



JAMES BALDWIN'S GLOBAL IMAGINATION

A MULTI-SITE CONFERENCE EVENT

Program in Africana Studies, Department of Social & Cultural Analysis
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, New York, NY

February 17-20, 2011

JAMES BALDWIN'S GLOBAL IMAGINATION

New York University

February 17-20, 2011

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

AWAM AMKPA

New York University

RICH BLINT

New York University

DOUGLAS FIELD

Staffordshire University, UK

BILL SCHWARZ

Queen Mary, University of London

Program in Africana Studies, [NYU]

Institute of African American Affairs, [NYU]

The Office of the Vice-Provost for

Globalization & Multicultural Affairs, [NYU]

The Humanities Initiative, [NYU]

The Institute for Public Knowledge [NYU]

The Center for the Study of

Gender and Sexuality, [NYU]

The Asian/Pacific/American Institute, [NYU]

The Department of English, [NYU]

The Department of Music, [NYU]

The Schomburg Center for Research in

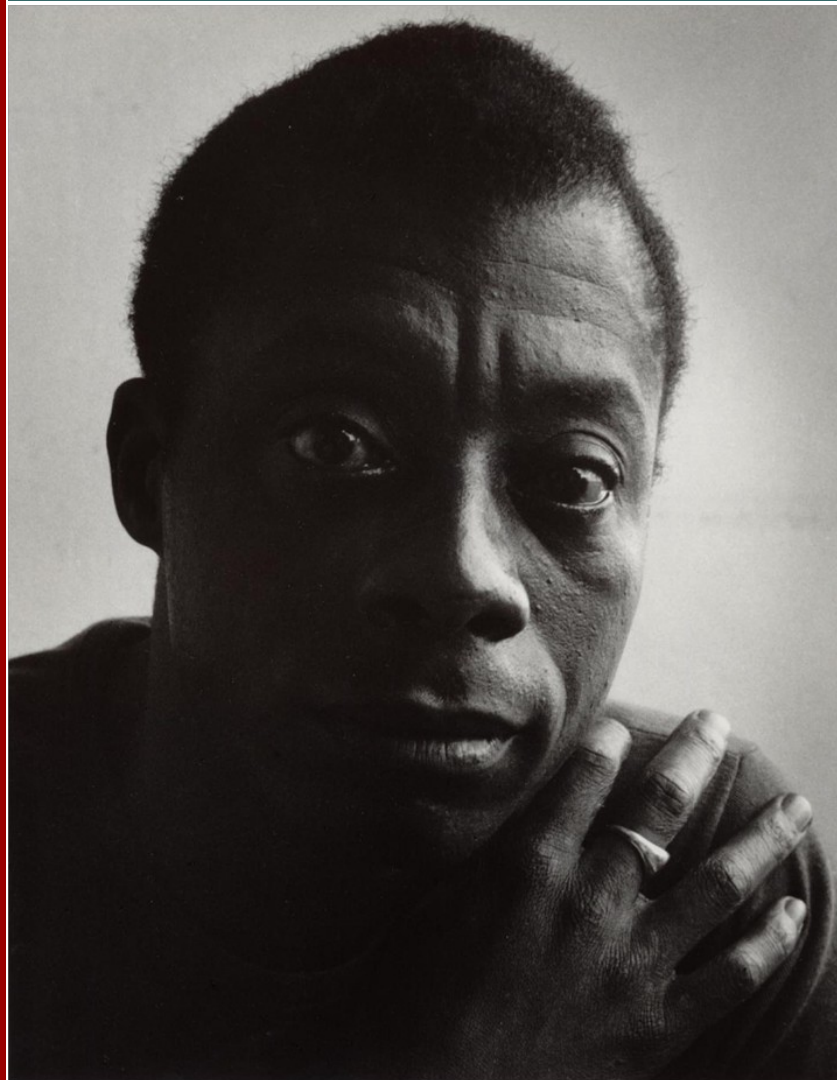
Black Culture, [NYPL]

The Studio Museum in Harlem

WNYC Radio 93.9FM/820AM

The Brecht Forum

Queen Mary, University of London, UK



Photograph by Sedat Pakay © 2011

Special Thanks:

We are grateful for the tremendous support extended by our institutional and individual collaborators in the staging of this conference. Deep thanks to Clarisse Rosaz Shariyf and Ashley Brown [The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture]; Amalia Mallard [The Studio Musuem in Harlem]; Erica Edwards [WNYC Radio]; LaRonda Davis and Greg Tate [Black Rock Coalition].

Our colleagues at NYU have been invaluable including, Ulrich Baer, Asya Berger, Alyssa Burke, Samuel Carter, and Jaira Placide. Extra-special thanks are due to Madala Hilaire and Imani Wilson who were both crucial to the success of this event. We are also very fortunate for our committed volunteers.

Finally, our thanks to all above for grasping the urgency of that classic Baldwin maxim: "The challenge is in the moment, the time is always now."

-The Program Committee

Staged in the context of global economic insecurity, a planet gripped by the ravages of war and climate change, ever-increasing gaps in wealth, as well as rampant fundamentalism (East and West), “James Baldwin’s Global Imagination” is intended as an examination of globality not simply as a matter of demography but as an urgent call to re-consider the contemporary utility of Baldwin’s expansive injunction to William Faulkner (and, in fact, to us all), “[t]hat any real change implies the breakup of the world as one has always known it, the loss of all that gave one an identity, the end of safety.”

These proceedings are thus proposed as an opportunity to take seriously Baldwin’s consistent and insistent proposal that categories of difference represent an early misnaming, a dangerous and cowardly misrecognition of the moral imagination required to confront not only our mortality but also the brutal legacies of our collective histories. Guided by Baldwin’s broad ethical-intellectual imagination, this conference considers a wide range of issues historically important to the author and of critical significance to the contemporary moment. Among other related concerns, we hope to make legible the continued impacts of U.S. state racism in this much heralded post-racial period. In this post-Civil Rights epoch saturated by disorienting fictions of progress circulating alongside the vulgar traffic in difference that characterizes much of late-capitalist popular consumption, critical appraisals of such processes are timely and necessary.

This orienting intellectual posture illuminates the continued structural and identitarian restraints which remain the most dominant features of global life, and has particular implications for policy-making, interdisciplinary scholarship, as well as twenty-first century conceptions of the self that refuse the false, or, more precisely, rigid, character of borders and disciplines.

- Rich Blint, Program Committee

CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011, 7PM

The Studio Museum in Harlem, Galleries/Theatre

144 West 125th Streets between Lenox Avenue (Malcolm X Blvd) and

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard (7th Av), NY, NY—SUBWAY: A,B,C,D, 2,3,4, 5, 6 trains to 125th St. Venue is handicapped accessible.

Black and Latino Literary Salon: Re-Read: James Baldwin’s “The Creative Process”

A collaboration between The Studio Museum, WNYC Radio, 93.9 FM, AM 820, and NYU’s multi-site conference event, “James Baldwin’s Global Imagination,” *Re-Read* is a new program series at the Studio Museum designed to re-engage classic and/or previously published texts. In tandem with WNYC’s signature Literary Salon, this program will highlight the essay, “The Creative Process,” originally published in *Creative America* (1962) and, most significantly, included in James Baldwin’s indispensable volume, *The Price of the Ticket: Collected Non-fiction 1948-1985*. Widely-known and frequently cited, this essay addresses complex issues of representation which are important for literature, visual art, and the full range of practices that comprise the discipline of art.

Panelists:

- ♦ Hilton Als, staff writer, *The New Yorker*
- ♦ Darryl Pinckney, novelist, playwright, essayist; frequent contributor to the *New York Review of Books*

Co-Moderators:

- ♦ Celeste Headlee, host of WNYC’s *The Takeaway*
- ♦ Patrick Henry Bass, senior editor at *Essence Magazine*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011, 5:30PM

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,

Langston Hughes Auditorium, NYPL

515 Malcolm X Boulevard (@135th Street), NY, NY—SUBWAY: 2,3 trains to 135th St. Venue is handicapped accessible.

Opening Reception: 5:30pm-6:15pm

Opening Plenary Roundtable: 6:30pm-8:15pm

“James Baldwin’s Global Imagination”

- ♦ Herb Boyd, Baldwin Biographer
- ♦ Aisha Karefa-Smart, Niece of James Baldwin
- ♦ Randall Kenan, ed., *The Cross of Redemption: Uncollected Writings of James Baldwin*
- ♦ David Leeming, Baldwin Biographer
- ♦ Hortense J. Spillers, Vanderbilt University

Moderator: D. Quentin Miller, Suffolk University, Boston

Concert: 9:00pm-10:30pm

“Come out the Wilderness: The Lyric Seduction of James Baldwin”, \$25⁰⁰

- ♦ Rashidah Ismaili AbuBakr
- ♦ Courtney Bryant
- ♦ Marc Cary
- ♦ DJ Lynnee Denise
- ♦ Latasha N. Nevada Diggs
- ♦ Tamar-Kali
- ♦ Morley
- ♦ Somi
- ♦ Imani Uzuri and Harvard KeyChange

*For ticket charge, call
The Schomburg Shop at
(212) 491-2206 or visit
Telecharge.com.*

FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 2011

**New York University, Hemmerdinger Hall, Silver Building,
100 Washington Square East, [bet. Waverly Place and Washington Place]**

NY, NY— SUBWAY: A,B,C,D,E,F to West 4th Street. N or R to 8th Street. B,D,F,Q to Broadway/Lafayette. 6 to Astor Place. Venue is handicapped accessible.

Saturday, February 19, 2011

Opening Remarks: 9:00am-9:30am

- ♦ Nikhil Singh, New York University
- ♦ Bill Schwarz, Queen Mary, University of London

Plenary I: 9:30-10:45am

James Baldwin and Collaboration: An Exchange

- ♦ Nicholas Boggs, Columbia University
- ♦ Jennifer Brody, Duke University
- ♦ Margo Crawford, Cornell University
- ♦ Brian Norman, Loyola University, Maryland

Moderator: Cora Kaplan, Queen Mary, University of London

Panel I: 11:00-12:45pm

James Baldwin and the Transatlantic

- ♦ Alice Mikal Craven, American University of Paris, “Reading Baldwin in Barbès.”
- ♦ Carter Mathes, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, “Dimensions of Sound: Black Radicalism and Critical Dissonance in James Baldwin’s *No Name in the Street*.”
- ♦ Richard Sennet, New York University, “James Baldwin in Exile.”
- ♦ Christopher Winks, Queens College, CUNY, “Into the Heart of the Great Wilderness: Understanding James Baldwin’s Quarrel with Negritude.”

Moderator: Douglas Field, Staffordshire University, UK

LUNCH 12:45pm-2:00pm

Plenary II: 2:00pm-3:30pm

James Baldwin and the Writerly Imagination

- ♦ Rashidah Ismaili AbuBakr, poet
- ♦ Gale P. Jackson, poet
- ♦ Darryl Pinckney, novelist, playwright, essayist; frequent contributor to the *New York Review of Books*
- ♦ Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts, author

Moderator: Esther Armah, journalist and playwright

Panel II: 3:45pm-5:00pm

James Baldwin in Queer Times

- ♦ Alex Corey, University of Colorado-Boulder, “Making Room for Giovanni: Sex, Murder and Refusal in *Giovanni’s Room*.”
- ♦ Douglas Field, Staffordshire University, UK, “*Giovanni’s Room* and the Queer Atlantic: Sailing and Cruising from New York to Paris.”
- ♦ Stephanie Li, University of Rochester, “Imagining Blackness in James Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room*.”
- ♦ Jessica E. Young, Columbia University, “Fantastic Engagement Mocking the Apocalyptic (F. E. M. A.): Blues, Baldwin, Bounce and the *Beyond*.”

Moderator: Steven Fullwood, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, NYPL

Plenary III: 5:15pm-7:00pm

James Baldwin in the “Age” of Obama

- ♦ Hortense J. Spillers, Vanderbilt University
- ♦ Kendall Thomas, Columbia University
- ♦ Cheryl Wall, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Moderator: Manthia Diawara, New York University

FEATURED EVENT: 7:00pm-9:00pm

James Baldwin on Film

***James Baldwin: From Another Place* [Sedat Pakay|12mins|1973]; *I Heard It Through the Grapevine* [Dick Fontaine|85mins|1982] - Post-Screening Discussion with Filmmakers**

Co-Moderators:

- ♦ Joan Harris, actor, journalist
- ♦ Magdalena Zaborowska, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Sunday, February 20, 2011

Panel III: 9:30am-10:45am

James Baldwin and Performance

- ♦ Tamara Bransburg and Matthew Sheriff-Cullick, Smith College, “The Politics of Self-Narration: Performing Identities On and Off the Stage in Baldwin’s *Tell Me How Long the Train’s Been Gone*.”
- ♦ Joshua Lubin-Levy, New York University, “Emancipation Choreographies: The Appositionality of Form in James Baldwin and Jack Smith.”
- ♦ Koritha Mitchell, Ohio State University, “How Theater ‘Re-created’ James Baldwin.”

Moderator: Awam Amkpa, New York University

Plenary IV: 11:00am-12:30pm

“James Baldwin and the Social (Sciences)”

- ♦ Bill Schwarz, Queen Mary, University of London, “Foreclosing the White World.”
- ♦ John Kuo Wei Tchen, New York University

Moderator: Avital Ronell, New York University

LUNCH 12:30pm-1:30pm

CO SPONSORS:

Panel IV: 1:30pm-3:00pm

James Baldwin: Love, Freedom, and the Fabrication of the Self

- ♦ Marcellus Blount, Columbia University, "James Baldwin: The Price of Love."
- ♦ Yasmin DeGout, Howard University, "James Baldwin and Politics of Christian Love: Rewriting Identity Politics Through Representations in Fiction."
- ♦ Ben De Witte, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, "Another Love, *Another Country*: James Baldwin's Reconfiguring of Relationality."
- ♦ Joanna Jeskova, Suffolk University, "Love Transcends Anti-Racism in James Baldwin's *Another Country* and *Just Above My Head*."

Moderator: Marcellus Blount, Columbia University

Panel V: 3:45pm-5:30pm

James Baldwin and the State

- ♦ Lisa Estreich, Columbia University, "'Moral' and 'Global' Imaginations in James Baldwin's *Another Country*."
- ♦ Kaveh Landsverk, Columbia University, "Undefined and Currently Undefinable: Rethinking James Baldwin and Black Power (s)."
- ♦ Zach Manditch-Prottas, Columbia University, "A Change Gonna Come: A Comparative Analysis of James Baldwin's Treatment of The Nation of Islam in *The Fire Next Time* and the Black Panther Party in *No Name in the Street*."
- ♦ Shawn Anthony Christian, Wheaton College, "The (new?) Rap on Race: Historicizing the Racial Dialogue Trope in Speeches by Barack Obama and Eric Holder."
- ♦ Fred Smith, University of California-Berkeley, "Baldwin, Republicanism, and A Forgotten Guarantee."

Moderator: Avital Ronell, New York University

Closing Plenary Roundtable: 5:30pm-7:00pm

"James Baldwin and the Contemporary Scene"

- ♦ James Campbell, author and editor; Baldwin Biographer
- ♦ Colm Toibin, author
- ♦ Patricia J. Williams, Columbia University
- ♦ Magdalena Zaborowska, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Co-Moderators:

- ♦ Rich Blint, New York University
- ♦ Bill Schwarz, Queen Mary, University of London

- ♦ **Schedule subject to change.**
- ♦ **All events are FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC unless otherwise noted.**
- ♦ **Seating is limited and registration is required. For sessions scheduled at New York University (February 19-20, 2011), please e-mail: baldwinconference@gmail.com to RSVP. For tickets to the concert, "Come out the Wilderness: The Lyric Seduction of James Baldwin," please call The Schomburg Shop directly at 212-491-2206 or visit Telecharge.com.**
- ♦ **For the event scheduled at The Studio Museum on February 17, 2011, please visit www.studiomuseum.org or email: rsvp@www.wnyc.org.**

A conference hotel rate has been arranged at the Holiday Inn, SoHo.
Please mention "James Baldwin's Global Imagination" when booking.



Holiday Inn, SoHo | Phone: (212) 966-8898
Toll-Free: (888) HOLIDAY --Reservations | Fax: (212) 941-5832
<http://www.hidowntown-nyc.com/>



Global Programs and
Multicultural Affairs 

