Thinking Black Intellectuals

Friday, February 5th – Saturday, February 6th, 2010
University of Rochester, Rush Rhees Library: Hawkins-Carlson Room

5th February:

9:30 am Coffee Service for all Conference attendees
10:00 - 10:15 am Introduction: Grant Farred (Africana Studies & English, Cornell University; Editor, South Atlantic Quarterly)
10:15 - 10:30 am Welcome to Conference Participants
   Tom DiPiero, Senior Associate Dean of Humanities—College of Arts, Sciences, & Engineering; Professor—Modern Languages & Cultures, University of Rochester
10:30 am - Noon Session I: Literature
   • Stephanie Li (English, University of Rochester)
     “Performing Intimacy Using ‘Race-Specific, Race-Free Language’: Black Private Letters in the Public Sphere”
   • Jeffrey Tucker (English, University of Rochester)
     “The Necessity of Models, of Alternatives: Samuel R. Delany’s Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand”
   • Moderator and Respondent: Sharon Willis (Film & Media Studies, University of Rochester)
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Session II: Philosophy
   • Olúfemí Táiwò (Philosophy & Global African Studies, Seattle University)
     “‘The Love of Freedom Brought Us Here’: An Introduction to Modern African Political Philosophy”
   • Grant Farred (Africana Studies & English, Cornell University)
     “Denn keiner trägt das Leben allein”: The Thought of St. Augustine
   • Moderator and Respondent: Cilas Kemedjio (Modern Languages & Cultures, University of Rochester)
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Coffee Service for all Conference attendees
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Session III: Cultural Studies
   • Ashley Dawson (English, CUNY Graduate Center)
     “Climate Justice: The Emerging Movement against Green Capitalism”
   • Marlon Ross (English, University of Virginia)
     “An Anatomy of the Race Icon: Joe Louis as Fetish-Idol in Postmodern America”
   • Moderator and Respondent: A. Joan Saab (Art & Art History, Graduate Program in Visual & Cultural Studies, University of Rochester)

6th February:

10:00 am Coffee Service for all Conference attendees
10:30 am - 12:30 pm Session IV: History
   • David Roediger (History & African American Studies, University of Illinois)
     “A White Intellectual among Thinking Black Intellectuals: George Rawick and the Settings of Genius”
   • Judith Byfield (Africana Studies, Cornell University)
     “Finding Voice, Giving Voice: Gender, Politics, and Social Change”
   • Ben Carrington (Sociology, University of Texas at Austin)
     “Improbable Grounds: The Emergence of the Black British Intellectual”
   • Moderator and Respondent: Larry Hudson (History, University of Rochester)
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Session V: Meditations and Responses
   • Valentin Y. Mudimbe (Program in Literature, Duke University)
     “Masques Aux Quatre Points”: A Meditation
   • Respondent: John Michael (English & Visual & Cultural Studies, University of Rochester)
   • Moderator: Victoria Wolcott (History, University of Rochester)
3:30 pm Closing Remarks: Jeffrey Allen Tucker (English, University of Rochester)