THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES
presents

2011 CARTER CONFERENCE
AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE:
CULTURES OF MEMORY
CELEBRATIONS &
CONTESTATIONS
FEB 25-26

REITZ UNION | ROOM 282
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL
This year marks the 27th year that the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida has organized annual lectures or a conference in honor of the late distinguished Africanist scholar, Gwendolen M. Carter. Gwendolen Carter devoted her career to scholarship and advocacy concerning the politics of inequality and injustice, especially in southern Africa. She also worked hard to foster the development of African Studies as an academic enterprise. She was perhaps best known for her pioneering study The Politics of Inequality: South Africa since 1948 and the co-edited four-volume History of African Politics in South Africa, From Protest to Challenge (1972-1977).

In the spirit of her career, the annual Carter lectures offer the university community and the greater public the perspectives of Africanist scholars on issues of pressing importance to the peoples and societies of Africa. Since 2004, the Center has (with the generous support of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences) appointed a Carter Faculty Fellow to serve as convener of the conference. Dr. Alioune Sow, assistant professor of French and African Studies and Brigitte Weltman-Aron, associate professor of French are the 2011 Carter Conference Fellows. Please check the back cover of this program for a complete list of the Carter conference themes since its inception.

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**Gwendolen M. Carter**

Alioune Sow is Assistant professor of French and African studies at the University of Florida. His research includes the childhood experience in African literatures, autobiography and memory, the democratic transition and the cultural transformations in Mali focusing especially on literature, cinema and theatre. He has contributed to several journals such as *Social Dynamics, Biography, Africa Today, Cahiers d’Etudes Africaines, Matatu*. His book *Vestiges et Vertiges* is forthcoming and published by Artois Presses Université. He earned his doctorate at the Université Paris 4-La Sorbonne.

Brigitte Weltman-Aron is Associate Professor of French in the Department of Languages, Literature and Cultures at the University of Florida. She is currently writing a book about Hélène Cixous and Assia Djebar, and her articles on these writers and postcolonial Algeria have appeared in journals such as *Parallax, Yale French Studies, and Patterns of Prejudice*, as well as in book chapters (Routledge, University of Nebraska Press). She has also written several articles on the French eighteenth century and is the author of *On Other Grounds: Landscape Gardening and Nationalism in Eighteenth-Century England and France* (SUNY Press, 2001). She earned her PhD at the University of Southern California in 1991.


### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**PLENARY SPEAKER**

**Sacred Places**

**JEAN-MARIE TÉNO**


**HARN MUSEUM AUDITORIUM** **FEBRUARY 25 | 6PM**

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**My Suns of Independences**

**ALAIN MABANCKOU**


**REITZ UNION ROOM 282** **FEBRUARY 26 | 3:30PM**
COFFEE & TEA
OPENING REMARKS
COMMEMORATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS: Occulted History in Literature and Cinema
Chair: Brigitte Weltman-Aron

Réda Bensmaia [Brown University]  
“Film as Commemoration: on Bourlem Guerdjou’s Vivre au Paradis and Michael Haneke’s Caché”.

Mildred Mortimer [University of Colorado, Boulder]  
“Bringing Ccculted History to Light: Assia Djebar, La Femme sans Sépulture / Woman without a Tomb; Leila Sebbar, La Seine était Rouge/ The Seine was Red”.

10:30 - 10:45a  BREAK

POLITICS OF CELEBRATION
Chair: Sean Hanretta

James Straker [Colorado School of Mines]  
“Shows That Must Go On, Can’t Go On: Commemorating Nationhood on the Borders of Exhaustion in Millennial Guinea”.

Ken Walibora Waliaula [University of Wisconsin, Madison]  
“Conflicting National Narratives: The Politics and Poetics of Remembering and Forgetting”

12:15 - 2:00p  LUNCH

MEMORIAL DISCOURSES: Power, Language and Identity
Chair: Fiona McLaughlin

Antoinette Tidjani-Alou [Abdou Moumouni University, Niger]  
“Niger, Memory and the Nation: Literary Discourses on Power and Identity, from Founding Ancestors to Global Presence”

Cécile Canut [Université Paris-Descartes, EHESS]  
“Language, power and postcolonization”

3:30 - 3:45p  COFFEE BREAK

INDEPENDENCE, URBANIZATION AND ARTS
Chair: Victoria Rovine


Nnamdi Elleh [University of Cincinnati],  
“Capital and Capital cities in Africa: a Market Place Reading of the Proposed Nigeria’s New Federal Capital City”.

6:00pm  PLENARY SESSION: Memory and Filmmaking
Harn Museum Auditorium
Chair: Scott Nygren

Jean-Marie Téno
SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY | REITZ UNION ROOM 282

8:45 - 9:00a  
COFFEE & TEA

9:00 - 10:30a  
COLLECTIVE MEMORIES  
Chair: Brenda Chalfin

Nicolas Argenti (Brunel University, London)  
“Rites Performed for Children from the Perspective of Collective Memory”.

Florence Bernault  
“Something’s Rotten in the Post-Empire: Savorgnan de Brazza, France and the Congo 50 Years After Independence”

10:30 - 10:45a  
BREAK

10:45 - 12:15p  
MEMORIES OF INDEPENDENCE  
Chair: Luise White

Didier Gondola (Indiana University)  
“Mémoires sans Lieux: Remembering the Two Congos’ Independence”

Gregory Mann (Columbia University)  
“What independence Wasn’t”

12:30 - 3:00p  
LUNCH

3:00 - 5:30p  
KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
Chair: Alioune Sow

Alain Mabanckou, (UCLA)  
“Mes Soleils des Indépendances”/”My Suns of Indepencences”