



CALL FOR PAPERS
Southern Interdisciplinary Roundtable on African Studies (SIRAS)
March 25-28, 2010
Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY 40601, USA

HARMONIZING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE AFRICAN-DIASPORA AND AFRICANS DURING THE OBAMA ERA

Blacks, whether in Africa, Europe, Asia or the Americas have had a unique history and development. In the course of their experiences, they have met with hostilities, violence, wars, and destruction, all of which impacted their psyche and environment. Although some of these challenges were caused externally, a lot have internal origins, arising due to personal, national, societal and territorial ambitions. For example, although the Atlantic slavery had an external push arising out of the Europeans' economic interest, there were equally internal mechanisms which promoted the trade in humans and devastated the environment. An instance of intent is the quoted statement of the African anti-abolitionist, Nzinga Mbemba of Southern Africa, who intoned, "You cannot stop a cat 'mousing,' I must die with a slave in my mouth." Although typically, Blacks born in the Diaspora and African-born immigrants have had a fairly good relationship, there are instances where these associations are marked with latent hostile feelings. Significant collaborations have not been achieved, making one wonder whether the existing peace and harmony are not simply the "peace of the graveyard."

In light of the recent positive developments in America and the world, and also within the black people's world, the roundtable, therefore, invites papers and debates that would address these issues, problems, challenges, and difficulties. It invites discussions on the overt and covert reasons for seemingly negative and hostile associations between the Africans and African-Diaspora in general and Africans and African-Americans in particular at the personal and professional levels. It is entirely appropriate at this juncture of our global history to rethink and re-conceptualize our relations at all levels of analysis. In this globalized world where no one walks alone, the conference is also interested in peace issues as they affect relationships of blacks to other peoples: Whites, Asians, Latinos, Arabs et cetera. We invite papers from all perspectives and disciplines so long as they underscore or elicit principles and patterns of relationships and peaceful coexistence, the aim being to harmonize relationships of all peoples and societies. Conference participants will be drawn from various universities and countries. The Roundtable will continue to feature students' research, giving them an opportunity to present their work in a professional setting as well as interact with other students and scholars.

REGISTRATION FEES

The conference registration fee is \$85.00. A late registration fee of \$90.00 will apply after Feb. 28. The fee includes all program materials, refreshments, transportation, and the Saturday night banquet. The **student registration fee is \$40.00** (with proper identification). Please make checks payable to African Studies Conference.

INVITED SPEAKERS:

Dr. Faida Mitifu, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the United States; Dr. Reginald S. Avery, President, Coppin State University (CSU), Baltimore, MD.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Abstract: 200-250 words; deadline for submission: **Feb. 28, 2010**. Select conference papers will be published. *Proposals should include author's name, address, telephone, email address, and institutional affiliation.* Submit all abstracts to Dr. Egbunam Amadife, Director of SIRAS, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Ph.: 502/597-5922; fax 597-5830, egbunam.amadife@ksu.edu

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

All hotels are located within two miles of the University. Bus service to and from the hotels will be provided. When you book your reservation, please mention "African Studies Conference" for SIRAS rates by Feb 15. There are other hotels, but these are our preferences: **Hampton Inn:** 502/223-7600 (\$89); **Capital Plaza Hotel** (formally Holiday Inn): 502/227-5100 (\$75); **Fairfield Inn:** 502-695-8881 (\$84); **Holiday Inn Express:** 502/352-4650 (\$85); **Americas Best Value Inn:** 502-875-3220 (\$45)

NOTE: The banquet will be at the Capital Plaza; hotel rates are guaranteed through February 16, 2010.

Kentucky State University is a small, public, liberal studies institution located in central Kentucky, c. 26 miles west of Lexington, c. 52 miles east of Louisville, and c. 96 miles south of Cincinnati; from each respective city's airport, KSU is c. 20 minutes', one hour's, and 90 minutes' drive.

REGISTRATION FORM

Paper title: _____

Name: _____

Institution/ Department: _____

Address of institution: _____

Work phone: _____ Home phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Home address: _____



