



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



## HARRIET TUBMAN NEWSLETTER

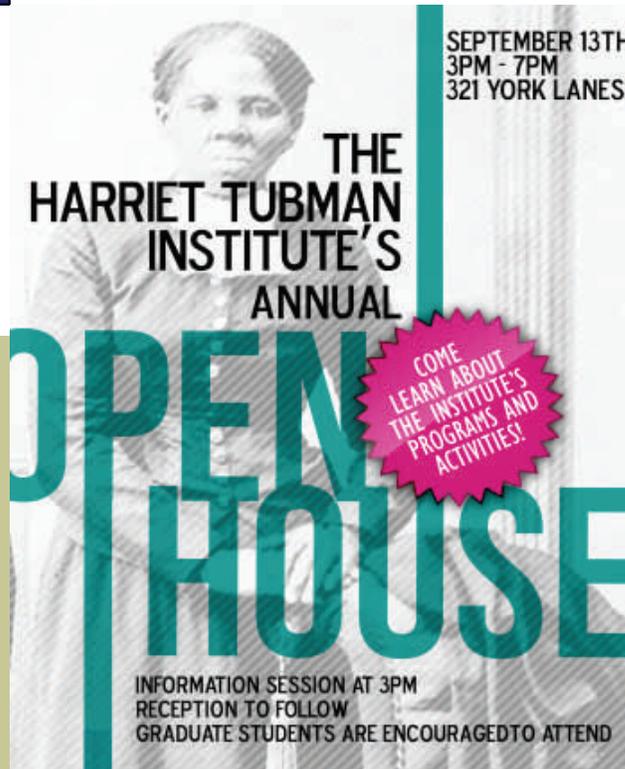
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### The 2011 Harriet Tubman Open House

Edited by Tracy Lopes

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On September 13th, 2011 the Harriet Tubman Institute held its Annual Open House. Visitors and former and current members were introduced to the Institute's mandates, goals for the academic year and projects underway. The event highlighted the importance of collaborative work for the development of African Studies and for the fight against contemporary slavery.

The information session was chaired by the new deputy director, Professor Joseph Mensah. Professors, graduate, undergraduate and exchange students, introduced themselves, shared their research interests, and expectations for the upcoming year.

Tubman's graduate student representatives Karlee Sapoznik and Vanessa S. Oliveira held an orientation meeting for incoming graduate students where they discussed scholarship opportunities, time-management tips, and strategies for the academic year. The event also paid tribute to Dr. Frank Luce, former Coordinator of the Harriet Tubman Institute, and Pietra Arana, an ELAP exchange student, who organized and supported the 2011 Summer Institute.

Raquel G. A. Gomes and Julia Orioli  
Harriet Tubman Institute, York University

## Letter From the Director



The Harriet Tubman Institute wants to draw to our attention that there is now a UNESCO campaign for a permanent memorial at the United Nations to honour the victims of the Slave Trade, now identified as a Crime Against Humanity. The goals of the Tubman Institute for 2012 are in keeping with this ongoing campaign of recognition, knowledge mobilisation and reparation, following on the UN Year for People of African Descent, which was recognized last year.

During this year, the Tubman Institute highlights its annual Performing Diaspora program for February and the Summer Programme for Students of our S.P.A.C.E initiative. We are hosting a conference in Sierra Leone in April. After a successful programme of archival research in Portugal last summer, Professor José Curto is now leading a team of researchers to the archives in Angola in 2012. A similar initiative is underway for a team of graduate students to undertake research in Sierra

Leone in coordination with the conference there in April. This initiative, under the direction of the Director and Professor Suzanne Schwarz, University of Worcester, is focusing on the preservation of documents in the Sierra Leone Public Archives and the repatriation of historical materials to Sierra Leone, in collaboration with Professor Joe Alie, Chair, Department of History, Fourah Bay College, and Albert Moore, Director, Sierra Leone Public Archives. The digitization project is supported by a grant from the British Library Endangered Archives Programme.

The Tubman Institute research programme includes a number of projects, including the SSHRC funded research of Dr. Meley Mulugetta on the preservation of Coptic Church records in Ethiopia. Dr. Mulugetta has also completed a special report to the UNESCO Slave Route Project on the history of the slave trade in the Red Sea. Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost has continued her exciting research and public outreach initiatives with respect to the Underground Railroad and the sites of memory that are associated with the African Canadian experience. Together with her team (Hilary Dawson, Adrienne Shadd and many others), she has involved community groups and organizations in the UNESCO Itineraries of African Canadian Memory, which has now become a cornerstone in the Tubman initiative to insert the African past into the Canadian National Narrative. For the coming year, Dr. Smardz Frost is focusing on the role of African Canadians in the War of 1812. Professor Annie Bunting continues her coordination of her SSHRC funded project on Forced Marriage in Conflict Situations. The project has held several workshops and is undertaking ongoing research in several countries in Africa.

Professor Christopher Innes, Canada Research Chair in Performance and Culture, has initiated a partnership development project on theatre and digital culture, and is involved in an initiative with Lovejoy and Prof. Caitlin Fisher, Canada Research Chair in Digital Culture, to establish a Digital Humanities Collaboratory to be centred at the Tubman Institute. Prof. Fisher continues to work closely with other members of the Tubman Institute, and particularly with Dr. Smardz Frost, in the development of new techniques of augmented reality for the dissemination of new knowledge on the UGRR and the history of African Canadians.

## Letter From the Director

The Harriet Tubman Series on the African Diaspora has now published 12 volumes, the latest two just issued: Ute Röschenhaler, *Purchasing Culture in the Cross River Region of Cameroon and Nigeria*; and Ehud R. Toledano, ed., *African Communities in Asia and the Mediterranean: Identities between Integration and Conflict*. Africa World Press will publish five more volumes in the Harriet Tubman Series in this New Year, including Christopher Innes, Annabel Rutherford and Brigitte Bogar, eds., *Carnival – Theory and Practice*; Joel Quirk and Darshan Vigneswaran, eds., *Slavery, Migration and Contemporary Bondage in Africa*; Benjamin Bowser and Paul E. Lovejoy, eds., *New Directions in Teaching Slavery and the Slave Trade*; Audra Diptee and David V. Trotman, eds., *Memory, Public History & Representations of the Past: Africa & Its Diasporas*; and Modesto Amegago, *The Continuity of African Drumming Traditions*.

Achievements of our colleagues and former students are many, many, and this year we will endeavour to keep track of and publish these in a comprehensive fashion. But of note is Dr. Behnaz Mirzai's promotion to Associate Professor at Brock University, the publication of Dr. Mohammed Bashir Salau's first book "The West African Slave Plantation"; Juanita De Barros service as Chair of the Department of History, McMaster University; Dr. Femi Kolapo's many publications and his promotion; Prof. Kwabena Akurang Parry forthcoming book in the Harriet Tubman Series; and the imminent publication of Prof. Edmond Abaka's book on the Slave Castles of the Gold Coast, also appearing in the Tubman Series. Dr. Olatunji Ojo, Brock University, and Dr. Jennifer Lofkrantz, St. Thomas University, in their collaboration on several articles; Dr. Mariana Candido, on the publication of her book in Spanish by El Colegio de Mexico, and her forthcoming volume being published by Cambridge University Press. Dr. Yacine Daddi Addoun has taken up his new post as Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas; Oscar Grandío, who is completing his Ph.D. thesis, has continued his British Library digitization project in Cuba, while Carlos Liberato, also finishing his Ph.D., continues his work on another British Library project in Brazil.

Members of the Tubman Institute at York University have also been active in parallel and complementary ventures. Specifically, Karlee Sapoznik, Ph.D. candidate in History has provided the leadership in the formation of the Alliance Against Modern Slavery (<http://allianceagainstmernslavery.org>), which is currently housed at the Tubman Institute. Similarly, former Deputy Director, Michele Johnson, in partnership with Abubakar Fofana, Ph.D. candidate in History, has opened a book store, *Accénts on Eglinton*, that focuses on subjects of interest to the study of the African diaspora. *Accénts on Eglinton* sustains a dynamic, weekly programme of book launches, discussion groups, and community outreach.

The Tubman Institute is proud of its administrative team. Carlos Algandona has emerged as Tubman Institute Coordinator, and with the assistance of Shiemara Hogarth handles accounting; Rafael has formed an IT team that now operates several websites and an intranet service; Diane Lee has transformed the Harriet Tubman Resource Centre through the development of our Digital Archives, which will soon be on line. And I am pleased to announce that Professor José C. Curto, Department of History, has agreed to be Deputy Director, along with Professor Joseph Mensah. At this time, it is also fitting to thank the previous two Deputy Directors, David V. Trotman and Michele Johnson, for their terms in the Tubman administration.

## *Alliance Against Modern Slavery – Fall 2011*



**Alliance**  
Against Modern Slavery

The Alliance Against Modern Slavery had a wonderful end to 2011. It was characterized by growth and development, education and awareness, and partnership and community. As the Alliance Against Modern Slavery (AAM) bids farewell to a stellar year, we are absolutely delighted to welcome 2012 with an exciting glimpse ahead. The past year has been characterized by growth and development, education and awareness, and partnership and community. Reflecting on the highlights and notable strides that marked 2011, we have put together a snapshot of AAMS' top memorable moments and achievements:

- 1. OFFICIAL CHARITY STATUS:** August 23, 2011 will always be a distinguished moment for AAMS – we received official charity status on this day! Contributing to the meaningfulness of this moment is that this wonderful news came to us on the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.
- 2. MODERN SLAVERY CURRICULUM BACKGROUNDER:** With education as one of our top priorities, we were pleased to complete a comprehensive Modern Slavery Curriculum Backgrounder this fall, which will be piloted by teachers in Manitoba and complemented with detailed lesson plans in winter 2012. Our Education Director Maria Wong was honoured to be selected to the Youth Advisory Council of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.
- 3. PARTNERSHIPS & ALLIES:** We are pleased to announce our most recent partnerships with Chocosol, Dalit Freedom Network, and Learning For Hope—three great organizations working to increase awareness of modern slavery and human rights abuses. We continue to work on Forced Marriage Research Projects in the Greater Toronto Area, and look forward to continuing our partnerships with Active History and The Harriet Tubman Institute, which has made contemporary slavery part of its international research mandate.
- 4. SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** On October 15, 2011, our second annual conference was opened by the honourable Jean Augustine. Similar to our inaugural conference, this event brought together leading NGOs, activists, government officials, researchers, law enforcement personnel, and experiential workers. It sought to illuminate a number of lesser known forms of contemporary slavery that are thriving at home and abroad, and outlined important gap areas, including post-enslavement rehabilitation, memory and trauma, sex tourism, best practice analysis, preventative measures, partnerships and avenues to counter the ways in which we are all connected to slavery through the consumer goods we purchase and consume on a daily basis.

**5. “NEVER FORGET” NOVEMBER:** A truly unforgettable month, AAMS participated in a roundtable meeting with the Ministry of Public Safety, presented at the “Then and Now” Rights of Non-Status Women Network Open Forum held at Friends House (Quaker Meeting House) and attended the National Networking Meeting on Trafficking hosted by The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) in Montreal. This meeting provided a forum for information-exchange and strategizing on protection, awareness-raising and services for trafficked persons. Bringing November to a close, AAMS led a workshop exploring the 8th Millennium development goal during Havergal College's “Global Partnership for Development” symposium.

**6. LAUNCH OF LOCAL INITIATIVES:** AAMS launched a number of exciting local initiatives this October. They include: Coalition for an Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Best Practice Survey Initiative, and The AAMS Blog.

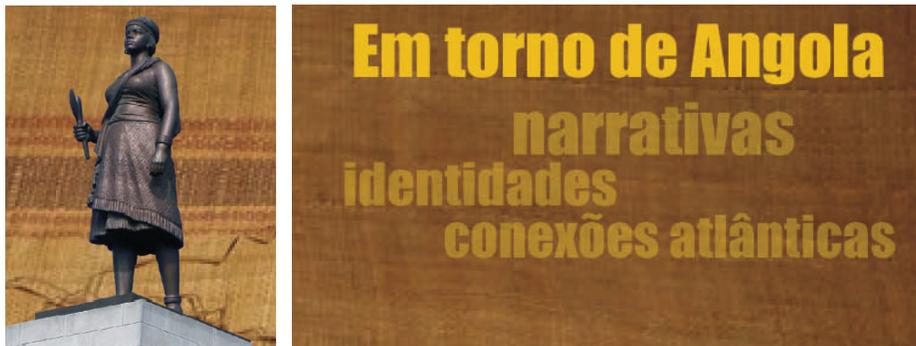
All of us from the AAMS Team would like to thank you for your continued interest and support. We wish you and your loved ones a wonderful start to the New Year, one that is filled with an abundance of health and happiness. Together, let's make 2012 a year of collaboration and action against modern slavery in our local and global communities!



Part of the AAMS Team , October 15, 2011

Karlee Sapoznik,  
Co-founder AAMS  
PhD Candidate  
Harriet Tubman Institute  
York University

*International Seminar "Em Torno de Angola: Narrativas, Identidades, Conexões Atlânticas", Brasília -Brazil, Oct 31-Nov 1st 2011.*



From October 31st to November 1st, 2011, the Universidade de Brasília (UnB) hosted the international conference “Em Torno de Angola: Narrativas, Identidades, *Conexões Atlânticas*” to celebrate the 36 year anniversary of Angolan Independence.

The conference was organized by Dr. Selma Pantoja and Estevam Thompson with support of UnB, the Angolan Ministry of Culture and the Angolan Embassy in Brazil. The opening speeches were made by the Angolan Ambassador Nelson Cosme and the Angolan Vice-Minister of Culture Cornélio Caley. The conference programme included panels dealing with Narrative and Identification; Atlantic Terminologies; Teaching and Writing African History; Nation and Imaginary; and Identity, Power and Atlantic Connections. Among the presenters were professors and students from Canada, Europe, Angola and Brazil.

The Harriet Tubman Institute had three of its members among the presenters. Dr. Paul E. Lovejoy presented his paper “Narratives and Identity Markers in the Atlantic world,” which argued that scarification can help identify the background of enslaved Africans.

Dr. José C. Curto presented his paper entitled “Whitening the ‘white’ Population: An Analysis of the 1850 censuses of Luanda.” Dr. Curto examined two published versions of the 1850 census of Luanda and the redefinition of whiteness in mid-nineteenth century Angola.

Vanessa S. Oliveira, a third year PhD candidate in African history at York University, presented her paper “Escravidão, Gênero e Ocupação em Angola na Segunda Metade do Século XIX,” in which she analysed the occupations of slaves in Luanda between 1854-1856. The paper illustrated that among slaves, men and women competed for the same types of occupations.



From left to right: Dr. José C. Curto, Dr. Paul E. Lovejoy, and Vanessa S. Oliveira

The conference ended with refreshments at the Angolan Embassy in Brasília, where the conference attendees were welcomed by the ambassador Nelson Cosme. Dr. Selma Pantoja launched her book “Uma Antiga *Civilização* Africana: História da África Central Ocidental,” which seeks to assist high school teachers in the teaching of African history in Brazil.

One of the outcomes of the seminar was the creation of the group “Em Torno de Angola” formed by professors and graduate students from Angola, Brazil, Canada and Portugal. The group’s main intention is to promote the exchange of knowledge and research material among individuals and institutions. A second conference will take place in Angola in 2012.

Vanessa S. Oliveira  
PhD Candidate in African History  
Harriet Tubman Institute  
York University

## *Carlos Algandona New Coordinator of The Harriet Tubman Institute*



The Harriet Tubman Institute is proud to announce the appointment of Carlos Algandona as Financial Operations and Administrative Coordinator of The Harriet Tubman Institute. He graduated from York University (2008) in International Development and Economics and has worked extensively with the Tubman Institute since 2008.

Carlos' international experience and working relationships with those involved in the Tubman Institute will be an asset in his new leadership role. Deputy Directors, Dr. Joseph Mensah and Dr. David Trotman, along with the Executive Committee congratulate Carlos on this successful promotion.

*Carlos Algodona New Coordinator of The Harriet Tubman Institute  
Continued*

Interview by Wangui Kimari  
PhD Candidate in Anthropology  
York University

**Wangui:** Could you tell me a bit about your background?

**Carlos:** I was born in Panama. I lived there until I was 16. I then moved to Arlington, Virginia, graduated high school, proceeded to do a post secondary program in Washington Connecticut, and finally arrived in Toronto in September 2003.

**Wangui:** What are your research interests?

**Carlos:** My major in university was International Development Studies, and Economics. The majority of my research was focused on socioeconomic development, and its impact on small cities, and indigenous groups.

**Wangui:** When did you first arrive at Tubman?

**Carlos:** I arrived in November 2008 when I started working as a financial assistant.

**Wangui:** What drew you to the institute?

**Carlos:** The institute has been a dynamic place where I have been given the opportunity to grow in my career and as a person. I have meet and interacted with people from all over the world. That is the beauty of Tubman, it acts as a research Hub in which professors, students, and members can come and interact freely.

**Wangui:** What are some of your goals as the new coordinator?

**Carlos:** One of my goals for this year is to reinforce our community relations, and create more awareness about the services and resources available to the public through Tubman. This will be in conjunction with our Resource Center, which will be soon fully operational.

**Wangui:** Any final words for those interested in learning more about the Institute?

**Carlos:** Come and visit, this will be an exciting year as we prepare ourselves to host the 4th year of the Performing Diaspora Series, as well as upcoming workshops / conferences regarding the War of 1812 bicentennial.

## *Slavery, Memory, Citizenship Enters an Exciting New Phase*



**MCRI**  
*Slavery Memory Citizenship*

With only three years remaining in the massive project dedicated to collaboration and research centred at the Harriet Tubman Institute at York University in Canada, the international team of scholars responsible for MCRI (Major Collaborative Research Initiatives) have achieved outstanding success and positive feedback from the SSHRC review panel which examined the project this summer. Among the partners' recent accomplishments was the launch of the UNESCO Slave Route Project's "Itineraries of African Canadian Memory" in August, 2011 at the Tubman Institute, by a distinguished group of notables including the former Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean.

But there is always room for improvement, and so the MCRI project is refining its expressed outcomes to streamline the process of moving from idea to collaboration to the public. With that in mind, we are proud to announce a new Advisory Board to assist in this process, chaired by Professor Toyin Falola, the Frances Higginbotham Nalle Centennial Professor in History at the University of Texas at Austin, who has also been appointed Vice President on the International Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Slave Route Project. Falola's list of accomplishments is considerable, most recently highlighted by his meriting the Distinguished Africanist Award at the African Studies Association for 2011, and his chairing of this new Board is an exciting development for both the MCRI and for all involved both abroad and at the Tubman Institute.

## *Slavery, Memory, Citizenship Enters an Exciting New Phase Continued*

The task of the Advisory Board is to make sure that all the thematic and geographical foci of the project are being covered, continuing the great effort made to date and seeking to further improve all outcomes. Under Falola's capable guidance, the Board will present ideas and advocate for new and creative outcomes to further achieve. The Steering Committee is in charge of overseeing operations and implementation in terms of themes, theories, geography and methods.

As always, working in tandem with these new collaborative aspects, the capable and creative Tubman Institute staff will continue their work of facilitating the implementation of all recommendations for the MCRI project. There are ongoing meetings of different clusters of people associated with the MCRI project, at ASA, forthcoming at AHA and Vanderbilt, and there will be further progress internationally - in the UK, Sierra Leone, Brazil, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Haiti, and Cuba. Our work to date has been extremely productive, and we plan to continue this trend of excellence with a series of milestones both achieved and still to be reached: the Research Video Festival; the annual Institut d'Ete, of which four have been completed and two more are to come, one of which is confirmed in Rio; upcoming conferences in Sierra Leone, Morocco, and many other places; publications in the Harriet Tubman Series (12 volumes now published; 5 volumes in press, to be released in early 2012, and another 5 volumes to be published by the end of 2012); related initiatives to publish volumes in Portuguese, French and Spanish to allow maximum exposure of our network across language frontiers.

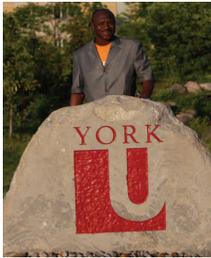
It has been an amazing ride so far, and it's only getting better. For those interested in partnering their institutions with this vibrant and expanding international community of scholars and researchers.

Katrina Keefer  
PhD Candidate in African History  
Harriet Tubman Institute  
York University

## *The Tubman Seminar Series, List of Speakers*



Paul Lovejoy, "Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa – What's in a Name?"



Abubakar Babajo Sani, "Exploring The Business Ledger of Ahmad Abu Al-Ghaith Tuat"



Vijayashri Sripati, "UN Constitutional Assistance [UNCA]: New Additions to the “Standard of Civilization”?"



Elaine Perkins, "Community-based responses to climate change in Durban, Maputo and Nairobi: outline of an activist research methodology"



Joseph Mensah, "The Cultural Logics of African Immigrant Housing in Canada"



Samuel Teclé, "Eritrean Revolutionary Thought"



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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).*

[www.yorku.ca/tubman](http://www.yorku.ca/tubman)