



The Future of Minority Studies Summer Institute
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FMS-Spelman Professional Workshop for HBCU Faculty

January 26th-27th 2007

A REPORT



THE WORKSHOP WAS ORGANIZED
JOINTLY BY THE FMS SUMMER INSTITUTE
AND SPELMAN COLLEGE. IT WAS HELD
AT SPELMAN'S WOMEN'S RESEARCH
AND RESOURCE CENTER.

The FMS-Spelman workshop for faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities was conceived and organized by Satya P. Mohanty (Director, FMS Summer Institute) and Johnnella E. Butler (Provost of Spelman College).

Funding and support for this workshop were provided by the Office of the President, Spelman College; the Office of the Provost, Spelman College; the Women's Research and Resource Center at Spelman; the Future of Minority Studies (FMS) Summer Institute, which is funded through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; the University of Michigan; Syracuse University; and Cornell University (our special thanks to Professor Kenneth McClane of Cornell).



“The presentations about scholarship and mentoring were inspiring, instructive, and liberating...I found the discussions about building alternative intellectual communities...very informative.”

—BAIYINA W. MUHAMMAD

The Future of Minority Studies Research Project (FMS) was initiated in 2000 by a group of scholars and academic institutions with a primary interest in minority identity, education, and social transformation.

One of FMS's long-term goals is to make the humanities departments of American colleges and universities more diverse, both culturally and intellectually. In order to realize this goal, FMS organizes a summer institute, which fosters collaborative research and provides a mentoring context in which minority scholars (broadly defined to include all those whose access to social and cultural institutions is limited by their social identities) and those interested in minority studies can work productively and go on to occupy leadership roles in the academy.

A distinctive feature of the FMS Project is that it is interinstitutional, interdisciplinary, and multigenerational. To date, FMS scholars have come from over seventy-five institutions of varying sizes: private research universities (e.g., Stanford, Syracuse, Cornell, Harvard), liberal arts colleges (e.g. Hamilton, Moravian, Smith), major state universities (e.g. Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, U North Carolina), as well as HBCUs (e.g., Spelman, Howard, Clark-Atlanta) and smaller state and community colleges (Diablo Valley College, California State-Long Beach). FMS scholars come from a variety of disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences, and range from undergraduate students to senior administrators.



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PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH

2:00–3:00 PM

Introduction to FMS's Collaborative Research Culture (with Dr. Joseph Jordan, UNC Chapel Hill; Dr. Tobin Siebers, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor; Dr. Satya P. Mohanty, Cornell University)

3:15–6:00 PM

Life Stories Workshop (led by Kenneth McClane, W. E. B. DuBois Professor of Literature, Cornell University)

6:00–8:30 PM

Welcoming Remarks by **Beverly Daniel Tatum**, President of Spelman College and **Johnnella E. Butler**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Spelman College; Reception and Dinner

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH

9:30 AM–12:00 NOON

Building an Alternative Intellectual Culture—Reflections on the FMS Summer Seminar by Seminar Leaders and Participants (with Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Spelman College; Dr. Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Syracuse University; Dr. Tyrone Simpson, Vassar College; Dr. Cynthia Wu, Agnes Scott College)



1:30–2:30 PM

Workshop: Assessment—Why You Should Care and What You Should Know About It (led by Dr. Myra Burnett, Vice Provost, Spelman College)

3:00–6:00 PM

Workshop on Professional Challenges Faced by Junior Faculty, Especially Minority Faculty (with Dr. Tobin Siebers, University of Michigan; Dr. Johnnella Butler, Provost, Spelman College; Dr. Satya P. Mohanty, Cornell University)

Workshop Participants: Terri Adams-Fuller (Howard University), Hayward Andres (North Carolina A & T State Univ.), Arona Diouf (North Carolina A & T State Univ.), Latanya Hammonds-Odie (Spelman College), Cynthia Hewitt (Morehouse College), Jamillah Karim (Spelman College), Jonathan Livingston (North Carolina Central Univ.), Samuel Livingston (Morehouse College), Karla McLucas (Bennett College), Angela Miles (North Carolina A & T State Univ.), Baiyina Muhammad (North Carolina Central Univ.), Kristie Roberts (Clark Atlanta University), Rosemarie Vardell (North Carolina A & T State Univ.)



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I found the FMS workshop most helpful due to its reaffirming and positive spirit. It made us feel that we belonged in the academy and that our presence and insight are deeply needed and felt. At the same time, it was challenging. It pushed us to think long-term, to think about sustainability. It taught us to be strategic and to rise to be the best in our fields. Not only did it encourage us but it also gave us concrete guidelines for how we can do this. I loved the emphasis on collaboration. I now know how to make a bigger impact and realize that it's not all about me as an individual. What is progress if my family and community are not advancing along with me?

—**JAMILLAH A. KARIM**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Spelman College



The recent FMS-HBCU workshop was a beneficial and uplifting experience for me. First, I was struck by the sense of camaraderie that exists among the organizers and presenters. More importantly, I found the discussions about building alternative intellectual communities and professional challenges faced by junior faculty very informative. I ended each session wishing that we had more time to discuss many of the issues that were brought out during the open discus-

sion. The presentations about scholarship and mentoring were also inspiring, instructive, and liberating for me as a participant. After attending such a phenomenal workshop, I am very interested in maintaining a connection to the FMS project and learning more about the postdoctoral mentoring fellowships that were mentioned.

—**BAIYINA W. MUHAMMAD**, Assistant Professor of History, North Carolina Central University

Thanks for inviting me to attend the FMS-Spelman Workshop held January 26-27, 2007. The experience was one that I must admit was not anticipated. I initially thought that the workshop would provide an opportunity to collaborate on research. That expectation was exceeded, but the experience offered much more than that. The experience was moving, exhilarating, passionate, regenerating, and fulfilling. I was able to connect with the other individuals in attendance in a manner that was nearly spiritual. The shared stories were a catalyst for motivation, continued participation, and anticipation.

—**ANGELA MILES**, Assistant Professor of Business Administration, North Carolina A&T State University



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The 2-day FMS-Spelman Workshop represented a warm and safe “incubator” where junior minority faculty members were immersed in a protective environment for sharing, empowerment, motivation, support, development, and growth, vital ingredients on the journey to becoming tenured faculty members. It created “a new space” and a world of opportunities. Pre-FMS, mentally, I was struggling as a junior faculty member where seasonal support had created a silo of isolation. The dialogue, intellectual exchange, and wealth of experiences and information shared through this forum invigorated my passion for teaching and research.

—**KRISTIE ROBERTS**, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, Clark Atlanta University

This workshop was such an unusual opportunity—where the output was an improved, reinvigorated, more hopeful “me.” Thank you sincerely for putting in the effort to make that happen. Doors were opened—a few years’ or a lifetime’s worth of interaction, all in two days.

I think the fellowship post-doc opportunity offered by FMS is the logical next step for newer faculty. It is a critical asset to be able to gain some concrete support for finishing a manuscript and getting published.

With the summer seminar where participants can take time and build their intellectual visions, and the post-doc opportunity, FMS is a major player in the world of professional development for scholars of minority and marginalized social status.

—**CYNTHIA HEWITT**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Morehouse College



I had prior commitments and could not attend the full session on the first day and missed the Life Stories session, but the opening discussion was so compelling that I almost missed the prior commitment. The FMS Workshop forced me to face the fact that I need to be more strategic about my long-term career plans. Now if I can just find a few days for quiet contemplation while learning to juggle the demand for excellence in teaching, scholarship and service along with the appropriate work-family balance!

—**LATANYA HAMMONDS-ODIE**, Assistant Professor of Biology, Spelman College



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WOW! I was in a very “difficult” position professionally, and I learned from the FMS workshop how to deal with such a situation. I don’t feel isolated any longer. The FMS workshop gave me the tools to realize my potential. I now have one book proposal and two articles to write collaboratively with colleagues I met at the FMS workshop. I am very grateful to you. Also, the food was greaaaaat! VIVA FMS!

—**ARONA DIOUE**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences, North Carolina A&T State Univ.

I became part of a new social network of colleagues who have the same or similar issues and concerns as junior faculty at HBCUs. This network will assist me in locating resources for research opportunities and collaborating on research and writing projects. We obtained new information on the “road to publishing” strategies. Sharing our stories and lessons learned will help me structure and develop feasible strategies for my personal and professional life. This new community will aid us in becoming (as Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall put it) “change agents” at our respective institutions.

—**KARLA MCLUCAS**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Bennett College for Women

The workshop reminded me of strategies needed to insure that I develop and maintain a successful research career. It was also very inspiring to sit and talk collectively about issues that all of us face. I was able to get a different perspective on my research ideas and planned projects and discuss collaboration possibilities.

—**HAYWARD ANDRES**, Associate Professor of Business Administration, North Carolina A&T State Univ.

The workshop has had a tremendous impact on me both personally and professionally, and I am truly grateful for the experience. The openness and frankness of the dialogue were refreshing and extremely empowering.

—**TERRI ADAMS-FULLER**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Howard University

An eye-opening weekend workshop. It afforded the opportunity to meet with faculty concerned with issues of social justice, and to discuss and share constructive feedback on charting a positive agenda as a junior faculty member. I am looking forward to participating and contributing to the FMS project in the future. I really think I can benefit from FMS and be of service to other emerging scholars.

—**SAMUEL LIVINGSTON**, Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies, Morehouse College



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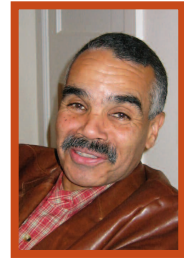
FMS Coordinator

Alice Cho
GM08 Goldwin Smith Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853
Email: fmsproject@cornell.edu



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“For me, personally, participating in the workshop at Spelman was a dream come true, and I use that cliché on purpose. It was a tremendous lapse in my education that I had not had a close affiliation with educators from the great black educational institutions, where many of our civic leaders still are educated. When I offered my seminar on life stories at Spelman on January 27th, I knew immediately why I so wanted to foster the connection. We often forget that our spiritual desires, however ill-defined, though seemingly created out of wan cloth, can resuscitate us. Whatever my colleagues at Spelman learned from me, I took much more from them.”



—KENNETH MCCLANE
W. E. B. Du Bois Professor of Literature
Cornell University