

**The African Diasporic Vision and Legacies in the Works of
Aimé Césaire and Toni Morrison**
Summer Symposium of the Toni Morrison Society
Aimé Césaire Theater, Fort-de-France, Martinique
June 24 - June 26, 2024

Monday, June 24th, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Invocation

Welcoming Remarks

Carolyn Denard, Founder and Board Chair,
Toni Morrison Society
Craig Stutman, Chair, Bench by the Road Committee
Didier Laguerre, Mayor, City of Fort-de France
Bénédicte di Geronimo, Commissioner,
Martinique Tourism Authority

Poetic Tribute to Aimé Césaire and Toni Morrison

Marie-Line Ampigny, Poet and Performing Artist
Readings from *And the Dogs Were Silent (Et les chiens se taisaient)*
by Aimé Césaire and *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

KEYNOTE LECTURES

Introduction to Keynote Speaker

Michelle Hite, Vice President, Toni Morrison Society
Associate Professor of English, Spelman College

Edwidge Danticat, Haitian-American Novelist and
Wun Tsun Mellon Professor of the Humanities and African
Diaspora Studies, Columbia University
“Toni Morrison’s Diasporic Vision.”

Introduction to Keynote Speaker

Iona Wynter-Parks, Assistant Professor of French,
Oglethorpe University

Daniel Maximin, French Novelist, Poet and Essayist,
and Former Literary Director of *Présence Africaine*
“Aimé Césaire’s Diasporic Vision.”

SCHOLARLY PANELS

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Diasporic Vision in the Works of Morrison and Césaire

Welcome and Introduction to Moderator

Tracyann Williams, Assistant Dean, Fordham University,
and Symposium Planning Committee

Moderator:

Farah Jasmine Griffin, William B. Ransford Professor of
English and Comparative Literature and African American
Studies, Columbia University

Panelists:

Judylyn Ryan, Professor Emerita, Ohio Wesleyan
University and Former Larson Fellow in the
Kluge Center at the Library of Congress
“At the Border, Morrison’s Diasporic Vision.”

Rhone Fraser, Visiting Associate Professor of African
American Literature at Penn State University
“Identity and Nationalism in Morrison’s *Tar Baby*
and Césaire’s *A Season of the Congo*.”

Malik Noël-Ferdinand, Associate Professor of
Comparative Literature, Université des Antilles-Martinique,
“The Rustling Odyssey of We Words in Aimé Césaire’s
Cahier d’un retour au pays natal.”

Carole Boyce-Davies, Chair of the English Department
at Howard University and Frank H.T. Rhodes Professor of
Humane Letters and Professor of Africana Studies and
Literature in English at Cornell University
“The Creative-Theoretical African Diaspora of
Toni Morrison.”

Respondents:

Emmanuelle Andres, Associate Professor of English,
La Rochelle Université, France
Zanice Bond, Associate Professor of English,
Tuskegee University

Tuesday, June 25th, 10:00am - 12:00pm

**The Influence of Morrison and Césaire in the
Works of Diaspora Writers**

Welcome and Introduction to Moderator

Lynne Simpson, Librarian, Morehouse School of
Medicine, and Symposium Planning Committee.

Moderator:

Maureen Eke, Professor English and Comparative Literature, Central Michigan University

Panelists:

Rocío Cobo-Piñero, Associate Professor Literatures in English, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain
“Toni Morrison’s Musical and Visual Legacy in the Works of Black Women Artists in the Diaspora.”

Ashleigh Harris, Professor of English Literature, Uppsala universitet, Sweden
“Morrison’s Influence on South African Writers.”

Meredith Gadsby, Professor of Africana Studies, Oberlin College
“The Greatest Kitchen Table Poets of All: Toni Morrison, Paule Marshall, and Edwidge Danticat in Transatlantic Dialogue.”

Carolyn Denard, Professor of English (Retired), Georgia College and State University
“A Knowing So Deep”: Morrison’s Legacy to African American Women Writers”

Respondents:

Toya Okonkwo, Paul Quinn College
Portia Owusu, Professor of English, Texas A&M University.

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Césaire’s Role in the History and Legacy of the Négritude Movement

Welcome and Introduction to Moderator

Joshua Leach, Director of Development, Diaspora Community Services, and Symposium Planning Committee

Moderator:

Iona Wynter-Parks, Oglethorpe University

Panelists:

Daniel Maximin, Novelist, Former Literary Director of Présence Africaine, and Director of Cultural Affairs in the Antilles.
“Césaire and the Négritude Movement.”

Myriam Moïse, Associate Professor of English, Université des Antilles, Martinique
“Women in Négritude Movement.”

Gary Wilder, Professor of Anthropology, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
“Goals, Challenges, and Future of the Négritude Movement.”

Wednesday, June 26th, 9:00 - 12:30pm

9:00am-9:45am

Bench by the Road Re-Dedication Ceremony

10:00am - 12:00pm

ROUNDTABLE: The Future of Connections in the African Diaspora

Welcome and Introduction to Moderator

Evelyn Schreiber, Professor of English, George Washington University, and Symposium Planning Committee

Moderator:

Walter Earl Fluker, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor Emeritus of Ethical Leadership, Boston University

Panelists:

Elisabeth Landi, Professor and Chair of Literature Université de Antilles and Ministère de chargé l’Éducation nationale
“From Aimé Césaire to Toni Morrison: A Popular History of the African Diaspora in America.”

Gary Wilder, Professor of Anthropology, The Graduate of the City University of New York
“The Role of Social and Political Movements in Future Connections in the African Diaspora.”

Philathia Bolton, Inaugural Toni Morrison Senior Fellow, The Africa Institute, UAE, and Associate Professor of English, The University of Akron
“The Role of the Humanities Research Opportunities and Institutional Alliances in Building Connections in the African Diaspora.”

Surafel Wondimu Abebe, Assistant Professor of Performance Studies and Theory, The Africa Institute, UAE
“The Role of Cultural Performance and the Arts in the Future Connections in the African Diaspora.”

Autumn Womack, Professor of English and African American Studies, Princeton University
“The Role of Archival Practice in the Future of the African Diaspora.”

Respondents:

Lori Martin, Professor of African and African American Studies, Louisiana State University

Helena Woodard, Professor of English, University of Texas at Austin

Closing Remarks