

The Feminist Research Institute  
presents

# Transnational Anti-Racism: Afro-Germans and the Cross-Cultural Institute



**Dr. Tiffany Florvil**

Dept. of History

Thursday, March 5

12:30-1:30 PM

SUB Cherry/Silver

In 1991, for the first time, the Cross-Cultural Black Women's Studies Summer Institute took place in Germany, where it

brought together women of color from diverse regions to explore the theme of "Black Women and the European community." Founded in the 1980s by Andrée-Nicola McLaughlin, Audre Lorde, Gail Lewis, and others, the Institute, promoted an African diasporic and feminist perspective. Its leaders and other women of color scholars and activists organized conferences across the globe that addressed Black women's rights. Marion Kraft, an Afro-German educator and activist committed to fostering connections between women, undertook the role of Program Director of the Institute, and along with other Afro-Germans coordinated events in Frankfurt, Bielefeld, and Berlin.

This paper argues that these Afro-German women's involvement with the 1991 Institute enabled them to cultivate transnational bonds that remained critical to their efforts to gain social recognition in Germany. Through these bonds, Afro-German women bridged their cultural, national, and linguistic differences and created a global network of Black women that confronted instances of everyday racism and promoted solidarity. I contend that these kinships helped Afro-German women refashion the self and the collective and to challenge racial and gendered oppression in a newly reunified country.

Dr. Florvil received in her PhD in Modern European History (2013) from the University of South Carolina and her Masters in European Women's and Gender History (2007) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is an Assistant Professor of European Women's and Gender History at the University of New Mexico. Her manuscript, *Making a Movement: A History of Afro-Germans, Emotions, and Belonging*, examines the writings, institutions, relationships, and gendered conflicts that emerged as Afro-Germans organized to gain and retain recognition in Germany and beyond.



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