

## Report on the RWWP Workshop: Knowledge Production and the Black Experience

Friday, May 1 to Sunday, May 3, 2009  
Segal School of Business, 2300 - 500 Granville St. Vancouver, BC

This is a preliminary report, since Dr. Afua Cooper has not yet submitted her final report on the details of the workshop.

Dr. Cooper's Academic Workshop (by invitation) was a sponsored event which explored the trajectory of the study of Black peoples in Canada (see <http://www.sfu.ca/womens-studies/RWWPBlackHistoryPhotoNarrative2008-9.html>). The scholarly inquiry of the Black portion of the Canadian population has experienced much growth. Yet, there has not been a workshop on the theme of Black Studies since 1990, until now.

Scholars and community activists from various parts of Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom voted unanimously to form the Black Canadian Studies Association (BCSA).

Here are some comments from Dr. Cooper about the success of the workshop:

"A big thank you for attending the Black Studies workshop and for all your hard work. Everyone contributed vastly and made the workshop a success. It was my pleasure to host the meeting and though we know that we must now roll up our sleeves and begin the work of making the association viable, we know such work will be done with pleasure. Yes, we formed an association and it is called Black Canadian Studies Association. ...I was nominated Chair (and accepted) of the Association and Charmaine Nelson of McGill and Charles Quist-Adade of Kwantlen University are the Vice-Chairs.

Greg Tourino (of SFU) [has set]<sup>1</sup> up the listserv and already has created a blog on WordPress [<http://bcsa.wordpress.com/>]. ...Thank you Greg. I have also heard from Marie-Claude Levert of Canadian Studies at St. Jean College at U of Alberta and she is interested in hosting the next meeting. I thanked her and gave her Jennifer Kelly's e-dress, as Jennifer (of same university) had indicated that she would be interested in hosting the next meeting (for 2010). As important, Marie-Claude reiterated her offer to devote a 2010 issue of International Journal of Canadian Studies to Black Canadian Studies. I am therefore asking people to seriously think about this. Some people had indicated that they would develop the papers they wrote for the workshop and submit to the journal. Others wanted to write a new essay. Whatever the plan, I will be contacting people shortly (again) about this issue.

Further, Charles Quist-Adade has written an article on the workshop for the Patriotic Vanguard [found at [http://www.amren.com/mtnews/archives/2009/05/vancouver\\_black.php](http://www.amren.com/mtnews/archives/2009/05/vancouver_black.php)]. ...Thanks Charles.

I have been getting queries from Black Canada scholars in the United States on the Association. They learnt about it through the notice sent out by the International Council for Canadian Studies. These scholars would like to join the Association."

There was a published article at The Afro News, found at <http://www.theafronews.ca/cms/>. Furthermore, Mr. Honore Gbedze, publisher of the paper has offered to purchase the exhibition posters. Without providing details, Bill Jeffrey says they have now sold 3 or 4 sets. A framed set is going to be on view at the City Of Vancouver Archives from July to September of this year.

Overall, everything went very smoothly. The Segal School of Business is a grand venue for the event, and the service provided by the Events department was superb!

~ *Esther Harrison*

<sup>1</sup> All [bracketed text] has been added by Esther Harrison.