When Earth Meets Sky

Healing Rites & Sacred Knowledge in Haiti & Beyond

Conference Highlights:
Opening Remarks: Professor Jacob K. Olupona
Harvard University

Keynote: Professor Donald J. Cosentino,
University of California, Los Angeles

Harvard University
Thompson Room & Kresge Room
Barker Center at Harvard University
12 Quincy Street
Cambridge, MA 02143

October 18–20, 2013
Friday 5 pm - 9 pm
Saturday 8:30 am - 5 pm
Sunday 9 am - 2 pm

Closing Event:
Rachel Beauvoir-Dominique and Didier Dominique
State University of Haiti

For registration and information:
kosanba.org or call the UCSB Center for Black Studies Research
(805) 893-3914

KOSANBA
a scholarly association for the study of haitian vodou

PROGRAM
Congress of Santa Barbara (KOSANBA)  
Congrès de Santa Barbara  
Kongrè Santa Barbara

Declaration

Thirteen Haitian Scholars met in April 1997, at the University of California, Santa Barbara for a colloquium on Haitian Vodou, *The Spirit and the Reality: Vodou and Haiti*. At the end of the conference, these scholars decided to institutionalize their efforts through a new association under the name, the Congress of Santa Barbara.

Imbued by a sense of collective wisdom and aware of the long, difficult and constant struggles and crises undergone by their homeland, the Founders—and others who might join them—pledged to create a space where scholarship on Vodou can be augmented. Cognizant of the meaning and the implications of this historic reunion where Haitian scholars seized the initiative, the Congress proposes to have an impact on Haitian cultural politics as well as on other measures and policies that affect the Republic of Haiti.

The presence, role and importance of Vodou in Haitian history, society and culture are inarguable, and recognizably a part of the national ethos. The impact of the religion *qua* spiritual and intellectual disciplines on popular national institutions, human and gender relations, the family, the plastic arts, philosophy and ethics, oral and written literature, language, sacred and popular music, science and technology, and the healing arts, is indisputable. It is the belief of the Congress that Vodou plays and shall continue to play a major role in the grand scheme of Haitian development and in the socio-economic, political, and cultural arenas. Development, when real and successful, always comes from the modernization of ancestral traditions, anchored in the rich cultural expressions of a nation.

The Founders of the Congress of Santa Barbara invite all scholars and interested parties who subscribe to its goals and objectives, to join it in the defense and illustration of this *poto-mitan* of the Haitian cultural heritage that is such an integral part of the country’s future.
Kongrè Santa Barbara
DEKLARASYON

Soti 25 pou rive Avril 1997, 13 nèg ak nègès konesè Ayisyen te rankontre nan Invèsite Kalifòni ki tabli nan Santa Barbara, pou yo fè yon wonble sou Vodou. Alafen wonble a, Nèg ak nègès konesè sa yo te pran desizyon kreye yon organizasyon yo batize: Kongrè Santa Barbara.

Fondatè Kongrè Santa Barbara a pran angajman pou yo kreye yon espas—ensanm ak lòt moun ki vle pote kole ak yo—yon espas kote nèg ak nègès plim e ank kapab pi profonde nan konesans Vodou a. Yo pran angajman sa a paske yo gen yon kouran lasajès ki envayi lespri yo, epi tou paske yo pran konsyans yon seri tray ak tribilasyon Ayiti ap pase, yon seri batay difisil Ayiti ap mennen chak jou pou yon demen miyò, epi tou yon seri hing hang chen manje chen ki anpeche peyi nou fè yon pa ann avan.

Fondatè Kongrè Santa Barbara a pwopoze pou manm li yo ekzèse yon enfliyans sou jan politik kiltirèl peyi Dayiti ap mache, sou jan gouvènman an ap mennen bak li nan domèn sa a, epi sou tout lòt desizyon ki ka afekte lavni politik kiltirèl Repiblik Dayiti. Se paske manm fondatè yo konnen fen e byen enplikasyon wonble istorik sa a ki fè yon pwopoze sa yo pwopoze a.

Pèsonn pa kapab nye prezans, ròl ak enpòtans Vodou nan listwa, nan sosyete epi kilt Ayiti. Dayè, pèsonn pa kapab pa rekonèt Vodou a se yon pati enpòtan ki fè Ayiti Ayiti tout bon. Pèsonn pa kapab di Vodou a pa gen enpak sou konpòtman Ayisyen, kit se kòm relijyon, kit se kòm disiplin entelektèl. Vodou a make enstitisyion popilè nou yo, relasyon moun ak moun, pawol gason ak famn pou kò yo, relasyon andedan yon fanmi, relasyon andedan kòporasyon atis nou yo. Li make filozofi epi prensip moral nou, literati ekri ak literati oral nou, mizik sèvis ansanm ak mizik banbòch nou yo, lizay nou, lasyans ak teknoloji nou, epi sitou ladrès nou nan tretman maladi.

Moun ki deyè Kongrè si la gen konviksyon Vodou a deja jwe epi gen poul jwe yon gran ròl nan gran plan devlopman Ayiti nan domèn sosyal, ekonomik, politik epi kiltirèl. Kote devlopman fèt tout bon, kote li reyisi, se tou-jou kote modènizasyon an makonne ak tradisyon ansèt yon pèp te mourite kito, yon tradisyon ki enrasinen nan eksperyans kiltirèl pèp la.

Moun ki deyè Kongrè Santa Barbara a envite lòt Ayisyen ki gen konesans ansanm ak moun ki pa Ayisyen natif natal, men ki gen konesans tou ou byen lòt moun ki ap chèche konnen, yo envite tout moun sa yo, depi yo aksepte bi ak objektif kongrè a, pou yo vini pote kole ak moun ki deyè organizasyon nan batay yap mennen pou defann epi ilistre poto mitan eritaj kiltirèl ki garanti lavni nasyon Dayiti.
FRIDAY

BOARD MEETING
TIME: 1:00 pm
LOCATION: Alain Locke Room

CONFERENCE BEGINS

Opening Ceremony/Seremony
TIME: 4:30-7:00
ROOM: Thompson

President’s Welcoming Remarks
Professor Emeritus Patrick Bellegarde-Smith (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Libation
Madame Jacqueline Epingle, manbo (Montreal, Canada)

Professor Gina Athena Ulysse, Program Chair (Wesleyan University)

Welcoming Words by Site Committee Chair
& Introduction of Professor Jacob K. Olupona
Ms. Kyrah Malika Daniels (Harvard University)

Professor Jacob K. Olupona (Harvard University)

Welcoming Words by the Executive Director
& Introduction of the Keynote Speaker
Professor Claudine Michel (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Keynote Speaker
Professor Emeritus Donald J. Cosentino (University of California, Los Angeles)

Reception
Panel 1: Possibilities of New Narratives of Vodou (Roundtable)
TIME: 9:00-10:30
ROOM: Thompson
Chair, Gina A. Ulysse (Wesleyan University)
Rachel Beauvoir-Dominique (Université d’Etat d’Haiti)
Kaiama L. Glover (Barnard College, Columbia University)
Kate Ramsey (University of Miami)

Concurrent Panel 2: Dance, Funerals, Queer Performances and Community
TIME: 10:30-12:00
ROOM: Kresge
Chair, Pierre Minn (University of Montreal)

Concurrent Panel 3: The Past in the Present: Visual Media & Vodou Chic
TIME: 10:30-12:00
ROOM: Thompson
Chair, Grete Viddal (Harvard University)

Concurrent Panel 4: Healing Arts and Sacred Knowledge in African-America
TIME: 1:30-3:00
ROOM: Thompson
Chair, Adam McGee (Harvard University)
Concurrent Panel 5: Absence and Presences: Health and Healing Part I
TIME: 1:30-3:00
ROOM: Kresge
Chair, Florienne Saintil (Centre Culturel Leocardie & Alexandre Kenscoff, Mirebelais, Haiti)
- Healing in Indigenous Haitian Christianity: Salomon Severe Joseph (1891-1973) and the Mission from God
  Terry Rey (Temple University)
- The Role of Vodou Ritual as Diasporic Gnosis in Alternative Health Practice
  Albert Wuaku (Florida International University)
- Healing with Haitian Vodou in Montreal: Facing Medical and Religious Pluralism
  Hadrien Munier (Université Laval and Université Lyon 2, France)
- The Transmission of Community, Spirit and Healing: Asowano in Lukumi Practice
  Martin Tsang (Florida International University)

Panel 6: Practitioners (Roundtable)
Multi-lingual panel
TIME: 3:00-4:30
ROOM: Thompson
Chair, Patrick Sylvain (University of Massachusetts - Boston)
- Gerdès Fleurant
- Maude Evans
- Nicole Thomas Miller
- Jacqueline Epingle
- Patrick Bellegarde-Smith

Concurrent Panel 7: On Cure, Possession, the Gaze and Love
TIME: 4:30-6:00
ROOM: Thompson
Chair, Khytie Brown (Harvard University)
- Haitian Vodou: Between Cure and Care
  Schallum Pierre (Université Laval)
- Beyond Exoticisation? The West’s Obsession, Discomfort, and Need for Spirit Possession
  Alessandra Benedicty (City College of New York)
- Not All Eyes Can See: Memory, History and Identity in the Ritual Feeding of Ancestral Kin Beyond the Tourist Gaze
  Yanique Hume (University of the West Indies, Barbados)
- ‘No One Thinks of Love When They Think of Haiti’: In Search of a Vodou Art Praxis of Love
  Kantara Souffrant (Northwestern University)

Concurrent Panel 8: Twins & Cousins: Marassa, Obeah and Lucumí
TIME: 4:30-6:00
ROOM: Kresge
Chair, Marc Prou (University of Massachusetts - Boston)
- Marassa: Twinning Across Time and Space
  Toni Pressley-Sanon (University of Buffalo)
- Obeah in St. Lucia as a Moral and Ethical Practice
  Marie Meudec (Université Laval)
- Travel Accommodations for the Hereafter: Mortuary Rituals of Afro-Cuban Lukumi and Haitian Vodou
  Alexander Fernandez (Florida International University)
- Believing the Impossible: Locating Loa and Eggun in the Haitian Story
  Jadele McPherson (New York University/Hemispheric Institute)
Panel 9: Arts & Spirits: Health & Healing Part II  
TIME: 10:00-11:30  
ROOM: Thompson  
Chair, Funlayo Wood (Harvard University)

- *Healing through the “Hand”: Dilogun’ Divination and the Healing of Body, Mind, and Spirit*  
  Lisanne Norman (Harvard University)

- *The Role of Artists, Images and Symbols in the Healing Ecology of Vodou: A Reception Narrative*  
  LeGrace Benson (Arts of Haiti Research Project)

- *Presentation in two voices: Dambala/Ayida as Cosmic Prism for Understanding Vodou Metaphysics*  
  Patrick Bellegarde-Smith (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) & Claudine Michel (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Concurrent Panel 10: Conversations on Sexuality and Ezili (Roundtable)  
TIME: 11:30-1:00  
ROOM: Thompson  
Chair, Charlene Desir (Nova University)

- Yolette Lovannis (Practitioner)

- Eziaku Nwokocha (University of Pennsylvania)

- Geraldine Valentin (Practitioner)

Concurrent Panel 11: Dealing with Death and Displacement Dèyè Simityè a  
TIME: 11:30-1:00  
ROOM: Kresge  
Chair, Kyrah Malika Daniels (Harvard University)

- *Confronting Monsters and Memories: Musical Conversations on Exile and Death in Baron La Croix*  
  Rebecca Dirksen (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

- *New Imaginings of the Nation in 21st Century Haiti*  
  Katherine Smith (New York University)

- *Journey from Anba Dlo: Mapping the Tangled Return of Ountògi Frisner Augustin*  
  Lois Wilcken (La Troupe Makandal)

TIME: 1:1:45  
LUNCH BREAK

Closing Event  
TIME: 1:45-2:45  
ROOM: Thompson  
Chair, Patrick Bellegarde-Smith (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee)

- Didier Dominique (Université d’Etat d’Haiti)

- Rachel Beauvoir-Dominique (Université d’Etat d’Haiti)
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PREVIOUS COLLOQUIA

I
The Spirit and the Reality: Vodou and Haiti
University California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California, April 25-26, 1997.

II
The Spirit and the Reality: Vodou and Haiti

III
Ancestors and Progeny: Zanset ak Timoun

IV
“Limen Limye, Limen Chimen” Worldview and Religious Paradigms in Nation-Building

V
Lot Bo Dlo: Dyaspora Peyi d Ayiti Ak Tout Vodou i /Across the Waters: The Haitian Religious Diaspora
Nova Southeastern University, Rose & Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, June 7, 2003.

VI
2004 Onward: The Gédé Family, Life and Death Struggles

VII
La Fanmi-a Sanblé: Relijyon Afrik-Ginen Rasanblé/Family Resemblances: African-Derived Religions Meet

VIII
Lontan, Kounyè-a, ak Demen: Fèmen Sek-la/The Past Regulates the Present as it Does the Future /Le passé est le régulateur du présent comme de l’avenir
University of Massachusetts-Boston, Boston, Massachusetts, November 2-3, 2007.

IX
Sak pasé? N’ a pe kouté!/Dites donc, nous sommes a l’écoute /Tell Us, We’re All Ears
Centre Culturel Leocardie & Alexandre Kenscoff (C-CLAK) Rue Fonmonbin, Mirebalais, Haiti, July 13-17, 2009.
The Snake Tree

I am the serpent
Quetzalcoatl, Damballah, and St. Patrick
I melt into the tree that I’m coiled around

Deceitful they thought me
But I bring wisdom
The prophet’s staff slithers on the ground
He lifts it to heal

World’s axis
Maypole
Silk Cotton Tree Samauma
Totem and Mapou

Once they spied me
In plain metamorphosis
They caught me naked between animal and plant
Then they drank of my snake trunk
And tasted for the first time the truth
That the wood of the crisscross vine is meaty
And bleeds deliciously

I am the serpent
Double helix Juramidam
Caduceus staff
Immortal Hoasca

~by Roberto Strongman
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