CALL FOR PAPERS
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
CENTENARY OF AIMÉ CÉSAIRE
Aimé Césaire/La Négritude: Poetics, Africana History/Identities, and Political Thoughts

October 16-17, 2013
Howard University (Washington, DC)

Suggested sub-themes for the International Symposium (not exhaustive, nor limited to):

- Africa in Césaire
- Césaire and African and African Diaspora Writers
- Césaire in African and African Diaspora Plays and Films
- Playing Césaire on Stage
- Césaire and the Political Heritage in the Caribbean
- Césaire and the discourse on the colonialism
- Césaire’s Black Radical Identity and the Idea of France
- Césaire, Senghor, and Damas: Approaches to Construct the Fundamental Black Identities
- Political Thoughts, Black Identities, and Freedom in Césaire
- Césaire, Frantz Fanon, and the Political Revolution
- (Pan-) Africa in Césaire, Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah and Amilcar Cabral
- Césaire/La Négritude, Wole Soyinka, and La Tigritude/the Tigertud
- The Image of Black Women in Césaire/La Négritude
- Haiti in Césaire/La Négritude
- Césaire and the Haitian Writers
- Reception of Césaire/La Négritude in Germany
- Césaire, La Négritude, the Creole, and la Créolité
- Césaire, La Négritude, and the Negrismo in Latin America
- The Negritud in Brazil
- Du Bois, Senghor, Damas, and Césaire
- Harlem Renaissance and La Négritude
- Césaire in the Genealogy of the Postcolonial and Africana Theories
- Postcolonial African Diaspora Movements and their Approaches to the African Identities/Négritude
- Translating and Reading Césaire and African/Diaspora Works
- How to Teach Africa and African Diaspora through Césaire
- The Heritage of Césaire/La Négritude, Today

Send all proposals to: Dr. Clément Animan Akassi, Host Committee and Program Chair: animanclement@yahoo.fr; and Dr. Derayeh Derakhshesh, Program Co-Chair: thursdayinparis@verizon.net

Deadline for proposals: Septembre 30, 2013 (no late submission will be accepted)

For more details about the international symposium, see attachment.
Howard University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of World Languages and Cultures

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Description
Under the Research Group on African and African Diaspora Studies (RGAADS) at the Department of World Languages and Cultures, and with multiple supports/sponsorships from various Departments, Howard University will host an international and interdisciplinary symposium on October 16-17, 2013, on the centenary of the birth of Aimé Césaire, one of the founders of the movement of Négritude. We invite individual papers or group proposals from the various disciplines that contribute to Césaire’s paradigm shifts in black poetics, black aesthetics, and political thoughts/theories, as well as from individuals and groups engaged in artistic, political, and intellectual work outside the academy, including writers, artists, and community activists.

Objectives
With this international symposium, we hope to reach a double objective. Beyond the mere celebration, the first objective of the event is to trace Césaire and the Négritude’s radical epistemology, which changed the discourse on the representation of Africa and its Diaspora, and on the African/Diaspora consciousness of self. The second objective is to show that such a seminal process of decolonization of African/Diaspora imaginary, through poetry, plays, essays, political thoughts/theories and activism, continued (and continues) to inform postcolonial and contemporary black –and non-black- thinkers such as Frantz Fanon, Reland Rabaka, Achille Mbembe, Manuel Zapata Olivella, Abdias do Nascimento, Molefi Asante, among others. The symposium will attempt eventually to address also the challenges of Césaire’s translations and teachings, for the African/Diaspora has been scattered across the global geography and the language barriers.

Symposium Venue: Howard University
At the time when several universities in the world— including Canada, England, France, Haiti, Senegal, and U.S., Howard University would have been accountable to the History and its own mission, if it were not hosting this international symposium. Indeed, Howard University serves as a powerful and symbolic setting for the symposium. In fact, not only
is it the premiere among the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU’s), but it has also been the host institution of Léon Gontran Damas, one of the co-founders of the *Négritude*, when he was teaching at Howard University as an invited professor in U.S. Howard University hosts also the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center/Library (MSRC), one of the major research facilities and recognized as one of the world’s largest and most comprehensive repositories for the documentation of the history and culture of people of African descent in Africa, the Americas, and other parts of the world.

**Proposals**

Please send individual papers, panel, roundtable, and special session proposals to the following steps described below:

- Paper, Panel, Roundtable, Special Session’s Title
- Name, institutional affiliation, discipline, position or title, and contact information of presenter including email address and phone number (for sessions: list organizer first, then each presenter providing requested information for each participant).
- Abstract of the proposals (100-150 words)
- Brief scholarly or professional biography of each presenter ((2-3 sentences)

**Organization**

1. **Host Committee**
   Host Committee Chair: Dr. Clément Animan Akassi
   Host Committee Co-Chair: Dr. Maryline Sephocle

**Members of the Host Committee**
Dr. James Davis
Dr. Clément Animan Akassi
Prof. Araba Arthur-Johnston
Dr. Carol Beane
Prof. Edvan Brito
Dr. Derayeh Derakhshesh
Dr. Annette Dunzo
Dr. Cerue Diggs
Dr. Marion Hines
Prof. Antonio Murillo
Dr. Regina Okafor
Dr. Françoise Pfaff
Dr. Marie-Line Sephocle
Dr. Jean-Jacques Taty
Prof. Franck Wagendo
Dr. Vernessa White-Jackson
Dr. Fred Williams

2. **Symposium Program**
Program Chair: Dr. Clément Animan Akassi
Program Co-Chair: Dr. Derayeh Derakhshesh
3. **Sponsors & Co-Sponsors**

**Sponsors:**
College of Arts and Sciences (COAS)
Department of World Languages and Cultures (DWLC)

**Co-Sponsors:**
Department of Political Sciences (Confirmed)
Department of English (Confirmed)
Department of African Studies (Confirmed)
Department of Theater Arts (Confirmed)
Howard University Library System (To be confirmed)