African American Studies & Research Center’s
29th Symposium on African American
Culture & Philosophy

“Black to the Future: Black Culture Through Time and Space”

November 20 - 22, 2014
Purdue University
Stewart Center, 3rd Floor
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907
“Out of the Shadows, Into the Stars: Science and Technology in African American Studies”

Symposium Keynote
Dr. Alondra Nelson

Alondra Nelson is professor of sociology and gender studies and Dean of Social Science at Columbia University, where she has served as director of the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality. Her research focuses on the intersections of science, technology, medicine, and inequality. She is author most recently of Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination, which was recognized with four professional awards. Her books also include Genetics and the Unsettled Past: The Collision of DNA, Race, and History and Technicolor: Race, Technology, and Everyday Life. She is editor of “Afrofuturism,” a landmark special issue of the journal Social Text. Her forthcoming book, The Social Life of DNA, will be published next year by Beacon Press.

Her essays, reviews, and commentary have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Science, and the Boston Globe, among other publications. Nelson is the recipient of fellowships from the Ford, Wilson, and Mellon Foundations. She has been a visiting fellow of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Medicine, the BIOS Center at the London School of Economics, and the Bavarian American Academy. She sits on the editorial board of Social Studies of Science and serves as an advisor to the Data & Society Research Institute.
Friday, November 21, 2014
Continental Breakfast 8:30 AM, Room 313

Concurrent Panels
9:00 - 10:00

Room 314
Afro-Futurist Music

Chair, Mr. Arthur Banton, Purdue University

“America at the Dawn of Illmatic: Afro-Futurism and the Creative Genius of Nasir Jones”
Mr. Wilfredo Gomez, Syracuse University

“Itinerant Futures: Afro Futurist Feminism, African Migrant Subjectivities and Black Countercultural Production”
Ms. Adwoa Afful, York University

Room 318
Blackness of the Future

Chair, Dr. Joseph Dorsey, Purdue University

“Reaching Back and Bringing W.E.B. DuBois and Jose Marti for a Discussion on Afro-futurism”
Mr. Anthony Ramos, Purdue University

“The Coming of John (Anna): Lauren Olamina and DuBois’ Cautionary Tale for Black Leaders”
Ms. Marlyn Thomas, Morgan State University

Break 10:00 - 10:15, Room 313

10:15 - 11:45

Room 314
Race and Identity in the Supernatural and the Heroic

Chair, Dr. David Rollock, Purdue University

“Vampires, Zombies and Alien Prophets: Post-Apocalyptic Utopian Black Bodies”
Mr. Clayton Colman, University of Delaware

“An Afrofuturistic Examination of Electromagnetism and Android Embodiment in the Black Superheroic”
Mr. Christian Keeve, Northwestern University

“Moynihanian Pan-Africanism in Brandon Massy’s Dark Corner”
Dr. Jerry Rafiki, Palomar College
Room 318
Afrofuturism and Pedagogy

Chair, Dr. Chrystal Johnson, Purdue University

“Black Cultural Centers in Third Space: Developing C. E. L. L’s (Culture Education Living Laboratories) in Higher Education”
Ms. Jolivette Anderson-Douoning, Purdue University

“The MARS Project”
Ms. Denenge Akpem, Columbia College Chicago

“Resisting the Canon: Afro-futurism in the English Language Arts Classroom”
Ms. Eyatta Fischer, The Ohio State University

12:00—2:00

Plenary Luncheon
PMU West Faculty Lounge
POETRY AND SPOKEN WORD
Concurrent Panels
2:15 - 3:45

Room 314
Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Narratives of Afrofuturistic Past, Present, and Future

Chair, Dr. Jennifer Freeman-Marshall, Purdue University

“(Beyond) the Borders of the Neo-Slave Narrative: Nalo Hopkinson’s The Salt Roads”
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Tucker, University of Rochester

“Trauma and the Formation of Radical Black Girl Subjectivity in Nalo Hopkinson’s Midnight Robber”
Ms. Aria Halliday, Purdue University

“The Afrogaze: Graphic Narratives, Storytelling and Afrofuturist Possibilities”
Ms. Olubukola Ogundipe, DePaul University

Room 318
Race, Gender, and Religion in Contemporary Dramatic Texts

Chair, Dr. Antonio Tillis, Dean, College of Charleston

“The Darkening of Medea: Geographies of Race, (Dis) Placement, and Identity in Agostinho Olavo’s Alem do Rio (Medea)”
Dr. Jose Santos de Paiva, Federal University Minas Gerais

“Dissecting Colors and Rainbows in For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Enuf”
Ms. Juliana Borges Oliveria de Morais, Federal University Minas Gerais

“Christianity and Black Masculinity in James Baldwin’s Blues for Mister Charlie and August Wilson’s Joe Turner’s Come and Gone”
Ms. Delzi Alves Laranjeira, State University of Minas Gerais-UEMG
4:00 - 5:30
Room 314

Afrofuturism’s Subversive Voice
Chair, Dr. Su’ad Khabeer, Purdue University

“Race in Space: Parliament-Funkadelic’s Black Utopia”
Mr. Matthew Joseph

“Rainbows, Moonbeams, and Orange Snow—Stevie Wonder’s Spacetime Continuum”
Ms. Amber Hendrix, University of Memphis

“‘Black Girls from the Future’: Afrofuturist Body Politics in Black Women’s Rock and Punk Performance”
Dr. Marlo D. David, Purdue University

Saturday, November 22, 2014

Concurrent Panels
9:00 - 10:15
Room 314
Visions and Instruments for Enhancing the Lives of Black Males

Chair, Dr. Ronald J. Stephens, Purdue University

“Mentoring Black Males”
Dr. Kevin Brooks, The Ohio State University

“The Dialectics of Radicalism and Reformism: An Africana Womanist Analysis on Trayvon Martin’s Death”
Dr. Rondee Gaines, Miami University, Ohio

“Cultivating Black Male Individual and Group Identity Development in Higher Education”
Dr. Dwight Lewis, Purdue University
“Black to the Future: Black Culture Through Time and Space”  
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**Room 318**

**Crossing and Contestations: Feminism, Womanism, and Disability in Speculative and Fantasy Fiction by Women Writers of the African Diaspora**

Chair, Dr. Marlene Allen, Columbus State University

“Kindred Spirits: The Womanist Fantasy Fiction of Pauline Hopkins, Octavia Butler, and Tananarive Due”  
Dr. Marlene Allen, Columbus State University

“Engaging Diaspora: Race, Gender, and Speculative Fiction of the African Diaspora”  
Dr. Lesley Feracho, University of Georgia

“Octavia Butler and a Disability Centered Aesthetic”  
Dr. Theri Pickens, Bates College

“Transcorporeality is the New Black, or Re-fashioning a Black Feminist Aesthetic”  
Dr. Nicole Sparling, Central Michigan University

**Concurrent Panels, 10:30-11:45**

**Room 314**

**Afrofuturistic Revisions of Blackness through Film and Literature**

Chair, Dr. Marlo D. David, Purdue University

“Speaking a Strange Dialect: Black Graphix, Afrofuturism and Nnedi Okorafor’s Magical Negro”  
Dr. James Peterson, Lehigh University

“Searching for Drexciya: Speculative Alternative Histories and Reimagining Afrodisasporic Folklore in Black Media”  
Mr. Keevan Robertson, Wilfrid Laurier University

“Mirror, Mirage: Reflexivity and the Ephemeralities of Black Experimental Film”  
Ms. Layla Ben-Ali, University of Pennsylvania

**Room 318**

**Afrofuturism and Queerness**

Chair, Dr. Kim Gallon, Purdue University

“The Queer Art of Death: Time Traveling from the Harlem Renaissance to a Black Queer Afro-Future”  
Dr. Laura A. Harris, Pitzer College

“Looking for a Church in the Wild: Imagining a Revolutionary Future”  
Mr. J. Brendan Shaw, The Ohio State University

“Out of the Archival Closet: Opening the Historical Record to Black Lesbian Lives”  
Ms. Dalena Hunter, UCLA
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30TH AASRC SYMPOSIUM

November 17 - 19, 2016

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