



The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples



HARRIET TUBMAN NEWSLETTER

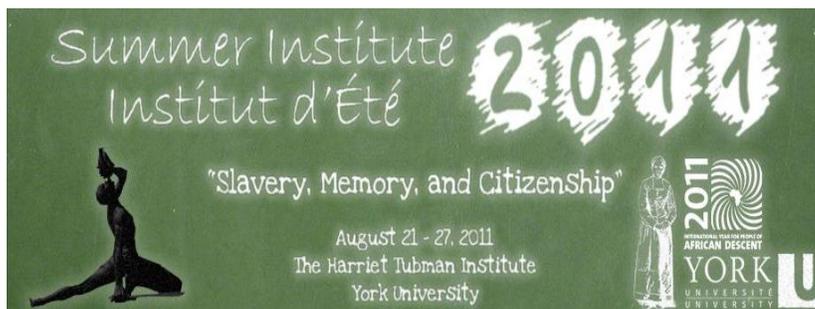
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The 2011 Summer Institute/Institut d'Été

Edited by Tracy Lopes

Inside this issue:

Summer Institute	1-2
Letter from the editor	3
The UNESCO Slave Route Project Itineraries of African Canadian Memory	4-5
CAAS	6
Modern Slavery	7
Harriet Tubman Student Summer Programme	8-9
Taking Graduate Students to the Archives	10-11
Publications: SHADD	10-11



Beginning in 2008, the research and teaching programme of IVHEET began organizing academic encounters aimed at analyzing how racial differences have affected the understanding of the historical mi-

gration of enslaved Africans, the legacy of slavery and its persistence today. Previously, Summer Institutes have been held in Aix-en-Provence (France, August 2008), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso, October 2009), and Port-au-Prince (Haiti, December 2009). This year, the Harriet Tubman Institute successfully hosted its Institut d'Été/Summer institute 2011 at York University from August 21 to 27, 2011.

Through its affiliation with the Teaching and Research Programme of Institut Interdisciplinaire Virtuel des Hautes Études sur les Esclavages et les Traites (IVHEET), the one week event brought together an international host of scholars, junior scholars, graduate students, doctoral candidates, fellows, teachers, student teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, librarians, public historians and educators to discuss the theme "Memory, Slavery and Citizenship" and the ways in which we share and communicate this knowledge. Sponsored by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Canada Research Chair in African Diaspora History, Project EURESCL, CELAT (Université Laval), the UNESCO Slave Route Project, the Harriet Tubman Institute and York University, the Summer Institute/Institut d'Été 2011 assembled a multidisciplinary team of instructors and scholars to analyze the relationship between historic and contemporary enslavement (slavery); the ways in which the slavery institution is researched, taught and publicly presented (memory); and the implications that these have on one's conduct, status, placement, and recognition in the national policy (citizenship). With a distinguished faculty of professors, the Summer Institute discussed key issues of demography, ethnicity and identity, biography, diasporic linkages, cultural expressions, memory and patrimony, Afro-Canadian experiences, citizenship and contemporary issues. The central focus of the Summer Institute was the application of these topics to the classroom experience; thus, the pedagogical component was to analyze the way these issues are presented in and can be integrated with school programs through the perspectives of teachers and educators.

The 2011 Summer Institute/Institut d'Été –Continued

This year, the highlight of the Summer Institute was the launching of the UNESCO Slave Route Project Itineraries of African Canadian Memory initiative with the help of the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean on the evening of August 23rd, 2011. In addition to the launch ceremony, Mme. Jean participated in one of four virtual seminars held with professors and students from the Université d'État de Haïti. Following a viewing of a podcast of the Institute's plenary sessions from the previous day and a live video conference which was also streamed live by internet, Haitian students were able to engage and interact in virtual seminars.

In addition to a series of plenary speakers that included Annie Bunting, Myriam Cottias, Francine Saillant, Blaise Tchikaya, David Trotman, Maria Elisa Velazquez and Harvey Amani Whitfield, other highlights included graduate and post-graduate presentations and a set of research skills workshops on video and digital techniques, augmented realities, oral history methodology and a research video series. Some of those involved in our virtual seminars included: Jacques D'Adesky, Hebe Mattos, Louis Alvares, Marc Desir, Georges Eddy Lucien, Jean Fritzner Etienne and Jean Gabriel Robenson Belunet. Finally, a set of teacher workshops were also conducted that included speakers, Yvonne Brown, Rina Cáceres, Kathleen Goud Lundy, Jeff Gunn, Laura Jones, Naomi Norquay and Gary Pieters. Each of these sessions were intended to provide participants with knowledge and a practical skill set that can be used by researchers in the field and by teachers to engage students in the classroom. Other activities, such as evening meals, luncheons, movie night and an evening of Caribbean food, music and dance, were meant to provide participants with greater opportunities to interact and network.

An interesting addition to the Summer Institute focussed on "in the field" sessions. These two sessions included a visit to the Ontario Archives and a field trip to historical Black sites in Toronto, in order to further engage participants in the history of the African-Canadian experience. As part of this initiative, historians Adrienne Shadd and Hilary Dawson helped guide a field trip to locations that included: St. Lawrence Hall, The Toronto Necropolis, George Brown house, The Ward, First Baptist Church and Osgoode Hall.

To close this year's Summer Institute, a luncheon was offered and addressed by the Honourable Jean Augustine, followed by the presentation of certificates of participation by Professor Paul Lovejoy. Special thanks are owed to Peitra Arana, the Summer Institute Coordinator, as well as its organizing committee, Paul E. Lovejoy, Myriam Cottias, Francine Saillant, David Trotman and Frank Luce.

Francesca D'Amico
Doctoral Candidate in History
York University

Letter From the Editor



The International Year for People of African Descent has highlighted the activities of the Tubman Institute over the past several months, as reported in this Newsletter, and culminating in the Summer Institute/Institut d'Été on "Slavery, Memory, Citizenship" on August 21-27th and the dedication of the UNESCO Itineraries of African-Canadian Memory by Her Excellency, Michaëlle Jean on August 23rd, the UNESCO designated day to remember slavery and the slave trade. Supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Summer Institute brought together scholars, students, and teachers in a structured programme of plenary sessions and workshops that explore the current strategy in addressing issues of racism and the legacies of slavery, in terms of what is remembered and what is forgotten, and the impact on achieving full citizenship. The Summer Institute was or-

ganized in collaboration with institutional partners in Canada and internationally, with the support of the UNESCO Slave Route Project. A special feature of the Summer Institute was the virtual link with the Université d'État d'Haïti, as part of a partnership agreement with the Tubman Institute.

From July 15-30th I participated in a series of seminars, lectures and meetings at Université d'État d'Haïti to develop a program of collaboration. Facilities for implementation of the virtual component of the Summer Institute were tested, and potential recruits for the student exchange programme were interviewed. The initiative was supported by the Canada-Haiti Academic Project Scholarships program.

I would like to welcome Dr. Abubakar Babajo Sani, historian from 'Yar Adua University in Katsina, Nigeria, who is currently a visiting Fellow at the Tubman Institute. Babajo continues his work on credit and agency in the nineteenth century Sokoto Caliphate.

And thanks to Dr. Yvonne Brown for her contributions to the Tubman Institute during her tenure as Post-Doctoral Fellow, and welcome Dr. Mfon Umoren Ekpootu, University of Port Harcourt, who is joining us as Post-Doctoral Fellow for this current academic year. Indeed the coming academic year promises to be active and exciting. In addition to new and continuing graduate students, seven exchange students will be in residence, including students from Jamaica, Colombia, Brazil, and Nigeria. We will profile all of our expanding team in the next Newsletter.

Paul E. Lovejoy, Director of the Harriet Tubman Institute

Events

“The UNESCO Slave Route Project Itineraries of African Canadian Memory: Spanning Borders and Breaking Silences at Tubman Summer Institute”



Brian Prince, Ali Moussa Iye, Paul Lovejoy and Michaëlle Jean

The year 2011 has been designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Year for People of African Descent. In order to strengthen political commitment to eradicate discrimination against people of African descent, initiatives are being implemented locally and globally to promote greater awareness of the historical and cultural significance of the African Diaspora.

In honour of the International Year for People of African Descent, York University's own Harriet Tubman Institute hosted the Summer Institute on “Slavery, Memory Citizenship August 21-27, 2011. A multidisciplinary team of instructors and scholars came together from all over the world to analyze the relationship between historic and contemporary enslavement (slavery); the ways in which the slavery institution is researched, taught and publicly presented (memory); and the implications that these have on one's conduct, status, placement, and recognition in the national policy (citizenship). Summer Institute participants included representatives from UNESCO (Paris and Ottawa), scholars, teachers, community partners, and graduate and undergraduate students gathered for a week- long institute, engaging in a dialogue on the ways in which the heritage of the African Diaspora can be protected, preserved, and promoted.

The Harriet Tubman Institute, officially launched in 2007 by the Governor General of Canada, Michaëlle Jean, marked the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the British abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. On the 23 of August 2011, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean joined the York community once again to pay tribute to the day proclaimed by UNESCO as an International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, as well as the uprising that led to the establishment of Haiti as an independent state. The former Governor General is now the UNESCO Special Envoy to Haiti, and Michaëlle Jean shared words of wisdom, placing herself within an “Itinerary of Memory”, through her personal movements spanning from Haiti, to Quebec, Ontario, Ghana and Senegal. Most importantly, she expressed the need for a global, ethical fellowship in better understanding past injustices, and modern forms of racism as legacies of slavery.

The UNESCO Slave Route Project Itineraries of African Canadian Memory: Spanning Borders and Breaking Silences at Tubman Summer Institute” Continued

In the words of the Honourable Michaële Jean, “In the midst of pain and suffering the spirit of humanity triumphs through the universal values of liberty, equality, and freedom.” With more of a personal touch, as she went on describe the sights, sounds and smells of visiting a slave castle on the coast of Ghana, she recalled the painful feeling of coming face to face with “the door of no return”, a small opening through which African captives met their trans-Atlantic fate. With great optimism one can say, we are indeed returning! Through The UNESCO Slave Route Project Itineraries of African Canadian Memory, narratives of the past and present are coming to life driven by vigilance and resilience.

The evening was hosted by Dr. Michele Johnson, a Tubman Fellow and former Deputy Director. The proposal to make *Itineraries of African Canadian Memory* an official UNESCO Slave Route Project was made by Director of the Harriet Tubman Institute, Paul Lovejoy, Canada Research Chair in African Diaspora History. Acceptance of the proposal was announced by Ali Moussa Iye, Chief of UNESCO Intercultural Dialogue Section, who further called for a “democratic management of national narratives that break the silences to bring voice to painful histories and sites.” Pledges of support were announced by Dr. Thomas Symons, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust; Bryan Prince of the Buxton National Heritage Site and Museum; and lastly, Kevin Johnson, the United States Consul General. Taking Dr. Thomas Symons’ words to heart, “the stage is set, and the time is right”, York University President, Mamdouh Shoukri, congratulated the Harriet Tubman Institute on fostering an environment for academic excellence and social justice, and introduced keynote speaker, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean.

It was an inspirational and enlightening evening which jump-started a week of dynamic discussion and networking. The Summer Institute most importantly proved that African Canadian history is not just something of the past, but is present, taking place every minute of every day. Whether it is African Canadian histories stored in archives, or those nestled in old attics, challenges to deliver these narratives to the public will persist, but most certainly can and are being overcome. If knowing the history of slavery is essential in lifting humanity out of injustice, then I too invite Canadians from coast to coast to embark on a deeper understanding of this Diaspora, for history is only relevant when one is able to place oneself within it.

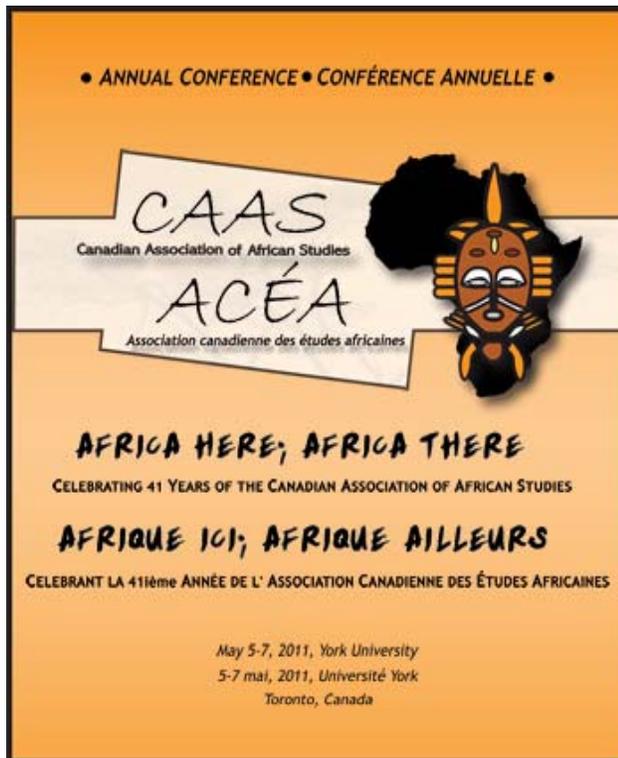
Amrita Kauldher

York University

CAAS: Canadian Association of African Studies

The Canadian Association of African Studies Annual Conference 2011: *Africa Here; Africa There* held its 41st annual conference at York University from May 5 to May 7, 2011. The conference was hosted by the Harriet Tubman Institute and was co-sponsored by Founders College and the UNESCO Slave Route Project. Conference participants came from Canada, Brazil, Portugal, the United States, South Africa, Kenya, Tunisia, Algeria and elsewhere, to share their research on Africa and to debate ideas during three plenary sessions, a film festival and forty-nine panels. Ranging thematically from modern to ancient and from southern Africa to north, the participants engaged with concepts of religion, race, idealism and ideology. The conference embraced a wide variety of disciplines and provoked lively debates during the question and answer periods.

Additionally, the CAAS conference was a chance to reconnect with friends and colleagues and to pursue opportunities for collaborative research among institutions, disciplines and scholars from diverse cultural backgrounds. This year, CAAS honoured three distinguished scholars from the Toronto region: Professor Emeritus John Saul and Professor Paul Lovejoy from York University and Professor Emeritus Martin Klein from the University of Toronto. The three distinguished scholars were honoured for Lifetime Achievement in African Studies at a reception on May 5th. In addition to a book fair held at Founders College in conjunction with the conference, a series of book launches was held at the Accents on Eglinton bookstore, including books by John Saul and Michele Johnson of the Tubman Institute, and the Harriet Tubman Institute series published Africa World Press.



The conference was organized by Professors José C. Curto and Ratiba Hadj-Moussa, with the assistance of the administrative staff of the Tubman Institute and a host of volunteers. At the CAAS executive meeting held at the Tubman Institute on May 4, the executive recommended that next year's CAAS conference be held in Quebec City from May 2-5, 2012. The decision was ratified at the CAAS AGM which was held during the lunch break on May 6, 2011.

Katrina Keefer, Doctoral Candidate in History, York University

Modern Slavery, Human Rights and Development



From June 26-28, Professor Annie Bunting (Law & Society/ The Harriet Tubman Institute, York University), Dr. Joel Quirk (Wilberforce Institute, University of Hull), PhD Candidate Yael Machtiger (Law & Society, York University) and PhD Candidate Karlee Sapoznik (History/ Alliance Against Modern Slavery/ The Harriet Tubman Institute, York University) hosted a workshop on modern slavery, human rights and human development.

The organizers were pleased by the turn out and the participation of many Harriet Tubman Institute and York University affiliated professors, students and community members who enriched discussion following stimulating, interdisciplinary workshop presentations. For example, Christien van den Anker, Reader in Politics at the University of the West of England, Bristol, presented on “Contemporary Slavery and Global Inequality.” Van den Anker is an expert on trafficking for forced labour and Director of the Migrant Rights Centre in Bristol. York University’s Andrew Crane, George R. Gardiner Professor of Business Ethics at the Schulich School of Business, presented on “Modern Slavery as a Management Practice.” Crane is a leading expert in business ethics and corporate social responsibility, and among the first to look at contemporary slavery in relation to management. Jonathan Blagbrough, a Senior Visiting Research Associate at the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE), University of Hull (UK) and Programme Adviser to Children Unite, presented on “The Politics of Child Domestic Labour.” Blagbrough has authored a number of publications for UNICEF, Anti-Slavery International and ILO-IPEC, and incorporated his experiences working in collaboration with local NGOs in Africa, Asia, Central/Latin America and the Caribbean.

It had two primary goals: First, it aimed to connect an emerging literature concerned with contemporary slavery and human trafficking with more established scholarship in the related fields of human rights and human development. Secondly, it aimed to offer a constructive critique of key policies and programs that have recently been introduced by both governments and non-governmental organizations in an effort to combat contemporary slavery.

Karlee Sapoznik
 Doctoral Candidate in History
 York University

Harriet Tubman Student Summer Programme

On July 5, 2010, SPACE (Spotlighting and Promoting African Canadian Experiences) Network, a subsidiary of The Harriet Tubman Institute embarked on a plan geared at encouraging at-risk teenagers in the surrounding area of York University and the wider GTA region to think about themselves and a possible future in tertiary education. For one week, 30 students aged 14-18 years old were exposed to Afri-centric history and culture. With the astounding feedback from these students, the program returned in 2011 for two weeks.



In conjunction with Toronto-based community leaders Pilar Gonzalez and Sonia Patricia Mesa of the group **Teach 2 Learn**, The Harriet Tubman Institute's Program Coordinators, Michele Johnson and Abubacar Fofana Leon, spearheaded a two-week foray into enlightening the minds of 40 teenagers varying between the ages of 14 and 18. From July 5-15 students were taught by distinguished Professors, Researchers and Graduate Students willing to devote the time to expose students to subject matter students admitted never having been previously exposed to. Starting with a clear look at the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade on the 5th the students over the course of the next two weeks would be exposed to Screen-Printing techniques, issues of Immigration, Spoken Word/ Dub-Poetry, tours courtesy of the York University Art Gallery, the Archives of Ontario, Black Creek Pioneer Village and the Royal Ontario Museum, and lessons focusing on the African Diaspora beginning with the African continent and covering the entire Western hemisphere. With each lesson, tour and cultural demonstration students were asked to internalize what they were being taught and express their take on all of it.

Harriet Tubman Student Summer Programme Continued



What emerged from this interpretation was a resounding message from Toronto youth on how they interpreted their belonging in a country which they did not always feel claimed them. Ten days of artistic and academic expression from these youths demonstrated what Canada's future can look like with the proper nurturing. The Harriet Tubman Institute and the SPACE network created and facilitated a space where free thought and expression was allowed to bloom under the care and guidance of wiser elders. As program coordinator Michele Johnson told each student, they all have keen potential, and the Student Summer

Programme can do much, but can only get better once the youth are all dedicated to improving on and utilizing their potential to the fullest. Each student agreed wholeheartedly and their work expressed that clearly.

I was proud to stand alongside York University student Hugo Martinez, and community leaders Sonia Patricia Mesa and Pilar Gonzalez as facilitators who had the privilege of working closely with each student on a daily basis building relationships and an atmosphere where teenagers who did not know each other on the 5th had tears in their eyes parting on the 15th. I was privileged to see students become leaders in their own right, and will, without hesitation, promote the multiple reviews from students which expressed an interest in returning next year to a (hopefully) extended three-week program. The Harriet Tubman Student Summer Program has shown immense potential and has influenced, to date, at least seventy students in the Greater Toronto Area to realize and tap into every skill they possess to make the most of each opportunity they can seize.

I wish to sincerely thank Abubacar Fofana Léon and Professor Michele Johnson for their vision which created the opportunity for this amazing program. I also wish to extend thanks to all the researchers, graduate students and professors who dedicated their time and expertise to nurture the minds of GTA youth, among whom are Denise Challenger, Charmaine Lurch, Michele Johnson, Karolyn Smardz Frost, Natasha Henry, Amrita Kauldher, David Vavala, Molly-Ladd-Taylor, Carl Finkle, Abubacar Fofana Leon, Jose Cuffy, David Trotman, Andrea Davis, Carl James, Sam Teclé.

Shiemara Hogarth, Research Assistant at the Harriet Tubman Institute

Taking Graduate Students to the Archives



From left to right:: Dr. Frank Luce, Abubucar Fofana León, Rafaela Job-bit, Dr. José C. Curto, Augustin D'Almeida, Tracy Lopes,

The number of Lusophone students in the Graduate Program in History at York University has experienced a growth over the last couple of years. It now stands at ten. Of these, six graduate students are working on Luso-African topics, especially the illegal slave trade from and slavery in Portugal's ex-colonies in Africa: all are thus associated with the Harriet Tubman Institute. No other graduate program in North America has ever had such a large number of graduate students focusing on these particular topics. As a result of such growth, an important initiative has emerged to provide the students in question with training in the archives of relevance to their research.

"Taking Graduate Students to the Archives: From Lisbon to Benguela" is a research project funded by SSHRC designed to introduce students in the Graduate Program in History and associated with the Harriet Tubman Institute to archives in Lisbon and Benguela. All of the students involved in the project are working on a time period, characterized by the transition from slave trading and slavery to other forms of coerced labour, which in the case of Lusophone Africa remains comparatively understudied. The project was designed and is coordinated by Professor José C. Curto, Department of History and member of the Tubman Institute, himself a researcher of the Angolan past.

The project is divided in three phases which include archival research and workshops overseas involving a number of cognate institutions from Angola (Universidade Katyavala Bwila/UKB), Brazil (Universidade de Brasília/UnB), and Portugal (Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical-IICT).

Taking Graduate Students to the Archives Continued

This summer a group of York/Tubman PhD candidates made up of Rafaela Jobbit, Vanessa S. Oliveira, Augustin d'Almeida, Abubacar Fofana and the incoming PhD student Tracy Lopes worked in Lisbon as a team under the supervision of Professor Curto and Dr. Frank Luce - both researchers with long standing experience in the archives targeted. These archives included: Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino, Biblioteca da Sociedade de Geografia de Lisboa, and Arquivo Histórico Militar, all which hold rich collections on 19th century Portuguese speaking Africa. Beyond the archival research, the group also presented papers at a two-day workshop titled "Seminário Internacional Novos Rumos da Historiografia dos PALOP", held at the Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical in Lisbon and organized by Professor Curto and Professor Maria Manuel Ferraz Torrão (IICT).

The second phase of the project will take place in February 2012 at the Universidade Katyavala Bwila in Benguela, Angola, where the York/Tubman graduate students will be introduced to the local archives and participate in another workshop. It is anticipated that this second phase of the project will also have the participation of UKB students, as well as a group of UnB graduate students coordinated by Professor Selma Pantoja. The local group of students will be equipped with and trained in the use of equipment and appropriate software that will remain with UKB for future use. The focus of the research will be to locate documentation relating to illegal slaving and slavery c. 1836-1914 and, hopefully, digitize it so that it can be made more readily accessible to researchers in Benguela and beyond.

While the project allows the History-Tubman/York group to experience archival training in a group setting, it also simultaneously lays the seeds for future cooperation amongst institutions in four different continents working in areas of mutual interest. In both cases, documents are to be shared by all of the participating individuals and institutions so that a better discourse on the various aspects of the much neglected transition from slave trading and slavery to other forms of coerced labour in 19th century Lusophone Africa can be achieved.

Vanessa S. Oliveira

Doctorate Candidate in History

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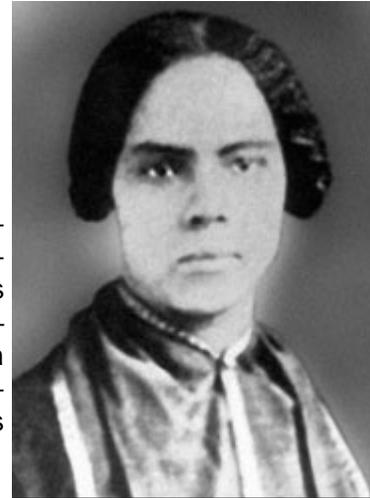
Publications: SHADD

Editors
Paul E. Lovejoy
Yacine Daddi Addoun

SHADD: Studies in the History of the African Diaspora – Documents, is a publication of the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples. SHADD has evolved from the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project, Department of History, York University, which was supported by a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, under its Major Collaborative Research Initiatives Program.

The series is named in honour of Mary Ann Shadd, feminist and abolitionist editor of the *Provincial Freeman* (Windsor, Toronto, and Chatham, Canada West), 1853-57. SHADD operates under the direction of an Editorial Collective at York University, Toronto, Canada. The Editorial Advisory Board consists of members of the Harriet Tubman Institute.

SHADD publishes manuscripts in Arabic, French, Portuguese, English, Spanish and other languages relevant to the history of the African diaspora. Original documents may be submitted to the Editorial Collective for consideration. Documents must be digitized or accessible for digitization, and where permission to publish is required, such permission should be secured in writing. All citations will give full credit to the location of documents; there will be inventories of documents, as appropriate. Internet links to institutions will be included, indicating where additional materials may be found, as well as sources for documents included on the site. Hard copies of digitized documents will be deposited at selected repositories in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa, as determined by the decision of the Editorial Collective. Wherever appropriate annotations and introductions will be revised as new information is recovered or otherwise made available.



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The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples at York University is proud to be part of an international network of research centres committed to overcoming injustice and inequity as a result of slavery. Our leading-edge research focuses on the forced and voluntary movement of African peoples around the world. As a social innovator, the Institute's mandate is to promote a greater understanding of the history of slavery and its legacy. The Institute fosters debate, informs public policy and strives to resolve current social injustices. Digital archiving technology enables the preservation of documents and other materials for easy access to historical records. The Institute is named for the spirit of Harriet Tubman, liberator of her people, feminist, and humanist (c.1820-1913).

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