

**Embodiment and Relationality in Religions of Africa and its Diasporas**  
**April 20 -22, 2017**  
**University of Pittsburgh**

**Symposium Paper Sessions**

**04/21 (114 O'Hara Student Center)**

**9:10 am – 11:00 am** *Session 1: Community, Religious Habitus and the Senses*

Bertin Louis (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) – “Habitus in Haitian Protestant Church in the Bahamas”

Rachel Cantave (American University) – “Sensing Faith: Religious Influence and Faith-Based Community Service in Bahia”

Discussant: Brock Bahler (Department of Religious Studies, Univ. of Pittsburgh)

**11:00 am – 12:45 pm** *Session 2: Interrogating Sacredness in Performance*

Aaron Montoya (Stanford University) – “Going Beyond Dance, Going Beyond the Sacred: Dance and Resistance in Mozambique”

Camee Maddox-Wingfield (University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign) – “Authenticating Spiritual Continuity in a Secular Dance Community: Bele’s Rebirth in Contemporary Martinique”

Jeanette Jouli (University of Pittsburgh) – “Performing the Islamic Black Atlantic: Afro-Diasporic Muslim Hip-Hop Artists, Embodied Ethics, and the Redefinition of British Islam”

Discussant: Oronde Sharif (Department of Africana Studies, Univ. of Pittsburgh)

**1: 45 – 3:45 pm** *Session 3: Gender, Sexuality, Healing and Death*

Nathanael Homewood (Rice University) – “Wrestling with Homosexuality: Affect and Movement in Charismatic Deliverance”

Yolanda Covington-Ward (University of Pittsburgh) – “Exceptional Healing: Gender, Embodiment, and Prophetism in the Lower Congo”

Casey Golomski (University of New Hampshire) – “The Density of Contagion: Death Pollution in Southeastern Africa”

Discussant: Mari Webel (Department of History, Univ. of Pittsburgh)

**04/22 (Humanities Center, 602 Cathedral of Learning)**

**9:00am – 11:00 am** *Session 4: Spiritual Memories and Ancestors*

Elyan Hill (University of California, Los Angeles)– “Spirited Choreographies: Histories of the Slave Trade in Black Atlantic Literature and Ritual Performances in Togo”

Youssef Carter (University of California, Berkeley) – “Alchemy of the Fuqara: Embodiment, Reversion, and Spiritual Care in a Transatlantic Sufi Order”

Fadeke Castor (Texas A & M University – “Our Collective Ancestors: Spiritual Ethnicity in Ifá Devotion across the Americas”

Discussant: tba