



Haïtian Studies Association

Association des Études Haïtiennes

Asosyasyon Etid Ayisyen

2nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

New Ecologies: Actualizing Global Contributions and Development in Haiti.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: GLENN SMUCKER

Glenn Smucker is a cultural anthropologist who has specialized for the past 30 years in practical applications of anthropology to human problems. Smucker holds a doctorate in cultural anthropology from the New School for Social Research. He has lived and conducted fieldwork in Haiti, Rwanda, and Laos, and carried out consulting assignments in Rwanda and various countries of the Caribbean including Haiti, Belize, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Guyana. Smucker has also directed major programs in reforestation and natural resource management including Pwoje Pyebwa, a large scale farm forestry project of the Pan American Development Foundation in Haiti, and the Rwanda Natural Resource Management Project including protection of the Parc des Volcans, the traditional habitat of mountain gorillas in northwestern Rwanda. Smucker is presently based in the United States but travels frequently to Haiti as a senior consultant in applied anthropology.

Haitian society and culture have been the primary focus of Smucker's professional life. Smucker first came to live in Haiti as a child in 1960. Between 1975 and 1977, he carried out dissertation fieldwork in a northern mountain peasant community of Grande Rivière du Nord near the birthplace of Jean-Jacques Dessalines. His dissertation is entitled, "Peasants and Development Politics: A Study in Haitian Class and Culture." He is the primary author of a book on Haitian peasant organizations, *Organisations Paysannes: Tendances et Implications* (1998), and major policy studies on the Haitian environment including *Environmental Vulnerability in Haiti* (2007) and *Environmental Risks and Opportunities in Haiti: A Background Analysis* (2007), in response to a directive of the US Congress. Smucker has also published articles and reports on a broad range of Haitian topics including formal and customary land tenure arrangements, community based natural resource management including protected areas and watershed management, food security including peasant farmer decision making, access to credit including usury and pawnbroking, human rights violations including trafficking in persons and child labor, and issues in Haitian governance, politics and civil society.

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Plenary Session I: Haitian Scholarship Across the Disciplines and Implications for Future Development

Panel Chair: Tatiana Wah

Dr. Tatiana Wah is an Assistant Professor of Urban Studies, Policy and Development at New School University, Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy. Dr. Wah received her bachelors in Organizational Behavior and Management from Brown University and her Masters and PhD in Urban and Regional Planning and Policy Development from Rutgers University. She specializes in regional and local economic development planning and developing nations, with a particular focus on small developing nation economies. Her research interests and writings have focused on issues concerning US Caribbean immigrant communities as well as on Caribbean nations' development, particularly Haiti. She has published several articles and two books, one on the requirements and conditions for diaspora reconnection and development in Haiti and the other on social system structure and development challenges of Haiti. Her latest work is on entrepreneurial development among Afro-Caribbean immigrants in Miami and New York. Dr. Wah has been involved in community development work in the New York African-American and Caribbean communities as a consultant, non-profit administrator and activist/advocate. She has worked with the World Bank and the International Finance Corporate as a Privatization Program Administrator for the Government of Haiti. She is currently the Haiti Policy Program Director at the Earth Institute, Columbia University.

Panelist: Dr. Michael Dash

J. Michael Dash, born in Trinidad, has worked extensively on Haitian literature and French Caribbean writers, especially Edouard Glissant, whose works, *The Ripening* (1985), *Caribbean Discourse* (1989) and *Monsieur Toussaint* (2005) he has translated into English. After 21 years at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica where he was Professor of Francophone Literature and Chair of Modern Languages, he is now Professor of French at New York University after having been Director of the Africana Studies Program. His publications include *Literature and Ideology in Haiti* (1981), *Haiti and the United States* (1988), *Edouard Glissant* (1995), *The Other America: Caribbean Literature in a New World Context* (1998). He has also translated *The Drifting of Spirits* (1999) by Gisèle Pineau. His most recent books are, *Libeté: A Haiti Anthology* (1999) with Charles Arthur and *Culture and Customs of Haiti* (2001).

Panelist: Dr. Claudine Michel

Dr. Claudine Michel is a Professor in the Department of Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Michel received her BA in early childhood education from the Université d'Etat d'Haiti and a MA and Ph.D. in International Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Michel is researching the process of moral

development among African-American women and youth. Other research interests include multicultural education, children's literature, educational television and religion. She is the author of *Aspects Moraux et Educatifs du Vodou Haitien* (Le Natal, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 1995); and co-author of *Etude Comparative des Théories du Développement de l'Enfant* (DeBoeck/Université, Bruxelles/Paris, 1994). Her book *Offerings: Continuity and Transformation in Haitian Vodou* is forthcoming with Oxford University Press. She is also co-editor of *Black Studies: Current Issues, Enduring Questions* (2001, Kendall/Hunt), *The Black Studies Reader* (2004, Routledge) and *Brassage: An Anthology of Haitian Women's Poetry* (2005, Multicultural Women's Press). With Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, she has co-edited two books on Vodou, *Spirit, Myth and Reality in Haitian Vodou* (2006, Indiana University Press) and *Vodou in Haitian Life and Culture: Invisible Power* (2006, Palgrave/Macmillan). Dr. Michel served as Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, College of Letters and Science from 1996-1998 and as Director for the Center for Black Studies from 1996-2002 and again from 2005-2009. She is currently editor of the *Journal of Haitian Studies*.

Panelist: Dr. Serge Madhere

Serge Madhere is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Howard University. He teaches primarily courses in Research Methods and Statistics at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Serge Madhere graduated magna cum laude from the University of Paris-Sorbonne (France) with a degree in Psychology (minor in Linguistics). He received a Master's degree and then a PhD in Measurement, Statistics and Research Design from New York University. Prior to entering academia, Dr. Madhere worked for twelve years as a data analyst and directed program evaluation for a number of school districts including Newark, NJ and Washington, DC. Since coming to Howard University, Dr. Madhere has co-founded (with Wade Boykin, Sylvia Johnson, and Hope Hill) the Center for Research on Educating Students Placed at Risk (CRESPAR) where he served for five years as co-director of the Talent Development Middle School Program. As a measurement specialist, Dr. Madhere has been a member of the Design and Analysis Committee for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) run by the US Department of Education. In the past five years, he has started the Psycho-educational Laboratory on Learning, Motivation, and Assessment Technology (Pellmat). His work on cognitive development requires the comparative examination of physiological and social-ecological factors. Dr. Madhere has published a number of articles on a variety of key issues in psychology, education, and health. They aimed to advance understanding of intellectual abilities, cultural diversity, self-esteem, values, grade retention, opportunity to learn, and the social context of education, particularly the impact of exposure to violence on African American children. Currently, Dr. Madhere is an investigator on a multi-disciplinary research project funded by NIH through the Howard University Human Genome Center, where a team of researchers are examining the ethical, legal, and social implications of recent

genomic discoveries. Dr. Madhere is a member of a number of professional organizations, including the New York Academy of Sciences.

Plenary Session II: Historical Memory, Religions Culture & Grassroot Ecologies

Panel Chair: Dr. Flore Zéphir:

Dr. Zéphir has been teaching at the University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) since 1988 in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. She is currently professor of French, coordinator of the Master's program in foreign language teaching, and chair of the department. She is the recipient of several awards at MU. In 1995, she received a Kemper award for excellence in teaching; in 2003, an award for excellence in advising; and in 2004, a Faculty-Alumni award.

Professor Zéphir, a native of Haiti, came to the United States in 1975. She attended Hunter College of the City University of New York, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Education in 1980. The following year she went to Indiana University-Bloomington, and earned two Masters of Arts degree in 1983, and a Ph.D. in French Linguistics in 1990.

Professor Zéphir teaches French language classes at all levels, as well as courses in foreign language teaching methodologies, French linguistics, bilingualism and multiculturalism, and minority and Creole languages. Her research interests include foreign language education, bilingual education, Creole studies, sociolinguistics, and ethnic and immigrant studies with a particular focus on the Haitian diaspora in the United States. She is a regular presenter at the various foreign language teaching conferences, as well as linguistics meetings.

Given her expertise in the areas of bilingual, multicultural, and foreign language education, as well as immigrant studies, Professor Zéphir is a well sought-after speaker, invited to conduct workshops and give presentations on these topics. For example, in the summer of 2001, she taught a segment on French creoles, as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities' Summer Institute on the African Diaspora held at MU.

Her numerous articles and review essays have appeared in the French Review, Foreign Language Annals, Modern Language Journal, Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages, Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development, and Afro-Hispanic Review, among other professional journals. In 1999, she received an award from the French Institute of Washington for an article published in the French Review. Her first book, *Haitian Immigrants in Black America: A Sociological and Sociolinguistic Portrait* was published in 1996 by Bergin and Garvey; her second, *Trends in Ethnic Identification Among Second-Generation Haitian Immigrants in New York City*, was released in summer 2001 also by Bergin and Garvey; and her third, *The Haitian Americans*, was published in August 2004 by Greenwood Press as part of its New Americans series. She also serves as book review editor for the Journal of Haitian Studies.

In addition to receiving scholarly attention, Professor Zéphir's work on Haitian

immigrants in the United States has generated a great deal of interest on the part of the media. For example, in 2002, a reporter from the Washington Post conducted a phone interview with her. Excerpts of that interview appeared in an article, “A Diverse—and Divided—Black Community,” published in the Sunday, February 24, 2002 issue of that paper. Subsequently, she was quoted in an article titled “Black America Transformed: Immigration reshapes a once-monolithic community,” published in the International Herald Tribune in Paris (Monday, February 25, 2002). She has also been featured in the diasporic newspaper, the Haitian Times, which published a review of her book on the second-generation Haitian immigrants (January 1-7, 2003 issue, p.2). Additionally, she appeared on a number of radio programs, including Perspectives Haitiennes, and the Caribbean segment of Voice of America. She also contributed a monthly column to the Boston Haitian Reporter from April 2004 through March 2005.

Panelist: Dr. Jennie Smith

Jennie Smith-Pariolá spent most of the 10 years following college graduation in rural Haiti, working with peasant organizations, NGOs, and IGOs and conducting anthropological research. She received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998. She taught for 8 years at Berry College in Rome, Georgia, where she founded the school’s anthropology program and eventually chaired the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She also co-founded and directed the college’s Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program. Her book, entitled, *When the Hands are Many: Community Organization and Social Change in Rural Haiti*, was published by Cornell University Press in 2001 and reissued by Arawak Publishers (Jamaica) in 2003. She recently took 3 years off from academics to care for and educate her two children. In September, she began a new appointment as Associate Professor of Anthropology at Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio.

Panelist: Dr. Gina Ulysse

Gina Athena Ulysse was born in Petion-Ville, Haiti. She is the middle child of three sisters. In her early teens, she migrated to the East Coast of the United States. Her family has lived there ever since. Trained as an anthropologist, she is also a poet/performer and multi-media artist.

She earned her Ph. D. at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1999. Her doctoral research project focused on female independent international traders known as Informal Commercial Importers (ICIs) in Kingston, Jamaica. This work resulted in her first book *Downtown Ladies: Informal Commercial Importers, A Haitian Anthropologist and Self-Making in Jamaica* (Chicago 2007). She has written several articles that explore issues of gender, race and class performance and representation, fieldwork conflicts and feminisms and diasporic tensions. With her scholarship Ulysse has several objectives. First, she seeks to recognize and legitimize the value of organic and other marginal intellectuals and bring the into conversation with more established scholarship. Second, she works to illuminate the

plurality of black subjectivities by challenging contemporary and archaic stereotypes. Last with her emphasis on praxis, she uses various methods designed to engage in public scholarship that both disseminates knowledge circulating in the academy to a broader audience and brings into the academy dialogues relegated to the cultural margins. To that end, Ulysse insists on pushing the boundaries of cultural anthropology with her spoken word performances, which she considers an “alter(ed)native” form of ethnography. She uses this medium to capture the visceral that is often absent in structural accounts. With this genre, she dramatizes and addresses issues of social (in)justice, her intersectional identities, spirituality and her rage at the dehumanization of Haitians and other marked bodies. Her aim is to integrate an otherwise split or fractured subject.

Some of her poetry publications include: “A Poem About Why I Can’t Wait: Going Home Again and Again and Again: Why I Prefer the Term Incarcerated When Talking about Agency” in *The Butterfly’s Way: Voices From the Haitian Diaspora in the United States*, edited by Edwidge Danticat; A series of her poetry entitled “I Came of Age Colonized Now my Soul is Tired and I am Feeling All this Rage” was published by *Jouvert: Journal of Postcolonial Studies*; Others have appeared in *Meridians: Feminism, Race and Transnationalism*; *Ma Comere, Journal of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars and Bowl of Milk*. Her work has also appeared in the anthropological anthologies, *Women on the Verge of Home*, edited Bilinda Straight (SUNY Press) and *Resisting Racism and Xenophobia: Global Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Human Rights*, edited by Faye V. Harrison (AltaMira Press).

A dynamic performer, described as by a reviewer as “a fantastic whirlwind of word and emotion, transforming Haiti from an objective abstract to a subjective reality.” Ulysse has performed at numerous conferences including the American Anthropological Association Meetings, American Ethnological Association Meetings, PRISM conference and in colleges and universities including Bates College, Berry College, Brown University, Emerson College, Indiana University, Mount Holyoke, Oberlin College, New School for Social Research, University of Florida among others as well as Center Stage Theatre in Santa Barbara, Lyric Stage Theatre in Boston as well as Bluestockings Bookstore, Brecht Forum, and LaMaMa in NYC. She has also performed several times in Berlin, Germany. Ulysse plans to bring her one-woman show “Because When God is too Busy” to the stage in 2010. She is currently writing a play “Voodoo Doll Or What if Haiti were a Woman: A Little Magic in 21 Points.”

Plenary Session III: Language Ecology

Panel Chair: Dr. Albert Valdman

Dr. Albert Valdman is a Rudy Professor Emeritus of French and Italian and of Linguistics at Indiana University, Bloomington. Dr. Albert Valdman (A.B., Romance Languages, University of Pennsylvania, M.A. and Ph.D. 1960, French Linguistics from

Cornell University) has taught at the Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. Department of State and the Pennsylvania State University before joining the faculty of Indiana University. Now completing his thirty-ninth year on the Indiana University faculty, Valdman serves as chairman of the Committee for Research and Development in Language Instruction and directs the Creole Institute. He was chairman of the Department of Linguistics between 1963 and 1968. He has held visiting appointments at the University of the West Indies (Jamaica) and at the University of Nice and taught in summer institutes at Harvard University and the University of Oregon.

Valdman has held Guggenheim, NATO-NSF, Fulbright, and Senior Fulbright Research fellowships; he was named *Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* of France, and he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Neuchâtel. His research and professional interests span a broad range of areas in applied and descriptive linguistics, including second language acquisition research, foreign language teaching, pidgin and creole studies, and French linguistics.

Among his recent publications are: *Bien entendu! Introduction à la phonétique française* (1993) and *A Dictionary of Louisiana Creole* (1998). In addition to the publication of more than 200 articles and reviews in a variety of language journals, he has been involved in the preparation of foreign language materials, including a major high school French series and beginning French college textbooks. He is founder and editor of the journal *Studies in Second Language Acquisition* (Cambridge University Press) and a review editor of the *French Review*.

Valdman has served as secretary-treasurer of the American Association for Applied Linguistics, as president of the International Association of Applied Linguistics, and as president of the American Association of Teachers of French. He is also a member of three major francophone committees in the area of the language sciences and vice-president of the International Committee of Creolists.

Panelist: Dr. Robert Chaudenson

Robert Chaudenson, currently professor emeritus at the University of Provence (Aix-Marseille I), is the leading specialist of French-based creoles in the world; he also ranks among the leading international scholars in the field of creole studies and language contact. He is also a specialist in various educational and language planning issues involving the relationship between French and local languages in officially francophone countries, especially Sub-Saharan Africa.

He is the author of about twenty books or monographs and about 200 articles and contributions to collective volumes dealing, among other topics, with creole studies, ethnographic studies of the creole-speaking islands of the Mascaregnas Archipelago (Indian Ocean), language contact issues in francophone countries, and language change. He has edited numerous collective volumes bearing on these topics.

Chaudenson is the author of the only thorough lexicological study of a French-based creole language, *Le lexique du parler créole de la Réunion*, 2 vol. (1974), a book that received reviews in a dozen journals in Europe and North America. He has edited several collections of texts in the French-based creoles of the Indian Ocean documenting older forms of these languages (*Textes anciens en créole réunionnais et mauricien: comparaison et essai d'analyse* (1981) and undertaken linguistic atlases of the Indian Ocean islands of Reunion and Rodrigues (*L'Atlas linguistique et ethnographique de la Réunion 1984-1989*), *Atlas linguistique et ethnographique de Rodrigues* (1992).

In his influential books in the area of creoles studies, *Les créoles français* (1979), *Des îles, des hommes, des langues* (1992), *La créolisation: théorie, applications, implications* (2003), the latter translated into English, Chaudenson put forward what has become the most widely accepted theory about the genesis of French-based creoles, namely, that these languages are the result of the imperfect acquisition of variable varieties of vernacular French in the special social context of insular plantation colonies. He demonstrated that these approximations to the vernacular speech of French speakers underwent further modifications as they were acquired by new arrivals of speakers of a variety of African languages. Thus he refuted the view that creole language are nativized pidgins, as well as two previously dominant theories, on the one hand, the so-called bioprogram hypothesis according to which creoles result from the activation of an innate language learning capacity on the part of children exposed to “unlearnable” pidginized forms of European languages and, on the other hand, the notion that French-based creoles are relexified forms of specific African languages, i.e., African-based grammars clothed with French vocabulary.

In the last 20 years, while continuing his work with French-based creoles and the process of creolization in general, Chaudenson has turned his attention to the contact of French and local vernacular languages where the latter is the official language, especially in Sub-Saharan countries. He has put forward a very useful model for the analysis of the status and role of French in so-called francophone countries, *Propositions pour une grille d'analyse des situations linguistiques de l'espace francophone* (1988). His book, *Langues, économie et développement* (1989) stresses the importance of language issues in economic development, and in *Vers une révolution francophone* (1989), he presents a very insightful critical examination of language planning policies of the various official institutions that administer and fund language policies in francophone countries and those of the French government. In his review of practices in the teaching of French in these countries, he questions whether the school can succeed in leading to a sufficient level of competence, and he stresses the need to turn toward new technologies, *Education et langues. Français, créoles, langues africaines, Vers une autre idée et pour une autre politique de la langue française* (2006).

Prior to his appointment at the University of Provence, Chaudenson taught at the University of Réunion and served as its president. He is a founding member of the association that regroups specialists of French-based creoles and the culture of regions

where these languages are spoken, the Comité International des Etudes Créoles (CIEC), and he has served as its president for the thirty-three years of its existence. In fact, that post corresponds to the office of president and executive secretary of most scholarly associations. Chaudenson has secured funding and organized fifteen international conferences in all regions where French-based creoles are spoken, and founded and managed the journal of the CIEC, *Études créoles* during the entire period of its existence. He has directed a variety of wide scale research projects in the area of creole and francophone studies. He has also held offices in task forces and international committees sponsored by the two major francophone agencies, the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (AIF) that provides support in the areas of education, culture, and technology to developing francophone countries, and the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) that sponsors research in these fields.

Panelist: Dr. Suze Mathieu

Biography forthcoming