

Sufi Arts, Rituals and Performance in Africa

University of Kansas, 22-24 February
Conference Program

Thursday, 22 February Spencer Museum of Art

- 4:30 – 5:30 pm Auditorium Keynote Address
Allen F. Roberts
UCLA, Department of World Arts and Culture; Director of the James S. Coleman African Studies Center.
- 5:30 – 7:30 pm Central Court Opening Reception for the traveling exhibition,
“A Saint in the City; Sufi Arts of Urban Senegal”
Curated by Allen F. Roberts and Mary Nooter Roberts, UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History.
- Music and dance of Senegal, West Africa provided by the Traditional Music Society featuring **Soundz of Africa**.

Friday, 23 February University of Kansas, Student Union, Woodruff Auditorium

- 10:00 – 11:00 am *Morocco, North Africa*
Cynthia Becker, Boston University
“Sons of Bambara: The Sufi-Inspired Arts of the Moroccan Gnawa”
- 11:00 – 11:40 am Majid Hannoum, University of Kansas
“Hagiography, Sanctity, and the Symbolism of Places: Ibn Maryam on Abu Madyan”
- 11:40 – 12:20 am Amanda Rogers, Emory University
“Legitimizing Popular Islam: Bilal, Blackness, and the Gnawa Brotherhood”
- 12:20 – 1:00pm Margaret Rausch, University of Kansas
“Body, Language, and Text in Southwestern Moroccan Ishelhin Women’s Sufi Ritual Performances”

Lunch Break

- 2:00 – 3:00 pm *Sudan*
Saadia Malik and Khalid El-Hassan, University of Kansas
“The Republican Brotherhood and Sufism in Sudan: Reflections on Performance, Rituals, and Theological Perceptions”
- 3:00 – 3:40 pm Osman Mohamed Osman Ali, University of Khartoum, Sudan
“The Esoteric/Exoteric Duality & The Perception of Realities: A Study among Sudanese Sufis.” This paper will be presented by Garth Myers, University of Kansas

Coffee Break

- 4:00 – 4:40 pm John Janzen and Khalid El-Hassan, University of Kansas
“Sheikhs, Saints, and *Baraka*: Sufi Healing and Social Construction in Central Sudan”
- 4:40 - 5:20pm Neil McHugh, Fort Lewis College, CO
“Sufi Shrines of the Nilotic Sudan in Historical Perspective”

Saturday, 24 February Spencer Museum of Art (Auditorium)

- 9:00 -10:00 am *Senegal*
Fiona McLaughlin, University of Florida
“Saintmakers: Popular Musicians and Sufi Hagiography in Senegal”
- 10:00 -10:40 am
Kinsey Katchka, North Carolina Museum of Art
Topic tba
- 10:40 – 11:20 am
Mary Nooter Roberts, UCLA Fowler Museum
"A Pen in the Hand of God: Writing, Mysticism and Efficacy in Mouride Arts."
- 11:20 – 12:00 pm
Laura L. Cochrane, Washington University in St. Louis
“Spirits and Tapestry Weaving Production in Senegal”

Lunch Break

- 1:00 -2:00 pm
Cheikh Babou, University of Pennsylvania
“Sufi Eschatology and Hagiography as Responses to Colonial Repression: an Examination of the Meanings of Amadu Bamba’s Trial and Exiles by the French colonial Administration of Senegal 1895-1907.”

Coffee Break

- 2:20 – 3:00 pm *Ethiopia*
Awel Kedir, Ethiopia
The Concept of Intercession in the Baaroo:
Oromo Hymns in Praise of Shaik Nur Hussein of Bale, Ethiopia”
- 3:00- – 3:40 pm
Jeannie Miller, New York University
“Decoding History: Oral Hagiography in Anajina, Ethiopia”

Saturday, 24 February Spencer Museum of Art (Foyer)

- 4:00 – 5:00 pm **Sufi Poetry Reading**
Directed by Majid Hannoum
- Majid Hannoum, University of Kansas
Poetry by Ibn Arabi, Abu Madyan and Amadou Bamba; read in both Arabic and English
- Mohammed El Hodiri, University of Kansas
Folkloric and Sufi Chant in Arabic; Poetry by Ibn Arabi; read in Arabic and English
- Garth Myers, University of Kansas
Poetry by Ahmed Nabhany; read in Swahili and English
- Beverly Mack, University of Kansas
Poetry by Nana Asma’u, read in Hausa and English