18th Annual

Philosophy Born Of Struggle

Conference

Economic Crisis, Education and the Role of Philosophy for the African American Public.

October 28 & 29, 2011
Michigan State University
MSU Student Union
East Lansing, Michigan

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Malik Simba
Professor & Coordinator of Africana Studies at California State University-Fresno
On behalf of the planning committee for the 18th Annual Philosophy Born Of Struggle conference at Michigan State University, we welcome you to participate in a most stimulating academic and exciting intellectual experience. Today when scores of African Americans and many others are faced with unemployment, underemployment, homelessness, and hunger; progressive philosophy has the particular tasks of providing critical insight and theoretical illumination for practical struggles. This 18th annual conference with its emphasis on economic crisis, education and the role of philosophy for the African American public seeks to tie the university to the needs of the African American community. In the words of Kwame Nkrumah, “Practice without thought is blind; thought without practice is empty.”

Sincerely,
Dr. John H. McClendon III
Friday, October 28, 2011
MSU Student Union
Gold Room A & B

8:30am-5:00pm - Registration
8:30-9:00am - Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:30am - Welcome Remarks
   Dr. Matt McKeon, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University
   Dr. Richard Peterson, Past Chair, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University
   Dr. Leonard Harris, Purdue University and Philosophy Born Of Struggle
   Dr. J. Everet Green, Mercy College and Philosophy Born Of Struggle
   Dr. John H. McClendon III, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University

9:30-10:30am - Africa & African American Studies
   Dr. Leonard Harris: Moderator
   Mr. Ike Val Iyioke, “From Nuremburg to Kano, Eurocentricism to Afrocentricism”
   Ms. Amy Pommerening, “Radicalizing Us: Angela Davis and the Poetics of Prison Abolition”
   Mr. Robert Munro, “African American Studies as Paradigm for the Future American Academy”

10:30-11:15am - Race & Race/Class
   Dr. Stephen C. Ferguson: Moderator
   Mr. Andrew Woodson, Conceptualizing the Race/Class Relationship
   Ms. Esme Murdock, "Fragmentation and the Other: Recreating the 'Raced' Subject's Relation to the World"

11:15am-12:15pm - Conversations across Generations of Struggle with Dr. William R. Jones
   Dr. John H. McClendon III: Introduction of Panel
   Dr. William R. Jones
   Ms. Brittany O’Neal
   Ms. Kimberly Harris

12:15-1:15pm - Lunch on your own

1:20-2:15pm - Keynote Address
   Dr. John H. McClendon III, Introduction of Keynote Speaker
   Dr. Malik Simba, “Black Marxism and American Constitutionalism: Class, Race, and the American Dilemma”
2:15-3:00pm—“Dubois UnCut: Anti-Coloniality, Race Conscious and his Aversion to the American Empire”
   Dr. C. W. Dawson: Moderator
   Dr. Tommy Curry
   Dr. Dwayne Tunstall

3:00-3:15pm—Break

3:15-4:15pm—Environmental Justice, Black Workers’ Rights, Corporations & Theories of Development
   Dr. Malik Simba: Moderator
   Dr. Paul Gomber, “Workers Without Rights: The Recreation of Vulnerability in the Aftermath of Civil Rights”
   Dr. Michael Humphreys, “The Struggle to Know Our Place: Doing justice to Humans and Non-Human Others”

4:15-5:00pm—Religion, Education & the Question of Liberation
   Dr. John Mendez: Moderator
   Dr. C. W. Dawson, “Philosophy, the Black Church, and, Social Justice”

Saturday, October 29, 2011
MSU Student Union
Gold Room A & B

9:00-10:00am—Philosophy and the Black Experience
   Ms. Lila Wakeman: Moderator
   Ms. Kimberly Harris, “In Further Defense of Black Philosophy”
   Mr. Tremante Williams, “Alain Locke and Roy D. Morrison: A Practical Cultural Relativism”
   Mr. Victor Draine

10:00-11:00am—Philosophy and the Black Experience
   Mr. Lorenzo Buchanan: Moderator
   Mr. Joshua Hemmingway
   Ms. Lila Wakeman, "Golightly and the Value of Objective Metaethics"
   Mr. Terry Vaughan III
11:00am-12:00pm—The Attack on Education and Community Mass Movements
   Dr. John Mendez: Moderator
   Dr. Gail Presby, “Banning Ethnic Studies: Implications for Africana Studies”
   Ms. Sara Mokuria, “The University and the Community: Case Studies in Political Education and Social Engagement”
   Dr. J. Everet Green, “Occupying Space: Freeing Ourselves From Academic Slavery”

12:00-12:10pm—Dr. William R. Jones Philosophy Born Of Struggle Award

12:00-1:10pm—Lunch on your own

1:15-2:00pm—Economic Violence, Internal Oppression & Alienation
   Dr. Leonard Harris: Moderator
   Dr. Richard Peterson, “Economic Violence and Racism”
   Dr. Matthew Hutchison, “The Alienation of Blacks under Capitalism: A Marxist Critique”
   Dr. John Mendez, “Liberating The Oppressed Within”

2:00-3:00pm—Educational Justice, African American Culture, Values, & the Arts
   Dr. J. Everet Green: Moderator
   Mr. O’Donavan Johnson, “School Choice and Social Justice: A Match Made in Heaven or Strange Bedfellows?”
   Dr. Stephen Ferguson, “The Retreat from Class Analysis in Black Popular Music: A Critical Review of Jared Ball’s, I MiX What I Like: A MiXtape Manifesto”

3:00-3:15pm—Break

3:15-4:15pm—Special Session on MSU Student Movement
   Mr. Andrew Woodson: Moderator
   Ms. Dejanae Douglas: Commentator
   Mr. Brandon Anderson—W.E.B. DuBois Society
   Ms. Winnie Imbuchi—African Student Union

4:15-5:00pm—Wrap Up Session: What Is To Be Done?
   Dr. Leonard Harris
   Dr. J. Everet Green
   Dr. John H. McClendon III
Michigan State University The nation’s pioneer land-grant university, MSU began as a bold experiment that democratized higher education and helped bring science and innovation into everyday life. The revolutionary concept became a model for the nation.

Today, MSU is one of the top research universities in the world—on one of the biggest, greenest campuses in the nation. Home to nationally ranked and recognized academic, residential college, and service-learning programs, we're a diverse community of dedicated students and scholars, athletes and artists, scientists and leaders. In ways both practical and profound, we work to create a stronger, more sustainable, and more hopeful future for all.

Department of Philosophy at Michigan State University offers a distinctive balance of work in the traditional areas of philosophy with research and teaching in the more directly practical areas of bioethics and social and political thought.

Faculty are producing important scholarship in traditional philosophical sub-disciplines. At the same time, we have established areas of concentration focusing on more immediate and practical concerns.
Malik Simba received his B.A. in History and Philosophy from University of Southern Colorado- Pueblo, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Constitutional history from the University of Minnesota. His doctoral work also included course work in the History of African Peoples Program. He has held professorships in the departments of history at State University of New York at Binghamton and Clarion University in Pennsylvania. Presently, he is a senior professor and past chair of the History Department (2000-2003) and current Coordinator of the Africana Studies Program at California State University-Fresno. Dr. Simba was awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1979, 1987, and 1990. He serves on the Boards of the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at California State University-Fresno and Blackpast.org, the "google" of the African American experience.

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning....This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but there must be a struggle.”

Frederick Douglass