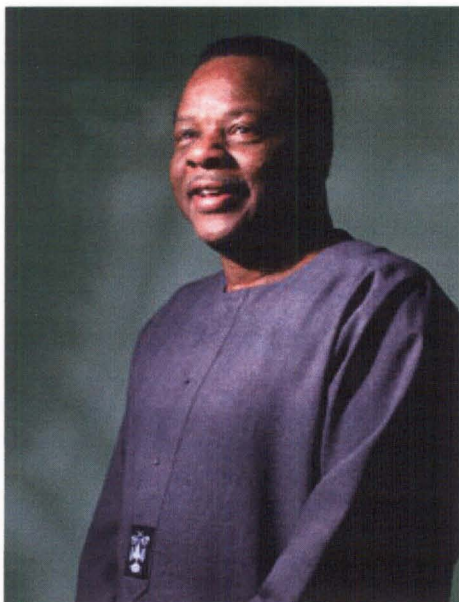




> Kwantlen Polytechnic University > Faculty of Social Sciences > Sociology > Kwame Nkrumah International Conference > Keynote Speakers

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Molefi Kete Asante



Dr. Molefi Kete Asante is Professor, Department of African American Studies at Temple University. Considered by his peers to be one of the most distinguished contemporary scholars, Asante has published 68 books, among the most recent are *An Afrocentric Manifesto*, *The History of Africa: The Quest for Eternal Harmony*, *Cheikh Anta Diop: An Intellectual Portrait*, *Handbook of Black Studies*, co-edited with Maulana Karenga, *Encyclopedia of Black Studies*, co-edited with Ama Mazama, *Race, Rhetoric, and Identity: The Architecton of Soul*, *Erasing Racism: The Survival of the American Nation*, *Ancient Egyptian Philosophers*, *Scattered to the Wind*, *Custom and Culture of Egypt*, and *100 Greatest African Americans*. The second edition of his high school text, *African American History: Journey of*

Liberation, 2nd Edition, is used in more than 400 schools throughout North America. The comprehensive *Encyclopedia of African Religion*, co-edited with Ama Mazama, will be published by Sage Publications in December 2008.

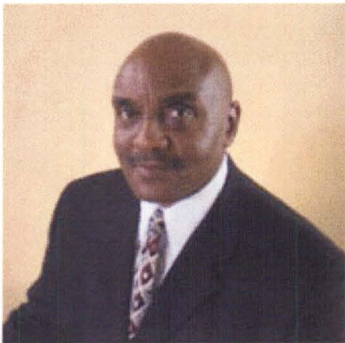
Asante has been recognized as one of the ten most widely cited African Americans. In the 1990s, *Black Issues in Higher Education* recognized him as one of the most influential leaders in the decade. Molefi Kete Asante graduated from Oklahoma Christian College in 1964. He entered Pepperdine soon afterwards and Asante completed his M.A. at Pepperdine University in 1965. He received his Ph.D. from UCLA at the age of 26 in 1968 and was appointed a full professor at the age of 30 at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He chaired the Communication Department at SUNY-Buffalo from 1973-1980. He worked in Zimbabwe as a trainer of journalists from 1980 to 1982. In the Fall of 1984 Dr. Asante became chair of the African American Studies Program at Temple University where he created the first Ph.D. Program in African American Studies in 1987. He has directed more than 140 Ph.D. dissertations. He has written more than 300 articles and essays for journals, books and magazines and is the founder of the theory of Afrocentricity.

Asante was born in Valdosta, Ga., one of sixteen children. He is a poet, dramatist, and a painter. His work on African culture and philosophy and African American

education has been cited by journals such as the *Matices*, *Journal of Black Studies*, *Journal of Communication*, *American Scholar*, *Daedalus*, *Western Journal of Black Studies*, and *Africaological Perspectives*. The *Utne Reader* called him one of the "100 Leading Thinkers" in America. In 2001, *Transition Magazine* said "Asante may be the most important professor in Black America." He has appeared on *Nightline*, *Nighttalk*, *BET*, *Macnell Lehrer News Hour*, *Today Show*, the *Tony Brown Show*, *Night Watch*, *Like It Is* and *60 Minutes* and more than one hundred local and international television shows. He has appeared in several movies including *500 Years Later*, *The Faces of Evil*, and *The Black Candle*. In 2002 he received the distinguished *Douglas Ehninger Award for Rhetorical Scholarship* from the *National Communication Association*. The *African Union* cited him as one of the twelve top scholars of African descent when it invited him to give one of the keynote addresses at the *Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora* in *Dakar* in 2004. He was inducted into the *Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent* at the *Gwendolyn Brooks Center* at *Chicago State University* in 2004. Dr. Asante holds more than 100 awards for scholarship and teaching including the *Fulbright*, honorary doctorates from three universities, and is a guest professor at *Zhejiang University*.

In 1995 he was made a traditional king, *Nana Okru Asante Peasah, Kyidomhene (Chee dom heni)* of *Tafo, Akyem, Ghana*. Dr. Asante has been or is presently a consultant for a dozen school districts. He is the *Chair of the United States Commission for FESMAN III* to be held in *Dakar, Senegal* in 2009. He is the father of the filmmaker and writer, *M. K. Asante, Jr.*, who teaches creative writing at *Morgan State University*. Asante was named by *Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade* as *Chair of the United States Commission for the Festival of Black and African Arts (FESMAN III)* to be held in *Dakar, Senegal* in *December, 2009*. *Molefi Kete Asante* believes it is not enough to know, one must act to humanize the world.

Ahmad Rahman



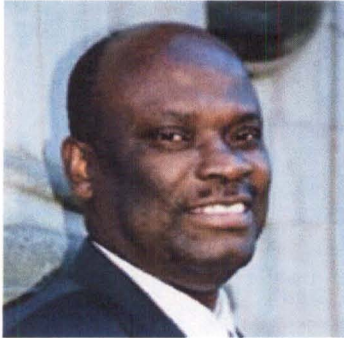
Ahmad Rahman is an activist/scholar. He has worked for progressive political causes since the late 1960s in *Chicago* and in *Detroit* in the early 1970s. He first discovered the writings of *Kwame Nkrumah* as a teenager in 1968. He was introduced to them by *Ruwa Maruwa Chiri*, an exile from *Zimbabwe* who dedicated himself to teaching African Americans about African liberation movements.

Rahman received his Bachelors degree "With High Distinction" from *Wayne State University* in 1977. He received his Masters degree in history from the *University of Michigan-Ann Arbor* in 1999 and his Ph.D. in history from the same university in 2006.

He is the author of the book, *THE REGIME CHANGE OF KWAME NKURUMAH: EPIC HEROISM IN AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA*, published in 2007 by *Palgraves Macmillan*. He is also the author of the essay "Marching Blind, the Rise and Fall of the Black Panther Party in Detroit," in the book, *LIBERATED TERRITORY, UNTOLD LOCAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE BLACK PANTHER*

PARTY, published in 2009 by Duke University Press. He is currently working on the complete history of the Black Panther Party in the state of Michigan and on the Kwame Nkrumah Reader. He is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Michigan in Dearborn.

AB. Assensoh



AB. Assensoh is Professor of African-American and African Diaspora Studies (AAADS) at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, USA. At the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore (UMES), he held the Richard A. Bernstein Professorship for 2003–4. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from New York University, USA. Also, for three years (2004-2007), Dr. Assensoh served as Director of Graduate Studies and Admissions in the AAADS Department at Indiana University. He did postdoctoral work in peace studies at the Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford

in West Yorkshire, UK.

His published books are about Ghana's late President Kwame Nkrumah; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the USA civil rights movement; human rights; decolonization in the Third World; and peace studies. He and Yvette M. Alex-Assensoh serve as book review editors for *African and Asian Studies Journal*, of Leiden, The Netherlands. Their most recently-coauthored book is *African Military History and Politics, 1900–Present* (New York: Palgrave Division of St. Martin's Press, 2001). He is also the Book reviews Editor of *Africa Today Journal* (Indiana University Press publication). In the past articles by A.B. Assensoh and Alex-Assensoh have appeared in the *Journal of Politics*, *West Africa Magazine*, *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of Black Studies*, *Proteus* and *New African Magazine* of London, UK. Currently, Dr. Assensoh is working on a book on Ralph Bunche and the UN's Decolonization Committee.

Yvette M. Alex-Assensoh



Yvette M. Alex-Assensoh is Dean of the Office for Women's Affairs (OWA) for Indiana University Bloomington and associate professor of political science and adjunct associate professor of African American & African Diaspora Studies. She holds a B.A. degree (Summa Cum Laude) from Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana; M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, USA; and a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) law degree (with honors) from Indiana University's Maurer School of Law. She is a licensed Attorney in the State of Indiana.

Professor Alex-Assensoh's research examines the impact of social and economic contexts on political behavior. She teaches courses in the fields of political behavior, racial and ethnic politics and urban politics. Her published books and edited volumes include *Neighborhoods, Family and Political Behavior* (1998), *Black and Multiracial Politics in America* (2000) and *African Military History and*

Politics (2001). Her research essays have been published in *Journal of Politics*; *Urban Affairs Review*; *PS: Political Science and Politics*, and also in edited volumes. Over the years, her research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Spencer Foundation, National Academy of Education, and the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIE/Fulbright).

An Alumnae of the Ralph Bunche Institute for Political Science, Professor Alex-Assensoh served, for three years, as the Book Review Editor for *Urban Affairs Review* and, currently, for the Netherlands-based *Journal of African and Asian Affairs*. She also served as an Executive Council Member of the American Political Science Association's Urban Politics and Race, Ethnicity and Politics sections. Currently, Professor Alex-Assensoh is serving as a member of the American Political Science Association's Committee on Civic Engagement as well as a member of the Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession. Her current research is a book project, which explores how social and economic contexts influence civic engagement among American youth, with an emphasis on high school seniors. Her forthcoming co-authored book, on immigration in the USA, is being published by University of Michigan Press.

Dr. Afua Cooper



Afua Cooper is a scholar, author, and poet. She earned her Ph.D. in Canadian history and the African Diaspora with a focus on the Black communities of 19th century Ontario. Her doctoral dissertation was a biography of Henry Bibb, the renowned antislavery crusader. Further, she has done extensive work on Mary Bibb as a schoolteacher and abolitionist reformer. Afua has also done ground-breaking work on the enslavement of Black people in Canada. Such research has resulted in *The Hanging of Angélique: The Untold Story of Slavery in Canada and the Burning of Old Montréal* (HarperCollins,

2006); released in the United States by the University of Georgia Press. The French language version was published by L'Éditions de L'Homme in 2007. *Angélique* has become a national bestseller and was nominated for the Governor General's Award in 2006. *Angélique* has now gone in its third printing, and after almost two years of publication is still on the Canadian bestseller's list as of 23 Nov. 2007. Dr. Cooper's work on Canadian Black history and slavery has made her the leading authority on such topics. Afua is also a well-known poet, having published five books of poetry, the latest of which is *Copper Woman and Other Poems* (Natural Heritage Press, 2006). In 2007 Dr. Cooper served as the co-ordinator of and advisor to the Ontario Bicentenary of the Abolition of the British Slave Trade Initiative for the Government of Ontario. Afua is currently the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Chair in the Women's Studies Department at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia.

George J. Sefa Dei

George J. Sefa Dei was born in Asokore-Koforidua, in the Eastern Region of Ghana. He received his undergraduate education at the University of Ghana. Legon (B.A Hons., 1978), and postgraduate studies at McMaster University,



Hamilton, Ontario (M.A., 1980) and the University of Toronto, Canada (Ph.D. June, 1986). Currently he is Professor [and immediate past Chair] of the Department of Sociology and Equity Studies, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT). His teaching and research interests are in the areas of Anti-Racism, Minority Schooling, International Development and Anti-Colonial Thought. He has published extensively on race, anti-racism and minority youth schooling. He has just released two new books in 2008: *Racists Beware: Uncovering Racial*

Politics in Contemporary Society. Rotterdam, The Netherlands: Sense Publisher; and *'Crash' Politics and Anti-Racism: Interrogating Liberal Race Discourse*. New York: Peter Lang Publishers. [co-edited with Philip Howard]. His other works include: *Critical Issues in Anti-Racist Research Methodologies*. (co-edited with Gurpreet Singh Johal). New York: Peter Lang, 2005; *Anti-Colonialism and Education: The Politics of Resistance*. (co-edited with Arlo Kempf). Sense Publishers, Netherlands, 2006; *African Education and Globalization: Critical Perspectives*. [co-edited with Ali Abdi and K Puplampu], Lanham, M.D: Lexington Books, 2006; *Schooling and Difference in Africa: Democratic Challenges in Contemporary Context* (co-authored with Alireza Asgharzadeh, Sharon Eblaghie-Bahador, and Riyad Shahjahan). University of Toronto Press, 2006], *The Poetics of Anti-Racism*. [co-edited with Nuzhat Amin], Fernwood Publishing, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2006; *Schooling and Education in Africa: The Case of Ghana*. Africa World Press, Trenton, New Jersey, 2004), and *Anti-Racism Education: Theory and Practice*. Fernwood Publishing, Halifax, 1996.

In July 2007, George Dei was installed as a traditional chief in Ghana, specifically, as the Adomakwaa Hene of the town of Asokore, near Koforidua in the New Juaben Traditional Area of Ghana.

Dr Hakim Adi



Dr Hakim Adi (Ph.D SOAS, London University) is Reader in the History of Africa and the African Diaspora at Middlesex University, London, UK., and currently a British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellow. He is a founder member and formerly chair of the Black and Asian Studies Association. Hakim is the author of *West Africans in Britain 1900-60: Nationalism, Pan-Africanism and Communism* (Lawrence and Wishart, 1998) and (with M. Sherwood) *The 1945 Manchester Pan-African Congress Revisited* (New Beacon, 1995) and *Pan-African History: Political Figures*

from Africa and the Diaspora since 1787 (Routledge, 2003). He has appeared in documentaries and radio programmes, and has written widely on the history of Pan-Africanism, the African Diaspora, and Africans in Britain, including three history books for children.

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