



## FALL SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

***“Integrating Research and Teaching: Africa in World History.”***

**22 September 2012**

**African Studies Center, Boston University**

**232 Bay State Road, Boston, MA**

**Co-sponsors: African Studies Center, Boston University, Northeastern University, and Oxford University Press**

<b>8:00 - 9:15</b>	<b>Executive Council Meeting</b>	Teaching Africa Library
<b>8:45 - 9:15</b>	<b>Registration and Coffee</b>	Location tba
<b>9:15 – 9:30</b>	<b>Opening Remarks:</b> Dane Morrison, Salem State University, and President, NERWHA	Main Seminar Room
<b>9:30 - 12:00</b>	<b>Plenary Workshop: “Abina, Africa, and a Usable History of the World: Converging Content, Methods, and Ethics in the World History Classroom”</b> Trevor Getz, San Francisco State University and co-author of <i>Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History</i> (2012)	Main Seminar Room

What can the testimony of a young, enslaved woman from nineteenth century West Africa teach us about the human experience and the world in which we live? Anyone who teaches world history knows that it is not so much a case of following a recipe as it is finding ways to give students vital content, plus the tools to understand it and finally the means to apply this content to their everyday lives. At the heart of this process is the balancing of global stories with local experiences, both to convey important stories and to help students hear the rarely heard voices of everyday people. *Abina and the Important Men* was written as one instructor's attempt at this difficult balancing act—by giving students the tools to enter into a conversation with Abina Mansah, a woman who appeared before a court in West Africa to demand her freedom in 1876. The intended outcomes for students are a combination of critical skills, knowledge of historical content and the methods to get at it, and an understanding of what it is historians do and why the study of the global past is personally, intellectually, emotionally and socially valuable.

This workshop comprises a presentation and interactive conversation on these topics that connects the personal, the regional, and the global in Abina's testimony and suggests ways to integrate other life stories into the world history classroom. It investigates the interpretive methods used in Abina and the Important Men and present (for the first time) additional sources including historical linguistics, proverbs, and oral histories that allows us to get deeper into issues of gender and power in Abina's world. Further, it explores the underpinning value of a world history connected to methods, life stories, and ethical questions in our classrooms and society at large.

(15-minute break at 10:45)

**12:00 - 1:00**

**Catered Lunch**

**1:00 - 2:30**

**Plenary Roundtable:** *"Listening to African Voices: Integrating Early African History into World History"* Main Seminar Room

Catherine Cymone Fourshey, Susquehanna University  
Rhona Gonzales, University of Texas at San Antonio  
Christine Saidi, Kutztown University  
Carolyn E. Vieira-Martinez, Chapman University  
Constanze Weise, Dickinson College

**2:30 – 3:30**

**Business Meeting and Raffle Main Seminar Room**

**3:30 - 4:45**

**Concurrent Workshops**

- *"Africa in Transoceanic World Historical Contexts: Challenges and Opportunities in Teaching and Scholarship"* Main Seminar Room

Adam Chill, Castleton State College  
Charlotte Miller, Macon State College  
Patricia van der Spuy, Castleton State College  
Carrie Waara, Castleton State College

- *"Africa and the History of Colonialism: Teaching with Films on Africa"*  
Teaching Africa Library

Barbara B. Brown, African Studies Center, Boston University  
Linda Morse, Foxborough Regional Charter School  
Erica Wetterlow, Hopkinton Public Schools  
Susan Zeiger, Primary Source