

# **The Dynamics of Africology (Pan African, African American, Black, Afro- American, and African Diaspora Studies) in Academia**

by

guest editor

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**T**his special edition of *The Journal of Pan African Studies*, a peer reviewed publication, explores the dynamics of Africology (Pan African, African American, Black, Afro-American and African Diaspora Studies) within modern academia. The authors investigate many of the philosophical, conceptual, structural and ideological arguments that undergird research within Africology. As the discipline of Africology develops into an autonomous academic entity, it is essential that scholars of the discipline continue to revisit and formulate new argumentation arguments based on the nature of this dynamic academic discipline. Most of the contributors herein are current students and recent graduates of the first Ph.D. program in African American Studies at Temple University, and have thus added new dimensions to old and reoccurring arguments essential in the process of discipline construction.

Carroll's "Africana Studies and Research Methodology: Revisiting the Centrality of the Afrikan Worldview," investigates the central role that the Afrikan worldview has played within the historical development of Afrikan-centered research within certain schools of thought in Africana Studies. As an attempt to advance a discipline-specific methodology within Africana Studies, Carroll argues that we must continuously engage the philosophical issues which undergird the autonomous academic entity that we refer to as Africana Studies, and by extension, Africology.

Similarly, Sekmet Ra Em Kht Maat's "An Essay on God as the Bicameral Mind: Implications for Africological Research," engages the initial arguments around Afrocentricity and Afrology (Africology) made by Molefi Kete Asante. Maat's critical investigation of Asante's arguments attempts to advance an expansive discussion of an Afrocentric philosophical framework that moves beyond location and/or subject/agent theories.

"There's No Place like 'Home': Mining the Theoretical Terrain of Black Women's Studies, Black Queer Studies and Black Studies" by Kaila Adia Story engages the important intersection between Black Studies, Black Women's Studies and Black Queer Studies. Most importantly, Story advances the argument that "home" is Black Studies and it is in the interest of scholars within the discipline to move beyond their sexist and heterosexist boundaries that have historically been stumbling blocks for the development of a wholistic analysis of Africana life, history and culture. Yaba Amgborale Blay's "All the 'Africans' are Men, all the "Sistas" are "American," but Some of Us Resist: Realizing African Feminism(s) as an Africological Research Methodology," critically investigates questions of feminism within Africological research. While acknowledging the manifestation of these discussions within continental North America among African descended women, Blay argues that the voices of continental African women have been systematically left out of this dialogue. Ultimately, Blay argues that inclusion of the voices of continental African women will lead to our ability to accurately address questions of gender within the African world community.

Next, the question of subject/content areas within Africology is investigated through the lens of Black psychology. DeReef Jamison's "Through the Prism of Black Psychology: A Critical Review of Conceptual and Methodological Issues in Africology as Seen Through the Paradigmatic Lens of Black Psychology," is a social and intellectual history of Black psychology. The strength of Jamison's discussion is his ability to clarify what some have constructed as distinct schools of thought and ideological perspectives, within this foundational subject/content area of the discipline. Furthermore, Jamison's linkage of Black psychology to Black Studies reflects the important connections that must continuously be cemented as we attempt to navigate interdisciplinary intellectual spaces.

This special edition also includes two important interviews with key thinkers who have shaped the discipline. Itibari M. Zulu (Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Pan African Studies*) interviewed Molefi Kete Asante (Professor of African American Studies at Temple University) posing important questions on Asante's most recent developments in Africological research. Zulu and Carroll's interview of James Stewart (Professor of African/African American Studies & Labor and Industrial Relations at Pennsylvania State University) focuses upon the recent publication of *Introduction to African American Studies: Transdisciplinary Approaches and Implications*. Finally, our special edition includes a book review of *White Money/Black Power: The Surprising History of African American Studies and the Crisis of Race in Higher Education*, reviewed by Ibram Rogers, a Ph.D. student at Temple University.

All of the issues that the articles, interviews and book review engages are essential points of departure as we continue to advance Africana/African American/Black/Pan African and African Diaspora Studies as an academic discipline. As the discipline continues to develop, it will be essential that its practitioners continue in their production of discipline-specific scholarship, as exemplified in this special issue.