



Afterlives of Slavery Conference

Colonization, Christianity, and Commerce: The Afterlives of Slavery
in the trans-Atlantic World

*An International Conference jointly organized by the University of Liberia and Princeton
Theological Seminary, New Jersey, USA*

**VENUE: EJS Ministerial Complex
Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia**

DATE: October 17 (Monday) – October 19 (Wednesday) 2022



Afterlives of Slavery International Conference
October 17, 2022

DAY 1

8:00-9:00 AM – **Registration & Tea/Coffee**

9:00 AM-12:00 PM – **Opening Ceremony**

- Welcome & Introduction
Prof. William Ezra Allen
Chairman, Planning Committee (UL)
Prof. Afe Adogame
Chair, Afterlives of Slavery Conference
Planning Committee (Princeton, USA)
- Opening Statement
Prof. Dr. Julius J. S. Nelson, Jr.
President, University of Liberia
- Remarks
 - i. National Bicentennial Steering Committee
 - ii. President of the Association of Liberian Universities (ALU)
- Dance Group Performance
- Statement by the Visitor/Launch of the Conference – H. E. Dr. George Manneh Weah
President of the Republic of Liberia
& Visitor of the University
- **Keynote Speaker 1**
Prof. David D. Daniels, III
McCormick Theological Seminary, USA
“An African Half of the Story: African Christianity, the Black Atlantic, and the Egalitarian Tradition, 1600-1847”

Moderator: Prof. Afe Adogame

12:00-1:20 PM – **Lunch**

1:30-2:30 PM – **Parallel Session 1**

Session A: Reconstructing Geographies, Identity and Religious Epistemologies I

Moderator: Prof. Jonathan C. Taylor

Panelists

- a. Francis Benyah, *Colonial Relics, Slavery and the Quest for Ontological Security in Ghana and the African Diaspora*
- b. Abraham Fokoe, Caree Banton, Craig Stevens & Chrislyn Laurore, *The Archaeology of Liberia's Providence Island beyond 1822 Settlement*
- c. Adesuyi Adeniran & Moses Yakubu, *Is Christianity the Ideal Religion for Africa? Interrogating the Impact of Western Religion*

Session B: Reconstructing Geographies, Identity and Religious Epistemologies II

Moderator: Prof. Janice Maclean-Farrell

Panelists:

- a. Allen Paye, *The impact of Slavery on the African Traditional Religious practices and identity of the Native Liberians*
- b. Virginia Garrard, *The Blood of Jesus vs. the Ancestral Gods of Africa: Celestial Warfare in Post-Earthquake Haiti*
- c. Abena Kyere & Grace Adasi, *Wade and Women: Unpacking the Theology of Prophet Harris Wade And Its Implications For Women In African Independent Churches*

2:45-3:45 PM – **Parallel Session 2**

Session A: Gender and the African American Experience

Moderator: Prof. Weade Kobah-Boley

Panelists

- a. Jay-Paul Hinds, *The Black Messiah Goes Home: The Black Church, Black Manhood, and the Mission to Redeem Africa*
- b. Sangil Song, *Caricatures of African Americans in the Early 19th Century: The Collective Emigration Movement against Slavery and the Nation-building of African Americans*
- c. Queen Mut Makkada

Session B: Slavery, Missions, and the Bible

Moderator: Prof. Gordon Mikoski

Panelists:

- a. Joshua Heikkila, *An Introductory Look at Presbyterian Mission in Liberia*
- b. Jennifer Kaalund, *The Bible and Its Pilgrim Journeys: Exporting Faith and Freedom*
- c. David Childs, *Ain't Got Long to Stay Here: The Eschatology of Enslaved Africans in North America as Expressed in their Writings, Rituals and Religious Practices*

3:45-4:15 PM

Coffee Break

4:15 - 5:30 PM

Panel Session 1

Presidents of Liberian Universities Roundtable

Moderator: Prof. William Allen

5:30pm

Free social evening

DAY 2

Afterlives of Slavery International Conference October 18, 2022

8:00-9:00 AM – **Registration and Tea/coffee**

9:00-10:00 AM – **Keynote Speaker 2**

Dr. William E. Allen
University of Liberia, RL
*Adopting “Merica People” Ways:
re-examining Liberia’s assimilation
policy*

Moderator: Prof. Heath Carter

10:00-11:00 AM – **Panel Session 2**

African abolitionists and their approaches to ending Slavery

Moderator: Prof. David Daniels

Panelists

- a. Emmanuel Saboro, *On George Ferguson and Local Abolitionism in 19th century Northern Ghana*
- b. Michael E. Odijie, *The strategies, networks, and ideas of local abolitionists in late 19th century Accra: the case of Francis Fearon*
- c. Monsuru O. Muritala, *The life of Mustapher Adamu: a historical and biographical sketch of abolitionism in colonial Lagos, Nigeria*
- d. Ugbede J. Ineke, *Local abolitionism, status and the struggle for identity in Central Nigeria, 1900 – 1960*
- e. Benedetta Rossi

11:00 - 12:00 PM – **Keynote Speaker 3**

Prof. Janice McLean-Farrell
New Brunswick Theological Seminary
USA

“Doom from the beginning? An examination of 19th Century Afro-Jamaican Missionaries in Africa”

Moderator: Prof. Benetta Tarr

12:00- 1:20 PM Lunch

1:30 PM - **Tour of Historical sites**

DAY 3

Afterlives of Slavery International Conference
October 19, 2022

8:00-9:00 AM – Tea/Coffee

9:00 - 10:00 AM **Keynote Speaker 4**

Prof. Olutayo C. Adesina
University of Ibadan, Nigeria

*“Afterlives of Slavery: The
Contours of Return, Seasons of
Labor, and Social Reproduction”*

Moderator: Prof. Gordon Mikoski

10:00 - 11:00 AM **Panel Session 3**

Remembering Indigenous Slavery (As a Silence)

Moderator: Prof. Agnes Reeves Taylor

Panelists

- a. Dr. Cassandra Mark-Thiesen, *Reappraising Historiographies of Indigenous Slavery in Liberia and Africa*
- b. Abisoye Eleshin, *Post-Transatlantic slavery and Onomastic dynamics in Lagos, Nigeria*
- c. Charles Freeman, *Family Archives of Indigenous Slavery in Liberia*
- d. Luisa Schneider, *Digital Remains and Absences within the History of Slavery in Africa: Between Silencing, Forgetting and Remembering*

11:00 AM - 12:20 PM - **Panel Session 4**

Afterlives of Slavery: Perspectives from students

Moderator: Prof. Mamawa Freeman Moore

UL Discussants: “Providence Island: The heart of Liberia”

- a. Lorpu Flomo
- b. Gayflor Wesley
- c. John M. Lissa

PTS Discussants:

- a. Tamesha Mills, *African Methodism: Colonization and its impact on the Connectional Church*
- b. Israel Gwatana, *If the Horse Could Speak: Exploring the Perspective of the African American Returnees*
- c. Matthew Bachman, *Drums of Peace: The Vitality of Drums in Liberian Culture*
- d. Ignatius Oshiomogwe, *Laws, the Emancipation of Liberia’s American Slavery, and the Resettlement of Freed Slaves*

12:20 PM - 1:20 PM - Lunch

1:30-2:30 PM – **Parallel Session 3 (Virtual)**

Session A: Slavery, Missions, and Modernization

Moderator: Prof. Jay-Paul Hinds

Panelists:

- a. Okelloh Ogera, *The Role and the Continuing Legacy of the French in the Indian Slave Trade*
- b. Tim Hartman, “*Black Men reading the White Man’s books*”? : *The Basel Mission, Returnees from Jamaica, and the legacy of Christianity in the Gold Coast*
- c. Paul Grant, *Reparations and Paternalism: lessons from a short-lived mission by Germany’s poor among Liberia’s colonial settlers*
- d. Enoch Aboi, *By Africans, for Africa: Returnees and the Modernization Project in Africa*

Session B: Religion, Disability, and Social Development

Moderator: Prof. Olutayo Adesina

- a. Chigozie Nwaka, *Afterlives of African Christians in the Making of World Christianity*
- b. Racheal Amwe & Grace Amwe, *Religious and Social Afterlives of Persons with Disabilities In North Central Nigeria*
- c. Sylvia Owusu-Ansah & James Kaifunba, *Mental Slavery Beyond Slavery and Colonialism: The Socioeconomic Implications of the Aftermath of Slavery on Sustainable Development in West Africa*
- d. Suleman Lazarus, *Colonial Legacies Interact with the Production of Cybercrime and the Exodus of Greener Pasture Seekers – Brain Drain*

2:45 - 3:45 PM - **Panel Session 5**

Afterlives of Slavery: Perspectives from the Pulpit

Moderator: Prof. David Lattimore

Discussants:

- Rev. Julius Z. Williams, First United Methodist Church of Liberia
- Rev. Dr. Darrell Armstrong, Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton
- Rev. Dr. Herman Brown, Episcopal Church of Liberia
- Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Vamos, Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville
- Bishop Rose-Sophrinia Bickel, Gates of Heaven Mid-Day Prayer Chapel Inc.
- Rev. Wellington Morgan, First Presbyterian Church of Liberia
- Rev. Odell Swen, AME Church of Liberia
- Pastor Sylvester Toee, Trinity Healing Temple, Monrovia

3:45-4:15 PM – **Coffee Break**

4:15-5:30 PM – **Panel Session 6**

Abolitionist Renderings, Colonialism and Post-Colonialism

Moderator: Prof. Tanya Ansahta Garnett

Panelists:

- a. Sam Okyere & Julia O. Davidson, *Child labour and child trafficking 'rescue' efforts as new civilising missions: the case of island and riverine communities in Ghana*
- b. Jesse Olavskay, *Anti-Slavery Afterlives: The Abolitionist Tradition And The Origins Of Pan-Africanism, 1876-1945*
- c. Samuel Toe, *Americo-Liberian 'Divine Plan': From Christian Theology to Political Ideology*
- d. Moses Yakubu & Aderemi Britto, *From Slave Trade to Racism: Revisiting the Depravities of Pre-Colonial African Leaders*
- e. Yusuf Suleiman, *An Evaluation of Post-Colonial Educational Policy Implementation in Kwara State, Nigeria: Implications for Stakeholders*

5:30 - 6:30 PM **Panel Session 7**

Author Meets Critic: “Empire of Rubber: Firestone’s Scramble for Land and Power in Liberia”

Moderator: Prof. Samuel Kortue

Discussants:

- a. Cllr. Norris L. Tweah
- b. Prof. Weade Kobah-Boley
- c. Prof. Gordon S. Mikoski
- d. Prof. Heath Carter

Respondent: Greg Mittman

7:00-9:00 PM – **Closing Session - Conference Banquet/Cultural Performance/UL dramatization of slave trade**

Afterlives of Slavery Planning Committee (UL)

William Ezra Allen (UL Chair)
Cllr. Norris Tweah (Co-chair)
Professor Weade Bolley
Vice President Benetta Tarr
Vice President Isaac Garnett
Mr. Eric Jebboe
Mr. Thomas Karyah
Ms. Deontee Tubman
Mr. Raphael Reeves

Rev Marie-Salome Smith
Mr. Victor Doe
Mr. Clement Woods
Rev Sylvester Toe
Rev Alfred Walker

Afterlives of Slavery Planning Committee (US)

Afe Adogame (Chair)
Gordon Mikoski
David Latimore
Eric Williams
Ruth Amwe

The Lone Star Forever

When freedom raised her glowing form
On Montserrado verdant height
She set within the doom of night
Midst lowing skies and thunder storm
The Star of liberty!
And seizing from the waking morn
Its burnished shield of golden flame,
She lifted it in her proud name,
And roused a nation long forlorn
To nobler destiny.

REFRAIN

The Lone Star forever!
The Lone Star forever!
O long may it float
O'er land and o'er seas!
Desert it! No! Never!
Uphold it, forever
O shout for the lone star's banner
All hail!

Then speeding in her course along
The broad Atlantic's golden strand,
She woke reverberant through the land
A nation's loud triumphant song
The song of Liberty!
And o'er Liberia's altar fires
She wide the Lone starred flag unfurled
Proclaimed from an expectant world,
The birth of Africa's sons and sires,
The birth of Liberty!

Then forward, sons of freedom, March!
Defend the sacred heritage!
The nation's call from age to age
Where'er it sounds 'neath heaven's arch,
Wherever foes assail
Be ever ready to obey
'Gainst treason and rebellion's front,
'Gainst foul aggression in the brunt
Of battle lay the hero's way
All hail, Lone Star, all hail!

The National Anthem

All hail Liberia, hail
All hail Liberia, hail
This glorious land of liberty
Shall long be ours
Tho' new her name
Green be her fame
And mighty be her powers
In joy and gladness
With our hearts united
We'll shout the freedom
Of a race benighted
Long live Liberia, happy land,
A home of glorious liberty
By God's command.

All hail Liberia, hail
All hail Liberia, hail
In union strong success is sure
We cannot fail
With God above our rights to prove
We will o'er all prevail
With hearts and hands
Our country's cause defending
We'll meet the foe
With valor unpretending
Long live Liberia, happy land,
A home of glorious liberty
By God's command.