International Colloquium XI

TREES TAKE US TO THE GODS
VODOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT

KOSANBA 2015

in conjunction with the 27th annual Haitian Studies Association conference
La Maison de la Culture and Université de Montréal, Québec, Canada
Wednesday, October 21–Thursday, October 22, 2015
KOSANBA 2015

TREES TAKE US TO THE GODS: VODOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT

This conference is dedicated to
Dr. Karen McCarthy Brown and Ati Max G. Beauvoir

DAY ONE
WEDNESDAY, October 21
La Maison de la Culture
5290 Chemin de la Côte des Neiges

8:00 Registration

8:30–8:45 Opening
Jacqueline Epingle, Founding Member
Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, President
Claudine Michel, Executive Director

8:45–10:15 SESSION 1 — Memory, History, and Resistance in Vodou and Haitian Literature
Chair: Florence Bellande-Robertson


K. Zauditu-Selassie, “A Gathering of Trees: An Eco-critical Examination of Memory, Trauma, and Renewal in African Diasporic Literature”

10:15–10:30 BREAK
10:30–12:00  SESSION 2 — Nature and the Communion of Spirits

Chair: Toni Pressley-Sanon

Mariana Goyoechea, “Ainsi parlèrent les lwa: Water Dreams, Female Lwa, and Ancestors in Elsie Augustave’s *The Roving Tree*”


Elana Jefferson-Tatum, “The Kola Tree and the Initiate: Towards an African Vodoun Philosophy of Personhood”

12:00–1:00  LUNCH BREAK

1:00–2:30  SESSION 3 — Locating Contemporary Iterations of Practice, Identity Making, and Healing in Vodou and Lukumi Religion

Chair: Liesl Picard

Mamyrah Dougé-Prosper, “Collective Identity-making in Social Movement Work: Framing Vodou as the Past, Present, and Future”


Martin Tsang, “The Transmission of Community, Spirit and Healing: Asojano in Lukumi Practice”

2:30–4:00  SESSION 4 — Mythic Boars, Belly Buttons, Artist Colonies, and Vodou’s Vanishing Forests

Chair: Grete Viddal

Kyrah Malika Daniels, “Ritual Centers and Sacred Burials: Rooting *Kôd Nonbrit* Under the Cosmic Tree” / “Sant Rityèl e Antèman Sakre: Kòd Nonbrit Pa Nou Anba Yon Pye Bwa Beni”

Lauren Robin Derby, “Creole Pigs as Forest Phantasms on Hispaniola”

Katherine Smith, “Post-Tree Spirituality: Vodou and Urbanization in Haiti”

Grete Viddal, “*Taller Ennegro*: Haitian Descendants in Cuba Plan an Artists’ Colony and Ecological Shrine Inspired by Vodú”
4:00–4:15 BREAK

4:15–5:45 SESSION 5 — Onè Respè ak yon Peyi Nouvo — Three Dialogs
  Practitioners Roundtable

Chair: Patrick Bellegarde-Smith

Mambo VyeZo Komande LaMenfo, “Dynamics of a Vodou Community in America,”
  Independent scholar, Inc.

Virginia Merritt, M.D., “The Medjen Fey: At the Crossroads of Medicine and Magic,”
  University of Massachusetts, Worcester

J. D. Amoro Estrill and Manbo Dòwòti Désir, “Vodou and the Environment: A State of
  Spiritual Emergency”

5:45–7:00 DINNER BREAK

7:00–9:00 PLENARY SESSION — Free and open to the public

  Opening: Frantz Voltaire, CIDIHCA Director

Homage to Ati Max G. Beauvoir and Dr. Karen McCarthy Brown

  Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, President
  Jacqueline Epingle, Founding Member

Panel: Remembering the Legacy of Karen McCarthy Brown: Contributions to
  Studies of Anthropology, Feminist Studies, and Religion

Chair: Toni Pressley-Sanon

  Participants: Charlene Désir, Yanique Hume, Claudine Michel, Gina Athena
    Ulysse, Lois Wilcken
DAY TWO
THURSDAY, October 22
Université de Montréal
3150 rue Jean-Brillant, Pavilion Lionel-Groulx, C-2059

8:00–8:30 Registration

8:30–10:00 SESSION 6 — Ritual Economies and Sacred Performances

Chair: Yanique Hume

Paul Austerlitz, “A Reflective Perspective on Music and Trance in Vodou”

Rebecca Dirksen, “From Haiti, the Earth’s Quieter Tremblings: When the Drums Beat No More?”

Crystal Andrea Felima, “Women Merchants and the Social Landscape of Vodou Celebrations in Northern Haiti”

Elizabeth McAlister, “The New Self-Presentation of Public Vodou in Haiti”

10:00–10:15 BREAK

10:15–11:45 SESSION 7 — Vodou Philosophy and Contemporary Currents of Socio-Cultural Change

Chair: Florence Bellande-Robertson

Margaret Mitchell Armand, “Azaka Mede, Lessons to Remember”

LeGrace Benson, “Animism Reconsidered: Occupations of Bondye and Poetics of Science and Vodou”

Lois Wilcken, “The Drum and the Seed, a Haitian Odyssey”

11:45–12:15 Remarks from Jacqui Alexander

12:15–1:00 CLOSING

Thank you to our sponsors: The Center for Black Studies Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Haitian Studies Association; CIDIHCA; Faculté des Arts et des Sciences, Université de Montréal; La Maison de la Culture.

Program committee: Yanique Hume, Toni Pressley-Sanon, and Lois Wilcken