

CONFERENCE ARTIST  
Zari Harat

BGHRA PRESENTS

FREE  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
ONLINE  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
2025  
FEBRUARY  
20<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>

REKINNING,  
RECKONING,  
& JUSTICE

THE BLACK GERMAN HERITAGE & RESEARCH ASSOCIATION IN AFRICANA STUDIES AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-CAMDEN AND THE RUTGERS INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL RACIAL JUSTICE, ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

MALICK BAUER  
SALIMA FAYE  
MALIK NAGORSEN  
SWAMI DHYĀNĀNANDA SARASWATI  
CONSTANCE JONES SIMMONS  
JOANA TISCHKAU  
ZOE



PRAᅇAVA STIFTUNG

BGHRA PRESENTS

# REKINNING, RECKONING, & JUSTICE

## THURSDAY, February 20

- 9 - 9:45 A.M. Yoga & Relaxation\*\*  
10 - 10:15 A.M. Welcome Address / Conference Opening  
10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Keynote 1 Joana Tischkau  
Moderator: Sonya Donaldson  
12:00 - 12:30 P.M. Midday Break  
12:30 - 2:00 P.M. Keynote 2 Zoe  
Moderator: Elisabeth Clarke-Hasters  
2:15 - 3:45 P.M. Keynote 3 Constance Jones Simmons  
*Bridging Cultures: A German-American Journalist's Efforts to Showcase German Heritage in the United States*  
Moderator: Emily Frazier-Rath  
4:00 - 5:30 P.M. 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 Conrad Ferdinand Meyer  
Moderator: Keith Green

## Friday, February 21

- 7:30 - 8:15 A.M. Yoga & Relaxation\*\*  
8:30 - 9:45 A.M. Keynote 4 Malick Bauer  
*On Rekinning*  
Moderator: Silke Hackenesch  
10 - 11:30 A.M. Keynote 5 Swami Dhyānānanda  
*Justice vs. Spirituality: The Cost of Comfort in Trying Times*  
Moderator: Silke Hackenesch  
11:45 A.M. - 1:15 P.M. 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

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.

## Friday, February 21 continued...

- 1:15 - 1:45 P.M. Midday Break  
1:45 - 3:15 P.M. Roundtable 1  
*On Art, Reckoning, and Justice*  
Hosted & Organized by: Zari Harat  
Presenters: Safy Farid and Eliane Kesrouani  
Moderator: Sonya Donaldson  
3:30 - 5:00 P.M. Roundtable 2  
*On German Language-Learning and Reparations for Black German Adoptees*  
Presenters: Ruth Spencer, Denese Henderson, Doris Walker-Mayberry, and Yvonne Derricotte  
Moderator: Emily Frazier-Rath

## Saturday, February 22

- 9 - 9:45 A.M. Yoga & Relaxation\*\*  
10 - 11:30 A.M. 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 A.M. - 1:15 P.M. Keynote 6 Malik Nagorsen  
Moderator: Emily Frazier-Rath  
1:15 - 1:45 P.M. Midday Break  
1:45 - 3:15 P.M. Keynote 7 Salima Faye  
*Rekinning and Mental Health*  
Moderator: Emily Frazier-Rath  
3:15 - 4 P.M. 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 Pranava Stiftung, promoting intersectional Healing, Well-being, and Self-care.*  
[swamiblog.pranavastiftung.de/community-yoga-en](http://swamiblog.pranavastiftung.de/community-yoga-en)