

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE AGENDA

INTER-COLLEGE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

With funding from
CUNY Faculty Development Grant and York College

Presents

***CARIBBEAN AND AFRICAN CREOLES
AS STRUCTURALLY DEFINED
LANGUAGE VARIETIES: ROLE AND
FUNCTION IN TEACHING AND
LEARNING***

An Interdisciplinary Conference

**Saturday, May 10th, 2008
8:00 A.M - 4:30 P.M.**

York College
City University of New York
Guy R. Brewer Blvd. Jamaica, Queens, NY

REGISTRATION BEGINS @ 7:30 A.M.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SATURDAY, MAY 10 2008

- 8:00 am. – 9: 00 am. Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 am. – 9:15 am Opening Remarks
Ivelaw Griffith, Provost for Academic Affairs, York College
- 9: 20 am -9: 30 am Invited Address
Dr Adelaide Sanford, Deputy-Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents
*History & Policy: Language and Diaspora Cultures & NYSED
Policy Response*

Celebration of Island Nation Language

- 9:30am Presenter: Ms. Andrene Bonner
- 9:40 am -10:10 am Keynote Address: Dr Hubert Devonish,
Dept. of Language Studies, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, WI
*Politics and Ideology in Discourses on Language: Cases from the
Caribbean*

10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:30 a.m.-11: 40 a.m.

Style and Structure of Creole Languages and African American Vernacular: Identity and Education

Moderator

Dr. Shondel Nero, Associate Professor
Department of Teaching and Learning
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development
New York University, NY

Presenters:

Dr. Pedro Noguera, Department of Teaching and Learning
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development
New York University, NY

Dr. Arthur Spears, Professor & Chair Department of Anthropology
Director Black Studies Program
The City College, CUNY

Dr. Hubert Devonish, Department of Linguistic and Philosophy
University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, WI

11:45 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.

Raising Silent Voices in Classrooms: Schooling of Haitian and West African students

Moderator

Dr. Charles Coleman, Department of English
York College, CUNY
Queens, NY.

Presenters:

Dr. Jean Francois, Department of Foreign Languages
York College, CUNY
Queens, NY

Dr. Maria Luisa-Ruiz,
Medgar Evers College, CUNY
Brooklyn, NY

Dr. Christa de Kleine, Department of Education
College of Notre Dame,
Baltimore, Maryland

11:45- 12:30

Researching Language Change: Case of the Berbice Dutch

Moderator:

Dr. Dawn Arno
Program Coordinator
Teachers College Ed. Zone
Teachers College, Columbia University
New York, NY

Presenter:

Ian Robertson, Ph. D
University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus,
Trinidad and Tobago, WI

12:35pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch

1: 40 pm – 2: 45 pm

Interpretations and Misinterpretations: Perspectives and Practices in Language Variations in Elementary and College Classrooms in NYC.

Moderator

Dr. Eleanor Armour-Thomas
Professor, Educational Psychology
Chair: Department of Secondary Education
Queens College, CUNY

Presenters:

Rashida Hallett (student)
York College, CUNY

Yollia Allen (student)
York College, CUNY

Monica Dyer (Adjunct Professor)
Department of English
York College, CUNY

Dr. Glaphyra La Pierre
NYC Public School

2: 55 pm – 3:15 pm

Issues and Challenges: Directions in Language Policy & Classroom Practices

Dr. J. A. G. Irish

Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies
& Director of Caribbean Research Center
Medgar Evers College, CUNY
Brooklyn, NY

3:25- 4:30

Book Launch and Reception

“Constructing Vernacular Culture in the Trans-Caribbean”

Edited by Dr Holger Henke

Presenters/Authors: *Dr Connie Sutton & others*

Registration Information Form

Conference – *CARIBBEAN AND AFRICAN CREOLES AS STRUCTURALLY
DEFINED LANGUAGE VARIETIES: ROLE AND FUNCTION IN TEACHING
AND LEARNING*

Saturday, May 10, 2008

York College, Guy Brewer Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11451

Keynote Speaker: Dr Hubert Devonish, Linguist

Panels on history, politics and educational issues related to speakers of Creole language varieties.

Exhibition of books

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name: _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Area Code: _____ Home Phone Number: _____ - _____ E-Mail: _____

School or Institution: _____

NO REGISTRATION/CONFERENCE FEE REQUIRED

Check where applicable:

POSITION: Educator Student

Parent Other

TEACHING LEVEL: Elementary Jr. High High School College Graduate

Please e-mail completed application to clay@york.cuny.edu or fax to 718-262-2454

BIOGRAPHIES

DR. ARTHUR K. SPEARS is affiliated with The City University of New York (CUNY). At The City College, he is Professor and Chair in the Anthropology Department and Director of the Black Studies Program. At The Graduate Center, he is professor in both the Linguistics and the Anthropology Programs. Dr. Spears is currently President (2007-2009) of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, the largest international body devoted to promoting the study of contact languages.

His Ph.D. in Linguistics was earned at the University of California, San Diego. From Northwestern University, he received an M.A. in Linguistics; and, from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, he received an M.A. with Distinction in International Relations. He earned a B.A. with Honors in French, Spanish, and Political Science from Kansas University.

Prof. Spears works in four languages (English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese), conducting research in the areas of (1) African-American English; (2) pidgin and creole languages, focusing on Haitian and other French-related creoles (3) language and education; and (4) race and ideology.

He is the founder and first editor of *Transforming Anthropology*, the journal of the Association of Black Anthropologists, published by the American Anthropological Association.

Prof. Spears's recent books include *The Structure and Status of Pidgins and Creoles* (co-editor with D. Winford; John Benjamins, 1997), *Race and Ideology: Language, Symbolism, and Popular Culture* (editor; Wayne State University Press, 1999), *Black Linguistics: Language, Society, and Politics in Africa and the Americas* (co-editor; Routledge, 2003), *Black Language in the English-Speaking Caribbean and U.S.: History, Structure, Use, and Education* (editor; Lexington/ Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), and *The Haitian Creole Language: History, Structure, Use, and Education* (co-editor; Lexington, Rowman & Littlefield, 2008).

Dr. Spears serves on the editorial panels of leading journals and the Creole Language Library of John Benjamins Publishing Co. He has served also as legal expert in court cases involving race and the use of controversial words and symbolism.

Believing in the importance of disseminating scholarship, he has presented information connected with his areas of specialization through frequent media appearances on the British Broadcasting Corporation ("The Story of English"), Black Entertainment Television, Gil Noble's current events talk show on ABC, National Public Radio, WBAI, and Inner City Broadcasting's WLIB, among other media organizations.

Prof. Spears's most recent book manuscript, *Increasing Diversity in Introductory Linguistics Courses* (co-edited), is in the final stages of review.

Dr. Christa de Kleine is Associate Professor of Education at the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Maryland, where she coordinates the MA TESOL program and teaches linguistics courses at the MA and PhD levels. Dr. de Kleine holds degrees in linguistics from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands (M.A.) and the City University of New York (Ph.D), where she specialized in language contact issues, including creolization. She has recently published a book on Surinamese Dutch and has published on other creole-influenced and creolized language varieties, including Afrikaans and Negerhollands (a Dutch-lexifier creole language once spoken in the Virgin Islands). Dr. de Kleine's current research, conducted in public schools in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, examines the acquisition of Standard American English by West African immigrant students in ESL programs who are native speakers of English-lexifier creole language varieties.

Pedro Antonio Noguera, Ph.D.

Pedro Noguera is a professor in the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University, the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and the co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings (IGEMS).

An urban sociologist, Noguera's scholarship and research focus on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions in the urban environment. Noguera has served as an advisor and engaged in collaborative research with several large urban school districts throughout the United States. He has also done research on issues related to education and economic and social development in the Caribbean, Latin America and several other countries throughout the world.

From 2000 - 2003 Noguera served as the Judith K. Dimon Professor of Communities and Schools at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. From 1990 – 2000 he was Professor in Social and Cultural Studies at the Graduate School of Education and the Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of California, Berkeley.

Pedro Noguera has published over one hundred and fifty research articles, monographs and research reports on topics such as urban school reform, conditions that promote student achievement, youth violence, the potential impact of school choice and vouchers on urban public schools, and race and ethnic relations in American society. His work has appeared in several major research journals and many are available online at inmotionmagazine.com. He is the author of *The Imperatives of Power: Political Change and the Social Basis of Regime Support in Grenada* (Peter Lang Publishers, 1997), *City Schools and the American Dream* (Teachers College Press 2003 – winner of Forward Magazine Gold Award), he is the co-editor of *Beyond Resistance: Youth Activism and Community Change*, (with Shawn Ginwright and Julio Camarota - Routledge 2006) and his most recent book is *Unfinished Business: Closing the Achievement Gap in Our Nation's Schools* (with Jean Yonemura Wing - Josey Bass, 2006).

Noguera has served as a member of the US Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control Taskforce on Youth Violence, the Chair of the Committee on Ethics in Research and Human Rights for the American

Educational Research Association, and on numerous advisory boards to local and national education and youth organizations. Dr. Noguera was a K-12 classroom teacher for several years and continues to teach part-time in high schools. From 1986-1988 he served as the Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Berkeley, and from 1990 – 1994 he was an elected member and the President of the Berkeley School Board. From 2005 – 2006 he served as the President of the Caribbean Studies Association and a member of the Commission on the Whole Child (Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development).

In 1995 he received an award from the Wellness Foundation for his research on youth violence, in 1997 he was the recipient of the University of California's Distinguished Teaching Award, in 2001 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of San Francisco and the Centennial Medal from Philadelphia University for his work in the field of education, and in 2005 he received the Eugene Carothers Award and the Whitney Young Award from the National Urban League, both for leadership in the field of education.

Noguera is the father of four children and resides in New York City.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Coleen Clay, Department of Teacher Education, York College, CUNY

Dr. Eleanor Armour-Thomas, Department Secondary Education and Youth Services: Queens College, CUNY

Dr. Dawn Arno, Teachers College Education Zone: Teachers College, Columbia University

Dr. Charles Coleman, York College, CUNY: Department of English

Dr. Jean Francois, York College, CUNY: Department of Foreign Languages

Dr. JA George Irish, Medger Evers College, CUNY: Caribbean Research Center/Dept. of Interdisciplinary Studies

Mr. Rick Lezama, Queens High School of Science @ York College, CUNY

Dr. Shondel Nero, NYU: Steinhardt School of Culture, Education & Human Development

Dr. Gerald White-Davis, Medgar Evers College, CUNY: Caribbean Research Center