



**Graduate Student Advisory Council  
Student Initiative Grant  
and  
301 Philosophy Rental Fee Waiver  
Application Form**

<b>Organizer: Group or Department</b>	The African Americanist Literary Group in the Department of English & Comparative Literature
<b>Proposed Project or Event Title</b>	“Producing Race: Technology and the African Diaspora”
<b>Date(s) of Event</b>	Friday, October 28, 2011
<b>Departments Involved (if applicable)</b>	Department of English & Comparative Literature, the Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS), the Center for Jazz Studies, and the Center for Comparative Literature and Society
<b># of Expected Attendees</b>	80
<b># of Columbia GSAS Students Expected</b>	50

<b>GSAC Representative Sponsor</b>	Jang Wook Huh (will attend monthly GSAC meeting)
<b>GSAC Representative Sponsor’s Department</b>	English & Comparative Literature
<b>Contact information (phone, email)</b>	<a href="mailto:jh2735@columbia.edu">jh2735@columbia.edu</a> ; 646-753-0906
<b>Name of Group Treasurer</b>	Mariel Rodney
<b>Contact information (phone, email)</b>	<a href="mailto:mr2853@columbia.edu">mr2853@columbia.edu</a> ; 917-412-6127
<b>Date of submission</b>	August 29, 2011

**The application is for:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rental Fee Waiver for 301 Philosophy Hall</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Monetary support</b>	
	<b>Total cost of event</b>	\$9,350.00
	<b>Amount requested from GSAC (max \$1000/academic year)</b>	\$1,000.00

Submit completed applications to the GSAC Finance Chair, Jen Levy ([jl2803@columbia.edu](mailto:jl2803@columbia.edu)) at least **one week** before monthly GSAC meeting.

## DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Please provide a brief description of your event, including how it will contribute to improving graduate student life at Columbia, how it will promote interaction between various departments and how it will be publicized. Please note that projects sponsored by GSAC should be open to all graduate students. If applicable, please include a summary of the event from previous years.

We are writing to solicit the financial support of the Graduate Student Advisory Council for an event that is both pathbreaking and historic. Under the advisement of Professor Marcellus Blount in the Department of English & Comparative Literature, we, the African Americanist Literary Group, are planning Columbia's first-ever graduate student symposium on African American and African Diaspora Literature and Culture. Entitled "Producing Race: Technology and the African Diaspora," this one-day, interdisciplinary symposium seeks to put literary scholars in conversation with scholars in fields such as, but not limited to, anthropology, history, musicology, and sociology. As such, we are interested in exploring the intersections of race and technology within the field of African Diaspora Studies more broadly. It is to be held Friday, October 28, 2011.

Though this symposium is the brainchild of graduate students in the Department of English & Comparative Literature, we seek to broaden its scope by soliciting co-sponsorship from numerous institutes and organizations across the University. Our home department, the Department of English & Comparative Literature, has already committed \$2000.00 to this effort, and the Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS) and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences have agreed to support \$3000.00 and \$1000.00, respectively. The Center for Jazz Studies has also agreed to cover all expenses (\$2200.00) for our keynote speaker, Professor Fred Moten, a preeminent scholar in the fields of English & African American Studies at Duke University. Additionally, Professors Brent Hayes Edwards and Alondra Nelson at Columbia University will deliver the morning and evening keynote addresses, respectively. In spite of the generous support from these institutes and organizations, there is still an \$1150.00 budget deficit.

We hope that the Graduate Student Council Advisory will assist us in our efforts to further scholarship in African American & African Diaspora Studies by making a financial contribution to this symposium, now long overdue.

Please find included a copy of our call for papers, a symposium outline, and a projected budget. Should you have questions or concerns about our proposal, please feel free to contact Jang Wook Huh at [jh2735@columbia.edu](mailto:jh2735@columbia.edu), or Dr. Marcellus Blount, at [mb33@columbia.edu](mailto:mb33@columbia.edu) or (917) 327-0170. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

**The African Americanist Literary Group:**

Nijah Cunningham  
Jang Wook Huh  
Irvin Hunt  
Kaveh Lansverk  
Jarvis McInnis  
Imani Owens  
Mariel Rodney  
Autumn Womack

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## PROPOSED BUDGET

If necessary, please expand the revenue/expenses tables to list additional budget items.

### *Revenue*

	Please list all sources of funds	Amount	Status of funds		
			Committed	Requested	Projected
1.	The Center for Jazz Studies	\$2,200.00	X		
2.	Department of English & Comparative Literature	\$2,000.00	X		
3.	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences	\$1,000.00	X		
4.	Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS)	\$3,000.00	X		
	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	\$8,200.00			

### *Expenses*

Please include an itemized list of expenses (i.e. “500 flyers to publicize event,” “coffee, tea, and bagels for conference attendees”) and indicate the vendor for each item. Please specify the source of the estimates (e.g. “quote from Kinko’s” or “from previous year’s budget”).

	Expense items / Vendors	Amount	Cost	
			Actual	Estimate
1.	Catering & Refreshments (bagels, sandwiches, coffee, and tea for conference attendees)*	\$2800.00		\$2800.00
2.	Flight Tickets, Housing & Honorarium for Keynote Speakers*	\$2200.00		\$2200.00
3.	Travel funding for Student Presenters (ten students)	\$2000.00		\$2000.00
4.	Venue Rental, Advertising Campaign & Distribution (three multimedia classrooms in Kent, 602 Philosophy Hall, and 758 Schermerhorn Extension)*	\$1400.00		\$1400.00
5.	Supplemental Technological Services (multimedia equipments and CUIT support)*	\$500.00		\$500.00
6.	Poster/Flyer/CFP Design (1,500 posters and 1,500 flyers)*	\$250.00		\$250.00
7.	Gifts for Faculty Speakers	\$200.00		\$200.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$9,350.00		

\* Please note that the itemized list of expenses is based on the actual budget of “The Idea of a Black Radical Tradition” conference which was hosted by Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS) on April 24, 2011.

## SUMMARY OF FUNDING REQUESTED

Amount requested from GSAC	Amount requested from other sources	Total amount required for event
\$1000.00	\$8,200.00	\$9,350.00

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