

**PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL ISSUE  
OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR AFRICANA STUDIES**

**Submitted by marilyn m. thomas-houston, ph.d.**

**for**

**For My People Productions, Inc.**

**March 2, 2007**

## **Description**

Marilyn M. Thomas-Houston and Ronald W. Bailey propose to produce a special issue of the International Journal for Africana Studies based on the position papers and conversations discussing those papers at the Ford Foundation convening, Conversations for Sustaining Black Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The convening brought together more than twenty-eight scholars representing a diverse group who share an interest in the development of the discipline of Black Studies. Each scholar was asked to address at least one of nine questions pertinent to directions of the field. The position papers were used to spark discussions among the attending scholars. What came out of that convening was an understanding of the complementarities of the various ideological and methodological approaches to the field and a re-energized group ready to tackle the next phase of the field of study.

## **Rationale**

The purpose of this special issue of the International Journal for Africana Studies is to provide under one cover papers from an ideologically diverse group of scholars that discuss the future of the field of Black Studies. The goals for the special issue are: 1) To inform the reading audience of the insights obtained for sustaining and further develop Black Studies generated by a select group of scholars taking part in the convening, Conversations for Sustaining Black Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. 2) To reveal that a cohesive structure exists among the diverse methodological and ideological perspectives of the field. 3) To continue the understanding that the diversity of the field can operate more as a core of understandings and purposes that strengthen the discipline rather than those differences operating as competing and separate directions.

This special edition of the journal is an effort to bring under one cover the understanding that Black Studies, now moving from infancy into adolescence, reveals a holistic approach from its many parts for understanding both the global and local experiences of Blacks and their interconnectedness with varying forms of power. The issue is constructed to bring together and include, if not all, most perspectives, which—in the past—have been considered competing. The larger ideas produced through this collection of papers and the infusion of the ideas generated by the conversations they inspired are both conceptual and practical. Therefore, the special edition is not simply a better way of restating existing knowledge but rather a collection of ideas at the forefront of ways to sustain and develop the field.

The unique character of this important issue goes beyond the diversity of its contributors to include a focus on nine specific questions designed to tackle key issues. Although these goal-oriented questions may have been addressed at other times, in varying forms, they are being considered under one cover with conclusions drawn from discussion of those questions as a part of the compilation.

The opinion pieces included in this body of work have been commissioned specifically for this compilation and have not been previously published. The conversations generated through the convening, though representative of the diverse ideas previously put forward by many of the contributors, are summarized as a cohesive whole for the first time under one cover.

## **Components**

The journal will consist of the following components: table of contents; acknowledgements; an introductory section; nine additional sections devoted to the nine key questions of the convening with headnotes and a summary of the discussions that followed for each (notes and works cited will occur at the end of each question's section; afterwords/conclusion of the special edition; contributors section with pictures of the contributors; an index; and bibliographic resources.

## **Artwork/Design**

The editors will prepare the camera-ready copy of the manuscript, obtain a professional proofreader/copy editor, and prepare photographs and a special cover for the issue.

## **Format**

The journal's length in 6 x 9 pages is expected to be between 150 and 200 pages.

## **Tentative Table Of Contents**

Front Matter

Acknowledgements and Dedication

Introduction: African American Studies in Context – thomas-houston & Bailey

1 How far have we come in institutionalizing the field of Afro-American Studies and how far do we have to go? What efforts must be made to move the field of African American Studies from the periphery of academia to the core? – Terry & Turner

2 What are the funding alternatives needed to assist in sustaining Black Studies? – Gordon, Stewart & Tsuruta

3 What role can chief administrators play in sustaining Black Studies? – Boyce Davies, Bradley, Crenshaw, Baker, Asante

4 Do national Black Studies Organizations have a role to play in the institutionalization of the field? – Gaines & Sheftall

5 What is/should be the relationship between Afro-American Studies and Critical Race Studies, Diaspora Studies, African Studies, Afro-Latino/a Studies, and Africana Women's Studies? – Alkalimat, Cyrus-Albritton, Henry & Jones

6 What directions should new scholarship in the field take? – Henry & Whatley

7 How connected is Black Studies to communities? How central is Participatory Action Research, community involvement, and social activism to the field? – James & Norment

8 What represents "best practices" in the field (program administration & pedagogy) and what is the best way to disseminate? – Bailey, Karenga, & Mitchell-Kernan

9 What will it take to establish intergenerational leadership succession? – Scott & Jackson

Afterword – Harrison

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About the Contributors

## The Editors Biographical Information

**marilyn m. thomas-houston** is a native of Florence, South Carolina and is currently Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Anthropology at the University of Florida. After a long career in the performing arts, she obtained a BFA (magna cum laude) in Theatre Arts (1987) and an MA in Southern Studies (1989) from the University of Mississippi. She also holds a MA and MPhil in Anthropology (1993, 1994), a Graduate Certificate in Media and Culture (1993), and a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology (1997) from New York University. She has taught at the University of Mississippi, South Carolina State College, and the University of South Carolina. She also has served as Interim Director of African American Studies at the University of Florida and Coordinator of the Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Mississippi.

thomas-houston is the author of the Cambridge University Press (2005) book, *“Stony the Road” to Change: Black Mississippians and the Culture of Social Relations* and contributing co-editor to *Homing Devices: The Poor as Targets of Public Housing Policy and Practice* published by Lexington Books (2006). In addition to her other publications, she is the director/producer of the documentary *Not But a Shadow of the Sun*, the docu-drama *Awareness: Vital Issues in Minority Communities*, she has just completed *Taking Up the Basket*, the first of a series of biographical visual ethnographies entitled, *From These Roots....*

thomas-houston’s grants include the Ford Foundation, Wenner-Gren for Anthropological Research, the National Science Foundation, and several university grants including the University Provost’s Faculty Grant-in-Aid.

**Ronald W. Bailey** is a native of Claxton, GA and is currently Professor of African American Studies and History at Northeastern University in Boston. A 1965 graduate of Evans County High School in 1965, he is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate with a BA in Liberal Arts from Michigan State University. He holds a MA in Political Science and a Ph.D. in Black Studies from Stanford University, the first such degree awarded in the United States in 1979. He has taught at Fisk University, Cornell, Northwestern, the University of Mississippi, and Northeastern University, where he chaired the Department of African-American Studies for eight years. He also served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at South Carolina State University and at Knoxville College, and as a senior scientist with the Education Development Center, Inc.

Bailey has edited, authored and co-authored numerous articles and books. His publications include *Introduction to Afro-American Studies: A Peoples College; Let Us March On: Civil Rights Photographs of Ernest Withers, Jr.* (with Michelle Furst), *Remembering Medgar Evers . . . For a New Generation*, *Black Business Enterprise: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, and *A New Congo for A New Century: Selected Writing of Wamba dia Wamba* (forthcoming). His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Negro Education*, *American History: A Bibliographic Review*, *Agricultural History*, *Review of Black Political Economy*, *Black Scholar*, and *Social Science History*, and numerous anthologies. His *Lower Roxbury: A Community of Treasures in the City of Boston* was awarded a citation by the American Association of State and Local History.

Bailey's grants include awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE), several foundations, and state and local humanities councils. NSF and NEH grants supported the development of two websites: [www.dignubia.org](http://www.dignubia.org) and [www.nubianet.org](http://www.nubianet.org), respectively.

### **Schedule**

It is expected that the first draft of the volume will be completed by the end of June 2007. With the use of a good and efficient copy editor, the final manuscript should be completed by the end of July 2007.

### **Publisher**

The International Journal of Africana Studies is the logical choice for the publication and distribution of the volume because it is the premier journal of the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS), which is the leading organization of Black Studies professionals in the world. In addition, NCBS seeks to promote scholarly debate in the field of Africana Studies through the publication of this journal. Finally, since the journal has both institutional and individual scholar membership, distribution through this journal will reach the dual audience of administrators and scholars in the field.

### **Budget**

Printing (\$3,000 per 600 copies)	\$3,000.00
Mailing (6.4 per piece @ 600)	\$51.00
Layout and Design (including camera-ready copy)	\$500.00
Copy Editor/Proofreader (200 pgs. @ \$8 per pg.)	\$1,600.00
Project Assistant (6 weeks @ 20 hrs. per wk. @ \$15 per hour)	<u>\$1,800.00</u>
TOTAL	\$6,951.00