On the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the first U.S. Black Studies department at San Francisco State University, we will convene an interdisciplinary group of scholars, activists, artists, and administrators to address the past, present, and future of our field. The symposium presents an opportunity to think about the shifting intellectual priorities within Black Studies and the institutional demands facing contemporary African American Studies departments and programs. Further, it provides an occasion to strategize ways to invigorate the discipline and address the challenges of our times. The symposium seeks to address two distinct, but overlapping themes. *Intellectual Histories* addresses the movements, theories, schools of thought, and other scholarly contributions of the field. *Institutional Demands* refers to the everyday politics of running Black Studies programs within the academy. This includes undergraduate and graduate curricula, hiring, fundraising, tenure and promotion, etc.

We seek individual papers and panel submissions from across disciplines related to the field of Black Studies. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Activism, Afrocentricity, Afrofuturism, Afro-Pessimism, Black Feminism & Womanism, Black Queer Studies, Courses & Curriculum, Fundraising
- Gender and Sexuality, Graduate Programs, Histories of the Field, Institutional Pressures, Interdisciplinary Research, Negritude, Nomenclature
- Pan-Africanism and Diaspora Studies, Professional Development, Self-Definition, Student Recruitment and Retention, Theory and Methods.

Abstracts for individual presentations should be 500 words or less. Panel submissions should include a panel title and abstracts for each presentation (1,500 words or less). All submissions are due by June 1, 2018 using this link: [https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4TkuPtYS7TYCHv7](https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4TkuPtYS7TYCHv7)

Or email paper and panel submissions to:

Marlo D. David, Director
Purdue African American Studies & Research Center
aasrc@purdue.edu

[Include “2018 Symposium Abstract” in subject line]

Website: [http://www.ela.purdue.edu/african-american/](http://www.ela.purdue.edu/african-american/)