Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples

Inaugural Symposium

“Slavery, Memory, Citizenship”

Assembly Hall, Founders College
York University
23-24 March 2007

in association with the formal launch of The Tubman Institute on March 25th, 2007, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the British abolition of the slave trade

FRIDAY, 23 March 2007

8:30 AM – Registration

9:00 AM – Opening of Symposium

WELCOME: David Dewitt, Associate Vice President Research & Innovation

OPENING REMARKS: Paul E. Lovejoy, FRSC, Distinguished Research Professor, Canada Research Chair in African Diaspora History, and Director, Harriet Tubman Institute

9:30 AM – From Haitian Revolution to British Abolition

CHAIR: Renée Soulodre-La France, Associate Professor, Department of History, King’s College, University of Western Ontario

Gad Heuman, Professor, Department of History, University of Warwick, Editor, Slavery and Abolition
Myriam Cottias, Director, Centre de Recherches sur les Esclavages, CNRS; Université des Antilles-Guyane
Nadine Hunt, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, York University
Chouki El Hamel, Associate Professor, Arizona State University

11:00 AM – Coffee
11:30 AM – The Impact of British Abolition - 200th anniversary

CHAIR: David V. Trotman, Associate Director, Harriet Tubman Institute, and Associate Professor, Department of History and Division of Humanities, York University

Jane G. Landers, Associate Professor, Department of History, Vanderbilt University
Mariana Pinho Candido, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
Elisée Soumonni, Coordinator of Institut Béninois d'études et de recherche sur la diaspora africaine (IBERDA), Université Nationale du Bénin, Republique du Bénin
Juanita De Barros, Assistant Professor, Department of History, McMaster University, and Vice President, Canadian Association of Caribbean Studies

1:00 PM – Lunch

2:30 PM – UGRR - Canada and the Legacy of Slavery

CHAIR: Michele Johnson, Associate Professor, Department of History, York University

Karolyn Smardz Frost, Executive Director, Ontario Historical Society; Visiting Professor, York University, and author
Chandler B. Saint, President, Beecher House Society
Rosemary Sadlier, President, Ontario Black History Society, and author
Afua Cooper, author and historian

4:30 PM – Keynote Address

Kate Clifford Larson, Professor, Department of History, Simmons College, “The Harriet Tubman Story”

5:30 PM – Reception and Book Celebration sponsored by Africa World Press

Master of Ceremonies: José C. Curto, Associate Professor, Department of History, York University

7:00 PM – Advance Screenings

“A Slave’s Story” (BBC), documenting the life of Venture Smith from his days of enslavement in West Africa in the 1730s to his death in Connecticut as a freeman in 1805, using DNA technology, archaeological excavation and historical research to trace his origins and chronicle the search of his descendants for their family identity.

“Bloodlines: The Battle of Queenston Heights” (Yap Films Inc. for History Channel), the living descendents of iconic chapters in history are tracked down for revealing documentaries that use the present as a lens into the past. An intersection of family history and documented historical events provide a fresh and entertaining way of bringing history to life, with unpredictable results.
SATURDAY, 24 March 2007

9:30 AM – Comparative Systems of Bondage

CHAIR: Brian Moore, Professor, Department of History, Colgate University

Toyin Falola, Frances Higginbotham Nalle Centennial Professor, University of Texas at Austin, Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters
Behnaz Mirzai, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Brock University
Mariza Soares, Professor, Department of History, Universidade Federal Fluminense, and Visiting Fellow, Gilder-Lehrman Center, Yale University
Radhika Mongia, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, York University

11:00 AM – Coffee

11:30 AM – Reparations and Reconciliation

CHAIR: Pablo Idahosa, Director, African Studies Program, and Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, York University

Olatunji Ojo, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Syracuse University
Asheda Dwyer, Undergraduate, Department of Sociology, York University
Datejie Green, Graduate Student, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
Carlos Liberato, Ph.D. candidate, Department of History, York University, and Professor Assisente, Department of History, Universidade Federal de Sergipe

1:00 PM – Lunch

2:00 PM – Memory and Citizenship

CHAIR: Andrea Davis, Assistant Professor, Department of English, York University

Martin Klein, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Toronto
Ana Lucia Araujo, CELAT (Centre interuniversitaire d'Etudes sur les Lettres, les Arts et les Traditions), Université Laval
Muhammad Salau, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Mississippi
Carolyn Brown, Associate Professor, Department of History, Rutgers University

4:00 PM – Closing Address

Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann, FRSC, Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights, Wilfrid Laurier University, “Reparations for the Slave Trade: A Human Rights Perspective”

5:00 PM – Reception

7:30 PM – Jazz at the Orange Snail – Stong College
Book Exhibition

Africa World Press
University of Rochester Press
Markus Wiener Publisher
Tubman Institute Publications

Also visit display at the York University Bookstore, “200 Years after British Abolition of the Slave Trade,” March 19 – March 30, 2007

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