

In the Shadow of Malcolm X:
Islam & the Black Radical Tradition



May 19-21, 2025
Museum of Black Civilizations
Dakar, Senegal




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Call for Participants

May 19th, 2025 marks the 100th birthday of Malcolm X, an organic intellectual whose life's work has impacted countless communities across time and space. Unapologetically Black and Muslim, Malcolm X founded two organizations in the wake of his departure from the Nation of Islam in 1964. The first was the Organization of Afro-American Unity, which was envisioned as a diasporic arm of the Organization of African Unity and aimed to mobilize Black people in the global struggle against white supremacy. The second organization was the Muslim Mosque Inc., which was an institutional vehicle for building pan-Islamic solidarity across national and ethno-racial lines.

In this regard, Malcolm's organizing and political thought reflects the revolutionary potentialities located in the nexus between Islam and the Black Radical Tradition. Cedric Robinson defines the Black Radical Tradition as "the continuing development of a collective consciousness informed by the historical struggles for liberation and motivated by the shared sense of obligation to preserve the collective being, the ontological totality." As a liberatory project rooted in African peoples' experience of slavery, colonization, and racial capitalism, Muslims have played a central role in the development of the Black Radical Tradition.




In the spirit of Malcolm's approach to Black liberation, this conference explores the intricate, storied intersections of Islam and the Black Radical Tradition. We invite proposals from researchers, activists, community leaders, and artists from across the diaspora. The conference sessions will address five themes:

The Ummah and Pan-African Solidarities
Sacred Cities and Black Geographies of Belonging
Teaching Malcolm X
Islam, Politics, and Black Liberation
Qur'anic Philosophies of Freedom

With a view to promoting epistemic justice and re-centering institutions and scholarship in the global South, this conference will take place at the **Museum of Black Civilizations** in Dakar, Senegal. Interested participants should submit their proposals using the attached [form](#) by **January 31, 2025**.

This conference is organized by the working group on Islam and the Black Radical Tradition, which includes the following members:

FATIMA SIWAJU (UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA), **LAMIN MANNEH** (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON), **SAMIHA RAHMAN** (CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH), **SAQUIB USMAN** (UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA), **BRYON MAXEY** (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO), **YOUSSEF CARTER** (UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL)





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