

Fifth Biennial Conference of the Toni Morrison Society

Schedule of Events and Conference Panels

Program subject to change

All events held in the Francis Marion Hotel, 387 King Street, unless noted otherwise. All events are wheelchair accessible.

Thursday, July 24

- 10:00AM-5:00PM** **Registration/ Book Exhibits/ Vendors**
Mezzanine, Francis Marion Hotel
- 6:00PM-7:00PM** **Welcome Ceremony and Reception**
Stern Center Ballroom, College of Charleston
Representatives of the College of Charleston, City of Charleston, and the Toni Morrison Society
- 7:00PM-8:15PM** **Opening Lecture**
“Bunce Island, Charleston, and the Transatlantic Slave Trade”
Joe Opala, Professor of Anthropology, James Madison University
Stern Center Ballroom, College of Charleston
- 8:30PM-9:30PM** **Reception and Exhibit: “Bunce Island: A British Slave Castle in Sierra Leone”**
Joe Opala, Curator
Rotunda, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston

Friday, July 25

- 8:00AM-9:00AM** **Continental Breakfast**
Carolina A, Francis Marion Hotel
- 8:00AM-9:00AM** **Registration** - One Day Registration (space permitting)
Mezzanine, Francis Marion Hotel
- 9:00AM-10:15AM** **Opening Plenary**
Keynote Lecture - Dr. Houston A. Baker, Jr.
Distinguished University Professor, Vanderbilt University
Carolina Ballroom

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10:00AM-6:00PM **Vendor Displays**
Mezzanine, Francis Marion Hotel

10:30AM-12:00PM Concurrent Sessions I
Rutledge, Laurens, Pinckney, and Calhoun Suites

Session 1-A **Morrison, European, and Black American Modernists** **Rutledge**

Chair: Julia Eichelberger, College of Charleston

1. "Black American Response to Modernity in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* as Opposed to Euro-American Modernism"
Agnieszka Lobodziec, The University of Zielona Gora, Poland
2. "Blowing Up the Race House: Toni Morrison's Nameless Narrator in *Jazz* Talks Back to James Joyce's Molly Bloom in *Ulysses*" Sharon Jessee, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
3. "Resisting Modernity: Transformative Power in the Works of James Baldwin and Toni Morrison: Love as the Metaphor" Paul Masao Croon, Seattle Central Community College

Session 1-B **Colonized Bodies and Global Capitalism** **Laurens**

Chair: Kris Yohe, Northern Kentucky University

1. "Fragmented Bodies and Fragmented Selves in Toni Morrison's Fiction" Yvonne Richter, Georgia State University
2. "Unphotographable Beauty: Primitivist Visions and Modernist Bodies in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby* and *Beloved*"
Janelle Hobson, State University of New York, Albany
3. "*Tar Baby* and Global Capitalism" Sarah Mantilla, University of Pennsylvania.

Session 1-C **Charleston, Race and Re-memory** **Pinckney**

Chair: Nan Morrison, College of Charleston

1. "Slavery and Memory in the Heart of the Old South" Simon Lewis, College of Charleston
2. "Teaching *The Bluest Eye* and the 'My Life as a Girl' Project at Burke High School" Conseula Francis,
College of Charleston
3. "History, Slavery, Memory, and the College of Charleston" Jessica Farrell, College of Charleston

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Session 1-D Women, Motherhood and Madness I

Calhoun

Chair: *Maryemma Graham, University of Kansas*

1. "An Incomplete Segue from Slavery" Lisa Haynes, Walden University
2. "Resurrecting the Dead Girl: Modernism and the Problem of History in *Beloved*, *Jazz* and *Paradise*" Ann Hostetler, Goshen College
3. "Morrison's African American Narrative of Freedom: Embodied Motherhood and Resistance in *Beloved*" Gretchen Michlitsch, Winona State University

12:30PM-2:00PM

Authors' and Editors' Luncheon

Keynote Speaker – Dr. Marc Conner

Director, Program in African-American Studies, Professor of English
Washington and Lee University

Announcement of Toni Morrison Society Book Prizes
Authors' Prize and Editors' Prize
Carolina Ballroom

2:15PM-3:45PM

Concurrent Sessions II

Rutledge, Laurens, Pinckney, and Calhoun

Session 2-A Modernism, Modernity and the Postmodern Subject

Rutledge

Chair: *Marc Conner, Washington and Lee University*

1. "Models of Discomfiture, Models of Change: Narrating the Postmodern Subject in Toni Morrison's *Jazz* and Michael Ondaatje's *Coming Through Slaughter*" Herman Beavers, University of Pennsylvania
2. "Toni Morrison and Modernist Classicism" Tessa Roynon, Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford
3. "Healing the Unhealed Wound: Toni Morrison and T.S. Eliot on the Plight of Modernity" Lenore Kitts, University of California at Berkeley

Session 2-B Perspectives on *Song of Solomon*

Laurens

Chair: *Lucille P. Fultz, Rice University*

1. "Jumping for the Sun While Landing on the Grass: The Inescapable Connection of the Natural in the Development of the Black Self in *Song of Solomon*" Melonee Griggs, Southern University at New Orleans
2. "Hunting in the Modern World: *Song of Solomon* and *Go Down Moses*" Keith Byerman, Indiana State University
3. "A Modernist Look at Milkman and Hagar in Morrison's *Song of Solomon*" Nicole Welsh, The George Washington University.

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Session 2-C Diasporic Modernism: Reclaiming the Spirit I

Calhoun

Chair: Alma Jean Billingslea, Spelman College

1. "Going to 'The City of Bones:' Divine Tchamba/Ade`and the African Spirit-World in Toni Morrison's Novels"
Joyce Hope Scott, Wheelock College
2. "Transgressing Binaries and Re-Routing the *Middle Passage*: Morrison's Reiteration of African Communal Authority," Kokahvah Zauditu-Selassie, Coppin State University
- 3 "Aunt Sally and Uncle Sigmund: African Americans, Dream Interpretation and the Sense of the Modern"
Arlene Keizer, University of California, Irvine

Session 2-D Narrating Slavery

Pinckney

Chair: Simon Lewis, College of Charleston

1. "Slavery and Modernity: Toni Morrison's *Beloved*" Gayla Bell, Independent Scholar
2. "Toni Morrison and Slave Narratives: The South as a Modernist Site" Robin Dizard, Keene State College
3. "Margaret Garner and Appomattox: Narrating the Defining Racial Moment in Two American Operas"
Helena Woodward, University of Texas at Austin

4:00PM-5:30PM Concurrent Sessions III

Rutledge, Laurens, Pinckney, and Calhoun

Session 3-A Power, Materiality and Modernist Thought

Rutledge

Chair: Valerie Frazier, College of Charleston

1. "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? Food, Power, and [En]countering the Modern in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*"
Susan Mayberry, Alfred University
2. "Modern Midwestern Materiality in Toni Morrison's Ohio Fiction" Lisa Long, North Central College
3. "Modernism in Morrison's 'Recitatif,' and Faulkner's 'Was'" Elizabeth Hayes, Le Moyne College

Session 3-B Perspectives on *Love*

Laurens

Chair: Carolyn Denard, Brown University

1. "Black (Male) Power: Masculinity and Modernism in *Love*" Shirley Stave, Northwestern State University
2. "'Sugarman done fly away:' Black Women's Madness in the Wake of Male Flight in *Love*"
Ebony McNeal, Georgia State University
3. "Toni Morrison's Jazz Modernism in *Jazz* and *Love*" Joseph McLaren, Hofstra University

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Session 3-C **Modernism, Migration and Jazz**

Pinckney

Chair: Conseula Francis, College of Charleston

1. "Jazz's Riff and Refrain: Re-creating Self and Community in Diasporic Spaces"
Evelyn Schreiber, The George Washington University
2. "Ethnic Modernism in *Jazz*" Yukiko Fukase, Tokoyo University of Science
3. "Music, Migration and Memory: The Writings of Toni Morrison and August Wilson"
Donald Morales, Mercy College

Session 3-D **Diasporic Modernism: Reclaiming the Spirit II**

Calhoun

Chair: Adrienne Seward, Colorado College

1. "Resurrecting the 'Ancestor:' Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*, Alienation and the American Dream"
Aimable Twagilimana, Buffalo State College
2. "Diasporic Modernism: Toni Morrison and the Underground Crossroads" La Vinia Delois Jennings,
University of Tennessee
3. "The African Did Not Fly: Olaudah Equiano's Introduction to the Modern World" Wilfred Samuels,
University of Utah

Language Matters: Teaching Workshop I

"Students Can Fly: Teaching *Song of Solomon* as a Modernist Text."

Location: Lightsey Center, Room 344, College of Charleston

Facilitator: Frazier O'Leary, Cardozo High School, Washington D.C.

(Certificate of Participation awarded for attendance at both Workshops)

6:00PM-8:00PM

Dinner On Your Own

Tour and Dine in the Lively, Historic District surrounding the College
and Francis Marion Hotel

6:00PM-8:00PM

Reception & Gullah Storytelling (optional)

Gallery Chuma

8:00PM-9:30PM

Reading from *A Mercy* by Toni Morrison

Sottile Theatre at College of Charleston.

9:30PM- 10:00PM

Coffee and Dessert Reception

Lobby, Sottile Theatre at the College of Charleston

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Saturday, July 26

8:00AM-9:00AM **Continental Breakfast & Society Business Meeting**
Carolina Ballroom, Francis Marion Hotel

8:00AM-9:00AM **Registration** - One Day Registration (space permitting)—Mezzanine

9:00AM-10:30 AM Concurrent Sessions IV
Rutledge, Laurens, Pinckney, and Calhoun Suites

Session 4-A **Memory, Migration and the Modern** **Rutledge**
Chair: Scott Peeples, College of Charleston

1. "Margaret Garner: Migration, Escape and the Modern" Kristine Yohe, Northern Kentucky University
2. "Re-thinking Literary Modernism through Rhetorical Memory in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*"
Beth Beggs, University of Georgia

Session 4-B **Morrison, the Louvre, and 'The Foreigner's Home'** **Laurens**
Chair: Yvonne Atkinson, Mt. San Jacinto College

1. "'What Lies Beyond Empire: 'Morrison Re-Reading the 'Raft of the Medusa'" Nancy Peterson, Purdue University
2. "'Foreigner's Home' and Re-figuring Modernism" Aoi Mori, Hiroshima Jogakuin University
3. "'Between Breath and Death: ' Waters of the Diaspora in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*" Anissa Wardi, Chatham University

Session 4-C **Perspectives on *Beloved*** **Pinckney**
Chair: Cheryl Wall, Rutgers University

1. "Without a Witness to a Fall: *Beloved*, Language and Responsibility" Michelle S. Hite, Spelman College
2. "Rewriting the Trauma of Slavery via Modernist Aesthetics: Toni Morrison and *Beloved*"
Wen-ching Ho, Academia Sinica, Taiwan
3. "Toni Morrison: Literary Modernity and Myth in *Beloved*" Justine Talley, Universidad de LaLaguna, Spain

Sessio 4-D **Problematizing Modernism** **Calhoun**
Chair: Carmen Gillespie, Bucknell University

1. "How Morrison's Army of Older Women Characters Teach Modernism a 'Lesson'" Jacqueline Fulmer,
University of California at Berkeley
2. "The Transformed Covert: Modernist Site of Ambiguity in Toni Morrison's *Paradise*" Rita Dandridge,
Virginia State University
3. "Political Terror and Gendered Violence in *Song of Solomon* and *Paradise: A Dialectic*," Caroline Brown,
Universite de Montreal

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Language Matters: Teachers Session II

Facilitators: Tonya Wells, On Location Education: The School for Young Performers
Marjorie S. Lancaster, East Chapel Hill High School

"Talking Back to Morrison's Texts: Turning Close Readers into Good Writers"

Location: Lightsey Center, Room 346, College of Charleston

(Certificate of Participation awarded for attendance at both Workshops)

10:00AM-6:00PM

Vendor Displays

Mezzanine, Francis Marion Hotel

10:45AM-12:00PM

“Modernism and the Gullah People in Art and Life”

Jonathan Green, Artist

Gold Ballroom, Francis Marion Hotel

12:30 PM

Buses depart from Francis Marion to Liberty Square

1:00PM-2:15PM

Historic Boat Tour Aboard “The Spirit of Carolina”

Boxed Lunch Provided

Liberty Square

Michael Allen, an educational specialist for the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site, will lead a tour chronicling the arrival and legacy of African Americans in Charleston and South Carolina. The tour will include the Harbor of Charleston along with landmarks, sites, structures, and islands, including Sullivan’s Island that served as the gateway for enslaved Africans arriving to the colonies of North America.

2:30PM

Buses depart from Patriot’s Point to Sullivan’s Island

3:00PM-4:30PM

Placing the First Bench By the Road, Sullivan’s Island, S.C.

The Bench by the Road Project is an African American Memorial Project

Launched by Toni Morrison Society in honor of Toni Morrison’s 75th Birthday

Maafa Ceremony of Remembrance

5:00PM

Buses depart from Sullivan’s Island to Francis Marion Hotel

7:00PM-8:00PM

Celebration Reception

Foyer, Carolina Ballroom

8:00PM-10:00PM

15th Anniversary Celebration and Society Banquet

Special Tribute Phylcia Rashad

Announcement of Bench by the Road Awards

Carolina Ballroom

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Sunday, July 27

8:00AM-9:00AM **Registration** - One Day Registration (space permitting)
Mezzanine, Francis Marion Hotel

9:00AM-10:30AM **Concurrent Sessions V**
Rutledge, Middleton, Parkview, and Pinckney

Session 5-A Perspectives on *Sula* **Rutledge**

Chair: Durthy Washington, United States Air Force Academy

1. "Dangerous Endeavors: Fashioning the Black Female Subject in Cultural Modernity"
Jeannette Elizabeth Lee, Brown University
2. "Up in the Bottom: Metanarrative in *Sula*" Robin Sinckler, Howard University
3. "My Space or 'Remember Your Place:' Exploring Space and Place in Toni Morrison's *Sula*"
Rashidah Muhammad, Governor's State University

Session 5-B Women, Motherhood and Madness II **Parkview**

Chair: Judylyn Ryan, Ohio Wesleyan University

1. "Outlaw Women: The Wild and Beloved Women of *Paradise*" Alice Knox Eaton, Springfield College
2. "'The most liberating thing that ever happened to me:' Modernity, Motherhood, and Morrison's 'Politics of the Heart'"
Andrea O'Reilly, York University
3. "'Neither White Nor Male:' (Re)Constructions of Black Female Experiences in Toni Morrison's Novels"
Julia Roth, Humbolt University

Session 5-C Language, Generational Knowledge and Publishing **Middleton**

Chair: Herman Beavers, University of Pennsylvania

1. "Roots of the Chokecherry Tree: Hope, Despair and Community Blues" M. Diane Benton, Eastern Michigan University
2. "The House that Toni Built at Random: (Re)Visions of Modernity in Contemporary African American Fiction"
Dana A. Williams, Howard University
3. "Toni Morrison and the Forced Poetics of 20th Century Black Women's Publishing"
Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Duke University

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Session 5-D **Re-imaginings and Re-Visions**

Pinckney

Chair: Juliet Blackburn Beamon, Clark Atlanta University

1. "African American Migrations and Re-imaginings of Communities in Toni Morrison's Trilogy—*Beloved, Jazz, and Paradise*" Veena Deo, Hamline University
2. "John Alfred Williams' Call, Toni Morrison's Response: Looking at 'Son in the Afternoon' through *The Bluest Eye*" Lynda Koolish, San Diego State University
3. Imagining a "Third Thing": Morrison's View of Black Modernity Carolyn Denard, Brown University

10:00AM-12:30PM

Vendor Displays

Mezzanine, Francis Marion Hotel

10:30AM-12:30PM

"Modernism, Jazz, and the African American Experience"

Quentin Baxter Jazz Ensemble: Classics, Hymns, and Spirituals

Closing Brunch and Reception

Carolina Ballroom

