



Call for Papers

The African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association (ADRSAs) presents

LOVE SUPREME:

Devotion, Intimacy, and Ecstasy in African and Diasporic Religions

Harvard University | Friday, April 11, 2014 | 9 am – 6 pm

Submission Deadline – Friday, December 27, 2013

The African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association (ADRSAs) presents its second day-long conference on the theme *Love Supreme: Devotion, Intimacy, and Ecstasy in African and Diasporic Religions*. “Devotion,” “marriage,” and other intimate relational language is often used to characterize the relationships between adherents of African and Diasporic Religions and the universal energies with which they interact during worship. Practitioners of these traditions most frequently refer to themselves as “devotees” – in contrast to the designation “believers” used in other traditions – and through initiations, spiritual weddings, possessions, and other means, they form profound personal bonds with the spirits and with each other. This conference will explore these bonds, with topics including but not limited to:

- 🌐 Theories and meanings of devotion and service
- 🌐 Marriage and coupling as tropes in sacred narratives
- 🌐 Spirit possession and other forms of religious ecstasy
- 🌐 African and Diasporic religious perspectives on human intimate relationships
- 🌐 Initiation, spiritual weddings, and other forms of bonding

Submissions should center on one or more **African Indigenous** (Ndebele, Yoruba, Kongo, Dagara, Eedyi, Igbo, Shona, etc.) or **African Diasporic** (Vodou, Lukumi, Umbanda, Shango Baptist, Kumina, Revival Zion, etc.) spiritual/religious traditions. Scholar-practitioner perspectives are welcomed. **Panel proposals are encouraged.**

For consideration, please submit a **500 word abstract**, a **250-500 word bio**, and **Curriculum Vitae** by **December 27, 2013**. **Panel proposals** should include a 300-500 word description of the panel and all of the above for each participant.

Submit abstracts at www.ADRSA.com/conference

For inquiries contact:

Funlayo E. Wood (Harvard University)

Funlayo@ADRSAs.org

Lisa Osunleti Beckley-Roberts (Florida State University)

Osunleti@ADRSAs.org

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