

International Colloquium XI

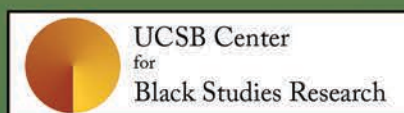
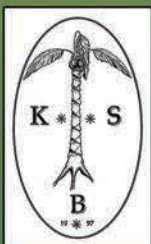
# TREES TAKE US TO THE GODS

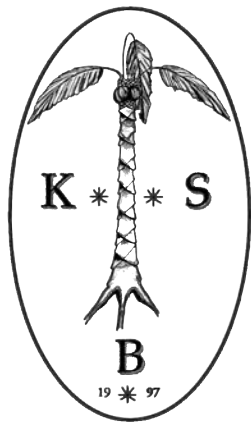
## VODOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT



# KOSANBA 2015

in conjunction with the 27th annual Haitian Studies Association conference  
La Maison de la Culture and Université de Montréal, Québec, Canada  
Wednesday, October 21–Thursday, October 22, 2015





# KOSANBA 2015

## TREES TAKE US TO THE GODS: VODOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT

*This conference is dedicated to  
Dr. Karen McCarthy Brown and Ati Max G. Beauvoir*

### DAY ONE

WEDNESDAY, October 21

*La Maison de la Culture*

*5290 Chemin de la Côte des Neiges*

**8:00**      **Registration**

**8:30–8:45**      **Opening**

Jacqueline Epingle, Founding Member  
Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, President  
Claudine Michel, Executive Director

**8:45–10:15**      **SESSION 1 – Memory, History, and Resistance in Vodou and Haitian Literature**

*Chair: Florence Bellande-Robertson*

Marie Lily Cérat, “Haitian Vèvè Diagrams: Signs of a Logonomic System of Contestation and Resistance of Saint Domingue Slaves”

Bamidele Agbasegbe Demerson, “Slavery and the Pharmacoepia of Revolt: Reflections on *Mackandal—Freedom Fighter* by Ulrick Jean-Pierre”

Ann E. Mazzocca, “Embodied Inscription / Inscribed Bodies: Body and Landscape as Sites of Memory, History, and Presence in Haitian Vodou and its Diaspora”

K. Zauditu-Selassie, “A Gathering of Trees: An Eco-critical Examination of Memory, Trauma, and Renewal in African Diasporic Literature”

**10:15–10:30**      **BREAK**

**10:30–12:00 SESSION 2 – Nature and the Communion of Spirits**

*Chair: Toni Pressley-Sanon*

Mariana Goyoechea, “Ainsi parlèrent les lwa: Water Dreams, Female Lwa, and Ancestors in Elsie Augustave’s *The Roving Tree*”

Neshon Jackson, “The Green Communion: Papa Loko, Orisha Oko, and Osanyin and the Harvest of Spirit”

Elana Jefferson-Tatum, “The Kola Tree and the Initiate: Towards an African Vodoun Philosophy of Personhood”

**12:00–1:00 LUNCH BREAK**

**1:00–2:30 SESSION 3 – Locating Contemporary Iterations of Practice, Identity Making, and Healing in Vodou and Lukumi Religion**

*Chair: Liesl Picard*

Mamyrah Dougé-Prosper, “Collective Identity-making in Social Movement Work: Framing Vodou as the Past, Present, and Future”

Alexander Fernandez, “Healing the Spirit for the [Here]after: Boule~Zen Mortuary Rituals of Haitian Vodou”

Martin Tsang, “The Transmission of Community, Spirit and Healing: Asojano in Lukumi Practice”

**2:30–4:00 SESSION 4 – Mythic Boars, Belly Buttons, Artist Colonies, and Vodou’s Vanishing Forests**

*Chair: Grete Viddal*

Kyrah Malika Daniels, “Ritual Centers and Sacred Burials: Rooting *Kòd Nonbrit* Under the Cosmic Tree” / “Sant Rityèl e Antèman Sakre: Kòd Nonbrit Pa Nou Anba Yon Pye Bwa Beni”

Lauren Robin Derby, “Creole Pigs as Forest Phantasms on Hispaniola”

Katherine Smith, “Post-Tree Spirituality: Vodou and Urbanization in Haiti”

Grete Viddal, “*Taller Ennegro*: Haitian Descendants in Cuba Plan an Artists’ Colony and Ecological Shrine Inspired by Vodú”

**4:00–4:15 BREAK**

**4:15–5:45 SESSION 5 — Onè Respè ak yon Peyi Nouvo — Three Dialogs  
Practitioners Roundtable**

*Chair: Patrick Bellegarde-Smith*

Mambo VyeZo Komande LaMenfo, “Dynamics of a Vodou Community in America,”  
Independent scholar, Inc.

Virginia Merritt, M.D., “The *Medjen Fey*: At the Crossroads of Medicine and Magic,”  
University of Massachusetts, Worcester

J. D. Amoro Estrill and Manbo Dòwòti Désir, “Vodou and the Environment: A State of  
Spiritual Emergency”

**5:45–7:00 DINNER BREAK**

**7:00–9:00 PLENARY SESSION — Free and open to the public**

Opening: Frantz Voltaire, CIDIHCA Director

**Homage to Ati Max G. Beauvoir and Dr. Karen McCarthy Brown**

Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, President  
Jacqueline Epingle, Founding Member

**Panel: Remembering the Legacy of Karen McCarthy Brown: Contributions to  
Studies of Anthropology, Feminist Studies, and Religion**

*Chair: Toni Pressley-Sanon*

Participants: Charlene Désir, Yanique Hume, Claudine Michel, Gina Athena  
Ulysse, Lois Wilcken

**DAY TWO**  
**THURSDAY, October 22**  
*Université de Montréal*  
*3150 rue Jean-Brillant, Pavillon Lionel-Groulx, C-2059*

**8:00–8:30**    **Registration**

**8:30–10:00**    **SESSION 6 – Ritual Economies and Sacred Performances**

*Chair: Yanique Hume*

Paul Austerlitz, “A Reflective Perspective on Music and Trance in Vodou”

Rebecca Dirksen, “From Haiti, the Earth’s Quieter Tremblings: When the Drums Beat No More?”

Crystal Andrea Felima, “Women Merchants and the Social Landscape of Vodou Celebrations in Northern Haiti”

Elizabeth McAlister, “The New Self-Presentation of Public Vodou in Haiti”

**10:00–10:15**    **BREAK**

**10:15–11:45**    **SESSION 7 – Vodou Philosophy and Contemporary Currents of Socio-Cultural Change**

*Chair: Florence Bellande-Robertson*

Margaret Mitchell Armand, “Azaka Mede, Lessons to Remember”

LeGrace Benson, “Animism Reconsidered: Occupations of Bondye and Poetics of Science and Vodou”

Lois Wilcken, “The Drum and the Seed, a Haitian Odyssey”

**11:45–12:15**    **Remarks from Jacqui Alexander**

**12:15–1:00**    **CLOSING**

**Thank you to our sponsors: The Center for Black Studies Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Haitian Studies Association; CIDIHCA; Faculté des Arts et des Sciences, Université de Montréal; La Maison de la Culture.**

**Program committee: Yanique Hume, Toni Pressley-Sanon, and Lois Wilcken**