

Black German Heritage and Research Association Annual Conference

Rekinning, Reckoning, and Justice

Conference Program

February 20-22, 2025

All times are listed in Eastern Standard Time (EST). Central European Time (CET) / Berlin Time is six hours ahead of EST, so an event beginning at 12pm EST would begin at 18.00 Uhr CET.

Day 1: Thursday, February 20

9 AM - 9:45 AM	Yoga & Relaxation**
10 AM - 10:15 AM	Welcome Address / Conference Opening
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Keynote 1 Joana Tischkau Moderator: Sonya Donaldson
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	Midday Break
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Keynote 2 Zoe Moderator: Elisabeth Clarke-Hasters
2:15 PM - 3:45 PM	Keynote 3 Constance Jones Simmons <i>Bridging Cultures: A German-American Journalist's Efforts to Showcase German Heritage in the United States</i> Moderator: Emily Frazier-Rath

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Panel 1

Evan Torner **On Comparing Black Film Actors in East and West Germany**

Reginald Bess **Samuel Meffire: *Ich, ein Sachse—Mein deutsch-deutsches Leben / Sam—The German, The Officer, The Man—The Life and Times of East Germany's First Black Police Officer***

Albrecht Classen **Crime, Revenge, and Justice. From the Nibelungenlied and Heinrich Wittenwiler to Heinrich von Kleist and Theodor Fontane**

Moderator: Keith Green

Day 2: Friday, February 21

7:30 - 8:15

Yoga & Relaxation**

8:30 - 9:45

Keynote 4 Malick Bauer
On Rekinning

Moderator: Silke Hackenesch

10 AM - 11:30 AM

Keynote 5 Swami Dhyānānanda
Justice vs. Spirituality: The Cost of Comfort in Trying Times

Moderator: Silke Hackenesch

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

Panel 2

Melina Morr de Pérez **Audre Lorde's Chaos of Knowledge - The Use of the Text Form of the Theatre Script as a Place of Negotiation in Black Queer Space Time in Black History Studies**

Silke Hackenesch **The (Black) American Response to the Adoption of Black German Children in the 1950s**

Mariela Georg **Diaspora, Identity, and Healing:
Pathways to Critical Wellness**

Kasturi Chatterjee **Afropessimism and Afrosurreal
insurrection in *Ada's Raum***

Moderator: Keith Green

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM

Midday Break

1:45 - 3:15 PM

Roundtable 1

On Art, Reckoning, and Justice

Hosted & Organized by: Zari Harat

Presenters:

Safy Farid

Eliane Kerswani

Moderator: Sonya Donaldson

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Roundtable 2

**On German Language-Learning and Reparations for
Black German Adoptees**

Presenters:

Ruth Spencer

Denese Henderson

Doris Walker-Mayberry

Yvonne Derricotte

Moderator: Emily Frazier-Rath

Day 3: Saturday, February 22

9 AM - 9:45 AM

Yoga & Relaxation**

10 AM - 11:30 AM

Panel 3

Sophie Holzberger and Siegbert Ozim Ott (Filmmaker) ***The
Snake In My Bed (1995)***

Jordan Awori (Filmmaker) ***Mkokoteni (2024)***

Moderator: Emily Frazier-Rath

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

Keynote 6 Malik Nagorsen

Moderator: Emily Frazier-Rath

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM

Midday Break

1:45 - 3:15 PM

Keynote 7 Salima Faye

Rekinning and Mental Health

Moderator: Emily Frazier-Rath

5:00 - 5:30 PM

Conference Closing

**Dismantling racism and its effects cannot succeed without focusing on the well-being of Black people. The yoga/relaxation sessions in our conference are a way to practice self care and self-solidarity in a friendly environment. They are a rare chance to experience Yoga without the baggage of appropriation and Western/colonized misunderstanding.

In the sessions, we practice gentle and effective self-regulation of the nervous system. They are suitable also for people who don't like Yoga, for all age groups over 7, of any religious (non-)beliefs and levels of 'fitness'. There will be no gymnastics. The classes are CPTSD-informed and aimed at helping relieve some of its effects.

Swami Dhyānānanda Saraswati is a monk of Yoga and Vedānta, serving intersectional communities.

The classes are sponsored by Praṇava Stiftung, promoting intersectional Healing, Well-being, and Self-care.

<https://swamiblog.pranavastiftung.de/community-yoga-en/>