

**ANNOUNCEMENT AND INVITATION**  
**GENDERING THE BLACK DIASPORA**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop of the DFG Young Scholars Network “Black Diaspora and Germany”**

Sandra Gunning, Tera W. Hunter and Michele Mitchell posited in 2003\* that “[t]he use of gender as a category of analysis remains something of a challenge for African Diaspora studies.” Stephen Small later argued: “[O]ne does not and cannot define, conceptualize, theorize, or research the Black Diaspora in Europe without bringing gender ideologies and the experiences of Black women to the foreground.”\*\*

The focus of the second “Black Diaspora in Germany” Young Scholars Network workshop entails three aspects. First, we will address the theoretical and methodological implications of the issue of gender within the Black Diaspora in Europe. The social construct known as the Diaspora can neither transcend gender, nor can it serve as an epistemological or historical category of analysis without careful consideration of the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Utilising the theoretical and methodological interface between Diaspora and Gender Studies, we seek to underscore the significance of gender in our analysis and theorisation of Black diasporic experiences in Europe and with a particular focus on Germany.

Secondly, this workshop will examine and analyse the development of a collective Afro-/Black German identity and this group’s political activism during the mid-1980s and thereafter. The emergence of a self-defined name, e.g., Afro-/Black German, and “imagined” Black diasporic community in West Germany was primarily advanced by Afro-/Black German female activists and based on specifically ‘Black female’ experiences and analyses. African American feminists, and other feminists of colour contested the construction of a Black Diaspora based on universalized patriarchal parameters. These women notably influenced not only Afro-/Black German activism, but also the development of Afro-/Black German Studies.

Lastly, the workshop will call into question constructions of Black masculinities and femininities, along with the issue of agency and counter-discourses of Black men and women throughout various periods of German historiography.

The members of the organising team cordially invite you to the workshop “Gendering the Black Diaspora”. We are delighted to have with us as keynote speakers: Dr. Gloria Wekker, Professor at the Institute for Media and Culture Studies and Director of GEM, Centre of Expertise on Gender, Ethnicity and Multiculturality, Universiteit Utrecht; and Judy Gummich, long-time Human Rights activist, Black Feminist and Diversity Trainer. We are also happy to announce that Author and Filmmaker Dr. Dagmar Schultz will be with us to introduce her new film project on Audre Lorde’s years in Berlin and to present the film “Hoffnung im Herz: Mündliche Poesie – May Ayim” by Maria Binder.

The workshop organisers: Susann Lewerenz, Cassandra Ellerbe-Dueck and Katharina Gerund will present conference papers, and anticipate two days of lively and interesting discussions.

The “Gendering the Black Diaspora” workshop will take place at the Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen-Nuremberg on 15 April 2011 and 16 April 2011. For travel and accommodation information, please consult our blog:

<http://blackdiasporaandgermany.blogspot.com/>.

For further information and conference registration, please contact the workshop organisers at [bdg@uni-muenster.de](mailto:bdg@uni-muenster.de).

Should you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Susann Lewerenz, Cassandra Ellerbe-Dueck, Katharina Gerund

\* Sandra Gunning, Tera W. Hunter and Michele Mitchell, Introduction: Gender, Sexuality, and African Diaspora, in: *Gender & History*, Vol 15, No. 3 (Special Issue: Dialogues of Dispersal: Gender, Sexuality and African Diasporas, ed. by Sandra Gunning, Tera W. Hunter and Michele Mitchell), November 2003, pp. 398 f.

\*\* Stephen Small, Introduction: The Empire Strikes Back, in: *Black Europe and African Diaspora*, ed. by Darlene Clark Hine, Trica Danielle Keaton and Stephen Small, Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 2009, p. xxviii.

# GENDERING THE BLACK DIASPORA

## 2nd DFG Young Scholars Network “Black Diaspora and Germany” Workshop

FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER-UNIVERSITÄT ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG, 15-16 APRIL 2011

### PROGRAMME

#### Friday, 15 April 2011

- Until 14:00           Arrival and registration
- 14:00-14:30           **Workshop opening**  
Prof. Dr. Heike Paul (Erlangen-Nürnberg)  
Dr. Cassandra Ellerbe-Dueck, Katharina Gerund and Susann Lewerenz
- 14:30-15:30           **Dr. Cassandra Ellerbe-Dueck** (Mannheim)  
“The Matrilineal Diaspora: Black/Afro-German Women, Claiming  
Space & Finding Their Voices”  
Chair: Cedric Essi (Erlangen-Nürnberg)
- 15:30-16:30           **Katharina Gerund** (Düsseldorf)  
“The Sound of Solidarity: Angela Davis, Gender(ed) Politics, and  
(Protest) Songs”  
Chair: Cedric Essi
- 16:30-17:00           Coffee break
- 17:00-18:30**           **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
**Judy Gummich** (Berlin) – Human Rights Activist & Diversity Trainer  
“Between Racism and Empowerment – Perspectives on Being Black in  
Germany”  
Chair: Dr. Cassandra Ellerbe-Dueck
- 18:30-18:45           Short break
- 18:45-19:30           **Film screening**  
“Hoffnung im Herz: Mündliche Poesie – May Ayim”, a film by Maria  
Binder, introduction: Prof. Dr. Dagmar Schultz (Berlin)  
Chair: Susann Lewerenz (Hamburg)
- 19:45                   Dinner  
Venue: tba

#### Saturday, 16 April 2011

- 9:00-10:00           **Prof. Dr. Dagmar Schultz** (Berlin) – emer., Author & Filmmaker  
“‘Audre Lorde – the Berlin Years’ – a Project in Progress”  
Chair: Carmen Dextl (Erlangen-Nürnberg)
- 10:00-11:00           **Susann Lewerenz** (Hamburg)

“How Thea Leyseck became ‘German Southwest African’ – Colonial Revisionism, Gender, and Black Agency in Nazi Germany”  
Chair: Carmen Dextl

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

**11:30-13:00**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Prof. Dr. Gloria Wekker** (Utrecht)

“Diving Into the Wreck. Reflections on Gender in the Black Diaspora”

Chair: Katharina Gerund

13:00-13:30

**Plenary session**

Introductory remarks: Prof. Dr. Heike Paul

Chair: Dr. Cassandra Ellerbe-Dueck

13:45-15:00

Lunch

Venue: Café Mengin, Schloßplatz 5, 91054 Erlangen

Departure of workshop participants

15:00-15:45

**Discussion of organisational matters**

For members of the YSN “Black Diaspora and Germany”

15:45

End of workshop

**Workshop venue:**

Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Amerikanistik/American Studies,  
Bismarckstr. 1c, 91054 Erlangen, Room C 301

**Contact and registration:**

[bdg@uni-muenster.de](mailto:bdg@uni-muenster.de)

Deadline for registrations: 8 April 2011

**For more information:**

<http://blackdiasporaandgermany.blogspot.com/>