THE 12TH ANNUAL
WALTER RODNEY
SYMPOSIUM

HUNGRY NATION, HUNGRY WORLD:
Engendering Healthy Sustainable Food Systems

MARCH 20TH & 21ST

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER ROBERT W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY
111 James P. Brawley Dr. SW, Atlanta 30314

“ABLE” MABLE THOMAS
GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

K. RASHID NURI
TRULY LIVING WELL CENTER

FAHEEM KHAN
CARE USA

MAURICE CARNEY
FRIENDS OF THE CONGO

ANDREW A. LEE
FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

GROUNDINGS SESSION

NGUGI WA THIONG’O
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

FATMA ALLOO
TANZANIA MEDIA WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

Jesus CHUCHO GARCIA
CONSUL GENERAL, VENEZUELA

KWASI DENSU
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

BARBARA EMERSON
HOSEA FEED THE HUNGRY

MENGUE MOLI
DIPLOMAT-HISTORIAN, CAMEROON

FIROZE MANJI
THOUGHTWORKS

MENCER “DON” EDWARDS
JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY ASSOCIATES

LIZA GUERRA GARCIA
INDIGENOUS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

SAVONALA “SAVI” HORNE
LAND LOSS PREVENTION PROJECT

LINDA JOHNSON
FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

PANEL PRESENTATIONS
Walter Anthony Rodney was born in Georgetown, Guyana on March 23, 1942. He attended Queen’s College, the top male high school in Guyana. In 1960, Rodney graduated first in his class, winning an open scholarship to the University of the West Indies (UWI). Rodney pursued his undergraduate studies in History at UWI Mona in Jamaica, where he graduated with 1st class honors in History in 1963. Rodney then attended the University of London (SOAS) where he received his PhD with honors in African History in 1966, at the age of 24.

Rodney’s doctoral thesis, *A History of the Upper Guinea Coast, 1545–1800* established him as one of the leading authorities on the transatlantic slave trade from Africa to the Americas. His best-known work, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, is the first major historical study of African development, in which Rodney challenged the prevailing assumptions about African history and put forth his own ideas and models for analyzing the history of oppressed peoples. In *The History of the Guyanese Working People*, Rodney penned the first authoritative, systematic historical study of the working class in the Caribbean and racial division in Guyana. Rodney received numerous awards, scholarships and honors and is described as having a rare gift of intellect by renowned Barbadian writer George Lamming.

In 1966, Rodney migrated to Tanzania, East Africa, where he lectured at the University of Dar-es-Salaam for two years. In early 1968, he returned to UWI Mona as a lecturer and while there, engaged with the Rastafarian community in teaching and learning about Black Power and about African History, art, tradition and culture. After attending the Black Writers’ Conference in Montreal, Canada, Rodney was declared persona non grata and prohibited from re-entering the country in October 1968. After spending another six years in Tanzania, serving as a senior lecturer at the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Rodney accepted the position as Chair of the History Department at the University of Guyana; later rescinded by the Guyana government. Rodney remained in Guyana, to engage with people to break the barriers of race and class and unite around issues affecting the working class. By 1980, Rodney had become a leading critic of the dictatorial regime. His political activism culminated in his assassination on 13 June 1980, when he was 38 years old.

Rodney’s writings show how deeply he was committed to the liberation of Africa, including his discourse on the history of agriculture and sustainability and reliability of its food systems. In *The Groundings with My Brothers*, there is an entire chapter dedicated to African History and Culture, within which Rodney discusses the rich history of Africa, including advanced methods of agriculture, metalworks, and the development of religion, politics, education, literature and art. Rodney wrote about the advanced methods of agriculture that developed in Africa many hundreds of years before Europeans made contact with the continent, and that agriculture meant food to support a growing population, a foundational part of the building of a stable society. In *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Rodney stressed that Africans have shown the means to live a more satisfactory life by learning how to exploit natural resources. Rodney studied the evolution of food gathering and sustainable food sources and explained how important these systems were for contemporary African societies to flourish. While many had explored the conquest and degradation of Africa by the Europeans, Rodney was the first to focus on the economic structures imposed by Europe that arrested the development of the continent.

Rodney sought to bring awareness and historical understanding of issues that impact the legacy of race, class, slavery, colonialism, neo-colonialism, capitalism, socialism and imperialism, Third World dependency and underdevelopment. His work provides a framework for the analysis of contemporary issues, as they relate to working class people, the disenfranchised, and for the struggles for social justice and economic development. By the time of his death, Rodney had authored nine books and over fifty articles, chapters and book reviews. He is recognized as one of the Caribbean’s most brilliant minds. This year marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of his assassination. His death is currently being investigated in Guyana by an International Commission of Inquiry. Walter Rodney was married to Patricia Rodney. Together they had three children, Shaka, Kanini and Asha. They have three grandchildren, Asia, Kai and Skye.
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015
Master of Ceremony: Dr. Joseph Whittaker
CFO, The Walter Rodney Foundation

2:00 p.m. THE OCCASION AND WELCOME
Andrea Jackson, Head, Archives Research Center, Atlanta University Center
Robert W. Woodruff Library
Asha T. Rodney, JD, Esq., The Walter Rodney Foundation
Dr. Kanini Rodney-Phillips, The Rodney Family
Dr. James Hefner, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Clark Atlanta University
Dr. Govind Kannan, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Family Sciences, and Technology, Fort Valley State University (FVSU)
Dr. Sam Livingston, Chair, Department of African American Studies, Morehouse College
Dr. Jesse Benjamin, Coordinator, African & African Diaspora Studies, Kennesaw State University and Director, Global South Research Consortium

2:20 p.m. GREETINGS AND PROCLAMATION
“Able” Mable Thomas, Georgia House of Representatives, D-Atlanta (District 56)

2:30 p.m. “Framing Hunger and Food Security: A Global Perspective”
Dr. Babacar M’Bow, Director, Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami (MOCA-NOMI) and Chair, WRF Advisory Council

2:45 p.m. “The Implications of Food Insecurity on the Current State of Poverty: A Framework for Analysis”
Diarra Allen, PhD Program, Political Science, Clark Atlanta University
Marla Hollis, Master of Political Science Program (2nd year), Clark Atlanta University

3:05 p.m. “A Millennium to End Hunger: The Time is Now” - Public Service Announcement
Olivia Foster, Taylor Head, and Christopher Kelley, Humanities Students, FVSU

3:15 p.m. “From Land Use and Climate Justice Struggles to Engagement of Contemporary Food and Environmental Justice Issues”
Moderator: Dr. Noble Maseru, Health Commissioner for the City of Cincinnati Health Department, and Chair, Program Committee, WRF
“My Photographs Bear Witness: Visual Arguments for the Eradication of World Hunger”
Dr. Andrew Ann Dinkins Lee, Director, Undergraduate Research, FVSU
“In Praise of Chiwarra: Ecological Rationality & African Pre-Industrial SocioEconomic Formations”
Dr. Kwasi Densu, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Florida A&M University
“Climate Resilience in Environmental Justice Communities: A Call for Land Justice to Ensure Food Security”
Liza Guerra Garcia, JD, Esq.
“An Agenda for Change: Sustainable Food Systems and Food Policy”
Dr. Linda D. Johnson, Associate Professor, Food and Nutrition, Department of Family and Consumer Science, FVSU

4:15 p.m. CULTURAL PRESENTATION
Meryem Saci, Algerian Hip Hop Artist
4:20 p.m.  “How Do I Feed My Children........?”
   Introduction by Marla Hollis
   Faheem Khan, Head of Food and Nutrition Security, CARE USA

4:50 p.m.  DISTINGUISHED ADDRESS
   Translation and Facilitation by Jose Perez, Radio Informacion, 1310 AM
   Jesus “Chucho” Garcia, Consul General, Consulate General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in New Orleans

5:20 p.m.  BREAK

5:30 p.m.  DISTINGUISHED ADDRESS
   Introduction and Facilitation by Marie-Dominique Ahébée, Senior, International Affairs, KSU
   “The National Policy of Fighting Against Hunger and Poverty in Cameroon: Facing the Challenge of International Terrorism”
   Jacques Bertrand Mengue Moli, Diplomat Historian, Foreign Affairs Officer, Department of American and Caribbean Affairs, Ministry of External Relations, Cameroon

5:55 p.m.  DISTINGUISHED ADDRESS
   Introduction by Dr. Patricia Rodney, CEO and Chair, WRF and Walter Rodney Press
   “Hungry Nations in a Wealthy World: The Paradox of Equity in Development”
   Fatma Alloo, Founder, Tanzania Media Women’s Association

6:30 p.m.  CULTURAL PRESENTATION
   Akala, Jamaican/UK Hip Hop Artist

6:35 p.m.  KEYNOTE ADDRESS
   Introduction by Dr. Jesse Benjamin
   “Not Hungry, But Starved by Capital”
   Dr. Firoze Manji, Director, Pan-Africanism Institute, ThoughtWorks

7:30 p.m.  CLOSING REMARKS
   Dr. Keith Jennings, Regional Director, National Democratic Institute and Member, WRF Advisory Board

PROGRAM SCHEDULE
DAY TWO

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015
   Master of Ceremony: Dr. Kurt B. Young
   Board Member, The Walter Rodney Foundation

12:30 p.m.  THE OCCASION AND WELCOME
   Elizabeth McClennen, Deputy Director, Atlanta University Center
   Robert W. Woodruff Library
   Dr. Kanini Rodney-Phillips, The Walter Rodney Foundation and The Rodney Family
   Dr. Kurt B. Young, Chair, Department of Political Science, Clark Atlanta University
   Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Director, Women’s Research and Resource Center, Spelman College
   Dr. Jesse Benjamin, Coordinator, African & African Diaspora Studies, Kennesaw State University and Director, Global South Research Consortium
12:50 p.m. **DISTINGUISHED ADDRESS**
*Introduction by Cindy Peters, Doctoral Candidate, Political Science Department, Clark Atlanta University*

**K. Rashid Nuri**, Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture

1:35 p.m. **“Expert Opinions: Organizational Observations and Engagements”**
*Moderated by Mencer Donahue “Don” Edwards, CEO, Justice and Sustainability Associates*

**Maurice Carney**, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Friends of the Congo

**Dr. Barbara Williams Emerson**, President, Emerson Educational Consultants

**Savonala “Savi” Horne**, JD, Esq., Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Black Laywers, Land Loss Prevention Project

2:35 p.m. **CULTURAL PRESENTATION**

2:40 p.m. **BREAK**

2:45 p.m. **“Research on Decolonizing Food, Farming and Family”** - Student Panel
*Moderated by Dr. Seneca Vaught, Assistant Professor of History and Interdisciplinary Studies, KSU*

- “PowerPoint Presentations: Case Studies on Hunger and its Causes”
  - **Ariel Greenaway, Georgia Northcutt, Shawn Smith** and **Bethlehem Tsegay**, Students in the 3rd Annual Walter Rodney Speakers Series Class

- “Getting Back to Our Roots: Understanding the Importance of Sustainable Community Food Systems Through a Revolutionary Framework”
  - **Tony Maxwell Foster**, African and African Diaspora Studies, KSU

- “Mass Incarceration and the Underdevelopment of African American Women and Their Families”
  - **Jalessah Jackson**, African and African Diaspora Studies, KSU

- “Decolonizing Our Food System: Analyzing Alternative Food Networks and Food Policy in Atlanta”
  - **Matthew Simmons**, MA Student, Georgia State University

- “The Role of Medicinal Plants and Multipurpose Trees in the Health Care and Rural Economy”
  - **Brajesh N. Vaidya**, College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology, FVSU

3:50 p.m. **BREAK**

4:00 p.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
*Introduction by Njoki wa Ngugi, Senior, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, KSU*

**Ngugi wa Thiong’o**, Distinguished Professor, University of California, Irvine

4:50 p.m. **GROUNDINGS** - Community Engagement and Discussion

**BREAKOUT SESSION ONE**
*Moderator: Mencer “Don” Edwards*

**Community Solutions**

**BREAKOUT SESSION TWO**
*Moderators: Tony Maxwell Foster and Tiffany Smith*

**Technology and Activism**

5:20 p.m. **GROUNDINGS REPORTS**

5:30 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Asha T. Rodney**
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

FIROZE MANJI

Firoze Manji, a Kenyan with more than 40 years experience in international development, health and human rights, is the Director of the Pan-Africanism Institute for ThoughtWorks. He joined ThoughtWorks in April 2014. He was formerly the Head of the Documentation, Information and Communications Centre of the Pan-African institution, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (www.codesria.org), based in Dakar, Senegal.

He is the founder and former editor-in-chief of the prize-winning Pan-African social justice newsletter and website Pambazuka News. He is also the founder and former commissioning editor of Pambazuka Press / Fahamu Books, and the founder and former executive director of Fahamu – Networks for Social Justice, a Pan-African organisation with bases in Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and the UK.

He has previously worked as Africa Programme Director for Amnesty International; Chief Executive of the Aga Khan Foundation (UK), and Regional Representative for Health Sciences in Eastern and Southern Africa for the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

He has published widely on health, social policy, human rights, political sciences, and Pan-Africanism and has authored and edited a wide range of books on social justice in Africa, including on women’s rights, trade justice, on China’s role in Africa and on the recent uprisings in Africa. He is co-editor, with Sokari Ekine, of African Awakenings: The Emerging Revolutions; co-editor with Bill Fletcher Jr. of Claim No Easy Victories: The Legacy of Amilcar Cabral, and project managed the publication of Silence Would Be Treason: Last Writings of Ken Saro-Wiwa.

He holds a Ph.D and MSc from the University of London, and BDS from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

NGŪGĪ WA THIONG’O

Ngūgī wa Thiong’o is a Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine. He is a recipient of nine Honorary Doctorates, is a Fellow of the MLA and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Ngūgī, formerly Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Languages and Professor of Comparative Literature and Performance Studies, New York University, is a novelist, essayist, playwright, journalist, editor, academic and social activist from Kenya.

The Kenya of his birth and youth was a British settler colony (1895-1963). As an adolescent, he lived through the Mau Mau War of Independence (1952-1962), the central historical episode in the making of modern Kenya and a major theme in his early works.

The year 1977 forced dramatic turns in Ngugi’s life and career. Petals of Blood painted a harsh and unsparring picture of life in neo-colonial Kenya. That same year Ngugi’s controversial play, Ngaahika Ndeenda (I Will Marry When I Want), written with Ngugi wa Mirii, was performed at Kamirithu Educational and Cultural Center, Limuru, in an open air theatre. Sharply critical of the inequalities and injustices of Kenyan society, Ngugi was arrested and imprisoned without charge at Kamiti Maximum Security Prison. An account of those experiences can be found in his memoir, Detained: A Writer’s Prison Diary. After Amnesty International named him a Prisoner of Conscience, an international campaign secured his release a year later, in December 1978. He resumed his writings and his activities in the theater and in so doing, continued to be an uncomfortable voice for the Moi dictatorship. While in Britain for the launch and promotion of Devil on the Cross, he learned about the Moi regime’s plot to eliminate him on his return. This forced him into exile, first in Britain (1982 – 1989) and then the U. S. (1989 – 2002). He remained in exile for the duration of the Moi dictatorship. He is widely acclaimed as one of the leading writers and thinkers from the African continent, and a perennial finalist for the Nobel Prize in Literature.
The Walter Rodney Foundation seeks to improve lives and build capacity through scholarship and programs, which promote education, health and human development from a social justice perspective. Our mission is to promote the legacy of Walter Rodney by building awareness of his contributions to academic excellence and social justice; and to recognize and encourage others who embrace these same values in their work. The Rodney Family and the Foundation are committed to sharing the life and works of Walter Rodney with students, scholars, researchers, activists, and communities around the world. The Foundation was formed by the Rodney Family in 2006 following the donation of the Walter Rodney Papers to the AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library Archives Research Center.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- Patricia Rodney - Chair
- Adisa Douglas - Vice Chair
- Karen Jefferson - Secretary
- Joseph Whittaker - Treasurer
- Jesse Benjamin
- Noble Masrur
- Asha T. Rodney
- Kanini Rodney-Phillips
- Kurt B. Young

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

- Babacar M’Bow - Chair
- Colin Hilaire Cholmondeley
- Kwaku Danso-Boafo
- David Dabydeen
- Howard Dodson, Jr.
- Jesus “Chucho” Garcia
- Budd Hall
- Keith Jennings
- George Lamming
- Zakia Hamdani Meghji
- Gail Reed
- Donald Rodney
- Kathy R. Scott
- Ewart A.C. Thomas

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- Gillian Barclay
- Sheg Lawal
- Nicole George
- Aajay Murphy
- Hashim Gibrill
- Julian Pouncy

**WALTER RODNEY PRESS**

The Walter Rodney Press, LLC was established in February 2014 to ensure the legacy of Walter Rodney and to share his life and works with future generations of students, scholars, researchers, activists and communities globally. Walter Rodney Press is a non-traditional press - its function is to exclusively publish and republish works by Dr. Walter Rodney. This is accomplished through collaborations, partnerships or relationships with traditional presses, literary agents and publishing houses.

**The Groundings with My Brothers**

_The Groundings with My Brothers_ is a collection of the major speeches given by Rodney in Jamaica in 1968. Originally published in 1969, this groundbreaking work by Dr. Walter Rodney remains germane today, 45 years after its original publication. It offers compelling insights into many issues which continue to plague the Caribbean and the African Diaspora. It is telling that some of the conditions that existed then continue to be pervasive today.

The Introduction is by Dr. Patricia Rodney and the Afterword by Dr. Verene A. Shepherd. The previous introductions by Richard Small and Omowale were retained in this version. The cover design is by E. Bruce Phillips, Jr. This 2014 republication of _The Groundings with my Brothers_ is the first publication by the Walter Rodney Press.
The First Rodney Symposium was held in 2004 to celebrate the donation of Walter Rodney’s personal papers by the Rodney Family to the AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library.

Past keynote speakers include: Andaiye (Women’s Rights and Human Rights Activist); the late Dr. Amiri Baraka (Activist and Playwright); Mr. Salih Booker (Africa Action); Dr. Thomas D. Boston (Georgia Institute of Technology); Dr. Horace Campbell (Syracuse University); Dr. Carole Boyce Davies (Cornell University); Dr. Howard Dodson (Moorland-Spingarn Research Center and Howard University Libraries); Jesus “Chucho” Garcia (Afroamerica Foundation); Dr. Paula Giddings (Author and Historian); Rigoberto Giron (CARE USA); and Dr. Lewis R. Gordon (Temple University). Noted diplomats at the 10th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium: The Right Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves, UN Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Bassey Ewa Henshaw, Former Senator, Nigeria. The Keynote address for the 11th Annual Symposium was delivered by Dr. Shelby F. Lewis (The Lewis Foundation) and the Distinguished Guest Speaker was Dr. Robert “Bobby” Hill (University of California, Los Angeles). The highest ranking diplomat at the 11th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium was Her Excellency, Ambassador Tebelelo Mzile Seretse, Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the United States.

To Schedule an appointment to research the Walter Rodney Papers, contact the AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library Archives Research Center at 404-978-2052 or archives@auctr.edu.

Visit www.auctr.edu to learn more about the library.