

Understanding Race as a Global Concept: Power, Access, and Policy

Feb 5, 12-1:30 pm

Speaker Abbreviated Biographies

[in alphabetical order]

Julius E. Coles was the Director of the Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership from 2012 to 2018. He was President of Africare from 2002 to 2009. He has also served as the Director of Morehouse College's Andrew Young Center for International Affairs from 1997 – 2002 and as the Director of the Howard University's Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center from 1994 - 1997. Most of Mr. Coles' career of some twenty-eight years in the Foreign Service has been spent as a senior official with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). He received a B.A. from Morehouse College and a Master of Public Affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. In addition, he studied at the University of Geneva and was awarded a Honorary Doctorate from the University of Findlay (2012).

Dr. Dorian Brown Crosby is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a faculty-mentor and Board Member of the Social Justice Program and the inaugural and former Director of Cultural Orientation in the Gordon- Zeto Center for Global Education at Spelman College. Dr. Crosby graduated *Cum Laude* from Spelman with a B.A. in Political Science and earned her M.A. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Her research focuses on resettled African refugees in the United States' southeastern region, placing her work in multiple contexts such as American Government, International Relations, Refugee/Forced Migration Studies, Ethnic and Racial Politics, and Women's Studies. Her first book, **Somalis in the Neo-South: African Immigration Politics and Race** (2020, Peter Lang), draws upon her research with resettled Somali communities in Clarkston, Georgia, and Nashville, Tennessee. Her work on the discrimination Somalis face as they integrate has been published in journals such as *Bildhaan: An International Journal of Somali Studies*, and *Spectrum: A Journal on Black Men*.

Dr. Crosby is a member of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). As a member of the Executive Committee and Co-Chair of Communications, in 2020, she initiated and drafted IASFM's Statement On Global Racism, which is on its website. Dr. Crosby also prepared an anti-racism statement representing a group of concerned colleagues from various countries and higher education institutions in the International Studies Association-Southern Region (ISA-South). They shared the statement in their respective outlets and created a database of pedagogical resources they used to teach about global racism in the field of international relations. She served two consecutive terms on the Executive Board and was the only member from a historically black college and university (HBCU). Dr. Crosby is also a member of the American Political Science Association's (APSA) Teaching Library Editorial Advisory Board. She has also served as Chair of the Membership Committee and as a member of the Executive Council of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists for eight years.

Dr. Crosby is a scholar-activist and a student-centered professor who seeks to educate, empower and encourage her students. For her dedication to teaching and her students, she was Spelman College's 2017 recipient of the prestigious Vulcan Materials Company Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Sheryl Heron is a Professor and Vice-Chair of Faculty Equity, Engagement and Empowerment in the Department of Emergency Medicine, Associate Dean for Community Engagement, Equity and Inclusion and Associate Director of Education and Training for the Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory (IPRCE) at Emory University School of Medicine. She is a Past Chair of the Emergency Medicine Section of the National Medical Association. She has received numerous awards including the Partnership against Domestic Violence's HOPE Award, the Woman in Medicine Award from the Council of Concerned Women of the National Medical Association, the Gender Justice Award from the Commission on Family Violence and was named a Hero of Emergency Medicine by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). She was named the inaugural President of the Academy for Diversity & Inclusion in Emergency Medicine (ADIEM) of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine and is an editor of two textbooks in Emergency Medicine on Diversity and Inclusion in Quality Patient. Dr. Heron has lectured extensively on Wellness & Well-Being in medicine, Diversity, Equity & inclusion in Medicine as well as the medical response to Intimate Partner Violence.

Dr. Pushpa Parekh, Professor of English and Director of African Diaspora and the World, at Spelman College, is a scholar and poet. She is the recipient of Spelman College Presidential award for Scholarship, Teaching and Distinguished Service. She is also recipient of the 2019 Gerard Manley Hopkins award, an annual recognition by the International Hopkins Society, Ireland. She has published four scholarly works: (1) editor of the Journal Special Issue, "Frontiers and Frameworks in African Diaspora Teaching and Scholarship," in *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies*, Spring 2020 (8.1); (2) editor of *Intersecting Gender and Disability Perspectives in Rethinking Postcolonial Identities*. Philadelphia, PA: Xlibris, 2008; (3) co-editor of *Postcolonial African Writers: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1998; and (4) author of *Response to Failure: Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, Francis Thompson, Lionel Johnson, and Dylan Thomas*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 1998. Dr. Parekh has published scholarly and creative works in various journals and collections. Her poem, "Peace," received the West Coast Tagore Festival prize at the International contest held by Vancouver Tagore Society, in summer 2016.

Dr. Jennie Ward-Robinson is a transformational leader known for engaging diverse interests and stakeholders to produce systemic solutions to global health challenges. She has more than 20 years of executive leadership within academic, nonprofit and for-profit communities. Currently, she serves as a Senior Advisor to the Dean of College and Arts and Sciences at Georgia State University, as strategic advisor to the Global Health Institute at the University of Massachusetts- Amherst, is a member of the Board of Directors at the Smithsonian Science Education Center, the Dean's Council at Emory Rollins School of Public Health, and the Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance.

She served as the President & CEO for Uniting for Health Innovation - formerly PAHO Foundation; founded the Institute for Public Health and Water Research, a private-public initiative, and served as Director, Medical and Scientific Affairs-Alzheimer's Association. Dr. Ward-Robinson also served as an Associate Professor at Texas A&M Health Science Center, and as Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois School of Public Health, Chicago.

A Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, she's led initiatives nationally and internationally and served on various Boards, including the US EPA National Drinking Water Council, the Academies of Medicine Roundtable on Science, Technology, Community, and Health. Dr. Ward-Robinson holds a doctorate in Philosophy with a special focus on Industrial Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Recognized for innovative public-private partnership development, coalition building, transparency in leadership, successful goal attainment and effective Board governance, Dr. Ward-Robinson's expertise includes: Strategic planning and development, innovative operations implementation, brand positioning, fund development and delivering mission-linked outcomes. Jennie is an internationally recognized global health leader known for targeting impoverished communities to improve health outcomes and lot foster related government policies for sustainable impact.

Dr. Elizabeth J. West. Professor of English and Co-Director of The Center for Studies on Africa and Its Diaspora at Georgia State University, Elizabeth J. West focuses on spirituality and gender in early to contemporary African Diaspora Literatures of the Americas. Her current book project, *Francis: A Narrative of Enslavement, Forced Migration, and the "Single Black Mother,"* explores through biography the impact of enslavement and forced migration on black family and kinship formations in the U.S. South. She is author of *African Spirituality in Black Women's Fiction* (2011), and the coedited anthology, *Literary Expressions of African Spirituality* (2013). She has published widely in critical anthologies and journals such as *MELUS*, *JTAS*, *Amerikastudien*, *CLAJ*, *PALARA*, *Religions*, *Womanist*, *Black Magnolias*, *South Atlantic Review*, and *South Central Review*. Among her edited and co-edited projects is the co-edited section, "Religion and Spirituality," in the *Routledge Reader of African American Rhetoric* (2018). She is a former AAUW Fellow, a DAAD (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany) Fellow, and scholar in residence at Dartmouth College in the Department of AAAS. She is former Executive Director of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, and currently serves as Treasurer of the College Language Association, member on the Advisory Board of The Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies (Johannes Gutenberg University), and member of The University of Mississippi Medical Center's Asylum Hill Research Consortium.