Monday, June 24th, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Invocation

Welcoming Remarks
Carolyn Denard, Founder and Board Chair, Toni Morrison Society
Craig Stutman, Chair, Bench by the Road Committee
Didier Laguerre, Mayor, City of Fort-de France
Bénédicte di Geronimo, Commissioner, Martinique Tourism Authority

Poetic Tribute to Aimé Césaire and Toni Morrison
Marie-Line Ampigny, Poet and Performing Artist
Readings from And the Dogs Were Silent (Et les chiens se taisaient) by Aimé Césaire and Beloved by Toni Morrison

KEYNOTE LECTURES
Introduction to Keynote Speaker
Michelle Hite, Vice President, Toni Morrison Society
Associate Professor of English, Spelman College

Edwidge Danticat, Haitian-American Novelist and Wun Tsun Mellon Professor of the Humanities and African Diaspora Studies, Columbia University
“Toni Morrison’s Diasporic Vision.”

Introduction to Keynote Speaker
Iona Wynter-Parks, Assistant Professor of French, Oglethorpe University

Daniel Maximin, French Novelist, Poet and Essayist, and Former Literary Director of Présence Africaine
“Aimé Césaire’s Diasporic Vision.”

SCHOLARLY PANELS
2:00pm – 4:00pm
Diasporic Vision in the Works of Morrison and Césaire

Welcome and Introduction to Moderator
Tracyann Williams, Assistant Dean, Fordham University, and Symposium Planning Committee

Moderator:
Farah Jasmine Griffin, William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies, Columbia University

Panelists:
Judylyn Ryan, Professor Emerita, Ohio Wesleyan University and Former Larson Fellow in the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress
“Identity and Nationalism in Morrison’s Tar Baby and Césaire’s A Season of the Congo.”

Rhone Fraser, Visiting Associate Professor of African American Literature at Penn State University
“The Rustling Odyssey of We Words in Aimé Césaire’s Cahier d’un retour au pays natal.”

Malik Noël-Ferdinand, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, Université des Antilles-Martinique,
“The Creative-Theoretical African Diaspora of Toni Morrison.”

Respondents:
Emmanuelle Andres, Associate Professor of English, La Rochelle Université, France
Zanice Bond, Associate Professor of English, Tuskegee University

Tuesday, June 25th, 10:00am - 12:00pm

The Influence of Morrison and Césaire in the Works of Diaspora Writers

Welcome and Introduction to Moderator
Lynne Simpson, Librarian, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Symposium Planning Committee.
Moderator:
**Maureen Eke**, Professor English and Comparative Literature, Central Michigan University

Panelists:
**Rocío Cobo-Piñero**, Associate Professor
Literatures in English, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

**Ashleigh Harris**, Professor of English Literature, Uppsala universitet, Sweden
“Morrison’s Influence on South African Writers.”

**Meredith Gadsby**, Professor of Africana Studies, Oberlin College

**Carolyn Denard**, Professor of English (Retired), Georgia College and State University
“A Knowing So Deep”: Morrison’s Legacy to African American Women Writers”

Respondents:
**Toya Okonkwo**, Paul Quinn College
**Portia Owusu**, Professor of English, Texas A&M University.

Wednesday, June 26th, 9:00 - 12:30pm

9:00am-9:45am

**Bench by the Road Re-Dedication Ceremony**

10:00am - 12:00pm

**ROUNDTABLE:** The Future of Connections in the African Diaspora

Welcome and Introduction to Moderator
**Evelyn Schreiber**, Professor of English, George Washington University, and Symposium Planning Committee

Moderator:
**Walter Earl Fluker**, Martin Luther King, Jr.Professor Emeritus of Ethical Leadership, Boston University

Panelists:
**Elisabeth Landi**, Professor and Chair of Literature Université de Antilles and Ministère de chargé l’Éducation nationale
“From Aimé Césaire to Toni Morrison: A Popular History of the African Diaspora in America.”

**Gary Wilder**, Professor of Anthropology, The Graduate of the City University of New York
“The Role of Social and Political Movements in Future Connections in the African Diaspora.”

**Philathia Bolton**, Inaugural Toni Morrison Senior Fellow, The Africa Institute, UAE, and Associate Professor of English, The University of Akron
“The Role of the Humanities Research Opportunities and Institutional Alliances in Building Connections in the African Diaspora.”

**Surafel Wondimu Abebe**, Assistant Professor of Performance Studies and Theory, The Africa Institute, UAE
“The Role of Cultural Performance and the Arts in the Future Connections in the African Diaspora.”

**Autumn Womack**, Professor of English and African American Studies, Princeton University
“The Role of Archival Practice in the Future of the African Diaspora.”

Respondents:
**Lori Martin**, Professor of African and African American Studies, Louisiana State University
**Helena Woodard**, Professor of English, University of Texas at Austin

Closing Remarks