

# DECOLONIZING MEDICINE IN AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA

CONFERENCE PROGRAM  
September 21st-24th, 2023

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Sponsored and supported by:



Towson University Global Humanities MA Program  
The Black Faculty and Staff Association at Towson University

## **DECOLONIZING MEDICINE IN AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA**

The current historical moment calls upon the liberal arts to construct interdisciplinary solutions to contemporary problems. Under the rubric, “Decolonizing Medicine in Africa and Its Diaspora,” Dr. Oluwatoyin Oduntan brings together scholars from across the globe to pose boundary-challenging questions on difficult topics involving centers and peripheries, race and gender, and scientific paradigms. Emphasizing the dignity of all human beings, this conference embodies the spirit of the liberal arts that prioritizes inclusion and diversity with the goal of enriching the communities in which we live as engaged and informed citizens.

*Dean Chris Chulos*

**Decolonizing Medicine in Africa and its Diaspora**  
**A hybrid Online/In-Person Conference**

Towson University  
September 21st-24th, 2023

Preliminary Program

Between September 21st and 24th, 2023, scholars and practitioners from all the continents of the world will converge, physically and virtually, to discuss the themes of medicine in Africa and its Diaspora.

The diversity and expansiveness of our panels reflect the growing interest in, and the current landscape of knowledge about experiences in medicine in Africa and beyond. The panels are organized around themes that bring original paper presentations into conversation with one another.

Generous funding and support from College of Health Professionals and College of Liberal Arts, Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) at Towson University, along with student support from Mount Saint Vincent University, will enable us to make all sessions accessible and free of charge to participants and audiences. Breakfast and lunch will be provided at the conference venue.



**Scan the QR code for more conference information.**

## **CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

### **Wednesday, September 20th**

- 1:00 pm                      Conference Planning Council meets **LA4238**  
3:00 pm                      Registration opens **Liberal Arts Building Foyer and online**  
4:00 pm                      Methodology Workshop

### **Thursday September 21st**

- All day                      Registration **Liberal Arts Building Foyer and online**  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm      **Conference Keynote**

"Decolonizing Medicine in Africa in three  
Vignettes: Sickle Cell Anemia, Institutional  
Legitimacy and International Agency"

John Janzen  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Kansas  
**LA3110**

<https://towson-edu.zoom.us/j/93004490318?pwd=ZHRsVjRGRE1WRFMrZzJEeE94WGliQT09>

Passcode: 07137888

- 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm      Welcome and Dinner **LA Café 4th Floor**

## Friday, September 22nd

All day Registration **Liberal Arts Building Foyer and online**  
8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast **5<sup>th</sup> floor loft**  
9:00 am -10:50 am **Panel 1: Health Policy and Medical Practice**  
in Postcolonial Africa – Part 1  
Chair: Benjamin Zajicek, Towson University  
**LA5315**  
<https://towson-edu.zoom.us/j/98878484223>  
Passcode: 96663487

Ryan Carty (In-Person) <a href="mailto:cartyrya@msu.edu">cartyrya@msu.edu</a>	Michigan State	Animal Medicine: Treatment as Decolonial Project in the Volta Basin, 1950s to 1970s
Ademola Adetiba (In-Person) <a href="mailto:damolascripts@gmail.com">damolascripts@gmail.com</a>	University of Huddersfield	Decolonizing Medical Surveillance: Colonial and Postcolonial Continuities in the History of Antimicrobial Research in Nigeria and South Africa
Maryam Rokhideh (Virtual) <a href="mailto:mrokhide@alumni.nd.edu">mrokhide@alumni.nd.edu</a>	University of Notre Dame	Reclaiming the Medical Heritage of Ebola: The Role of Dr. Muyembe and Congolese Health Experts
Philip Rotz (In-Person) <a href="mailto:protz@bu.edu">protz@bu.edu</a>	Boston University	'Family Health' in Africa in the age of The Population Bomb, 1968-1973
Kenneth Kaplan (Virtual) <a href="mailto:kenneth.kaplan@wits.ac.za">kenneth.kaplan@wits.ac.za</a>	University of Witwatersrand	Healing Narratives of African Doctors in Conflict Zones

11:00 am - 12:30 pm **Conference Keynote**

Sponsored by the *Canadian Journal of African Studies*  
“Afro-phobia, Colonial Medicine and Blood Donation in Canada”

OmiSoore Dryden

James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies at the Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Canada

**LA2310**

<https://towson-edu.zoom.us/s/97713605138>

Passcode: 93119291

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm **Lunch 5<sup>th</sup> floor loft**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm **Panel 2: Decolonizing Medicine: Prospects and Challenges of the Methods**  
Chair: Jeremy Green, Johns Hopkins University

**LA5315**

<https://towson-edu.zoom.us/s/98878484223>

Passcode: 96663487

Gabrielle Robbins (In-Person) <a href="mailto:grobbin4@jhu.edu">grobbin4@jhu.edu</a>	Johns Hopkins University	On Medical Sovereignty: Therapeutic Self-Sufficiency as Anti-Colonial Resistance in Madagascar
Vincenza Mazzeo (In-Person) <a href="mailto:vmazzeo1@jhu.edu">vmazzeo1@jhu.edu</a>	Johns Hopkins University	“Sickness of Mouth of Womb”: Remaking AmaZulu Bodies, Scientific Medicine, and the Limits of the World’s First National Cervical Cancer Screening Campaign
Tolulope Esther Fadeyi (Virtual) <a href="mailto:tolulopee.fadeyi@unibas.ch">tolulopee.fadeyi@unibas.ch</a>	University of Basel	"Healing from Source": Decolonizing Primary Amenorrhea Treatment in Southwest Nigeria
Kezia Batisai (Virtual) <a href="mailto:keziab@uj.ac.za">keziab@uj.ac.za</a>	University of Johannesburg	Decolonizing health and healthcare systems in Africa
Flavius Mokake (Virtual) <a href="mailto:flavius.mokake@yahoo.com">flavius.mokake@yahoo.com</a>	Washington University in St. Louis	The Unsung Heroes: A Social History of Sanitary Inspectors and Public Health in the Cinderella Territory of Anglophone Cameroon, 1916-1980s

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm **Panel 3:** Transmitting and Modernizing medical production and innovation

Chair: Nicole Dombrowski Risser, Towson University

**LA5315**

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Passcode: 96663487

Luc Kontcheu (Virtual) <a href="mailto:lucserge@yahoo.fr">lucserge@yahoo.fr</a>	University of Younde, Cameroun	Problématique de transmission du savoir endogène dans les Grassfields du Cameroun: le cas de la pharmacopéetraditionnelle, de la périodepré-coloniale à nosjours"
Anke Weisheit (In-Person) <a href="mailto:aweisheit@must.ac.ug">aweisheit@must.ac.ug</a>	Pharm-Bio Technology and Traditional Medicine Center (PHARMBIOTRAC), Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)	Decolonizing Medicine in Uganda by building an institutional framework for capacity building, research, and product development in traditional medicine
P. Stanley Yoder (In-Person) <a href="mailto:pstanleyyoder@gmail.com">pstanleyyoder@gmail.com</a>		The Social Dimensions of the diagnosis and treatment of illness among Cokwe of the DRC
Twalib Ngoma, Richard Ngilangwa, Phares GM Mujinja, Maureen Mackintosh, Charlotte Cross (Virtual) <a href="mailto:ngoma_tan@yahoo.com">ngoma_tan@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:Maureen.Mackintosh@open.ac.uk">Maureen.Mackintosh@open.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:charlotte.cross@open.ac.uk">charlotte.cross@open.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:ngilangwar@gmail.com">ngilangwar@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:profmujinja@gmail.com">profmujinja@gmail.com</a>	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Dar es Salaam; Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Tanzania; The Open University, UK;	Against the grain: reflections on decades of Tanzanian efforts to build better cancer care – and ways forward.
Kalala Ngalamulume (Virtual)	Bryn Mawr College	Decolonizing Medicine in Senegal: Dr. Eric Gbodossou's Contribution.

## Saturday, September 23rd

10:00 am -12:00 pm **Panel 2: Excluded Voices of Medical Practice: Methods of Recovery**

Chair: Ibikunle Tijani, Morgan State University

**LA5360**

<https://towson-edu.zoom.us/j/97745842320>

Passcode: 41988876

Ayodele Ige (In-Person) <a href="mailto:2571610i@student.gla.ac.uk">2571610i@student.gla.ac.uk</a>	University of Glasgow	Medical Pluralism and Epistemic Contestation in Colonial Western Nigeria
Ojo Afolabi (In-Person) <a href="mailto:ojafol@morgan.edu">ojafol@morgan.edu</a>	Morgan State University	“Re-echoing Active Voices from the Archives”: Subordinate Medical Employees and Agency in Southwestern Nigeria, 1925-1945.
Siyon Oyeweso, Yemisi Olawale, Idris Ridwan (Virtual) <a href="mailto:yemisiwaleisaac@gmail.com">yemisiwaleisaac@gmail.com</a>	Osun State University, University of Ilorin, Nigeria	Discussing Nigeria Medical Space Using Biographical Lens: Chief Jacob Saboyega Odulate and the Alabukun Medicine
Waseem Kasim (In-Person) <a href="mailto:wbinkasim@elon.edu">wbinkasim@elon.edu</a>	Elon University	Health Emergency, Veto Power, and the Practicality of Colonial Society: Accra in the First Two Decades of the Twentieth Century.
Uyi Usuanlele (In-Person) <a href="mailto:uyilawa.usuanlele@oswego.edu">uyilawa.usuanlele@oswego.edu</a>	SUNY, Oswego	African Auxiliaries and the “illegal” practice of Western Medicine in colonial Nigeria.

12:00 pm -1:00 pm Lunch 5<sup>th</sup> floor loft



**1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Panel 5: Overcoming Imposed Narratives: Slavery, Racism and Medicine**

Chair: Donn Worgs, Towson University

**LA5315**

<https://towson-edu.zoom.us/j/98878484223>

Passcode: 96663487

dann j. Broyd (virtual) <a href="mailto:Daniel_Broyld@uml.edu">Daniel_Broyld@uml.edu</a>	University of Massachusetts Lowell	The History, Career, and Afterlife of Drapetomania: The Mania that Caused Enslaved Blacks to Runaway and the Man Behind It
Abubacar Fofana León (Virtual) <a href="mailto:abubacal@gmail.com">abubacal@gmail.com</a>  Negita da Graça Jaime <a href="mailto:inegitajaime@gmail.com">inegitajaime@gmail.com</a>	Department of History, York University, Toronto, Canada  Faculty of Medicine, Universidad Nacional de La Plata	“All symptoms of illness”: Race, Medicine, and Sanitation Inspections of Enslaved “Mozambiques” in the Río de la Plata, c.1800- 1810.
Oluwatoyin Oduntan (In- Person)	Towson University, Towson MD.	Forging Interconnected lives of the 19thc African Diaspora
Jonathan Roberts (In- Person)	Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS.	Africanus Horton and Modern Medicine in Africa
Tunde Bewaji (Virtual) <a href="mailto:tunde.bewaji@gmail.com">tunde.bewaji@gmail.com</a>	University of the West Indies	"Epistemicide and Stigma - Reclaiming African Epidemiological Greatness"

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm **Panel 6: Recognizing Medical Professionals: Training, Service and Challenges**  
 Chair: Tab Uhrich, Towson University  
**LA5360**  
<https://towson-edu.zoom.us/j/97745842320>  
 Passcode: 41988876

Leslie Hadfield (In-Person) <a href="mailto:leslie_hadfield@byu.edu">leslie_hadfield@byu.edu</a>	Brigham Young University,	Xhosa Nurses Shaping Health Care in Xhosa Communities (1960s-1980s South Africa
Hanah Ali (Virtual) <a href="mailto:ha343@cornell.edu">ha343@cornell.edu</a>	Cornell University	Healthy Futures with Dhaqan: Alternative Frameworks to Harm Reduction in Somalia
Radha Adhikari; Pam Smith (Virtual) <a href="mailto:radha.adhikari@uws.ac.uk">radha.adhikari@uws.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:pam.smith@ed.ac.uk">pam.smith@ed.ac.uk</a>	University of West Scotland; University of Edinburgh	Nursing from the diaspora, medical dominance, and the emerging decolonizing debate
Francis Dube (In-Person) <a href="mailto:francis.dube@morgan.edu">francis.dube@morgan.edu</a>	Morgan State University	“Fire in the hands of the tsetse reclamation officer”: Changes in colonial perceptions of African disease prevention and control methods
John Murungi (In-Person)	Towson University	Decolonization of Medical Education in Africa

## Sunday, September 24th

9:00am to 11:45am **Panel 7: Past and Continuities of Medical Herbalism across Africa**  
Chair: Jonathan Roberts, Mount Saint Vincent University.

**LA5315**

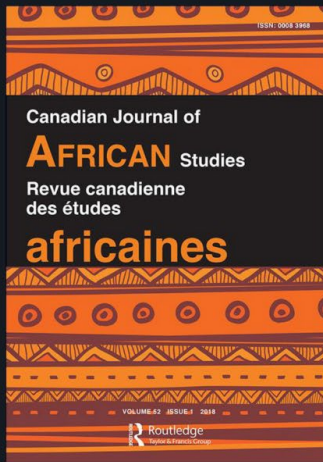
<https://towson-edu.zoom.us/j/98878484223>

Passcode: 96663487

Damien Droney (In-Person) <a href="mailto:ddroney@oberlin.edu">ddroney@oberlin.edu</a>	Oberlin College, Ohio	Defining the Medical Herbalist in Postcolonial Ghana
Reginald Tsekyi-Brown (Virtual) <a href="mailto:rsekyi-brown001@st.ug.edu.gh">rsekyi-brown001@st.ug.edu.gh</a>	University of Ghana	wenHwe Kan: Conceptions about public health and infectious diseases as explored from Akan proverbs
Melissa Graboyes & Jennifer Tappan (Virtual) <a href="mailto:graboyes@uoregon.edu">graboyes@uoregon.edu</a>	University of Oregon; Portland State University	Histories of Global Health in Africa: Recognizing African Healing Practices
Twalib Ngoma, Richard Ngilangwa, Phares GM Mujinja, Maureen Mackintosh, Charlotte Cross (Virtual) <a href="mailto:ngoma_tan@yahoo.com">ngoma_tan@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:Maureen.Mackintosh@open.ac.uk">Maureen.Mackintosh@open.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:charlotte.cross@open.ac.uk">charlotte.cross@open.ac.uk</a> <a href="mailto:ngilangwar@gmail.com">ngilangwar@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:profmujinja@gmail.com">profmujinja@gmail.com</a>	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Dar es Salaam; Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Tanzania; The Open University, UK;	Against the grain: reflections on decades of Tanzanian efforts to build better cancer care – and ways forward.

10:45 Coffee Break **5<sup>th</sup> floor Loft**

1:00 pm Project Conversation  
**LA4238**



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