



SYMPOSIUM:
Scholars' Voices Series

*African American Culture and History
at
Prairie View A&M University*

featuring

W. GABRIEL SELASSIE I, '88

Ralph Bunche Associate Professor
for History and African American Studies
Los Angeles City College

*February 21, 2019
4:00 p.m.*

Don K. Clark Building Auditorium

Symposium Context



The African American Studies Program initiative at Prairie View A&M University focuses on providing an interdisciplinary study of the experiences of the people of African descent in America and abroad. Scholarly activities provide students, faculty and the PVAMU community with a fundamental understanding of the social, economic, cultural and historical issues framing the contributions of African American communities in America. These activities expand the knowledge of the full PVAMU community about the innumerable significant achievements made by descendants of Africa in literature, technology, social and natural sciences as well as art and music, enhancing the focus on humanities at an 1890's Land Grant University. The Scholars' Voices Series promotes intellectual awareness and sensitivity to the dynamic experiences of the descendants of Africa in America and abroad.

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Presiding

Melanye Price, '95

Endowed Professor, Political Science
Prairie View A&M University

Welcome and Symposium Context

Melanye Price

Introduction of W. Gabriel Selassie I

Ronald Goodwin

Associate Professor of History
Prairie View A&M University

Lecture

W. Gabriel Selassie I, '88

Ralph Bunche Associate Professor
for History and African American Studies
Los Angeles City College

Discussion

Moderator

Melanye Price

Closing Remarks

James A. Wilson, Jr.

Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
Prairie View A&M University

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W. Gabriel Selassie I, '88

Ralph Bunche Associate Professor
of U.S. History and African American Studies,
Los Angeles City College

Dr. W. Gabriel Selassie I is the Ralph Bunche Associate Professor of History and Religion at Los Angeles City College. He holds a Ph.D. and Master's in History from Claremont Graduate University; a Master's in African American Studies at University of California at Los Angeles; a Master's in Public History and Historic Preservation from California State University at Dominguez Hills; a Master's in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, and a Bachelor of Architecture from Prairie View A&M University. He also holds a certificate in Democracy in Africa from the University of Oxford, St. Antony's College.

A scholar of American history, African American and African Diasporic Intellectual History and Culture, Professor Selassie I's research and writing spans intellectual, social and culture history, religion, third world protest movements, and popular culture (music and sports). His popular blog "Niyabinghi Blues: Sorrow Songs of a Rastafari" features thoughtful articles on race, culture and history.

Professor Selassie I specializes in the intersection of Marcus Garvey (Garveyism), religion and race. His work particularly focuses on the ways in which the black community seeks avenues of cultural, religious and social expression. His book, *An Introduction and Analysis of The Holy Piby* by Shepherd Robert Athlyi Rogers (1924), is the first of its kind to explore the religious and cultural context of one of the premier Rastafari biblical texts. He has written extensively on the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL), Negro Ritual and Negro Catechism and its inter-play with the genealogy of Western thought. His work also looks at transcultural and transnational outcomes of race and racism, particularly white supremacy.



Notes

"Major changes become possible if you work in a participatory manner, listen to local people, diagnose what the problems are, provide training and identify where there are opportunities for mobilizing local resources to take action."

Ruth J. Simmons

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"Nothing will resolve the tension that exists both within and outside of Black America. What is needed is a turn toward new objectives, new directions in Black thought and Black life."

W. Gabriel Selassie I

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