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Fifth Annual Michigan State University Africanist Graduate Student Conference

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**Fifth Annual Michigan State University
Africanist Graduate Student Conference**

East Lansing, Michigan, October 7-8, 2011



The 5th annual Africanist Graduate Student Research conference at Michigan State University is seeking graduate student presenters to report on new and innovative ways of addressing the study of Africa and the African Diaspora. The conference provides an opportunity for graduate students to discuss their research, receive constructive feedback, network with other students and scholars, and sharpen their presentation skills within a constructive and supportive colloquium.

The organizing committee invites papers from all academic disciplines and from all approaches to the study of Africa, Africans, and the crisscrossing intersections of the continent and the global diaspora. However, in conjunction with the 2011 African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, "50 Years of African Liberation," we are especially seeking papers on African perspectives of liberation, independence, and self-determination, whether ethnic, feminist, literary, economic, national or otherwise. This includes studies of diaspora, globalization, and development that challenge conventional definitions of Africa as a marginal place and Africans and their descendants as marginalized peoples. It encourages us to question how forms of cultural expression such as visual art, film, and fiction have envisioned and challenged avenues of self-determination. Whose independence was provided for, under what conditions, and at what costs? The committee calls for innovative research proposals, research designs, dissertation or thesis chapters, methodological models, works in progress, outlines of dissertations, preliminary research findings or poster presentations from any academic discipline within African Studies. Abstracts Due: August 1, 2011; email submissions and questions to: msuafricasubmissions@gmail.com. More information can be found at the Conference website, <http://africa.msu.edu/gradconference>, or you can join our Facebook group, "MSU Africanist Graduate Student Conference."