* (Routledge, July 2021).

Professor Ndlovu-Gatsheni is currently Professor and Chair of Epistemologies of the Global South with Emphasis on Africa at the University of Bayreuth in Germany and member of Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University at the same institution; Professor Extraordinarius in the Department of Leadership and Transformation (DLT) at the University of South Africa (UNISA); Professor Extraordinarius at the Centre for Gender and African Studies at the University of Free State (UFS) in South Africa; Honorary Professor in the School of Education (Education & Development Studies) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in South Africa; Visiting Research Fellow at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS) at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in South Africa; Research Associate of the Department of Political Science at the University of Pretoria (UP) in South Africa; and Research Associate of The Ferguson Centre for African and Asian Studies at The Open University in the United Kingdom.



The 2020 Coleman Memorial Lecture-

WORRYING THE MASK: THE POLITICS OF AUTHENTICITY AND CONTEMPORANEITY IN THE WORLDS OF AFRICAN ART

In this uniquely-curated Performance-Lecture-Film, artist Zina Saro-Wiwa navigated the moral, philosophical and cultural conundrums that arise from the very existence of contemporary traditional African art. A large part of Saro-Wiwa's artistic practice explores the masquerade traditions of Ogoniland, her ancestral ethnic group from the Niger Delta. Yet Saro-Wiwa's hybrid identity has forced her to consider how African masks live both in the West and in Africa and how these African art worlds impact one another. In "Worrying the Mask," Saro-Wiwa challenges the call for the restitution of African art by privileging storytelling over geographical location. She exposes the desires and limitations of Ogoni storytelling to ask whether an object can represent a people at all. And she elucidates how contemporaneity informs the genre of "contemporary traditional African art," suggesting that our attempts to understand and explain it may require a radical ontological shift.

PAST LECTURERS

The 2019 Coleman Memorial Lecture-

THE POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION—A REFLECTIVE JOURNEY AND DANCE ABOUT THE EPISTEMOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF AFRICAN GENDER HISTORY

UCLA alumna and award winning, critically acclaimed, feminist scholar Professor Nwando Achebe delivered the 2019 James S. Coleman Memorial Lecture on the intersections of performance art, history and self-knowledge centering women titled, "The Politics of Knowledge Production—A Reflective Journey and Dance about the Epistemology and Practice of African Gender History."

In this lecture, Nwando Achebe details her personal journey into becoming an Africanist and gender historian. Along the way, she considers questions relating to the ownership and production of Africanist knowledge; while highlighting several influential interpretive voices that have shaped received canon in ways that are at best, problematic; and at worst, Eurocentric. These voices have worked to interrupt and/or disrupt true understanding and knowing about African women and gender. She ends by offering up her own African- and gender-centered intervention into existing discourse and production of history.



Achebe is the Jack and Margaret Sweet Endowed Professor of History, founding editor-in-chief of the *Journal of West African History*, and a multi-award-winning author based at Michigan State University. Her research interests involve the use of oral history in the study of women, gender, and sexuality in Nigeria.

In 1996 and 1998, Achebe served as a Ford Foundation and Fulbright-Hays Scholar-in-Residence at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Subsequently, she received her Ph.D. from UCLA in 2000. Achebe has since authored six books and numerous other publications. Notably, Achebe's second book, *The Female King of Colonial Nigeria: Ahebi Ugbabe* is the winner of three book awards and is a full-length critical biography of the only female warrant chief and king in British Africa. Achebe has received several prestigious grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, Wenner-Gren, Woodrow Wilson, Fulbright-Hays, Ford Foundation, World Health Organization, and National Endowment for the Humanities, to list a few.

2021 GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIP

AWARDED TO

KAMARI CLARKE

UCLA led all universities and academic institutions in 2021 with eight professors selected to receive fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Created in 1925 by Simon and Olga Guggenheim in memory of their son John Simon

Guggenheim, the foundation has offered fellowships to exceptional individuals in pursuit of scholarship in any field of knowledge and creation in any art form, under the freest possible conditions.

This year the foundation awarded fellowships to 184 American and Canadian scientists and scholars in the social sciences and humanities, as well as writers and artists of all kinds selected via a rigorous peer-review process from almost 3,000 applicants.



Kamari Clarke is a professor in the Anthropology Department and a member of the African Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee.

Kamari Clarke has more than 20 years of experience conducting research on issues related to legal institutions, human rights and international law, religious nationalism and the politics of race and globalization. One of her key contributions to her various disciplines has been to demonstrate ethnographically the ways that religious and legal-knowledge regimes produce practices that are adopted on a global scale.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HTTPS://NEWSROOM.UCLA.EDU/STORIES/UCLA-PROFESSORS-AWARDED-2021-GUGGENHEIM-FELLOWSHIPS](https://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/ucla-professors-awarded-2021-guggenheim-fellowships)

PREMIERING SANCTUARY SHORT FILM

"ANTI-BLACKNESS: TRANSATLANTIC WORLDS OF ABOLITION"

The UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy, on behalf of Sanctuary Spaces organizers is sharing their first Sanctuary Short, "Anti-Blackness: Transatlantic Worlds of Abolition", featuring Vanessa E. Thompson, João H. Costa Vargas, Lorgia García Peña, Shana L. Redmond, Eddie Bruce-Jones, and Françoise Vergès.

Filmed in the time of global pandemic, each Sanctuary Short is a conceptual conversation with distinguished scholars whose work is rooted in freedom struggles. Anti-Blackness: Transatlantic Worlds of Abolition is accompanied by this wonderful toolkit curated by graduate student researchers, Zach Mondesire and Kali Tambreé.

In hopes of pedagogical organization and circulation, use this link <https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/abolition-on-stolen-land/#sanctuary-shorts> to watch and share this film.

Join us!

Visit our website for more information!

<https://www.international.ucla.edu>

Andrew Apter, Director
Erica Anjum, Deputy Director
Sheila Breeding, Budget & Program Manager
Cristina Williams, Student Assistant

African Arts Journal
Leslie Ellen Jones, Editor
Eva Howard, Publications Manager