

Program Schedule

Day 1

April 2, 2025

9.00am-9.15am Welcome and Opening Remarks: Janie Cole (University of Connecticut, USA)

9.15am-10.45am **Panel I:** Mobilities: Indian Ocean World Slavery
Chair: Steven Kaplan (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)

- **Stephanie Hassell** (Clemson University, USA), "African Experiences of Slavery in Portuguese India, 16th -18th Centuries"
- **Mark Aranha** (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa): "Contextualising Gabriel in the Politics of the Deccan"
- Respondent: **Steven Kaplan** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel): "Situating Early Modern Falasha Communities in the Wider Context of Ethiopian Culture and Slavery"

15-minute break

11.00am-12.30pm **Panel II:** Identities: Indian Ocean Slave Narratives and the Case of 'Gabriel Abexim'
Chair: Kay Kaufman Shelemay (Harvard University, USA)

- **Mark Aranha** (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa), **Bronwen Clacherty** (University of Cape Town, South Africa), **Tesfa Yayeh Hussen** (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia), **Grasella Luigi** (Ethiopian National Theatre, Ethiopia), and **Cara Stacey** (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa): "The Music of *Gabriel's Odyssey*: Reflecting on Collective Compositional Praxis"
- **Kristy Stone** (Independent Artist-Researcher, South Africa) and **Conor Ralphs** (Independent Artist-Researcher, South Africa): "The Not-Yet Seen: Indian Ocean Aesthetics and Challenges of Representation in *Gabriel's Odyssey* Multi-Media Performance"
- Respondent: **Kay Kaufman Shelemay** (Harvard University, USA): "Towards Re-Imagining a Personal Musical Past: What Might Gabriel Have Heard?"

15-minute break

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12.45pm-2.15pm **Panel III:** Communities: Performing East Africa
Chair: Ilana Webster-Kogen (SOAS, University of London, UK)

- **Zulfikar Hirji** (York University, Canada): "Sound, Silence, and Sensation in Sayyid Abdallah bin Ali bin Nasir's *Al-Inkishafi*: Toward an Acoustemology of Early Modern Swahili-Muslim Sound Worlds and Subjectivities"
- **Raphael Michaeli** (University of Bergen, Norway): "Performing Mawlid in East Africa: A Competitive Structure of Praising the Prophet"
- **Simon Mwaniki** (University of Minnesota, USA): "The Intersection of Islamic and Coastal African Practices through the Establishment of the Maulidi Festival in Lamu Town"

15-minute break

2.30pm-4.00pm **Panel IV:** Communities: Performing East Africa in the Black Indian Ocean Diaspora
Chair: Daves Soneji (University of Pennsylvania, USA)

- **Jazmin Graves Eyssallenne** (University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA): "Waves of Ecstasy: Multivocality and Mediumship in the Sidi Sufi Tradition"
- **Rakesh Kumar** (International Library of African Music, South Africa): "Imagining Diasporic Histories in Indian Ocean World: Siddi Goma-Dhamal Performance in Gujarat, India"
- **Armaghan Fakhræirad** (University of Pennsylvania, USA): "Sounding the Black Indian Ocean: Dammam Drumming, Memory, and the Legacy of Slavery in Bushehr"

Program Schedule

Day 2

April 3, 2025

9.00am-10.00am Panel V: Personalities: Slavery, Ritual and Representation in the East African Diaspora
Chair: Maghan Keita (Villanova University, USA)

- **Omar Ali** (University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA): "Power, Patience, and Perseverance: Malik Ambar's Practice of *صَبْرٌ/Sabr*"
- **Kenneth X. Robbins** (Independent Scholar, USA), "Janjira and Sachin"

15-minute break

10.15am-11.45am Panel VI: Materialities: Mapping the Black Indian Ocean
Chair: Omar Ali (University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA)

- **Neelima Jeychandran** (Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar), "African Saints and their Objects: Mapping Black Histories of the Indian Ocean"
- **Maya Vinai** (Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani, Hyderabad, India), "Preserving the East African Faith, Knowledge Systems, and Identity along the Pepper Highway to Diamond Mines of Golkonda in the 17th Century: A Critical Analysis of the novel *Idris: Keeper of Lights* by Anita Nair"
- **Maghan Keita** (Villanova University, USA), "Matters Beyond the Range of Matter" — "A Whole New World": The Black Indian Ocean in *One Thousand Nights and a Night*

15-minute break

Program Schedule

Day 2

April 3, 2025

12.00pm-1.30pm **Panel VII:** Materialities: Mapping Indian Ocean World Diasporas
Chair: Neelima Jeychandran (Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar)

- **Surabhi Sharman** (Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India), "Blackness in Indian Miniatures: The Subtext in Representation"
- **Michael Gervers** (University of Toronto, Canada): "Traveling Textiles: India – Ethiopia – Egypt"
- **Erum Hadi** (Sarah Lawrence College, USA): "Common Threads of Elegance: Ethiopian Diptych Painting Illustrate the Shared Elite Dress Culture Across the Arabian Sea"

15-minute break

1.45pm-3.00pm **Panel VIII:** Subjectivities: Beyond the Black Indian Ocean World and Its Global Diasporas
Chair: Eric Rice (University of Connecticut, USA)

- **Claudio Ramírez-Uribe** (Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico), "The European Medieval Imagery around Ethiopia and Prester John in the New Spain's Villancico de Negro: *Guineo a ó [Tantarantán]*"
- **Marcela Magalhães de Paula** (Istituto Guimaraes Rosa, Italy), "Tales of Pain and Resistance: Memory and Racial Violence in the Quilombola Community of Água Preta, Ceará, Brazil"
- Respondent: **Eric Rice** (University of Connecticut, USA)

3.00pm-3.15pm: Concluding Remarks