

October 25th Panelist- Across Africa Diaspora

Dr. Andrea White

The Rev. Dr. Andrea C. White is Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. She has served as Executive Director of the Society for the Study of Black Religion and chair of the Black Theology Unit for the American Academy of Religion. Her research specializes in womanist theology and critical theory, philosophy of religion and phenomenology.

Her forthcoming volume is *The Scandal of Flesh: Black Women's Bodies, God, and Politics*. She is also the author of *The Back of God: A Theology of Otherness in Karl Barth and Paul Ricoeur*, and editor of several future volumes including, *Political Theology on Edge* with Catherine Keller and Clayton Crocket, and *The State of Black Theology*.

She serves on the editorial boards for the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, the Wabash Center *Journal on Teaching*, the *Black Theology Papers Project*, and she is editor of the web forum *Love, Struggle Resist*, a critical, social and political forum for the progressive multi-religious community.

Dr. White is a recipient of both the Lilly Theological Research Faculty Fellowship from The Association of Theological Schools and The Louisville Institute Book Grant for Minority Scholars.

She has delivered lectures in Brazil, Denmark, India, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and across the United States. She sits on the advisory boards for the Karl Barth Society of North America and *Logia* at the Logos Institute for Analytic and Exegetical Theology at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. She has served as a member of the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession and with the Theology and Religious Reflection steering committee for the American Academy of Religion. She also serves on the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations and is a founding member of The Carter Center's Scholars in Action created to address gender violence against women and girls.

Dr. White is a recipient of Emory University's 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award.

Prior to her appointment at Union, she served on the faculty at Emory University's Candler School of Theology and Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She holds a Ph.D. in theology from The University of Chicago Divinity School, a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School with a concentration in philosophy of religion, and a Bachelor of Arts from Oberlin College with honors in philosophy. She is also an ordained American Baptist minister and served as a church pastor, hospice chaplain, and chaplain for children and adults with developmental disabilities.



Maricel Mena Lopez

Colombian, Feminist Theology, Post doctorate in Feminist Hermeneutics, fellow of the Foundation for Research Support of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Doctor and Master of Science in Religion, in the areas of Hebrew and Greek Bible from the Methodist University of Sao Paulo, fellow of the Foundation for Research Support of the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Graduate in Religious Sciences from the Universidad Javeriana Bogotá, Colombia. Professor of Bible at the Universidad Santo Tomas. She was coordinator for Latin America of the gender program of the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT). Member of the managing team of the Latin American Biblical Interpretation magazine. Senior Researcher and director of the Gustavo Gutiérrez research group: Latin American theology category (A) by the Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (Colciencias). His field of research refers fundamentally to the study of the Afro-Asian world (Egypt-Ethiopia) in the Bible in its intersectionality with contemporary studies of gender, class and ethnicity. Her main research topics: deities and female leaderships in the Egyptian, Ethiopian and Israelite religious traditions.



Mojúbàolú Olufúnké Okome

Mojúbàolú Olufúnké Okome is an International Political Economist whose regional specialization is on the African continent. Educated at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, Long Island University, New York, and Columbia University, New York, she's a Professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College, CUNY; past Women's Studies Program Director and past Deputy Chair for Graduate Studies in the Department of Political Science at Brooklyn College.

Born in Nigeria, Mojúbàolú has worked on international development issues as a consultant for clients including the United Nations and Commonwealth Secretariat in London. Her teaching interests include a focus on the meanings of inclusive, equitable citizenship in the context of the interplay between globalization, democratization and economic development. Her research interests include: Youth Empowerment, Gender, Democracy and Citizenship in Africa; Governance, Development and Democracy in Africa; Effects of Globalization, Oost-Colonialism, and Modernity on Economic and Political Transformation; and African Diaspora Studies.

Her most recent publications are: two edited books published in 2013 by Palgrave-Macmillan: *State Fragility, State Formation, and Human Security in Nigeria*; and *Contesting the Nigerian State: Civil Society and the Contradictions of Self-Organization*; and one book co-edited with Afia Serwaa Zakiya published by Book builders, Ibadan, Nigeria: *Women's Political and Legislative Participation in Nigeria: Perspectives From the 2007 Elections*. Previously, she co-edited two books with Olufemi Vaughan (January 2012) *West African Migrations: Transnational and Global Pathways in a New Century*. NY: Palgrave Macmillan, and also with Olufemi Vaughan (January 2012) *Transnational Africa and Globalization*. NY: Palgrave Macmillan. She founded #BringBackOurGirlsNYC and is founder and editor of *Ìrìnkèrindò: a Journal of African Migration*.

Dr. Afia Zakiya

is a Political Scientist, Ecologist and Africana Studies Scholar-Activist. She is currently a Fulbright Specialist Scholar. She was recently a Sr. Fellow, Water-Congressional Black Caucus Foundation; Country Director, WaterAid Ghana; Sr. Program Manager, NDI; IWID Fellow USAID Africa Bureau Gender Advisor. She has worked and/or taught in 22 African Countries. As

Assistant Professor, Africana Studies she created the first Women in Africa and the African Diaspora course, Morris Brown College. She is Vice-President of the African Heritage Studies Association, member of the International Career Advancement Program, an International Board member, Pan African World Heritage Museum and founding member Africa Studies Association of Africa.



Dr. Wangui Wa Goro,

is a researcher, translator, social critic and translator based in the United Kingdom. She is a newly appointed professor at the University College, London. She is from Kenya.

