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## Cover Image

Jacob Lawrence, General Toussaint L'Ouverture, 1938  
courtesy of ArtStor, Inc.

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# The Common Wind Conversations in African American and Atlantic Histories

Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15, 2008



To Toussaint L'Ouverture  
William Wordsworth

Though fallen thyself, never to rise again,  
Live, and take comfort. Thou hast left behind  
Powers that will work for thee; air, earth, and skies;  
There's not a breathing of the common wind  
That will forget thee; thou hast great allies;  
Thy friends are exultations, agonies,  
And love, and man's unconquerable mind.

**Introduction:** Over the last twenty-five years, the fields of African American and Atlantic histories have been in continual and fruitful dialogue. One of the pioneering inquiries that embodies that dialogue is Julius S. Scott's "The Common Wind: Currents of Afro-American Communication in the Era of the Haitian Revolution." It is from this work that this conference takes its title and its inspiration. Scott's study emphasizes the circulation of news by sailors and dockworkers throughout the Caribbean, the complex itineraries of spies with variable imperial loyalties, and independent Haiti's efforts to establish a seaborne presence for republicanism and antislavery. "The Common Wind" also points forcefully to the influence of the Haitian revolution on African American thought and political culture in the newly-established United States. This conference asks how the themes of "The Common Wind" have matured and been newly interpreted by scholars. During two days of discussion, participants will consider the continuing evolution of the field of African American history, while also exploring its innovative links to studies of visual culture, the Atlantic world, and music.

## **Friday, November 14**

William L. Clements Library, Great Hall

University of Michigan

909 S. University, Ann Arbor, MI

**12:45 pm - 1:00 pm Arrivals and Coffee**

**1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Session I: Reflections on the "Common Winds" of African American History**

Chair: Sherie Randolph, University of Michigan  
Moderator: Kevin Gaines, University of Michigan  
Discussants: Elsa Barkley Brown, University of Maryland  
Ray Gavins, Duke University  
Earl Lewis, Emory University  
Michele Mitchell, New York University  
Hannah Rosen, University of Michigan

**3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Coffee**

**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Session II: Inside Winslow Homer's "Gulf Stream"**

Presentation: Peter H. Wood, Duke University  
Comments: James W. (Jay) Cook, University of Michigan  
Jacqueline Francis, California College of the Arts

**5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Reception**

## **Saturday, November 15**

Department of History, 1014 Tisch Hall  
University of Michigan  
435 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, MI

**8:45 am - 9:00 am Arrivals and Coffee**

**9:00 am - 11:30 am Session III: The Atlantic World in the Age of the Haitian Revolution**

Although open to all, this session with pre-circulated papers is principally a workshop for graduate students, including those enrolled in the University of Michigan's first-year seminar for entering doctoral students (History 615), and graduate students from New York University and Duke University.

Chair: Rudolph (Butch) Ware, University of Michigan  
Papers by: Laurent Dubois, Duke University  
Ada Ferrer, New York University  
Martha S. Jones, University of Michigan  
Jennifer Morgan, New York University  
Rebecca Scott, University of Michigan  
Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, University of Michigan

Discussants: David Barry Gaspar, Duke University  
Jean M. Hébrard, EHESS (Paris)  
Richard Turrits, University of Michigan

**11:30 am - 12:15 pm Lunch**

**Saturday, November 15**  
Kerrytown Concert House  
415 North Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI

**12:45 pm - 2:30 pm Session IV: Jazz in Transnational Perspective: A Discussion**

Chair: Angela Dillard, University of Michigan  
Discussants: Paul Anderson, University of Michigan  
Robin D.G. Kelley, University of Southern California  
Penny Von Eschen, University of Michigan

**2:45 pm - 3:30 pm Session V: Performance by the Jonathan Ovalle Trio**