

**The University of Pittsburgh Department of Religious Studies  
and the Department of Africana Studies**

**Present the Symposium**

**Diverse Spiritualities: Embodiment and Relationality In Religions of African and its Diasporas**

**Schedule for Thursday, April 20th @ 630 William Pitt Union:**

Pre-keynote Reception

5:00 – 6:00 PM

Welcome

6:00 – 6:15 PM

Keynote Lecture by Dr. Stephanie Mitchem (University of South Carolina): “The Embodied Power of Sankofa”

6:15 – 7:30 PM

Q&A from 7:15 – 7:30 PM

**Schedule for Friday, April 21st @ 114 O’Hara Student Center:**

Breakfast

8:30 – 9:00 AM

Introductions

9:00 – 9:10 AM

Panel Session 1: Community, Religious Habitus and the Senses

9:10 – 11:00 AM

Bertin Louis - “Habitus in Haitian Protestant Church in the Bahamas”

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

Discussant: Brock Bahler

## Panel Session 2: Interrogating Sacredness in Performance

11:00 AM – 12:45 PM

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

Camee Maddox-Wingfield – “Authenticating Spiritual Continuity in a Secular Dance Community: Bele’s Rebirth in Contemporary Martinique”

Jeanette Jouili - “Performing the Islamic Black Atlantic: Afro-Diasporic Muslim Hip-Hop Artists, Embodied Ethics, and the Redefinition of British Islam.”

Discussant: Oronde Sharif

Lunch

12:45 – 1:45 PM

## Panel Session 3: Gender, Sexuality, Healing and Death

1:45 – 3:45 PM

Nathanael Homewood – “Wrestling with Homosexuality: Affect and Movement in Charismatic Deliverance”

Yolanda Covington – “Exceptional Healing: Gender, Embodiment, and Prophetism in the Lower Congo”

Casey Golomski – “The Density of Contagion: Death Pollution in Southeastern Africa”

Discussant: Mari Webel

Walk to 630 William Pitt Union

3:45 – 4:00 PM

Schedule for Friday, April 21st @ 630 William Pitt Union:

Pre-keynote Reception

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Keynote Lecture by Dr. Rudolph Ware (University of Michigan): “Seeing into the Unseen: Embodied Knowledge & Disembodied Spirits in Islamic West Africa”

[View the flyer here.](#)

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Q&A from 6:15 – 6:30 PM

Schedule for Saturday, April 22nd @ Humanities Center, 602 Cathedral of Learning:

Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Panel Session 4: Spiritual Memories and Ancestors

9:00 – 11:00 AM

Elyan Hill – “Spirited Choreographies: Histories of the Slave Trade in Black Atlantic Literature and Ritual Performances in Togo”

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

Fadeke Castor – “Our Collective Ancestors: Spiritual Ethnicity in Ifá Devotion across the Americas”

Discussant: to be announced

Break Out Sessions

11:00 – 12:45 PM

Lunch

12:45 – 1:45 PM

Walk to 501 Cathedral of Learning

1:45 – 2:00 PM

Schedule for Saturday, April 22nd @ 501 Cathedral of Learning:

Keynote Lecture by Dr. Jacob Olupona (Harvard University Divinity School): “Embodiment, Relationality, and Materiality in African Religion and the African Diaspora Traditions”

[View the flyer here.](#)

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Q&A from 3:15 – 3:30 PM

Post-keynote Reception

3:30 – 4:15 PM