In his classic essay, “The Field and Function of the (Black) College,” which was delivered at the Historically Black College/University of Fisk in 1933, the eminent scholar activist W. E. B. DuBois, raises issues of enduring value to our understanding and advancing the discipline of Africana Studies. The essay speaks to the challenges of both grounding and growth, and of persistent self-questioning and questioning of society and the world. And it supports an activist scholarship that engages the world with the confident understanding and appreciation of African people and culture as a unique and equally valid and valuable vantage point for studying interpreting and transforming the world in progressive and promising ways.

Among the topics, themes and questions, which DuBois’ essay and the continuous development and advancement of Black/Africana Studies suggest, are:

- How do we define and engage in Africana Studies in ways that hold its center, its core intellectual goals and concerns and yet ensure it maintains its open-textured character as it continuously expands to include new and diverse interests, ideas and initiatives in the most productive and promising ways?
- How do we identify, develop and engage the questions of theories, methodologies and paradigms which define, determine and direct our research, teaching and resistance?
- With what standards of cultural grounding, intellectual rigor and social usefulness can we offer the world a unique critical lens through which to preserve, interpret and transform the world in the various fields of our discipline and through our discipline as a whole?
- What are some of the most useful and fruitful ways to practice a critical sankofa which DuBois suggests, reaching back and retrieving models of human excellence and achievement for further research, creativity and transformative practice?
- How does Africana Studies negotiate its cultural particularity in the common ground spaces of multiculturalism and universalistic claims? And how do issues of intersectionality in scholarship, alliance and activism unfold and play out in concrete practice, exchanges and outcomes without our positions and interests being collapsed into others, erased or marginalized into irrelevance?
- How do we define the Black intellectual tradition and locate Africana Studies in the midst of it in clear and compelling ways in theory, methodology and practice as an emancipatory and insurgent discipline, committed to the unfinished struggle as
Frantz Fanon argued, not only to decolonize society, but also the minds and persons of the people?

- What specific concepts, generative ideas, fields and foci of study, pedagogy and proposals for service learning, social service, action and struggle in the humanities, social sciences and other broad curricular areas?
- Given Africana Studies’ world-encompassing concerns and reach through its pan-African and other people of color and international linkages, how does Africana Studies deal distinctively with issues of global impact and importance, i.e., immigration; environmental care; peace, war and occupation; and development strategies and interventions—neo-liberal European American, Asian, etc.?
- What fields in Africana Studies exist or promise to evolve which seek to frame and understand the future in terms of imagination, technology, knowledge and especially the quality and trajectory of human relations?

Within this overarching framework, possible paper topics and focuses might include, but are not limited to:

- Activism - old and new
- Afrocentricity – theory and practice
- Afrofuturism
- Afro pessimism
- African-centered Womanism
- Agency Reduction Formation Theory
- Black Feminism
- Black Sexuality Studies
- Neo-colonialism and decolonization
- Capitalism and racial capitalism
- Carceral studies and mass incarceration
- Curriculum Development
- Decolonization: political cultural and psychological
- Diaspora Studies
- Environmental Studies
- Ethical thought – ancient and modern
- Gender & Sexuality
- Histories of the field
- Identify and difference
- Intersectionality
- Legal Studies
- Literature Studies
- Memory and Memorization
- Pedagogical Practice
- Pan-African Studies
- Police Violence and Resistance
- Racism
- Racial Capitalism
- Race, Class and Gender
- Reparations and Reparations Theory
- Service Learning and Social Activism
- Socialism
- Social Justice
- White Supremacy and empire

The deadline to submit is Friday, January 17th, 2020.
First consideration and expedited responses to abstracts given to NCBS members, so you are encouraged to activate a membership, [click here](#). You must be a registered attendee of the conference in order to present. [Click here](#) to register for the conference.

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**Participant Definitions**

**Individual Paper Abstracts:**
An individual paper submission is a single-present format reserved for non-academics, students (both undergraduate and graduate), professionals, and professors. Please include the following information to complete your submission:

- Paper abstract (no more than 250 words);
- Paper title;
- Name, Address, Phone, Email are required.
- Name will appear in conference program just as entered into All Academic system. **Please no all caps, no all small letters when entering into system.**
- Institution/Affiliation and designation (i.e. undergraduate, graduate, director, chair, professor, etc.)

**Panel Sessions:**
A full panel submission is a multiple-presenter format that consists of session chair, three to four (3-4) individually titled papers thematically connected. A full panel of three (3) individual papers can include a discussant. Discussant comments should be limited to ten minutes (10). Three paper panels should afford twenty minutes (20) per presenter; four paper panels should afford fifteen minutes (15) per presenter. Please include the following information to complete your submission:

- Panel Abstract (1-2 pages)
- Panel Title;
- Name, affiliation, and email for session chair;
- Name, affiliation, email, and paper title for each presenter;
- Name, affiliation, and email for each discussant
- Names will appear in conference program just as entered into All Academic system. **Please no all caps, no all small letters when entering into system.**
- Name of Primary Contact
Roundtable Discussion:
A roundtable submission is a multiple-presenter format that consists of session moderator/chair that directs the discussion and four to six (4-6) designated speakers addressing a single theme. The moderator is expected to develop questions in conjunction with roundtable participant to drive the discussion, but roundtable participants are not expected to present prepared papers or comments; brief introductory remarks of no more than five (5) minutes from designated speakers are encouraged. This session type is ideal for more free-flowing, unstructured discussions. “State of the Field” or “Future Research Directions” are examples of the kind of topics that are suitable for this type of session. Please include the following information to complete your submission:

- Roundtable Abstract (1-2 pages)
- Roundtable Title;
- Roundtable abstract that clearly outlines the thematic or subject contours to be discussed;
- Name, affiliation, and email of moderator/chair;
- Name, affiliation, and email for each designated speakers;
- Names will appear in conference program just as entered into All Academic system. Please no all caps, no all small letters when entering into system.
- Name of Primary Contact

Media Session:
A media session can consist of either: a) an individual discussion of an independently produced film, or b) a panel where a moderated or group discussion of an independently produced film is conducted following the screening (with a maximum of 5 designated discussants -including the film producer).

- Media Abstract (no more than 250 words);
- MediaTitle;
- Name, affiliation, and email of moderator/chair;
- Name, affiliation, and email for each group member;
- Names will appear in conference program just as entered into All Academic system. Please no all caps, no all small letters when entering into system.
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