



**2nd HU African Indigenous
Knowledge and
Languages International Conference
Howard University
Washington, DC**

PROGRAM

**Address: Howard University
2400 Sixth Street NW
Washington, DC 20059**

**Day One: Friday, February 20, 2026:
Venue: Health Sciences Library,
4th Floor-Open Space**

**Day Two: Saturday, February 21, 2026:
Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 120**

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Day 1: Friday, February 20, 2026

Venue: Health Sciences Library

Opening Remarks

Time: 8:30 am-9:00 am

Venue: Health Sciences Library, 4th floor Hall

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/83694728934?pwd=7yS3ro1BFG94SS2e3nCtuiatwy9VVv.1>

Dr. Esther Mukewa Lisanza, Chair of the Conference

Dr. Leonard Muaka, Chair, Department of World Languages and Cultures

Dr. Kehbuma Langmia, Chair, School of Communications

Dr. Mohamed Camara, Chair, Department of African Studies

Dr. Krista Johnson, Director, Center for African Studies

Ms. Ciara Williams, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Plenary Session 1: Keynote Speech 1

Time: 9:00 am-10:00 am

Venue: Health Sciences Library, 4th floor Hall

Zoom Link:

Chair: Leonard Muaka, Howard University

Speaker: **Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei**, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.



Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei is a Full Professor of School of Social Work and the Interim Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Research) at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. He was previously the Dean of the School of Social Work at Memorial University. Paul received his undergraduate degree in Social Work from the University of Ghana, and his Master and PhD degrees from the University of Toronto specializing in Social Justice Education.

Dr. Adjei's teaching and research draw on his African Indigeneity as rich cultural sources of knowledge to (re)imagine new futures for education. He has secured several funding and published over 50-refereed essays in scholarly journals and book chapters as well as book publications. He has presented over 100 papers at national and international conferences; featured on several newspapers, radio and television programs in Canada. In 2022, he was honored as one of the Most Inspiring Immigrants in Atlantic Canada, and in 2023 was awarded Black Excellence Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Coalition of Black Communities in Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2024, Dr. Adjei was awarded the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship to the University of Ghana.

Keynote Address: ElderCrits [Elders Critical Teachings] as a Reparative Framework: A Requiem to Transform Education in the 21st Century.

Despite gains made after political independence in many African countries, the education system still functions to devalue any knowledge, value, worldview, language, and culture that is not of European origin. Without educational reforms, African learners will continue to find themselves in ‘a revolving door’ resulting from an intellectual milieu in which they often feel alienated. However, African Elders say, “one who causes others misfortune also teaches them wisdom.” We have learned through our harmful experiences in the education system that the future of African learners cannot simply be placed in the hands of the very educational institution responsible for many harms done to Africa. So far, the search for educational reforms has taken the education system to almost everywhere but nowhere near the involvement of African Elders. Yet, within the hallmarks of education, where knowledge is treasured, African Elders’s critical teachings (ElderCrits) exceed the reach of textbooks. More reason, the absence of African ElderCrits in the search for educational reforms remains an egregious error. This paper is committed to addressing this egregious error by inviting a broader and critical conversation about the pedagogical possibilities of ElderCrits to schooling and education. ElderCrits are epistemologies of Indigenous African Elders anchored in the shared voices, experiences, history, cultures, and viewpoints of the community over generations because of sustained relations and attachments to the Land, Culture, and Nature. ElderCrits are often transmitted through orality, symbolism, modeling, and animation and they are expressed in folklore, fables, proverbs, symbols, artefacts, sculptures, artistic expressions, and storytelling. ElderCrits is an emerging anti/de-colonial, Afrocentric, and reparative framework that centers Indigenous African Elders' cultural teachings and wisdoms as authoritative knowledge to meet the learning needs of diverse learners in Africa and North America. ElderCrits act as a requiem for educational reform—to mourn the harm done by the education system

without leaving the possibilities of creating pathways for subversion, healing, restoration, reconciliation, and communal care.

10:10 AM- 11:40 AM: PARALLEL SESSIONS 1A, 1B, 1C, & 1D

Parallel Session 1A: African Indigenous Conflict Resolution

Time: 10:10 am-11:40 am

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 231

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/j/88346394938>

Chair: Chambi Chachage, Howard University

Paper: Ubuntu as a Moral and Theoretical Framework for Uniting Africa and its Diaspora

Presenter: Yaw Asare, Howard University (In person)

Paper: African Indigenous Conflict Resolution: The Golden Heritage

Presenter: Emmanuel Ejike, Pwani University (Virtual)

Paper: From Palaver Tree to Digital Screen: Mediation and Moral Authority in Maudite Infidélité

Presenter: Ariane Ngabeu, Howard University (In Person)

Parallel Session 1B: African Cultural Spaces and Digitalization of Indigenous Knowledge Forms

Time: 10:10 am-11:40 am

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 237/238

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/s/81711951460>

Chair: Innocent Ekejiuba, Howard University

Paper: African Words, African Art: Decolonizing Aesthetic Categories

Presenter: Innocent Ekejiuba, Howard University. (In Person)

Paper: *Leave the Bones:* A Film trailer from a first-person documentary on Vodun, language, and the transmission of Indigenous knowledge across Benin, Togo and Ghana

Presenters: Sandra Soteriou, Independent Scholar; Luke Soteriou, Howard University (In Person)

Paper: African Indigenous Religions as Living Archives: A Comparativity Complex Theory Position

Presenter: David Olali, University of Georgia. (Virtual)

Parallel Session 1C: African Languages and Policy

Time: 10:10 am-11:40 am

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 234

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/83443885163?pwd=xXI67dmaw3fuJPxtUBWu8lrLkmaV52.1>

Chair: Jean Claude Abeck, Howard University

Paper: The influence of Tshiguvhu dialect on Grade 8 learners' speaking skills in Tshivenda Home Language, Limpopo Province, South Africa.

Presenter: Rananga Collins, University of Limpopo (Virtual)

Paper: Comparative Perspectives on the Fragmentation of African Language Policies: Exploring a More Pragmatic and Sustainable Approach to Language Policy in the Digital Age

Presenter: Jean Claude Abeck, Howard University (In Person)

Paper: Breaking Language Barriers: The Impact of Dholuo on Cancer Communication and Patient Outcomes in Homabay County, Kenya
Presenter: Quin Awuor, United States International University-Africa (Virtual)

Parallel Session 1D: African Arts: Folklore, Music and Proverbial Wisdom-1

Time: 10:10 am-11:40 am

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 239

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/88549917119?pwd=iIE5AbQZGVU8vgfV7cUx4VwA2xtOTj.1>

Chair: Ambachew Anjulo, Howard University

Paper: African Indigenous Music

Presenter: Prisca Orori, Nyanchwa Girls High School (Virtual)

Paper: The Dialectic of Sight and Sound: Indigenous Knowledge, Existential Query, and the Luo Language in Olima Anditi's "Winy Neno"

Presenter: Anthony Okumu, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (Virtual)

Paper: Lemisuwa & Geres: Wolaita Indigenous Parables, Poems, and Ballads as Means of Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer

Presenter: Ambachew Anjulo, Howard University (In Person)

**11:50 AM- 1:20 PM: PARALLEL SESSIONS 2A,
2B, 2C, & 2D**

**Parallel Session 2A: African Herbal
Medicine**

Time: 11:50 am-1:20 pm

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 231

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/j/88346394938>

Chair: Esther Mukewa Lisanza, Howard University

Paper: Retrospective Observational Study on Covid-19 Patients Who Received Antivir-H and IMB Herbal supplement in Kenya

Presenter: Dr. Athuman Chiguzo, PhD, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) (Virtual)

Paper: "Efficacy and Safety of Herbal Formulations Used For Management of HIV/AIDS in Mombasa County"

Presenter: Dr. Lewa Mwavita, PhD, Pona Herbal Clinic & Pwani University, Kenya (Virtual)

Paper: Revitalizing Traditional Herbal Medicine in Uganda: Lessons from Gulu University Cultural Science Center

Presenter: Dr. Alice Veronica Lamwaka, PhD, Gulu University (Virtual)

**Parallel Session 2B: African Indigenous
Education-1**

Time: 11:50 am-1:20 pm

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 234

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/s/81711951460>

Chair: Khady Diene, Howard University

Paper: Decolonizing and Indigenizing Social Work: Whose Responsibility Is It?

Presenter: Suleyman Demi, Algoma University, Canada (Virtual)

Paper: Promoting African Indigenous Education: The Path to Unmasking Coloniality.

Presenter: Isaac Darko, Algoma University, Canada (Virtual)

Paper: Spirituality and The Connections to Our Ancestors in Education and Beyond

Presenter: Leila Mkuhamamba, University of Toronto, Canada (Virtual)

Parallel Session 2C: African Environment

Time: 11:50 am-1:20 pm

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 237/238

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/83443885163?pwd=xXI67dmaw3fuJPxtUBWu8lrLkmaV52.1>

Chair: Grace Mkomwa, Howard University

Paper: Leveraging Indigenous Languages for Environmental Sustenance: A Case Study of Olumarachi in Busia (Kenya)

Presenter: Patrick Oyinda, Howard University (In Person)

Paper: Framework for Community-Based Development Agendas Utilising Indigenous Knowledge for Socio-economic Development in the Zambezi Region, Namibia.

Presenter: Earnest Joy Maziezi, Africa Research University (Virtual)

Paper: Seasonal Time: Environment and Narrative in Saleh's Season of Migration to the North.

Presenter: Eman Hussein, Howard University (In Person)

Parallel Session 2D: Indigenous Epistemologies-1

Time: 11:50 am-1:20 pm

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 239

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/88549917119?pwd=iIE5AbQZGVU8vgfV7cUx4VwA2xtOTj.1>

Chair: Chad Graham, Howard University

Paper: African indigenous approaches for social work: Reimagining care and custody for African Canadian youth.

Presenters: Ebenezer Inkumsah, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (In Person)

Paper: Reclaiming the Ritual Archive: Retrieval, Translation, and Recovery of Yorùbá Lukumi.

Presenter: Chad Graham, Howard University (In Person)

Paper: Ori-oyena: An African-centered methodology that ensures African epistemology maintenance

Presenter: Noah Boakye-Yiadom, University of Calgary (Virtual)

1:20 pm-2:10 pm: LUNCH in Health Sciences Library 4th Floor Hall

**2:20 PM- 3:50 PM: PARALLEL
SESSIONS 3A, 3B, 3C & 3D**

**Parallel Session 3A: Indigenous Ecology and
Mental Health**

Time: 2:20 pm-3:50 pm

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 231

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/j/88346394938>

Chair: Mesi Bakari Walton, Howard University

Paper: Barlovento's Ecology of Black Life and Resistance in Venezuela

Presenter: Mesi Bakari Walton, Howard University (In Person)

Paper: Mental Health in Indigenous Societies: A Holistic and Culturally Grounded perspective

Presenter: Khady Diene, Howard University (In Person)

Paper: Rooted in the Land: Indigenous Environmental Stewardship in Central and Southern Africa.

Presenter: Humprey Musonda, Africa Research University (Virtual)

**Parallel Session 3B: Indigenous Knowledge
Transmission in the Diaspora & Urban
Modernities**

Time: 2:20 pm-3:50 pm

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 239

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/s/81711951460>

Chair: Amartey Laryea, Howard University

Paper: African Continuities: An Exploration of Cultural Consciousness and Transmission throughout the Diaspora

Presenter: Araba Aidoo-Apau, Howard University (In Person)

Paper: Kongolese Knowledge Transmission between the Material and Metaphysical Realms

Presenters: Corynn Holmes, Delaney Leonard, Halia Benn, & Anjali Robinson-Leary, Howard University (In person)

Paper: How can Architecture act as a Vessel for Cultural Continuity within the Built Environment in the face of Globalization and Urbanization?

Presenter: Aviana Otieno, Howard University (In Person)

Parallel Session 3C: Foregrounding African Epistemologies in Addressing Local and Global Challenges: An Ubuntu Ecosystems Approach (Panel)

Time: 2:20 pm-3:50 pm

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 237/238

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/83443885163?pwd=xXI67dmaw3fuJPxtUBWu8lrLkmaV52.1>

Chair: Leo Zulu, Michigan State University

Presenters: Upenyu Majee & Cornelia Asiedu-Kwakyawaa (Michigan State University); Robert Sherman McCathern, Stephen Wolbert, & Jordan Brown (Urban Renaissance Center, Flint, MI); Gladys Jakachira (BeingAfrican)

Parallel Session 3D: Ngugi wa Thiong'o: The Champion of African Voices

Time: 2:20 pm-3:50 pm

Venue: Health Sciences Library, Room 234

Zoom Link:

[https://howard.zoom.us/j/88549917119?pwd=iIE5AbQZGVU8v
gfV7cUx4VwA2xtOTj.1](https://howard.zoom.us/j/88549917119?pwd=iIE5AbQZGVU8v
gfV7cUx4VwA2xtOTj.1)

Chair: Denis Waswa, Louisiana State University

Paper: Uprooting the Empire: Forests of Fiction in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's Literary Universe

Presenter: Denis Waswa, Louisiana State University (In Person)

Paper: The Legacy of Ngugi wa Thiong'o in Promoting African Languages through Literature

Presenters: Leonard Muaka, Howard University (In person)

Paper: The Voices of African Indigenous Women in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Ngaahika Ndeenda (I will Marry when I want)*

Presenter: Esther Mukewa Lianza, Howard University (In Person)

Plenary Session 2: Lugha Zetu Forum: Preservation and Development of African Languages and Dialects (Roundtable)

Time: 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

Venue: Health Sciences Library, 4th floor Hall

Zoom Link:

[https://howard.zoom.us/j/83694728934?pwd=7yS3ro1BFG94SS
2e3nCtuiatwy9VVv.1](https://howard.zoom.us/j/83694728934?pwd=7yS3ro1BFG94SS
2e3nCtuiatwy9VVv.1)

Chair: Dr. Alwiya Omar - Indiana University (emerita)

Presenters: Leonard Muaka - Howard University, Alwiya Omar - Indiana University (emerita), Abdilatif Abdalla - Leipzig University (emeritus), Filipo Lubua - University of Pittsburgh, Mwanahija Juma - Ministry of Information, Arts, Culture and Sports, Zeinab Idd - State University of Zanzibar.

**5:00pm-5:30 pm: Announcements
& Networking**

Venue: Health Sciences Library, 4th floor
Hall

**5:30pm-6:30pm: Dinner in Health
Sciences Library, 4th floor Hall**

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Day 2: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Venue: Douglass Hall

Opening Remarks

Dr. Leonard Muaka, Howard University

Time: 8:45 am-8:55 am

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 120

Plenary Session 3: Keynote Speech 2

Time: 9:00 am-10:00 am

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 120

Zoom Link:

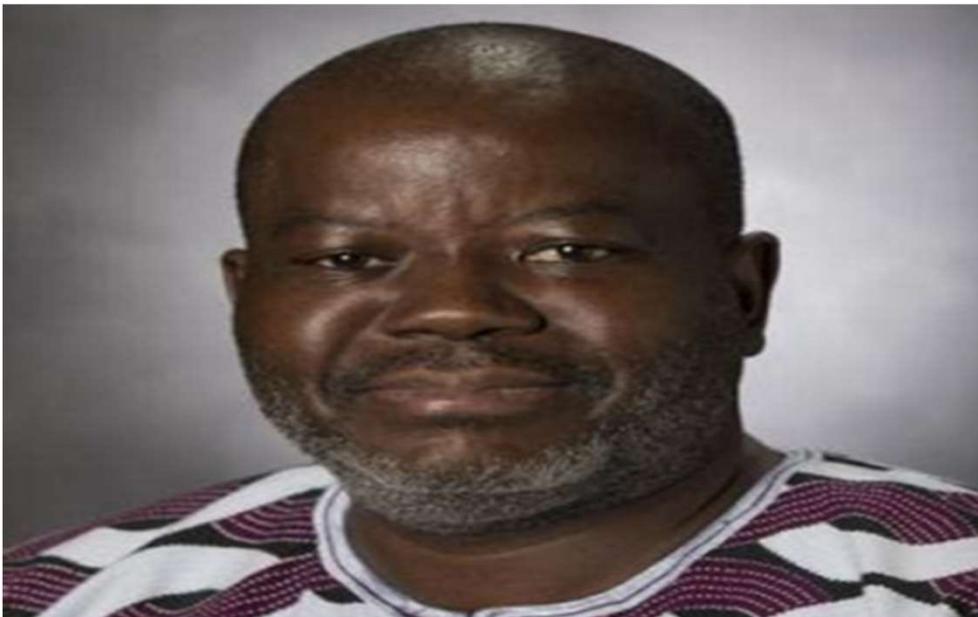
<https://howard.zoom.us/j/83694728934?pwd=7yS3ro1BFG94SS2e3nCtuiatwy9VVv.1>

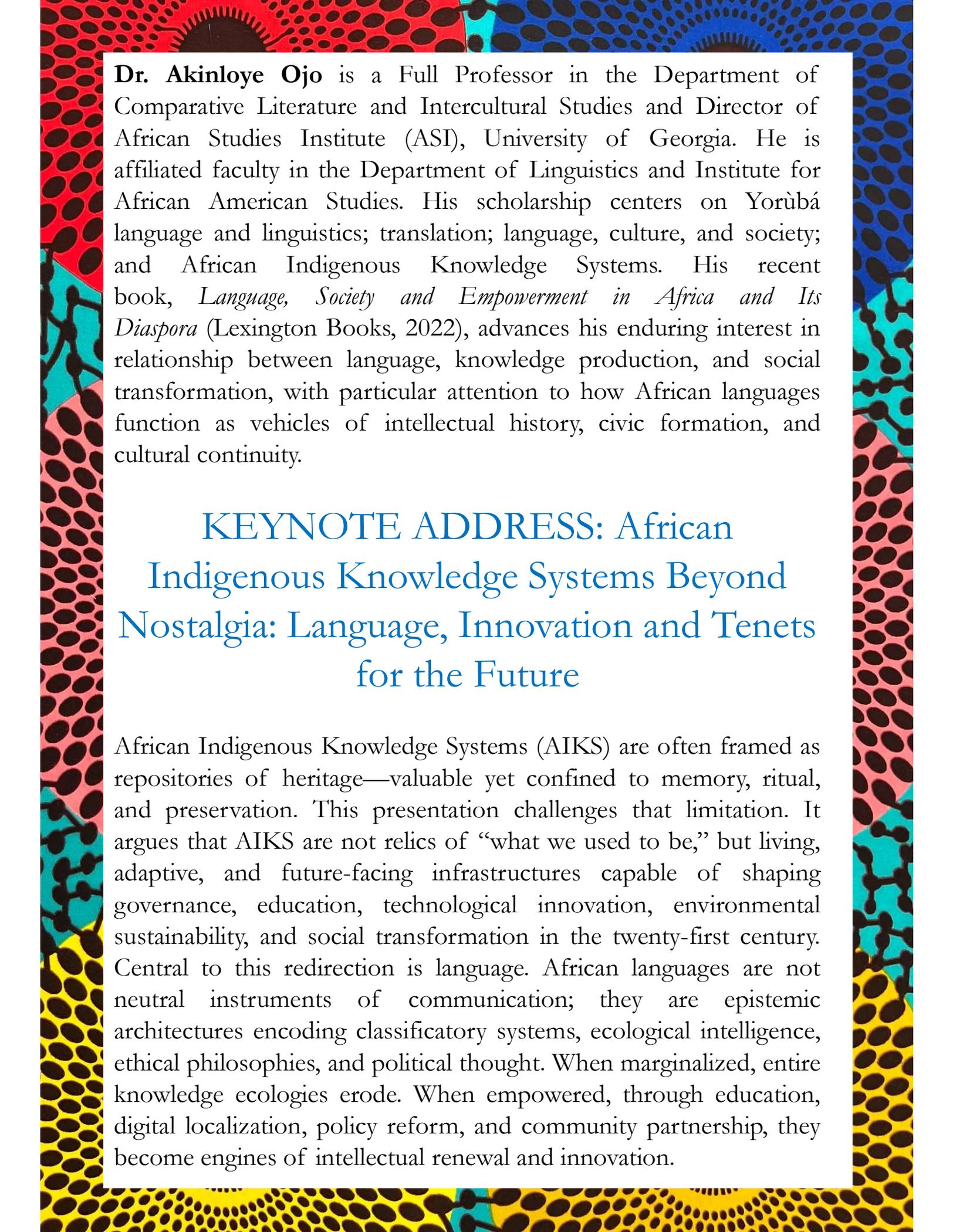
Chair: Dr. Leonard Muaka, Howard University

Speaker: Dr. Akinloye Ojo, University of Georgia

Keynote address: African Indigenous Systems Beyond

Nostalgia: Languages, Innovation, and Tenets of the Future



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Dr. Akinloye Ojo is a Full Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies and Director of African Studies Institute (ASI), University of Georgia. He is affiliated faculty in the Department of Linguistics and Institute for African American Studies. His scholarship centers on Yorùbá language and linguistics; translation; language, culture, and society; and African Indigenous Knowledge Systems. His recent book, *Language, Society and Empowerment in Africa and Its Diaspora* (Lexington Books, 2022), advances his enduring interest in relationship between language, knowledge production, and social transformation, with particular attention to how African languages function as vehicles of intellectual history, civic formation, and cultural continuity.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: African Indigenous Knowledge Systems Beyond Nostalgia: Language, Innovation and Tenets for the Future

African Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AIKS) are often framed as repositories of heritage—valuable yet confined to memory, ritual, and preservation. This presentation challenges that limitation. It argues that AIKS are not relics of “what we used to be,” but living, adaptive, and future-facing infrastructures capable of shaping governance, education, technological innovation, environmental sustainability, and social transformation in the twenty-first century. Central to this redirection is language. African languages are not neutral instruments of communication; they are epistemic architectures encoding classificatory systems, ecological intelligence, ethical philosophies, and political thought. When marginalized, entire knowledge ecologies erode. When empowered, through education, digital localization, policy reform, and community partnership, they become engines of intellectual renewal and innovation.

Drawing especially on Yorùbá language and society as a sustained case study, this presentation demonstrates how proverbs, naming systems, praise poetry, riddles, and indigenous pedagogies encode adaptive knowledge relevant to governance, restorative justice, climate resilience, multilingual citizenship, and digital futures. It further advances an African-centered theoretical stance of Africanity or African Difference, as articulated in the work of Oyekan Owomoyela. This framework resists both Eurocentric regimentation and uncritical romanticism, arguing that Africa's future lies in activating its intellectual traditions as foundations for contemporary development.

Avoiding nostalgia therefore requires methodological reorientation rather than sentimental preservation or wholesale rejection of modernity. It demands treating orature, performance, and embodied practice as legitimate sites of theory-making, and integrating indigenous epistemologies into curricula, research design, and innovation ecosystems. Ultimately, AIKS offer tenets for the future: relationality over extraction, dialogue as governance, memory as method, ecological balance as policy, and language as the ground of epistemic authority. By repositioning AIKS as productive tools for future-making, Africa and its Diaspora can forge pathways of development grounded not in nostalgia, but in living, generative traditions.

10:05 AM- 11:35 AM: PARALLEL SESSIONS 4A, 4B, 4C, & 4D

Parallel Session 4A: African Indigenous Medicine and Practices

Time: 10:05 am-11:35 am

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 101

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/j/88346394938>

Chair: Dainti Richards, Howard University

Paper: Cultural Beliefs and Rituals Accompanying the Administration of Indigenous Medicines

Presenter: Nancy Ngowa, Pwani University, Kenya (Virtual)

Paper: Indigenous Ethnopharmacology Knowledge loss in Montane Forest Conservation Conflict Zones at Embombut Forest, Kenya

Presenter: Veronica Waweru, Yale University (Virtual)

Paper: Swahili Traditional Herbal Medicine

Presenter: Rukiya Swaleh, Pwani University, Kenya (Virtual)

Parallel Session 4B: African Indigenous Communication

Time: 10:05 am-11:35 am

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 102/103

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/j/81711951460>

Chair: Siphosiso Sithole, Howard University

Paper: Kenyan Sign Language: A Tool for Social-Economic Development of the Deaf Community in Kenya

Presenter: Dellilah Masayi, Kisii University (Virtual)

Paper: Ubuntu Pedagogy in Song of Lawino: Strengthening Inclusive Language in Early Childhood Education in Uganda

Presenter: Jackline Bwire, Kyambogo University, Uganda (Virtual)

Paper: Proverbial Voices of Gender: Indigenous Communication and Gender Relations among the Abagusii and Ameru

Presenter: Caroline Kagwiria Kimathi, United International University-Africa; Victor Ntabo, Karatina University, Kenya (Virtual)

Parallel Session 4C: Property Rights, Displacement, and African Identities

Time: 10:05 am-11:35 am

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 113/114

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/83443885163?pwd=xXI67dmaw3fuJPxtUBWu8lrLkmaV52.1>

Chair: Francis Wiafe-Amoaka, Howard University

Paper: Reconceptualizing African Identities through Indigenous Knowledge: Tapping into African Union's Agenda 2063

Presenter: Leonora Kivuva, University of Pittsburgh (In Person)

Paper: Political Conflict, Displacement, and the Future of Indigenous Languages in Cameroon

Presenters: Ariane Ngabeu, Howard University, Kati Franich, Alice Wang, Lexi Williams & Sam Lyczkowaki, Harvard University & Eric Wilson Fofack, University of Dschang, Cameroon (In Person)

Paper: (Re)Positioning the Swahili Language in Cultural Diplomacy under the Capacity of African Ubuntu – A Case of Tanzania

Presenter: Meinrad Lembuka, Open University of Tanzania (Virtual)

Parallel Session 4D: Documentation and Digitalization of Indigenous Knowledge Forms and Languages

Time: 10:05 am-11:35 am

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 106/108

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/88549917119?pwd=iIE5AbQZGVU8vgfV7cUx4VwA2xtOTj.1>

Chair: Tafessework Gebeyehu, Howard University

Paper: Somali Indigenous Knowledge and AI

Presenter: Maryan Ali, Howard University (In Person)

Paper: Preserving Musical Heritage in the Digital Age:
Documenting Tanzania's Indigenous Soundscapes.

Presenter: Asajile Mwakalinga, The Technical University of Kenya
(Virtual)

Paper: Duramazwi Digital System: Advancing Shona Language
Accessibility through AI-

Powered Paraphrasing and Summarization.

Presenter: Laiza Mumiriki, Chinhoyi University, Zimbabwe (Virtual)

11:40 AM- 1:10 PM: PARALLEL SESSIONS 5A, 5B, & 5C

Parallel Session 5A: African Arts: Folklore, Music and Proverbial Wisdom-2

Time: 11:40 am- 1:10 pm

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 106/108

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/j/88346394938>

Chair: Amat Jeng, Howard University

Paper: African Folklores, Music, and Proverbial Wisdom

Presenter: Vimbai Mavuka, Tangaza University, Kenya (Virtual)

Paper: Reviving Swahili Proverbs for the 21st-Century Youth:
Preserving African Indigenous Knowledge in a Changing World.

Presenter: Abdulrahim Hussein Taib Ali, Pwani University (Virtual)

Paper: Melodies of Memory and Modernity: EkeGusii Songs as Vessels of Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Continuity

Presenter: Janet Omwancha, Maasai Mara University (Virtual)

Parallel Session 5B: Indigenous Epistemologies and Medicine

Time: 11:40 am- 1:10 pm

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 102/103

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/s/81711951460>

Chair: Kinjabi Kibigo, Howard University

Paper: The Resilience of Indigenous Medicine in the Nso Fondom, Cameroon 1922-2016

Presenter: Njodzeka Elvis, University of Buea, Cameroon (Virtual)

Paper: Speaking Womanhood: Indigenous Knowledge of Reproduction among the Luo of Kenya

Presenter: Melvin Ouma-Odero, Egerton University (Virtual)

Paper: Prensip Minokan, Prensip Ginen: Haitian Vodou epistemologies as a Black Liberation Psychology Model

Presenter: Kay Thellot, Independent Scholar (Virtual)

Parallel Session 5C: African Indigenous Women and Food Practices

Time: 11:40 am- 1:10 pm

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 101

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/83443885163?pwd=xXI67dmaw3fuJPxtUBWu8lrLkmaV52.1>

Chair: Anna Mwalagho, Howard University

Paper: Healing at the Crossroads: Yoruba Indigenous Women and the Gendered Politics of Herbal Medicine

Presenter: Oluwafunke Ogunya, Howard University (In Person)

Paper: Flavors of Identity: How African Immigrants Preserve Culture and Identity through Indigenous Food Practices **Presenter:** Iswat Jinad, Michigan State University (Virtual)

Paper: Obè tò dùn, Owó ló pa: Yoruba Food as an Expression of Status, Ritual, and Cultural Sovereignty

Presenter: Ajala Olajumoke Elizabeth, Carter G. Woodson School (In Person)

**Parallel Session 5D: Wangari Maathai: A
Champion of African Indigenous Forests and
Women Voices (In Person Roundtable)**

Time: 11:40 am- 1:10 pm

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 113/114

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/88549917119?pwd=iIE5AbQZGVU8vZGFV7cUx4VwA2xtOTj.1>

Chair: Esther Mukewa Lisanza, Howard University

Presenters: Diandra Blake, Arabela Kelly and Esther Mukewa Lisanza (Howard University)

**1:10 pm-1:55 pm: LUNCH in Douglass
Hall, Room 120**

2:05 PM- 3:35 PM: PARALLEL SESSIONS: 6A, 6B, & 6C

Parallel Session 6A: Indigenous Epistemologies- 2

Time: 2:05 pm-3:35 pm

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 106/108

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/j/88346394938>

Chair: Patrick Oyinda, Howard University

Paper: Indigenous Feminist Epistemologies: A case Study of African Immigrants in the US

Presenter: Anne Jebet, University of Virginia (Virtual)

Paper: The epistemological basis of truth and coexistence in Bantu languages in traditional Africa

Presenter: Grison-Trésor Kakumbi Belumba, University of Kisangani (Virtual)

Paper:: Reclaiming the Shoreline of Thought: Indigenous Epistemologies from the Kenyan Coast in the Teaching of Sociology in Africa

Presenter: Edwin Wanjawa, Pwani University (Virtual)

Parallel Session 6B: Indigenous Governance and Pedagogy

Time: 2:05 pm- 3:35 pm

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 102/103

Zoom Link: <https://howard.zoom.us/s/81711951460>

Chair: Oumou Khairy Dat, Howard University

Paper: Indigenous Governance and the Political Identity of Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Peoples: Restoring Voice to the First Custodians

Presenter: Anthony Dara, Independent Scholar-Original Inhabitants Institute (Virtual)

Paper: Digitizing Wolof Proverbs: Preserving Indigenous Knowledge through Pedagogy and Design

Presenter: Oumou Khairy Dat, Howard University (In Person)

Paper: O que a Carobinha te contou? (What did Carobinha tell you?): Connecting youth, African Ancestry and Local Knowledge

Presenter: Carolina Azevedo, Michigan State University (In Person)

Parallel Session 6C: African Indigenous Education -2

Time: 2:05 pm- 3:35 pm

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 101

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/83443885163?pwd=xXI67dmaw3fuJPxtUBWu8lrLkmaV52.1>

Chair: Ariane Ngabeu, Howard University

Paper: Phonological Awareness Techniques used by First Grade Teachers to Improve Literacy Development of Learners with Kikamba Reading Difficulties in Machakos County, Kenya

Presenter: Dorcus Mino Kimongo, Machakos University, Kenya (Virtual)

Paper: African Indigenous Education in Contemporary Society in Kenya

Presenter: Jairus Khamali, Alupe Univerisity & Michael Omwenga, Pwani University (Virtual)

Paper: The Inclusion of Indigenous Education in the Xitsonga Home Language Curriculum: Exploring Implementation, Challenges, and Pedagogical Value

Presenter: Tinyiko Chauke, University of Limpopo (Virtual)

Plenary Session 4: African Indigenous Languages and Herbal Medicine into the Future

Time: 3:45 pm- 4:45 pm

Venue: Douglass Hall, Room 120

Zoom Link:

<https://howard.zoom.us/j/83694728934?pwd=7yS3ro1BFG94SS2e3n Ctuiatwy9VVv.1>

Chair: Esther Mukewa Lisanza, Howard University

Presenters: Esther Mukewa Lisanza, Leonard Muaka, Howard University (in Person), & Dr. Lewa Mwavita, Pona Herbal Clinic & Pwani University (virtual)

4:45 pm-5:00 pm: Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks

Dr. Esther Mukewa Lisanza, Howard University

Dr. Leonard Muaka, Howard University

5:00 pm- 5:30pm: Announcements & Networking

Douglass Hall, Room 120

Dinner: 5:30 pm- 6:30 pm in Douglass Hall, Room 120

Sponsors of the Conference

Department of World Languages and Cultures, Howard University

Center for African Studies, Howard University

College of Arts and Sciences, Howard University

Office of the Provost, Howard University

Department of Africa Studies, Howard University

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE INFORMATION: AIR TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATION

In Person Presentations:

a) **Venue:** For those who are presenting in person, please note that the conference will be held at Howard University in Washington DC. The following is our address:

Howard University
2400 Sixth Street NW
Washington, DC 20059

b) **Air transport:** For those travelling by air, the nearest airport is **Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport** which is 6.5 miles from Howard University in Washington, D.C. If you are traveling domestically, we recommend this airport.

Address: 2401 Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
Access Rd, Arlington, VA 22202

Code: DCA

You can also use the following two airports which are about 30 miles from Howard University, Washington, D.C.

i) **Washington Dulles International Airport**

Address: 1 Saarinen Cir, Dulles, VA 20166

Code: IAD

ii) **Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.**

Address: 7050 Friendship Rd, Baltimore, MD 21240

Code: BWI

c) **Hotel:** We recommend the Morrison Clark Inn www.morrisonclark.com in Washington, DC. This hotel is about 2 miles from Howard University. You can call in or go online to book your room. Guests may cancel up until 72 hours prior to arrival. There is no deposit charged when reserving; only upon arrival or in the event you do not arrive to the guaranteed reservations. Please use the following link to make your room reservation:

https://bookings.morrisonclark.com/reservation/roomdetails/139724?rooms=1&adults_1=1&checkin=20260216&checkout=20260224&bookingcode=GAIKLC