Converging Identities

Blackness in the Modern African Diaspora

Edited by
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For the African Slaves:

They were Black Heroes,
The First African Diaspora, and
The Pioneers of Blackness Outside Africa
Contents

List of Tables and Figures xv
Series Editor’s Preface xvii
Acknowledgments xix
Introduction xxi
Abbreviations xxvii

Part I · The Modern African Diaspora in Global Perspective

Chapter 1 · Are You “Black” or “Ethnic”? The Dichotomous Framing of Immigrant Identity
by Philip Kretsedemas 3
The Dichotomous Framing of Black Immigrant Identity 4
What Lies Beyond the Dichotomy? 11
Black Immigrant ‘Racial Escapism’ Revisited 16
Conclusion 19
Notes 22

Chapter 2 · Blacks in France: A Minority or a Community?
by Gado Alzouma 27
Are Blacks a Minority or a Community? 28
Is Racial Diversity Taboo in France? 31
Ethnic Statistics and Black Diversity 34
Blacks in France: A Fragmented Community 35
A Shared Consciousness 38
Identity Markers of the Black Community 39
French Policy of Assimilation Still Continue? 40
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 3 · The Comfort of Blackness: Using Cultural Immersion to Promote Mental Health</th>
<th>49</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>by Barbara Streets</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism Exists</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism Impacts Mental Health</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffers against Racism Are Essential</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Immersion: Going Abroad to Maintain Psychological Health</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Immersion into Blackness</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Comfort of Blackness</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 4 · Envisioned Communities: The African Diaspora and Interwar Race Films</th>
<th>61</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>by Cara Caddoo</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Image Spans the Globe</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investing in the Race</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Race Films and International Markets</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar Micheaux and the Open Frontier</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Twilight of an Era</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 5 · The Middleman Speaks: Race, Citizenship, and Labor in The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears</th>
<th>83</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>by Julie Iromuanya</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middleman Minorities</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship and Race</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor and the Economic Positionality of Middleman Minorities</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Voicelessness to Voice</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 6 · Beyond Racial Myths, Prejudices, and Stereotypes: Deconstructing African/Black Diaspora Studies in a Changing World</th>
<th>95</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>by Okpeh Ochayi Okpeh, Jr.</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trends in the Historiography of African/Black Diaspora Studies</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CONTENTS

Perspectives, Approaches, and Challenges 102
The African/Black Diaspora: Issues, Options, and Prospects 105
Conclusion 107
Notes 108

### Part II · The Modern African Diaspora and Black Identity

#### Chapter 7 · Black Like Who? The Identity of an American President
*by* Hettie V. Williams 115
- Obama and the Concept of “Other Black” 117
- Race and the Multiracial Movement 119
- The Obama Biography in Perspective 126
- Race, Hybridity, and Functional Blackness 130
- Obama as Linguistic Subject 132
- Conclusion 135
- Notes 137

#### Chapter 8 · Black First, But Not Only: Racial Identity Formation in a Changing Black ‘Hood’
*by* Barbara H. Combs 143
- Black Gentrification Literature Review 144
- Attitudes and Perceptions about Race, Class, and Gender Dynamics 147
- Race Consciousness 148
- Class Consciousness 152
- Gender-Based Consciousness 156
- Conclusion 157
- Notes 160

#### Chapter 9 · The African Diaspora in the U.S.: Cultural Clash and Identity Challenges
*by* Julius O. Adekunle 163
- Africans and Education 168
- The African Work Experience 170
- Culture and Adaptation 172
- African Diaspora and Raising a Family 173
- African Diaspora and Associations 175
- Reconnecting with Homeland 176
- Opportunities and Challenges 178
- Conclusion 180
CONTENTS

Chapter 10 · The Things They Carried: From West Africa to Low Country Georgia, 1750–1800
by Karen Cook Bell 185
The Subaltern's Landscape 186
Transatlantic Transformations and African Resistance 189
Conclusion 199
Notes 200

Chapter 11 · Is the Negro Like Other People?: Race, Religion, and the Didactic Oratory of Henry McNeal Turner
by Andre E. Johnson 207
Henry McNeal Turner 208
The Study of Ethnology and Didactic Oratory 209
Lecture: The Negro in All Ages 213
Sacred Identity and the Sacredness of the Bible 215
Major Critiques 217
Turner’s Hope and Encouragement 223
Conclusion 224
Notes 226

Part III · The Black Diaspora in Latin American Identity and Culture

Chapter 12 · “Pardo” and “Preto” into “Negro”: Blackness in Contemporary Brazil
by G. Reginald Daniel 231
The Contemporary Racial Order 235
In the Black: The Racial State, the Census, and Public Policy 240
Conclusion 245
Notes 248

Chapter 13 · Afro-Puerto Ricans and Afro-Dominicans Online: Constructing Identities in Cyberspace
by Ashley D. Aaron 255
Identity on the Internet 256
Race on the Web 256
Afro-Latina/os Online 257
Afro-Latina/os in their Own Voices 258
CONTENTS

Afro-Latina/os and Residual Colonization 259
Reconstructing Latinidad 262
Processes of Afrolatinidad 264
Narratives of Afro-Latina/o Identity 266
Conclusion 268
Notes 269

Chapter 14 · Louisiana Creoles and Latinidad: Locating Culture and Community
by Andrew Jolivette & Haruki Eda 273
  Latinidad: Multiple Intersections 274
  Louisiana Creoles 277
  Conclusion 281
  Notes 283

Chapter 15 · Stereotypes of Afro-Peruvians Through the Media: The Case of the Peruvian Blackface
by Miguel Becerra 285
  Racism against Afro-Peruvians 286
  From Blackface to El Negro Mama 287
  El Negro Mama 290
  From Mammy to Ña Pancha 291
  Racism in the Media 292
  Response of Peruvian Society 294
  Conclusion 295
  Notes 297

Chapter 16 · Afro-Mexican Queen Pageants: NGOs and the (Re)Construction of Blackness
by Jorge Gonzalez 301
  The Ethnicization of Blackness in Mexico 304
  Arbitrating Ethnic Difference through AMQPs 309
  Conclusion 313
  Notes 315

Contributors 321

Index 327
List of Tables and Figures

Chapter 3
Figure 1 · Ganvie, Benin, 2009 55

Chapter 9
Table 1 · Total and African Foreign-Born Populations, 1960–2007 166
Table 2 · African Diaspora in the U.S. 167

Chapter 10
Table 1 · Population of Low Country Georgia, 1790 187
Table 2 · Savannah Planter Merchants Who Received and Sold West Africans from Rice Growing Regions, 1765–1771 189
Table 3 · Slaves Imported into Savannah by Origin and Time Period, Early Period, 1755–1767 190
Table 4 · Slaves Imported into Savannah by Origin and Time Period, Middle Period, 1768–1780 190
Table 5 · Slaves Imported into Savannah by Origin and Time Period, Final Period, 1784–1798 190

Chapter 12
Figure 1 · Pluralist and Integrationist Dynamics 235
Series Editor’s Preface

The Carolina Academic Press African World Series, inaugurated in 2010, offers significant new works in the field of African and Black World studies. The series provides scholarly and educational texts that can serve both as reference works and as readers in college classes.

Studies in the series are anchored in the existing humanistic and the social scientific traditions. Their goal, however, is the identification and elaboration of the strategic place of Africa and its Diaspora in a shifting global world. More specifically, the studies will address gaps and larger needs in the developing scholarship on Africa and the Black World.

The series intends to fill gaps in areas such as African politics, history, law, religion, culture, sociology, literature, philosophy, visual arts, art history, geography, language, health, and social welfare. Given the complex nature of Africa and its Diaspora, and the constantly shifting perspectives prompted by globalization, the series also meets a vital need for scholarship connecting knowledge with events and practices. Reflecting the fact that life in Africa continues to change, especially in the political arena, the series explores issues emanating from racial and ethnic identities, particularly those connected with the ongoing mobilization of ethnic minorities for inclusion and representation.

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Acknowledgments

The editors of *Converging Identities* conceived the idea of a collaborative work with scholars in the field of African Diaspora and the response to our call for papers was impressive. The contributors to this volume showed tremendous interest not only in the subject, but also in the anthology. The editors appreciate the contributors whose efforts and insightful analyses have significantly strengthened the understanding of the various aspects of the African Diaspora. The book is interdisciplinary in approach and the ideas are well articulated. The names of the contributors appear atop the individual chapters and in the biography page. We thank the contributors also for their patience during the long period of editing and publishing this book.

We are thankful to Dr. Toyin Falola for his support, strong interest in the subject matter, and for facilitating the process of publication. We express our profound gratitude to our academic colleagues who reviewed the chapters and also to Kevin Young and Ms. Maria Geiger for their experience and patience in painstakingly editing and proofreading the manuscript. We appreciate the assistance we received from our colleagues in the Department of History and Anthropology, Monmouth University.

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Julius O. Adekunle and Hettie V. Williams
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