The Department of African and African American Studies (AAAS) is both an academic unit and a community comprised of faculty and students interested in the interdisciplinary study of Africa and its diaspora. Our work is grounded in the cultural and historical experiences of people of African descent. This focus on experience informs our interpretations of the African Diasporic past and present, and propels our directives for the future. Our Department was formed in 1969 and is one of the oldest African & African American Studies Departments in the United States. Faculty specialties cover a wide range of fields including: labor and oral history; conflict resolution in Africa; race and religion; Caribbean migrations; popular youth culture; black expressive culture and feminism; postcolonial literature in Africa; African immigration and refugee studies; the black prison experience; and black theology.

The Department of African and African American Studies (AAAS) is both an academic unit and a community comprised of faculty and students interested in the interdisciplinary study of Africa and its diaspora. Our work is grounded in the cultural and historical experiences of people of African descent. This focus on experience informs our interpretations of the African Diasporic past and present, and propels our directives for the future. Our Department was formed in 1969 and is one of the oldest African & African American Studies Departments in the United States. Faculty specialties cover a wide range of fields including: labor and oral history; conflict resolution in Africa; race and religion; Caribbean migrations; popular youth culture; black expressive culture and feminism; postcolonial literature in Africa; African immigration and refugee studies; the black prison experience; and black theology.

aaas faculty

AMIR IDRIS
Chair and Professor

MARK L. CHAPMAN
Associate Chair and Assoc. Professor

R. BENTLEY ANDERSON, S.J.
Associate Professor

JANE KANI EDWARD
Clinical Assistant Professor

LISA GILL
Postdoctoral Lecturer (2018-19)

Laurie Lambert
Assistant Professor

TYESHA MADDOX
Assistant Professor

CLAUDE J. MANGUM
Emeritus Associate Professor

FAWZIA MUSTAFA
Professor

MARK D. NAISON
Professor

IRMA WATKINS-OWENS
Emerita Associate Professor

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message from the chair

On behalf of the Department of African and African American Studies (AAAS) at Fordham, I would like to welcome you to a new academic year. The Department of African and African American Studies (AAAS) is committed to linking research, teaching, and community interests. Our mission is to provide an intellectual space in which students and faculty learn to critically examine, analyze, and interpret the experiences of people of African descent and in turn develop a better understanding of humanity.

The common theme for 2018-2019 academic year is blending scholarship and activism. We believe that our department is well-suited to undertake the task of debating the role of the University by blending scholarship and activism. The goal is to help our students and the public to devise sound academic theories and practices that could engender meaningful structural transformations. The department will continue to create linkages with various academic and community organizations in New York City, and to encourage students to conduct research in areas such as poverty, immigration, and diversity and equity.

For undergraduates, our department is committed to providing the best environment for friendly interaction with our students. Our undergraduate classes are small and interactive, enabling us to make your education a two-way street, rather than a series of lectures. Our faculty emphasize class discussion, critical writing, and developing research skills. We also believe that we provide an atmosphere of open doors and approachability. Therefore, our course offerings reach from History, Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology, and Literature, to Arts, Language, and Women and gender studies, as well as Philosophy. In addition, of course, New York City provides some exciting further opportunities, including internships in international and nonprofit organizations.

We hope that the common theme for this academic year fosters constructive conversations about the intersection of scholarship and activism. In short, we have a lot to offer. I invite you to join the conversation by visiting our website and joining our mailing list. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: aaas@fordham.edu. We look forward to your participation in our public events.

AMIR IDRIS
Chair and Professor
**AMIR IDRIS**  
Chair and Professor  
Office: Lowenstein 414D (LC)  
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Research and Teaching Interests: history and politics of colonialism, slavery and race, and postcolonial citizenship in Northeast and Central Africa.

**TYESHA MADDOX**  
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**MARK L. CHAPMAN**  
Associate Chair and Associate Professor  
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Research and Teaching Interests: black prison experience and its implications for black liberation theology, the incarceration binge and its impact on the African American community.

**CLAUDE J. MANGUM**  
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Research and Teaching Interests: African American and Caribbean history. His research interests and publications pertain to the education of African Americans, and the experiences of African Americans in the Catholic Church.

**R. BENTLEY ANDERSON, S.J.**  
Associate Professor  
Office: Dealy Hall 637 (RH)  
Email: randerson13@fordham.edu  
Phone: 718-817-3830  
Research and Teaching Interests: Jim Crow Catholicism, Trans-Atlantic race relations, South African history, and Religion & Civil Rights in the United States.

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Research and Teaching Interests: African American politics, labor history, popular culture and education policy.

**IRMA WATKINS-OWENS**  
Emerita Associate Professor  
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Research and Teaching Interests: African American history, women’s history, Atlantic migration & black identity.
**major/minor requirements**

**aaas major**
A major in African and African American Studies requires 9 courses:

- AFAM 1600 Understanding Historical Change: Africa
- AFAM 3150 Caribbean People and Culture
- AFAM 3001 African American History I
- AFAM 3037: Being and Becoming Black
- AFAM 4890: Senior Research Seminar
- And four (4) AFAM electives

**aaas minor**
A minor in African and African American Studies requires 6 courses:

- AFAM 1600 Understanding Historical Change: Africa
- AFAM 3001 African American History I
- And four (4) AFAM electives

**afst minor**
A minor in African Studies requires 6 courses:

- AFAM 1600 Understanding Historical Change: Africa
- AFAM course from a Social Science discipline
- AFAM course from Arts & Humanities offerings
- And three (3) African Studies elective

**Language Requirement:**
Two (2) courses – including one 2001-level course in the following approved languages: Swahili, Twi, Zulu, Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish, or French.

*Some requirements for the AAAS major/minor may be fulfilled with courses in English, Literary Studies, History, Art & Music History, Political Science, or any field that has been cross listed by the department. Speak to your major/minor advisor for approval.*
spotlight: 2017-2018 events
The Bronx African American History Project launched a dramatic expansion of its public activities during the 2017-2018 semesters, helping jump start two new research initiatives, organizing three major events on campus highlighting its advocacy of Bronx immigrant communities, continuing its work in Bronx schools, publicizing strategies for community based research to scholars at other universities and organizing a major jazz event at Fordham which highlighted the jazz heritage of Bronx communities.

On the research front, the BAAHP continued to record and transcribe oral history interviews while helping launch a new research project at Fordham, the Bronx Italian American History Initiative, which used BAAHP undergraduate student workers to film many of its interviews. We also formed a partnership with the Bronx County Historical Society to start a Bronx Latino History Project.

As a sign of the influence of its research strategies, the BAAHP was asked to make presentations two two global conferences sponsored by the Community Psychology Program at the CUNY Graduate Center, one in November 2017, the other in January 2018. In both instances, Dr. Mark Naison and Dr. Jane Edward, Department Directors of the BAAHP were joined by BAAHP graduate assistant Lisa Betty, Community Researcher Bob Gumbs, and two Fordham alums who do research and programming for the BAAHP, Michael Partis and Aixa Rodriguez.

Also, in a historical moment when immigrants and Muslims are under assault, the BAAHP, under the leadership of Dr. Jane Edward and Lisa Betty organized two Immigrant Rights and Legal Defense Forums at Fordham, one in February 2018, one in April 2018, featuring lawyers and advocates who came with practical strategies to help immigrant families deal with threats to their status and safety. In each instance more than half of the audience consisted of people from the Bronx. Building on Dr. Jane Edward’s contact in the Bronx African Community, we also organized a Young Muslim Voices panel in March 2019 featuring some of the Bronx most dynamic young leaders who represent its diverse African and Muslim communities.

In the sphere of education, the BAAHP continued its connection with three innovative Bronx public schools who use community history as a centerpiece of their school cultures, CASA Middle School in Baychester, PS 55 in the Claremont Houses, and PS 140 in Morrisania. All three of these schools sent groups of students to sit in on Dr. Mark Naison’s fall 2017 course, “The Bronx Immigration Race and Culture” and Dr. Naison was asked to rap at the PS 140 Graduation in May 2018.

Finally, the BAAHP continued its work promoting global musical forms having their roots in the Bronx, hosting the a group of Berlin rappers, dancers and musicians at Fordham in November 2017 as part of the Bronx Berlin Youth Exchange, and sponsoring a Women in Jazz Celebration in April 2018 featuring two of the worlds greatest women Jazz Pianists, Valerie Capers and Judy Carmichael.
On February 23rd, 2018, the department of African and African American Studies held its annual Black History Month event featuring a panel entitled “Blending Scholarship and Activism: Race, Politics, and Religion.” The discussion on contemporary social justice included presentations from AAAS’s own Prof. Mark Chapman, Prof. Bryan Massingale, the James and Nancy Buckman Chair in Applied Christian Ethics in the department of Theology, and Prof. Brandy Monk Payton from the department of Communications and Media Studies. Each presented different facets of the scholar-activist model, reminding the audience of the possibilities for serving a greater good through scholarship and praxis.

Massingale and Chapman consider themselves scholar-activists whose work goes beyond academia to engage specific sectors of the public. Massingale brought African American intellectuals Vincent Harding, Mari Evans, Audre Lorde and bell hooks into the conversation, highlighting the connections between white supremacy, heterosexism, and conservative religion. He explained that while our struggles intersect along various axes, we can think critically about the nature of the society we seek and we can take action to create positive change. Chapman, who is also a pastor, affirmed what great shoulders African Americans stand on in abolitionist Frederick Douglass, historian and sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois, and journalist and anti-lynching campaigner Ida B. Wells-Barnett. The legacies of these great figures are what, in part, inspired Prof. Champan’s own path to activism in the criminal injustice system, as he so aptly put it.

Prof. Monk Payton’s response gave voice to the precariousness that can accompany the work of scholar-activists. Her remarks synthesized the evening’s themes and provoked great questions about how to frame the black experience, how to think about audience, and why we celebrate events such as the release of the Marvel film Black Panther. She wanted the audience to question why people of color have historically put so much faith in representation.

The panel was followed by a lively discussion with the audience which included Fordham faculty, students, and staff as well as members of the public. The entire evening was a brilliant reminder of the ongoing social justice and race work being done here on campus and in our wider communities by members of the university.
The Department of African and African American Studies held a successful panel discussion on April 7, 2018 titled *U.S. Foreign Policy towards South Sudan*. The panel featured the following speakers: Brian Adeba, Deputy Director of Policy, Enough Project, Charles Snyder, former Acting Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, U.S. State Department, and Akuel Bona Malwal, South Sudan Ambassador to the United Nations. Amir Idris, Chair and Professor of the Department of African and African American Studies, moderated the panel discussion.

Six years after South Sudan gained its independence in July 2011, the humanitarian and security situation is dire and deteriorating. The United States played a key role in South Sudan’s by encouraging both Sudan’s government and the southern rebels, known as the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), to sign a 2005 peace agreement ending decades of war. The agreement enabled the people of what was then southern Sudan to vote in a referendum for their independence from Sudan in July 2011—, which they duly did, leading to the creation of South Sudan, but also served U.S. efforts in combating terrorism in the region. Sadly, South Sudan fall apart and descended into civil war in 2013.

The three panelists identified the pros and cons of the previous U.S. administrations’ policies toward South Sudan, and explored options for the current administration to avoid the shortcomings of the previous one. The panelists argued that South Sudan needs a responsible leadership, responsive government, and respect to rule of law. In addition, the participants agreed that without combating public corruption and mismanagement of resources, South Sudanese would not enjoy the fruits of their independence. The panelist and the audience emphasized the importance of holding those who committed war crimes and crimes against humanity accountable. Students, faculty and members of the public participated in a lively and constructive discussion.
The 7th Student-led Conference was held on the Lincoln Center campus the weekend of October 21st with 12 students presenting on five different panels. Moderating Session One “Being Black” was Dr. Tyesha Maddox; presenters included Elicia Bates, “The ‘Strong Black Woman’ Paradox”, Stephanie Martinez, “‘Black’ Hair”, and Rohini Parthasarathy, “American Consumption of the Black Male.”

Session Two, moderated by Dr. Jane Edward, focused on “Gender, Race and Region” with Cristina Mendez, Nicole Utah and Kiana Ramos presenting on Caribbean Music and Female-Empowerment, the relationship between Africans and African Americans in the United States, and “Blackness” in the Dominican Republic.

Sessions Three, Four and Five were African-focused sessions. Sabrina Jamileh Sayegh performed her poem “Silence Repeats Itself: An open letter to the Cotton Cloth”; Corey Glackin-Coley examined the Matrilineal and Patrilineal Lineage Systems in Mozambique. Nzinga Stewart focused on the Reagan’s Administration role in the Anti-Apartheid Movement; and Adriana Gomez highlighted the impact the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa had on world conscientiousness; Paul Bury evaluated the impact U.S. foreign aid had on national sovereignty; and Chloe Gronsbell looked at American interests in Ethiopia and Somalia. These sessions were moderated by Dr. Jane Edward and Fr. Bentley Anderson, S.J.
student participants

Elicia Bates is a member of the class of 2019 double majoring in Anthropology and African and African American Studies at Fordham College at Rose Hill. After graduation, she plans to continue her studies in an Anthropology Ph.D. program and possibly attend law school. Her presentation is based on a paper she submitted in her Being and Becoming Black in the Atlantic World course taught by Dr. Tyesha Maddox. Hometown: Indianapolis, IN.

Kiana Ramos is a member of the class of 2019 at Fordham College at Rose Hill majoring in Psychology. She plans to pursue her M.S. in Clinical Psychology. Her presentation is based on a paper she submitted in her Being and Becoming Black in the Atlantic World course taught by Dr. Tyesha Maddox. Hometown: Bronx, NY.

Nzinga Stewart is a member of the class of 2019 at Fordham College at Rose Hill majoring in General Science with a minor in African and African American Studies. Her presentation is based on a paper she submitted in her History of South Africa course taught by Fr. R. Bentley Anderson, S.J. Hometown: Brooklyn, NY.

Stephanie Martinez is a member of the class of 2019 at Fordham College at Rose Hill majoring in Communications. Her presentation is based on a paper submitted in her Being and Becoming Black in the Atlantic World course taught by Dr. Tyesha Maddox. Hometown: Bronx, NY.

Cristina Mendez is an International Studies and Economics double-major at Fordham College at Lincoln Center. She is a member of the class of 2019. After graduation, Cristina plans to attend law school. Her presentation is based on a paper she submitted in her Caribbean Peoples and Culture course taught by Dr. Tyesha Maddox. Hometown: Moca, Puerto Rico.

Ariana Gomez is a History major at Fordham College at Lincoln Center as a member of the class of 2019. After graduation, she plans to continue her studies in a Medieval History Ph.D. program. Her presentation is based on a paper submitted in her History of South Africa course taught by Fr. R. Bentley Anderson, S.J. Hometown: Miami, FL.

Rohini Parthasarathy is a member of the class of 2019 at Fordham College at Rose Hill. She is majoring in American Studies and minoring in Theology. Her presentation is based on a paper she submitted in her Being and Becoming Black in the Atlantic World course taught by Dr. Tyesha Maddox. Hometown: Riverside, CT.

Corey Glackin-Coley is a member of the class of 2019 double majoring in International Political Economy and History at Fordham College at Rose Hill. After graduation, he plans to attend law school and become involved with the Peace Corp. His presentation is based on a paper submitted in his Women in Africa course taught by Dr. Jane Edward. Hometown: Tacoma, WA.

Paul Bury is a member of the class of 2019 at Fordham College at Lincoln Center double majoring in Political Science and Philosophy. His presentation is based on a paper submitted in his U.S. and Africa in the Cold War course taught by Dr. Amir Idris. Hometown: Clifton, NJ.

Nicole Utah is a graduate of the class of 2018 at Fordham College at Rose Hill who majored in Biological Science with a minor in African and African American Studies. After graduation, Nicole plans to attend medical school. Her presentation is based on a paper she submitted in her Being and Becoming Black in the Atlantic World course taught by Dr. Tyesha Maddox. Hometown: Blue Bell, PA.

Sabrina Jamileh Sayegh is a member of the class of 2019 at Fordham College at Rose Hill majoring in Pre-Med and minoring in Psychology. After graduation, she is planning to attend medical school. Her presentation is based on a poem she submitted in her Black Prison Experience course taught by Dr. Mark Chapman. Hometown: Danbury, CT.

Chloe Gronsbell is a graduate of the class of 2018 at Fordham College at Lincoln Center who majored in Digital Technology and Emerging Media. Her presentation is based on a paper she submitted in her U.S. and Africa in the Cold War course taught by Dr. Amir Idris. Hometown: Oceanside, NY.
Dr. Jane Edward


Dr. Amir Idris

Dr. Amir Idris served as the book editor for South Sudan: Post-Independence Dilemmas. Rutledge: London and New York, 2018

Participated in the working group on “Citizenship, Class, and Inequality in the Middle East” hosted by the Center for International and Regional Studies in Georgetown University Qatar. May 2018.


Published an article entitled “South Sudan Needs Its Nelson Mandela to Rescue the Country From the Sinkhole” Newsweek, February 27, 2018

Published an article entitled “Trump has No Respect for the Africans Who Helped Shape America into a Great Nation” Newsweek, January 19, 2018

Published an article entitled “Forget Ceasefires and Forums, South Sudan Can Only Find Peace if Leadership Changes” Newsweek, December 22, 2017

Dr. Laurie Lambert


Awarded a Fordham University Faculty Research Grant for $6,500 for work on her book, Forms of Survival: Black Feminist Revisions of the Grenada Revolution.

Invited speaker at the 5th Annual Africana Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, March 2018 were she presented a lecture titled “In Search of Our Mothers’ Revolutions: Transnational Black Feminism in The House on Coco Road.”


Presented a lecture titled “Generational Ties, Revolutionary Binds: Literature, Archive, and the Writing of the Grenada Revolution.” at the Department of Anthropology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York (CUNY), October 2017

Dr. Mark Naison

In July 2018, Dr. Naison was a keynote speaker at an education conference held at Sarah Lawrence College

In June 2018, was one of the featured speakers at the Graduation Ceremony of PS 140, a public school in the South Bronx

In January 2018, was featured in a CNN News story and video on the History of Affirmative Action

In July 2017, made a presentation to the Rock and Roll Forever Foundation Summer Teacher Institute on how he uses music in his classes at Fordham
I spent the 2018 Spring Semester in the Scholar in Residence Program at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture as a Ford Foundation/Mellon Foundation Fellow. This fellowship helped to support my continued research and revisions on my book manuscript, “From Invisible to Immigrants: Political Activism and the Construction of Caribbean American Identity, 1890-1940.” This manuscript examines the significance of Caribbean American mutual aid societies and benevolent associations to the immigrant experience, particularly its implications for the formation of a Pan Caribbean American identity and a wider Black identity. The Schomburg Center houses the largest collection of Caribbean social organizations in New York and I have been able to spend time going through these records strengthening my argument about the importance of these social organizations to Caribbean immigrants.

At the Schomburg, I worked with a wonderful interdisciplinary cohort of fellows under the direction of Dr. Brent Hayes Edwards, who serves as the Scholar in Residence’s director. In addition to our individual research projects, the fellows were expected to meet weekly to discuss our works-in-progress, which ranged from manuscript chapters to archival items we found interesting. I presented an article draft along with a book proposal. I found these weekly meetings to be very helpful as I received valuable feedback from scholars who were outside of my field and at different stages in academia. My time at the Schomburg Center has been very productive. I was able to complete my book proposal and submit it to an editor for review. I was also able to write several drafts of my article that I hope to submit for publication by the end of the summer.

- In May 2018, she was invited to participate in Bates College History Department’s Symposium on Gender and Migration in the United States
- Dr. Maddox took part in the Brooklyn Arts Council’s interactive exhibition Nou La - We Reach! The Journeys and Dreams of Brooklyn’s Caribropolis. She created the timeline for the exhibition and was interviewed for their exhibition video. More info and video: http://www.brooklynartscouncil.org/documents/2635
Forthcoming events

**Fall 2018**

**8th Student-Led Conference – Saturday, September 29th**
The eighth annual student-led conference is scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2018 in the South Lounge, Lincoln Center campus from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Selected students from both campuses will present their final papers at the conference. The conference is open to all Fordham faculty, students, and members of the public.

**Spring 2019**

**Black History Month Conference – Friday, February 15th**
On Friday, February 15th the department will host a forum with Fordham students and Dr. Ruth Wilson Gilmore, professor and associate director of the Center for Place, Culture and Politics in the Graduate Center of The City University of New York, in the South Lounge, Lowenstein Building at 2:30pm. The forum will be followed by a lecture on police reform, prison abolitionists and the militarization of policing in the U.S. at the 12th Floor Lounge, Corrigan Conference Center, Lowenstein Building at 4pm. The lecture will be open to Fordham students, faculty, and members of the public.
fall/spring 2018-2019 course listings

**Fall 2018**

AFAM 1600 R01 Understanding Hist. Change: Africa
AFAM 1600 L01 Understanding Historical Change: Africa
AFAM 1650 L01 Black Popular Culture
AFAM 3001 R01 African American History I
AFAM 3030 R01 African American Women
AFAM 3071 C01 African Intellectual History
AFAM 3115 R01 ML King & Malcolm X
AFAM 3141 R01 Women in Africa
AFAM 3210 R01 On The Move: Migration, Labor, & Transnationalism
AFAM 3210 C01 On The Move: Migration, Labor, & Transnationalism
AFAM 3630 R01 Harlem Century
AFAM 3633 R01 The Bronx: Immigration, Race, and Culture
AFAM 3634 C01 Film and the African American
AFAM 3692 L01 Social Construction of Women
AFAM 4000 R01 Affirmative Action: American Dream

**Spring 2019**

AFAM 1600 R01 Understanding Hist. Change: Africa
AFAM 3001 L01 African American History I
AFAM 3002 R01 African American History II
AFAM 3037 L01 Being and Becoming Black
AFAM 3120 R01 Black Religion and Politics
AFAM 3132 R01 Black Prison Experience
AFAM 3134 R01 From Rock & Roll to Hip Hop
AFAM 3150 R01 Caribbean Peoples and Culture
AFAM 3152 C01 Expressive Bodies: Race, Sexuality, and The Arts
AFAM 3510 R01 In “America’s Backyard”: The US–Caribbean Relations
AFAM 3637 C01 Black Feminism: Theory and Expression
AFAM 3692 L01 Social Construction of Women
AFAM 3693 C01 Contemporary African Literature
AFAM 3695 L01 Major Debates in African Studies
AFAM 4890 R01 Research Seminar

This is a brief listing of our course offerings for 2018-2019.
To view the complete listing and descriptions, please visit our website at www.fordham.edu/aaas.