

National Conference on African/Black Psychology: The Life & Work of Dr. Amos N. Wilson, October 14-15, 2011



The second National Conference on African/Black Psychology is dedicated to the life's work of Amos N. Wilson. Wilson was a scholar/activist who heeded the call of Bolekaja, which means to come on down and fight. Wilson wrote several books including: *The Developmental Psychology of the Black Child* (NY: Africana Research Publications, 1978), *The Falsification of Afrikan Consciousness: Eurocentric History, Psychiatry and the Politics of White Supremacy* (NY: Afrikan World InfoSystems, 1993), *Awakening the Natural Genius of Black Children* (NY: Afrikan

World InfoSystems, 1992), *Black-on-Black Violence: The Psychodynamic of Black Self-Annihilation in Service of White Domination* (NY: Afrikan World InfoSystems, 1990), *Understanding Black Male Adolescent Violence: Its Prevention and Remediation* (NY: Afrikan World InfoSystems, 1992), and *Blueprint for Black Power: A Moral, Political and Economic Imperative for the Twenty-First Century* (NY: Afrikan World InfoSystems, 1998).

Given his unwavering commitment and dedication to a psychology of liberation for African people, Wilson centered his focus on psycho-historical and social analysis that sought to not only interpret and understand Africana realities under Western oppression, but to ultimately change them. Thus, in the spirit of Amos Wilson, the conference will attempt to challenge African-centered psychologists to continue the task of offering models of psychological functioning that demonstrate how the acquiring of cultural consciousness translates into practical solutions that impact the social, economic and political conditions confronting people of African descent. The conference will engage the sociological, psychological, historical, educational, literary, political or economic analyses, critiques, and/or applications of the works of Dr. Amos Wilson: (1) *The Falsification of Afrikan Consciousness: Eurocentric History, Psychiatry and the Politics of White Supremacy*, (2) *Awakening the Natural Genius of Black Children*, (3) *Black-on-Black Violence: The Psychodynamic of Black Self-Annihilation in Service of White Domination*, (4) *Understanding Black Male Adolescent Violence*, and (5) *Blueprint for Black Power: A Moral, Political and Economic Imperative for the Twenty-First Century*. For more information, contact: DeReef F. Jamison or M. Denise Lovett at africanblackpsychconference@gmail.com.

Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization: Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

**Multiculturalism and the Prospects for Africa
and African Diaspora Development,
State University of Bahia, Salvador Bahia, Brazil,
November 8-10 2011**

Introduction

Many of the intractable problems of nation-building and national development in Africa centre around the inability of States to accommodate and manage primordial differences accentuated by slave trade, colonialism, neo-colonialism, westernization, foreign religion and globalization. No doubt, these have hindered the possibilities of harnessing the gains of Africa's rich multicultural heritage.

Multiculturalism essentially refers to the appreciation, acceptance and promotion of multiple cultures within a society, though the debate is yet to be resolved. The effective management of diversity can enhance accelerated growth and development. However, the reality in Africa is different. Although, the continent has the largest concentration of ethnic nationalities in the world (with some countries having over three hundred ethnic groups), regrettably, the manipulation and failure of the management of pluralism in the continent is a major factor engendering developmental challenges such as chronic poverty, decaying infrastructure, infant and maternal mortality, preventable diseases, communal violence, internecine and secessionist conflicts which have continued to have negative consequences on the lives of people in Africa and the Diaspora.

Again, Africans and African descendants in the Diaspora have been at the receiving end of racial discrimination, identity crisis and are victims of economic, social, political and cultural marginalization. It is in recognition of and the need to address the above that the United Nations declared the Year 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent. Given this background, the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC), Nigeria, in conjunction with the Pan-African Strategic and Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG), Nigeria; the Special Secretariat for the Promotion of Policies on Racial Equality (SEPPPIR), the Presidency, Brazil; the State University of Bahia; Bahia State Cultural Secretariat (SECUT); the Palmares Cultural Foundation and the Pedro Calmon Foundation is organizing its 7th International Conference on the theme:

“Multiculturalism and the Prospects for Africa and African Diaspora Development”. The conference to be held at the State University of Bahia, Salvador Bahia, Brazil November 8-10 2011 is expected to bring together Pan-Africanists, historians, academics, activists and other experts within Africa and the Diaspora.

Objectives

- i. To examine the extent to which multiculturalism has promoted or hindered development in Africa;
- ii. To promote research and scholarship on multiculturalism in Africa and the Diaspora;
- iii. To foster understanding of the relationship between multiculturalism and identity politics in Africa and the African Diaspora;
- iv. To enhance the understanding of Africa’s multiculturalism and how it could be explored and utilized for development.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of the Conference:

- i. Attention would have been drawn to the multidimensional aspects of multiculturalism in Africa and the Diaspora;
- ii. Platform would have been provided for harnessing the gains of cultural pluralism for sustainable development in Africa;
- iii. Lessons would have been learnt from the management of cultural diversities across the globe in order to attenuate the spate of ethnic and religious conflicts that have ravaged and still ravage Africa;
- iv. Appropriate strategies would have been developed for safeguarding and promoting minority cultures in Africa and the Diaspora.

Subthemes

- i. Conceptual, Theoretical and Methodological Concerns;
- ii. Ideological and Historical Issues;
- iii. Ethnicity and Identity Politics;
- iv. Spirituality and Religion in Global African Communities;
- v. Indigeneship and Citizenship;
- vi. Gender, Affirmative Action, Human Rights and Equality;
- vii. Globalization and the New World Order;
- viii. Multiculturalism, Migration, Environment and Climate Change;
- ix. African Memory in the Diaspora;

- x. Multiculturalism, Global African Cultural Values and Social Problems;
 - xi. Multiculturalism, Education, Knowledge, Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Social Capital;
 - xii. Institutions, Organizations and Social Movements in Africa and the Diaspora;
 - xiii. Cultural and Linguistic Pluralism, the Media, Music, Fashion and the Arts in Africa and the Diaspora;
 - xiv. Nations, Nationalism and Integrations in Africa and the African Diaspora;
 - xv. Governance, Policies and the Management of Pluralism;
- All abstracts should include title, the author(s) name, institutional affiliation, address, telephone number and email address. All abstracts must not be more than 300 words.

Abstracts for consideration which must be in electronic format should be received not later than 15th June, 2011 by all of the following individuals:

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2. akinalao@rocketmail.com
3. isholawilliams@yahoo.com
4. ibraheem_muheeb@yahoo.com

Authors whose abstracts are accepted would be notified not later than 15th of July, 2011 while all papers for presentation must be received in electronic format not later than 15th August, 2011.

Financial Support

While the conference is open, participants are encouraged to seek funding from other sources. The official languages of the conference are: English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.



Pan African Solidarity: Haitian University Students Welcomed in Senegal

The Republic of Senegal welcomed 163 Haitian university students in Dakar, Senegal in October 2010. The students will attend one of three universities in Senegal on full scholarships from the government of Senegal.

The President of Senegal, Abdoulaye Wade, offered them free education after an earthquake devastated the Republic of Haiti (République d'Haïti; Repiblik Ayiti) in January. The government of Senegal was swift to offer aid to Haiti in the earthquake's aftermath this January, committing \$1 million in emergency relief as well as offering land to Haitians who wanted to relocate to Senegal.

President Abdoulaye Wade addressed the students upon their arrival at a ceremony at the foot of his recently-inaugurated African Renaissance Monument, a 146 feet tall bronze statue overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, unveiled in April.

Wade called the students' arrival an act of "Pan African solidarity" and that their presence marks the return of young Haitians to the land of their ancestors, which is a resounding victory for Africa. Continuing, he also said that others have returned to Africa, but only to return to a land still dominated by outside forces, but today, they are returning freely to an independent Africa in control of its destiny.

Goodwill Ambassador Danny Glover visits Cuba to Support people of African Descent



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UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Danny Glover expressed his support for Afro-descendant peoples of the Americas in Havana, Cuba.

by Arsenio Garcia

HAVANA, Cuba, 20 June 2011 – UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and internationally acclaimed actor Danny Glover visited Havana last week to attend the opening session of the regional workshop entitled ‘Cuba and the Afro-Descendant Peoples of the Americas’.

The UNICEF-supported event was organized by the Juan Marinello Cuban Institute for Cultural Research in connection with the International Year for People of African Descent.

A memorable gathering.

Upon arrival to Havana, Mr. Glover visited the National Folklore Ensemble, where he witnessed a music and dance workshop established with boys, girls and adolescents to help preserve their African inheritance.

“The work is extraordinary, wonderful. It’s what many cultural institutions in the world should do,” Mr. Glover said. “As a Goodwill Ambassador, I must say that I feel proud that UNICEF supports this type of initiative. We cannot talk about the transformations that are taking place in Latin America without regard for the African influence.”

During his trip, Mr. Glover and the other members of the delegation were met at the headquarters of ‘La Colmenita’ by company director Carlos Alberto “Tin” Cremata, and given an impromptu performance by members of the troupe.



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During his visit to Havana, Cuba, Danny Glover visited the headquarters of 'La Colmenita', where a dance troupe performed for the visiting delegation.

UNICEF Permanent Representative in Cuba José Juan Ortiz Brú welcomed the workshop participants and thanked them for their advocacy efforts in support of the rights of Afro-descendants and excluded populations.

“It is a real privilege that Danny Glover and James Early are here with us, once again, in the process of reasserting the values of African culture in Cuba, Latin America and the Caribbean,” said Mr. Ortiz Brú.

Supporting Afro-descendant populations

The workshop – attended by a large number of intellectuals, academics and leaders of African descent from North America, Latin America and the Caribbean – was sponsored by the Juan Marinello Cuban Institute for Cultural Research and the Ministry of Culture of Cuba.

At it, a UN panel – composed of representatives from UNICEF, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UN Population Fund, UN Women, and led by the Office of the Resident Coordinator – highlighted the major commitment by each of the organizations in supporting Afro-descendant populations, which are highly excluded in many countries of the world and in the Americas in particular.



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Danny Glover met with children and adolescents during his trip to the 'Cuba and the Afro-Descendant Peoples of the Americas' workshop in Havana, Cuba.

“We in the United Nations are convinced that diversity is wealth; it is culture and development,” said Bárbara Pesce-Monteiro, UN Resident Coordinator in Cuba. “We are also aware that a single year is not enough to resolve injustices and strengthen the commitment to this issue of Afro-descendants – an idea whose origin goes back to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

Combating discrimination

Concluding the event, Ana Carolina Querino, Regional Coordinator of the Gender, Race and Poverty Programme of UN Women, spoke about the lack of value placed on African culture and heritage across the continent.

“In the education of our countries, children and adolescents are not fairly trained in the possibility of having a positive image of their identity as Afro-descendants,” she said.

In the Caribbean, approximately 70 per cent of the population is of African descent. Despite accounting for a sizable percentage of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean, populations of African descent are the ones hardest hit by discrimination and the violation of their rights.