SYMPOSIUM

AFRICAN(A) FEMINISM AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL CONTEXT:

HONORING

THE WORK OF PROFESSOR FILOMINA STEADY

Friday, April 26 2019
From 9.30am-5.00pm in Collins
Lunch And Reception

In Honor of the Retirement of
Professor Filomina C. Steady

Featuring:
● Keynote Address
● Faculty Panel
● Alumnae Panel
● Student Roundtable

Sponsors:
AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT, WELLESLEY CENTER FOR WOMEN, the Departments of Anthropology, Art, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Education, English, French, History, Music, Philosophy, Psychology, Religion, Sociology, Spanish, Women and Gender Studies, Dean of Students, Harambee House, Slater International Center, the Black Task Force, the Freedom Project, and CLCE.

Questions:
Chika Egbuzie, 917-982-7866, cegbuzie@wellesley.edu

Disability Services: accessibility@wellesley.edu
**Symposium in Honor of the Retirement of Professor Filomina C. Steady**

**Chair of Africana Studies, Wellesley College**

**Friday, April 26th, 9.30am to 5.00pm**

**Collins Cinema**

'African(a) Feminism and Women's Leadership in Global Context: Honoring the Work of Professor Filomina Steady.'

---

### 9.30am

**Welcome and Introduction**

- Welcome – Professor Layli Maparyan, Executive Director, Wellesley Centers for Women and Professor of Africana Studies
- Greetings – President Paula Johnson, M.D., Wellesley College
- Thanks to Sponsors – Geofred Osoro, Lecturer, Africana Studies
- Introduction of Professor Filomina Steady – Dr. Liseli Fitzpatrick, Visiting Lecturer, Africana Studies
- Remarks by Professor Filomina Steady

### 10.00am - 11.00am

**Keynote Address**

- Introduction of the keynote speaker – Professor Kellie Carter-Jackson, Africana Studies, Wellesley College
- Keynote Address: 'Expanding Feminist Visions’ Chancellor’s Professor Obioma Nnaemeka, University of Indiana – Indianapolis

### 11.00am - 12.30pm

**Faculty Panel**

- Professor Stanlie James, Vice Provost and Professor, Arizona State University.
  *The Impact of Filomina Steady and her work on international human rights.*
- Professor Oyeronke Oyewumi, Professor of Sociology, Stony Brook University
  *Motherhood as the Practice of Leadership: Appreciating Filomina Steady’s Research Insights on the Pioneers called African Women*
- Professor Asoka Bandarage, Visiting Professor, Colorado College and Georgetown University
  *Women’s Leadership in a Changing World.*
- Professor Lidwien Kapteijns, Professor of History, Wellesley College
- Professor Daphne Ntiri, African-American Studies, Wayne State University, Discussant.
- Chair: Professor Layli Maparyan, Executive Director, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College and Professor of Africana Studies. Leading Scholar and Author on ‘Womanism’

### 12.30pm - 1.30pm

**Lunch**

*Jewett Sculpture Court*

- Sarah Abramson ’21, Africana Studies - MC for Lunch and Discussant
1.30pm - 2.50pm

Alumnae Panel

- Christie Li ’20, Sociology - MC for Alumnae Panel and Discussant
  “Reading of selected well wishes from Alums and others”
- Charlotte Ashamu ’01. Associate Director at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African Art.
  “Feminism and Women’s Leadership: Reflections of my work in five African Countries”
- Katherine Jenkins ’03. Educator, Mather Elementary School, Boston Public Schools
  “Reflections on the personal & professional impact of Afrocentric feminism from a ‘White’ Alumna.”
- Rhobi Matinyi ’07. Associate Partner at Dalberg Advisors, a South African-based strategy consulting firm that focuses on emerging and developing markets.
  “Can Women's Participation in Leadership Change the Trajectory of the Continent of Africa?”
- Lilly Marcelin DS12. Community activist, organizer and founder of Resilient Sisterhood, an NGO focusing on underserved women and reproductive health.
  “‘A Racial Prism and Analysis on the Impacts of Infertility in Black Women”
- Fiona Almeida DS15. Chair. Fiona is a teacher, researcher and project designer, working both in the US and internationally, especially in India and South Africa, her home country.

2.50pm to 3.00pm

BREAK

3.00pm – 4.10pm

Students Roundtable

Topics on ‘Reimagining Feminism; African(a) Feminism and Women’s Leadership’ in honor of Professor Filomina Steady

by Wellesley’s students.

- Chair: Professor Craig Murphy, Political Science.
- Dominique Copeland ’19, Economics
- Sandra Amponsah Ohemeng ’20, Economics
- Kennedy Austin ’19, Africana Studies & Sociology
- Hawah Kallon ’19, Africana Studies & Psychology
- Penny Hawthorne ’21, Sociology

4.10pm

Closing Remarks

Professor Steady and Professor Maparyan.

4.20pm – 5.00pm

Reception

Collins Cafe

POSTSCRIPT

Professor Filomina Steady’s Youtube talk on ‘African Women’s Leadership Through the Ages’ at Wellesley College, March 8th 2018. Click: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt7EkRgHLcw&t=16s

Books by Professor Filomina Steady will be available at the bookstore (Wang Campus Center, 4th. floor) and for display at Collins Cafe.
Filomina C. Steady is Professor of Africana Studies (Gender Studies, Environmental Justice) at Wellesley College. She received a B.A. in government from Smith College; an M.A. in anthropology from Boston University and a D.Phil. (Ph.D) in social anthropology from Oxford University, Oxford, England. She is the recipient of several awards including the Ioma Evans-Pritchard Research Award from Oxford University and the 1982 Otelia Cromwell Distinguished Alumna Award from Smith College in the USA. She has conducted extensive field research in social anthropology in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe and North America. She has taught at several universities including Yale, Wesleyan, Boston and California State University in Sacramento, where she was also chair of the Women’s Studies Program and the University of Sierra Leone. Her basic research interests are on gender systems in cross-cultural context; women’s rights and empowerment; social transformation in Africa and the African Diaspora; the impact of globalization on Women of the South; environmental justice; medical anthropology; urban development; development theories and women in international development.

Dr. Steady has served as a Director of the United Nations in Vienna. She also served as a Special Advisor and Senior consultant to several international organizations. She contributed to four international plans of action for gender equality and the advancement of women. She has authored and/or edited several books, monographs and articles including the award-winning *The Black Woman Cross-Culturally* 1981; *Women and Children First: Environment, Poverty and Sustainable Development*; 1995; *Women and the Amistad Connection: Sierra Leone Krio Society*, 2001; *Black Women, Globalization and Economic Justice*, 2002; *Women and Collective Action in Africa: Development, Democratization and Empowerment*, 2006; *Women and Leadership in Africa: Mothering the Nation and Humanizing the State*, 2011 and *Krio Women in Sierra Leone: Embracing a Culture of Many Parts*, 2016. In addition, she has given several keynote addresses and presented papers at national and international academic conferences.

She is a founding member of the Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD) and former president of the Women’s World Summit Foundation (WWSF), an international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland. Professor Steady has served on several advisory boards including the Encyclopedia of Third World Women, the United Nation’s Steering Committee on women in Least Developed Countries and the Commission on the Anthropology of Women. Dr. Steady is married to Dr. Henry Maduka Steady and is the mother of three children, Chinaka, Maduka and Azania.
Professor Obioma Nnaemeka—Professor Obioma Nnaemeka, a multilingual, widely traveled scholar/social reformer, is Chancellor’s Professor of French, Women’s Studies and African/African Diaspora Studies and a former Director of the Women’s Studies Program at Indiana University, Indianapolis, USA. She studied French, German, and African Studies at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Nigeria), the former Université de Dakar (Senegal), Université de Grenoble (France), and the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis) where she earned an M.A. and a PhD with distinction.

Prior to coming to Indiana University, Professor Nnaemeka taught at the University of Nigeria (Nsukka) and the College of Wooster, Ohio. She is a commentator/cultural critic for the French Service of the International Service of Radio Netherlands in Helversum (Netherlands), a Nominator for the Civitella Ranieri Foundation (Italy) and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a Board member of Global Women’s Leadership Center at the Leavey School of Business (University of Santa Clara, CA), a member of the National Advisory Board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) for the Liberal Education and Global Citizenship Project, a Board member of MALI Academy Charter School (Pennsylvania), and a participant in the Women Waging Peace initiative at Harvard University.

She is a member of the Board of Directors of many international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and on the Editorial or Advisory Board of several refereed scholarly journals and book series. As an expert in African/African Diaspora studies, development, globalization, women’s/gender studies, human rights, literary studies, peace and conflict resolution, and multiculturalism, Professor Nnaemeka combines research, teaching, and consultancy for the United Nations, the World Bank, governments, international agencies, and academic institutions with speaking engagements and active participation in national and international conferences and programs. She is the convener of the “Women in Africa and the African Diaspora (WAAD)” international conferences.
Professor Nnaemeka has delivered over 100 keynote addresses, lectures, and papers in more than 30 countries on five continents. She has published extensively in the following areas: development, women/gender studies, human rights, and African/African Diaspora studies. She is the author/editor of twelve books, author of over sixty scholarly articles and book chapters, and editor of the 10-volume Women in Africa and the Diaspora collection.

CONTACT: Department of World Languages & Cultures, Cavanaugh Hall 543A, Indiana University, 425 University Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46202, USA; Phone: (317) 450-4996 (cell); (317) 278-2038 (work); (317) 274-0062 (messages); Fax: (317) 278-7375; E-mail: nnaemeka@iupui.edu
Professor Asoka Bandarage

Asoka Bandarage has served on the faculties of Brandeis University, Georgetown University and Mount Holyoke College where she received tenure and was also the Chair of the Women’s Studies Program. Dr. Bandarage is the author of the books: *Colonialism in Sri Lanka, Women, Population and Global Crisis*, *The Separatist Conflict in Sri Lanka, Sustainability and Well-Being: The Middle Path to Environment, Society and the Economy* and numerous other publications on South Asia, global political-economy, ethnicity, gender and ecology.

Dr. Bandarage has written columns on global environmental and social issues in the Huffington Post and Asia Times and serves on the boards of a number of publications and organizations including Critical Asian Studies, and Interfaith Moral Action on Climate.

Professor Craig Murphy

Craig N. Murphy is the Betty Freyhof Johnson ’44 Professor of Political Science at Wellesley College and a Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study. He is past president of the International Studies Association and past chair of the Academic Council on the UN System as well as founder of its review, *Global Governance*, which received the 1996 Association of American Publishers award for the best new scholarly journal. His most recent book is *Engineering Rules: Global Standard Setting since 1880* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019), co-authored with JoAnne Yates.

His research on the operations of international development organizations around the world has included field studies in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Trinidad and Tobago and he has periodically taught cross-listed courses and served on committees in the Africana Studies Department.

Dr. Layli Maparyan

Layli Maparyan, Ph.D., is the Katherine Stone Kaufmann ’67 Executive Director of the Wellesley Centers for Women and Professor of Africana Studies at Wellesley College. She is best known for her scholarship in the area of womanism, a social change perspective that focuses on what everyday women from around the world can contribute to global dialogues about social and environmental problems. She is also the author of two groundbreaking texts in the field of womanist studies, *The Womanist Reader* (Routledge, 2006) and *The Womanist Idea* (Routledge, 2012).

Maparyan’s scholar-activist work interweaves threads from the social sciences and the critical disciplines, incorporating basic and applied platforms around a common theme of integrating identities and communities in peaceable, ecologically sound, and self-actualizing ways. Currently, she sits on the Board of Directors of the Global Fund for Women, the Advisory Council of the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities at SUNY-Stony Brook, and the Ms. Magazine Council of Scholars.
Professor Lidwien Kapteijns

Professor Lidwien Kapteijns is Elizabeth Kimball Kendall and Elisabeth Hodder Professor of History at Wellesley College. She is an African historian focusing on Somalia and Sudan with a long-term research and teaching focus on the history of Africa, the Middle East, and Islam in Africa; translator of historical and popular culture texts in Arabic and Somali. She has published several books and articles and is fluent in the Somali language. She teaches courses on African and Middle Eastern history, including survey courses on the history of precolonial and modern Africa, South Africa, and the modern Middle East, as well as a course on Constructions of Gender in the Modern Middle East.

Professor Daphne Ntiri

Daphne W. Ntiri, PhD has been privileged to hold faculty, administrative, and consultant positions in the international, academic, and public sectors. She is currently Professor in the Department of African American Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Wayne State University. She is a prolific and highly funded scholar and a tireless advocate for women and the underserved. Professor Ntiri has a rich and robust international service history that includes a three-year consultancy to the United Nations (UNESCO) on national development, more specifically adult literacy and gender promotion in Senegal and Somalia. She completed a research fellowship with the International Institute for Labor Studies in Geneva, Switzerland and has taught at the University of Djibouti, University of Ouagadougou where she was a Fulbright Scholar and more recently, she was an invited faculty research scholar at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. Dr. Ntiri is committed to academic excellence and promotion of learning as a transformative experience. Her success in funding initiatives of over $6 million has enabled the creation of campus environments that promote research and practice in adult learning and enhance institutional capacity-building. Author of over 40 peer-reviewed articles and chapters and editor of eight books, her latest work is, Literacy as gendered discourse: Engaging the voices of women in global society. She is the winner of several scholarly and teaching awards at Wayne State University. Dr. Daphne Ntiri is a native of Freetown, Sierra Leone and attended the Annie Walsh Memorial School and Fourah Bay College, the University of Sierra Leone. She received her PhD from Michigan State University. She is married with two daughters and five grandchildren.
Oyeronke Oyewumi is Professor of Sociology at Stony Brook University, NY. She was born in Nigeria and educated at the University of Ibadan, and the University of California at Berkeley. Oyewumi is the author of two monographs, and editor of three anthologies. The monograph *The Invention of women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourse* (Univ. of Minnesota Press, 1997) won the 1998 Distinguished Book Award of the Gender & Sexuality Section of the American Sociological Association. The book was also a finalist for the Herskovits Prize of the African Studies Association in the same year.


Professor Stanlie James holds a joint appointment in African and African American Studies, and Women and Gender Studies in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University. Dr. Stanlie James began her career as an innovative scholar of Black feminism and international human rights. She is currently the vice provost of inclusion and community engagement at Arizona State University (ASU), a position where she has pioneered initiatives that have attracted the attention of national organizations. Her areas of interest include Women’s International Human Rights and Black Feminisms.
Charlotte Ashamu is the Associate Director at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African Art. In her role, she oversees the museum’s portfolio of private and institutional funders, communications and external relations, and special programs. Before joining the Smithsonian, Charlotte worked across Africa for two of the largest global development institutions. From 2014 to 2017, she served in the Office of the President and in the Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Department at the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) where she led the expansion of partnerships with philanthropists and private foundations around the world. From 2007 to 2014, she served as an advisory services officer at the International Finance Corp., the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, where she spearheaded new programs and partnerships to help small and medium enterprises in Africa start, finance and grow their businesses. Charlotte spent the earlier part of her career as an international trade specialist at the Whitaker Group and Abt Associates in Washington, D.C. In 2017, she founded and launched an organization, Dabira, to support the creative industries in Africa.

Fiona Almeida is a native of South Africa who now lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is a recent graduate of Tufts University, where she obtained her Master’s degree from the Urban Environment Policy and Planning Department. Fiona obtained her BA from Wellesley College and her AS from Middlesex Community College, Boston, MA. Almeida is passionate about Global Healthcare, Education, Gender Equality and the intersection of Culture and Identity. Fiona’s research focuses on a minority group of African Indians called Siddis, living in Karnataka, India.

She conducts ethnographic research and focuses on culture, identity, mental health, education and women’s reproductive health, specifically menstruation. Fiona has implemented two ongoing projects in several Siddi villages in Karnataka. She teaches women the skill of making reusable cotton sanitary napkins and raises awareness on menstrual hygiene. In 2016, she implemented an awareness and prevention project called Break Free From Depression for Adolescents. The projects in India are part of her ongoing interest and commitment to women’s education and reproductive health. Fiona has a varied and richly textured background and has held various positions at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Wellesley College, and Harvard Smithsonian – Center for Astrophysics. She has recently worked with the Deshpadne Foundation in Hubli where she worked on their English and Communication curriculum. Presently, Fiona is an independent consultant fostering a holistic approach to impact evaluation and strategies in international development work. When Almeida is not buried in research and designing projects, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, trying out new food spots and enjoying outdoor activities.

Fiona also runs a South African networking group for South Africans in Massachusetts and neighboring states. She is currently a member of the following boards: Middlesex Community College Alumni Association, African Indian Alliance and Commonwealth Honors Society at Middlesex Community College.”

Charlotte Ashamu ‘01

Charlotte Ashamu is the Associate Director at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African Art. In her role, she oversees the museum’s portfolio of private and institutional funders, communications and external relations, and special programs. Before joining the Smithsonian, Charlotte worked across Africa for two of the largest global development institutions. From 2014 to 2017, she served in the Office of the President and in the Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Department at the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) where she led the expansion of partnerships with philanthropists and private foundations around the world. From 2007 to 2014, she served as an advisory services officer at the International Finance Corp., the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, where she spearheaded new programs and partnerships to help small and medium enterprises in Africa start, finance and grow their businesses. Charlotte spent the earlier part of her career as an international trade specialist at the Whitaker Group and Abt Associates in Washington, D.C. In 2017, she founded and launched an organization, Dabira, to support the creative industries in Africa.
Dabira produces a regional trade fair that showcases emerging artists, designers and creative brands from all over the African continent. Raised in Nigeria and the United States, Ashamu earned a bachelor’s degree from Wellesley College, a master’s degree in economic development and policy from Columbia University and a certificate from the Paris Fashion Institute. She is a recipient of the Mo Ibrahim Leadership Fellowship.

**Lilly Marcelin DS12**

Lilly Marcelin is a community activist and organizer who has dedicated her career to advocate for and work in partnership with underserved women and families in need of quality and compassionate health care & social services. Lilly has worked on a broad range of issues from gender based violence, human trafficking, health and socioeconomic disparities, women’s reproductive health to racial and social justice. She is the Founding Director of an emerging nonprofit organization in Boston: the Resilient Sisterhood Project (RSP), dedicated to inform and empower women of African descent regarding common but rarely talked about diseases of the reproductive system that disproportionately affect them. The Resilient Sisterhood Project (RSP) uses a cultural and social justice lens to approach the common but rarely discussed diseases of the reproductive system that disproportionately affect women of African descent. These diseases include, but are not limited to, uterine fibroids, endometriosis, infertility, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), breast, cervical, uterine, and ovarian cancers. To articulate its vision, RSP works in partnership with its members to address deeply rooted racial discrimination, oppressive gender norms, environmental/food injustice, and other social determinants of health that perpetuate silence and inaction surrounding these diseases.

Lilly holds a bachelor’s degree in Women’s and Gender Studies with a concentration in science, public health, and global health from Wellesley College. A Master’s degree in public policy from Tufts University. A certificate from B.U. school of management through the Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership (INML).

**Katherine Jenkins ’03**

While at Wellesley College, Katherine Jenkins Djom ’03 majored in Africana Studies and International Relations, participated in Yanvalou Drum & Dance Ensemble, WASA and other cultural organizations, helped organize interracial dialogues on campus. Currently a member of the leadership collective of Wellesley Racial Justice Initiative (WRJI), Katherine brings the following values and concepts to all areas of her work and life: Sankofa; justice/decolonization/Afrocentrism; embodiment, intersectionality & holistic/integrated analyses; spiritual groundedness & sustainability; healing, transmutation & transformation; community, Circle Practice & the unique power of womankind. A long time resident of the Roxbury and Dorchester neighborhoods of Boston, Katherine is currently teaching at the Mather School in Dorchester, and has also taught Humanities, English/ESL, Art and Music in Boston Public Schools. Her professional experience also includes supporting and educating pregnant and post-partum women and their families as a doula and public health worker.
Prior to her current roles, Rhobhi was part of the founding team of the African Leadership Academy in South Africa. She also worked in various capacities in global health in Ghana and in US. A graduate of Wellesley’s class of 2007 and a Jerome A. Schiff Research Fellow, Rhobhi also holds an MPH from Yale University where she was awarded the Lowell Levin Award for Excellence in Global Health. She is a fellow of the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) and a graduate of the United World College in Norway. Rhobhi currently splits her time between Johannesburg, South Africa and her home country, Tanzania.

Some of her other passions are co-leading Youth Group at First Parish Dorchester, coaching girls soccer at the Mather School, any opportunity to drum, dance or sing, and practicing AfroFlowYoga. This summer Katherine looks forward to continuing work on her coming-of-age novel, A Way Home. You can also join her for a Haitian-led educational & cultural tour of Cap-Haïtien, Haiti in early July &/or at the forthcoming WRJI workshop series for white alums seeking to better understand white supremacist culture/racism in order to deepen their solidarity with people of color in the struggle for justice and healing.

Rhobhi Matinyi ’07

Rhobhi is an Associate Partner at Dalberg Advisors, a strategy consulting firm that focuses on emerging and developing markets. She also a Co-Founder of Epione Healthcare Solutions, a company that is developing and operating primary and secondary care facilities in partnership with clinicians, as well as epione.net, an end-to-end platform that enables a seamless continuum of care. While her area of specialty is healthcare, she has extensive experience in financial inclusion, agriculture/agribusiness, leadership, education and employment across the continent of Africa, and in South and Southeast Asia.
STUDENTS’ ROUND TABLE

Kennedy Austin ’19, Africana Studies & Sociology

Dominique Copeland ’19, Economics

Penny Hawthorne ’19, Sociology

Hawah Kallon ’19, Africana Studies & Psychology

Sandra Amponsah Ohemeng ’20, Economics
Sarah Abramson ’21, Africana Studies

Christie Li ’20, Sociology
The College's address is: 106 Central St., Wellesley, MA, 02481. That's at the intersection of Route 16 and Route 135.

**Parking**

You may park in the Davis Parking Facility. If you have any questions about parking, please go to the Campus Police office, located in the Davis Parking Facility.

---

**Stairway to Collins, coming from the Davis Parking Facility (Visitor Parking)**

**Front of Collins**

www.wellesley.edu