

African Americans in Berlin

You are cordially invited to join us for a one-day conference on the topic of "African Americans in Berlin: The Story of an Intellectual Encounter." The conference will take place on

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 from 2-7 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Institute, Room 340.

The conference is part of the lecture series "Legibility of the World: Ambassadors of Culture" at Freie Universität Berlin and is organized in cooperation with the American Embassy in Berlin

Theme of the Conference:

In the many political, cultural, and academic relationships between the United States and Berlin, the encounter of African American intellectuals and artists with the city provides a fascinating chapter of its own. Leading African American intellectuals like W.E.B. du Bois and Alain Locke studied in Berlin, writers like Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen, or, at a later date, Adrienne Kennedy and Audre Lorde, learned to appreciate the cosmopolitan atmosphere of the city, and artists like Josephine Baker and Paul Robeson enriched the artistic life of the city. The conference will attempt an assessment of the influences that resulted from the encounter between African Americans and Berlin.

PROGRAMME

Chair: Prof. Dr. Winfried Fluck

- 14:15 Uhr. Introduction
- 14:30 Uhr Werner Sollors (Harvard University): „African-American Intellectuals and Europe between the two World Wars“
- 15:30 Uhr Sieglinde Lemke (Universität Freiburg): „How Lohengrin Made It Into The Soul of Black Folk“
- 16:30 Uhr Coffee Break
- 17:00 Uhr Daniel Williams (University of Wales, Swansea): "From West to East: Paul Robeson in 1930s and 1950s Berlin"
- 18:00 Uhr Eva Boesenberg (Humboldt Universität Berlin): "Interrogating Whiteness: Audre Lorde in Berlin"
- 19:00 Uhr Reception –Film Screening (*Paul Robeson: Here I Stand*, Director: St. Clair Bourne)

Location: John F. Kennedy-Institut, Lansstr. 7-9, 14195 Berlin, (U1 Dahlem Dorf; Bus X83)

Contact: John F. Kennedy-Institut, Abteilung Kultur, Tel. 030-8385 4240, Email:

kultur@zedat.fu-berlin.de