Association for the Study of African American Life and History 95th Annual Conference: History of Black Economic Empowerment

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The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is soliciting papers for its 95th Annual Conference. The conference theme, the History of Black Economic Empowerment, acknowledges one the most significant elements of black life. After centuries of slavery, people of African descent in the Americas gained their freedom and found themselves in the struggle to make a living. In America black codes often prevented blacks from owning land, organized labor shut their doors to their fellow workers, and even the white philanthropist who funded black schools denied them opportunities once educated.

Refusing to accept sharecropping and day labor as the only ways of making a living, African Americans became landowners, skilled workers, businessmen and women, and professionals. They eventually created their own unions and professional societies and organizations that promoted racial or collective uplift. In 1910 black and white reformers came together and created an organization that became the National Urban League. Through the years the National Urban League has been at the forefront of the continuing rise of black economic development and empowerment throughout the Americas.

The 95th Annual Conference of the ASALH invites scholars from all disciplines to submit multi-paper panels (a chair, two commentators and two presenters) that examine the many facets of the evolution of black economic development in the Americas from emancipation to the present. Though panels for alternate topics within the African Diaspora will be considered, preference will be given to submissions that address the broad conference theme. As citizens of the world face the current realities of a changing global economy, ASALH is eager to provide scholars with the opportunity to examine and discuss how during the last one hundred years people of African descent met and overcame the challenges to their economic empowerment.

ASALH began accepting proposals on October, 31, 2009. The deadline for
submissions is April 30, 2010. All proposals must be submitted electronically to ASALH. Individual papers will be accepted and formed into panels based on quality, fit, and availability of space. In all cases, membership dues must be current before papers are placed on the program. Request for audio-visual support will only be considered for panel submissions that are received before April 30, 2010. For more information, visit http://www.asalh.net/95thconvention.html.