



For Immediate Release

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Hamilton's Afro Canadian Caribbean Association Presents

# **We Are Planted Here: Narratives In Belonging GOES VIRTUAL**

**Thursday, May 28, 2020 from 7pm to 9pm**

Due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic The Afro-Canadian Caribbean Association of Hamilton and District postponed **We Are Planted Here: Narratives in Belonging**, their free two day Arts and Culture Celebration and Symposium originally scheduled for March 2020. It has now been re-imagined as a virtual event taking place on Thursday, May 28, 2020 from 7pm to 9pm EST. **We are Planted Here: Narratives in Belonging** will bring together leading academics, community organizers, activists and students from across South Western Ontario. They will excavate and foreground the historical, contemporary presence and contributions of Blacks in Canada in addressing issues related to anti-Black racism. The symposium will give voice to stories of struggle, triumph for "belonging" and advanced discussion about the different and evolving locations of Black peoples in Canada. Visit eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/we-are-planted-here-narratives-in-belonging-tickets-105586379704> to register.



#### **GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

**Dr. Afua Cooper (Keynote Speaker)** is the immediate past James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian studies at Dalhousie University. A Leading expert in African Canadian and African Diaspora history, she has done ground-breaking work in bringing Black Canadian history to the fore through her research, teaching, public speaking, publications, and other forms of knowledge mobilization. She is professor of Black Studies at Dalhousie University. Dr. Cooper recently chaired the scholarly panel investigating Dalhousie's relationship to race and slavery, and is the lead author of the Report on Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race. An

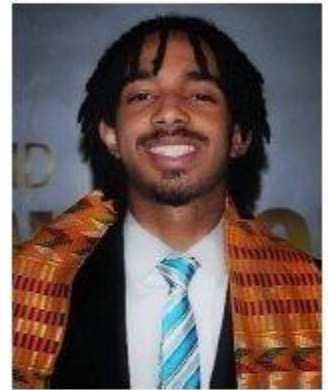


academic leader, Dr. Cooper co-ordinates the Black Studies Minor at Dalhousie. Additionally, she founded the Black Canadian Studies Association, and the Dalhousie Black Faculty and Staff Caucus. For her achievements in and contributions to history, especially that of African Canadians, education, and the arts Dr. Cooper has received numerous awards including the Harry Jerome Award for Professional excellence, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission award, and a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) website feature for her historical work. Dr. Cooper is the series editor for the recently-launched Henry and Mary Bibb Black Canadian Studies Series at the University of Regina Press. Currently Halifax's Poet Laureate, Afua is an accomplished poet and novelist.



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**Kojo Dampety** is a musician, educator and inter-disciplinarian. His main objective is to use academic and artistic disciplines to build a world that ceases to create injustices for others based on identity, race, gender etc. His framework comes from an anti-oppressive view and I see the world from the perspective of a Pan Africanist. Dampety is currently the Interim Executive Director of The Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion.



**Gregory Dongen** is a budding youth advocate in Hamilton Ontario. He is a future politician and entrepreneur. Dongen is the current President and one of the co-founders of the Bernie Custis Black Youth Council.



**Natasha Henry** is the president of the Ontario Black History Society. Natasha is a historian and has been an educator for 19 years. She is an award-winning author and an award-winning curriculum consultant, focusing on Black Canadian experiences. Henry is currently completing a PhD in History at York University, researching the enslavement of Africans in early Ontario. Through her various professional and community roles, Henry's work is grounded in her commitment to research, collect, preserve, and disseminate the histories of Black Canadians.

**Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh** is a Professor and Senator William McMaster Chair in Global Human Rights at McMaster University. He has taught in universities in Africa, Europe and North America. Previously, he was a Human Rights Fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs, New York, and Research Fellow at the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Copenhagen. Dr. Ibhawoh is a member of the College of Scholars of the Royal Society of Canada, and recipient of the Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award. Dr. Ibhawoh has held several university administrative positions including Director of the Centre for Peace Studies, Associate Dean of the





Faculty of Humanities, and Acting Associate Vice-President (Research) at McMaster University. He has authored several books on African studies and human rights, including *Imperial Justice* (Oxford University Press) and *Human Rights in Africa* (Cambridge University Press).



**Rochelle Ivri** is one of ten citizenship judges in Canada and a paralegal professor at Mohawk College in Hamilton. She has a degree in Criminology from the University of Windsor, a post-graduate certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from York University and has co-authored the textbook, *Tribunal Practice and Procedure for Legal Professionals*. Ivri served eight years as a board member on the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library Board and also spent eight years as a publicly appointed member of the Council of the College of Midwives of Ontario.

Additionally, Ivri was a member of the Discipline, Appeal, and Review Committee of the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council. She currently sits on the board of Bravo Niagara!, Niagara Region's Women's Advisory Committee, and is co-founder and facilitator of a mentorship program for Black youth. She and her husband, Eldean, have four children. Ivri is passionate about human rights, the Charter, and encouraging civic engagement in young people.



**Evelyn Myrie** is the President of ACCA and the founder and Principal Consultant at EMpower Strategy Group—a leading consultancy firm specializing in helping organizations in their equity, diversity and inclusion efforts by providing them with the knowledge, skills, and tools to create an inclusive environment, in a safe and welcoming space.



**Aaron Parry** is a fourth-year student in Social Sciences at McMaster University, including African & African Diaspora Studies. He is an executive on the Black Students Association and Black Graduation Planning Committee. Outside of school, he works to create promote Black history and culture through his artwork and community work in Hamilton.

**Rosemary Sadlier** is an author, speaker, consultant and community activist. She is the Chair at the Royal Commonwealth Society - Toronto Branch; founder and president of the Black Canadian Network and former President of the Ontario Black History Society - a position she held for over 23 years. An Order of Ontario recipient and recognized expert on the history of Black Canadians, she created the Africentric Curriculum Resource for the Ministry of Education, several national Black exhibits, and, she also worked with Honourable Jean Augustine on the national





declaration of February as Black History Month. A member of the Heritage preservation committee connected to The Ward, Sadlier is also the author of several books, including "Black History: African, the Caribbean and the Americas". Sadlier's profile as a global defender of human rights is featured in the Speak Truth to Power resource of the Canadian Teachers Federation & the Robert F. Kennedy Center, a part of the resource used by educators across the country.

**We Are Planted Here: Narratives in Belonging Supporting Partners:** Brock University, The City of Hamilton, United Nations International Decade of People of African Descent, Nigerian Canadian Association, McMaster University Wilson Institute for Canadian History, Heritage Canada and NGS (Never Gonna Stop).

**Afro-Canadian Caribbean Association of Hamilton and District** is a charitable non-profit organization that was founded in 1979 by early black immigrants. ACCA has invested in lifting up black excellence throughout the City of Hamilton. Today ACCA offers youth mentorship and seniors programs and is a strong voice on issues facing the Afro Canadian Caribbean community in Hamilton. 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the Afro Canadian Caribbean Association. ACCA's creed is Unity, Strength and Progress. Therefore through its members ACCA strives to provide a vehicle for uniting all African, Canadian and Caribbean people residing in the Hamilton region. At the core of ACCA's values is the belief that all residents have the right to a good life.



**Event Website:** <https://accahamilton.com/we-are-planted/>

**Twitter:** @accaham **Instagram:** @accahamilton

**Facebook Event Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/248649459817820/>

**Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/we-are-planted-here-narratives-in-belonging-tickets-105586379704>

- 30 -

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