



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

Department of Foreign Languages

Centre for Women's and Gender Research (SKOK)

## **Black Venus**

### **Body, Desire, Figuration, and Narrative**

10-11 April 2014, University of Bergen, Norway

#### **Thursday 10 April**

09.15 Conference opening: Welcome

#### **09.30 KEYNOTE:**

Soyica Diggs Colbert, Associate Professor of English, Dartmouth College (US): "Now You See Me, Now You Don't: Troubling Views of Venus"

10.30 Coffee break

#### **10.45 PANEL 1: Black Venus in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa**

- Camilla Skalle, Associate Professor of Italian, University of Bergen (Norway) : "Black Venus and her Counter-Narrative in Italian Literature" (Ennio Flaiano, Gabriella Ghermandi)
- Férial Khellaf, PhD cand., University of Maine, Le Mans (France) : " 'The Hottentot Venus' : Shame, postcoloniality, and Black Female Bodies in Zoë Wicomb's literary oeuvre"
- Nafeesa Nichols, PhD cand., University of Bergen (Norway): "The Production of Spaces of Memory: Sarah Baartman and her return to South Africa"

12.15 Lunch

#### **13.15 PANEL 2: Black Venus on Colonial Display**

- Ulla Jørgensen, Associate Professor of Art and Media Studies, NTNU (Norway): "Alienated Bodies. The Display Case and the Exhibition of Colonial Bodies: A Contemporary Art Critique"
- Emna Mrabet, PhD cand., University of Paris 8 (France): "Abdellatif Kechiche's *Vénus noire*: from the spectacle of humiliation to white and racial supremacy denunciation"
- Anja Johansen and Stine Svendsen, PhD cand., NTNU (Norway): "Re-enacting the Congo Village: Race, Affect and National Self-Image"

14.45 Coffee break

#### **15.00 PANEL 3: Black Venus and the Ethics / Politics of Aesthetic Figuration**

- Ljubica Matek, PhD., University of Osijek (Croatia): "Body and Race as Spectacle in Suzan-Lori Parks' *Venus*"
- Jorunn S. Gjerden, Post doc., University of Bergen (Norway): "The Male Gaze, the Suffering Female Body and Cinematic Language in Abdellatif Kechiche's *Vénus noire* and Carl Th. Dreyer's *La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc*"
- Asbjørn Grønstad, Professor of Information Science and Media Studies, University of Bergen (Norway): "Corporeality and Ethics in the Cinema of Claire Denis"

16.30 End

19.00: Conference dinner (tapas buffet) at Klosteret 2 (Nordnes bydelshus)

## Friday 11 April

### 09.15 KEYNOTE:

Maja Horn, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latin American Cultures, Barnard College (US): “Bronze Venus/Black Madonna: Rita Indiana's Reconciliations of Race on Hispaniola via Norway”

10.15 Coffee break

### 10.30 PANEL 4: Black Venus in the Americas

- Nathalie Batrville, PhD cand., Yale University (US): “Beyond the Black Venus: Aimé Césaire’s subversion of gender norms and the will to knowledge in *Soleil cou coupé*”
- Željka Švrljuga, Associate Professor of English, University of Bergen (Norway): “Figures of Black Venus in Beryl Gilroy’s *Inkle and Yarico*”
- Donna McCormack, Post doc., University of Bergen (Norway): “Humour, Memory and the Fat Black Woman in American Popular Culture”
- Håkon Tveit, Assistant Professor, University of Bergen (Norway): “The Return of Black Venus in Cuban Cinema”

12.30 Lunch

### 13.30 PANEL 5: Black Venus in 19<sup>th</sup> Century European Literature

- Sonya Stephens, Professor of French, Mount Holyoke College (US): “Baudelaire’s Black Venus”
- Mina Apic, PhD cand., University of Novi Sad (Serbia): “An unusual portrait of an exotic slave in Gérard de Nerval’s *Voyage en Orient*”
- Kjersti Aarstein, PhD cand., University of Bergen (Norway): “H. C. Andersen’s ‘The Marsh King’s Daughter’ on colonial fantasies and Danish colonial history”

15.00 Coffee break

### 15.15 PANEL 6: Black Venus and Contemporary Gender Politics / Feminist Discourses

- Ayo Coly, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and African Studies, Dartmouth College (US): “Specters of Black Venus in Postcolonial African Feminist Thought”
- Amey Victoria Adkins, PhD cand., Duke University (US): “Women Are From Venus: Saartjie Baartman and the Theo-Logics of Captivity”
- Kari Jegerstedt, Associate Professor of Gender Studies, University of Bergen (Norway): “Angela Carter’s Black Venus”

16.45 End