Lifting the Veil
Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Identity and Responsibility in Global Societies

The 5th Annual Herman C. Hudson Symposium

Conference Location:
Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center
Indiana University, Bloomington
Saturday, March 22nd, 2008
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Herman C. Hudson Symposium
History and Details

Only two years after the historically groundbreaking Black Studies Program commenced at San Francisco State University, Herman C. Hudson founded and chaired the present-day African American and African Diaspora Studies Department at Indiana University, adding it to the richly budding movement. Growing exponentially from its three original faculty members, Hudson's department now houses over forty faculty, staff, and adjunct professors. Distinguished as one of the nation's premier programs in the field, the AAADS program at IU introduces students to a wide range of current research and scholarly opinion on the history, culture, and social status of black Americans and their African heritage, in addition to sharing vital educational and service-minded reciprocity with the Bloomington community.

The Herman C. Hudson Symposium memorializes the department's founder, and strives to unite the insights of students and faculty from multiple disciplines in the pursuit of scholarship on the African Diaspora. It is produced by the graduate students in the African American and African Diaspora Studies department of Indiana University under the aegis of faculty member Dr. Audrey McCluskey. The event features opening remarks by Professor Valerie Grim, chair of the department, student panels spotlighting, various perspectives on identity and responsibility in global societies, a keynote address by Sonia Sanchez and closing remarks by Professor Matthew Guterl, co-director of graduate studies for AAADS.
Sonia Sanchez is a poet, mother, activist, professor, and international lecturer on black culture and literature, women’s liberation, peace and racial justice. A sponsor of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Sanchez is also a board member of MADRIE. She has written over 16 books, including: Homecoming; We a BaddDDD People; Love Poems; I’ve Been a Woman: New and Selected Poems; A Sound Investment and Other Stories; Homegirls and Handgrenades; Under A Soprano Sky; Wounded in the House of a Friend; Does Your House Have Lions?; Like the Singing Coming off the Drums; and most recently, Shake Loose My Skin.

Sanchez is contributing editor to Black Scholar and the Journal of African Studies and she is the recipient of numerous awards. Ms. Sanchez has been honored with: the National Endowment for the Arts Lucretia Mott Award in 1984; the Outstanding Arts Award from the Pennsylvania Coalition of 100 Black Women; the Community Service Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; the Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Humanities for 1988; the Peace and Freedom Award from Women International League for Peace and Freedom for 1989; and a Pew Fellowship in the Arts for 1992-93.

Sonia Sanchez’s exemplary writing skills have earned her the 1985 American Book Award for Homegirls and Handgrenades and the Langston Hughes Poetry Award in 1999. Does Your House Have Lions? was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She has received other prestigious honors, including the Poetry Society of America’s 2001 Robert Frost Medal and was named a Ford Freedman Scholar from the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Her poetry was also featured in the movie, Love Jones. Additionally, Sonia Sanchez was the first Presidential Fellow at Temple University, where she held the Laura Carnell Chair in English.

Having lectured and read poetry to over 500 universities, colleges and organizations in the United States, Africa, Cuba, England, the Caribbean, Australia, Nicaragua, the Peoples Republic of China, Norway and Canada, Sanchez has established a reputation as a highly renowned author and scholar.

*Retrieved from the AEI Speaker’s Bureau website*
Saturday, March 22nd, 2008

**Check-In Begins:** 10:00am-11:00am
Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Lobby

**Purchase Sonia Sanchez's Books:**
10:00am - 2:00pm
Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Lobby
Books available to purchase:
- Does Your House Have Lions?
- Wounded in the House of a Friend
- Like the Singing Coming Off the Drums
- Shake Loose My Skin
- Homegirls and Handgrenades

*Book Signing: 12:40-1:20pm

**Lunch Line Begins:** 11:00am
Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center: Grand Hall

**Opening Remarks:** 11:20am
- Dr. Valerie Grim; Associate Professor, Chair to the African American and African Diaspora Studies Department (AAADS) at Indiana University, Bloomington

**Introduction of Sonia Sanchez:**
- Katie E. Dieter; AAADS Graduate Student, Vice-President of the AAADS Graduate Society
Saturday, March 22nd, 2008

Keynote Address: 11:30am
- Sonia Sanchez, Influential writer, poet, and social activist

Musical Performance: 12:30pm
Grand Hall
“Color Line”
Written and composed by Justin Merrick
Performers: Terrilyn Dennie, Adrianna Christmas-Rutledge, Shilan Douglass, Salea Douglass, Ronald Schneider, Keenan Billups and Lakyra Pharms

Sonia Sanchez Book Signing: 12:40-1:20pm

Panel 1A: 1:30am-3:00pm
Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center:
Bridgewaters Lounge
It’s a New Day*: Undergraduate Spotlight
Panel Moderator: Dr. Frederick McElroy
- LaDortha Mitchell: An Analysis of Domestic Violence in the Black Community
- Mariah Moore: Interracial relationships and Society in Literature
- Shawn Major-Winston: Identity Politics in Rap Music
- Max Drucker: A Study of the Afro-Brazilian Diaspora

1. Inspired by Sonia Sanchez’s It’s a New Day: Poetry for Young Brothas and Sistuhhs (1971)
**Panel 1B: 1:30am-3:00pm**
Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center: A210
We a Bad People³: Social Consciousness and the Diaspora
Panel Moderator: Dr. Stephen Selka
- Phyllisia J. Gant: Employment Discrimination, Former Felony Offenders, and the Disparate Impact Theory
- Nsaka Septuf Ntepua Sesepkekiu: The Brown Piper: Black Power and Black Underdevelopment

**Panel 2A: 3:15pm - 4:45pm**
Neal Marshall Black Cultural Center: Bridgwaters Lounge
Shake Loose My Skin³: Socio-cultural Observations in the Diaspora
Panel Moderator: Dr. Micol Seigel

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2. Inspired by Sonia Sanchez’s *We a BaddDDD People* (1970)
Saturday, March 22nd, 2008

Closing Remarks: 5:00pm
Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center:
Grand Hall
- Dr. Matthew Guterl; Associate Professor in
  African American and African Diaspora Stud­
  ies, Co-director of AAADS Graduate Studies,
  Indiana University, Bloomington

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